



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site
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PRESIDENTS REPORT To the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the AALS

Once again I am pleased to report a fairly quite year, with 2016 not seeing any dramas on either the regulatory or internal hobby politics fronts. I believe that is how it should be, everyone just getting on and enjoying their hobby while the AALS works quietly in the background to ensure that it stays a fun hobby.

As many of you will remember, Warwick Allison retired as Chairman of the ALSSC at the 2016 AGM which left an unfilled vacancy. After the Convention, Dr. Allan Wallace from South Australia offered to take on the position and the Board was delighted to accept, Allan brings a wealth of experience and some pretty impressive qualifications to the Committee, which have already proven to be an asset to the way we do things. At this AGM you will be voting to confirm his appointment for the next two years.

There are still some rumblings about fuel, with the currently available char, Welsh steam coal and various Australian coals all finding success with some drivers and just the opposite with others. As I said in this report last year, a lot of the time it comes down to making sure both your grate spacings and your firing technique are suited to the fuel you use. Anyone who holds out hope that we can go back to a "one size fits all" fuel like the old Aussie Char are destined only for disappointment.

Ben De Gabriel is standing down as AALS Treasurer this year and Les Mouat from the Wagga Wagga club has been nominated to fill the position. Les has been around the hobby for a long time and I am sure many of you know him. For those who have been perhaps living on another planet, Ben purchased the E & J Winter – Bolton Scale Models business from Kelly Maybury about the middle of last year, and more recently the former Live Steam Supplies side of Miniature Steam from John Godfrey. He is taking a break from AALS duties to consolidate his business. I sincerely thank Ben for an outstanding job as Treasurer and wish him great success with his business.

About the middle of last year we had to say goodbye to former AALS Secretary and then current South Queensland State Representative, Hugh Elsol. Hugh's commitment and contribution to the hobby at all levels over many years was outstanding and he will be sadly missed. At the time of his death he was the current holder of the Southern Federation Award. The South Queensland Rep position remains vacant and as I forgot to call for nominations, in the meantime I will field any enquiries.

On time payment of affiliation fees was not too bad this year and for that I thank you all. Just a reminder, the affiliation fees are always due by June 30 and if payment is not received within 90 days, i.e. by October 1st, legally your affiliation lapses. The good news again is that the fees will not increase this year.

On the other hand, payment of insurance premiums was a bit tardier this time. Again I remind all clubs of the importance of paying your insurance premium on time. If you need to make some arrangement with the Insurance Officer, stick to that arrangement or your insurance cover will be withdrawn.

My sincere thanks to all the folk on the Board for a job well done and for making my job easier. Also a big thank you to the State Reps and all you people who make up our clubs as you are the ones who make this such a wonderful and enjoyable hobby.

Cheers

David Proctor
National President