



December 2004



SANDGROPER'S RUN DAY by Dick Langford

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Your Committee

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Vice President Steve Reeves	9354 1395
Secretary Milton Smith	9405 1680
Treasurer John Shugg	9246 9549

Committee Members

Phil Gibbons	9390 4390
David Hunter	94451432
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Andrew Manning	9446 4825

Safety Officer

Andrew Manning	9446 4825
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The Sandgroper's Gathering at Bunbury on 20 and 21 November was a great weekend. The weather was perfect, the company was excellent and this mixed with steam and hot oil from steam railway locomotives, steam traction engines and a couple of petrol hydraulic locomotives made for two days of fun.

Castledare Miniature Railway President Richard Stuart's mighty 7¼ inch gauge Garratt was, in my opinion, the star of the show. It is big and powerful and mixes steam technology with modern

Clive Jarman's traction engine goes for a run with very a young driver and observer!

Photo: Dick Langford

engineering. It even needs a battery to start! It must be the only steam engine in Australia that requires electrical power to run. It uses electrical solenoid valves to feed steam through the superheaters when the regulator is closed.

It has a wet back locomotive style steel boiler, with openings in the sides of the

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Casserole & Curry Night, Steam-Up	Club Meeting Room Vasto Pl, Balcatta	5:00 pm	Friday 10 December
Christmas / New Year Running	Club Track Site Vasto Pl, Balcatta	To be determined by Members - at Casserole & Curry night, 10 December	
General Meeting	Club Meeting Room Vasto Pl, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 14 January 2005
Public Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto Pl, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 30 January

Minutes of November Meeting

by Milton Smith

The meeting was opened at 8.09 pm with the President Richard Langford in the chair.

This meeting being a “show and tell” was not formal, and after apologies had been received, the President mentioned that the lift was now working and that there were a number of tasks needed to complete the building, including some touch-up jobs such as the digging of a trench to enable the lift emergency phone to be connected.

It was also mentioned that we needed to clean up the site by the removal of unusable material that has accumulated over the years. Items of historical interest would be offered to ARHS, and if any other items were of interest to members, steps should be taken to ensure their removal.

Members were advised that “work days” would now be Tuesday and Saturday mornings 8:30 to 12:00.

The next meeting will be a Christmas Run, a *Casserole and Curry Night*, at 5.00 pm on the Friday 10 December. See notice on page 3.

There was some discussion concerning the matter of club run days and the support thereof. It was decided that these should continue, and that they be on the Sunday after the General Meeting and be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Richard Langford then invited members to raise any items for discussion. Several members took advantage of this offer and their comments observations are hereunder.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Some points arising from the Committee Meeting of Friday 12 November, 2004:

Grounds — Tree surgery needs to be attended to as soon as possible. (see also President’s Report).

Finishing of Building — The following items need to be finished: Stairs including trim around the floor by the stairs; Trench for phone line to lift; Painting of lift; Welding associated with the stairs near the lift.

Track and Site Inspector — Andrew Manning agreed to be responsible for the site. It was noted that Track Inspection is the responsibility of the Duty Officer of the day.

Duty Roster — Steve Reeves agreed to organise this from those who are able to attend on a regular basis.

Other Items —

1. The need to deal with bye-laws was discussed.
2. Removal of hazards and unusable materials.
3. Steve Reeves presented a detailed file concerning the ground level track.

Milton Smith

Allan Mathie — raised the matter of his submission to the committee about funding for various projects that had apparently not been followed up. This was acknowledged and after some input, Richard Langford agreed to make an appointment with Minister Bob Kuchera for Monday 22nd November, or as could be arranged.

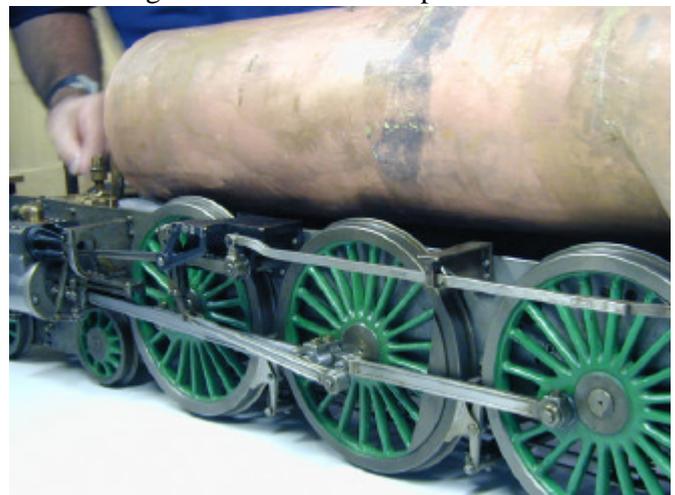
MODEL ENGINEERING — **Ken Austin** showed the chassis and partly built boiler of a 5” gauge “Flying Scotsman” which he was given in South Africa. The importation into Australia was another matter, with customs and freight being relatively expensive as a commercial value had to be put on the model. Members took particular interest in looking at the chassis — see photo below.

Russell Dunn — The jigs which Russell showed enabled key-ways to be milled in axles with guaranteed repeatability, even if the ways were not precisely at 90 degrees. The device was designed in such a way that errors could not be made. The method of broaching the wheels by using shims to gradually increase the depth of cut was later explained.

Milton Smith — Doug Hewson makes some very fine lost wax castings for detailing locomotives. Milton showed a top-feed which he had machined, and explained that having to hold the casting by only about 1/16” meant that very fine cuts of only about .001” had to be made. As well, threading had to be carried out quite carefully.

Jim Clark — Gas firing has many advantages, not the least of which is the much easier disposal of a loco after a run. To this end, Jim showed us the burners for his *Britannia*.

