



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF **LIVE STEAMERS**

AALS Web Site

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

Limited

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## 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

### AGM MINUTES

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at 7.30 pm

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

**1. The President of the Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc, Mr Jess Balcombe-Jestico, handed over to the President of AALS, Mr David Proctor.**

The meeting opened at 1930.

**2. APOLOGIES.**

Dennis Hamilton, National Insurance Officer;

Laurie Fielder, North Qld State Representative;

Tony and Julie Stock, Katanning Miniature Railway Society Inc.

An attendance list was circulated.

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

Adelaide Miniature Steam Railway Inc  
Altona Miniature Railway Inc.  
Bathurst Miniature Railway Society Inc  
Berry Railway Inc  
Blue Mountains Railway Society Co-op Ltd  
BlueScope Steel Western Port Railway Society Inc  
Box Hill Miniature Steam Railway Society Inc  
Campaspe Valley Miniature Railway Inc  
Canberra Society of Model and Experimental Engineers  
Castledare Miniature Railways WA Inc  
Central Coast Steam Model Co-op Ltd  
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 Inc  
Hamilton Model Railway Group Inc  
Highlands Miniature Railway Inc  
Hobart Miniature Steam Locomotive Society Inc  
Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd  
Illawarra Live Steamers Co-op Ltd  
Innisfail Mini Rail Club Inc  
Katanning Miniature Railway Society (Inc)  
Lake Hume Model Engineers Inc  
Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-op Society Ltd

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 Inc  
Morphett Vale Railway Inc  
Mudgee Miniature Railway Co-op Society Ltd  
Northern Districts Model Engineering Society  
(Perth) Inc  
North West Model Engineering Society  
Orange Society of Model Engineers Co-op Ltd  
Penfield Model Engineers Society Inc  
Penwood Railroad Inc  
Port Augusta Model Engineers Inc  
Queensland Society of Model and  
Experimental Engineers Inc

South Australian Society of Model and  
Experimental Engineers Inc  
South West Model Engineers Association  
(WA) Inc  
South Western Model Engineers Inc  
Steam Locomotive Society of Victoria Inc  
Sunshine Coast Railway Modellers Society Inc  
Sydney Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-op  
Ltd  
Toowoomba Live Steamers Inc  
Townsville and District Society of Model  
Engineers Inc  
Tullamarine Live Steam Society  
Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers Inc  
Wandong Live Steamers Inc  
Western District Live Steamers Co-op Society  
Ltd

Overseas NZ visitors attending the Convention were Dave and Lynn Giles from Manukau Live Steamers, Win and Lyn Holdaway from Blenheim and Peter and Shirley Coop from Hamilton.

### **3. DEPARTED FRIENDS.**

The following friends departed this life since we were last together:

David Hemphill, Queensland Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc and Steam Locomotive Society of Victoria Inc;  
Ken Green, Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-operative Society;  
Jack Kneller, Illawarra Live Steamers Co-op Ltd;  
Bob Harper, Hobart Miniature Steam Locomotive Society Inc;  
Lloyd Ridgers, Hobart Miniature Steam Locomotive Society Inc;  
Barry Mew, Hastings Valley Miniature Railway Society Inc;  
John Mann, Sydney Live Steam Locomotive Society Co-op Ltd;  
Geoffrey Raph, Sunshine Coast Railway Modellers Society Inc;  
Arthur Sweatman, Geelong Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc;  
Laurie Bellchambers, Penfield Model Engineers Society;  
Harry Thompson, Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Co-operative Society;  
Sam Stowe, Western Districts Live Steamers Co-op Society Ltd;  
Donald Ead, Loddon Miniature Steam Locomotive Society Inc;  
Keith Noble, Penfield Model Engineers Society;  
Bernie Lawrence, Hornsby Model Engineers Co-operative Ltd;  
Jamie Shaw, Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers Inc;  
Dave Banks, Euroa Steam Locomotive and Model Engineering Society Inc;  
Fred Springer, Texas, USA;  
Glen Templeman, South Australian Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Inc.

The Chairman, David Proctor, called for a minute's silence to remember them.

