



NORTHERN DISTRICTS MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY (PERTH) INC.

January—February 2017

# Christmas Party wraps up a good year for NDMES

The club end of year Christmas party and run day on 11 December was well attended by members and families, bringing 2016 to a successful conclusion.

It was a pleasantly relaxing time in perfect weather to enjoy the club facilities and to catch up for a chat with others and to run a loco or two.

There was plenty of seasonal food to go round, including some yummy desserts. Thanks to everyone who brought something extra along.

The photos on this page show a little of the day.



Steve Reeves at the station with his 5" Rainhill loco.  
*Photo: Jim Clark*



Not the usual crowds at the station, but plenty of track action for those who wanted it.  
*Photo: Jim Clark*



A good day to get some driving experience.  
*Photo: Steve Reeves*

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## A timely reflection on a year of achievement

As we turn into another year, it is timely to reflect on the past 12 months to review what we have achieved.

From a membership perspective, we have not been stronger in our 30-plus years' existence, with over 70 financial members. And of these, we have around 20 regularly turning up on a Tuesday for some social interaction interspersed with a little work! But things get done in our own casual manner.

Similarly, our public run days have also been well patronised by members, in addition to the public. These run days are our main revenue source. The task of moving our increasing number of passengers has been helped considerably by the availability of more locos and carriages.

The last two carriages arrived from the Ron Collins workshop for the November run. Part-built by Ken Austin, they make a great sight with a couple of matching carriages and a guard's van hauled by Dave Robinson's yellow diesel.

The efficiency through the station on public run days has been improved with longer trains and also "double circuits", giving passengers a longer ride and easing the workload on station staff.

Guards are now rostered on all GLT trains as an added safety measure.

The planned new bridge taking passengers from the station back into the picnic grounds will further enhance efficiency.

Signalling has now been installed on both tracks entering the tunnel and Ron Casotti is now looking at bi-directional signalling through the tunnel and elsewhere.

We have also tried out reverse (clockwise) running and this will be further trialled during the school holiday runs on Tuesdays in January.

On the loco front, we have seen the arrival of two of the three 7¼" Juliets, owned by Phill Gibbons and Rob Otway, with the third being built by Steve Reeves not far behind. And, of course, we have seen the emergence of Ed Brown's big 5" WAGR Es Pacific.

Just prior to Christmas, Allen Ward added to the fleet with "Waterloo", a 5" diesel outline battery-electric loco.

The boiler group continues to go from strength to strength, with the Wednesday crew at Ron Collins' Parkerville workshop working on no fewer than 12 new boilers. This is the very essence of what a model engineering society is all about. Add to that the monthly Show and Tell at our general meetings, where there's no shortage of presenters.

### President's Report



by Tom Winterbourn

After a slow start, the garden railway project has taken off and by the end of the year, the metal supports and track base had been completed, with track laying about to start. The committee has recently authorised \$400 for the purchase of two more sets of points, making four in all. This will be sufficient to start operations.

Initially, there will be one track in phase 1, but there is capacity for three tracks plus phase 2 expanding through the trees.

Regeneration continues, albeit slowly, with our two junior members, for let us not forget

that most of us are in the retirement category and we need new, young blood to continue our work.

Sandgropers at Bunbury has come and gone – and we had a fantastic representation with over 40 NDMES badges handed out. And now we look forward to hosting the 2017 event in November.

Our society has also taken on the organisation of the 2018 AALS convention in Bunbury, with two days of post-convention running at Balcatta on the following Tuesday and Wednesday.

So, what have we got to look forward to in 2017? Maintenance is ever present and we will also have to carry out repairs to the overbridge ramps, re-laying worn boards where necessary.

A new shared toilet block will be built in the first nine months of 2017, with the old block demolished on December 13. In the meantime, we will have to do with temporary toilets.

The garden railway will hopefully flourish and expand and become an important new element of our society.

Hopefully the back straight of the Ground Level Track will be brought into use once signalling has been installed, to expand our public running rides by 50 per cent; there will be a new storage siding east of the station, primarily for the growing number of 5" GLT trains; and the boiler group will hopefully continue its excellent work.

We will programme more "reverse running", particularly on club run days and it is to be hoped these days will increase in popularity as members test the fruits of their labours.

And finally, a sincere thank-you to Cathy and Jean for continuing to run the canteen on public run days in such an efficient manner and also to Susan Armstrong for consistently supplying the Tuesday crew with cakes for morning tea.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and that you will return in 2017 totally re-invigorated and enthused for the year ahead!

— Tom Winterbourn, President.



## Good member support for big H&F sale

MANY hands made light work at the three-day sale at Hare & Forbes new Perth HQ in Kewdale from November 17 to 19.

This bi-annual event has become a regular gig for NDMES over recent years, providing extra revenue and bringing members together in a social environment.