The meeting concluded about 9:45pm. **Milton Smith**



Admiring the fine workmanship on Ken Austin's 'Flying Scotsman' chassis. Photo: Jim Clark

BUNBURY RUN & PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dick Langford

(Continued from page 1)

firebox for superheater pipes to enter and leave. It failed at one stage with a seized commercial valve fitted to the injector steam supply. However, a bit of ingenuity soon overcame this problem.

Clive Jarman's lovely Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies traction engine steamed all weekend as it always does and was another star feature of the weekend (page 1 photo).

Dinner on Saturday night was a treat. Barbecued steak, sausages and chicken with salad, followed by pavlovas made by Jeff Clifton and Noelene Langford, plus pear and apple & rhubarb crumble, again by Jeff, completed the meal. In addition to Members from Castledare, South

West Model Engineers and Northern Districts clubs, a couple of Members from Toodyay and Katanning also attended. Thanks again to Jeff Clifton and the South West Model Engineers for hosting this event.

Once again, there have been lots of things happening since my last report. We have had some drama at our Balcatta site — some heavy branches fell from the Jarrah tree where the footbridge leads into the picnic area recently and we decided that it would be unsafe to run the railway on our November public run day. So we spent the day removing suspect branches from this tree, and some others on the site. Doug Baker asked his son in law, Simon Dodwell, to climb the ladder and wield the chain saw, which he did admirably. Thank you very much, Simon, for helping us. And thank you Doug for organising a team of Society Members to help on the day. Thank you too to those members who attacked other trees with chain saws and generally helped Simon and helped to clear away the vegetation. Russell Dunn's partner Kaye Raebel was another visitor who helped us greatly. Thank you, Kaye.

There is still some more work to do on the trees around the railway, we will work on this before our next public run day on 30 January 2005. We will probably hire a trailer-mounted cherry picker for this exercise: this should be safer than climbing 10 metre high ladders. We intend to cut the track in a couple of places and rejoin it using joints that can be unbolted to allow trailers and light trucks, including a 12 metre reach cherry picker, to get into the picnic area reasonably easily. This will also allow lawn mowers to be moved around the site without having to lift them over the track. If you would like more information on this project, talk to me. Your help would be greatly appreciated by your fellow Society Members.

Don't forget that Friday 10 December is a dinner meeting for you and your partners. Come along and enjoy the first meal to be served in our new club rooms and of course, travel up in the new lift. The lift is great for moving models up stairs for display — it provides a much safer way of bringing heavy models to the first floor than struggling up the stairs with them.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Friday 10 December. To those of you who unfortunately can't make this meeting, I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to catching up with you in 2005. Two important events in 2005 will be the official opening of our club rooms and your Society's twentieth birthday.

CASSEROLE & CURRY NIGHT

On Friday 10 December 2004, you are invited to a special gathering at your Society's Balcatta site.

The site will be open from about 4.30 pm and the track should be available for running, so bring your locomotives and enjoy some steaming, before we sit down to dinner about 7.30 pm.

Dinner will be home-made casseroles and curries, plus surprise desserts. Cost will be \$10.00 per person.

If you wish to contribute a dinner dish, talk to Dick or Noelene Langford (9408 0081) who are co-ordinating the menu. If you are invited to bring a dish, you will not be expected to pay.

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided; please bring along any other drinks that you wish to enjoy.

DISABLED LIFT INSTALLED

The lift is installed and was operating for the November General Meeting. We came in under budget!

Andrew Manning, to whom the Committee and the Members owe much in appreciation for his considerable involvement from beginning to end of this project, originally estimated the total outlay at \$29,400.

Our total capital expenditure was around \$27,835. A summary of expenditure is available from the Treasurer.

The City is about to sign off on the completed building - it did so verbally, on Monday 22 November. Formal certification by Worksafe WA is expected within days (at time of writing). We have entered into discussions with the City about the official club house opening (probably in February next year) and will advise everyone when the date is arranged.

John Shugg

Dick Langford



Northern Districts Model Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-
Vasto Place
Balcatta
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<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/jimclark>

SANDGROPER'S RUN DAY — PHOTO GALLERY



Steve Reeves' locos:
"Evyazel" passing Steve's
"Helen".
(L to R) Jeff Clifton
(SWMEA) checks couplings,
Luke Fenn (SWMEA)
watches Paul Sherman
(CMR) driving, while
Terry Kain (NDMES) checks
he is well clear of the
action...

Photo: John Shugg



Left: CMR President Richard Stuart built this 2-4-0 0-4-2
Garrett. This powerful loco found the Bunbury track's
steepest grade of 1 in 55 no challenge at all.

Photo: Dick Langford

Below: Ian Morrison (SWMEA Secretary) displayed a string of
four excellent scale NSWGR 'S Trucks' in 5" Gauge.

Photo: John Shugg



FOR SALE

Myford Super 7 lathe with long cross slide, 3 jaw chuck, 4
jaw chuck, Norton gear box, face plate, Jacob's chuck, small
face plate for turning between centres, Chinese quick change
tool post and 3 tool holders, plus other bits. \$1,700.00 ono.

Contact Vince Devine on 9307 3363.

Robyn Smith, who has donated books and magazines to our
Library over the last year, has model engineering magazines
for sale at a price to be negotiated:

Engineering in Miniature 1980-1992, 153 copies
commencing at Issue #7

Home Shop Machinist 1993-2002, about 60 copies
(6 issues per year)

Contact Robyn Smith on 9451 6978.

Right: Under the
Bunbury bridge
behind the SWMEA
petrol-electric loco.

Below: See you
next year!

Photos: Dick Langford

