



December 2001

## New Club House Progress

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**Your Committee**

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| President<br>Ron Date         | 9246 2835 |
| Vice President<br>Ian Allison | 9490 2381 |
| Secretary<br>Andrew Manning   | 9446 4825 |
| Treasurer<br>John Martin      | 9448 8843 |

**Committee Members**

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Lindsay Adams                  | 9447 4646 |
| Jim Clark<br>Newsletter        | 9446 5870 |
| Phil Gibbons                   | 9390 4390 |
| David Naeser<br>Safety Officer | 9375 7785 |
| Ernie Redford                  | 9446 4513 |
| Steve Reeves                   | 9354 1395 |
| John Shugg                     | 9246 9549 |
| Publicity & Events             |           |
| Jim Crawford                   | 9276 5464 |

**NDMES**  
**PO Box 681**  
**Balcatta 6021**  
**Western Australia**



Blockwork on the new NDMES Club House reached first floor level in November.

Photo by Ray Shersby

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|  |   |                 |                           |
|--|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Birthday Party Run</b>              | Club Track Site<br>Vasto PI, Balcatta     | 11:00am—1:00 pm | Saturday 8 December       |
| <b>Play Group Run</b>                  | Club Track Site<br>Vasto PI, Balcatta     | 9:30am—12:00 am | Sunday 9 December         |
| <b>NDMES Christmas BBQ and Run</b>     | Club Track Site<br>Vasto PI, Balcatta     | 1:00 pm onwards | Sunday 9 December         |
| <b>New Year's Day Breakfast Run</b>    | Club Track Site<br>Vasto PI, Balcatta     | Start Early...  | Tuesday 1 January<br>2002 |
| <b>General Meeting</b>                 | Laurie Strutt Park<br>Elvire St, Waterman | 8:00 pm         | Friday 11 January<br>2002 |
| <b>Club Run Day and Public Run Day</b> | Club Track Site<br>Vasto PI, Balcatta     | 10:00am—4:00 pm | Sunday 27 January<br>2001 |

**Note:** There may be additional Birthday Runs or other events scheduled at short notice. Contact Jim Crawford or Andrew Manning for latest details.

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## November General Meeting

minutes of meeting by Andrew Manning

The November General meeting opened with 21 members and two visitors, **Ray Shersby** and **Stuart Martyn**, who were welcomed to the meeting

**GENERAL BUSINESS** — There will be a General Meeting in January – Friday 11 January 2002.

Confirmed that there will be a members Christmas Run and BBQ on the afternoon of Sunday 9 December. There is also a party run in the morning 09:30 to 12:30.

A volunteer was sought for Duty Officer on the Public Run day 24 November. There were initially no volunteers. **Phil Gibbons** indicated he would be Duty Officer if he were in town.

**BUILDING REPORT** — **Ron Date** advised that building was progressing well. Construction was now at a stage where there needed to be a good sized work team on Wednesdays and Saturdays due to the time it takes to set up (and put away) scaffolding and lift blocks. Positioning and mortaring the blocks is currently difficult as we progress past the first floor beams. (See photos this newsletter).

**MODEL ENGINEERING** — Visitor **Stuart Martyn** displayed his freelance "HIT MISS" 4 stroke engine. The engine had a novel governor arrangement.

**Milton Smith** – Displayed progress on his Speedy tender sides. Milton asked for some advice on how to best bend the ends in. He also showed some brackets and pointed out the need to anneal brass angle before milling faces.

**Steve Reeves** – Displayed the first of the ground level track point sets that he and **Ernie Redford** have been working on. The points were very impressive with multiple moving parts to ensure continuous track in both positions.

Steve indicated that providing the Society could make funds available he would work towards having sufficient track fabricated by end 2003 for a full track around the block, steaming bays and bypass at station.

The Committee agreed to look at making funds available to Steve for this project.

Steve also displayed and discussed the steam dome components he had ready for the boiler inspector.

**RAFFLE** — **Clive Chapman** kindly donated a pair of tickets for a day trip on the paddle steamer Decoy. The raffle was won by **Neville Merchant**.

**Andrew Manning**

## A Christmas and New Year Message

It's been another big year for our Society, with the new Club House being the major focus of our efforts and finances. Now that the walls are up to first floor level, we can really start to see what a sizeable and useful asset to our Society's activities this is going to be.

