



September 2000

## “George” runs for the first time!

Mike Rogers successfully ran his newly built Sweet Pea “George” on Sunday 27 August.

This is Mike’s first engine, and a particularly creditable effort considering he has little previous engineering experience. With some help and support from Ken Dines, building began in September 1998, on a second-hand Hercus lathe, and was completed last month. “George” performed well on the track.

Congratulations Mike, on a great job well done!



Left:  
5" gauge Sweet Pea "George"

Right:  
Mike Rogers is ready to run...



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### Your Committee

President Doug Baker	9341 1630
Vice President Ian Allison	9490 2381
Secretary John Shugg	9246 9549
Treasurer John Martin	9448 8843
Safety Officer David Naeser	9349 0747
Committee Members	
Lindsay Adams	9447 4646
Jim Clark	9446 5870
Jim Crawford	9276 5464
Ron Date	
Ernie Redford	9446 4513

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>General Meeting (Bring and Buy Night)</b>	Laurie Strutt Park Elvire St, Waterman	8:00 pm	Friday 8 September
<b>Club Run Day and Public Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto Pl, Balcatta	10:00am—4:00 pm	Sunday 24 September
<b>Cohunu Wildlife Park (See page 3)</b>	Lot 287 Mills Rd Gosnells	10:00am onwards	Saturday & Sunday 7— 8 October
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Notice is hereby given of the AGM</b>	8:00 pm	Friday 13 October
<b>Whiteman Park “Friends of Thomas”</b>	Whiteman Park	Set up on Saturday	Sunday 15 October
<b>Club Run Day and Public Run Day</b>	Club Track Site Vasto Pl, Balcatta	10:00am—4:00 pm	Sunday 29 October

### ADVANCE NOTICE - Subject to Confirmation

Bassendean	Mary St Reserve		5 November
ARHS	Bassendean		Mid November

## July Run Day

Report by David Naeser

In contrast to the previous run day, this run (28 July) was held in glorious spring weather, which after some weeks of rain brought out the public in numbers never before seen at the track. There had also been some publicity with an advert in 'Kids In Perth' and from flyers being given out.

Lindsay Adam brought his gas-fired 5"G Simplex Waratah, and I brought my 3 ½"G SAR F class 4-6-4 tank. Unfortunately, Jim Crawford could not be present due to another commitment.

It was fortunate that Lindsay had also brought his battery locomotive along, as the passengers started rolling up while steam raising was still in progress. Lindsay was soon in steam, but I was battling with a fire which refused to spread over the whole grate – a possible effect of the lack of volatiles in the char. I was expecting a "late in steam" docket, but Doug must have been too busy with crowd control to issue the necessary paperwork! Bob Green took care of traffic the using the electric loco while some real coal was fed into the firebox and the recalcitrant fire coaxed over the firebars.

As for the crowd, the locos were kept busy non-stop for nearly four hours, until the traffic eased towards 3 pm, although running continued until some time later. At each stop, there were passengers waiting to climb aboard and there was scarcely time to attend to the fire or top up the tanks before the next coach load was seated and waiting to go. Some mutterings were heard from a person in the crowd about the length of the wait, but these were tactfully dealt with by Doug, who

reminded the complainer that waiting for a train was prototypical!

Ian Allison relieved Lindsay at the controls of Simplex, and Ed Brown took good care of the F tank for a while. Unfortunately the injectors were giving some problems at that stage, but he coped well nevertheless. I afterwards found some white specs in the injectors (bits of plastic pipe – a legacy from the attention given to the water standpipes by vandals?).

Ernie Redford's new signal was installed where it could protect the steaming bay access point. This was its first official test — it looked good and was certainly bright and easily visible and added some safety where needed. Ernie also did gate duty, collecting a very good day's takings from the crowd.

Many thanks to the members who turned up to assist at the station and gate and who performed the thankless tasks of opening up and packing away the equipment at the end of the day. Unfortunately, more did duty than could be mentioned (I had my head in the firebox most of the time and could not note all the helpers). We had just the minimum number of people required to run on the day and more will be required at future runs in order to give members a break from time to time. So don't be shy, we would like to see as many people as possible down to enjoy the next running day and to assist with various duties such as Station Master and Gate controller.

