



STEAMLINES

**Northern Districts Model
Engineering Society
(Perth, WA) Inc.**



PO Box 681, Balcatta, Western Australia, 6914 Track site phone: 9349 0693

JULY 2006

Future developments for your Society's site at Balcatta

The Society's Site Development Committee, chaired by our Vice President, Steve Reeves, is working on a future plan for the development of our wonderful Balcatta site. Implementation of this plan will take many years to complete, just as implementation of the original plan, drawn up many years ago, in 1988, is still in progress, nearly twenty years later.

Right now, we are at a point where the uncompleted features of the original development plan must be blended, as seamlessly as possible into the new plan so that the features that we have in operation can continue.

Two substantial weaknesses of the original plan have been identified over the years. Firstly, no provision was made for the operation of miniature road vehicles on our

site and secondly, adequate provision for secure storage of the many items we need to maintain the grounds, operate our facilities and cater for the development of model engineers has not been provided.

I believe that provision for these two facilities must be included in our new plan.

We now have a road for miniature vehicles to operate on; this is proving very popular with our two steam road vehicle operators and our public run day patrons. One interesting plan for the future includes a road which climbs over our existing tunnel and springs across the railway from the existing picnic grounds to the section of our site adjacent to the Water Authority land. This is a novel and fascinating concept that is worthy of consideration.

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NDMES - CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

General Meeting, with visitors (See page 3)	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	7.00 pm, for sausage sizzle. Meeting at 8.00 pm	Friday 14 July 2006
Club Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Sunday 16 July 2006
Christmas in July Dinner	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	6.30 pm till ?	Saturday 22 July 2006
Public Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Sunday 30 July 2006
General Meeting	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	8.00 pm	Friday 11 August 2006
Club Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Sunday 13 August 2006
Public Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Sunday 27 August 2006
General Meeting	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	8.00 pm	Friday 8 September 2006

Your Management Committee and other Society Officers



Andrew Manning, your Society's AALS Competent Person, with his Foden steam wagon

President Dick Langford	9408 0081	Vice President Steve Reeves	9354 1395
Secretary Milton Smith	9444 9183	Treasurer John Shugg	9246 9549
Phil Gibbons	9390 4390	Paul James	9457 7175
Andrew Manning	9446 4825	Position vacant	
AALS Competent Person Andrew Manning	9446 4825	Publicity and Events John Shugg	9246 9549
Librarian John Martin	9448 8843	Steamlines Editor Dick Langford	9408 0081

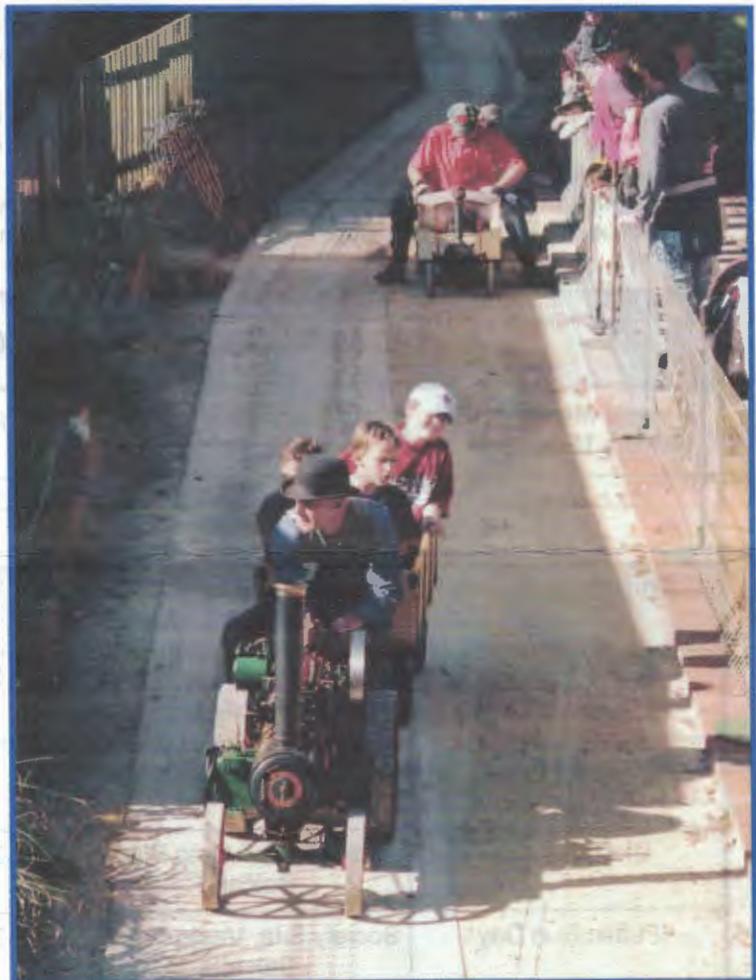
Future developments for your Society's site at Balcatta (Continued from page 1)

However, I believe that we must always have a road on which model vehicles can operate. Providing this facility may mean that the first stage of the ground level track may have to be modified a little to accommodate the road, until the road, as finally planned can be built (This will be a fairly expensive and labour intensive project that will take some time to complete.)

