

New book tells of Glen Davis history

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Intriguing History Book: Historian and author Leonie Knapman with Andrew and Robert Davis whose family name led to the naming of Glen Davis.

History would show that the great adventure at Glen Davis to help make Australia at least partially self sufficient in meeting demands for petroleum products was doomed from the start.

Government interference and union intransigence were key factors in the demise of this undertaking that fills such a vital page in the region's — and the nation's — industrial history.

Guests attending a book launch at the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park at the weekend were given a fascinating and little known insight into the rise and fall of the shale oil industry at Glen Davis.

The book is the culmination of almost 20 years research by author and recognised authority on the industry in Australia, Leonie Knapman.

Her research included many hours poring over old Lithgow Mercury files from the era.

And it was another well informed authority who conducted the launch.

Andrew Davis is the grandson of Malcolm Davis who, with his brother George, took on the task of establishing the Glen Davis project at the request of the Commonwealth Government.

The family was already well respected in business for its nationally known Davis Gelatine operation and gave the family name to the new town created around the shale oil works in the Capertee Valley.

Andrew's brother Robert, together with members of their family and many past and present residents of Glen Davis, were present for the launch.

Mr Davis said the book provided a definitive history of Glen Davis from its launch to the present day.

The book is available for purchase from the State Mine Museum, Lithgow Library, East End Newsagency and Lithgow Visitors Centre.