

Article from The Axemens News 1961. Courtesy of Keith Belcher

Bill Coleman Proved The Star Attraction

Star attraction at the Lithgow Six Hour Day sports was a phenomenal display of feats of strength and endurance by Lithgow's - Mr Bill Coleman, of Mort Street.

Mr Coleman, claimed by his friends to be Australia's strongest man, gave a display that would be difficult to equal anywhere.

His efforts were all the more amazing because of his age. He was 65 last birthday.

As a warm-up, Mr Coleman casually bent, and then straightened, several six inch nails.

He then proceeded to perform a feat known as 'The Crucifix', claimed by experts to be the most difficult trick a strong-man can perform.

Only his Little Fingers

The feat consisted of raising two 56lb steel blocks above shoulder level with cords looped only over his little fingers. There are only a few men in the world who can perform this feat. It was the climax of the display, however, that brought the crowd to their feet with roars of applause.

Mr Coleman laid on a bed of vertical six-inch nails, supporting a 12-in thick block of hardwood on his chest. An 11-stone axeman, Mr Albert Edwards, of Musket Parade, stood on top of the block and chopped it through while it was supported by Mr Coleman.

The impressions of the nails were clearly visible in Mr Coleman's back at the completion of the amazing feat.

"This act wasn't on the programme," Mr Coleman said.

"I was speaking to Mr Jim Blackburn - the axeman's secretary - in Main Street this morning and asked him if there was anything I could do to help the committee. "We got our heads together and this was the result."

BLACKHEATH

Ivanhoe Hotel

Sunday 7th November 2004 Start at 11am

Event 1 300mm Underhand hcp

Event 2 300mm Standing Block hcp

Event 3 300mm Underhand Championship

Event 4 250mm S/Block Novice Handicap

Event 5 250mm U/21 Underhand Hcp., *Sponsored by the NSWAA*

ENTRIES CLOSE: 30th September, 2004

with Gail Monaghan on 6352 5784

The Committee reserves the right to change the programme on the day.