We must also consider our storage needs. The coach sits over an area where stage one of the ground level track goes and so it must be moved. The cheapest option is likely to be removing it from site and using two 6 metre shipping containers as a storage facility and additional workshop space. These can readily be put in the area near the western fence of our site. The City of Stirling has given us approval for this, provided we eventually cover them with a building styled similarly to our station and steaming bays. A structure of this nature could be built so that in the future the containers could be removed and the building completed to match our club rooms.

Adequate access to this storage and workshop facility must be provided. This will mean continuing the path from our club rooms around to the new facility. It is very likely that the jarrah tree next to our sheet steel shed will need to be removed to allow room for a ground level track, vehicle road and access pathway to pass through this area in a safe manner. Possibly,

there will be room for only one ground level track through this section. This can be a temporary situation until the proposed final version of the miniature vehicle road can be brought into service.



Clive Jamman with "Boadicea" pulling away with a load of happy passengers while Andrew Manning waits as passengers board the trailer behind his Foden steam wagon.

Visit by the Northern Suburbs Model Railway Group to Our July General Meeting

Members of the Northern Suburbs Model Railway Group have been invited to attend our July General Meeting so that we can exchange modelling ideas with them.

We met many Members of this group at the AMRA Exhibition; their stand was quite close to ours. They were operating an interesting N gauge layout which was built to show a completed layout with scenery etc. at one end and the raw baseboard at the other end so that visitors could see exactly what goes into constructing a layout.

We expect about 15 NSMRG Members to visit it us. I have suggested that we have a barbecue and steam up a locomotive before the meeting proper starts. This will begin at 7.00 pm.

This should be an interesting evening so come along and join in.

Please bring along your current project so that we can provide our visitors with a good display of our work.

Wanted to buy

Terry Kain is keen to buy a 4 inch 3 jaw and a 6 inch 4 jaw chucks for a Myford lathe. If you can help Terry, please phone him on 9582 3880

Terry Kain also wants to buy a completed or partly completed smokebox (Barrel, saddle, funnel and door would be ideal) for an unfinished small loco. Barrel size approx 4" diameter. Phone Terry on 9582 3880.

Castings for sale

Castings set and drawings for a 7 1/4 inch gauge LMS Royal Scott locomotive available at a very reasonable price from Jeff Clifton (SWMEA, Bunbury). Phone Jeff on 9725 1994 for more details.

Locomotive for sale

Ron Date wishes to sell one of his Blowfly locomotives. You can choose from Bushfly or Tsetsefly. The price is negotiable with Ron. Phone Ron on 9246 2835 to discuss your purchase of one of these interesting locomotives.

Lathe for sale

Ian Morrison (A Member of the South West Model Engineers Association at Bunbury) has a Lylak metal turning lathe, complete with 3 and 4 jaw chucks, face plate etc on a metal stand for sale. Offers around \$1000 will be considered. If you want a lathe, this could be a good buy. Contact Ian Morrison directly on 9721 2034.

Steam boating on the Canning River

Story and photo by Bob Tanner

It all starts with a letter from the City of Canning inviting steam boat owners to participate in the festivities to be held at the Kent Street Weir on the Foundation Day Long Week-End Public Holiday, Monday 5 June, here in the West. I had not attended this event for a couple of years and my recent steaming 'drought' of many months had been further compounded when I moved house. The invitation was accepted, and it was the incentive I needed to get back on the water, something I was longing to do, and I readily commenced planning and preparing the boat for the big day.

This event ties-in with the annual Australian Model Railway Association exhibition held at the Claremont Showgrounds, and my club, the Northern Districts Model Engineering Society, always puts on a good show by running a steam locomotive and giving rides to the hundreds of kids (and many of their parents) who attend the show - I sometimes wonder which ones are the kids; everyone seems to enjoy themselves!! It's a case of help out to run the trains for a day or so, and then down to the river for a change of scenery.

The Canning river is basically a tributary of the Swan, but is much shorter in length and narrower, and definitely requires concentration on the part of the skipper to avoid the numerous shallow sections and danger areas where submerged trees can pierce a wooden hull!

This year two of us launched our boats at Shelley bridge (Mike Rogers and family in 'Platypus', being our steaming companions), we were fortunate in that high tide coincided with mid - afternoon, very reassuring to know that at least we had plenty of water beneath us - well in certain parts of the river anyway! It was one of those glorious winter days here in the West, when there is not a cloud in the sky, the temperature is around the mid-twenties, and with not a breath of wind to cause a ripple on the water. The prolific variety of bird and wild life found on the rivers here never fails to impress me, and today was no exception - missing however were the dolphins, regularly seen in the Swan, but not upstream in the Canning it seems?

