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the

# MainLine

magazine

the official journal of the

National Model Railroad Association Incorporated  
Australasian Region

# **NMRA Inc. - Australasian Region Directory**

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**A**ll members of the Australasian Region are invited to submit articles of a railway nature for publication in the 'MainLine' magazine.

I would appreciate all articles to be sent to me in an editable format, such as 'Word, Pages, text, email, but not pdf, and high resolution photos sized up to 300KB in size.

Please send your articles to [editor@nmra.org.au](mailto:editor@nmra.org.au)

# NMRA Inc. - Australasian Region Directory

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## *New Articles*

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<b>18</b>	<p><b>Why the NMRA is Great</b>                  Peter Jackson MMR® had a wiring issue that he was unable to solve by himself, but with the help and involvement of other NMRA members, the problem was easily solved. As per the title of Peter's article, that is why as he mentions, the NMRA is Great!  <b>by Peter Jackson MMR®</b></p>
<b>22</b>	<p><b>The Achievement Program</b>                  Kelly Lloyd MMR® has a unique way of describing how he achieved his qualification of MMR®. Kelly outlines the path he took to achieve his goal in an interesting and entertaining manner.  <b>by Kelly Lloyd, MMR®</b></p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>A Hint for Fixing Bridge Guard Rails</b>                  Guard rails on bridges are a positive inclusion for scenery on most layouts, however they can be a troublesome addition at times. Malcolm Jenkins MMR® explains how he ensured the guard rails on his bridge remained in place at all times.  <b>by Malcolm Jenkins, MMR®</b></p>

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### *the Cover Photo*

*In this edition you will read about the activities of the 'Central Coast Model Railway Group'. Ken Scales, MMR® is a member of that group, and the cover photo shows an excellent detailed wharf scene on Ken's Santa-Fe and Western USA layout.*



## Editor's Comments

**A**s I write my comments for this edition, it is only a couple of weeks away from Model Railway 'ShowTime' on the Australian East Coast, being the 'Great Train Show' in Sydney and the 'Brisbane Model Railway Exhibition', naturally staged in Brisbane.

To my knowledge, the NMRA Inc.-AR is not part of the organising committee in either city, however I cannot help but comment about what a great shame it is that the two major Model Train Shows in the two Australian east coast capital cities, and which are only a days drive from each other, are actually scheduled on the same weekend?

Surely there are benefits to everyone in the hobby, the manufacturers, the suppliers, the traders, the layout owners, the model railway enthusiasts, and others, to have the opportunity to attend both shows. This could still happen if the two shows reverted back to being run on separate weekends and not the same weekend which has occurred over the last couple of years. Let's hope common sense prevails in future years and these two model train shows are not scheduled to run concurrently. In the meantime, have fun if you are attending a train show in either city.

This edition of MainLine is unique as for the first time during the period that I have been the MainLine editor, all four articles are from MMR's.


The first article is from Gerry Hopkins, MMR® · FNMRA and from page **6**, Gerry informs us that the Central Coast Model Railway Group (CCMRG), has been operating since 2002 and became a 100% club in 2004. It has members in the group who live predominantly in the area between the Hunter River and the Hawksbury River. Gerry gives a brief introduction to the layouts of the members that were on display during the 23 operational meetings they held during 2023.

Peter Jackson MMR® had a wiring issue that he was unable to solve by himself, but from page **18** Peter outlines that with the help and involvement of other NMRA members, the problem was easily solved. As per the title of Peter's article, that is why as he mentions, the NMRA is Great!

Kelly Lloyd MMR® has a unique way of describing how he achieved his qualification of MMR®. From page **22**, Kelly outlines the path he took to achieve his goal in an interesting and entertaining manner.

Guard rails on bridges are a positive inclusion for scenery on most layouts, however they can be a troublesome addition at times. Malcolm Jenkins MMR® explains from page **25** how he ensured the guard rails on his bridge remained in place at all times.

There are well over 40 pages of reports in this edition from the AR Divisions, which outline what has been happening recently around the region, and these reports commence on page **40**. There are additional reports from SIG groups **39** and 100% clubs **27**, which outline the activities they have been involved in over the last couple of months. There is also a report on the recent Bundaberg Train Expo **31** which occurred in March.

And as always, if you have a model or prototype railway related article to share with our members, send it to me and you may find it in a future edition of MainLine.....

*Meru Bagnall*

Editor - MainLine On-Line



# Central Coast Model Rail Group

## An NMRA 100% Club

by Gerry Hopkins MMR®, FNMRA

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is my first report for the **Central Coast Model Rail Group**, formally known as the **Central Coast Wednesday Nighters**. So, to get people up to date, I will go back a few months - early 2023 - for meeting reports.

The **CCMRG** has been going since 2002 and became a 100% club in 2004. Back then we had 30+ members. I think this may make us the first **100% Club** in the Region. That means we have been running for 20 years.

Over that period, we have lost a few of the older members but have fortunately found some younger ones. Almost all our members are to be found between the **Hunter River** and the **Hawkesbury River**.

We started as a **Wednesday Night Group** but the meeting times varied due to an assortment of reasons. The meetings at my place were originally **Op Sessions** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month but these became open **CCMRG** meetings as "operators" were becoming scarce.

### **January 28 - Gerry Hopkins MMR - Great Northern Railway, USA. CVP system.**

This meeting started at 1.00pm and went to about 4.00pm - give or take 30 minutes. As most of the members had their own layouts and used DCC from CVP, they were more or less used to using the throttles.



About 14 visitors enjoyed the session - and hopefully learnt a few things about American operations in 1959. As all my locos have brakes for stopping, it only takes 20 minutes for a newcomer to get used to using the brake to stop a



loco, and the releasing of the brake before the train can move. All locos are set for a top speed of 30mph - it all makes for easier operation. The throttles with displays show Speed = 30 when wound up to maximum, so easy for setting the speed as shown on the speed signs around the layout.

**February 18 - Trevor James - UP-SP Mandalong Sub - USA, CVP System**

Trevor has a beautiful N Scale layout that runs very well on DCC. There is a slight variation of track level, the lower level is mostly single track with plenty of industries for operation. Up to 20 operators can operate the industries at any one time!

A train is descending the mainline past the Paper Mill. On the other side of the layout passenger trains wait at the main station.



**February 22 - David O’Hearn MMR - The Northern Lakes, NSW. NCE System**

The meeting started at 2.00pm with a short clinic from David. The clinic taught me a lot about 3D printing in different materials. We then had a good time exploring the layout which has plenty of detail and sound effects. Many familiar structures can be seen around the layout for those who know the Hunter Region around **Newcastle**.



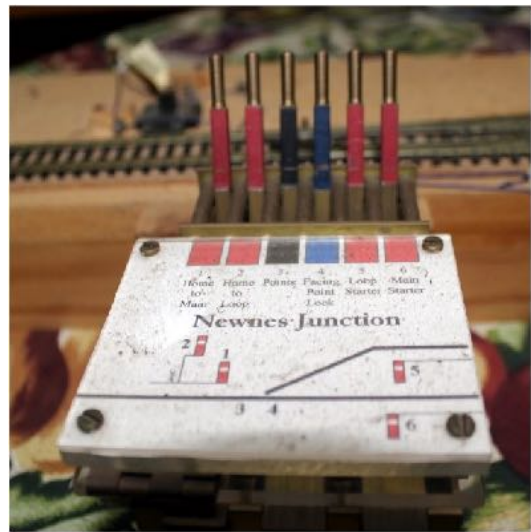


### March 1 - Wayne Horton - Maryvale, NSW. CVP System

Wayne's layout is still under construction but is still great to operate. It is an NSWGR railway with plenty of both steam and diesels.

Many of the points and signals are operated from interlocked lever frames as shown here.

There is also a branch line running up round the back of the layout. Many interesting buildings around the layout. A number of different mainline loops can be run at the same time - just follow the signals.



### March 25 - Gerry Hopkins MMR - Great Northern Railway, USA. CVP System

The **Great Northern** was built for operation using **Waybill & Car Cards** and can be run with 2 people or up to 6 people plus Dispatcher. Mobile throttles by CVP are used for simplicity.

All steam locos use the same set of function button. The diesels use their own set of buttons - all diesels are the same except some have Dynamic Brakes. Normally the trains are made up of a loco, 6 cars and a caboose. The caboose has red markers on the rear. These trains leave the yard at **Shelby** and make their way to one of the six towns around the layout. There they do some switching and return to the yard. The total time can take between 1hr and 2hr depending on the experience of the operator.

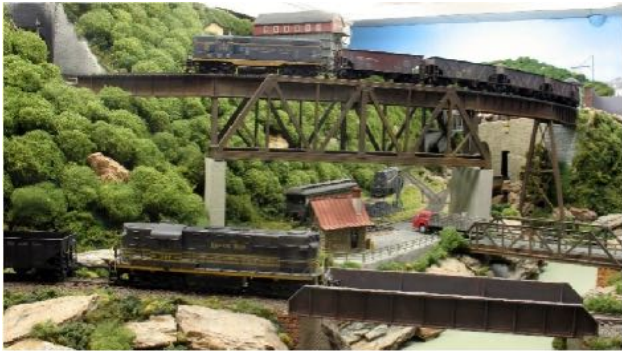


Each meeting has a short clinic on a different subject - electronics, track laying, and turnout fixing, driving locos on my layout and rolling stock maintenance. Some clinics just cover routine maintenance of locos.



### April 5 - John Saxon MMR (d) - Cedar Valley Railroad, USA. CVP System

This was the last Club Day at John's layout **Cedar Valley Lines**. Numerous trains were run, for some it was the first time of seeing John's layout and they were very impressed.



The layout is a freelance layout called Cedar Valley and is based on the Nickel Plate Railroad.

### April 12 - Dennis Clarke MMR - Barmedman Branch, NSW. CVP System

This time we paid a visit to Dennis' NSW layout. As you can see Dennis loves steam locos. This is a kit built 57



class and is next to another one he built.

The main industry is grain, as you can see by the silo. The layout runs under DCC. Most of the locos are built from DJH kits - but a few are scratch built and you cannot see the difference.



### April 29 - Spencer McCormack - The Short North, NSW. CVP System

Always plenty of action on Spencer's NSW Layout. Here the evening is approaching but still plenty of action.



There is a big mix of steam and diesel locos on the layout, plenty of consists running to get the heavy trains up the grades. The trains with diesels have up to four locos in an **Advance Consist**. There

are a few steam trains with an AD60 on the front and a 35 class on the back.

All the backdrops are painted by Spencer and it is not unusual for some to be changed. All locos have sound and run very well under DCC.



### May 20 - David O'Hearn MMR - The Northern Lakes, NSW. NCE System



Many familiar structures can be found around the layout. If you look up - there are a few jets from the **Richmond Air base** flying over! There is also a container ship in the port. When the fishing fleet is in dock, there is the occasional shark in the water.





## May 27 - Gerry Hopkins MMR - Great Northern Railway, USA. CVP System



Summer is almost here and the people at Maineville Theme Park are getting things ready while waiting for the tourists to arrive. The locos and rolling stock

are HOn30 from the **Maine Two Footers** and they all run well on DCC.

Things are quiet at **Great Falls**, the crew at the loading dock are playing a board game to keep their minds busy, but, things get very busy a little later in the day.



The main line is **Code 70** Micro Engineering and all the other track here is **Code 55** with the turnouts hand laid.

## June 4 - Macquarie Light Rail - 2-foot gauge railway. Runs on Real Steam.

A day out at the "real" trains at **Lake Macquarie**. A small fee allowed us to take as many rides as we liked on the trains. One of **CCMRG** members is responsible for the signals on the railway.





**June 24 - Trevor James SP-UP - Mandalong Sub, USA. CVP System**

Trevor's layout is N scale and runs on DCC. The train room is 20' by 40' and the trains run like little watches. There is a system of operation using Car Cards which adds great interest to the operations.



The layout - like many layouts - is still under construction. It has a mainline that runs right around the layout and on an inner loop, there are a large number of industries for the trains to serve.

**July 15 - Rowan Mangion - Main South Mainline. NSW. CVP System**

Rowan's layout is in a slightly larger train room than Trevor's and has a two level dual mainline running with DCC. All turnouts are hand built - 360 so far with another 100 to be built.



On this layout, when you take a train for the full

trip - you need to take a cut lunch with you! Of course, you will need plenty of fluid. Many of the water tanks along the line have not even been connected yet!





### July 22 - Dennis Clarke MMR - Barmedman Branch, NSW. CVP System

Another DJH kit built loco by Dennis. They run well, pull well and have the right weathering. At Dennis' meetings he always gives a short clinic on some aspect of model



loco building. Attention to detail is high on the list for all aspects of his modelling.

### July 29 - Gerry Hopkins MMR - Great Northern Railway, USA. CVP System

Some of the sidings on the layout are laid with **Code 40** rail - some as track and some is hand laid. All locos and rolling stock with **NMRA RP25** wheels have no trouble with the



smaller track. Near this building there is room to "store" old equipment. Items accumulated after many years of buying those "nice" white metal kits.

### August 19 - David O'Hearn MMR - The Northern Lakes, NSW. NCE System

Today we were given a clinic on using "natural bush" as a base for our trees. We were also introduced to the "lower" layout.

This is an On30 section of Puffing Billy. Just in time for the wedding. The locos that run on this layout are from Haskell.





**August 26 - Ken Scales MMR - Santa-Fe Ontario and Western, USA. NCE System**



**Ken's** layout has a lot of coal freight, passenger services and general freight. The rail motors shown here are more or less scratch built and run very well. The layout runs very well on DCC.