PS: Next running day is 24 September. Hope the weather is as good!

## August General Meeting

minutes of meeting by John Shugg

The August meeting was well attended by twenty people, including members, one visitor and special guest **Keith Watson**.

**GENERAL BUSINESS** was kept short to allow time for Keith Watson to present his talk (see story on Model Engineering in Brunei on Page 3).

After a vote of thanks and the presentation of a commemorative dog spike by Doug Baker, Keith was invited back for the next meeting to show his other video and to answer further questions about his many projects in model (and not so model) engineering.

**BRING AND BUY NIGHT** — Don't forget to bring something to the next meeting!

See page 3.

**MODEL ENGINEERING** — John Martin showed his tool grinding attachment. Doug Baker had several items, as usual, including a cylinder casting for his Boat Engine, a link cast in bronze, and a segment of track for the Garden Railway. Steve Reeves showed a turret fitting for a Blowfly boiler that he and Phil Gibbons are building. They intend to describe the techniques used as the build progresses, which should be of interest and assistance to many members.

**RAFFLE** — The Door Prize of two 5/8" HSS tool steel pieces, kindly donated by John Tuffen, was won by Jim Clark.

See you all at the next meeting, Friday 8 September. Remember our AGM is to be held on Friday 13 October, full details in the next newsletter.

## Model Engineering in Brunei

Keith Watson was our special guest speaker at the August monthly meeting and presented a lively talk on his model engineering activities, supported by a video.

Keith mentioned his early background in Marine Engineering, and then briefly his later involvement in building steam locomotives of various gauges over many years. His main theme was on the subject of a 15" G railway built in the Sultanate of Brunei in a very short-time, on a no expense spared basis.

The line was built in an area set aside for a huge high-tech fun park, in what could best be described as a paddy field. The full sized engineering challenges that had to be overcome in order to excavate and build up a stable formation before laying the track were quite awesome. Big machinery and lots of labour was used.

Most of the track and the locomotives were imported from the UK. The construction was completed in just a few weeks, and the railway managed to open on the

target date, a birthday of one of the Royal Family.

The video showed the construction and opening of the line, and gave some impression of the size of the task.

Unfortunately, due to the changing fortunes of the Brunei Royal Family, the fun park has recently been allowed to fall into disrepair. The humble "low-tech" steam railway is now one of the few attractions still working, in amongst the now dormant computerised dinosaurs and other modern amusements.

Keith's talk was very interesting to all those present and very much appreciated.

## Steam Festival at Cohunu Wildlife Park

All model railway clubs in WA have been invited to the steam festival at Cohunu Wildlife Park on the weekend of 7-8 October, starting at 10 am both days. A good turnout is expected, though not every club can attend. A night run is possible, depending on weather and the inclinations of those present on the day.

There will be a selection of steam and diesel engines from the various clubs, including large and small stationary engines, traction engines and locos. Our society will be putting on a model engineering display, so if you have a model that you would like to place on show either running or as a static exhibit, please contact either Steve Reeves or Doug Baker as soon as possible to finalise the details.

The special guest entry fee for Society members and their partners will be \$5.00 per head. Follow signs for "Guests" to the private entrance. All other friends and relatives are of course welcome, but they will need to pay the usual gate fee of \$17.00. Bring your badge.

Registration forms will be available at the General Meeting on Friday 8 September — if you cannot attend the meeting but want to go to Cohunu as a guest, please contact Steve Reeves on 9354 1395.

This will be a great weekend — don't miss out!

## Interesting Events...

### Yarloop Workshop & Museum — Steam Up

Their next live steam day is Sunday 12 September, between 10 am and 4 pm. This is a great opportunity to see steam machinery of various sorts in operation, including several stationary engines and a steam saw. Demonstrations of sawmilling and timber handling throughout the day, with various engines in steam.

### Hotham Valley Railway — Northam Show Special

A steam-hauled special from Midland through the Avon Valley for a family day out at Northam Show on Saturday 16 September. Contact Hotham Valley.

