

Facility: Fulham Correctional Centre  
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## Prisoners create living history

**R**ICKY Fornaro is passionate about horse drawn vehicles.

The Buln Buln East builder and wheelwright and his wife Wendy have quietly amassed a collection of about 40 horse drawn vehicles, all either original or built to original 19th century plans, which they use for tourist and commercial stagecoach journeys.

Assisting them with the construction of two of their newest vehicles Fulham Correctional Centre has, during the past three years or so, used the plans to provide prisoners with meaningful projects while gaining trade qualifications.

The correctional centre had previously made a replica of a 10 passenger Cobb and Co. stage coach from plans brought back from Florida, United States of America, but the latest project, a funeral hearse was even more challenging.

The project began with little more than four wheels, two axles, a rusted turntable-steering mechanism and a book on stagecoaches that featured a section on funeral hearses, showing

pictures and diagrams.

From those diagrams and pictures the correctional centre's industry section drew up the plans for the frame of the horse drawn hearse band designed the coachwork to replicate the 19th century

Mr Fornaro has plans to use the hearse as part of his business Old Man Emu Enterprises, for both horse-drawn vehicle tourist attractions and festivals.

In fact the Cobb and Co. stage coach featured at the last Holey Plain Homestead open weekend and is often used for day journeys between Yarragon and Trafalgar.

Such is his passion for horse drawn transport Mr Fornaro has mapped out plans to run coach journeys that follow the old coach routes from Melbourne to Towoomba in Queensland.

"The last active coach route in Victoria was the Moe to Sale coach route, so I would like to recreate that bit of history first," he said.

Mr Fornaro can be phoned on 5626 6267 or emailed at [emu@dcis.net.au](mailto:emu@dcis.net.au)



Ricky Fornaro takes delivery of the hearse from industry manager Ian Riley and two of the inmates who helped create it





The project began with little more than four wheels, two axles, and a turntable-steering mechanism.



The axles, chassis, springs and steering were then engineered into place.



Ricky Fornaro compliments industry manager Ian Riley on the quality of the coach work