



January—February
2004

Beam Engine Completed

Inside this issue:

December Meeting	2
President's Report	3
Committee Items	3
Dec. Buyer's Night	4
For Sale etc...	4

Your Committee

President Dick Langford	9408 0081
Vice President Ron Date	9246 2835
Secretary Andrew Manning	9446 4825
Treasurer John Shugg	9246 9549

Committee Members

Phil Gibbons	9390 4390
David Hunter	9445 1432
Ray Shersby	9277 7306
Milton Smith	9495 1680

Safety Officer

Andrew Manning 9446 4825

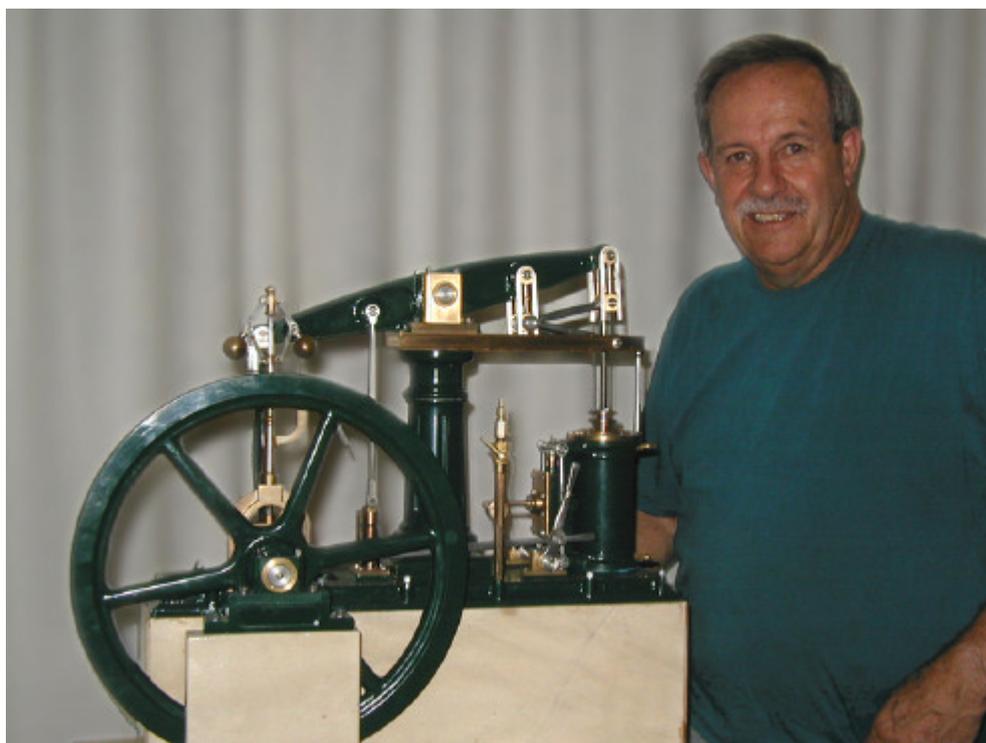
Publicity & Events

Jim Crawford 9276 5464

Newsletter

Jim Clark 9446 5870

NDMES
PO Box 681
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Ken Austin recently took a break from the Britannia he is building to make something completely different — a large model of a beam engine featuring lots of brass and stainless steel. The engine is now complete, having been dismantled, painted and reassembled over the Christmas break.

Ken Austin with his finely detailed Beam Engine.
Photo: Jim Clark

Ken intends to demonstrate his engine running on compressed air at the February General Meeting — so be there, as this is definitely worth a close look!

See page 2 for more photos.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
General Meeting	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 13 February
Club Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 15 February
Public Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 29 February
General Meeting	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 12 March
Club Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 14 March

Minutes of December General Meeting

by Andrew Manning

The December Meeting was opened at 8:00 pm with the President Dick Langford in the Chair.

ATTENDANCE — 20 Members and one Visitor: Isobel Burdett from Linic-Proops WA.

Apologies – J. Crawford, R. Dunn, N. Merchant, I. Allison, D. Baker, E. Redford, B. Weir-Smith, C. Chapman and B. Brown.

Applications for membership — Applications for membership processed and accepted: **Jim Parker, Robert Sutcliffe, James Giddens**. Jim and James being present, were warmly welcomed into the Society by the Members.

GENERAL BUSINESS — **Super pit model** seems to have died a death when company advised of likely cost.

Quorn T&C castings. To be advertised in *Seamlines*, highest offer received over the reserve price of \$250 will be accepted. No offers received by December Meeting.