**September 16 - Gerry Hopkins MMR - Great Northern Railway, USA. CVP System**

Plenty of stock to be moved and sorted for new trains and destinations. An 0-8-0 is arriving with more stock to sort. Later in the day, plenty of motive power resting after a hard day's work.



Today's clinic was how to operate at night - plenty of moon light over the towns around the division. The most important thing for people to learn was the reason for signals - they are all bi-coloured which means **GREEN** for go and **RED** for stop.



### September 23 - Wayne Horton - Maryvale, NSW. CVP System

Plenty of detail is added each time we go there - always plenty to learn. On this day



people were taught about the interlocking switch stands and the different types of signals used on the NSW Railway.

### October 14 - Ken Scales MMR - Santa-Fe Ontario and Western, USA. NCE System

A few more long shots of **Ken's** wonderful layout. There are plenty of locations for operations on this layout.







**October 21 - Trevor James - SP-UP, USA. CVP System**

Still some scenery and detail to be added. As mentioned before, plenty of operating



areas on the layout. After a busy session we can sit outside the train room, have some refreshments and talk to the kangaroos and wallabies.

**November 4 - David O'Hearn MMR - The Northern Lakes, NSW. NCE System**

Always plenty to do as well as look at the details - watch your head - there are always jets around.





## November 29 - Spencer McCormack - The Short North, NSW. CVP System

Plenty of cars to move on the **Short North** - plenty for steam or diesel. You have to visit **Spencer's** layout often as he is always doing modifications to the scenery and the track.




I hope you have all liked the quick trip to the **Central Coast Model Rail Group**. I know I have had fun visiting and operating all the layouts.

In the beginning, there was talk of calling the area north of the **Hawkesbury River** a new Division - called **Division 9¾** - because of all the "magic" happening in the area!



A few more weeks and we start 2024 - what that will bring we cannot tell for now.

Gerry Hopkins MMR 177, FNMRA.....

# Why The NMRA is Great

by Peter Jackson, MMR®

This short article is intended primarily as a thank you but at the same time contains what might be a useful relay circuit design and idea for some.

I'm a member of Division 6 of the NMRA in Australia - the group based in South Australia, and, of course, I've been a model railroader for longer than I care to remember. But my first proper layout did not start to take shape until the mid 1990's when I had the chance to fit out an empty steel clad building located in my garden at Aldgate - now called the 'studio'.

I've had the benefit of learning from some very competent NMRA members (and other modelling mates too) over the years. Based on their knowledge and my trial-by-error efforts, I've developed skills in a wide variety of areas related to our hobby needs - enough to earn me Master Model Railroader status in 2015. But one area of knowledge that has always eluded my comprehension is that of electronics - you know, all that stuff about circuits, resistors, diodes, relays, etc.

During a recent operating session on my On3 Eureka Valley Narrow Gauge Railroad, one of my operators, whilst looking after the yard at Cedar Junction, mentioned that he always had trouble working out the setting status on a 3-way turnout which was partly obscured by trees and a building.



I'd built the turnout many years ago and, in order to keep it as short as possible, I'd overlapped the switch blades - refer attached photo (*Left*). The result being that you need to look at the turnout to see which blade needs to be moved first (the short blades or the long blades) before operating either turnout motor. I use Switchmaster

motors under my turnouts operated by push button DPDT switches located in the layout fascia.

The operator suggested that it would be helpful to develop a circuit to operate the turnout and locate LED's on the fascia to clearly indicate which way the 3-way turnout was set. The circuit would then determine which set of blades needed to be moved before the other. Easier said than done, I said!

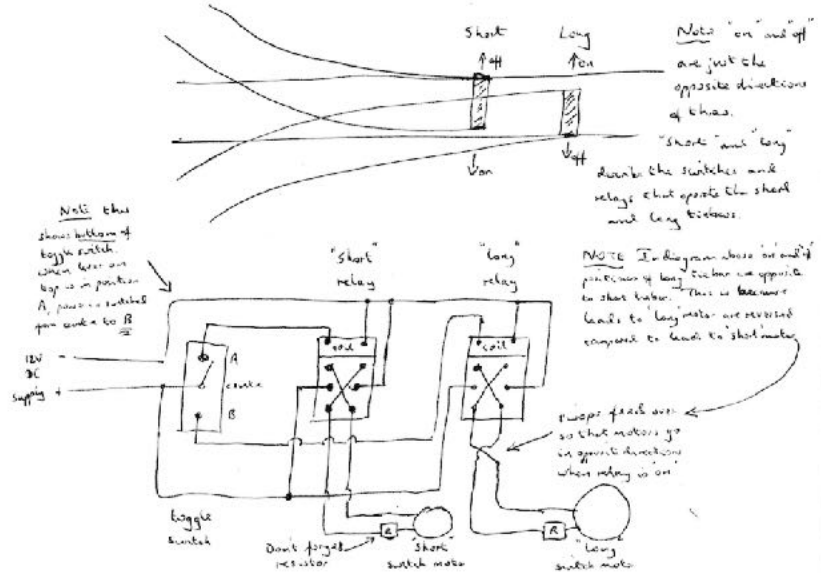
My first port of call for advice/assistance that night was the On3 Groups IO list. A few people responded, asking for more details about the exact nature and use of this turnout. After exchanging several emails with various respondents, I received a note from Bob Harper (*see footnote*) who asked for further information. Bob said that he



understood my problem and offered to design a circuit using relays to give me the 'fix' needed. And, in due course, he sent me the circuit design - see attached pencil sketch.

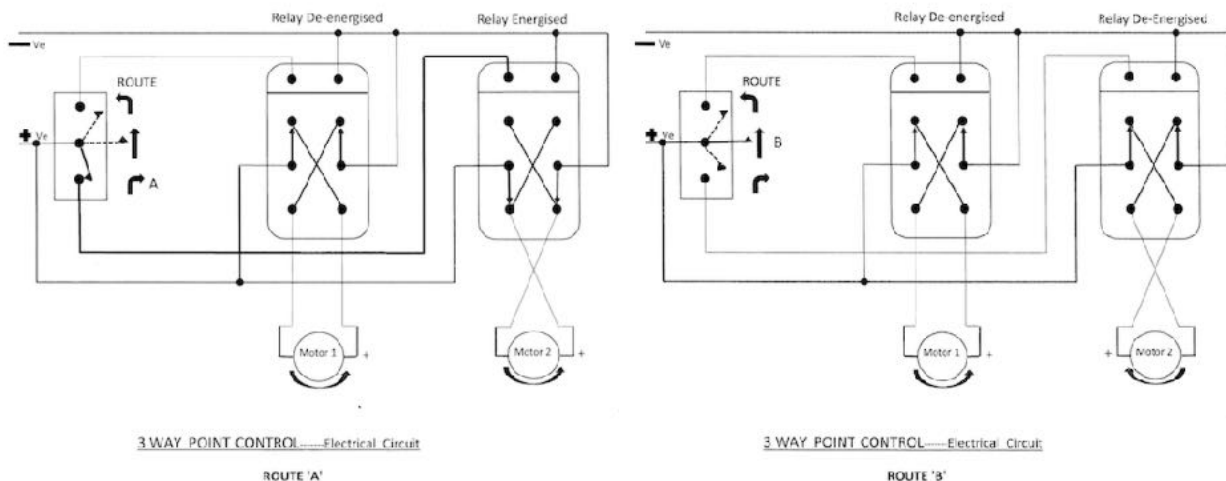
Now being somewhat inexperienced in reading and understanding such designs, I needed to share Bob's solution with a couple of more experienced mates - and after some deliberation they all said that '...it should work...!'

In our Division 6 we are very fortunate indeed to have Ainsley Britain - who, in my humble opinion, I would call our electronics wizard/guru. Not only is Ainsley brilliant when it comes to designing and building such circuitry, he very generously offered to build the circuit for me. You see, he said that I'd need to use Vero board. That's when I said - what's Vero board? And then he said '.....I'd better do the job for you'.

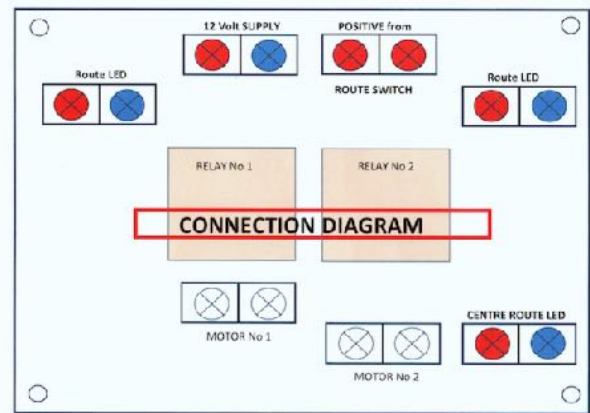
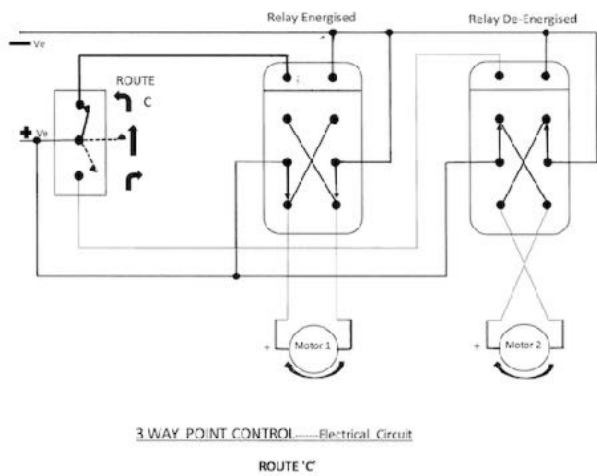


Wasn't that wonderful? That's what I think is really great about the NMRA and its members. It's the sharing of ideas, skills and more particularly, a member being willing to take the time to assist another member with their layout needs.

Ainsley went ahead and procured the various parts needed for the circuit and within a few days I received a call telling me that the circuit using Vero board was complete. Not only that, but Ainsley had set up the circuit with a temporary power source and connected it to two of his own Tortoise motors to test its functionality. He then suggested that I pay him a visit so that he could both demonstrate and explain to me



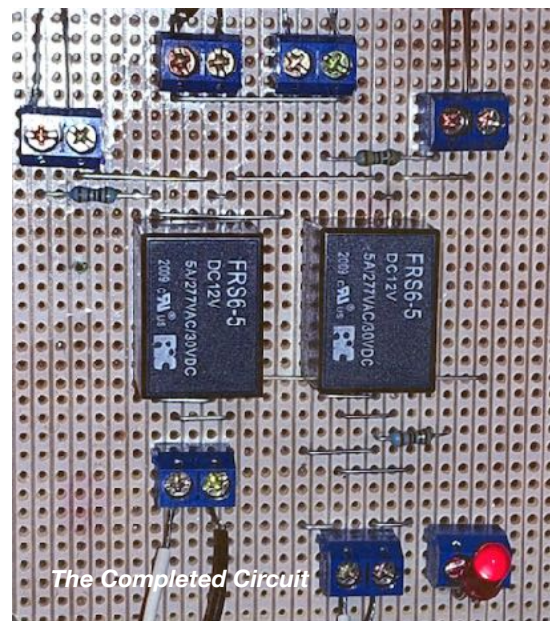
(the electronics novice) how it worked. Needless to say, I was very impressed with his work and the efforts taken on my behalf. Not only had Ainsley built the circuit but he'd also drawn up the documentation showing how he did it.



I subsequently got back in touch with Bob Harper to announce that my friend, Ainsley, had not only built the circuit for me, but that I'd installed it in the layout and surprise, surprise, it really worked - yippee!!

So there you are - the LED's on the fascia now indicate which route is currently set and a centre-off SPDT toggle switch can be used to select which one of three routes the Yardmaster needs.

Besides sharing the circuit design with others (and Bob Harper was happy for me to do so), I felt compelled to reflect on the importance of being part of a group and sharing what we are doing and need to do - that's such a very important part of our hobby.



My many thanks to everyone who has helped, advised, counselled and challenged me over the years because all of your knowledge and experience is reflected in part in what I've achieved in building the Eureka Valley Narrow Gauge Railroad to-date.

My special thanks go to Ainsley - and all of the others - who have and continue to generously render assistance and advice to other modellers, just Like Ainsley Britain did in this instance to myself. That's what makes the NMRA and our hobby so great!

Peter Jackson MMR #563.....

*(Footnote - Turns out that Bob Harper is based in Manchester, UK and has many decades of experience as a model railroader. Bob's built a number of layouts in many scales and prototypes over the years and had articles published in Continental Modeller, Narrow Gauge & Industrial Review as well as in the Narrow Gauge & Shortline Gazette.)*





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# The Achievement Program

by Kelly Lloyd MMR®

**Kelly Loyd MMR® takes us over the path that led him to become an MMR.**

## **Verse 1, The Beginning**

In the beginning was the great void of plywood and the spirit of the Model Railroader did move upon the plywood and cause the track to come forth upon which the trains could run. And the Modeller was pleased and did run his trains with all enjoyment and he saithe unto himself, "This is all I need, for it is good!"

And the Modellers Mates did say unto him, "Thou canst do better and more if thou embark upon the Achievement Program". And thus the Modeller did begin with the Reading of the Tomes of Rules and Regulations and after much furrowing of the brow and scratching upon the head, he determined upon his course of action.

## **Verse 2, The Wielding of The Wire (Electrical)**

And yea verily did The Modeller wire the railroad with cables of amazing conductivity and he did draw many figures of wondrous schematic depiction. He did verily submit it all to the Lord of Achievement and the Lord did smile upon the work and pronounced it worthy of all certification. And thus was born the first fruits of the Achievement Program.