One advantage of launching upstream of the bridge is that this area appears to deter other boat users except kayaks and other light craft. We just about had the river to ourselves, and what a difference that makes for a peaceful day out!

Steam was gently raised, safety gear checked, and essential equipment stowed whilst tea and coffee was served from the galley! At 10am, it was anchors aweigh and slow ahead on the telegraph for the run up to Kent Street Weir - the venue of the event. After about 20 mins, I had the steam plant in 'thermal bal-

Steam boating on the Canning River

Story and photo by Bob Tanner
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balance' as I call it, with the hotwell running at around 80/90 degC, vacuum on the condenser gauge and the fire-box producing enough steam to supply the engine at constant drum pressure - All I had to do was navigate and keep my eye on the helmswoman - my other favourite pastime!! The trip upstream was a delightful hour and a half run, and at one stage we could whistle to the trains running on the well-known Castledare miniature railway which runs for a short distance adjacent to the river.

There was quite a show on when we arrived at Kent St, (we could hear the "Gumnut Stompers" and their music from a mile away) and it was obvious that the fair was in full swing!

We each found a suitable place to come alongside, make fast, and bank our boilers so that we could grab some shore time to stretch the legs, attend to nature's necessities and have a look around. One of the local model boat clubs had an interesting display, and they put on some good demonstrations with a variety of models. At one stage Mike was being towed around the weir in his (full size) dinghy by a model Smit tug, which of course raised quite a few eyebrows among the incredulous onlookers!

Stu Martyn, a well-known Perth model engineer, was demonstrating his replica Stanley steam-car which drew the crowds as he drove around the venue usually immersed in a cloud of steam - what a brilliant piece of engineering this vehicle is! Steam trains arriving and departing from the adjacent Castledare station added to what in my mind was a magic show 'atmosphere'! The atmosphere was also enhanced by the glorious fine winter weather we experienced over this holiday long weekend.

It was also great to catch-up and chat with several club and work mates who had decided to have a day out in Cannington.

After a couple of hours, it was time to raise steam and think about heading back down river - ever mindful that the tide would soon be ebbing - and with that the increased chances of running aground! Another idyllic run saw us arrive back at the boat-ramp well into the afternoon. It seemed that this trip I had managed to calculate the fuel requirements more accurately, there being wood to spare. I usually try to work on the "third" rule: a third of the fuel to go there, a third for the return and a third as an emergency supply, which in my case is coal with its longer burning time.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day!

Photo: Bob Tanner hard at work cruising on the beautiful Canning River in his steamboat



Christmas in July Dinner Saturday 22 July 2006

Some Society Members are keen to have a Christmas in July Dinner in our Club rooms, along the lines of our last two Christmas Dinner functions. I have chosen Saturday 22 July for this event, which should be a fun night. Pre dinner drinks will be served from 6.30 pm.

Cost will be \$15.00 per person.

Book seats for yourself and your wife or partner with Dick Langford or Milton Smith on or before our General Meeting on 14 July. Friends will also be welcome to participate.

**Christmas in July Dinner
Saturday 22 July 2006**

Site Development Project

Report by Steve Reeves

This is the first of an on going series of updates in respect to the "Site Development Project". The first notable change is the project name as changed from the "Ground Level Track" project to better reflect the scope of the task. The project incorporates the establishment of a storage facility to replace the existing coach, the management of the existing coach to make room for the ground level track, the various stages of the ground level track construction and the development of a vehicle road. As with the original Site development project and the building development, it will take a number of years to complete in its entirety.



The key objective is to ensure all Members who wish to make a contribution in respect to how the Site will be further developed, will be given every opportunity to do so. Further, no development work will commence until that stage of the project has been approved by the Members. While we all would prefer to see some immediate action, there needs to be a clear implementation strategy, an approved plan and financing.

The initial survey work has been done to identify the problems particularly in respect to the south-east corner where the turn-table has to be incorporated. It was also interesting but not unexpected, the significant variation in levels that will need to be considered in respect to the ground level track.

A further working session is planned to establish the final levels and peg out the critical sections of the ground level track. From there, a revised site drawing will be made that will incorporate all of the proposed site development works. The original site drawing completed by Dick Langford many years ago has served the Society well over the years and demonstrates the importance of having a documented vision of

where you see the Site being in the future.

It is also important that Members make a contribution to the vision in respect to the facilities that you want on the site. This is the only way that the Society can move forward so your input is important. Therefore, if you think that a garden rail facility or a pond for model boats etc is desirable then please send your comments to me. The intent is to make provision for as many activities as possible on the plan. By providing these facilities, the Society grows by encouraging new members who can make use of them.