This latest sale was the biggest yet, with about 100 historic and vintage cars on display, which brought in

plenty of additional hot dog eaters.

As usual, we had a display of our model engineering expertise, with the main exhibits being Ron Collins' Fowler traction engine, Steve Reeves' new 7¼" Juliet, Bill Wall's 7¼" 0-4-2 Minion and SWMEA's club loco "Mack", ferried to and from the workshops by Rod Pitt. Some of those present are pictured here:

*(All photos Tom Winterbourn)*



Noel Outram diligently cuts up onions while Phill Gibbons, Tony Green and Les Harris chew the fat over some very important club business.



Steve Reeves gives a run-down on our main exhibits at the H&F sale to interested visitors. The exhibits are, from left, Bill Wall's Minion, Ron Collins Fowler traction engine and Steve's own new 7¼" Juliet.



Plenty of sausages, cut rolls and onions ready for the lunch peak ... Phill Gibbons serves a customer while Paul James and Clive Chapman are "at the ready" for the next.



Doug Pitney, Paul James and Clive Chapman display their hospitality and PR skills.

## Ideas for future newsletters

If you have any ideas for items in future issues of Steamlines, please let the Editor Jim Clark or the President Tom Winterbourn know.

Some ideas might be for additional technical articles such as the Technical Matters column currently being

provided by Phill Gibbons. If you have some handy hints from your own experiences, or have come across a good solution to a model engineering problem, why not let us have some notes, and maybe a photo or sketch, to include in a future newsletter article.

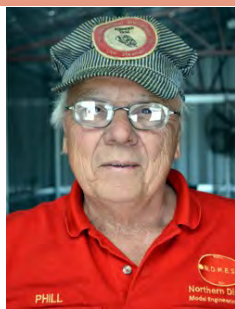
## Loctite the key with modern assembly

I HAVE just quartered the main drivers of a friend's loco. They are very heavy and are Loctited together, so my usual method of undertaking this work in the lathe was out of the question.

Then I remembered LBSC had a simple method which involved a couple of 'V' blocks, a square and a height gauge.

So, here we go. First Loctite the first wheel or fly crank to your axle and then repeat on all other axles, but do the same side of the loco. The new Loctites take only seconds to grab when you clean the parts with acetone, so the process has to be quick.

Make bushes to bring the crankpin diameter the same as your axle diameter. You will need one on each side. Then put the wheel sets on to the 'V' blocks. These must be on a machined surface. I take the vice off the milling machine and use the machine table.



Engineering Matters  
with boiler inspector  
Phill Gibbons

Set the Loctited wheel vertical with a square and level the bushed crankpin and your axle by eye. Now, the trick is to not disturb this. You can, of course, clamp the axle set.

Set your height gauge to the top of the axle on the other side. Now the tricky part. Clean the axle and wheel and apply Loctite to both surfaces. Slide on your wheel and rotate till the bushed crankpin sits under the height gauge and hold for a few seconds until the Loctite grabs. Leave for 10 minutes and then put on to one side overnight. You will find that this method works fine. The wheelsets I

was working on needed only 0.005" clearance on the front bush in the side rods to run sweetly.

I have come to the conclusion that keying is a waste of time. Just fit a small brass dowel pin and that is only for reassembly. Yes, I think modern assembly methods with Loctite are that good.

## Calendar of Forthcoming Events

<b>General Meeting</b>	Friday	13 January 2017	8:00 pm	
<b>Club Run Day</b>	Sunday	15 January	9:00 am — 2:00 pm	
<b>Public Run Day</b>	Sunday	29 January	10:00 am — 2:00 pm	
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>10 February</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	Followed by General Meeting
<b>Club Run Day</b>	Sunday	12 February	9:00 am — 2:00 pm	
<b>Public Run Day</b>	Sunday	26 February	10:00 am — 2:00 pm	

## Know your Society

<b>President</b>	Tom Winterbourn	0415 682 931	<a href="mailto:twinterbourn@ozemail.com.au">twinterbourn@ozemail.com.au</a>
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	Steve Reeves	9354 1395	
	Noel Outram	9525 1234	
	John Martin	9300 2180	
<b>Librarian</b>	John Martin	9300 2180	
<b>Birthday Bookings</b>	Paul Costall	9572 1385	
<b>Driver Training</b>	Phill Gibbons	9390 4390	
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## Editorial

FIRSTLY, a big Thank You to Tom Winterbourn for resurrecting the club newsletter in early 2014 and for his ongoing efforts in providing the majority of the content and photos that have been published since then.

As you will know, Tom has now decided to relinquish the job of editing the newsletter due to his many other commitments, not least of which are his activities as club President.

I will continue to format and publish the newsletter and will now resume the role of Editor.

