



November 2003

## Brazing Demonstration

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**Your Committee**

President Dick Langford	9408 0081
Vice President Ron Date	9246 2835
Secretary Andrew Manning	9446 4825
Treasurer John Shugg	9448 8843

**Committee Members**

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

**Safety Officer**

Andrew Manning	9446 4825
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**Publicity & Events**

Jim Crawford	9276 5464
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**Newsletter**

Jim Clark	9446 5870
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**NDMES**  
**PO Box 681**  
**Balcatta 6021**  
**Western Australia**



At the recent October Club Run Day, Bob Brown and Phil Gibbons gave a very informative and practical demonstration of boiler brazing.

Working on member's partly completed boilers, they showed how to set up and braze tubes into the tube plate, how to

Bob Brown and Phil Gibbons demonstrating the rapid application of large amounts of heat in order to fit two extra bushes to George Palmer's C38 boiler. The barrel remained cool enough to touch and the whole thing took only a couple of minutes to complete.

Photo: Jim Clark

*(Continued on page 4)*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>General Meeting</b>	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 14 November
<b>Club Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 16 November
<b>Public Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 30 November
<b>General Meeting</b>	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 12 December
<b>Club Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 14 December

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## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

by Andrew Manning

The Annual General Meeting was opened at 8.00pm with the outgoing President Ron Date in the Chair.

**ATTENDANCE** — 29 Members and 3 Visitors: Bob Sutcliffe, Kaye Rabele, Paul James.

**Apologies** — M. Smith, B. Brown, T. Jones, C. Jarman.

**MINUTES** of the previous AGM were outlined by the Secretary. Moved that Minutes be accepted as published in November 2002 issue of Steamlines. Moved by R. Dunn seconded D. Langford. Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**— Ron Date repeated the brief report published in Steamlines and again thanked the members who have spent so much time and effort to complete the building.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** — John Martin distributed a printed report and presented a summary of the report.

D. Langford moved that the reports be accepted as presented. Seconded G. Palmer. Motion carried.

The President declared all positions vacant.

A. Manning and J. Shugg were nominated as Returning Officers for the election.

Nominations having been received for all positions there were no nominations taken from the floor.

Doug Baker asked that he be allowed to make a statement to the meeting prior to any ballots. Doug explained that he had been nominated and seconded to take the position of Chairman of the ALSSC. As such he would have little time to effectively fill a Committee position, and it may be seen as a conflict of interest if he was an NDMES Inspector. As such he asked that his nominations for Committee positions and Inspector be withdrawn.

### Items From the Committee

1. Mid-week work mornings are now on Wednesday mornings 08:00 to 12:00+
2. The Committee have appointed Andrew Manning as ALSSC Inspector. Jim Crawford will continue to assist and will manage the licensing of drivers. Note that safe working and driving is everybody's concern, not just the realm of Duty Officers and Inspectors.
3. Our new President has been doing some thinking and has developed a list of jobs that we need to do over the next year or so. The list will be posted on the notice board in the club rooms. Have a look at it — there may be a job you would like to take on.

Andrew Manning

Nominations remaining were:

President: Richard Langford  
Vice President: Ron Date  
Secretary: Andrew Manning  
Treasurer: John Shugg

Dick Langford took the chair. He moved that the meeting show its appreciation for the great job Ron Date did during his past 3 years as President of the Society.

Dick Langford then wished Doug Baker well and observed that Doug would bring a wealth of knowledge to the ALSSC.

Steve Reeves withdrew his nomination for Committee member to allow room for some new faces.

A ballot was undertaken for 4 Committee members. The members elected to the Committee were:

Phil Gibbons  
David Hunter  
Ray Shersby  
Milton Smith.

Dick Langford said that his aim during the next year as President would be to tighten up the operation of the railway to ensure an ongoing high standard of operation and safety, and to focus on track maintenance now that the bulk of the building work was completed. Dick reminded us that the Society would be 20 years old in 16 months time!

The 2003 AGM ended at 9:00pm.