The Modeller saithe unto himself, "This Achievement Program is not the Leviathan I once believed it to be." Taking his confidence in hand, he searched the Tomes of Rules and Regulations to discover his next step along the way.

## **Verse 3, The Operating of the Trains (Dispatcher)**

Therefore The Modeller did take up unto himself the Guidelines For Operation and with much flurry of action did bring forth the Cards of Cars and the Waybills of Wonder, giving unto his rolling stock purpose and direction. And The Modeller did gather his Mates unto him and proclaimed to them, "We must commence the Operating Sessions of Dispatching!" And Lo! The Modeller and his Mates did operate the trains upon the Layout and after labouring for Fifty Nights, the Paperwork Of Operation was submitted unto the Achievement Lord and he did pronounce it good, thus awarding the Dispatcher Certificate.

And The Modeller saithe unto himself, "To be recognised by Certificate for Playing with the Trains is indeed passing marvellous!"





#### **Verse 4, The Building of The Track [\(Civil Engineering\)](#)**

Then did The Modeller seek to improve his Track Plan, by the Addition of the Industries for Operation and the Running Of More Trains. He did study upon the Civil Engineering Tomes of Rules and Regulations for many a day, pondering how he might Achieve more. The Modeller did supplicate unto the Achievement Lord in the Mysteries of Turnout Making and the Achievement Lord did shine his countenance upon The Modeller and saithe unto him, "Sure, mate, c'mon over to my place on Saturday, I'll show yer how it's done." And The Modeller did learn at the Workbench of the Most Supreme Achievement Lord and took from the Workbench the hallowed knowledge of the Construction of Turnouts. The Modeller then made haste to his own Layout and produced the Turnouts for the Achievement Program and in due time did submit the Hallowed Paperwork unto the Achievement Lord and he did pronounce it most wondrous! Thus was the Certificate awarded.



#### **Verse 5, The Writing of The Articles [\(Author\)](#)**

Upon a time, The Modeller pored over the Tomes of Rules and Regulations and did think unto himself, "I should write about some Railroad Experiences and about Operations". Then The Modeller did bend his back to the labour and take his pen in hand to scribe mightily lo many days and nights. He laboured to bring forth the Articles for Publication and the Web Site of Model Railroad Information. And yea verily again the Achievement Lord did look upon the writings and declare them worthy of all Certification. Thus was the Author Certificate awarded.

#### **Verse 6, The Service Unto The Organisation [\(Volunteer\)](#)**

As time marched upon the Layout, The Modeller did ponder upon the many Services of Voluntary Assistance that had been rendered to him and determined to give back his time unto the Organisation. He did study the Tomes of Rules and determined his next course of action. Yea verily, The Modeller did turn his attention to the Serving of The Organisation and did put his shoulder to the plough, taking up the Editorship of The Magazine at which he laboured for Forty Moons to produce The Magazine. And the Achievement Lord did tally up the points for the Time of Service and did see that it was Good and Worthy of certification.

#### **Verse 7, The Making of The Scenery [\(Scenery\)](#)**

And The Modeller once again turned his gaze upon the barren layout, seeing that no life grew there and was moved to stretch forth his hand and Lo! There did appear grasses and flowering herbs and all manner of trees. Buildings, sidewalks, roads and all manner of man-made



accoutrements did appear upon the layout, greatly Enhancing The Realism and pleasing unto The Modeller. And thus the Certificate of Scenery was awarded, for the Achievement Lord did cause to make his countenance shine upon the work and he declared it good.

### **Verse 8, The Building of the Locomotives ([Motive Power](#))**

Long time did The Modeller ponder his next Certificate, for this would bring the Mastery unto him. He pondered long and read much, sifting the Tomes of Rules and Regulations. He did look upon The Building of The Locomotives and The Building of The Rolling Stock and did scratch his head greatly as they both appeared beyond his Skill. The Modeller gathered his wits and courage and plunged forward, Building the Two




Locomotive Kits. And yea verily, The Modeller was well pleased with The Locomotives and there he rested from his Labours. Upon a time, The Modellers Mate, also a Judge did look upon The Locomotives and did say unto The Modeller, "Hey, you have 2 of the 3 Locos you need, all you have to do is scratch build one. Let me show you how..." And The Modeller did Learn of The Scratch building The Locomotives and was well pleased. Yea verily, The Modeller did then complete The Locomotive of Scratch building an did submit his work to the Judges and

The Achievement Lord did smile upon the work and declare it worthy.

### **Verse 9, The Mastery of The Models ([Master Model Railroader](#))**

And Lo! The Achievement Lord did say unto The Modeller, "Thou art missing a piece of paperwork." The Modeller did look in puzzlement to the Achievement Lord and did utter, "I hast obeyed The Forms for the Locomotive Building your Lordship." And The Achievement Lord did look upon The Modeller with a twinkle in his eye and saithe unto The Modeller, "Thou hast completed the Seven Certificates, thou Nong, Now produce for me the Form Of Mastery!" And The Modeller was much abashed and did submit the Form of Mastery and the Achievement Lord was well pleased, scribing his signature thereto the Form of Mastery. "Well Done, thou Master Modeller"



And The Modeller did smile greatly and did look upon his layout, his countenance shining like the sun! It was many-fold improved from the bare plywood and appeared Realistic and was a Joy of Operation, all thanks to the Program of Achievement. Then The Modeller did rest upon the seventh certificate and did bask in the glory of his Railroad Empire.....



# A Hint for Fixing Bridge Guard Rails

by Malcome Jenkins MMR®

There is no doubt that adding guard rails to tracks on bridges adds a lot of authenticity to your models (*Photo 1*). However, years of bitter experience have taught me that they are notoriously hard to secure in place. This is particularly so if you insist on having lengthy bridges, like Murray Bridge and approaches, well over a metre in length. And when summer comes and good old thermal expansion kicks in, the guard rails just tend to pop up out of place. At the very least this inhibits effective track cleaning and at worst can cause loco and other wheels to lift from the running rails.

I have used MicroEngineering bridge track for both my bridges. It has realistic sleeper spacing for use on bridges and comes complete with Code 40 guard rails to complete the picture. The track itself is Code 55, so the guard rails should sit down clear of the running rails. According to the instructions, the guard rails will snap in place against the moulded spikes on the sleepers. These instructions were written on the first of April by someone with an unusually strong sense of humour for an American. I have used superglue to hold the rails in place, but invariably under the influence of thermal expansion and contraction, they have worked loose. Refitting them is quite a task inside the trusses of Murray Bridge. I just spent an hour reglueing one rail on one span of the bridge.



1 Use of guard rails adds to realism of

The trickiest bit of all is at the ends. Of course these tend to be the hardest to fix down and the first to come unstuck. This has disastrous consequences for both locos and the Tomix track cleaning car. At last the light of day dawned, and I came up with a more secure (and hopefully permanent) method of fixing the ends.



2 Soldered connection of end of guard rail to brass pin drilled into baseboard

The idea grew out of the track laying method that I recently used on Taillem Bend yard - using pins drilled through the sleepers to hold track in place. This time I measured the pins carefully (0.7 mm diameter) and chose the right drill to drill through the last sleeper at the end of the guard rails, and into the baseboard beneath. The pins were located just inboard of the two ends of the guard rails. A touch of good old

Baker's flux, and the rail ends were soldered to their respective pins. It is important to have separate pins, and to keep them isolated, because the wheels of locos can contact both the running rail and guard rail on each side, so shorting the guard rails together would cause a short of the mains power (*the voice of experience once more*).



3 Ballasting helps to cover the soldered connection

(Photo2) shows the connection of the rail to the pin at the western end of the bridge.

(Photo 3) shows that with ballast the connection can be disguised a bit, and probably even more so with more paint and attention to detail. Since I

did the job at close to midsummer, it is hoped that it will remain in place throughout the year, allowing good cleaning of the track and smooth running of the trains.....M

## Magazine Publishing Deadline Dates

If any member wishes to submit **An Article** for publication in MainLine, your article may be submitted at any time and it will be included in a future edition, where the subject matter will allow for a balanced number of differing subjects to be included, and where the number of available articles will allow for that to occur.

If you are providing any type of report, then **All Report Types** can be submitted at any time with a deadline date being as shown below, which is **10 days** prior to the end of the month of publication.

*This criteria is requested to ensure that the editor has sufficient time to complete the bi-monthly edition of MainLine in the required time frame.*

If you are providing a **Divisional Meeting Report**, please submit your report as soon as possible after each monthly meeting, with the deadline date being as shown in All Report Types below. If your meeting is scheduled after the deadline date, then the cut off date is **5 days** prior to the end of the month as shown.

*This criteria is requested to ensure that the editor has sufficient time to complete the bi-monthly edition of MainLine in the required time frame.*

**File Types:-** For all submissions, text files saved as MSWord, Pages or Open Office files are preferred with limited text and page formatting. Please don't send pdf files, they are unsuitable for use in this publication.

**Photo Types:-** For all submissions, photographs are preferred as jpegs or png file types and to be resized to under 300KB in size.

### The following are the deadline dates for the next two editions of MainLine:-

#### July / August 2024

**Deadline date for All Report Types = 20th June, 2024**

**Date for Reports of Div Meetings that occur after the Deadline date = 25th June, 2024**

**Publish Date on Web Site= < 5th July 2024**

#### September / October 2024

**Deadline date for All Report Types = 21st August, 2024**

**Date for Reports of Div Meetings that occur after the Deadline date = 26th August, 2024**

**Publish Date on Web Site = < 5th September, 2024**



# 100% NMRA Inc.-AR Club News

## Adelaide Model Railroaders Inc.

A 100% NMRA Club in Division 6  
Club News - Operating Session & Running Night **March 2024**  
By Ken House (AMR Newsletter Editor)  
<https://adelaidemodelrailroaders.com>

### MONTHLY OPERATING SESSION

by Tony Mikolaj

Seven operators enjoyed another running night on the Southern Central Railroad, as the numbers are down a little with a few members unable to attend I ran both Houseman and Kingston yards so that there were more trains on the mainline. This had worked well on other occasions but this time the first train got into Kingston before the Yardmaster. Never to be outdone the crew did their own shunting to keep things going.

### MARCH INFORMAL RUNNING

Big steam featured during one session.



Top Left: Big power at Zieglersdorf. Union Pacific 844, Challenger, and Big Boy.

Above Right: UP 844, 4-8-4, crossing lower Werky's Gorge bridge.

Left: Southern Pacific Daylight at Holland Junction.

*Photos are stills from a C Werk video. Look on You-tube for Christiaan's channel, titled, Train Lord.*

Road crews, Warwick Graham, Paolo Arman, Mel Jones, Wayne Hoskin Paul Atkins, and Christiaan Werk, Christiaan who also took some photos.

New to the layout this time was the 2-8-2 Steamer that Peter King rebuilt. The first run was just a straight through run, no stops. With a TCS 101 WOW decoder this sounds and runs well, it also is set for prototypical control in that you increase the throttle to go but backing off the throttle only stops it increasing speed and has a very long stop time. So just like the prototype, you need to use the brake to stop (function 7 each press adds 20% brake) the harshness of the chuff also changes with load. This loco will be on the TOFC train next run and then will progress to something that requires shunting as it has a working front coupler. (more about fitting this in a future issue of Irregular Feature)

There were a few track issues probably due to the heat and a couple of operator oopsies, but all had fun and we got through a good number of trains and ended with a couple part way through ready for finishing in April.



*Left: An Ippinitchie Creek GP7 departs Jefferson City with a passenger train. photo: C Werk*



*Above: Southern Central 2-8-2 no 827 departing Redman with a*

*manifest freight. This is the Mantua loco that Peter King rebuilt and fitted with a TCS Wow sound decoder. Tony Mikolaj then fitted the front a coupler, that the original did not have, and programmed the sound and CVs.*



*Left: Before the session began and ready for a fun night. Mel Jones, Paul Atkins, Paolo Arman. Tony Mikolaj, Wayne Hoskin, Jeff Barclay, and Warwick Graham. Photos: C Werk*



## WORKING ON THE SOUTHERN CENTRAL

Tony has begun work on the detection and signals for the track into Pt Douglas.



*Left: The first photo shows the couplers are just over the detectors and the other is the temporary signal showing that it works. This will be a bit more complex later with point position and possibly one LED changing colour and flashing for the different sensors. photos: A Mikolaj*



*Left: Mel Jones has made some conifers for the Southern Central. Christiaan Werk has planted them on the hills above Jeremy Junction. photo: C Werk*

*Some more of Mel Jones' excellent trees planted by Christiaan Werk.*



*Top: Street trees at Werkendam.*



*Left: Trees at Atkins.*

*photos: C Werk*





One of the ICRR consolidations on the Ippinitchie branch passing the saw mill at Opie.

Both videos are courtesy of Christiaan Werk

Double headed Union Pacific Challengers cross the lower Werky's Gorge bridge during February informal running.....M



## Model Train Market Place

On the NMRA Inc.-AR Web site, you will find a link in the 'Members Area', where any financial member who wishes to Sell, Swap or Give Away any Model train related items from their Private collection, can advertise those items.

The link to the location is as follows: <https://nmra.org.au/market-place/>

Should you wish to make use of this member service, then the procedure and



# 100% NMRA Inc.-AR Club News

## Wide Bay Burnett Model Railway Club Inc.

A 100% NMRA Club in Division 1  
By Stephen Reeves - Club President

### **2024 Bundaberg Model Train and Hobby Expo**

The 2024 Bundaberg Model Train and Hobby Expo was the largest of our shows to date with a record 24 layouts in attendance. We welcomed our regular layouts along with some new ones, which we hope will return in 2025.

