

North West Mail



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DEDICATION: Rail Tram and Bus Union national secretary, Bob Nanva with Australian Railway Monument chairman, Chris Holley and Rail Tram and Bus Union (NSW) Secretary Alex Claassens at the unveiling of the plaque to honour former rail worker and prime minister Ben Chifley. Photo **Barry Smith/Northern Daily Leader**

Chifley's legacy inspires second Golden Age of Rail

By **Barry Blair**

A PLAQUE to honour post-war prime minister Ben Chifley has been unveiled at Werris Creek.

The joint unveiling ceremony was conducted by state and national secretaries of the Rail Tram and Bus Union.

Addressing the crowd gathered for the unveiling, Australian Railway Monument chairman, Chris Holley said Ben Chifley, a railway engine

driver in his home town of Bathurst, became one of the most highly regarded of Australia's Prime Ministers.

At the unveiling ceremony, the crowd heard a recording of one of Chifley's finest speeches, the announcement of the end of World War II in the Pacific.

"The war is over. The Japanese government has accepted the terms of surrender... Let us offer thanks to God."

Chris Holley noted that Ben

Chifley was educated by his own direction and sheer determination.

"As Prime Minister he introduced such national projects as the Snowy Mountains Scheme, and national immigration programs," he said.

"The suggestion we should have a plaque to honour Chifley received support from all quarters.

"We are grateful for the support of both the NSW and national offices of the Rail

Tram and Bus Union for their total funding of the project."

Rail Tram and Bus Union national secretary, Bob Nanva said it was a great privilege to be associated with honouring the memory of unionists and Australian workers alike.

"Ben's union, the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Employees, was the oldest railway union in the world," he said.

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