Andrew Manning

### SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE!

It is very disappointing that only 37 members have seen fit to pay their annual subscriptions to date.

As some 90% of the subscription fee is used to meet our insurance, the Committee may need to close the gates to non-financial members. At the present time we cannot afford to subsidise members.

If you need some more time to pay, please ring our new Treasurer John Shugg and make an arrangement for payment with him. Otherwise, if you just haven't got around to it yet, please send in your cheque for \$84 right away. If for some reason you don't intend to renew this year, please let John Shugg know anyway.

Please note that if you are still non-financial by next month, you will no longer be on the Steamlines mailing list unless you have made an arrangement for delayed payment with the Treasurer as noted above.

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## October General Meeting

The October General Meeting followed after the AGM.

**GENERAL BUSINESS** — Ron Date asked that the weekly work morning be changed to Wednesdays. This was agreed and would be effective forthwith.

**Jim Crawford** has received a request from Consolidated Gold Fields seeking help in having a scale model of the super-pit made. Dick Langford to follow up. It may be a great club fund raiser towards the wheel chair lift.

**David Hunter** commented that the catering side of Public Run Days was attracting increasing business and we need to look at selling some food lines.

**Allan Mathie** expressed concern that we were entertaining the idea of sharing the meeting room with another society. He asked for assurances that this was not going to happen. President advised that no decisions had been made and expressed similar reluctance to the idea.

**Dennis Lord** advised that his son, a long time member of the Society, was to have his engagement party at the grounds coinciding with the November Club Run Day.

**Dick Langford** reminded members that the AALS Easter Convention will be in Bunbury next Easter and we should expect visitors to the Society's grounds before and after the Convention. We need to get the track and grounds into show condition by then.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

**Sunday, 16th November, 2003. (Member's Run Day).**

Dennis Lord's son Kelvin, and his fiancée, are celebrating their engagement with a party in the picnic area at the track site. This will coincide with our usual operating hours for the club run day.

There will be no disruption of member's private running, as a couple of trains are being organised independently to carry passengers. However, an incentive (bribe?) has been announced by the Father of the Groom-to-be, that any Member who may care to carry guests aboard his/her train will automatically become part of the guest list, presumably with associated access to munchies and appropriate 'elixir de throate'! Professional caterers are being employed for this occasion.

**Saturday, 29th November, 2003.**

It's Jim Crawford's 60th birthday and an invitation is extended to Members/Wives/Partners/Offspring to join Jim's Family for a BBQ lunch starting at 1300hrs. We plan to run trains during the afternoon on an informal basis, so if you wish to bring your rail-loco/road-loco or other motive power along, then you would be welcome

## minutes of Meeting by Andrew Manning

**Bruce Weir-Smith** asked that a dedicated space be allocated for the storage of signalling equipment in the coach, to help protect the equipment from damage.

**Doug Baker** moved that Char be free to members for all onsite activities or revenue operations. Seconded A. Manning. Carried. For members wishing to have char for private use the rate of \$10 per bucket will stand.

**John Martin** advised that the library was coming together with the bulk of the material removed from the Vasto Club. John was happy to continue on as Librarian.

**MODEL ENGINEERING** — **David Hunter** showed his Super Simplex boiler brazed by Phil Gibbons.

**Stu Martyn** showed some castings hot out of the foundry—the moulds were opened at the meeting.

**Russell Dunn** showed a collection of fine detail working boiler fittings available from the USA

**Dick Langford** went back to his childhood to play with Lego. He showed a mechanical Chinese compass he had made. Based on ancient Chinese technology, it always points in the same direction.

**RAFFLE** — A 10mm electric drill from an anonymous donor was won by Ernie Redford.

The General Meeting closed at 10:00pm

**Andrew Manning**

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to do so. We plan to conclude around 1700hrs. BYO beer, spirits and Aeroguard.

It is requested, with respect, that no birthday gifts be given. (Jenie reckons Jim's getting close to having Perth's first double-storey garden shed).

Hope you can make it.