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**4. MINUTES of 2012 AGM (circulated).**

**Moved Barry Glover, Illawarra, and seconded, Jeff Wakeham, Lake Macquarie, that the Minutes be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Moved Jeff Wakeham, Lake Macquarie, and seconded, Peter Lawson, Evandale, that the Correspondence be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (circulated).**

**Moved David Kirkland, Western Districts, 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, Lake Macquarie, and seconded, Jim Lawton, Euroa, that the Secretary's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion.

**8. ADOPTION of FINANCIAL STATEMENTS and receipt of AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT (circulated).**

**Moved Harvey Dart, Penwood, and seconded, Ross Walker, Campaspe, that the Financial Statements and Auditor's Review Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion

**9. INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT (circulated).**

**Moved Linda Hall, Gippsland, and seconded, Peter Lawson, Evandale, that the Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion.

**10. AMBSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (circulated).**

**Moved David Kirkland, Western Districts, and seconded, Harvey Dart, Penwood, that the AMBSC Chairman's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion.

**11. ALSSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT and CONSULTATION REPORT (circulated).**

**Moved Jeff Wakeham, Lake Macquarie, and seconded, Harvey Dart, Penwood, that the ALSSC Chairman's Report be accepted. All in favour: CARRIED.**

There was no discussion.

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**The Proxy Voting Form served the dual purpose of identifying your selected Proxy voter at the meeting and included an abbreviated list of the motions and tick boxes which may have been completed with your (society's) instruction concerning your vote for each of the motions. Voting may have been conducted on the Proxy Voting Form enclosed or by your Proxy at the meeting.**

**Therefore, those who could speak and vote from the floor on a motion were provided with a gold coloured card and those who could speak only regarding a motion had a blue coloured card.**

**Noel Eberhardt of QSMEE was the Returning Officer.**

## **12. GENERAL BUSINESS.**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **12(a) National Vice-President of the AALS Ltd.**

One nomination was received for the position of Vice-President of AALS Limited. Penfield Model Engineers Society Inc nominated Ray Hall. Ray Hall's CV was attached.

*Only one nomination was received, therefore Ray Hall was declared elected at the meeting. This was greeted with acclamation.*

#### **12(b) National Treasurer of AALS Ltd. One year only.**

One nomination was received for the position of National Treasurer of AALS Ltd. The Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers Inc Ltd nominated Ben De Gabriel. Ben De Gabriel's CV was attached.

*Only one nomination was received, therefore Ben De Gabriel was declared elected at the meeting. This was greeted with acclamation.*

#### **12(c) National Chairman of ALSSC:**

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

*Only one nomination was received, therefore Warwick Allison was declared elected at the meeting. This was greeted with acclamation.*

#### **12(d) 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. This was greeted with acclamation.*

#### **12(e) State Representative of AALS Ltd for Victoria: Two years only.**

One nomination was received for the position of State Representative of AALS Ltd for Victoria. The Tullamarine Live Steam Society nominated Wayne Roberts. Wayne Roberts's CV was attached.

*Only one nomination was received, therefore Wayne Roberts was declared elected at the meeting. This was greeted with acclamation.*

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## **13. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS**

#### **13(a)**

#### **That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders:**

**Reasons for the resolution, 13(a):**

**Reasons for the following two resolutions resolution:**

At the 2011 Director’s meeting a paper was presented where a recommendation consequent on the introduction of the new Workplace Health and Safety Regulations was to embody within any AMBSC code changes the process to have any technical change independently verified for safety (as was done for Duplex). There will not be any direct acceptance from government bodies anymore and thus this would maintain the current level of safety process.

Unfortunately, an error was made in the clause numbering of resolution 13(c) that was passed at 2012’s AGM. The amendment shown as 5.6 (f) should have been 5.5 (f).

**These proposed amendments correct that error:**

**Item 5.6 (f). That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders:**

5.6 (f) Delete the following from the end of the current clause: “Any technical changes to the Codes shall have an assurance of safety through an independent verification by a suitably qualified person before incorporation into the Codes.”