Hopefully, Tom will still be able to continue providing some articles and photos in the future, as he

has done for this issue, but the newsletter does rely on you, the members, for interesting articles and photos.

The format of the newsletter will remain much as it is, although the number of pages may vary depending on the amount of content available at publication time.

So if you have something of interest to other members, no matter how short the item or how rough your notes might be, please let me have it. You can email items to me at [jimclark@hardwareandsoftware.com.au](mailto:jimclark@hardwareandsoftware.com.au), or let Tom have them and he will pass them on.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and productive year of model engineering — I certainly intend to!

**Jim Clark — Editor**

## John Shugg's birthday

John Shugg celebrated his birthday at NDMES on Tuesday 8th November with fellow members.

His wife made a cake and other party food. Here are a few pictures from the event. *(Photos by Steve Reeves)*



## NDMES Annual General Meeting

The Northern Districts Model Engineering Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 10 February at 8:00pm in the Club meeting room at Vasto Place, Balcatta.

All executive and committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM.

Please note that the new Rules of Association state that nominations have to be received 28 days prior to the AGM, in writing. Nominations from the floor on the night of the meeting will not be accepted.

Nomination forms, signed by the nominee and a proposer, should be received by the current President by hand or via our mailing address, PO Box 681, Balcatta, 6914, by no later than Friday, January 13.

To vote at the AGM and to stand for one of the executive or committee positions you must be a financial member of the society

The AGM will be followed by the usual General Meeting, so please bring something to Show & Tell if you can.



## Milestones at November public run

MORE milestones were achieved at the public run on November 27, with two new 2.4 metre long aluminium carriages being introduced into service, the Mallet “Black Betty” hauling some of its first paying passengers in the ownership of Scott Andrews and Tanya Macarthur and Allen Ward giving his new 5” battery/electric diesel outline loco a workout – and being issued with his driver’s certificate after the run!

The day was perfect for playing trains and this was reflected in the public patronage.

The extra carriages, part-made by Ken Austin and completed by Ron Collins and Paul Costall, were coupled with two other Ron Collins-made carriages behind Dave Robinson’s yellow diesel to form a train with the capacity to move over 30 passengers. And it did just that several times during the day.

Scott has owned Black Betty for about three years, although it was built 33 years ago by Lou Sargeant of York from parts supplied by Keith Watson. Although it has been stabled at CMR, this was only the third time Scott has driven it hauling paying passengers – and the first time for Tanya. After an initial blower valve problem, it ran flawlessly. Black Betty has four cylinders, two high pressure driving the four rear wheels and two low pressure driving the front four wheels. It is based on a French Mallet design.

Allen Ward bought his new SD70 from Steve McAllister of Geraldton who, about a year ago, was considering joining NDMES to run his loco. Allen



With Scott Andrews at the regulator, “Black Betty” climbs away from the tunnel hauling about a dozen passengers.

picked up the new loco and trailer 3 days before the run.

Steve McAllister is using the money from the sale of the loco to buy a similar 7¼” model that can run on the 7¼”-only Batavia Coast Railway track in Geraldton.

After assessing Allen’s driving ability, loco driving examiner Phill Gibbons issued him with his driver’s licence at the end of the day – meaning Allen can now add his new acquisition to the stable of locos available for passenger hauling on public run days.

The public run was another good one, revenue-wise, with very little wait time in the station for passengers.

*(All photos Tom Winterbourn except where noted)*



Allen Ward on his new loco “Waterloo”, with driver examiner Phill Gibbons behind. Allen was issued with his driver’s licence.

Photo: Steve Reeves



Ron Collins drives his Heidi up out of the tunnel.



## November public run (cont...)



Some "happy campers" pass by the tunnel embankment, with Harry Roser driving his former loco, now owned by the society.



The camera flash lights up the tunnel as Steve Briggs passes through driving Blowfly.



It's thumbs up from Paul James as he heads into the station.

Right: Tanya Macarthur drives "Black Betty" towards the tunnel towards the end of the public run.



The two new carriages are at the rear of this four-car train (plus Dave Edmonds in the guard's van), as it heads down the bank towards the tunnel behind Dave Robinson and his ever-reliable yellow diesel.



## 'Sea of red' at Sandgropers in Bunbury

NDMES members provided a "sea of red" (t-shirts) at the Sandgropers weekend in Bunbury on November 12 and 13, with just under half the membership present. In addition to the 42 NDMES registrations (including a few wives and partners), there were five (out of a total of 11) member-owned traction engines present and numerous locos, including the public debuts of two of the three new 7¼" Juliets, owned by Phill Gibbons and Rob Otway.

The honour of having travelled the most distance to attend the mini-convention went to Kalgoorlie member Lindsey Wiles and his wife Georgie, who drove for nine hours from the Goldfields. And for Lindsey, it was a long way to drive to be stung on the forehead by a bee!

