

**STEAM****LINES**

NORTHERN DISTRICTS MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY INC.

January —  
February 2003

## Traction Action at NDMES

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### Your Committee

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### Safety Officer

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### Newsletter

Jim Clark 9446 5870

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



Stu Martyn driving his Wallis & Steevens traction engine at the November Run Day

Photo: Dick Langford

As many of you are aware, Stuart Martyn has built an impressive range of models of all kinds, including his Wallis & Steevens 6" scale traction engine, pictured above on a rather damp run day.

The traction engine has proved a popular alternative attraction to train rides on run

days, and proves that as a Society we're not just about locomotives!

Stuart's models have featured in recent articles in *Australian Model Engineer*, refer to Issue 102 for a detailed article on the traction engine, and 106 about his other models. See also photo on page 3.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>General Meeting</b>	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 14 February
<b>Club Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 16 February
<b>Public Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 23 February
<b>Engineer's Outing (see page 2)</b>	Bee Engineering Willeton	7:00 pm	Friday 28 February
<b>General Meeting</b>	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 14 March



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## Recent Meeting Items

by Andrew Manning

The General Meeting for January was an informal meeting attended by 17 members and 3 visitors.

The meeting comprised several members discussing their latest projects, problems and a lot of small group discussions. From the comments made, those that attended thought it was a really good night. It has been agreed by the Committee that around half of the future General Meetings will be informal.

We have been advised that our insurance will rise again by at least 25% this year. Unfortunately this will have an impact on annual subscriptions next year.

## Articles, Photos Wanted...

Do you have something you'd like to share with other members such as information on problems you've solved, workshop techniques, your latest project, or maybe something you saw on a recent holiday?

We need your input to the newsletter by way of articles, notes, photos, etc. Please email your contributions to Jim Clark at jimclark@tpg.com.au or send by post to the Society's PO Box 681, Balcatta, WA 6021.

## Model Engineer's Outing

Steve Reeves has organised a special evening outing for NDMES members to view some serious engineering — the construction of a biplane with a 9 cylinder radial engine.

It is being completely scratch built from a published design using the latest technology, including the magnificent radial engine, which is now complete and by all accounts is a masterpiece of craftsmanship. The body of the plane is complete but without its "skin", giving us a rare opportunity to have a detailed look at the insides and construction, and talk to the builder.

Meet at 7:00 pm on Friday 28 February at:  
**Bee Engineering** 7 Woodthorpe Drive (off Collins Road), Willetton.

Contact Steve Reeves on 9354 1395 for more details.

## CoS Council Elections

John Italiano is standing for Local Government elections in the City of Stirling. He has been a staunch supporter of our Society and activities in the past, so if you live in his electorate, you might consider exercising your democratic rights to vote in the forthcoming City of Stirling elections.

**TERAVIN Tools Pty Ltd** have offered members a significant discount on their range of cutting tools, milling cutters, taps and dies and drill bits. They have a full range available at their warehouse at 19 Delawney St., Balcatta. Please show your AALS or NDMES membership card. The tools are of high quality and the prices compare well with those available from the east when postage is included.

The Club Run Days (members only fun runs) are to alternate Saturday/Sunday on odd/even months - the February run day will be a Sunday, March on a Saturday, April on Sunday, etc. The Club Run Days are held on the weekend immediately following the monthly General Meeting.

Andrew Manning



Andrew Manning's Foden wagon hard at work carrying a load of fencing pickets. Photo by Dick Langford

## Suppliers of ME Materials

At a recent General Meeting, Dennis Lord mentioned some good experiences that he has had with local materials suppliers — here are their details:

### The Metric Men

Now has M3 screws with hexagon head in stock

Peter Austin ph. 9444 9944 — 51 Edward St. (off Main St.), Osborne Park.

### Prime Steels

Full range metric and imperial Ground Flat Stock (gauge plate) and silver steel, all in 0.5 or 1 metre lengths. Also high tensile and tool steels, cast iron, copper, aluminium and brass. Will cut as required.