**Item 5.5 (f). That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders:**

5.5 (f) Add the following to the end of the current clause: “Any technical changes to the Codes shall have an assurance of safety through an independent verification by a suitably qualified person before incorporation into the Codes.”

*Comment: The Board supported these changes.*

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 36    Against: 1    RESULT: CARRIED.**

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**13(b)**

**That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders:**

**Reasons for the resolution, 13(b):**

**Reasons for the following resolutions resolution:**

The Australian Miniature Boiler Safety Committee was as follows:

5.5 (b) The members of the Company shall, at an annual meeting, elect the following officers from among the members of the Australian Miniature Boiler Safety Committee:

- (i) Chairman;
- (ii) Secretary; and
- (iii) Technical Adviser.

5.5 (c) The Technical Adviser may continue in office until retirement, or removal or replacement by the members.

Since technical changes to boiler codes shall be verified by independent technical advice, the position of Technical Adviser was now redundant and should be removed.

Similarly, the Australian Live Steamers Safety Committee was as follows:

5.6 (b) The members of the Company shall, at an annual meeting, elect officers of the Australian Live Steamers Safety Committee, consisting of: (Amend 4 2009)

(i) Chairman;

(ii) Secretary; and

(iii) Technical Adviser.

5.6 (c) The Technical Adviser of the Australian Live Steamers Safety Committee may continue in office until retirement, or removal or replacement by the members.

Here, too, the Technical Adviser position should be removed.

**These amendments remove the positions of Technical Adviser from both Sub-Committees of AALS.**

**Items 5.5 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g). That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders.**

5.5 (b) (iii) Delete in its entirety.

5.5 (c) Delete in its entirety.

5.5 (d) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.5 (c).

5.5 (e) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.5 (d).

5.5 (f) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.5 (e).

5.5 (g) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.5 (f).

**Items 5.6 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g). That the following changes be made to the Standing Orders.**

5.6 (b) (iii) Delete in its entirety.

5.6 (c) Delete in its entirety.

5.6 (d) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.6 (c).

5.6 (e) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.6 (d).

5.6 (f) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.6 (e).

5.6 (g) Alter the letter of this clause to 5.6 (f).

***Comment: The Board supported these changes.***

Discussion:

Barry Glover, Illawarra: How will these persons be selected?

Warwick Allison, ALSSC Chairman: It must be someone appropriate to the task and, if necessary, who has professional liability insurance.

There was no further discussion.

**Ballot: For: 32    Against: 5    RESULT: CARRIED.**

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13(c)

**That the following amendment be made to the Code of Practice, Operation of Miniature Railways, Road Vehicles and Plant:**

**Reason for the resolution 13(c):**

This amendment was to include speed as a hazard and the fitment of speedometers as a potential control for this hazard.

**Non -Exhaustive List of Hazardous Situations:**

Renumber existing 4.8.2.7 to 4.8.2.8

Add new section 4.8.2.7

4.8.2.7 Train Operation: Excessive speed in certain locations can result in derailment or overturning or excessive braking distances to avoid collision. Hazards may exist with overspeeds on curves, turnouts, gradients, bridges, and the condition of the infrastructure and the weight, height, design and condition of vehicles.

**5.3 Operating Speed:**

Add new section 5.3.2

5.3.2 Societies should determine if the track layout, safe working systems, and operating conditions present hazards that justify the need for a speedometer to be fitted to each locomotive engaged in public running operation. If a speedometer is fitted, it shall be clearly visible to the driver. Where speedometers are used, societies shall also determine suitable speed restrictions for curves, turnouts and other hazardous locations and whether line side speed boards are required to relate the hazards to the appropriate safe speed. These speeds would need to be determined based on track condition, curvature, equilibrium speed, and overturning speed.

*Comment: The Board supported these changes.*

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 25    Against: 8    RESULT: CARRIED.**

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**13(d):**

**That the following change be made to the Code of Practice for Interoperability and Safety of Miniature Railways, Road Vehicles and Plant:**

Section 8.4.1 of the Code of Practice for Interoperability and Safety of Miniature Railways, Road Vehicles and Plant

**That the reference to '....Ryco style 200/900 1/4 inch series....  
be replaced so as to read ....Ryco style 200 / Jamec style 900 1/4inch series ...'**

**Reasons for the resolution, 13(d):**

The Code for Interoperability and Safety for Miniature Railways had the following statement:

8.4.1 Fittings for compressed air to provide assisted draft for steaming up should be Ryco style 200/900 1/4 inch series with the female coupling provided as part of the fixtures.