**Tool Box Visit** — Doug Baler regrets that the Tool Box visit scheduled for 10 September has been deferred until further notice, due to other commitments.

## Bring and Buy Night

The September general meeting will include a Bring and Buy session. Here's your opportunity to get rid of those odd extra bits of material, unused tools or maybe even an unfinished project.

It will also be a great chance to pick up that bargain piece you've been looking for.

How about having a look round your workshop now and digging out some bits and pieces to bring along...

## New Club Rooms

Plans have been approved by both the City of Stirling and the Fire Brigade.

While we are waiting for the final paperwork to be completed, the site has been filled, levelled and compacted ready for the building to begin.



Northern Districts Model  
Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-  
Vasto Place  
Balcalta  
Western Australia

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

## 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " - 5" Ground Level Track



Ernie Redford with the points jig  
ready to use

Ernie Redford has been quietly beavering away in his factory unit in Osborne Park, designing and setting up track manufacturing jigs for the 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "-5" ground level railway. (See Supplement).

The points design is based on SASMEE designs which have also been adopted by the Canberra Society. This design is intended to work with both fine scale and narrow gauge wheel profiles, and does not have fixed frogs like conventional points, giving a smooth and trouble-free ride.

John Nicolson of the Canberra Society has generously provided information and samples of equipment to assist Ernie with the final designs.

Ernie has since refined the designs to suit the production methods he has set up. He needs some assistance now that production is ready to get under way.

Can you help out? See Situations Vacant.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**Machinist** — to make up a wheel 150mm dia. for a bolt bender for sleeper production. Plan and materials supplied. Some other machining jobs required also.

**Bolt Manufacturers** — 'highly skilled' job running above bolt machine to cut and bend about 8,000 bolts.

**Track Fitters** — to cut, bend, assemble and weld up points and track sections at Ernie's factory unit.

Contact Ernie Redford 9446 4513 — wages and conditions are guaranteed to be second to none!

## FOR SALE

### Myford ML7 Lathe

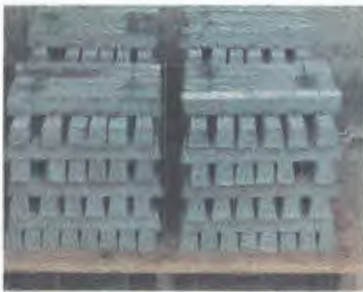
Mr Cliff Booth has written to the Society offering a Myford ML7 lathe for sale. It is about 12 years old but still "as new", having been hardly used. It comes with accessories including gears, three jaw chuck, faceplate and sundry tooling. Asking price is \$2,500 ono.

Contact Cliff Booth on 9257 2708.

### 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 'Lil Lima' Casting Set

From Wato Engineering, some machining already completed. Price \$800.

Contact Craig Belcher 9375 1223.



Dean Brennan has been steadily producing concrete sleepers for the ground level track, using moulds made up by Ernie. So far, 800 sleepers have been produced, the first delivery of 200 shown here.



The first set of points is laid out on the points jig and will shortly be ready for welding.

## Garden Railway

The proposed Gauge 0/Gauge 1 Garden Railway layout at the track site has been pegged out. This layout will provide three separate parallel tracks in a large oval, joined by points for working between the different loops. All are dual gauge 32/45mm (Gauges 0/1).

