



September 2004

August-September President's Report

by Dick Langford

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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 9246 9549

Committee Members

Phil Gibbons 9390 4390

David Hunter 9445 1432

Ray Shersby 9277 7306

Milton Smith 9405 1680

Safety Officer

Andrew Manning 9446 4825

Publicity & Events

John Shugg 9246 9549

Librarian

John Martin 9448 8843

Newsletter Editor

Jim Clark 9446 5870

NDMES
PO Box 681
Balcatta 6021
Western Australia



We thoroughly enjoyed our July 2004 trip to Melbourne. The weather was reasonable, given that it is winter time and the steam we encountered was excellent. We spent a couple of days with the Diamond Valley Railway gang. This miniature railway has to be Australia's best, in terms of both the way in which it is run, its setting and its track, locomotives and infrastructure. Unlike NDMES, the Diamond Valley Railway is a society totally dedicated to running a 7¼ inch gauge miniature

Double-headed Baldwin NA locomotives during Dick's recent visit to the Puffing Billy Railway.

Photo: Dick Langford

railway in the same manner as the Victorian Railways once operated its trains. I spent some considerable time discussing insurance, AALS matters and other issues with Robert Carlisle, the Diamond Valley Railway Secretary. These discussions, I believe, were fruitful and educational for both of us.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meeting	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 10 September
Club Work Day & Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 am—12:00 pm Run 12:00 onwards	Sunday 12 September
Public Run Day	Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta	11:00 am—3:00 pm	Sunday 26 September
Annual General Meeting	Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta	8:00 pm	Friday 8 October

Minutes of August General Meeting

by Andrew Manning

The meeting was opened at 8.00 pm with the President Dick Langford in the chair.

Apologies – P. Jennings, J. Giddens, R. Date, D. Baker, S. Martyn, J. Crawford, M. Smith, B. Brown, G. Palmer, E. Redford. Visitors: None.

GENERAL BUSINESS — Chairman's comments:

Dick Langford opened the meeting and welcomed members. He explained that Bruce Wier-Smith would lead a discussion on the proposed Constitution that he is currently putting together.

Dick also drew attention to the modified stairway and expressed the Society's thanks to Ron Date for his drive and leadership in getting on with the task. Thanks Ron.

Andrew Manning reviewed the material discussed at Committee including correspondence.

Andrew Manning answered a query from last month's meeting re our insurance:

- The AALS insurance covers events which may result from a member's actions or inaction providing they are not proven to be malicious, divisive nor dishonest in intent.
- The AALS insurance scheme has had claims made and paid in several States.
- The member societies subscribing to the insurance are specifically named in the policy documents.

Draft Constitution:

Bruce Weir-Smith lead a discussion on the draft Constitution as it stands to date. There was a good discussion with input from a range of members. The key outcomes related to membership and financial management. All present agreed the process was necessary although there was a desire by some that it not

draw out too long. Bruce will publish the changes and additions in the next Steamlines (*see attachment*).

It is hoped that the new Constitution can be voted into place at a special general meeting held in conjunction with the AGM.

MODEL ENGINEERING — **Clive Jarman**

Displayed the 3½" gauge LION built by the late Eric Webb. Clive discussed the efforts Eric went to in order to achieve the fine detail evident on the engine.

Steve Reeves showed his progress on the chassis of his 'Rainhill' in 7¼" gauge including the 50-odd square headed bolts.

Russell Dunn displayed a small capstan attachment for his Toyo lathe that he had build many years ago, copied from one used for home manufacture in UK during WW2.

RAFFLE — was donated by Lynne Shugg – A basket of mugs, towels etc. for "her indoors". Steve Reeves won the raffle.

The meeting concluded about 10:00pm.

Andrew Manning

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Districts Model Engineering Society will be held on Friday, 8th October 2004 at 8:00pm at the Society's clubrooms in Vasto Place, Balcatta.

