



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site

www.aals.asn.au

Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

President:

Roger Kershaw 67 March Street ORANGE NSW 2800

Tel: 02 6362 3029

E-mail: rkershaw@optusnet.com.au

Secretary:

Hugh Elsol 70 Mascar Street UPPER MT GRAVATT QLD. 4122

Tel: 07 3849 5573 **Fax:** 07 3849 1736

E-mail: hj.elsol@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer:

Ross Walker 441 Bangerang Road ECHUCA VILLAGE VIC 3564

Tel: 03 5480 7206 **Fax:** 03 5482 6724

E-mail: BlackFive_5448@bigpond.com

Insurance Officer:

Dennis Hamilton 63 Pioneer Road BELLAMBI NSW 2518

Tel: 02 4284 1942 **Fax:** 02 4284 0337

E-mail: steamer@fishinternet.com.au

54th ANNUAL CONVENTION

AGM MINUTES

Saturday, 03rd April, 2010 at 7.30 pm

at the grounds of the Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc, Brisbane.

1. The President of the Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, Mr Noel Eberhardt, welcomed all warmly and handed over to the President of AALS, Mr Roger Kershaw.

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

2. PRESENT:

President, AALS, Roger Kershaw;
Vice-President AALS, John Wakefield;
Secretary AALS, Hugh Elsol;
Treasurer AALS, Ross Walker;
Chairman AMBSC, Barry Potter;
Secretary AMBSC, Adrian Cox;
Chairman ALSSC, Warwick Allison;

Secretary ALSSC, Alf Grigg;
State Rep (NSW), Jeff Wakeham;
State Rep (Vic), Robert Cox;
State Rep (Tas), Peter Lawson;
State Rep (SA), Peter Manning;
State Rep (WA), Richard Stuart;
Returning Officer, Barry Webster, (Hornsby).

APOLOGIES:

AALS Insurance Officer, Dennis Hamilton;
State Rep (N Qld), Laurie Fielder;
State Rep (S Qld) Don Hutchison;
David Scott, Tamworth & District Model Engineers

The following Societies were represented or in attendance at the Convention:

Adelaide Miniature Steam Railway Inc
Altona Miniature Railway Inc.
Bankstown Steam Locomotive Society Co-op Ltd
Bathurst Miniature Railway Society Co-op
Ballarat Society of Model Engineers Inc

Berry Railway Inc
BlueScope Western Port Railway Society
Box Hill Miniature Steam Railway Society Inc
Brisbane Bayside Steam Railway Society Inc
Campaspe Valley Railway Inc

Canberra Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc
Castledare Miniature Railways WA Inc
Clare Valley Model Engineers Inc
Diamond Valley Railway Inc
Euroa Steam Locomotive & ME Society Inc
Evandale Light Railway & Steam Society Inc
Gippsland Model Engineering Society
Grandchester Model Live Steam Association Inc
Hobart Miniature Steam Locomotive Society Inc
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd
Illawarra Live Steamers Inc
Katanning Miniature Railway Inc
Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-op Society Ltd
Lake Hume Model Engineers Inc
Logan Model Engineering Society Inc
Model Engineers & Live Steamers' Assoc'n, Bribie Inc
Model Engineers & Live Steamers' Assoc'n Maryborough Inc
Model Engineers & Live Steamers' Assoc'n Gladstone Inc
Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club
Mudgee Miniature Railway Society Co-op Ltd
Morphett Vale Railway Inc
Northern Districts Model Engineering Society (Perth)
Pacific Coast Railway Society Inc
Orange Society of Model Engineers Co-op

Penfield Model Engineers Society Inc
Penwood Railroad Inc
Pioneer Dairy Steam Railway Inc
Port Augusta Model Engineers Inc
Queensland Society of Model & Experimental Engineers Inc
Quirindi Village Miniature Railway
SA Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc
Southern Highlands Model Engineers Inc
Steam Locomotive Society of Victoria Inc
Sunshine Coast Railway Modellers Society (Inc)
Sydney Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-op Ltd
Sydney Society of Model Engineers
Tamworth & District Model Engineers
The Steam Locomotive Society of Victoria
Toodyay Miniature Railway Inc
Townsville and District Society of Model Engineers
Tullamarine Live Steam Society
Tweed Valley Miniature Steam Railway Inc
Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers Inc
Wandong Live Steamers Inc
Western Districts Live Steamers Co-op Society
Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society.

