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N.D.M.E.S.

W. A.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS
MODEL ENGINEERING
SOCIETY PERTH INC.

EDITOR: DOUG BAKER

STEAM UP

NEW YEAR'S MORNING BREAKFAST

B.Y.O. Food & Drink

Bring your Family & Friends

to

N.D.M.E.S. Tracksite,
Vasto Place
Balcatta

See you there!!

8.30am

The silly season is upon us again with the usual mad scramble to the super markets to purchase our goodies and presents for the festive season . Every year I promise myself next year I will shop early and "get organized", however you cannot change a leopard's spots and the same scenario starts all over again, this year being no exception!

To all members I extend my warmest greetings for the season, and trust the gods are kind to you in '93 with good health. It is this time of year that one has time to relax and reflect upon the preceding 12 mths. To me, the past months as club president have been undoubtedly intensified hard work with the track and so on. Despite the intensity of these labours it was without question a pleasure and a privilege to work along side "great blokes". Without your support the unprecedented achievement would not have been possible.

I don't dispute that we have a long way to go, but what we have achieved so far is a credit to you all. When finished it will be an asset to the City which can never be duplicated again.

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Since our last Newsletter I have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ray Minchin. Ray, a member of the Western Australian Model & Experimental Engineers of many years, approached me for assistance in removing his elevated railway. This railway is very similar to ours, and ran 2 1/2, 3 1/2 & 5" gauges. It is of all welded and galvanised construction and has sleeper ties machined to gauge and includes the super elevation and transition.

The small track of approx. 250ft was removed by Ken Collett, Ian Allison, Steve Briggs, Dick Langford and myself. The day we chose to do the job was 110 deg. in the waterbag ... believe me, it was hot! With the air compressor driving the nut spinner and an engine crane to pull the supporting post out of the ground (complete with concrete!) the track was dismantled in about 5 hours.

The track, numbered in sections, was loaded complete with legs on to my tandem trailer. On the way home we had some drama as we lost a wheel. For some reason the wheel nuts unscrewed and it decided to have a run on its own! Fortunately this renegade wheel actually followed the trailer, so when I pulled up the wheel hit the back of the trailer, where it finally came to rest. Believe me, West Coast Hwy. is busy on a Saturday afternoon and cars braked and went in all directions when they saw the wheel trundling along on it's own! Being true model engineers, we were soon back on the road, however a very slow trip home was the order of the day after that incident. A sigh of relief was

heaved by all when I finally reversed the trailer into my drive.

The South West Model Engineers in Bunbury have indicated that they are wanting the track, so when it is eventually reassembled there we owners of smaller gauge engines will be able to run there when we visit the Club.

Ray has been building a 5" gauge miniature of the Western Australian A Class 260 locomotive. This class of locomotive was imported to W.A. from Beyer Peacock Co. It was a typical Beyer Peacock locomotive with outside cylinders and inside steam chest with Stephenson valve gear. This class engine was originally imported to W.A. by John Robb, who had been commissioned to build a railway from Fremantle to Guildford. This engine was eventually purchased by the government and ran the first official train on 1 March, 1881. There were a total of 14 A class loco's imported to W.A., however by 1950 all but two of these engines had been scrapped.

Ray has done an absolutely beautiful job in recreating this class locomotive. The engine is an exact replica to the truest fine scale. The tender chassis is complete with running gear it really is beautiful. The locomotive is basically finished except the plate work and boiler cladding. The boiler has been constructed under a DOSHWA approved boiler inspector. If you are interested in purchasing this engine the asking price is \$7000. Ring Doug Baker on 3411630 to make arrangements to inspect. (Please - no tourists or time wasters).

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November 28th: What a fantastic day that was! I will never forget it! After many years and hundreds of back breaking hours work the maiden run took place without a hiccup. After a few short speeches the raffle was drawn and Milton Smith won the honour of running the first locomotive. I was privileged for him to choose my engine. Fortunately Forrest found the track a dream.

There was approximately 60 people to watch this historic occasion. To add interest for the ladies, there was an incredible display of their handwork on show in the recently restored coach. We blokes have a tendency to lose sight of our wives' leisure activities, but their crafts are equal to anything we do. Meanwhile, back at the track, there were five locomotives in steam for the night, and we ran until 1.30am.

Next to complete is the steaming bay and station I look forward to seeing you at the track!

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I would like to remind members annual subs. are now due.
They are as follows:

Family	-	\$40
Member	-	\$35
Junior	-	\$15

As our insurance premium has taken a hike, next year's fees ('94) will have to be increased. Sorry, but that's the facts of a recession especially the 'one we had to have'.

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Personal Notes:

Lily Barltrop has been sick and has been in hospital.
Mrs John Tuffin - also sick.
Dorris Goddard - sick (but ok now).

On behalf of the members, we wish you all a speedy recovery.

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Engine Shed Gossip: Geoff Bastian has almost completed 3801.

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For Sale:

WAGR A-class 260 locomotive - \$7000

Quorn tool & cutter grinder - \$1300.

7 1/4" 4 6 2 Little Engines chassis, complete set of drawings. 1985 catalogue price \$2500 U.S. Asking price \$600 Aus.

3 1/2" gauge Juliet. This engine is faultless, it has never been steamed, and is in 'showroom' condition - one owner, with log books & 20/20 warranty!!

Hand tools - various (ex Reg Barltrop). While most of these hand tools are old, they are in good condition but all imperial in a wooden chest of drawers.

All enquiries, please ring Doug Baker (341 1630).

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Library:

Mr. Ray Minchin has kindly donated quite a large collection of drawings of various types. There are a lot of WAGR

prototypes. These are illustrated as general arrangements and valve gear layout. For further information, either speak to John Martin or Doug Baker.

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Coming Events:

Jan. 16-17: Hobby Expo, Showgrounds. The full circular track is to be used for this function, therefore all hands are required to set up on Friday afternoon/night, 4 - 7.30pm.

Jan. 26: Canning Council Australia Day Run. Those who live south of the river, please help out!

Work Days: Commence Jan. 16 on the coach. We hope to have this painted by mid-February. For those who prefer, the steaming bay will be cranked up as well.

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Christmas Party: There are mixed feelings regarding the venue for the Christmas party. Some thought it was great, others not so. To the "not so's": if you haven't budgeted for next year's party on the Etmlyn Diner, do so, as it is truly a fantastic night. All in all, it couldn't have been too bad a night as one member found himself lost, travelling home to 'South Geraldton'. If you require further details, please ring Geoff Evelyn.



Mates! Lindsay and Bill demonstrate how friendly model engineers *really* are!!