Nominations are called from Members for Members to fill all Executive and Committee positions. Nominations should be signed by a proposer, a seconder and the nominee themselves. Written nominations should be received by the Secretary no later than 16th September 2004. There is no specific nomination format — just indicate the position being nominated for and ensure that it is signed as detailed above.

There will be a formal mail-out of the Notice of Meeting and to allow the opportunity for postal votes. There will also hopefully be a Special General Meeting called at which we can vote on the new Constitution.

Andrew Manning, Secretary

Left: Clive Jarman points out the "haystack" firebox on the finely detailed model of 'Lion' built in the 1980s by Eric Webb, with Clive's assistance. He is holding the wooden former they used to make the firebox cladding.

Photo by Jim Clark.



Rules of Association Update

by Bruce Weir-Smith

Attached to this issue of Steamlines is an update of the draft Rules of Association (the new Constitution). The attachment contains only the major changes since the previous draft version that was distributed last month and discussed at the last General Meeting. Further discussion and finalisation of these topics should continue at the September meeting.

In the case of the Auditor, I believe a slight relaxation is in order. That is, to only require an Audit every 2 years at the direction of the Committee. The audit function is not a requirement of the Act, which only requires that we keep

books that can be audited. However, I think it makes sense that someone independently reviews the Society's records from time to time.

There have also been numerous small changes, e.g. grammar etc. which are not detailed in the attachment. Any Member who would like the complete current document (via email only) can request it from me, by emailing me at:

bruce.weir-smith@wpcorp.com.au

Bruce Weir-Smith

Your President's thoughts for August & September

by Dick Langford

(Continued from page 1)

Much of the Diamond Valley Railway track is laid with 14 pound/yard flat bottomed rail, screwed to wood or, in all new sections, 6kg/metre rail screwed to plastic sleepers, and it rides very smoothly.

The main line is about 2,000 metres in length, with another 1,600 metres of sidings and loops. The entire railway is fully signalled. All of this is on a very compact site about 280 metres by 170 metres. This is only about 9 times the area of our Balcatta site. Passengers pay for each ride and there are very limited picnic facilities on the site, although there is plenty of open parkland adjacent to the railway. Thus, unlike our operation, patrons do not spend much time on the railway site.

The Diamond Valley Railway operates for the public about 65 times a year – every Sunday and on some holidays, and it carries almost 100,000 passengers each year. The Society has about 120 members.

The site is covered with trees, some of which are quite large and the result is an absolutely beautiful setting. Overall, it has to be among the World's best miniature railways and is well worth a visit if you are in Melbourne.

Our other steam adventures centred around the Puffing Billy Railway, in the Dandenong Ranges, on the eastern fringe of Melbourne. This 2 foot 6 inch gauge railway is another very good reason for visiting Melbourne. Here we saw two of the Baldwin NA class locomotives hauling a long train of carriages loaded with happy passengers. *(see main photo)*. The railway has five of these locomotives in operation — all have been restored to a



very high standard. Originally there were seventeen of them. We travelled on the lunch time train behind 6A from Belgrave to Lakeside. Our carriage was one of the four carriages that used to run on the 3 foot 6 inch gauge Mt Lyell railway in Tasmania. The timber craftsmanship in them is fantastic. On another day we saw the newly restored Garratt locomotive G42 working hard with another long train. This restoration is virtually a complete rebuild of the locomotive.

Whilst I was away enjoying myself, the building construction gang has been very busy. Since our club meeting in July, Ron Date has led the building team to modify the stairs so that the lift can be installed. The stairs now have an intermediate landing where they turn through 90 degrees. This work is now finished apart from some minor jobs that cannot be finished until the lift is installed, so come and have a look for yourself. **WELL DONE, RON & TEAM.** Within the next few weeks the lift should be installed and then we can arrange for the building to be officially opened.

I missed our July public run day which apparently was very successful with a good crowd enjoying themselves in reasonable weather. Our August public run day was also a success. The weather was cold but fine and sunny and a good crowd of people enjoyed themselves riding on our trains. Five steam locomotives worked throughout the day hauling passengers. **THANK YOU TO ED BROWN, RON DATE, ERNIE REDFORD AND STEVE REEVES** for providing the steam power.