*(Right) BRMA (British Railway Modellers of Australia) module on display*



*(Below) "Laidlaw" - N scale Victorian Railways themed layout*



Unfortunately, whether due to clash of other events, or cost of living concerns, our numbers were greatly reduced compared to 2023, when we had overall attendance of 1800 for the weekend. This year we only had approximately 1000 patrons come through the doors.

It was the tenth anniversary as the club held the initial show in 2014 in the Bundaberg Civic Centre.

This was the fifth show held in the Multiplex and Bundaberg continues to impress visitors with the standard of the venue. We hope that a change of mayor and council may result in some relief and possible reduction of hire fees.

*(Right) Static display of model engineering*



*(Left) Aeromodellers Display*

Rounding out the Expo there were static displays of live steam model locomotives and engines, radio-controlled aircraft, yachts, and the Maryborough City Whistle Stop (rail preservation group).

Our caterers from last year were on site to offer a wide variety of beverages, sweet and savoury delights!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our club, former members who supported us, and others including Jim Morris who worked very hard to make the Expo a success.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended our show to make it such a great time and to share in the enjoyment of our Exhibition.

Stephen Reeves

President

Wide Bay Burnett Model Railway Club Inc.....





# NMRA Inc.-AR



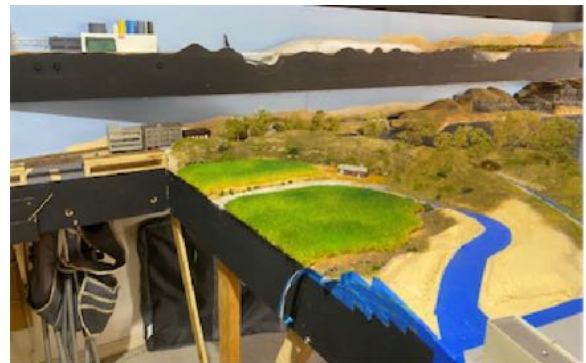
## President's Communication

by Duncan Cabassi - NMRA Inc.-AR President

**G**ood day to all NMRA Inc.-AR members. I don't know about your area, but it has been a HOT and sticky summer here. I hope your layout rooms are air-conditioned and you had plenty of time over the summer months to engage in model railway activities. My home layout is not air-conditioned other than any air that flows through it when the roller doors are open. So, the summer layout activities for me have been sparse, especially as it has been significantly humid here in Brisbane over the summer months.



I have recently got to do some scenery on my layout which I consider to be therapy of sorts. I find the time spent modelling (when I get that opportunity) is very rewarding as I forget about the other dramas of life. I get immersed in the "moment" and nothing else matters. This mental state I think is great for my own personal mental health. As we all get older, we need to ensure that we do spend plenty of time nurturing our own personal mental health and I believe the hobby of model railways providing a significant benefit in this area.



### ARC Executive Level

At an executive level it has been business as usual over the last few months.

There have been lots of minor and some major's events that have gone on behind the scenes that you as members don't necessarily hear about. These events are dealt with by the committee to the best of our ability and always focused on providing you as a member of this association a quality and "value add" to being a member as well as growing the association and spreading the hobby.

The major events for the 2023 year were:

- Public Liability Insurance provider change
- Changes to the Rules of Association, and
- 2023 NMRA AR National convention
- NMRA AR Members Jaycar discount
- NMRA AR Members Bunnings discount (Being rolled out in now)

All the above events required significant effort from the members of your committee to ensure we had successful outcomes.

**I ask that you as a member of this association, take the time to reflect upon the fact that this is a volunteer association and the members of the ARC committee and supporting groups such as the AP program, Mainline Editor, Web Master, Division Superintendents and their committees, give up a significant proportion of their free time to ensure that the organising and coordinating that goes on behind the scenes, drive a great and value add outcome for you as a member. I do feel at times that this is taken for granted by some and it shouldn't be. I ask that you as individuals reach out to your division superintendent and fellow member mentioned above and thank them for their efforts as they are significant.**

I'd like to personally thank the ARC committee and all supporting personnel mentioned above for their time and energy committed to managing the affairs of the association across the 2023 year.

### Upcoming AGM

As you would be aware we are fast approaching the NMRA AR AGM. As per our rule of association (ROA), every two years all office bearer positions will become open for nomination from our membership.

The NMRA AR secretary has issued communications to all members via email and postal mail to those members who do not have email. This was done on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. This is your chance to nominate for a position on the executive. I encourage those of you out there who want to make a significant contribution to the NMRA AR to consider running for a position. Please remember that the deadline date for nominations is 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

This year if there is a need for an election (more than 1 person nominates for the one executive role and / or more than 3 people nominate for the Ordinary member roles) we anticipate using an electronic voting system called election buddy so that you can vote electronically.

### Convention 2023

On the subject of the NMRA AR National Convention, what a great weekend it was. I was privileged to participate and meet many of our association's members. It was a weekend of sharing, caring and fellowship. From the partners program to the group and individual conversation, networking, clinics, layouts at the convention, trader tables, layout visits, operations sessions, camaraderie.... everything was a success.

I encourage all members to make it to a convention as it is a wonderful experience and you will meet many likeminded individuals, participate in learning clinics, see, and operate on layouts that only a few will ever experience. I'm positive you will walk away feeling like you have had an outstanding experience and you should have done this previously.

I want to take the opportunity to thank all the convention committee members for your efforts. **You made the convention a success!**



I want to thank the suppliers who supported the convention, the individuals who brought layouts to the convention, the layout owners who opened your homes to the convention participants. **You made the convention a success!**

### “NEWS FLASH”:

The 2025 NMRA AR National convention will be held by Division 1. No details are available yet as this is fresh off the press. As the convention committee is formed and planning commences information will be released!

### NMRA AR Strategy

Whilst the long-term AR strategy is still being documented, there has been significant implementation of strategy outcome discussions by our larger divisions. The cornerstone of the strategy is being built around the following areas:

- Focus on NMRA AR Growth
- Promoting the “fellowship” that being a member of this organisation brings
- Inclusivity with the partners and sharing our journey
- Our communications process's and mediums
- Division Activities
- Promoting the association
- Bringing younger members into the hobby - Lowering our age demographic
- Finances
- Standardise on processes across the divisions
- Support for the 100% clubs and Sig's
- Value adding to membership
- Supporting and promoting the AP program
- Conventions and what we can offer
- Membership exclusivity
- Harnessing Technology

Our divisions are driving the strategy outputs. In summary:

There has been an increased focused placed on our presentation and promotions of the NMRA AR. Dress polo shirts with AR emblem and name on them have been introduced by Division 1, 7, 4

- Promotions tables are a regularly seen at the local exhibitions. These tables encompass NMRA AR activities such as scratch building, demonstrations, and hands on operational layouts. All encapsulated by significant NMRA AR promotional tools
- Focus on mentoring clinics and the Achievements Program at the monthly gatherings has become a priority for our divisions
- Significant Focus on Fellowship



- Offering other additional group activities such as visits to railway heritage locations, dedicated clinics weekends, spreading the gatherings out to our broader geographic locales
- Recent feed back from the division 7 Forestville exhibition is that we had some youth members actively participating in promoting our association. This is significant evidence to me that our ability to attract the younger generation to the association and hobby is still there providing we are proactive.
- NMRA AR offering a financial value add. If you can't get your money back by taking advantage of this discounted purchasing then I will be surprised
- We have standardised many processes to ensure we are all working off a common platform
- There is starting to be some activity within the "discussion group" fields. I've personally started a NMRA AR member only JMRI Ops Pro discussion group. This is at an informal level thus far and has been held with a sample group of NMRA AR members however will soon be opened to all NMRA AR members to participate. I've used the D365 platform provided by the NMRA to hold these sessions.

### Divisional Activities:

Our divisions are all progressing reasonably well. Reports from each division are distributed amongst their division members and distributed to the ARC committee. They are also included in the Mainline e-magazine our very own AR magazine!!!

So if you want to see what the divisions are up to I suggest you go onto our website and check out the mainline magazines.

Web address: [nmra.org.au](http://nmra.org.au)

### 100% clubs

I get limited to no feedback from 100% clubs, so I haven't got much to say in this space. However, I would welcome regular communications from 100% clubs on how you are travelling as a group. What you see as your roadblocks and how you see the NMRA AR can help you.

Conversely, I would be interested in feedback as to what you think that your club can do to value add to the AR?

### Achievements Program

National Report - Jan/Feb 2024.

Golden Spike	16
AP's	77
MMR's	7

National AP Manager Frank Koch after 20 years is stepping down at the end of June.

Ray Persing has been appointed to the position from the 1st of July. We are told that Ray is an excellent modeller, has "mastered" 3-D printing with some fantastic HOn3 early Maine narrow gauge prototypes. During the quarter, additional Assistant AP Managers were appointed in Division 7 as the growing population of Sydney and its environs makes travel from one end of Div 7 to the other a real challenge.

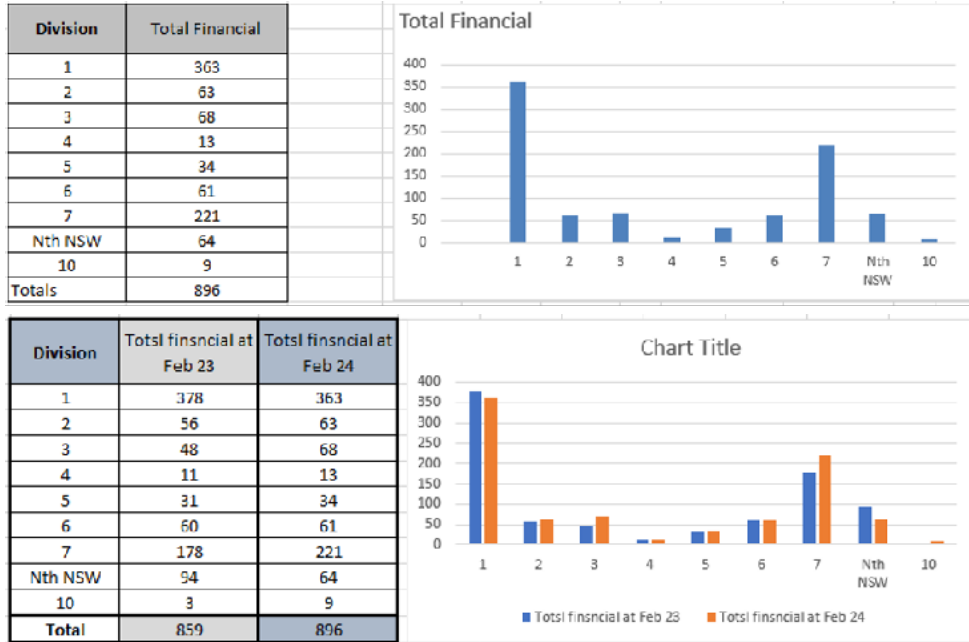


## Statistics

Here are our Australasian region membership statistics as at the end of February 2024:

Trend data:

Below shows a comparison of the last 12 months across our divisions.



What can we read into this.

1. We have had overall growth across the AR over the 12-month period. Increasing our membership by 37 members. The actual growth has been more significant than these numbers show as these charts do not

show the loss of membership for the 12 months. Membership loss is due to a variety of reasons.

2. Division 1 membership has gone down by 15 members (Significant portion were deceased members). There has been solid growth in Divisions 2, 4, 5, & 6. Strong growth in Divisions 3, 7 and 10. Nth NSW suffer a significant loss of membership due to the Taree club pulling out of the association.
3. All Divisions are working hard to retain membership and grow the Association.
4. Overall, we have a solid position and across the whole of the NMRA Worldwide association the Australasian region is one of the strongest growing regions.

## Closing out

In closing out this report. One of our major challenges is our ageing membership. We must continue to modernise and promote our association with a view to attracting younger members. We need to extoll the values of what we have to offer. Our strengths are our fellowship, mentoring programs, certification of skills, quality of member layouts, vast wealth of knowledge and experience, partnerships programs, camaraderie. Let's continue to promote, be professional and engage with others in a manner in which we are seen as an association to belong too.

Members, please support your Division superintendents and help them carry out the great work they are doing.

Stay safe, and I wish you all the best of modelling.....M

## Meeting Dates Scheduled Around the Divisions

The dates and locations of the next three Divisional Meetings scheduled in your area are listed below.

This listing may benefit as a quick check list for Divisional Members for when their meetings are scheduled, and it may also be valuable to other NMRA Inc.-AR members to know when other Divisional Meetings are scheduled. This may encourage members from other Divisions who are travelling around the region, to attend an NMRA Inc.-AR meeting in a different division to their own, and meet new people.

I have included a shortened version of the meeting host address, so that guests don't just 'turn up'. If guests / visitors are interested in attending a meeting in a location outside of their division, then you should contact the Divisional Superintendent of that division as shown on page 2 above for more details.

The list below will be updated in each MainLine edition, as I receive meeting updates from the divisions.

Division	Meeting Date	Venue	Location
<b>Division 1</b>	May 18	Garry Paper	Hillcrest QLD
	May 25/26	Clinics Weekend	Archerfield Airport QLD
	June 15	Greg Keliher	Karalae QLD
<b>Division 2</b>	May	-No Meeting Scheduled	
	June 15	Eurobodalla MRC	Malta Bay NSW
	July 20	Stephe Jitts	Murrumbateman NSW
<b>Division 3</b>	May 19	Peter & Julie Kendall	Essendon VIC
	June 16	Mick & Gaby Bennie	Wallan VIC
	July 21	TBA - <i>Could be swapped for May or June</i>	
<b>Division 4</b>	May 19	Alan Burrough	AMRA Clubhouse, Bayswater WA
	June 16	?	?
	July 21	?	?
<b>Division 5 ?</b>			
<b>Division 6</b>	May 11	David Orr	Modbury North SA
	June 8-10	AMRE	Greyhound Park SA
	July 13	Ron Solly	Evanston Gardens SA
<b>Division 7</b>	May 4 & 5	Great Train Show	Rosehill Gardens Race Course NSW
	June	?	?
	July	?	?
<b>Division 8/9</b>	May	?	?
	June	?	?
	July	?	?
<b>Division 10</b>	May 18	Pat Britten	Devonport TAS
	June	?	?
	July	?	?