There are of course several other projects ongoing, not least of which is the ground level 5"7-1/4" track, which is still progressing under the auspices of **Ernie Redford**, **Dean Brennan** and lately **Steve Reeves**, with several other members providing significant effort as well. There are now several subscribers to our "buy a section of track" scheme, and more are always welcome, so if you don't have the time to help out but would still like to contribute, speak to Treasurer **John Martin**.

Particularly pleasing has been the number of new members joining the Society during the year, and the immediate and willing contributions that several of them have made to our seemingly never-ending projects. Welcome to the NDMES!

Despite the fact that it is now apparently politically incorrect to make specific references to Christmas (as in "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings" instead of "Happy Christmas"), we wish all our members, their

families, friends and supporters of our Society a very happy and fulfilling Christmas, in whatever form you chose to celebrate it.

## NDMES Christmas BBQ Run

The Society's official end-of-year Christmas function will be a BBQ and member's only run following a private Run Day booking for the **Lathlain Play Group** on Sunday, 9 December.

The Play Group is booked 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, so please come early to help out and then stay on for the Christmas BBQ and run, from 1:00 pm onwards.

BYO grog and BBQ food, the BBQs will be hot and the fridge cold. If you have a loco to run, bring it along and let's have a really good turnout of locos circulating on the track, just for our own enjoyment for a change.

## New Year's Day Run

New Year's Day Breakfast Run — traditional early morning get-together, starting early at the track site — don't forget the champagne!

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## Model Spectacular at Bindoon

by Doug Baker

Saturday 10 November Model Spectacular at the Bindoon Show Grounds came to life. This show was organised by the Bindoon branch of the Vintage Tractor and Machinery Association and the Gingin Chattering Lions Club. Proceeds from the show went to Gingin Chattering Lions and the Royal Flying Doctor and was also supported by the Lotteries Commission.

The show, while not a big affair as we have seen in the past in Perth, certainly was well worth the drive. There were a lot of models to see and enjoy, just about every type of hobby was represented as the advert said "Planes, Trains, Cars, Boats and more". They even had a *radio controlled policeman who heard me make the smart comment, fortunately for me he enjoyed the joke.*

Out in the open area was a display of vintage Studebaker motor cars and two street rods, the sort of thing that makes the testosterone wheel spin. Also close to them was a kid's car modelled on a 1934 Ford roadster. This little car was painted yellow with wide wheels, lots of chrome and powered by a small Honda engine. I have to admit I wanted one, but because of the bank balance I didn't even ask the question!

Roped off in a big circle was the demonstration arena for the model aircraft. Just about every conceivable type of aircraft that one could think of was displayed, these were presented in such a manner that the public could scrutinise them closely. Because of this, an enormous crowd gathered there the whole day. Also being demonstrated was a pulsejet that when fired would have sent Dick Langford's dB meter into convulsions. The noise was horrendous, how the Germans managed to stand the noise of the Doodlebugs during WW2 is beyond my comprehension.

Helicopter demonstrations were absolutely amazing. What the pilot did with this miniature copter, no words could ever paint the picture. There was no position that this craft didn't fly in — how it stayed in the air while being tortured I will never know.

Next to the aircraft, radio controlled model dune buggy type cars were being driven around a race circuit. The circuit was configured with thick diameter rope. I had to admire the skills of the drivers as these little 4-wheel drive cars were flogged along at a serious pace. While it was very entertaining watching these cars, to me there is only a certain amount that one can indulge before it becomes repetitive. I am not trying to detract from this display as it was very good, but I guess I am not really a petrol head.

The Boat Club was very well catered for; a boat pond had been constructed with builder's plastic and sleepers

and really served the purpose well with a number of boats plying the water all day. A very big marquee had been erected for the boat display, and inside there were three rows of boats for all to see. But what caught my eye, and regrettably most people didn't know what they were looking at, was a collection of working model steam engines that run on compressed air — all made in various types of wood.

These working miniatures are all made by Ken, who has also made a Sweet Pea in wood, and all from a wheelchair. A truly amazing achievement and equally amazing character. I know Ken and I am hoping he may bring his collection to a Society meeting one night — watch this space.

Alongside the cars, and attracting as much attention as the other displays, Clive and Keith from Hyden were running their traction engines also in a roped off area. Under the marquee there was a small model display belonging to Jim, who displayed his latest Burrell Traction Engine in 1½" scale, and his Mini Burrell and a German U boat about 6ft long, all beautifully finished. Jim hasn't been too well of late and is off to the shed for an overhaul. After you are re-shopped Jim I hope you will be fit for many more miles.