Also present was AALS president David Proctor, who flew in from Canberra and stayed with SWMEA president Jeff Clifton and wife Mary.

Total registrations were about 140 and the Saturday night dinner in the clubrooms was attended by about 60 people. The weather was perfect (after the threat of early rain on the Saturday) and the traditional camaraderie was much in evidence.



Plenty of smoke as the locos are steamed up on the Saturday morning.

On Monday, Jeff and David drove to Parkerville to visit Ron Collins and see his fantastic boiler-making workshop.

Other clubs represented at the function were CMR, Batavia Coast (Geraldton), Katanning, Toodyay and Cohuna Park.

The next Sandgropers weekend will be held at Balcatta on November 11 and 12, 2017.

On this and the next three pages are pictures of our members at the "gathering".

*All photos by Tom Winterbourn except where noted.*



Jim Clark chats to Ken Austin as he unloads his traction engine.



Two Pacifics, different gauges — Ed Brown's 5" Es is dwarfed by Ian Morrison's 7¼" streamlined NSWGR 38 class.



Not the way it's supposed to go, Lindsay!



Right: Jaco de Lange gets Bridget ready for the track.



## Sandgropers Bunbury 2016 (cont...)



Brenton England, with wife Mary behind, climbs the bank in his new Pennsylvania battery-powered loco.



Tom Winterbourn, Ed Brown and Steve Reeves.



Clive Jarman and Boadicea, watched by Dave Edmunds and John Shugg.

Right: Ken Cooper, Andy Davis and Andrew Manning.



Left: Affairs of state? Steve Reeves talking to AALS president David Proctor while pausing in the station with Mark Bowring's Planet.



Ed Brown (right) steams up his new 5" WAGR Es Pacific, watched by Richard Turner, Andy Davis and Ken Cooper.



An impressive line-up of traction engines turned out in perfect weather for the Grand Parade on Saturday. Photo: Jim Clark



## Sandgropers Bunbury 2016 (cont...)



A group of NDMES members being taken for a ride by Ron Collins (sound familiar!) Rear from the left, Keith De Graauw, Tom Winterbourn, Doug Pitney, Andrew Manning, Steve Reeves and Paul James. Front, Allen Ward, Andy Davis, Clive Chapman and Ken Cooper.



Tom Winterbourn goes off the rails! Photo: Jim Clark



Keith De Graauw driving Ron's Fowler.



Boiler inspector Steve Reeves gives Phill Gibbons his boiler certificate for his new Juliet, with fellow boiler inspector Noel Outram at left.



It's Rob Otway's turn to receive a boiler certificate for his new Juliet, watched by John Shugg, Noel Outram and Phill Gibbons.

Below right:  
The new Juliets  
of Rob Otway  
and Phill Gibbons  
hit the track  
together for the  
first time.



Above: Noel Outram and his battery loco.



## Sandgropers Bunbury 2016 (cont...)



12-year-old Mark Bowring was quite at home driving Phill Gibbons' new Juliet.



Graham Palethorpe had his mini baler working again behind his traction engine – a popular demonstration.



Steve Reeves, Richard Turner, Tony Jones and Rob Otway.



Rob Otway gives his new Juliet a load test up the bank, with John Shugg as passenger.

Right: Tanya Macarthur driving Black Betty.

Below right: Linda Jennings takes things easy travelling behind partner Clive Jarman and his traction engine.

Below: Jim Clark on his Allchin with something to smile about !





## Pre-Christmas morning tea with Men's Shed

ABOUT 20 members of the Tuesday crew walked up to the adjacent Stirling Men's Shed for some pre-Christmas cheer on December 6.

The Men's Shed did us proud, with plenty of food and great hospitality, with its members eager to show NDMES members the woodwork they were undertaking.

Men's Shed co-ordinator Robert McCarthy welcomed our members and expressed a wish that there be a closer tie between the two organisations.

This was echoed by NDMES president Tom Winterbourn and City of Stirling councillor Dr Andrew Guilfoyle. *All photos Tom Winterbourn*



Morning tea time. Second from left is City of Stirling councillor Dr Andrew Guilfoyle.



Left: John Martin and Bill Walker show an interest in the woodwork.



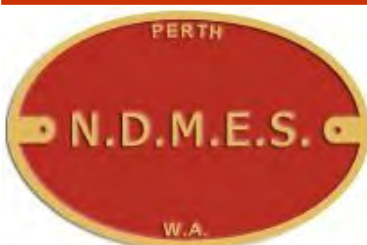
Right: Tanya Macarthur is shown a weather vane.



Left: Richard Turner and Andrew Manning with Men's Shed co-ordinator Robert McCarthy.



Right: It was quite a spread the Men's Shed laid on!



Northern Districts Model Engineering Society (Perth) Inc.

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