# Special Interest Groups (SIG)

## Narrow Gauge Division 7

By Steve Chapman - MMR  
(NGSIG Regional Meeting Co-ordinator)

A Narrow Gauge SIG meet was held at Paul Marrant residence 17 Feb 24.

Seven keen narrow gaugers plus 2 HO modellers showed up to see Paul's fabulous layout.



Plenty of discussion we had. Bob Best showed us some of his latest building creations, nice work Bob.

Our Host Paul showed us some hand wound wire trees, looked very realistic.

I then showed a jig to make corrugated iron roofing using Aluminium roasting pans.


Also showed off some trees I made from miller boomhead.

Ron Seddon showed us two HO scratch built station buildings all painted ready

to be fitted to the layout.

A very enjoyable afternoon tea was had by all. Thanks again Paul and your charming Daughter for making us feel very welcome.

Looking forward to the next meeting in May 2024.

Many Thanks for all those who attended a great afternoon.....



# Divisional Reports

## **Division 1**

*Paul Rollason (NMRA Inc.-AR Division1 Superintendent)*

*Report for February 17th 2024 meeting*

### **Meeting Attendance and Apologies:**

42 members

2 Guests

1 On-Line (Zoom)

4 Facebook Live

15 Apologies

### **ARC Report:**

Nil.

### **QLD Membership:**

366 current members,

0 resignations,

2 Gone home (*Paul de Sauty & Ken Whitaker*)

4 New members, (*Guy Limpus, Brett Bowden, Anthony Stowers & Phillip Cook*)

### **Clinics:**

2 x Presentation Style.

### **Excursions / Visits:**

Nil

### **Division 1 Feedback:**

**Nil**

**Next Gathering:** 23rd March 2024, Bundaberg Model Train Expo

### **Report:**

The monthly gathering was hosted by Miniature Train Club Gold Coast, 193 Rifle Range Road, Pimpama.

There were 44 attendees (42 members plus 2 guests), 1 via Zoom and 4 via NMRA Div 1 Facebook Live. There were 15 apologies.

Paul opened the Gathering and welcomed all to Miniature Train Club Gold Coast. Paul thanks Glen McCarley and Club for hosting the gathering. Glen went through housekeeping procedures (Exits, Toilets, Emergency Meeting Points etc.).





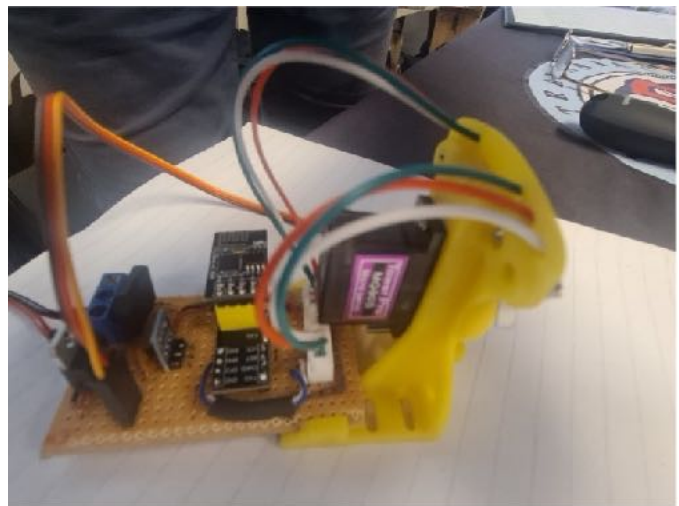
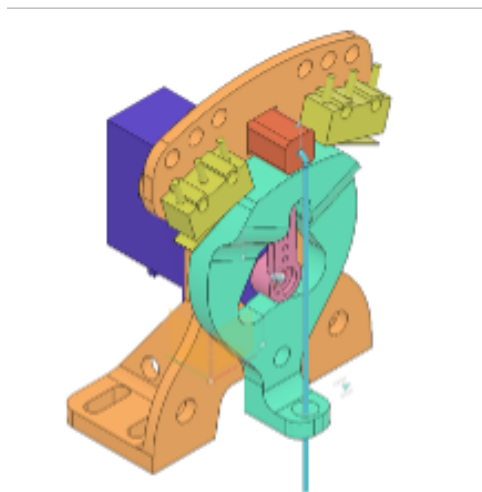
## Presentations & Clinics

### **Presentation #1 - Bob Tisdall - Building a switch motor with 3D printing and ESP Technology - "Obsessive Development of a switch motor".**

Bob gave an interesting clinic about he wanted to build a cost effective and very reliable switch motor using 3D printed parts, a servo and ESP technology and all controlled by JMRI.

Bob's point was why pay \$60 for a motor when you can build one for \$15-20 using readily available parts.

Bob shared his journey in the development of this motor and his trial and tribulations.



### **Presentation #2 - Paul Rollason - "Paul and Bob's Epic Model Railroad Adventure - Part 1 - USA - New York and Springfield Massachusetts (Amherst Model Railroad Show)"**

Paul shared memories of part 1 of his and Bob Tisdall's world wide model railroad journey earlier this year. The main driver was to attend the Amherst Model Railroad Show in Springfield Massachusetts followed by (part 2) the Nuremberg Toy Fest and Miniature Wunderland.

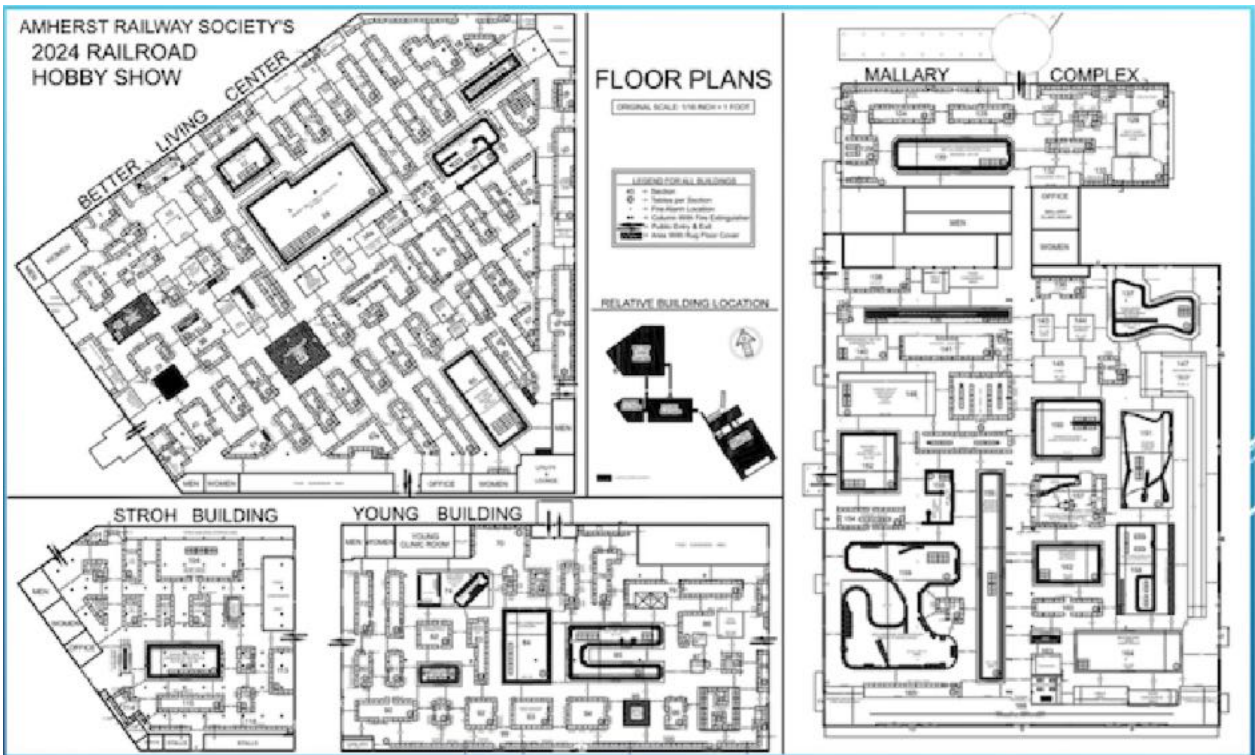
Their journey started in New York with a day of sightseeing which included Central Park, Times Square, the 9-11 Memorial, Grand Central Station, USS Intrepid and the well known "Red Caboose" model train shop.



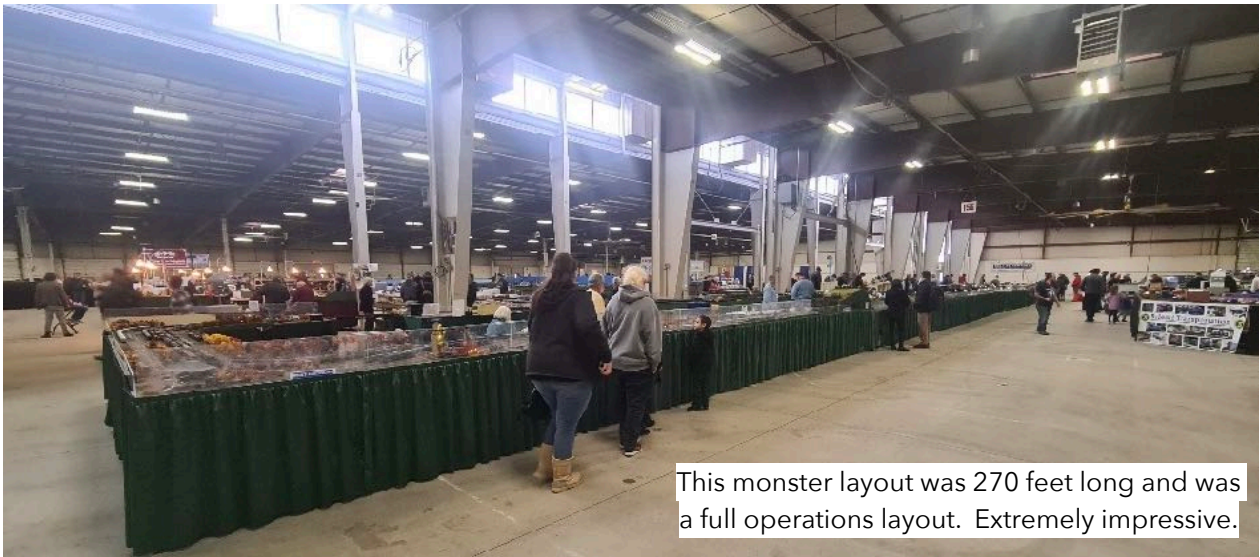
Day 2 was to catch a AMTRAK train to Springfield.



Day 3 and 4 was the Amherst Model Railroad Show. This consisted of 8.5 acres of layouts and retailers spread over 5 halls and saw 25000 people attend over the 2 days. It even snowed.



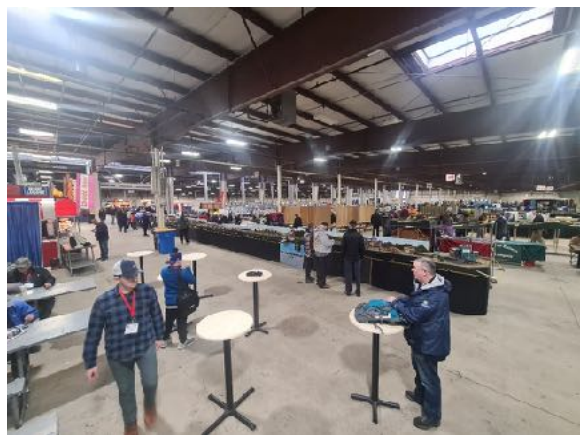




This monster layout was 270 feet long and was a full operations layout. Extremely impressive.



And we caught up with some of our Aussie and UK NMRA mates







### Presentation #3 - Arthur Hayes MMR - AP Report - Division Roundup

Arthur gave the gathering an overview of what members are doing in Division 1 for the AP Certificates. In addition, Arthur gave us some statistics on how many certificates have been issues both Nationally and in the AR.

Arthur also had great pleasure in awarding Craig Mackie with not only his AP Certificate - Master Builder - Cars but Craig also now obtained his Master Model Railroader (MMR). Congratulations Craig on achieving this milestone in your modelling.