### Society's End of Year Events

Dick Langford and Andrew Manning have discussed the Society's programme for the next couple of months. We will have a normal Friday night meeting on 12 December and a Club Run Day on Sunday 14 December. This can be a family day, commencing at 2.00pm and finishing after an early evening barbecue.

In January, we can start our activities for the year with the first Public Run Day on 25 January. This will be a long weekend with Australia Day on the Monday. It's a good reason to fix our flagpole and fly a flag or two!

On Friday 12 December, we will be seeking advice from Society members on whether or not they want to continue the traditional New Year's Day club run, or get involved in any other activities over the holiday period.



Northern Districts Model  
Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-  
Vasto Place  
Balcatta  
Western Australia

All correspondence to:-  
PO Box 681  
Balcatta  
Western Australia 6021

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

## Brazing Demonstration



(Continued from page 1)  
braze in a dome and how  
to add fittings to an  
otherwise completed  
boiler.

Bob used a simple jig  
made up from bricks and  
scrap steel to hold the  
firebox and tubes while  
brazing the tubes (right).  
The important things  
here being good pre-  
heating, adequate cleaning and fluxing of the tubes  
and a methodical sequence, one tube at a time,  
without overheating the tube ends.

The sample of a partly completed boiler (above right)  
shows the nice fillets of braze on both sides of each stay  
and around each tube, all guaranteed to bring a smile to  
the most fastidious Boiler Inspector!

## FOR SALE BY AUCTION

**Independent 4 jaw chuck** donated by David Naeser.

**Quorn Tool and Cutter grinder castings set** donated  
by Ken Austin, with some additional parts donated by  
Phil Gibbons.

Both the above items are to be auctioned at the  
November General Meeting, with proceeds to the  
Society. If you might be interested, please have a look  
at the items and be ready to place your bid.

## FOR SALE

**Myford ML7 Lathe** — complete with 3 & 4 jaw  
chucks, large & small faceplates, vertical slide, stand  
and a lot of gear for a Norton box. Price \$2,000 ono.

Contact Ed Brown on 9295 2261.

**Toyo Lathe** — ML 210mm centre height 52mm,  
swing 104mm. No.1 Morse taper. Mint condition.  
Price \$750 ono.

Contact Ray Monteith on 9300 9594.

## NUTS & BOLTS FOR SALE

Update on the BA nuts and set screws available from  
Dennis Lord. He is not presently able to find a supplier  
of BA steel bolts. Prices are per 10 items:

2BA x 5/8" St Hex	\$3.11
2BA x 7/8" St Hex	-
2BA x 3/4" St Csk	-
2BA St nuts	-
4BA x 1/2" St Hex	\$2.93
4BA x 7/16" St Csk	\$1.00
4BA St nuts	\$1.10
8BA x 1/2" St Hex	\$2.00
8BA x 7/16" St Hex	\$1.90
8BA x 1/2" St Csk	-
8BA x 1/2" Br Ch	\$2.55
8BA x 3/8" Br Csk	\$2.00
8BA St nuts	\$1.00
10BA x 1/2" St Hex	\$2.10
10BA x 3/8" Br Ch	\$2.55
10 BA x 1/4" Br Csk	\$2.55
10 BA St nuts	\$1.30

The unpriced items marked '-' are on order.

Contact Dennis Lord on 9445 3424 for more details.

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## October Run Day Report

by Ron Date



It was a beautiful day without incident, again with satisfactory results at the gate and canteen. There were two separate Birthday parties held, and both were enjoyed by young and old alike.

One of our portable shade huts was erected and looked quite nice festooned with balloons for one party, while the other used the Rotunda. When leaving at the end of the afternoon, every one of our patrons had nice words to say of our railway.

Steve Reeves brought "Helen" along with his new riding car which matched his engine beautifully — it is to be resprayed the same green including the sign-writing so it will be a really super looking train. All in all he raises the standard a few more notches for the rest of us.

