



# STEAMLINES

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



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

**JUNE 2006**

## Your President's thoughts

Welcome to another addition of **STEAMLINES**. Since the last issue, we have held a General Meeting, a birthday party for a delightful young lad and his family and our May Public Run Day.

The birthday party on 21 May, was a great event. We entertained a happy group of youngsters and their families on a beautiful autumn day. I believe that everyone left our site feeling great. Ideas for birthday cakes never cease to amaze me: the multitude of ideas that Mothers come up with for cakes is vast. Popcorn spiced onto a drinking straw and a cake looking like a steam engine, but constructed from lamingtons, made an interesting sight.

Our Public Run Day on 28 May was a little quieter than usual, due to some potential rain, although on the day, the rain held off except for a short, light shower. Only three

Locomotives, the Society's Blowfly, Ed Brown's Speedy and the battery locomotive were used. Assistance from more Society Members would have been great. When three of the Society's Members who regularly attend our Public Run Days cannot be present on a particular day, it becomes difficult to provide a satisfactory service to our patrons without more support from other Members.

At our May General Meeting, the behaviour of two Society Members at our February meeting, and your Committee's reaction to this behaviour was discussed. As a result of this discussion, these two Members have been advised that they may remain as Members of the Society. However, one had formally resigned from the Society prior to this meeting. Those present at the General Meeting affirmed that the behaviour that led to this discussion was not acceptable at Society meetings. I support the outcome of this unfortunate incident and remind all Members that appropriate behaviour is expected at all meetings and functions held by the Society.

## NDMES - CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

General Meeting	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	8.00 pm	Friday 9 June 2006
Ground Level Track Preparation Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 3.00 pm Light lunch provided	Sunday 11 June 2006
Club Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	After soup & sausage sizzle lunch	Sunday 11 July 2006
Public Run Day	Society Site, Vasto Place, Balcatta	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Sunday 25 June 2006
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

## Your Management Committee and other Society Officers



NDMES Secretary, Milton Smith (with oil can) and NDMES President, Dick Langford talking about steam engines to students at St Stephens School

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

### Australian Model Railway Association Exhibition

Your Society has successfully participated in the 2006 Australian Model Railway Association Exhibition at the Claremont Showgrounds. On Friday 2 June, a team of Society Members set up our portable track and a fine display of modelling work to entertain visitors to the exhibition over the next few days. The Society's locomotive *Blowfly* did the passenger hauling as usual, with the battery locomotive in reserve.

Saturday 3 June saw the exhibition get under way. With the weather being fine and clear we thought attendances at the exhibition might be down a bit, but at the end of the day we had carried over 500 passengers.

Sunday was another fine day. The exhibition hall was crowded for most of the day and we provided rides for about 800 passengers during 7 hours of running.

Monday saw another good crowd of visitors enjoying the exhibition: at times we could not see other exhibitor's stands because of the number of people around our own stand. We carried about 900 passengers during the day.

For most of Monday morning the exhibition of models was left unattended and we were unable to sell badges: only a few Society members made themselves available to help during this period. This exhibition is a major fund raising event that gives the Society huge exposure to the public and boosts the attendance at our monthly public run days substantially. We all need to give some commitment to this exhibition, even if it is only for a few hours.

Throughout the exhibition, *Blowfly* comfortably hauled a train comprising three riding cars. On some trains, we carried 5 adult passengers, plus children.

With a little estimation the following statistics have been calculated for the exhibition:

Passengers carried during the exhibition	2200
Average number of passengers per train	9
Average gross train weight	320 kg
Average nett train weight	200 kg
Number of train trips	244
Total distance travelled by train	30 km
Gross load moved during weekend	78 tonnes
Nett load moved during weekend	50 tonnes

Ian Huxtable's beautiful flame sucker engine operated on our display for most of Saturday and Sunday and on Monday afternoon whenever we had sufficient Members present to run it. It certainly had the patrons fascinated. Steve Reeves' display of miniature donkey engines also kept our patrons interested in our stand.

As always, there were some well presented model railway layouts on display at the exhibition. My favourites were the O and 1 gauge steam locomotives on the garden railway display and the beautiful Swan View layout. This layout depicts Western Australia's Swan View station as it used to be before the standard gauge Perth-Kalgoorlie line was built. The Arid Australia layout is always interesting too.

Your Society extends its thanks and appreciation to all its members who contributed to the success of this event by helping to set up our display and return everything to Balcatta or by assisting on our display during the exhibition. Thank you, Members for a great event.

## 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.



## Tracksite working bee on Sunday 11 June

Your Committee has arranged a working bee at our Balcatta site to clean out the coach and tunnel. This is being done to assist with the development of our ground level track. Steve Reeves, your Site Development Sub-committee Chairman and the Society's Vice President will be co-ordinating this important day.

The ground level track crosses the paved entrance driveway between our site entrance and the steaming bay and the track passes under the coach. This means that the coach  
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## Articles for STEAMLINES

Your **STEAMLINES** Editor is keen to publish your articles relating to our wonderful hobby, or the full size machines that we model.

Try your hand at writing about your interests or how you made something so other Members can benefit. If I can do it, so can you!! Its not too hard. Whilst I prefer articles that are presented as computer files, ready for publication, I certainly don't mind if articles are hand written; I can type them into the computer .

Some Society Members are frequent visitors to the South West Model Engineers Association in Bunbury and to the Castledare Miniature Railway beside the Canning River. How about some news on what is happening at these two clubs, or about activities at Toodyay, Geraldton and Katanning?

C Y O'Connor's water pipeline to Kalgoorlie, the steam winding engines that were used in the goldfields to raise skips of ore and men from underground, the Swan Brewery's steam trucks and steam boats are all interesting topics. Has anyone seen the steam winding engine at Gwalia? It is huge.

Here are a two photographs to engage your interest. On the left is a fine rail mounted steam dipper shovel. Below is an interesting rail mounted steam crane. Both of these machines are self propelled and would make fascinating models in 5 inch or 7 1/4 inch gauge. They are both located in Western Australia and operate on 3 foot 6 inch

gauge track. The Editor's quiz for this issue is to nominate where they are. Let me have your answers before our next Public Run Day at the end of this month.



### 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.

### Power hacksaw for sale

Your Society has an old, solid power hacksaw for sale. It needs a bit of maintenance and all new electrics, including motor. Blades for this saw are readily available from L & T Venables in Balcatta and other engineering tool suppliers for about \$15.00. Talk to Dick Langford if you are interested in buying this machine.

### 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.



### Tracksite working bee on

#### Sunday 11 June

(Continued from page 3)

must be moved to another location on the site or off site before the ground level track can be laid between the station and the steaming bays.

A ground level track entering the tunnel from its eastern end is also included in the plans for the first stage of this project. This will provide secure storage for ground level railway rolling stock.

Your Society will provide soup and sausages for lunch and the working bee can change into a club running day when this clean out is completed. So, please come along and make this a short easy job and then enjoy some track action before you head for home. The more Members that participate in this event, the less work that each Member will have to do. Please don't leave the task to the handful of Members who regularly attend working days and keep your Society's site clean and attractive.

### I LIKE WORK; I CAN SIT AND WATCH IT ALL DAY!

Below: One of the three Mercedes Benz-Daimler fuel cell powered buses being unloaded from a ship at Fremantle prior to entering service in the Perth Metropolitan bus fleet

Left: Carlton & United Brewery dray at the Echuca Steam and Machinery Field Day in June 1998.

Both photographs by Dick Langford.