Ph. 9249 1386 — Unit 1, 30 Industry St, Malaga.



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## Visitors from South Africa

NDMES was pleased to welcome Nalder ("Nal") Stephens and wife Olive to our Public Run Day on November 24th 2002.

Nalder, Vice President of the Durban Society of Model Engineers, contacted Dick Langford recently and was invited to come along to see our operations. The Durban Society, which operates 5" and 3 1/2 " gauge track, recently participated with members of the Pietermaritzburg MES in a joint effort to build a 7/4" Gauge 2-6-2 "Highwayman", a freelance design.

Interested members may wish to refer to Nal's article about the loco in the March-April 2002 issue of AME for further details.

Nal was lamenting about the amount of vandalism that occurs at the DSME (and elsewhere). All their track has been set in concrete to minimise the theft of rails for sale as scrap metal!. How the other half must live!

John Shugg

article & photo by John Shugg



Nalder and Olive Stephens take a ride behind Ron Date's loco

## President's Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our members and what a great year it could be! The clubhouse will be completely finished in a few months depending on the number of helpers we get on Saturdays.

The usual positions are vacant: plumber (water and drainage) painters, concretors (give Clive a rest) pavers also block layers (embankment retaining walls), engine drivers – with engines, tree pruners, leaf collectors and fencers (not the Olympic type).

It is also our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the track was officially opened, so ideas for a celebration can be submitted in



Dennis Lord driving Stu Martyn's traction engine in the rain during the November run day.  
Photo: Dick Langford

by Ron Date

writing (to the Secretary, at PO Box 681 Balcatta 6021) for discussion.

If you come to our facility you will observe our new super fence, put up in very hot weather conditions by your band of dedicated old blokes who are also your building crew. This cannot continue much longer as we are only getting one or two younger fellows on Saturdays to help out with site maintenance. You will also notice that a lot of dead wood has been removed, yet with the big trees shedding more leaves than usual there is still a lot of combustible material on site.

How about it members, railway enthusiasts or not, this is our place, let's keep it clear and tidy.

The ground level track/road is also a possibility this year with a lot of clearing having been done combined with the fencing project, thanks to Andrew Manning's organisational skills. We have had a mountain of stuff removed, at no cost to us.

Good news: John Hudson has a new hip and is back with us but is on very light duties. Tony Jones had his back operation but is also on light duties. Bad news, I have to go slowly, or else.

Don't forget our Run Day, last Sunday of the month. Staff needed, drivers needed, so get your license soon!

Ron Date





Northern Districts Model  
Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-  
Vasto Place  
Balcalta  
Western Australia

All correspondence to:-  
PO Box 681  
Balcalta  
Western Australia 6021

<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/jimclark>

## Out and About

The WA Machinery Preservation Society has an impressive collection of restored, full-size traction engines, internal combustion engines, pumps and machines of various types.

A selection of these was on display at the Perth Royal Show last year. Right and below is a selection of photos taken by Ian Jones and supplied courtesy of Tony Jones. It's always good to see these machines ticking over...



Lindsay Adams' daughter Christine and Jim Crawford with Waratah at the December club day. Maxine also visited us with her other daughter, Janice.

Photo: Dick Langford

## WANTED

Is there anyone with any drawings of a W Thomas dividing head as advertised by J. Strahn. Or even a D.H that they want to sell? Contact Tony Jones 9349 4521.

## FOR SALE

**Miniature Railway** — consisting of steam simulated locomotive with climax type drive train, a comfortable 12 seater roofed carriage, approx. 2km of suitable track. Dismantled, stacked and ready to go at Nerriga, NSW.

Price \$ 6,000. Contact Hans: (02) 4883 7262 for info.

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Multi-skilled People** — Lots of finishing work still needs to be done on the interior of the building, you would surely have a skill that's in need — carpentry, painting, fitting, joining, whatever...

Contact Ron Date for more details, or just come on down to the track site.