



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site

www.aals.asn.au

Limited
ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

President's Report 2013 –2014

2013 was a fairly steady year for the AALS, with the last 2 or 3 months getting a little busier than I expected. The event which got a lot of people excited earlier in the year was the cessation by Australian Char of the supply of char to our clubs. After quite a bit of gnashing of teeth, alternatives were found and tried, with mixed results, but I believe things have now settled down and people are now satisfactorily using a product which suits them. I know of some people who had to put new grates in their locomotives to cope with the new fuel. Unfortunately for us, decisions taken by char suppliers are commercially based, and given that our hobby is not even a blip on their radar, we are lucky to get what we do. As important as some of us think our hobby is, it has no weight in commercial decision making.

I like to think some aspects of communication within the organisation have improved further with contacts going directly to the people concerned, be they secretaries or boiler inspectors. A perennial problem the AALS and the AMBSC have faced is the habit of many club secretaries not to pass on the correspondence they receive to the appropriate people. The only way around this is to bypass secretaries and communicate directly with the people concerned.

The new Worksafe Australia legislation is gradually coming together with the ultimate aim of having the same regulations right across the country instead of the current state-based system. It transpired that under the new legislation we needed to again apply for an exemption from the Amusement Devices legislation, which I have done. After some discussion with the Committee handling this process in September I was advised that they could see no reason why our exemption would not be granted.

The saga continues with attempting to obtain an exemption for the Duplex Boiler code in Victoria. Les has been involved in many discussions with them as he will no doubt cover in his report. He and I travelled to Melbourne to have a face to face meeting with the appropriate people at Worksafe Victoria and I am quietly hopeful that we will eventually get the exemption. There are no technical or safety reasons why this should not be so.

There are a couple of other issues percolating at the moment and it would be premature to address them at this time, so I will be giving a verbal update to this report at the AGM.

I would again like to thank the members of the Board for the great effort they have put in over the last year to keep things running smoothly. In particular I would like to mention our hard-working secretary Hugh, who puts in a lot of time and effort to keep us on the straight and narrow. Thank you all.

Happy steaming.