There was a good roll up of members, but a few seem to hide in the clubhouse all day and don't keep their hand in with driving. President Dick Langford was Duty Officer for the day and put in a full day conscientiously making sure that procedures were adhered to. Good on you Dick!

After getting a hand-selected bucket of char for 'Speedy' it decided to have a bypass valve problem

Jim Crawford at the controls of 3246 during the October Run Day.  
Photo: John Shugg

and had to retire (sounds like some of our members eh!). However I'm sure Ed Brown will have it on duty for our last public run in November.

The grounds are looking very good with Ray Shersby's influence and energy and are a credit to him and his menagerie. A very dusty Brice Weir-Smith emerged occasionally as work on the signals proceeded, although sometimes all you could see was his rear buffer beam (you know what I mean) as he had his head near the ground soldering wires together to ensure reliable operation.

There was one little bit of excitement prior to the run when an Alsatian or German Shepherd dog somehow got himself into the track site on Saturday and didn't want to be ushered out even on Sunday, so Dick got the Stirling dog catcher in with his noose to remove one very frightened dog.

Everything was packed away before 4pm and the team ethic is working well. In fact everyone was gone by 4.30 — that's pretty good!

Ron Date

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## Steam Boat Day

by Bob Tanner

Keane's Point on Sunday 26 October was the venue for the first cruise of the season. Two boats launched at Point Walter - "Lady Patricia" - myself, Mike Rogers & Trish, and "Jesse Edward" - Mike Adams (non Club member) and friends. The day's plan also involved a rendezvous with P.S. "Rodney" - Dennis Baker (non-club member) later on in the afternoon.

The mandatory check for 'boaties' is to consult the days' weather forecast for Perth Water: "Fine - a warm day with E/NE winds easing before a fresh afternoon sea breeze" it read!

Great, the day dawned sunny and warmish with a moderate wind, conditions looked good, so we oiled up, raised steam, checked all marine safety gear and stores etc and set off with a full head of steam and great enthusiasm! Trish had transferred to "Jessie Edward" being a much larger boat (22') and more comfortable, and they headed off for the opposite shore, whilst Mike and I decided to set a course running along the channel parallel to the sand spit off Pt Walter. All appeared well with that familiar 'economic' haze issuing from both funnels!

We had only been about half an hour out when we noticed a rising wind with a corresponding sea. "Jessie Edward" seemed to be handling the conditions and steaming as well as she usually does. We started to take on a roll, followed by a pronounced 'knock' on the big end - that was all we needed!! After 'hovering-to' for a few minutes, the locking device was re-tensioned, and the engine restarted OK. This is no task for those prone to 'Mal-de-Mer', the boat was rocking around like a bull at a rodeo show!

After conferring on the weather situation, we elected to make a course heading into the wind for a point located downstream of Butler Hump, do a starb'd turn and run with the wind into Keane's Point before steering into the quiet waters of the bay and secure at the jetty. (We discovered that both of us had previous yachting experience albeit from many years ago, this knowledge was put to the test at this time!)

You guessed it, there was not a breath of wind nestled in the lee of the yacht club at Keane's Pt - beautiful and warm and we were pleased (and relieved!) to see the smiling faces of Doug Baker, Keith Watson, Terry Kane and others with their respective partners sitting on the jetty. After securing the launch and 'boxing-up' the boiler, copious cups of tea were enjoyed along with convivial conversation.

About an hour had elapsed, when we heard that "Jessie Edward" had unfortunately experienced condenser and injector problems and reluctantly had to return to Pt Walter. Further disappointing news was the non-appearance of P.S. "Rodney".

It transpired that due to the predicted 'fresh sea breeze' in Blackwall Reach assuming 'gale force' conditions, they had had no option but to 'go about' due to loss of steerageway and return to the mooring - there is no compromise with marine safety!

Trish had in the meantime been transferred to "Lady P" and instead of the barbecue and social that we were looking forward to we made the reluctant decision to make an early return crossing for home!

