

**NORTHERN DISTRICTS MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY**  
**Vasto Place Balcatta Western Australia PO Box 681 Balcatta 6022**

***STEAMLINES***

***November 1999***

**Your Committee**

President	Doug Baker	9341 1630	Vice Pres	Ian Allison	9490 2381
Secretary	John Shugg	9246 9549	Treasurer	John Martin	9448 8843
Committee	Lindsay Adams	9447 4646	Committee	Jim Clark	58709446
Committee	Jim Crawford	9276 5464	Committee	Ron Date	
Committee	Gavin Gooch	9361 9662	Committee	Dick Langford	9342 8049
Committee	David Naeser		Committee	Ernie Redford	9446 4513

***STEAMLINES*** Editor: **Dick Langford**

**Coming events**

General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 12 November 1999
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 28 November 1999</i>
Christmas Dinner	J B O'Reilly's Tavern 99 Cambridge Street Leederville	7.30 pm Thursday 9 December 1999
<i>Club run day</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 26 December 1999</i>
<i>Club run day Bring your breakfast!</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>7.00 am to whenever Saturday 1 January 2000</i>
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>3.00 pm to 8.00 pm Sunday 30 January 2000</i>
General meeting	Laurie Strutt Park	8.00 pm Friday 11 February 2000
<i>Club run day including public running</i>	<i>Balcatta Track Site</i>	<i>3.00 pm to 8.00 pm Sunday 27 February 2000</i>

## Subscriptions

*Subscriptions for the 1999/2000 year are now due. Most members attending the Annual General Meeting in October have already paid as a prerequisite to voting.*

*As we move into a new and exciting phase for the Society in terms of newly acquired additional land and the go-ahead for the building of our new clubhouse/workshop there is considerable financial juggling to be done.*

*Your Committee has fought to continue the annual subscription at \$60.00 despite ever-rising costs on the grounds of encouraging the retention and recruitment of membership and in the expectation that more local members will participate in Society activities such as "busy bees", external public runs and the introduction of regular public running at the Balcatta Track Site.*

*For those members intending to renew their annual subscription, early payment or an indication of when payment is likely would be most helpful. We need a firm commitment from you before the end of November 1999 as we have to pay the AALS for the Society's affiliation and public liability insurance very shortly. Payment should be sent to the Treasurer, John Martin via the PO Box or via any member of the Committee.*

## 1999 Christmas Dinner

To attract more members and their partners and friends to the Society's annual Christmas Dinner, the consensus at the October monthly meeting was that we aim for a more moderately priced venue than usual. We have secured a booking at J B O'Reilly's Irish Tavern at 99 Cambridge Street, Leederville on Thursday 9 December 1999, commencing at 7.30 pm. For a change we have moved away from the traditional Christmas fare in favour of a served à la carte meal. The food comes highly recommended both in terms of quality and value for money with the added benefit of only paying for what you eat and drink. Main courses range from \$9 to \$20 and drinks are at normal bar prices.

From the Society's point of view, this is the last official function, not only of the year, but of the millenium. It would be most gratifying to your Committee to see as many members as possible attend, particularly some of those who are unable to come to regular meetings and functions. You will be pleased to hear that no pre-payment is required, but John Martin does need to have an indication of numbers so that tables can be reserved. Please let John know as early as possible but no later than the end of November of the places you require. John can be reached by telephone at home on 9448-8843 or at work on 9273-8221, or by E-mail at work on [j.martin@cowan.edu.au](mailto:j.martin@cowan.edu.au)

## 1999 Annual General Meeting

Our 1999 Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 8 October 1999. About twenty members came along on a wet, miserable night and re-elected the outgoing committee without change. Your committee for the next twelve months is as given at the start of this edition of **STEAMLINES**

At the normal meeting which followed, some excellent examples of model engineering were displayed. It is great to see what members are doing.

### Other NDMES news

On Sunday 31 October, we held our first advertised public run at the Balcatta Track Site. This was a very successful day which was advertised as having a Halloween theme. Lots of children, some in fancy dress (and their parents) came along and enjoyed train rides. On one train I noticed two witches having a great time. Four locomotives were in steam during the day.

Lindsay Adams steamed his WAGR A Class locomotive. This is an excellent model that was started by Ray Minchin and completed by Lindsay after Ray passed away. Mrs Minchin and her daughter and son in law visited our site to see it running and to ride behind it; they thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Ray was a relative of Lindsay's. Lots of photos and video was taken during its run.

David Naeser steamed his 3.5 inch gauge South African 4-6-4 tank engine. This is another excellent and speedy model. Lindsay's "Waratah" was also in steam throughout the day as was Jim Crawford's "Taffy". Lindsay's battery electric locomotive operated at times as well. This gave the children plenty of opportunities for train rides.

Robin Baker organised the theme and arranged prizes for the best fancy dress. The tunnel was complete with skeletons, bats and spooky music and Doug Baker showed his prowess as a sausage sizzler. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful day.

On Sunday 7 November, the Society participated in the Town of Bassendean fete. The circular portable track was set up the day before and "Waratah" provided rides to over 300 children and parents. Thank you to the team that helped with this event.

These two events have added about \$500 to the Society's bank account.

Have you heard about Dennis Lord's fine model warship? It decided to auto dive whilst sailing on a lake in the City of Stirling and is now on the bottom of the lake. A rescue diving mission is being planned to recover it. More news in the next edition of **STEAMLINES**

## What is happening at our Balcatta site?

An independent bore has been installed on our site to ensure that adequate water is always available through the coming summers. More trench digging for electrical cables and water pipes. What fun, but the bore is now working to provide a good water supply for the gardens!! Our track site was greatly admired by AALS representatives Barry Glover, Dave Merrifield and Warwick Allison of New South Wales during their visit to Western Australia last month.

The bridge where the track crosses itself needs re-painting. John Shugg and Jim Crawford have started on this task and would love some help. You may have noticed Jim has painted the ends of the centre beam in the bridge yellow. If we do it now, it will be a fairly easy job. It is showing a little rust in places. If we leave it, the rust will increase and preparation for painting will be much more difficult. How about helping?

The steaming bay building also needs some maintenance. Some of the steelwork is showing a bit of rust and needs to have a close encounter with some fishoil and paint. Like to help? However, this job must wait for a while. A pair of willie wagtails has built a nest in the roof framing and they are now busy feeding a young chick or two.

The track itself is also showing some rust and needs treatment with fishoil to preserve it. Ron Date has started on this. It is another project that would benefit from your help.

## Other interesting news

Beer is a fine drink, but did you know it has led to some phrases in our English language?

Before thermometers were invented, beer brewers would dip a thumb or finger into the brew to find the right temperature for adding yeast. Too cold and the yeast would not grow. Too hot and the yeast would die. This thumb in the beer has led to the phrase "rule of thumb".

In English pubs, beer is ordered in pints and quarts. So in old England, when the patrons got unruly, the barmaids would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. Its where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's".

Does your maths support the change from 1999 to 2000 as the start of the new millenium or do you believe it starts at the change from 2000 to 2001? Mathematical explanations will be considered at our next general meeting.

## Your chance to be in print

Do you have any news you wish to share with other members of your Society? Please let your Editor know so it can be included in future editions of **STEAMLINES** Short articles on things you have done will also be welcomed for publication.

**Your Committee and STEAMLINES Editor wish you all a very merry  
Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.**