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Northern Districts Model
Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-
Vasto Place
Balcatta
Western Australia

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

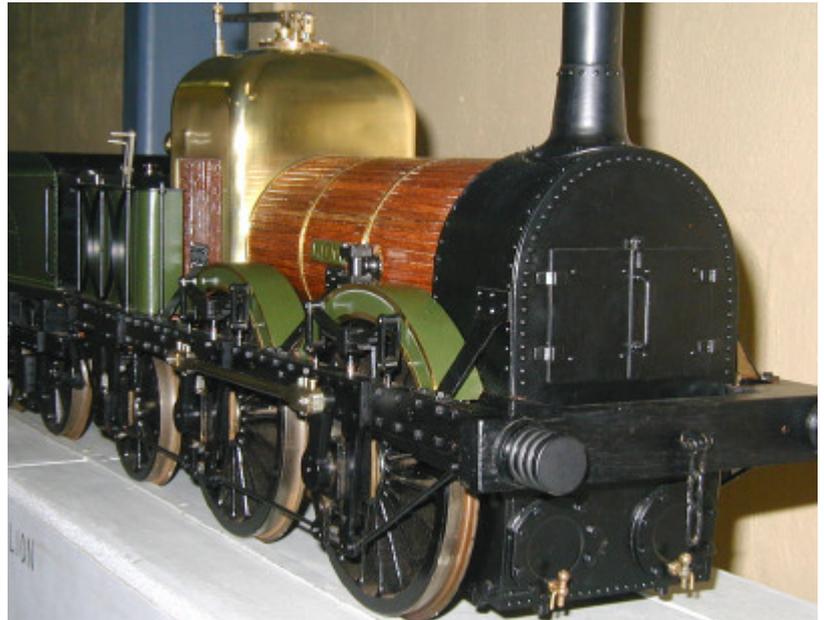
<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/jimclark>

August Meeting Photo

Some of the fine detail is evident on this excellent model of 'Lion' shown at the August meeting, including scale square head bolts.

Built by the late Eric Webb and steamed only twice, last in 1986, it is now in the care of Clive Jarman, who helped Eric to build it.

Photo: Jim Clark



President's Report (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

I did a presentation on our Society and model engineering to the Kiwanis Club of Karrinyup at their regular meeting on Wednesday 28 July. This was an interesting evening and I anticipate we will see some of their members at future run days. I am also discussing some assistance for the Society with them.

Bruce Weir Smith has also been busy. As you are all aware, Bruce has prepared a new Rules of Association for us which we now intend to use, rather than adopting the version being offered by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection. A copy of this document was attached to the last issue of Steamlines. Whilst it is not complete yet, it is worthy of your attention. We amicably discussed some aspects of it at our August meeting and will continue this discussion at our September meeting. Your input to this discussion is important: it should not be dominated by just a few members and should be the result of all members having their say. Please don't shy away from this important aspect of your Society. **THANK YOU, BRUCE.** Your efforts will benefit the Society well into the future.

Don't forget our Society's work and play day on Sunday 12 September. Come and spend the morning among friends at Balcatta doing some site maintenance work and then spend the afternoon

Saying of the Month

We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are nice, some are dull, some have weird names... but they all exist nicely in the same box.

running trains and other models and discussing your projects with Society members. Both you and your Society benefit from your contributions.

Now that spring is here (and the birds is riz!) your Society's site is looking great and would benefit from your tender loving care. There are plenty of jobs, big and small, to do and your help would be greatly appreciated.

It is also time to start thinking about your Committee for 2004 – 2005. Our Annual General Meeting is only just over a month away, and nominations for Executive and Committee positions are being sought early in September so its time to decide what you want to happen and what you want to do to help your Society head strongly into its twentieth year.

I look forward to welcoming you at our 10 September 2004 meeting.

Dick Langford



Model or the real thing? This impressive consist seen outside Diamond Valley's Railway Workshops. Photo: Dick Langford