

**NORTHERN DISTRICTS MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY**  
**Vasto Place Balcatta Western Australia**      **PO Box 681 Balcatta 6022**

***STEAMLINES***

*January 2000*

**Your Committee**

President	Doug Baker	9341 1630	Vice Pres	Ian Allison	9490 2381
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Committee	Lindsay Adams	9447 4646	Committee	Jim Clark	58709446
Committee	Jim Crawford	9276 5464	Committee	Ron Date	
Committee	Gavin Gooch	9361 9662	Committee	Dick Langford	9342 8049
Committee	David Naeser		Committee	Ernie Redford	9446 4513

***STEAMLINES* Editor: Dick Langford**

**Coming events**

General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 11 February 2000
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 27 February 2000</i>
General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 10 March 2000
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 26 March 2000</i>
General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 14 April 2000
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 30 April 2000</i>
General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 12 May 2000
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 28 May 2000</i>

**Subscriptions**

***Have you paid your subscription for 1999/2000? If you have not paid and do not advise the Society's Treasurer, John Martin, that you intend to remain a***

*member of the Society and come to a payment arrangement with him, your membership will be terminated at the end of February.*

*The annual subscription is being kept at \$60.00 despite ever-rising costs on the grounds of encouraging the retention and recruitment of members and in the expectation that more local members will participate in Society activities such as "busy bees", external public runs and the introduction of regular public running at the Balcatta Track Site.*

### 1999 Christmas Dinner

Our December 1999 Christmas dinner at J B O'Reilly's pub in Leederville was a good night out for those who attended. The food and drinks at this pub are always excellent and our Friday night there proved to be good fun. Conclusion: Doug baker and Ian Allison enjoy a Guinness or two.

### First General Meeting for 2000

Our first meeting for the new century will be held at the hall in Laurie Strutt Park, Elvire Street, Waterman on Friday 11 February 2000. We look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to bring along your summer model engineering project to show. Even the Editor's Simplex has grown a bit over the last few weeks so he will have some items to show!!

Some Society members attended a seminar on the effects of the Goods and Services Tax on your Society's finances. Those members who attended this presentation, which was organised especially for us by the Australian Tax Office, will report on the situation. It may have substantial impact on our Society.

Also at this meeting you will be able to check out a prototype section of ground level track with concrete sleepers, produced by Ernie Redford and a new design of riding car bogie that Doug Baker has developed. Find out how the swarm of "Bushflies" is progressing and see Lindsay Adams steam powered pump.

There will be a door prize raffle at each Friday night general meeting this year. Tickets will cost \$2.00 each and an engineering tool will be the prize. Come along and try your luck.

But please don't forget to bring a plate for supper.

### Visit the paddle steamer PS "Rodney"

**On Saturday 12 February, all Society members are invited to a barbecue at Lot 101 Howson Way, in the Bibra Lake industrial area, to inspect this new paddle steamer. From what I have been told this is a most attractive vessel that is not much smaller than the PS "Decoy" and we can expect to be impressed by it.**

Please note that the lot number is hard to see from the road. However, there is a large "Fremantle Stone" sign on the front fence. It is not possible to see the paddle steamer from the road.

Bring your own barbecue goodies and drinks for lunch between about 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

### The Editor's Quiz

This is a new feature introduced by your *STEAMLINES* Editor. Questions will be related to full size or miniature steam engineering in some form and a small prize will be awarded to correct entries. Where more than two or three correct entries are received the Editor may choose a single winner by ballot.

So wrap your minds around these five questions, all related this time to Garratt type steam engines:

- *Which Australian State Government railways operated Garratt type steam locomotives?*
- *Which railway system purchased the world's first Garratt type steam locomotives from Beyer Peacock?*
- *Which railway system placed the next order with Beyer Peacock for a Garratt type steam locomotive?*
- *These engines were all of the same gauge and wheel arrangement. What was their gauge and wheel arrangement?*
- *These first two classes of Garratt type locomotives had some unique features that were not repeated on later engines. What were they?*

Give your written entries to *STEAMLINES* Editor, Dick Langford before your Society's next General Meeting on Friday, 10 March 2000.

### Other interesting news

Dennis Lord's model warship is still playing submarines in a City of Stirling lake. The water level in the lake has remained unusually high over the summer because of the heavy rain we have received in Perth. This has made finding the ship in the mud and weeds almost impossible so far.

Does your maths support the change from 1999 to 2000 as the start of the new millenium or do you believe it starts at the change from 2000 to 2001? Mathematical explanations may be considered at our next general meeting.

Have you ever looked at the railway system used in Queensland for transporting sugar cane from the farms on which it is grown to the crushing mills? In total there is over 4200 kilometres of 2 foot gauge track servicing 23 mills along the Queensland coast. Over 36 000 000 tonnes of sugar cane are moved from farms to mills by this railway system during the five month long harvesting season. Using a rail based transport system eliminates 25 000 truck movements each day on Queensland's roads. The average haulage distance from farm to mill is 18 kilometres. This railway system is here to stay: over \$100 000 000 has been spent in the last decade on extending and upgrading with heavier rail, improved track alignment, new, stronger bridges and elimination of level crossings on major highways. The cane trains still run along the main street of some Queensland towns though.

The locomotives used now are all diesel engine powered: most locomotives are diesel-hydraulic, many smaller locomotives are diesel-mechanical. Diesel-electric locomotives are rarely used as the locomotives often have to operate on tracks covered by water after heavy rain. Diesel-electric locomotives find this rather difficult. Up until the early 1950's, the system was all steam powered; a wide range of steam engines were used including some made in Australia by the Bundaburg Foundry under licence to Fowlers (The 7¼" gauge locomotive "Bunyip" being described in our great magazine, Australian Model Engineering, is based on one of these) and by Perry Engineering in Adelaide.

Some of the modern diesel engines in use are quite powerful. Some Queensland Railways 3'6" gauge diesel-hydraulic locomotives of 465 horsepower and built by Walkers Ltd of Maryborough, Queensland, have been converted to 2' gauge for use on this sugar cane transport system. Similarly, some Walkers diesel-hydraulic locomotives of 650 horsepower originally supplied to the 4'8½" gauge New South Wales Government Railways have been converted to 2' gauge to haul cane trains. These locomotives are hauling 1000 tonne trains exceeding 1 kilometre in length. How would you like to meet a train like this at a level crossing?

A train of 5" gauge cane trucks rattling along behind a "Bushfly" would look great at Balcatta wouldn't it!

### Items for Sale

Do you need a small air compressor? Dennis Lord has a small air compressor available in return for an appropriate donation to your Society. Talk to Dennis or your *STEAMLINES* Editor if you are interested.

### Your chance to be in print

Do you have any news you wish to share with other members of your Society? Please let your Editor know so it can be included in future editions of *STEAMLINES*. Short articles on things you have done will also be welcomed for publication.