The bore pump is broken – need to replace it at a cost of \$600 - \$1000. Meeting agreed to progress the replacement before the grounds died off completely.

Sale of 51XX – One bid of \$1000 had been received from Steve Poland – The offer was accepted. Congratulations Steve, we look forward to progress reports.

Wheel chair lift – The Secretary outlined in some detail the option of raising funds from members as non-interest loans for 2 to 3 years. We need to raise \$8000 in this fashion by the middle of next year. The Chairlift could then be installed second half of 2004. The loans would be repaid from revenue in 2005,6,7. The Society would need to limit expenditure around the grounds to \$2000/year until loans were repaid. **Andrew Manning moved that the funding proposal as discussed be accepted** M Smith seconded. The proposal was accepted by the meeting.

The meeting showed great support for the proposal. 17 of the 20 members present indicated in writing they were willing to make a \$200 loan.

Meeting with City representatives. The Committee had a meeting with City of Stirling representatives to discuss building completion, the wheelchair lift and official opening of the building. CoS will accept the HREOC deferment of installation of the wheelchair lift and will progress towards issuing of a building completion certificate. Secretary to make the formal application.

With respect to the cost escalation the Society experienced, Jim McNielly advised that the City had no provision for Rise and Fall in building grants and could provide no help.

Official opening of the building. The City will meet the cost of a function and provide a plaque. Need to arrange a suitable date — Monday or Friday at 5:00pm best suits the Mayor. Late February/March for the opening.

Bob Tanner asked if the Society would allow the flying of the Society Burgee on his steam boat. He would produce a design for approval. Meeting saw no objections to the proposal. Some advertising for us.

Isabel Burdett had a large range of Proops tools and bits and pieces for sale (see page 4). I think most members purchased an early Christmas present.

MODEL ENGINEERING — **Jim Clark** showed and discussed the progress on brazing up his Britannia boiler. He made copper screws by cutting 4BA on 1/8" rivets. Also on show was his very low profile safety valve and the drawings for same.

Jim Parker displayed and discussed experience with building up a Model Works kit of a Black 5 loco in 5" gauge. The near running chassis looked excellent. Jim explained he had some hand finishing to do on some of the parts of the motion.

Ron Date showed a bar micrometer he had just received and some catalogs.

Steve Reeves discussed his experience with making injectors of various sizes. He had a range of injectors and the reamers he used to make them on display.

RAFFLE – A set of diamond laps donated by **Isobel** was won by **John Shugg**. The next raffle prize is a drill sharpening jig for the grinder.

The Meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Andrew Manning



Two more views of Ken Austin's beam engine showing the excellent workmanship and detail in this model.

Photos: Jim Clark

Thoughts from your President

I trust you all had a happy, safe Christmas and New Year and that you are all keen to get into your workshops and be creative. Was your creativeness helped by model engineering related presents under your tree?

John Shugg, Ron Date and I have been attending seminars on various aspects of club management over the last few months presented by the City of Stirling. Most of these have been interesting and useful.

The benefits of thirty minutes of exercise each day was discussed at one seminar. Are you into this? Bored with walking around the block? Does managing some beautiful natural bush and established gardens appeal? How about indulging in some site care activities at your Society's Balcatta track site? Come along and get intimate with your "play pen" – it's a fantastic green area in otherwise industrial Balcatta and it is waiting for you.

I spent most of January in New Zealand, spending some time at the New Zealand National Miniature Railway Convention in Hamilton and the Havelock North Miniature Railway. The differences between their style of operation and ours were significant, in particular with respect to patron management. Patrons seem much more

Correction—Boiler Inspections

This comment that appeared in the last newsletter (December 2003) regrettably is not correct:

"Boiler Inspectors will not inspect boilers during the last week before the Convention."

In the event that you have any concerns and/or expectations please do not hesitate to contact me as I am available at all times including during the Convention. My shingle as a Boiler Inspector is definitely is always out and open for business without condition.

Doug Baker
Boiler inspector

Martin Evans

Sadly on the 30 December 2003 Martin Evans passed away. Martin will be remembered for many reasons. His many engine designs, his time as Editor of the British Model Engineering magazine, and his many published works are a testimony to a man who was totally devoted to the hobby.

To me, Martin's passing is a sad loss to the hobby, but his memory is immortalised with each of his completed engine designs.

Doug Baker

responsible for their own actions and passenger control barriers and fences are minimal. Some of these differences concerned me, some I found acceptable. I wonder are we in Australia putting too much responsibility on operators of activities so that a patron is restrained from doing anything harmful, no matter how hard he or she tries, either with or without thought? Anything we do involves potential hazards. Getting out of bed can be potentially dangerous – did you put your latest workshop creation beside your bed when you went to sleep and forget it was there in the morning? If you did, you may have tripped on it and fallen to the floor, perhaps breaking an arm.