The 200/900 reference was vague because it is the Ryco fittings that are 200 series; however, interchangeable Jamec 900 series are also satisfactory. This clarifies what are current suitable fittings.

*Comment: The Board supported these changes.*

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 34      Against: 2      RESULT: CARRIED.**

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**THE SYDNEY LIVE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY CO-OP LTD PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION**

**13(e):**

That the AALS Treasurer provides a report by June 30, 2013 on the impact on AALS finances of no longer receiving income from the sale of boiler codes and if the impact is significant provide suitable strategies to address this shortfall. For example, such strategies could involve an increase in the member's levy.

**Reasons for the resolution, 13(e):**

The AALS, and its sub-committees exist to assist Societies improve the safety of their operations through the production of various Operating Codes. Through the AALS website a number of Codes of Practice for Operations, Training and Interoperability and Standards and many other documents are freely available to anyone who accesses it. The only AALS documents not freely published are the four Boiler Codes.

The Boiler Codes have been developed over many years since 1966 through the efforts of many past and current model engineers. They were based upon the published designs available in the model engineering press of the day. It is believed Australia is unique in having developed these Codes.

World-wide there is no established design standard for model boilers. With the increase of imported boilers occurring due to purchase via the internet, it would be useful if a universal design standard was available so that designs can be based upon a common understanding of good practice. Publishing the AMBSC Codes on the internet would achieve this.

The AMBSC Codes are already established and known world-wide. If they were more freely available it is likely that more constructors would use the Codes for their construction. This potentially will increase the commonality of standards for miniature boilers.

As many Australian builders build to English designs, it would assist in having these designs compliant. Thus simpler acceptance of design would evolve over time. Easier accessibility would also assist constructors with rapid access to updated codes, and promote a much greater compliance amongst builders with whatever the latest standard is.

The AALS receives income from the sale of Boiler Codes. Publishing the Boiler Codes on the website may significantly reduce the AALS income. Before any decision is made it is necessary to understand the financial impact and consequent adjustments that may be needed.

*Comment: The Board believed that careful thought should be given to the implications of this by each society and whether it would bring any benefits.*

Boiler Codes, unlike the Code of Practice, do not require an update very often. The current Copper Code is Issue 8 – Issue 7 was in use from 2001 till 2012, a span of eleven years. It is not anticipated it will be revised again till 2020. Therefore, when one is printed it remains current for a considerable

time. The Code of Practice (CoP) is lengthier than a boiler code and has frequent updates – there usually has been an update or updates at recent AGMs – so placing the CoP on the web was a sensible decision for a club’s Competent Person. In the past the CoP was sold but it was found it had no commercial interest or value.

There seems to be little or no gain in putting the only AALS asset of commercial value on the website. Many years of dedicated work by volunteers achieved what are the four codes and surrendering the current position would have to be for greater benefits. Currently all clubs receive one copy of the current boiler codes free of charge.

The nature of boiler code sales is not really something that can be examined easily in the way that this motion indicates. After several years of selling the three pre-existing codes on a routine basis, then suddenly having a new Code appearing a couple of years ago, followed by the release of revised versions of the copper and carbon steel codes in 2012 with no more proposals anticipated for years, the trend of sales is a long term consideration.

Since the pattern of sales of boiler codes is quite irregular and given the long time frame now until the next revisions, perhaps the forward sales pattern would be unlike that of the last couple of years, given that we have just supplied most inspectors and others with the current versions. Collection of historical data is straightforward; however the interpretation of that data is not.

The ongoing control over the integrity of the codes and the way in which they are used is of concern. An individual could download a boiler code from the web and quite easily alter it or delete something that he did not want to be bothered with and then print it out. Anyone who did not know the code intimately would never know; it is unlikely that many boiler inspectors would detect easily if there were alterations.

