



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site

[www.aals.asn.au](http://www.aals.asn.au)

Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

## AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE BOILER SAFETY COMMITTEE

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## AMBSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2009-2010

This year has been greatly influenced by the many and varied discussions and opinions regarding the proposed Duplex Stainless Steel Code. This has resulted in the AALS Board's appointing an independent professional metallurgist to review the suitability of the material for our use. At the time of writing this report his findings have not been received; when they are, the full Board of the AALS will review the evidence from all informed sources to make a decision on the matter. The recent report that was sent to all clubs and Boiler Inspectors in November outlines the reasons for the involvement of the AALS in the matter. The AALS President, Roger Kershaw, will address the forthcoming AMBSC meeting at the 2010 Convention to clarify the situation.

The Carbon Steel code review has been completed thanks to the considerable effort of Andrew Mathews and is currently in the hands of the widely-experienced Eric Evans who is giving it the once over as a check.

The copper code alterations that I would like to investigate have had to be put on the back burner due to the amount of time that the proposed Duplex Code has taken up. However, an approach has been made to Polly Model Engineering in the UK seeking information on the design details of the boilers used in their range of 5" gauge steam locomotives. This was prompted by a couple of enquiries made directly to me over the past couple of years by persons who were interested in purchasing one of their engines. These boilers are accepted in all of Europe, the UK, America, Canada, and, I think, New Zealand, but not here. I have received a copy of their boiler drawing and it appears to follow our code fairly closely. One of my local club members is very interested in the purchase one of their engines and that would give me the opportunity to closely inspect the design and construction of the boiler. They come in kit form with a completed (but un-lagged) boiler. If it proves to be OK then a decision will have to be made on their acceptance.

I would like all Boiler Inspectors to review their records with regard to any boilers that have been failed over the past several years. It would be a great help to the AMBSC to have a record of any failures and the reasons for such. This should include any boiler that was failed due to faulty construction and was refused initial certification and any boiler that was failed after any period of use. The purpose for this

would be for us to have a more complete record of the problems, if any, that may arise as boilers age. If we were to find a pattern emerging then we would be able to inform inspectors of things to look for when testing. We all hear of such things from time to time and it is hard to know if they are fact or fiction.

Please inform the AMBSC Honorary Secretary if any inspector resigns his position for any reason since it is important that we keep a complete and up-to-date record of inspectors. Also try to fill in all of the details required in your record books including changes of ownership.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of the club inspectors for their diligence during the past year in ensuring the safety of day to day miniature boiler operation.

Sincerely,

Barry Potter, Chairman, AMBSC.