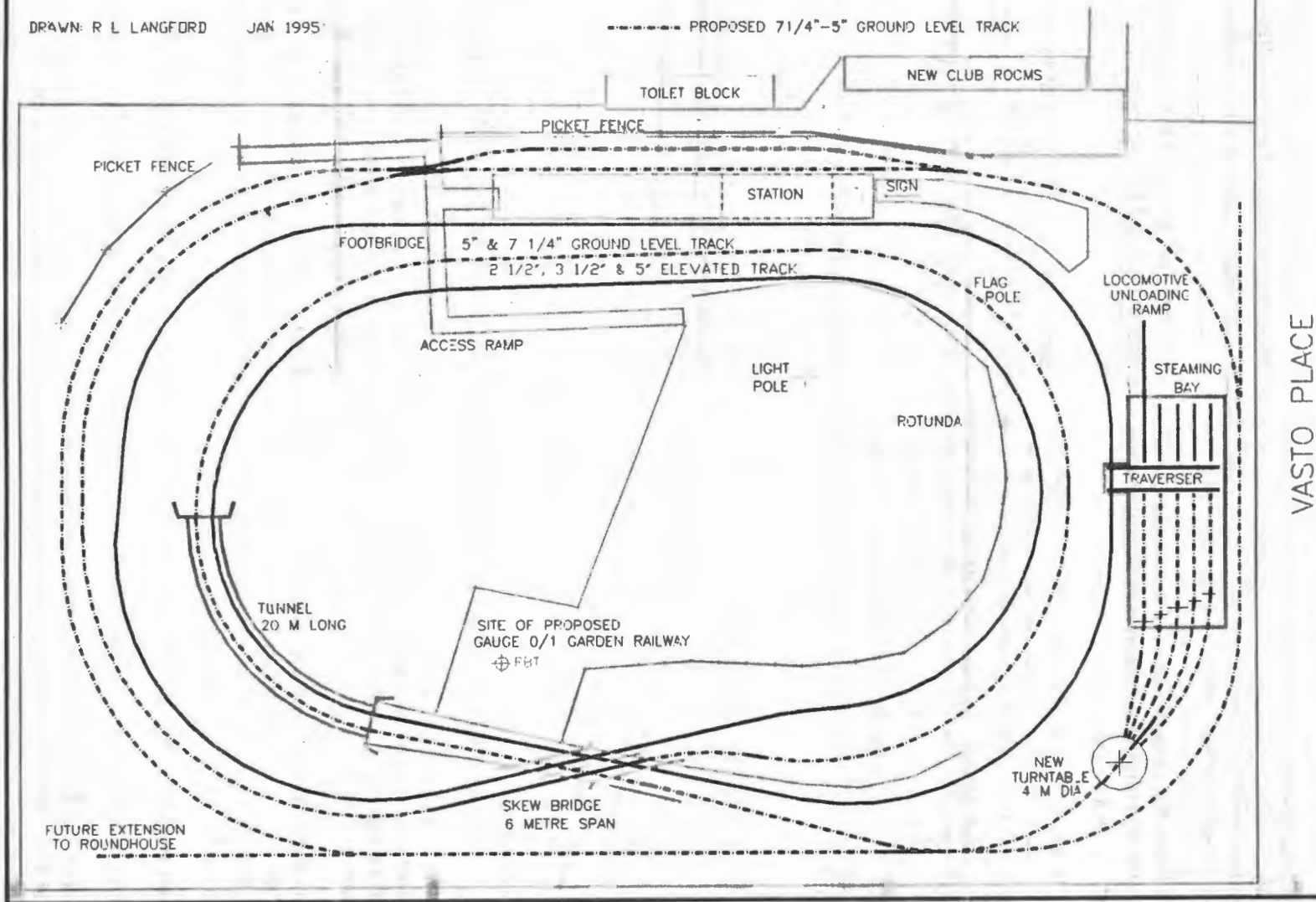
Doug Baker has been working on jigs for track building, which he expects to begin in a couple of weeks.

Got something to say? Got photos? Send them in!