An attendance list circulated and Roger Kershaw welcomed overseas visitors. Dave Giles, Manukau Live Steamers NZ, and other NZ visitors sent their apologies for the meeting. A visitor from the UK was only able to attend on Sunday.

3. DEPARTED FRIENDS.

The following friends departed this life since we were last together. The Secretary, Hugh Elsol read the list:

Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, Harry Nilsen;
Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, John McDicken;
Illawarra Live Steamers Co-op Ltd, Bert Bruce;
Central Coast Steam, Model Co-Op Ltd, Stan Smith;
Mudgee Miniature Railway Co-Op Society Ltd, Allan Bennett;
Steam Locomotive Society of Victoria, Wal Ferres;
Sunshine Coast Railway Modellers Society Inc, Gary Evans;
Sunshine Coast Railway Modellers Society Inc, Klaus Petzl;
Sydney Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-Op Limited, Frank Collins;
Roseworthy Railway Club Inc, Ray Matthews;
Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-Op Society Ltd, Howard Civil;
Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-Op Society Ltd, Sandy Cockburn;
Model Engineers and Live Steamers' Association Maryborough Inc, Ken Moffett;
Model Engineers and Live Steamers' Association Maryborough Inc, William Stacey;
Model Engineers and Live Steamers' Association Maryborough Inc, Doug Kuskie;
SA Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc, Allan Brabham;
SA Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc, Colin Bamford;
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd, Bob Rottenbury;
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd, Stan Clarke;
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd, Ernest Hindmarsh;
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd, Alf Ross;
Euroa Steam Locomotive & ME Society Inc, Doug Day;
Illawarra Live Steamers Co-op Ltd, Ann Willis.

The Chairman, Roger Kershaw, called for a minute's silence to remember them.

4. MINUTES of 2009 AGM (circulated)

Moved Jeff Wakeham, LMLSLS, and seconded, David Proctor, OSME, that the Minutes be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

Moved Peter Lawson, ELRSS, and seconded, Ray Hall, Penfield, that the Correspondence be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (circulated). The President made a verbal update as follows:

What is AALS? The CFA example of the difference between the executive and workers when workers met an executive member was used as an analogy. The AALS IS eighty autonomous clubs each of which is run by its executive committee where ninety-five per cent of the membership is not interested in AALS – the focus is their club – they don’t care about AALS.

“The AALS” is mentioned when something is wrong. AALS responsibilities are the CoP, Boiler Codes, operating insurance (a service) and arranging a club to host a Convention. AALS operates on a budget roughly about \$10,000 which is the equivalent of a medium-sized club’s. AALS provides a service when required to clubs.

A campaign, Machiavellian, was run to discredit Potter and isolate Kershaw, so AMBSC would emerge as an independent authority. Ross Walker wanted to employ a relative (a daughter – he has no daughters!) to run Conventions. QSMEE committed the heinous crime of deciding what locomotives were suitable for its facilities. The AALS Board is separate from club decisions. Another letter mailed to the Company Secretary, Ross Walker, meant he took it to the solicitor again.

Any club in trouble will answer to the relevant government authority NOT AALS. AALS has little direct influence in a club’s activities. Each Board member is a volunteer. Most clubs operate freely without concern about AALS. Clubs are for playing trains – only if there are problems do they talk to AALS. AALS is not the hobby.

Spontaneous applause followed.

Moved Les Mouat, Wagga, and seconded, Linda Hall, Gippsland, that the President’s Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

7. SECRETARY’S REPORT (circulated).

Moved Jeff Wakeham, LMLSLS, and seconded, David Proctor, OSME, that the Secretary’s Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

8. ADOPTION of FINANCIAL STATEMENT and receipt of AUDITOR’S REPORT (circulated)

Ross Walker explained. 1. There was a \$1,780 loss. Some years have losses and others have gains. 2. Gifts and hospitality rose on the previous year: \$4,000 donation to Wandong after bushfire infrastructure damage; \$3,000 in gifts to Barry Glover and Ian Kirby; and there was the Southern Federation AME subscription. 3. In Incorporation, \$1,375: there was \$1,000 for legal fees to alter the

constitution to add life members; and other on-going items. 4. The balance sheet had no significant change.