## Paul's Div 1 Report

1. Div Super Report
  - Clinics Weekend
    - Ø Committee decided to have a combined clinics weekend and STREAM clinics weekend in on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May
    - Ø Aimed at all levels from beginner to advanced and will have many hands on sessions/clinics and not just lectures
    - Ø 4 streams (module stream, 2 general streams and Electronics Stream)
    - Ø Have 42 EOI from the public already as a result of the Pine Rivers, Redlands and Gold Coast Shows
    - Ø Sponsored by Modeller's Warehouse
  - FREE-MO layout
    - Ø Progress at RMCQ show
    - Ø Sponsor is Aurora Trains (for first 4 modules)
  - NMRA shirts and jackets. All arrived. Shirts now \$40 and jackets \$85 due to increase in production costs. Next batch 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024
  - Track Gauges (arrived)
  - Calendar out for 2024 is on the website
2. AR Report
  - Division 1 may be the next host pending a review of the Conventions by the ARC
  - Membership fees to go up in 2024 by \$10 (to \$40)
  - Div 1 hosting the NMRA ARC AGM - 20/4/24
  - Bunnings and Jaycar Member discounts
3. Membership
  - 366 current Qld members (up 7 members since last report in Nov 2023)
  - 2 new members last month - Guy Limpus, Brett Bowden and Anthony Stowers
  - 27 guests looking at possibly joining (a result of Redlands and GC Show - very successful)
  - 2 Gone Home - Paul de Sauty and Ken Whittaker
  - Some members struck off as not paid their membership
  - Renewals just going out
  - **REMINDER** to all 100% clubs that EVERY member MUST be an NMRA member otherwise your club cannot be considered as a 100% club and are not covered by insurance.
  - 100% also to put in their annual report to NMRA AR before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
4. AP Awards
  - Presentation by Arthur Hayes (10-15min)
  - Craig Mackie MMR

## 5. Reports

- SIG
  - Ø Modular SIG group
  
- 100% Clubs
  - Ø Action MRC
  - Ø Ipswich MRC
  - Ø Gladstone and District MRA
  - Ø Logan District MRC
  - Ø Miniature Trains Gold Coast
  - Ø Northern Rivers MRC
  - Ø Southern Downs Steam Railway MTA
  - Ø Wide Bay Burnett MRC

## 6. Events for the Year

- o Bundaberg Model Train and Hobby Show - 23-24<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- o AMRA Show - 4-5<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- o NMRA Clinics Weekend - 25-26<sup>th</sup> May
- o MTGC Show - 22-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - Nerang Bicentennial Community Centre
- o Modeller's Warehouse Model Show - 27-28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Mt Warren Sports Complex
- Other future events
  - o Casino and Lismore - 19-20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024
  - o Bowen Oct 2025 - Whitsunday Tour (Scott Whitaker - O Scale hand built Victoria - 450m2 shed)

## 7. Future Gatherings

- Next Gathering - Bundaberg Model Train and Hobby Expo - 23-24<sup>th</sup> March - Dinner being arranged for Sat evening.
- Seeking people to run clinics for 2024


## Show and Tell

- Ross Balderson showed us his amazing N scale models of various Holdens, Fords and Mack trucks that he constructed in brass and then made resin castings. Simply stunning models.





- Craig Mackie showed us his finished full size flashing lights

Over lunch and during the breaks, members could network amongst themselves and view the Clubs layouts. The most impressive layout was Emerald at Puffing Billy in ON30. A great time was had by all.....



## **Division 1**

*Paul Rollason (NMRA Inc.-AR Division1 Superintendent)*

*Report for March 23rd 2024 meeting*

### **Meeting Attendance and Apologies:**

41 members (*meeting held @ the Bundaberg Model Train & Hobby Expo*)

On-Line (Zoom) not available

15 Apologies

0 Guest

### **ARC Report:**

Refer to report below.

### **QLD Membership:**

369 current members, 0 resignations,

3 New members, *Gary & Nell Street, David Watt*).

### **Clinics:**

Nil as it was only a quick meeting.

### **Excursions / Visits:**

Nil

### **Division 1 Feedback:**

See below

**Next Gathering:** 20th April - Logan & District MRC, 76 Springlands Drive, Slacks Creek.

### **Report:**

The monthly gathering was hosted by Wide Bay Burnett Model Railroad Club at the Bundaberg Civic Centre. There were 41 attendees and 15 apologies.

Paul opened the Gathering and welcomed all to the Bundaberg Model train and Hobby Expo and thanked and congratulated the Wide Bay Burnett Model Railroad Club for not only hosting the gathering, but for putting on yet another fantastic show.

The gathering was restricted to 20minutes as it was held after a long day at the show. The gathering consisted of Paul's monthly report plus Merv Bagnall gave an update on the Mainline Magazine and requested articles.

## **GATHERING NOTES**

1. Welcome - Thanks to Wide Bay Burnett MRC for hosting
2. Apologies
3. Div 1 Nominations for Committee closed 5pm 22<sup>nd</sup> March
  - 4 nominations received by closing date.
    - Ø Paul Rollason - Division 1 Superintendent
    - Ø Bob Tisdall - Deputy Division 1 Superintendent
    - Ø Les Ellen - Treasurer
    - Ø Glen McCarley - Gatherings Coordinator



- Ø All other positions will be filled casually by the committee but nominations are welcome (*one nomination has been received since for secretary and Phil Mooney has been appointed*)

#### 4. Div Super Report

- Clinics Weekend
  - Ø Committee decided to have a combined clinics weekend and STREAM clinics weekend in on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
  - Ø Aimed at all levels from beginner to advanced and will have many hands on sessions/clinics and not just lectures.
  - Ø 4 streams (module stream, 2 general streams and Electronics Stream).
  - Ø Have 42 EOI from the public already as a result of the Pine Rivers, Redlands and Gold Coast Shows.
  - Ø 1 person travelling from Victoria
  - Ø Sponsors:- Modeller's Warehouse
  - Ø Application forms to be sent mid April
- FREE-MO layout
  - Ø Progress at Bundy Show and AMRA show
  - Ø Sponsor is Aurora Trains (for first 4 modules)
- NMRA shirts and jackets. All arrived. Shirts now \$40 and jackets \$85 due to increase in production costs. Next batch 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Track Gauges (arrived)
- Calendar out for 2024 is on the website

#### 5. AR Report

- Division 1 **IS** hosting the 2025 NMRA Convention. Volunteers needed. Planning already underway.
- Membership fees to go up in 2024 by \$10 (to \$40)
- Div 1 hosting the NMRA ARC AGM - 20/4/24
- Bunnings and Jaycar Member discounts. First batch of cards about to be issues (171 Div 1 Members).

#### 6. Membership

- 369 current Qld members (*up 3 members since last report in Feb 2024*)
- 3 new members last month - Gary and Nell Street, David Wait - Welcome to you all.
- 1 member transferred from Division 2 - Ross Balderson - welcome Ross.
- 27 guests looking at possibly joining (a result of Redlands and GC Show - very successful).
- Gone Home - Nil
- Some members struck off as not paid their membership
- Renewals just going out

- **REMINDER** to all 100% clubs that EVERY member MUST be an NMRA member otherwise your club cannot be considered as a 100% club and are not covered by insurance.
- 100% also to put in their annual report to NMRA AR before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## 7. AP Awards

- Report from Arthur
  - Ø **Australasian Region**
  - Ø **February 2024.**

Ø Spike	2
Ø Structures	1
Ø Civil	1
Ø Electrical	1
  - Ø **Division One.** NIL Certificates. A number of members are working on certificates. A number of enquires came forward following the February meeting.
  - Ø **National Report - Jan/Feb 2024.**

Ø Golden Spike	16
Ø AP's	77
Ø MMR's	7.
  - Ø National AP Manager Frank Koch after 20 years is stepping down at the end of June.
  - Ø Ray Persing has been appointed to the position from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. We are told that Ray is an excellent modeller, has "mastered" 3-D printing with some fantastic HOn3 early Maine narrow gauge prototypes.
  - Ø Looking ahead, 2025 is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the NMRA and the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AP. Think of the opportunity for celebration in 2025!

## 8. Reports

- SIG
  - Ø Modular SIG group - nil report
- 100% Clubs
  - Ø Action MRC - Nil report
  - Ø Ipswich MRC - Nil report
  - Ø Gladstone and District MRA - nil report
  - Ø Logan District MRC - Advertised next gathering and upcoming table sales
  - Ø Miniature Trains Gold Coast - Updated on upcoming show
  - Ø Northern Rivers MRC - Nil report
  - Ø Southern Downs Steam Railway MTA - Nil report



Ø Wide Bay Burnett MRC - Report on activities

9. Events for the Year

- o AMRA Show - 4-5<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- o **NMRA Clinics Weekend** - 25-26<sup>th</sup> May
- o MTGC Show - 22-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - Nerang Bicentennial Community Centre
- o Modeller's Warehouse Model Show - 31<sup>st</sup> Aug - 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - Beenleigh Rum Distillery
- Other future events
  - o Casino and Lismore - 19-20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 - invitations sent
  - o Bowen Oct 2025 - Whitsunday Tour (Scott Whitaker - O Scale hand built Victoria - 450m2 shed)

10. Future Gatherings

- Next Gathering + NMRA AR AGM - Logan District Model Railroad Club - 20/4/24
- Seeking people to run clinics for 2024

Division 1 Activities

Division 1 also attended the Bundaberg Model train and Hobby Expo and has their usual promotions table. The focus was to:-

- Promote the NMRA and membership
- Promote the upcoming Clinics Weekend in May
- Progress the FreeMo modules



Whilst attendance numbers for the show were low, we had 7 genuine enquiries about membership and interest in the Clinics Weekend. This was pleasing as this was higher than last year.

A huge thanks goes to those who were clinicians at our display:-

- Mark Bailey ( tree making)
- Chris Patterson (tree making)
- Tim Rollason (building cane bins)
- Bob Tisdall (FreeMo building)

Equally, thank you for the following Ambassadors:-

- Merv Bagnall
- Denis Lane
- Kim Graham
- Bob Tisdall
- John Lebsanft





## **Division 2**

*Stephen O'Brien (NMRA Inc.-AR Division 2 Superintendent)*

Report for January 2024 meeting

January, Division 2's first meeting for 2024 at the home of Mal Risby and his mother Marlene in Wanniasa ACT. Fourteen members travelled from across the division from as far as Bemboka, Bombala, Junee and the Illawarra NSW.

It has been some time since awards have been presented to Division 2 members. So it was great to have the two recipients present at the meeting.

25 Years Membership of the NMRA Australasian Region was presented to Rob Anderson.

Rob was along time resident in Canberra hosting meetings, involved in Divisions 2 exhibition layout and inviting members and guests to regular operating sessions at his under house layout room which was enjoyed by all and some international guests too.

Sometime ago Rob and wife Jenny moved to Bemboka NSW for a rural lifestyle. Now a new layout in a shed 9 x 6M has evolved, a multi deck plan with helixes and dispatchers space and no duck under for easier access.

This award should also recognise the contribution of Rob's wife Jenny who has supported Rob and welcomed all to their homes in Canberra and Bemboka.



**ROB ANDERSON, 25 YEARS MEMBERSHIP**



**ROBIN FOSTER, HOPKINS BONE AWARD**

Hopkins Bone Award presented to Robin Foster.

Robin was nominated for the Hopkins Bone Award for his services as past Editor of Division 2's newsletter "The Flimsy".

During the period of the Covid pandemic Division 2 came under lock down and restriction of meetings that kept members isolated like everyone else.

Robin as editor encouraged members to submit their modelling efforts for the monthly issue of the newsletter. I did count one issue of The Flimsy running to thirty two pages.

This was a successful outcome as a way of keeping members informed and turning to modelling as a way of getting through those restrictions.

Robin noted that it was the member's contributions that made it a success but it needed an editor to bring those contributions into a news letter.

Robin Foster is worthy of receiving the Hopkins Bone Award for his contribution to the NMRA Australasian Region and its members.

Show n Tell

Members modelling efforts presented at the meeting can be seen in more detail in the January issue of The Flimsy.

Malcom's layout was an opportunity to see progress on his N scale empire located in a three car garage. Large staging yards, long trains and a lot of timber to build this dream that continues to evolve. It was good place to see some of the techniques that Mal has used.

The meeting closed with afternoon tea and a time to catch up with Marlene who welcomed all those attending the afternoon.

Thank you to Malcom and mother Marlene for being our hosts and the members who attended our first meeting for 2024.....

## **Division 2**

*Stephen O'Brien (NMRA Inc.-AR Division 2 Superintendent)*

*Report for February 2024 meeting*

Fifteen members attended the February meeting from as far as Bombala and Yass NSW. Our host was Steve Walker at his home in Kaleen ACT where members enjoyed an outdoor meeting.

A Oil Pencil Pocket Set containing six pencils was won by a member as a result of a lucky chair prize. These pencils might be worth exploring weathering techniques.

At this meeting Stephe Jitts MMR and Division 2 Achievement Program manager gave another monthly promotion looking at the category of Civil. Stephe outline the requirements of Civil and how to achieve the awarding of this category. There was some interesting discussion with some members suggesting the Civil category needed review to be relevant to todays model railroading.

Show n Tell

Steve Walker presented a selection of old and new Kalmbach books that he found at a recent ACT Life Line Book Fair at very reasonable prices.

Keep an eye out at your own State Life Line Book Fairs, you never know what you might find.

Fremo HO continues with Warren Backhouse showing a module, wired with track and free standing to show the height.

John Gillies showed a copy of " Along the Old Ghan Line " that he received as a gift.



A Google search by title might provide a where can I buy if you are interested.

Once again the February issue of The Flimsy will highlight in greater detail and pictures of members modelling.

Our host Steve Walker always has interesting topics to present to members.

Last year he looked at how to keep track and rolling stock wheels clean for good operation.

As a follow up from last year Steve provided copies of Joe Fugate's, Publishers Musings.

You can find this article in the January 2024 Model Railroad Hobbyist website that is offered as a free download of the magazine.

Joe Fugate looks at track cleaning with Non Polar Solvents and some of the health risks.

Check out the article, it might help with keeping your track clean and avoiding those unhealthy solvents.

Steve has had some recent issues with his DCC system that was solved by installing the latest wireless interface. Discussion turned to asking members present which brand of DCC system they owned and the choices they made.


This topic opened up a lot of discussion and questions from around the table.

Attending meetings is maybe one of the great benefits of NMRA membership and while it is not always possible to attend every meeting it is worth pencilling in one meeting during the year in your calendar.

