

## **13:0005 Miner's Cap**

### **Statement of significance**



Photo: Leanne Wicks 16.3.2013

The Rylstone/Kandos region has been known for its mineral-rich treasure since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. High quality coal has been mined from Tong Bong, Rylstone, Clandulla, Charbon and Kandos, the focus being in Coomber Melon Mountain immediately behind the purpose built town of Kandos. Three of these mines fuelled the cement works which provided cement for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Located on the Lithgow Seam of the Western Coalfield, this area shares a history with the Lithgow State Mine and numerous collieries inbetween.

The story of coal mining from earliest times of hand picking to current long wall mining technologies is most effectively told through the safety equipment that now resides in museum collections. Most of the colliery objects in the Kandos collection were brought to the museum after the closure of the Kandos No 3 mine in 2001 and cover both corporate resources and personal equipment. Kandos Collieries were at the forefront of machinery innovation, being the first Australian colliery to be built for mechanisation, establishing a safe underground working environment and the extensive collection provides a comprehensive overview of the history of coal winning in the Kandos district.

The cloth miner's cap is representative of the era of picks, shovels and pit ponies. Used mainly before the introduction of hard hats in the 1940's, this cap has some re-inforcing in the crown. It is able to hold a candle or carbide lamp (both with naked flame) on the metal plate above the peak.

### **Production notes**

Unknown manufacturer. Date of manufacture unknown. Probably before the introduction of hard hats in the 1940's.

### **History notes**

The cap is reported to have been worn in a Kandos district colliery.

### **Description**

This cap is made from black cloth with a peak at the front. A metal plate is attached to the front for the insertion of either a candle or carbide lamp. Leather head band, red material liner and square black patch on the inside top of head.

**Dimensions** in cm: H 15    W 17    D 24

Photo: Geoffrey Powell *Coal miner at Crib, Kandos, NSW, 1947*

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-vn3305744>