Standing Orders now require independent verification of changes to boiler codes. That costs. (\$4,000 in the last two years.) Sales recover this.

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 11      Against: 23      RESULT: LOST**

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#### **14 APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION**

**Gisborne Vintage Machinery Society, Victoria:** After its affiliation lapsed in 2012, this Society had applied for re-affiliation.

*The Directors recommended that this Society be re-admitted to the Association.*

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 35      Against: 1      RESULT: CARRIED.**

## **15. AFFILIATION FEE 2013 – 2014**

The Board recommended that the Affiliation Fee increase to \$3.00 (which includes the GST).

*Comment: The reasons were that the Association's expenses have risen and this figure would maintain a satisfactory level of funds.*

There was no discussion.

**Ballot: For: 36      Against: 1      RESULT: CARRIED.**

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## **16. WHEN AND WHERE: 2013 AND BEYOND**

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBMISSIONS FROM YOUR SOCIETY TO HOST FOR 2015, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, OF COURSE, ARE STILL WELCOMED BY THE BOARD.

### **2014: Tullamarine Live Steam Society**

TLSS is constructing extra track facilities in readiness to host the 2014 event. The AALS Board was approached by the Society for financial assistance and it was determined that the society be granted \$5,000 towards the costs of materials. Note, those facilities are in excess of those required by the club for its normal operations.

TLSS's Wayne Roberts gave some details of the work preparations where progress is currently underway on the 5" G steam up bay extension. There was a video of the track played after the close of the meeting and registration forms with information sheets available for every club then as well. Bill Belton is the Registrations Convention Secretary.

He explained work had been well underway for the past two years. The previous TLSS Conventions were in 1988 and 1992; 1992 had 752 visitors and 156 locomotives. Now there are two stations and three steaming bays for the two tracks, a 5/7¼" and a 3½/5", both ground level. An elevated is planned but will not be ready for the Convention in 2014. There will be a Garden Gauge track on site.

7 ¼" attendees will be restricted to one carriage and 5" to a maximum of ten rolling stock because of storage space limitations.

Camping is available. Four extra showers and toilets are booked.

Note, pre-registration is advised because there will be an extra charge for late registration.

Other TLSS works in the pipeline that are expected to be completed by the 2014 Convention are:  
extension to the 7¼" steaming bays (AALS funded);

5" G storage lines;

7 ¼" G storage lines;

3 ½" – 5" G station by-pass loop;

and 5" – 7 ¼" G station loop by-pass.

**2015: Penfield has offered to host.**

**Discussion:**

Hugh Elsol, AALS Secretary and QSMEE, emphasised that it is important that other clubs offer to host. QSMEE is not able to host every three years. Running a Convention requires two years of preparation and much hard work by the Convention Committee in that time.

Jeff Wakeham, Lake Macquarie explained the club is prepared to host again in 2016 and does agree with the penalty fees for “day trippers”. These unannounced arrivals cannot be incorporated in the planning of facilities required and cannot be offered any extras that pre-registrants receive.

Ray Hall, Vice-President and Penfield, added that next time in hosting there will be a surcharge for late or weekend registration. Much hard work goes into preparation and over the weekend. Without pre-registration, it is difficult to determine whether it will be a loss and even the late registrants may not prevent a loss so they should pay extra.

David Proctor, AALS President and Orange asked if there was a club to host in 2017?

Jeff Clifton, South West ME (WA) suggested a reconsideration of biennial Conventions which of course is up to members to decide.

David Proctor responded: that required thought about the annual AGM traditionally held during the Convention weekend. We are obliged to have an AGM every year with members attending and that would need to be considered.

There was no more discussion.

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**17. VOTE OF THANKS****Close of Meeting.**

Ray Hall, AALS Vice-President congratulated the QSMEE on the running of the Convention. He had only good reports about the track and gave thanks to the work of the host club members.

*This was followed by acclamation.*

The meeting closed at 08.03 pm.

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The presentation of annual awards was at 7.30 pm (1930) on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March.