The formal part of the meeting closed with members able to look at Steve's N scale Burlington Northern themed layout and run trains.

Long trains with multiple locomotive consists running at slow speeds all nicely detailed and weathered.

Afternoon tea and more conversation closed the meeting.

Thank you to our host Steve Walker and those members who attended the meeting.....

## **Division 2**

*Stephen O'Brien (NMRA Inc.-AR Division 2 Superintendent)*

**For Division Number:** 2  
**For the Month Of:** [March 2024](#)  
**Meeting Date:** 16/3/24  
**Member who Provided the Report:** Stephen O'Brien

**Reporting Period:** From \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /2024 To \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /2024

**Attendance:** Members - 8  
Guests - 0  
Via Zoom/Teams N/A  
Apologies - 13

**Number of Financial Members in the Division this Reporting Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:**

Bunnings Card Rollout, AGM, Shirts and Logo item.

**Awards Presented:** Nil

**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:** Nil

**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division.**

**Next Meeting Place & Date:**

Saturday 20th April, Platform Queanbeyan Railway Station NSW. Bring a fold up chair

**Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

The March meeting was the first visit to Bombala NSW for Division 2 members hosted by Tony and Pam Roberts.

It was a small gathering with members from Canberra, Bemboka and the South Coast. The first thing members saw was the over 900 rose bushes in a fairly large garden that lead to an equally large shed that housed Tony's layout on an enclosed mezzanine level. The stairs that led to the layout room an interesting climb.



The layout is walk in plan that depicts the Bombala Station precinct along one wall with track work around the adjoining walls.

Above this is stand alone switching layout for added interest and Tony has left his wiring visible so you can see how he did it.

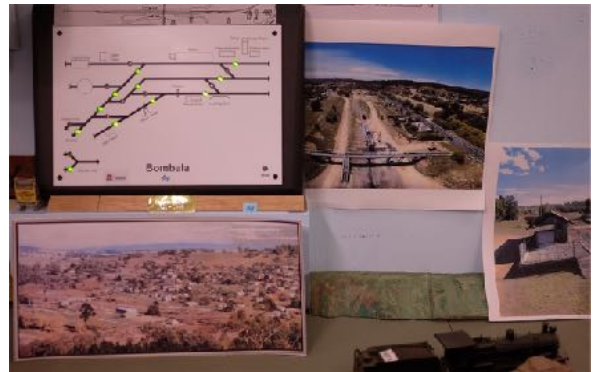
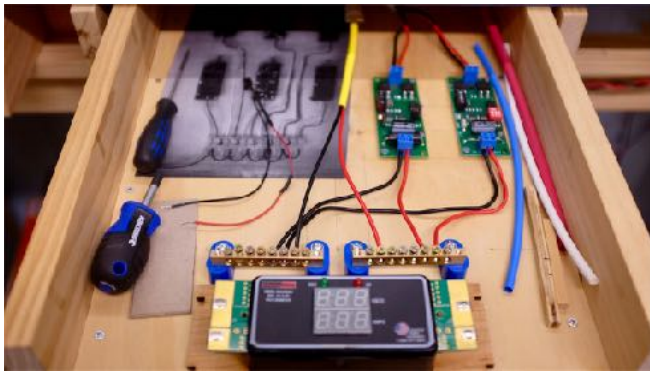


DCC Concepts Cobalt switch motors control the points which can be set by the NCE throttles or the push button LED's on the various panels. 3M suit case connectors are used instead on the usual soldering of dropper wires to the bus wires.

Tony has achieved a lot and there is still plenty of scenery to fill in the spaces. I am sure members pick up

some worthwhile ideas from what Tony has achieved.





Members enjoyed lunch and afternoon tea which was very well catered for. The train room welcomes visitors if you should be in the area. Bombala was the end of the line and trains have not run to this station in many years.

If a future meeting is offered by Tony and Pam put it in your diary. Bombala is an interesting town that is not far from the coast that would make it a family weekend or longer.

Thank you Tony and Pam for hosting a very enjoyable meeting in March.....M

### **Division 3**

*Peter Kendall (NMRA Inc.-AR Division 3 Superintendent)*

*Report for March 20th, 2024 Meeting:-..... Div 3 Report for February 25th starts on page 62 below:-*

- Division Number:** 3 (Victoria)
- Month:** March 2024
- Meeting Date:** 20/03/24
- Reported by:** Peter Kendall & Rod Hutchinson
- Reporting Period:** 1/03/24 to Last Day/03/24
- Attendance:** 17 Members & Guests
- Apologies:** Laurie & Rose Green, Bob & Myra Thornton, John Dennis, Peter MacDonald, Grant McAdam, Jack Gringlas
- Upcoming Expos/Train Shows:**
  - Bendigo March 30-31
  - Diamond creek March 30-31
- Next Meeting:** Peter MacDonald, Bacchus Marsh, Sunday 21 April 2024

### Detailed Meeting Report:

This months meeting was held at the home of Noel & Jenny Purdy in Rosanna, a suburb to the north of Melbourne. Noel has recently joined NMRA and is showing signs of leadership potential. Noel models a mining railway located in the Pilbara region of NW Australia in N scale. He is involved with various fraternities centred around N scale railway modelling. Pilbara stock is not generally available so Noel has taken to modify commercial items with styrene and/or brass etches to simulate the loco and rolling stock of Hamersley Iron Ore Trains.



West Coast Mining incorporates JMRI software whilst the trains represent the movement of iron ore from the loading hoppers down through the outback, via the maintenance yards and out to the wharf. Wagons are coupled in pairs with a fishing line swivel coupler. Each pair of wagons couples to each other using micro-trains couplers. This allows to wagons to be unloaded in side a rotary tipper. Bulk Carrier ships take the raw iron ore to markets overseas. The automation of the iron ore wagons load and unload sequence is fascinating to watch.



Rosanna is quite central so members and guests travelled from afar as Alexandra, Wallan and Ballarat. Around 17 modellers and guest enjoyed a lovely barbecue spread





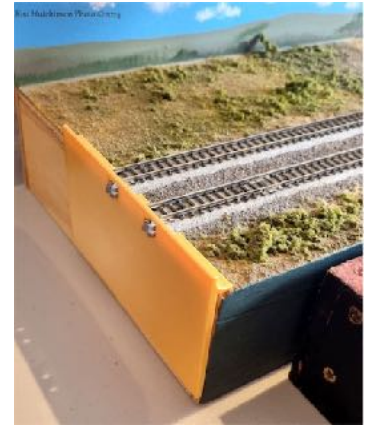
enhanced by home made sandwiches, cakes and; vanilla slices brought in from Ballarat. A warm and sunny day was enjoyed by all with frequent trips to the train shed to look at the mighty Pilbara ore trains.

*Above:- Noel Purdy - Etched mods to Kato GE U30C Diesel - Mods to Hopper Wagons- West Coast Mining N Scale Layout.*

Phillip Hillebrand provided some members with a short treatise on T track modules (*below*). For those not familiar it was quite a learning curve on module sections which are based on Kato N scale track.







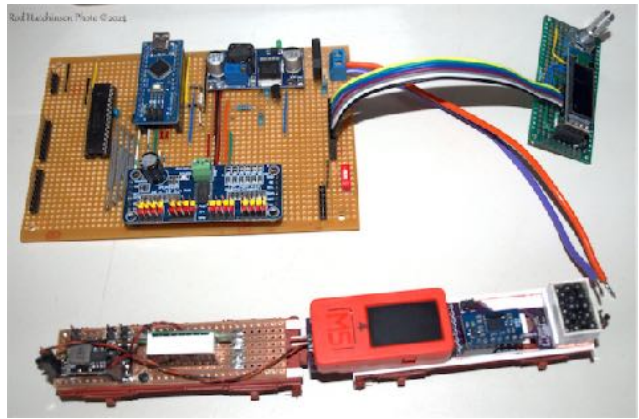
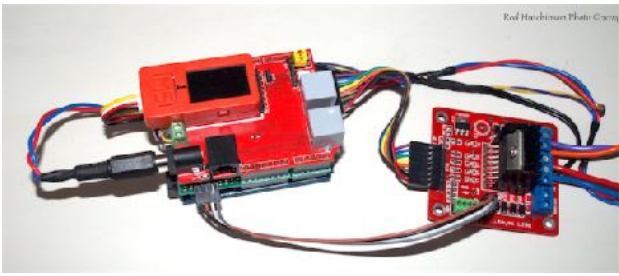
Above: Phillip Hillebrand - Clinic on T Track module design and Building.

Right: Paul Richie - HO Signals by WeHonest Model Company.

Below: Phillip Hillebrand - Various Electronics including M5 Internet Of Things (IoT) ESP32, Arduino & PCA9685 boards.







*Left: Our Superintendent, Peter Kendall presented Jenny Purdy with the NMRA thank you plaque.*

*Below: Mick Bennie - On30 VR NK1 (spirts of salts) 3D print on a Tenshodo Spud*



The QR code will take you to a short video of the layout and a demonstration of the rotary hopper in action.....



## **Division 3**

*Peter Kendall (NMRA Inc.-AR Division 3 Superintendent)*

*Report for February 25th, 2024 Meeting:-*

**Division Number:** 3  
**Month:** Feb 2024  
**Meeting Date:** 25/02/24  
**Reported by:** Peter Kendall & Rod Hutchinson  
**Reporting Period:** 1/02/24 to Last Day/02/24  
**Attendance:** 15 Members & Guests  
**Apologies:** Laurie & Rose Green, Glenn Pope, Jack Gringlas, Noel Purdey, Rod Warren Geoff Truman  
**Upcoming Expos/Train Shows:**

- Macedon Kyneton Mar 9-10
- Newport W/Shop Open Day Mar 9-11
- Sandown Mar 16-17
- Bendigo Mar 30-31
- Diamond Creek Mar 30-31

**Next Meeting:** Noel Purdey, Rosanna, Sunday 17 March 2024

### **Detailed Meeting Report:**

As in most years, the February meeting was held at the home of Paul Ritchie in Ballarat. Paul has been in model railways for countless years and remains actively engaged in model making and diorama building. Paul's interest extend to US outline both Mainline and Narrow-Gauge in a range of scales. He is involved with the Ballarat Model Railway Exhibition each year. He is a most prolific structure builders in kit and scratch forms, many accommodating a range of modelling scales.



Modellers travelled from far a field Mooroolbark & Belgrave to the east and Castlemaine to the north. Around 15 modellers and guest enjoyed a lovely cold spread enhanced by the smell of barbeque delights consumed under a bright blue sky and plenty of sunshine.

Peter MacDonald gave us a report on Laurie Green's health who has missed the last few meetings, but does appear to be on the mend.

Our Superintendent, Peter Kendall presented Paul with his thank you plaque.....



**Models on display:**



*Graham Stockfeld - HO Shed*



*Paul Ritchie - HO Kathie's Cove (sic); a small portable diorama consisting of a small cove with a number of buildings. Named after his late partner, Kathie*



*Left: Mick Bennie - 1:48 Sawdust burner with smoke simulation using water vapour*



*Mick Bennie - 1:48 Home made advertising signs*



*Grant McAdam - O-16.5 Lynton and Barnstaple Coach by Lionheart Models.*



*Peter Kendall - Three O18 "critters" all powered by Kato N scale 4 wheel chassis.*



Grant McAdam - 1:48 Crates and Chimneys.



Rod Hutchinson - Paper Laser Cut Ground Ferns and Tree Ferns by Marks Models NZ.



Peter MacDonald - On30 AA Ford Rail-truck kit-bash.



Peter MacDonald - On30 NB Coach by Paul's 3D prints.



## **Division 4**

From Frank Godde, MMR® (NMRA Inc.-AR Div4 Superintendent)  
Report for February 18th, 2024 Meeting:-

**For Division Number:** 4  
**For the Month Of:** February 2024  
**Meeting Date:** 18 /2/2024  
**Reported By:** Frank Godde  
**Reporting Period:** From 1/2/2024 To 29/2/2024  
**Attendance:** Members - 6  
Guests - 0  
Via Zoom/Teams - 0  
Apologies - 1  
**No, of Financial Members:** 13

**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:** Nil

**Awards Presented:** Nil

**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:**

- Light weight layout construction

**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division.** Nil

**Next Meeting Place & Date:** Dave Whibley's home 17 March 2024 at 2pm at 4 Heslop Rd, Lesmurdie 6076

**Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

The February meeting was held on a stinking hot 43 degree day at Bradley Watt's home in Langford. Rod Tonkin was right not to come !! Although it was extremely hot, Brad did a great job of being host. Our thanks to Brad for holding the meeting.

Brad has a circuit on a flat top bench and when I arrived, he was running and Australian train including rolling stock. He runs HO scale and is mostly an all Australian modeller. He has several display boxes on the walls and shows off his collection of Australian equipment very well. The outstanding display was of his Australian railroad cranes. This was really impressive. Not only cranes but he also has a great collection of radio-controlled tanks.


Matt Brooks brought along some light poles which he has printed on his 3D printer. Some 3D printers use filament, but his is a liquid printer. So, the light poles that he showed us were still a bit soft and needed time to harden.

Some time ago, Frank and Dave went to Jaycar to try out their new discount cards, and purchased two Flashforge filament printers. One lives at Dave's place



and the other lives at Frank's place. These printers run almost 24/7 !!. Frank is printing lots of cows and if he could sell the milk, he would make a fortune. They have printed ore wagons, signs, windows and doors etc for lots of new scenery opportunities and buildings.

An update on Frank's 10 x 6mtr shed is that he is now running the electrical wires before the insulation comes. He has been making some G scale bridges and backdrop buildings in readiness for the new layout.