Basically re-tracing our outward course, we hugged the shoreline around the R.F.B. Yacht club and made a course for the starb'd marker off the sand spit at Pt Walter. With the wind 'blowing like the clappers' and salt spray whipping around our ears we made a reasonably fast passage - well almost 5 knots! - with the engine and boiler performing to expectations, landing at the boat ramp some 40 minutes later.

Steam boating under these conditions is 'different' and quite an experience, but very satisfying (I hope it's more calm next trip!).

Knowing that the plant had performed well under reasonably arduous conditions, I felt justified in fitting a generous sized boiler gauge glass assembly - this is a must in helping to determine the wildly fluctuating water level in the conditions we experienced on the day (a stand-pipe is even better).

Thanks must go to Mike and Trish for their helpful navigational knowledge and other advice, plus the use of the pram dinghy which we towed - another item of invaluable equipment. All in all, an exciting day for the opening cruise!

Bob Tanner

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## Library News

As most members will be aware, the former Club library was frozen some three years ago and placed in temporary storage at the Vasto Club following severe bouts of vandalism to the old railway carriage and the ensuing risk of vandals setting fire to it. I am pleased to report that we now have a securable room for the library on the ground floor of the new clubhouse and I have begun to re-establish the facility.

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## Library News (cont...)

The three steel cupboards containing all our books, magazines and catalogues have now been transferred from the Vasto Club to the new library room and some semblance of order has now been restored. The move to the Vasto Club was done in some haste and everything was thrown in together and it has taken a while to re-sort everything out again.

I have written to the Vasto Club and thanked them for their support and help in this matter and invited them to come across and visit us on our workdays or rundaydays to see what progress we have made. I would ask that whenever this occurs, NDMES gives these visitors the appropriate VIP courtesy.

A fourth steel cupboard-full of books etc, currently stored by Jim Crawford, is now also in the process of being transferred to the library and should be in place this month.

Vince Devine has offered to provide a computer and an A3 B&W printer, which can be installed now we have a desk and power in the library. The intent is to provide a computerised library index for access to the extensive collection of ME literature.

In the longer term, an offer from Bob Brown to donate the library from another contemporary club needs to be considered in the light of remaining space and the nature of the material on offer. Doug Baker has also been safeguarding considerable quantities of literature at his home, including a valuable collection of drawings and papers from the late Ray Minchin of UWA. Many years ago, when this collection was donated, it was sorted and catalogued and a decision made to provide plastic storage tubes for the contents to prevent damage. Unfortunately this was put on hold due to the lack of finance at the time but earmarked as a project when our new library was commissioned. This requires the building of racking and is planned for sometime next year. I have also been speaking to Mrs Maxine Adams who has expressed a wish to donate part of Lindsay's ME literature to the Society. The plan here is to donate this in batches over a period of time at her convenience.

From an initial assessment, most of the former library appears to be intact. There are, however, some items that seem to be missing. Can I appeal to all members to have a look around at home and return anything from the library to me as soon as possible but at least before the end of the year so that we can hopefully re-open the library for lending in January/February 2004.

Thanks to all those members who have, in their own way, contributed to the building and safekeeping of the library over the years.

John Martin  
Librarian

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## Comments from your new President

Firstly, thank you for showing the confidence and trust in me to lead your Society towards its twentieth birthday in February 2005. The Society has travelled well over quite a journey since 1985. Its presidents have all served it well and I will attempt to do likewise. I am committed to our Society continuing to be "the best in the west" and one of the best in Australia.

The retiring Committee steered the Society through one of its busiest and most complex periods with the construction of the clubrooms and the need to respond to AALS and insurance requirements in the way we operate the site on public run days. I extend my congratulations and thanks to them for this dedication.

We have established some short term and long term goals. In the short term, first priority must be to complete the clubrooms and have the building officially opened and handed over to the Society. The major issue, as I am sure you are all aware, is wheel chair access to the upper floor. Apart from this, the building requires only some minor work for it to be complete.