We must always strive to present a safe environment, with no unexpected hazards, for our patrons with clear pathways and minimal trip hazards, but should we be tying them to our riding cars so that they cannot stand up or jump off during a ride? The point at which our provision of care for patrons ceases to be reasonable and practical and becomes ridiculous is very hard to define. It is, however, an area that your Society, along with all other AALS affiliated societies, needs to seriously consider.

A practical, realistic operating code is required to both guide us and to provide an adequate level of security and confidence to those people in Local and State Government who are required to make decisions regarding our activities, although they have had no experience of what we are about. Having worked for some thirty years in a regulation and control situation, in my opinion, the existence of a good code is more important for these latter people than it is for us, the members of our Society and other AALS affiliated societies.

Dick Langford
President

Committee Items

The Public Run Day duty roster will be updated and will be displayed for your comment at the next meeting.

Those members who have not paid their annual subscription are no longer members of the Society and are not covered as members by the AALS insurance. If such former members wish to come on site they will need to sign in as visitors. Note that non-AALS insured visitors are not permitted into the steaming bay area.

The forthcoming AALS Annual Convention is to be held in Bunbury over the Easter long weekend, 9-12 April. Convention Newsletters and registration details are available from **Andrew Manning**.



Northern Districts Model Engineering Society Inc.

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PO Box 681
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<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/jimclark>

Buyer's Night at December Meeting



Right: Isobel Burdett from Linc-Proops WA at the December General Meeting.

Top Left: Looks like Andrew found what he wanted!

Photos: Jim Clark

Brass, Steel & Other Materials

Brass sheet in various thicknesses and sheet sizes including offcuts, also stocks of various brass rod, tube and architectural sections. Will cut to size. Tubelok Brass, 6 Babel Road, Welshpool 9351 8555.

Brass round, square, flat, hex, also many steels including cast iron, stainless, key steel, tool steel and alloys. Also large diameter aluminum bar. Selection of copper sheet in 1mm and 0.55mm thicknesses, also small quantities of hobby type brass and copper. Will cut to size. Prime Steels, Unit 1, 30 Industry Street, Malaga 9248 2666.

Silver Brazing alloy, 45% and 34%, in 1kg quantities suitable for boiler construction, available from Consolidated Alloys, Unit 1, 19 Dowd Street, Welshpool 9353 4818

Di Lena Metals, 23 Howe St, Osborne Park has a large range of sheet steel circles, which are the centre cutouts from large holes laser cut in steel sheets. Useful for all sorts of things, and some are large enough to make faceplates for your lathe.

FOR SALE

I have a number of **C39 Lucas generators** that are suitable as electric motors for locomotives when modified. These are being offered to NDMES members first, as they are very hard to obtain. If not all sold to club members I will offer them on the open market.

Asking price is \$25 each, the funds raised will be donated entirely to the Society Library for the purchase of materials so that our drawing collection can be stored safely.

Contact Doug Baker on 9341 1630.

Small Tools

Thanks to Isobel Burdett for attending the December meeting with an enticing selection of goodies. A range of small and unusual tools and materials suitable for Model Engineering can be found by contacting Isobel at:

Linc-Proops WA Ph: 9401 0580
25 Glenbank Crescent, Kallaroo

Nuts & Bolts

Update on BA nuts and set screws available from Dennis Lord. Prices are per 10 items:

2BA x 5/8"	St Hex	\$3.11
2BA	St Nuts	\$0.25
4BA x 1"	St Hex	\$1.50
4BA x 1/2"	St Hex	\$2.93
4BA x 7/16"	St Csk	\$1.25
4BA	St Nuts	\$0.50
6BA x 1/2"	St Hex	\$2.00
6BA	St Nuts	\$0.46
8BA x 1/2"	St Hex	\$2.00
8BA x 7/16"	St Hex	\$1.90
8BA x 1/2"	Br Ch	\$2.56
8BA x 1/2"	Br Csk	\$3.35
8BA	St Nuts	\$1.00
10BA x 1/2"	St Hex	\$2.10
10BA x 3/8"	Br Ch	\$2.55
10BA x 1/2"	Br Csk	\$2.50
10BA x 1/4"	Br Csk	\$1.96

Also Pressure Gauges 3/4" dia 0-120psi (scale for 5" g) approx. \$55 depending on exchange rate.

Contact Dennis Lord on 9445 3424 for details.