Barry Glover, ILS, asked about his having resigned not retired in the Director's report and was told it was legal terminology to use 'resigned'.

There was no further discussion.

Moved Peter Lawson, ELRSS, and seconded, Ray Hall, Penfield, that the Financial Statement and Auditor's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

9. INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT (circulated).

Moved Jeff Wakeham, LMLSLS, and seconded, Linda Hall, Gippsland, that the Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

10. AMBSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (circulated). The Chairman made the following verbal update:

Firstly, the Board members voted unanimously to have the Duplex Stainless Steel Code proposal move to the next stage towards accreditation. Metallurgists are finalizing parts, it will be submitted to government authorities and a boiler will be built to settle any doubts.

Secondly, a proposal to import a 'Polly' boiler (from the UK) was favourably received – it is easy to inspect. The purpose is to encourage people to join the hobby.

Moved Harvey Dart, Penwood, and seconded, Les Irwin, Penwood, that the AMBSC Chairman's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

There was no discussion.

11. ALSSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (circulated)

Moved David Proctor, OSME, and seconded, Peter Lawson, ELRSS, that the ALSSC Chairman's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.

Warwick Allison believed it was self-explanatory. There was no discussion.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS.

12.1 VOTING PROCEDURES

Cards for Proxies, Proxy Votes and Delegates needed no explanation

Barry Webster, Hornsby, the Returning Officer, was satisfied that the proxy forms were accurately entered onto the data sheet. There were no questions.

12.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12.2.1 National Vice-President of the AALS Ltd.

Two nominations were received for the position of National Vice-President of the AALS. The Adelaide Miniature Railway Society nominated John Wakefield. John Wakefield's CV was attached. The Penfield Model Engineers Society nominated Ray Hall. Ray Hall's CV was attached.

Ballot: For Ray Hall 30 For John Wakefield 17. *Ray Hall was declared elected at the meeting. The declaration was followed by acclamation. John Wakefield congratulated Ray Hall on his election and wished him all the best in the future. He thanked the clubs that had supported him in his twenty-four years as Vice-President.*

12.2.2 National Chairman of ALSSC.

One nomination was received for the position of National Chairman of ALSSC. The Sydney Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-Op Limited nominated Warwick Allison. Warwick Allison's CV was attached.

Only one nomination was received, therefore Warwick Allison was declared elected at the meeting. The announcement was followed by acclamation.

12.2.3 National Secretary of ALSSC

One nomination was received for the position of National Secretary of ALSSC. The Campaspe Valley Miniature Railway Inc nominated Alf Grigg. Alf Grigg's CV was attached.

Only one nomination was received, therefore Alf Grigg was declared elected at the meeting. The announcement was followed by acclamation.

12.2.4 National Secretary of AMBSC: The election of the AMBSC Secretary was removed from this agenda on legal advice after AALS Ltd received a grievance letter from Altona Miniature Railway Inc.

The AALS President, Roger Kershaw, congratulated all those who had offered to assist the national body. He thanked John Wakefield for his long service to the hobby. There was acclamation. AALS had erred in calling for the election of the AMBSC Secretary and so had made the change where the election was cancelled.

12.3 SPECIAL BUSINESS.

12.3.1

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSED THIS RESOLUTION:

The revised Code of Practices for Operation, Training and Standards for Interoperability and Safety of Miniature Railways, Road Vehicles and Plant be adopted.

Reasons for the resolution, 12.3.1:

The Australian Live Steamers Safety Committee had revised the format and layout of the Code of Practice so it was under the headings of Operation, Training and Standards. A Reference section outlines AALS and its two sub-committee's history and makeup to introduce the three parts. Their tables and diagrams have been placed with the text that refers to them and have been redrawn to better link with the text. Also, all diagrams have been redrawn to improve clarity and readability. Nothing from the previous document was missed; the substance and intent of the original document was retained with improved clarity and presentation. Some references to other AALS documents were updated or corrected.

The draft Codes were available for inspection on the AALS website.

Comment: The Board supported this revision.

Warwick Allison told the meeting that the revision was posted onto the web in November last year. Any suggestions to improve the documents are always welcomed. There were three on the team and the process required diligence; the hard work has produced an excellent result.

There was no discussion.