Jim Clark Ph. 9446 5870 Fax 9446 1628  
jimclark@tpg.com.au

# BALCATT A TRACK SITE

DRAWN: R L LANGFORD JAN 1995

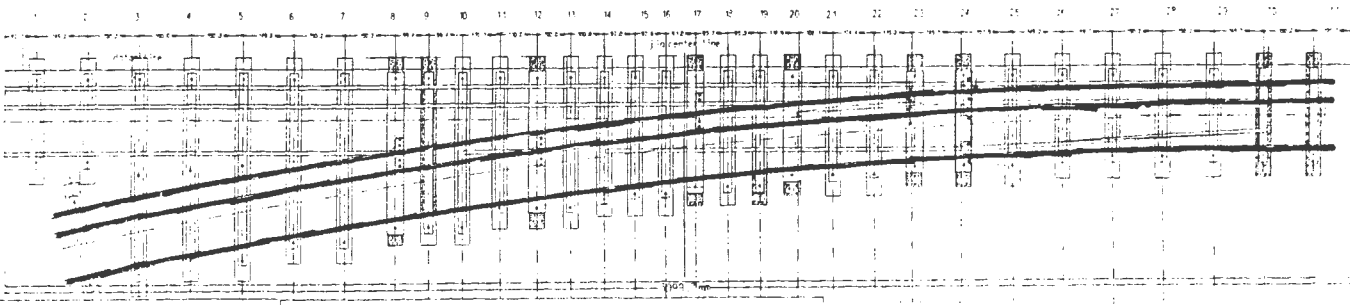
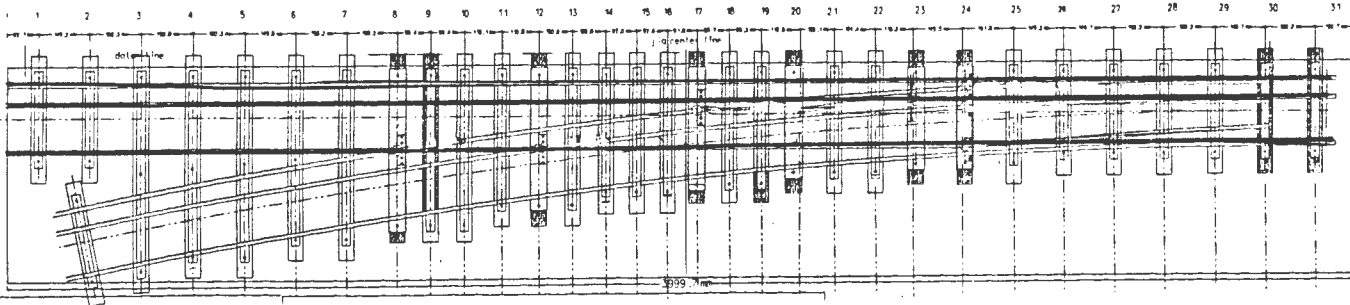


## 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" – 5" Ground Level Track

This month's supplement shows the plans for the 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"-5" gauge ground level track at the Society's Balcatta track site. Finally, together with the progress being made on the Gauge 0/1 garden railway layout, realisation of the Society's original vision of providing track facilities covering virtually all gauges is within sight.

The ground level track project is essentially Ernie Redford's responsibility, and he has invested a great deal of his own time and money into research, design and development, assisted by a small band of Society members including Dean Brennan on sleeper manufacture. The resulting track facilities promise to be among the best of any of the railway clubs in Australia.

The following extracts from Ernie's detailed CAD drawings show the design of the dual gauge points, with the running rails highlighted to show their operation in straight through and turnout mode.



### YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN ENDURING NAME FOR YOURSELF

To help fund the manufacture and installation of the ground level track, the Society is offering you the opportunity to sponsor a section of the ground level track by way of a financial contribution. In return, you will receive permanent naming rights to the section of track you sponsored, e.g. "Joe's Junction" or whatever you please. A metal plaque will be affixed to the track with your chosen inscription.

This gives those of us whose current work and other commitments limit the amount of time we can spend on our hobby a chance to make a significant contribution to the future of our Society. Of course, it's also an investment in our own future enjoyment for those times when we will be able to indulge in the facilities that the Society is now developing.

Track sections can be sponsored in 10m lengths for \$250, or an entire 40m section for \$1,000.

Please contact either Ernie Redford on 9401 5597 (home) or John Martin on 9448 8843 to sign up.

Even if you are not in a position to contribute financially, you should be able to contribute a few hours of your time either occasionally or on a regular basis towards this major milestone in our Society's progress. There is work of all kinds to be done right now helping Ernie Redford with track and sleeper manufacture, and shortly you'll be able to help out at the track site with the preparation and installation of the new track.

See Page 4 of the newsletter for some current Situations Vacant that you may be able to fill.