At the Society's June General Meeting, an alternative proposal was put forward. This proposal provides an interesting alternative for the miniature vehicle road for consideration in contrast to incorporating it around the perimeter fence. This now makes two possible strategies. As with any proposal, there are always problems and I would welcome either some more ideas or any constructive comment on the two currently on the table.

Storage on the Site has always been a problem and now we are faced with doing something about it. Members were asked via **STEAMLINES** to claim any item of material currently stored in the coach. Until a new storage facility is established, the coach has to remain, however it is intended to have a working session to clean it

out of everything and only keeping useful construction materials and equipment. We also need to store the run day equipment as well and the intended way to provide for this is to lock off the door between the two sections of the coach and store non construction items in the northern end of the coach, including those items used for the Australian Model Railway

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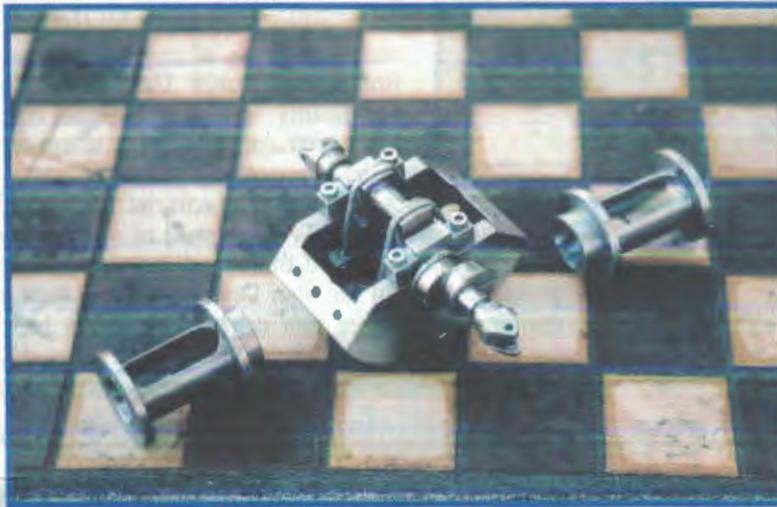
Site Development Project (Continued from page 5)

Association exhibition.

If you loaned the Society some construction equipment (eg cement mixer etc) could you please advise me so that it can be registered and we then know who it belongs to.

In addition to the coach, the construction material in the tunnel will also be cleaned out and if required, relocated into the coach. In addition to consolidating what we have, it will also help to establish how much room will be required in the new storage area.

In respect to the coach, Members are invited to give consideration as to what they think should happen to it. The coach has been an important feature of the Site and to the Society and Members can be quite passionate about such things. We need to have your views in respect to the coach's future. However, it is not going anywhere fast as we currently do not have the finance to replace it, but go it must.



The part finished crankcase, crankshaft and cylinder spacers for the 5 inch gauge Heisler locomotive that Ian Huxtable is building

Some future events that are coming up for you to attend

The **8th Model Engineering Exhibition** is to be held on 30 September and 1 October 2006 in the Engineering Halls at Monash University in Melbourne. See Milton Smith for more details.

The **51st Annual AALS Easter Convention** will be hosted by the Penfield Model Engineers Society at their grounds, the Penfield Park Railway in Edinburgh, a northern suburb

of Adelaide, from 5 April to 9 April 2007. This location is very close to the Barossa Valley, and not far from the National Railway Museum, the National Motor Museum at Birdwood, (An amazing steam carriage, built by David Shearer, an agricultural machinery manufacturer, of Mannum in 1895 is on its own worth a visit to this museum) the Pitchi Ritchi Railway and many other interesting venues. Milton Smith has more details for you.



Ian Huxtable's beautiful flame sucker engine and six cylinder oscillating steam engine. Both of these models are based on designs by Phillip Ducas and were published some years ago in the American Live Steam magazine

The **3rd Sand Gropers' Gathering** is planned for the second weekend in November 2006 (11 and 12 November 2006). Again, this interesting Western Australian Convention will be held at the South West Model Engineers Association site in Forrest Park, Bunbury.

Again, Milton Smith has further details and registration forms will be available shortly. A small fee, to cover administration costs, meals and other refreshments will apply, as in previous years. Let's make this year's event the best gathering so far.

More castings for sale

Matt Herne, a friend of Clive Jarman's, has a complete set of castings for a 3.5 inch gauge Lucky 7 locomotive. This is a Don Young design, based on a 2 foot gauge American prototype locomotive. It makes a beautiful model which is quite large and powerful for 3.5 inch gauge.

Current new value of these castings is around \$2000.00. The price for Matt's castings is negotiable with him. He will welcome your call if you are interested. His phone number is 9271 7847.