Ballot: For: 44 Against: 0 Abstain: 4 RESULT: CARRIED.

12.3.2

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION

That the following changes be made to the Code of Practice: the President, Roger Kershaw, read it aloud in full.

(Note: The clause numbers referred to the draft Code of Practice. Should these resolutions be adopted and the draft Code of Practice was not adopted then the resolutions would be inserted into the existing Code of Practice at their respective current CoP clause numbers.)

5.7.2 (delete existing clause in its entirety and substitute the following)

Societies shall not allow to ride on a Train any person who:

5.7.2.1 Is visibly ill; or

5.7.2.2 Is reasonably suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol; or

5.7.2.3 Cannot be safely seated on a Public Passenger Carriage or a Driving Carriage; or

5.7.2.4 Is smoking a cigarette, pipe or cigar; or

5.7.2.5 Is wearing loose or flowing clothing which may risk entanglement with any part of a Public Passenger Carriage or with Plant; or

5.7.2.6 Has bare feet; or

5.7.2.7 Is wearing thongs; or

5.7.2.8 Is wearing other unsuitable footwear such as open sandals, or scuffs unless:

(a) the person is to ride in a Public Passenger Carriage or a Driving Carriage of 7¼" (184.15 mm) gauge with high sides of a height of at least 6" (150 mm) measured from the floor to the top of the side; and

(b) the person's footwear is fastened such that it cannot fall from the person's foot.

Reasons for the resolution 12.3.2.

This proposed amendment was a result of the consultation proposal by the Safety Committee to amend the provisions of the Code to permit member clubs to carry passengers with open footwear in high-sided 7¼"/184.15 mm gauge passenger riding cars. Footwear must be fastened such that the shoe cannot fall from the wearer's foot, and excludes bare feet and thongs.

Comment: The Board supported this resolution.

Alf Grigg explained the consultation process that followed the incorrectly worded motion at the 2009 AGM. Submissions were from clubs and individuals with fourteen (14) in support and just two (2) against. 5" G clubs abstained from the discussion.

Les Mouat, Wagga, enquired about the statement "visibly ill" as a condition not necessarily impeding a passenger's ability to ride. Alf Grigg, ALSSC Secretary, noted this could go to the consultation process while such safety judgements would be at the discretion of the Safety Officer. Les Irwin, Penwood, asked about handicapped persons. Ross Walker, AALS Treasurer, and David Proctor, OSME, both replied it was a matter of being safely seated as to whether such persons could ride.

Ballot: For: 44 Against: 2 Abstain: 2 RESULT: CARRIED.

12.3.3

CAMPASPE VALLEY MINIATURE RAILWAY INC PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION

That the following changes be made to the Code of Practice:

(Note: The clause numbers refer to the draft Code of Practice. Should these resolutions be adopted and the draft Code of Practice is not adopted then the resolutions will be inserted into the existing Code of Practice at their respective current CoP clause numbers.)

5.2 Delete existing clauses 5.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3 and substitute the following:

5.2 Minimum Age

- 5.2.1 The minimum age for Attendants when operating on Public Running days shall be fifteen (15) years of age.
- 5.2.2 The minimum age for Operators on Public Running days shall be fifteen (15) years of age.
- 5.2.3 On non-public running days the minimum age for a person in control of a Locomotive, Light Engine or Train shall be seven (7) years of age. Persons seven (7) to fifteen (15) years of age inclusive shall be under the Direct Supervision of an Operator eighteen (18) years of age or older at all times.

Reasons for the resolution 12.3.3.

Members were generally concerned about attracting and retaining younger members to the hobby. By allowing younger members to be involved with train operation would help achieve this aim. The current rule was thought by many to be too restrictive. This does not stop a club from imposing an

older age limit if it feels their operating circumstances dictate a more mature age. It still requires a club to impose a testing regime for operators. There are many persons 15 to 18 year old within the hobby who are as capable of operating a locomotive under public running conditions as many of our older members.

Comment: The Board supported this resolution.

Eric Heeley, Gippsland, believed the days were not relevant; the implication is when the public are present.

Barry Glover, ILS, is the insurer happy? Ross Walker, AALS Treasurer, replied yes.

Wayne Roberts, TLSS, noted the Victorian government did not allow operators under eighteen (18).