Another important relatively short-term project is maintenance of the elevated track. Ron Date has commenced this work, which will most likely need to continue through all of next year (see the "File Report" later in this Supplement). Putting a roof on the rotunda in the picnic area, improving the internal fencing on the site, re-decking and painting the rail crossover bridge are other short-term projects.

The ground level 7¼ inch and 5 inch gauge railway track and road vehicle trail is the Society's major long-term project. This project has been started - many concrete sleepers are available and one point has been built by Ernie Redford and Steeve Reeves.

You, as a member of the Society, benefit from the completion of these projects. Your involvement in them helps all our members. I encourage you to get involved in your Society's activities as much as you can. Join in the Wednesday and Saturday morning

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activities and help to develop the best model engineering site in Western Australia.

Participate in your Society's Public Run Days and help your fellow Society members give lots of adults and children a very pleasant and unique experience that only your Society can provide in Perth's northern suburbs.

Visit our Balcatta site on the Society's Club Run Days. On these days the railway is operated in a less formal manner and you will be given the opportunity to drive some of the locomotives in steam and enjoy chatting about model engineering to other members.

Come along and participate in your Society's Friday night General Meetings. Next year I want these meetings to include guest speakers talking about subjects of interest to us.

I look forward to seeing you enjoying yourself at these Society functions.

**Dick Langford**  
President

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## File Report

What's going on – well to start with, some track work has been done where the outer rail was getting quite an outward lean and also to trial a method so that when we really get stuck into it work will be as easy and quick as possible.

After ten years of use, with a lot during the last three, the decking that slides in and out under the loading/unloading bridge at the traverser gave up (the slides spat the dummy), so new rollers and a deeper decking are under way.

Little finishing off touches are still being done in the club house. The library is being sorted out by John Martin in his inner sanctum now that he has got all our books and cabinets down from the Vasto Club (see Library News above).

The club trailer, well and truly loaded down with green waste by Dick Langford, went to the tip hauled by Andrew Manning. We want to do this on the Wednesday before Public Run Day as routine procedure to (a) steadily reduce the amount of junk and green waste, and (b) to leave the track site pristine for Run Days.

We have a list of some thirty or so jobs – some requiring money as well as effort, some just effort. See your nearest employment officer if you can do a bit. Wages better than none!

Running the Society is not just paper work!

**Ron Date**

## Gasket Making Part III

*Continued from Gasket Making Part II in Steamlines Supplement October 2003*

**Gaskets for Steam Chests.** Making gaskets for steam chests is easy. Rough up the faces of your steam chest and cover as described in the last issue, checking for flatness on a surface plate.

Now cut out some gasket material oversize. Don't remove the centre section at this stage.

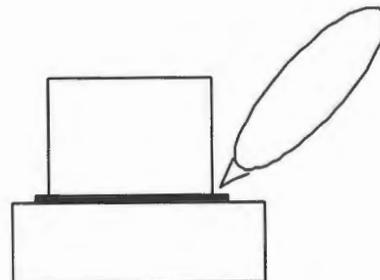
Move onto the drill with a new piece of MDF (see last issue). Drill one hole and put in a peg. Drill another hole on the other side of the chest. Repeat in about 4 places, pegging as you go. When you have it pegged in at least 4 places, drill out all the rest of the holes. Mark the gaskets as follows:

RH bottom front  
LH bottom front  
RH top front  
LH top front.

Now tip the steam chests upside down to make the top cover gaskets, in case your drill has wandered on the way through during the original manufacture of the parts, or the fixing holes are not symmetrical.

A gasket under stress when fitting up due to misaligned holes is bound to fail at the most inopportune time!

Now bolt the steam chest to the cylinder block with the correct gasket nice and firmly. Do not fit the top cover. Remove the excess gasket material around the steam chest with a sharp Stanley knife as shown.



Repeat with the top gasket. Hold the knife at about 45°. Don't be tempted to do this on the bench – one slip with the knife and it's all over. However, the knife will find it fairly hard going to cut through your steam chest!

If you've followed this series through, you should now be able to make flawless gaskets that will last you a lifetime.

**Phil Gibbons**