Inside the hall there was a treasure trove of models and other hobbies. In an anteroom live steam models, mainly Mamod, were being demonstrated, next to a collection of vintage OO locomotives and rolling stock.

Displayed in another area were small but very interesting model engineering items, most of which I had not seen before. George S had on display a "Pioneer" road locomotive of the 1800 era that he was building from a newspaper photograph. He also has a copy of another photograph of this engine in Northam that is very faded but that is all. If anyone has any information regarding this engine I am sure he would be very grateful to hear from you.

Les had a very impressive display of engines and a miniature of a Myford Super 7 lathe with number of accessories, including an indexing attachment.

Jack had his vacuum engine ticking over reliably with his magnetic north stick. This little stick certainly intrigues people, all the theories that are offered to the reason why it works, I'm sure Jack could write a book based on them.

NDMES was invited to attend this show but regrettably the committee decided not to attend because of the distance and the existing commitments. I guess it is very easy to be wise after the event, despite that

(Continued on page 4)



Northern Districts Model Engineering Society Inc.

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Balcatta  
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Balcatta  
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<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/fjmdark>

Another view of work on the new Club House. Precision reconstituted limestone blocks are laid dry and then a mortar slurry is poured into the joints.

Photo by Ray Shersby



## Reilang Oilers

Reilang Precision Oilers are now available in Perth. Interest has been shown in these German-made units by some of our Members who had been considering purchase from the UK.

A full range is available from CBC bearings at Malaga (and presumably other branches).

The cost seems to compare favourably with a direct import from Blackgates Engineering in the UK, especially when the high price of postage is taken into account. Also, you get to try before you buy.

Jim Crawford

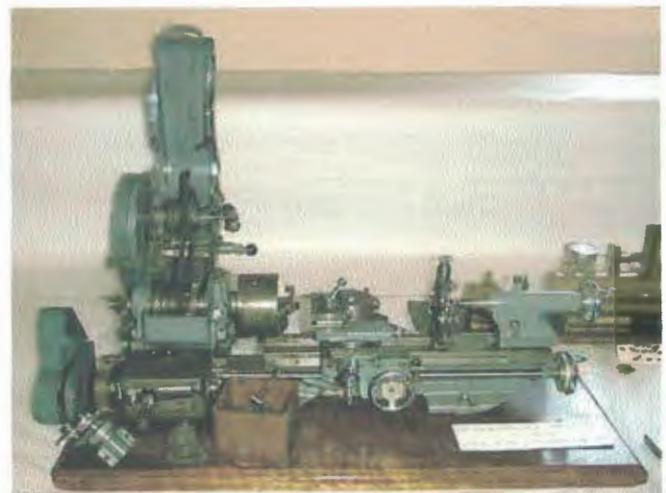
## Model Spectacular

*(Continued from page 3)*

decision, now that I have seen it first hand I do recommend that we make an effort to support the show next year if it is held again. I am of the opinion if people outside formal associations have enough interest in the hobby to donate their time to this cause then so should we. By attending such activities you meet new friends and have a chance to see what other people are doing. It truly is a hoot, yes I do not deny it is hard work but nothing is gained by standing still.

I have deliberately left out the surnames from the persons referred to in this article for privacy and security reasons, for further details you may contact me direct, or through the Society's web page.

Doug Baker



The exquisite 1/3 scale fully working model of a Myford lathe.  
Photo by Doug Baker

## Subscriptions Reminder

If you haven't paid your 2002 membership subscription yet, it was due and payable as of the October meeting, so please let Treasurer John Martin have your payment as soon as possible.

Please post your cheque made out to NDMES to The Treasurer, PO Box 681, Balcatta, WA 6021.

## SCRAP WANTED

Stuart Martin does some aluminium and brass casting. Please can you hang onto your scrap brass and aluminium and pass it onto Stuart. He has already cast two signal arms.

Contact Stuart on 9402 0380.

## FOR SALE

10" stroke Douglas shaper — good condition \$900 o.n.o.

Contact Andrew Manning on 9446 4825.

Just to hand, I have received (I believe) a complete set of castings for a Quorn tool and cutter grinder, complete with ground bar, stock, springs, handbook and drawings. All this for the amazing price of \$60.00

Contact Lindsay Adams on 9447 4646.