Les Mouat, Wagga, stated that clubs do not have to permit the lower age.

Robert Cox, Altona, supported Wayne Roberts about complying with Victorian WorkCover.

Barry Glover, ILS, stated that in NSW 15-18 year-olds were permitted under direct supervision and after adequate training.

David Proctor, OSME, reminded the meeting that almost 100 years ago (1919) ways were sought to encourage younger membership in the hobby and that a rule change would not do this.

Wayne Roberts, TLSS, suggested an amendment and to check with local authorities – Ross Walker, AALS Treasurer, said there could be a delay for a legal check and opinion.

Murray Hill, Altona, noted people under eighteen could obtain a licence for other things.

Roger Kershaw, AALS President, believed all clubs' committees should know their State's legal requirements.

Robert Cox, Altona, felt clubs would just follow the CoP, not the State regulations.

Ray Hall, AALS Vice-President-elect, felt an addition where clubs should check government regulations be made.

It was decided by the Board to withdraw this motion for further consideration.

12.4 APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION

There were no applications for affiliation with the Association.

There was no discussion.

12.5 AFFILIATION FEE 2010 – 2011

12.5.1 The Board recommended that the Affiliation Fee rise to \$3.30 (which includes the GST).

Comment: The reason was that the Association incurred significant legal expenses.

Ross Walker, the AALS Treasurer, explained that with \$4,730 in legal costs while \$10-12,000 pa was the turnover, it was deemed prudent to make a slight increase. Invested funds are a 'travel fund' raised from clubs several years ago so money is available if the executive requires them at short notice to respond to issues that require immediate attention. David Proctor enquired about the sources of the legal fees. Roger Kershaw, the AALS President, hoped the legal tussles of the past would not continue. David Proctor, OSME, expressed the desire that proceedings returned to being a hobby.

Ballot: For: 46 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 RESULT: CARRIED.

13. WHEN AND WHERE: 2011 AND BEYOND

As the 'New Convention Format Trial' letter, an appendix to the agenda, explained, when the 2009 'Future of Conventions' survey replies were received, the Board found the majority of clubs which replied indicated they wanted annual conventions to continue. The Board responded with the trial outlined in the appendix.

2011 Convention: Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-op Ltd, New South Wales.

2012 Convention: Penfield Model Engineers Society Inc, South Australia.

Both of these sites followed the current rotation cycle.

Roger Kershaw detailed there was no change to the Convention venue for 2011 and 2012. Both Lake Macquarie and Penfield were clubs with the space to host. Clubs can submit a proposal to host. He thanked Lake Macquarie and Penfield.

Wayne Roberts, TLSS, asked if the Standing Orders would be changed and Roger Kershaw replied that the situation is not closed because there will be adaptations to the situations which occur.

Ray Hall, Vice-President -elect, Penfield wanted certainty – not just gearing up for one Convention.

Jeff Wakeham, LMLSLS, wants Conventions to continue, so clubs should stand up; ideas on a new approach were given with no catering on site because at the last LMLSLS Convention (1999) the marquee was very expensive.

David Proctor, OSME, noted the last Traction Engine rally had no catering.

Peter Lawson, ELRSS, stated that the most difficult part of the Tasmanian Convention (2002) was the meals.

Noel Eberhardt, QSMEE, felt that Conventions would continue since some QSMEE members had spoken during this Convention of holding another.

Murray Hill, Altona, asked if the AGM agenda could be earlier. Hugh Elsol, the AALS Secretary, explained it was not late but was not as early as desirable since legal advice was required. Les Irwin, Penwood, wondered if 30th November rather than 31st December should be the cut-off. Jeff Wakeham, LMLSLS, asked if any club did not have agenda review time. There was no further discussion.

14. VOTE OF THANKS

Close of Meeting.

The retiring AALS Vice-President, John Wakefield:

- Thanked the host club's ladies and members for their efforts in catering to visitor's needs;
- Congratulated QSMEE on the venue;
- Recognized the hard work by the members and ladies in preparation and hosting of the Convention;
- He asked that everyone show their appreciation in the usual manner;
- Acclamation followed.

Roger Kershaw, the AALS President, thanked John for his service to the hobby and said there would be a formal presentation at next year's Convention.

Noel Eberhardt, the QSMEE President, thanked John for the kind words.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.