As it was such a very hot day, the meeting closed a little earlier than normal.....

## **Division 4**

*From Frank Godde, MMR® (NMRA Inc.-AR Div4 Superintendent)*

*Report for March 17th, 2024 Meeting:-*

**For Division Number:** 4  
**For the Month Of:** March, 2024  
**Meeting Date:** 17/3/2024  
**Reported By:** Frank Godde  
**Reporting Period:** From 1/3/2024 To 31/3/2024  
**Attendance:**  
Members - 5  
Guests - 0  
Via Zoom/Teams - 0  
Apologies - 2  
**No. of Financial Members:** 13

**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:** see notes

**Awards Presented:** Nil

**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:**

- Light weight layout construction
- Continue of light weight layout construction and scenery.

**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division:** Nil

**Next Meeting Place & Date:** Frank Godde's place on April 21st at 5 Leiden Place in Forrestfield 2024 at 2pm See notes attached.

**Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

The March meeting was held at Dave Whibley's home, with two apologies which makes a big difference for a small group like ours.

Dave had been busy cooking so there's was plenty of food, thanks Dave.



It's always a joy to go to Dave's for he has always something new to show you, this time it was the extension to the back of the station area, where the new G gauge track will be laid to run into the man cave area, there it will also change into 32mill and continue into a small yard.



cylinder 15-ton shay which he has



Dave is working on his motive power certificate, to which he has to super detail two locos and scratch build the third one. The chase and wheels for a G gauge Forney are together but a lot more work is required before it is finished. This will all be in brass, with a 12volt motor from a vacuum cleaner head.

Attached are some photos of Daves new live steam loco, a two-cylinder 15-ton shay which he has been waiting 12 months for, coming from Argile in the East. It has been turned into a wood burner with hungrier boards and a timber load fitted to the top of the coal bunker.



Matt Brooks received some HO trestle bents which had done the rounds from other modelers, that he would like to incorporate into his layout

Frank had brought along one of the modules from a previous built layout to show the guys on just how to place the scenery on an open framed unit and what type of scenery material to keep it light weight. *Right: This is what is on Franks workbench at the moment.....M*



## **Division 5**

*From Philip Sharpe (NMRA Inc.-AR Div5 Superintendent)  
Report for February 26th, 2024:-*

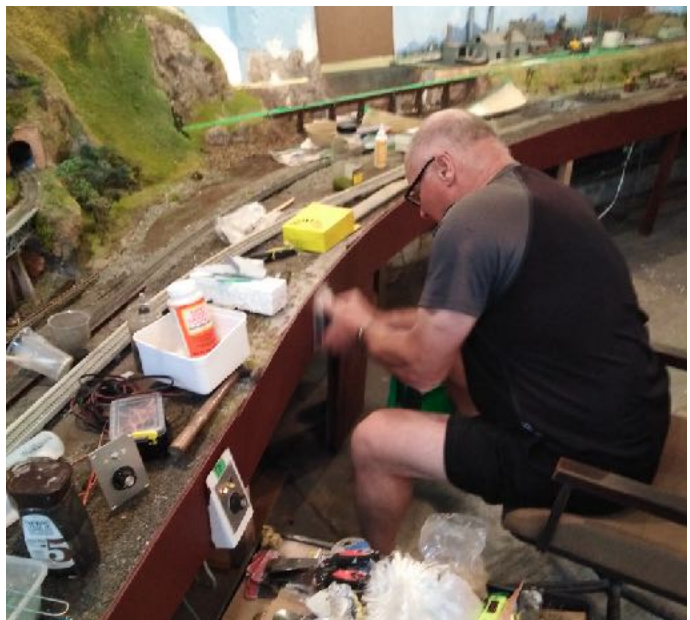
**For Division Number:** 5  
**For the Month Of:** February, 2024  
**Meeting Date:** -/2/2024  
**Reported By:** Philip Sharp

**Reporting Period:** From 15/1/2024 To 25/2/2024  
**Attendance:** Members - ?  
Guests - ?  
Via Zoom/Teams - ?  
Apologies - ?

**No. of Financial Members:** ?  
**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:** see notes  
**Awards Presented:** Nil  
**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:**  
**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division:** Nil  
**Next Meeting Place & Date:** TBA

### **Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

The City of Sails MRC (CoSMRC) uses the clubrooms of the Western Districts MRC (WDMRC) as its home base. In return for this use, the CoSMRC works on the WDMRC's HO layout. At its January meeting, the CoSMRC made about 20 trees of different heights from garden tie wire and sisal fibres. Before the meeting started, some CoSMRC members worked on fundamental parts of the layout. The photograph below shows Craig vigorously sanding the fascia before inserting a control panel.



### **2024 NZAMRC Convention**

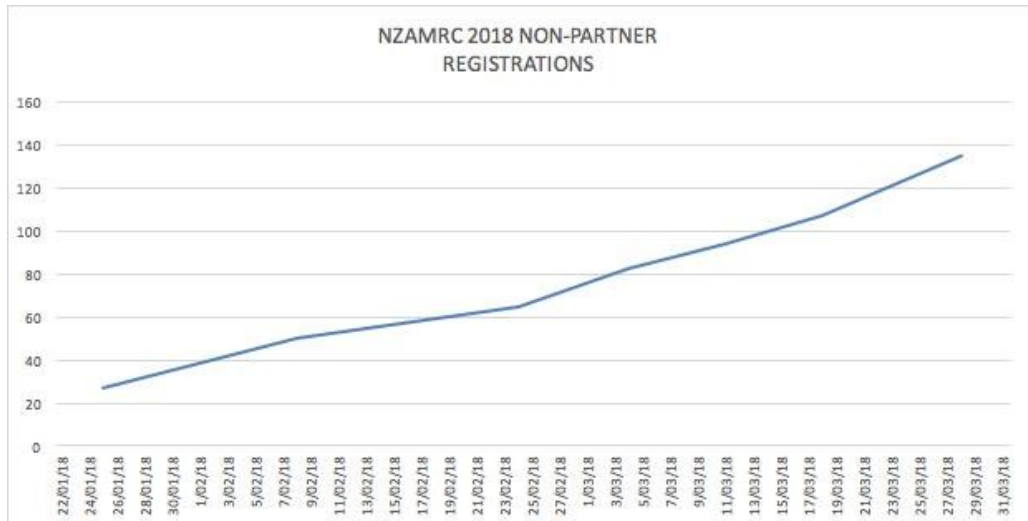
The 2024 national convention of the New Zealand Association of Model Railway Clubs (NZAMRC) will be held in west Auckland, April 26 - 28.

Over the last month, much of the work organising the convention has been done by CoSMRC members Michael Hill and James Kelso. Each has several roles. Michael's roles include being convention and clinic chair; James' roles include being finance and layout chair. The layouts include those at the venue as well as those on the tour. Michael and James are keeping a log of the work they are doing. Both intend using the information in this log as part of their application for the Volunteer's certificate.



The break-even point for the convention is around 90 registrants. James told me this morning that we currently have 44 registrants. The convention is two months away. Is 44 a good number?

The graph (Right), created by James, is the worm for the number of registrants at the previous NZAMRC convention held in Auckland (in 2018). The worm starts



two months one week before the convention. The dates on the horizontal axis are two days apart; the vertical axis goes from 0 to 160 (zoom in to read the dates and numbers).

The number of registrants two months out from the 2018 convention was in the low to mid 30's. This is an indication 44 registrants two months out from the 2024 convention is,

to quote James, 'pretty good'. Another observation is that the number of registrants increased steadily right up to a few days before the 2018 convention. I expect the same to happen in 2024.



### Flatcar Load Challenge

The Flatcar Load Challenge (FLC) is part of the NZAMRC convention. The FLC is being sponsored by the NMRA-AR. The FLC has been well promoted in the convention

newsletters. The photograph below is an example of a promotional photograph from the latest newsletter.....

## **Division 6**

From David Orr (NMRA Inc.-AR Div6 Superintendent)  
Report for March 9th, 2024 Meeting:-

**For Division Number:** 6  
**For the Month Of:** March, 2024  
**Meeting Date:** 9/3/2024  
**Reported By:** David Orr  
**Reporting Period:** From 11/2/2024 To 16/3/2024  
**Attendance:** Members - 13  
Guests - 1  
Via Zoom/Teams - N/A  
Apologies - -  
**No. of Financial Members:** ?  
**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:** Nil  
**Awards Presented:** Nil  
**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:** Nil  
**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division:** Nil  
**Next Meeting Place & Date:** 13 April 2024, Peter Jackson's, 4 Sharon Crt, Aldgate

### **Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

13 members and 1 visitor gathered at Paolo & Chris Arman's residence for our March 2024 meeting. David welcomed the members and presented Paolo with his Host Plaque.



### **Achievement Program:**

AP Asst Manager, SA, Ray Brownbill, advised the meeting that in the month of February, there were 3 AP Certificates awarded in SA, 2 Golden Spikes in Australia (1 in SA) and 7 Master Model Railroader Certificates awarded worldwide.

### **ARC:**

Hopefully members have read the ARC minutes that were distributed previously.



#### Finance:

Treasurer, Ron Solly, advised the meeting of our current financial state.

#### Library Report:

Librarian Michael Robinson advised the group that the library was here at the meeting and encouraged people to use it. The ARC Library was to be discontinued. If the Division Library is not utilised, perhaps the Division should consider discontinuing its library.

#### Member Benefits:

David advised the group and advises all members that this is your last opportunity to take advantage of the discounts available from Bunnings and Jaycar, just by being a member of NMRA. Next weekend, the list will be returned to the organiser.

#### AMRE:

Ron Solly advised the meeting that attendance prices have increased, the layout plans have been distributed and reminds everyone to pick up your pass on Friday if possible. Otherwise, it must be picked up from the Helpdesk upon arrival.

Ray Brownbill is the Div 6 organiser this year and Ray advised that the Div 6 attendance sheet will be available shortly.

#### NT Junction:

Ray Brownbill and David Orr will soon be adding the modules donated by Ainslie Brittain to NT Junction.

#### Shirts and Name Badges:

A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of shirts, logos and name badges. At the end of the discussion, the group decided that;

1. Division 6 will use Name Badges rather than names embroidered on shirts as identification. New name badges will have first names only.
2. Division 6 will continue to use the Australasian Region logo on shirts.
3. Division 6 will develop a Divisional logo.
4. Logos will be embroidered on shirts.
5. AP and MMR patches can be sewn on.
6. Division 6 shirts will be either a light blue button-up shirt of the same colour as the current NMRA shirt, a light blue polo shirt of the same colour as the current NMRA shirt, or a navy polo shirt. Polo shirts will have buttons at the neck.



A document showing various logos used by a number of Regions and Divisions was circulated.

#### Next meeting

Our next meeting will be at Peter Jackson's, 4 Sharon Crt, Aldgate.

## Round the group

### Paolo Arman

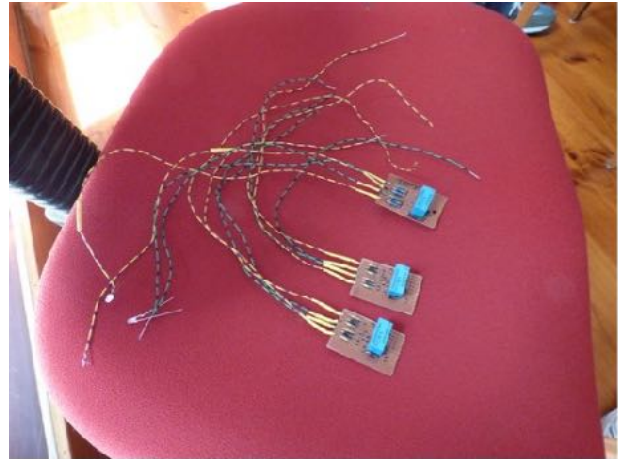
Paolo, a member of Adelaide Model Railroaders, a 100% club in Division 6. has been assisting Tony Mikolaj, another member of Adelaide Model Railroaders, in assembling some small circuits using a self-holding relay.

Tony explained;

*The circuits are to control the stall motors of our points on the mainlines.*

*This will make it so that the points will always switch to the mainline whenever the layout is turned on. They consist of*

*a relay that is turned on by a momentary switch supplying 12 volts and once set, one of the terminals then supplies the power to hold the relay on and therefore the point in the thrown position. To reset the point a second momentary switch breaks the earth connection and so turns the relay off. The earth will be common for all mainline points at each station, that way a single switch can be installed to set all the points of that station to mainline for passing through. Local yard points will remain independent so that they won't be switched under trains in the yard. The boards also have wiring to drive LEDs for use on the fascia so that the point settings can be seen at a glance.*



### Wayne Hoskin

The group welcomed Wayne to his first meeting in a long time. Wayne is another member of Adelaide Model Railroaders. He used to be a member of AMR when AMR's clubrooms were at Mt Lofty Railway Station. He re-joined AMR a few months back. Wayne models South Australian Railways in HO and HOn3 and has a growing interest in Rio Grande Southern. He also has had a garden railway for many years.

### David Teague

David has been busy this month. He was planning to have his layout at a small show at the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March but the intermittent problem that raised it's head at the recent Train Show at St John's church, raised its head again during David's testing..After much effort, including checking all and re-doing most electrical joints, the problem was found. And fixed! So his layout went to the show and David was a happy camper!

### Ray Brownbill

Ray has been working "underground". That is, under his layout, wiring lights for the Wild Creek diesel servicing centre and fueling tracks.

### Vern Cracknell

Vern has been working on his Uphill Logging layout and tells us it's ready for the Adelaide Model Railway Exhibition. He's also been cleaning up his other layout, Kangaroo & Cockatoo Valley. Watch out for its public appearance.

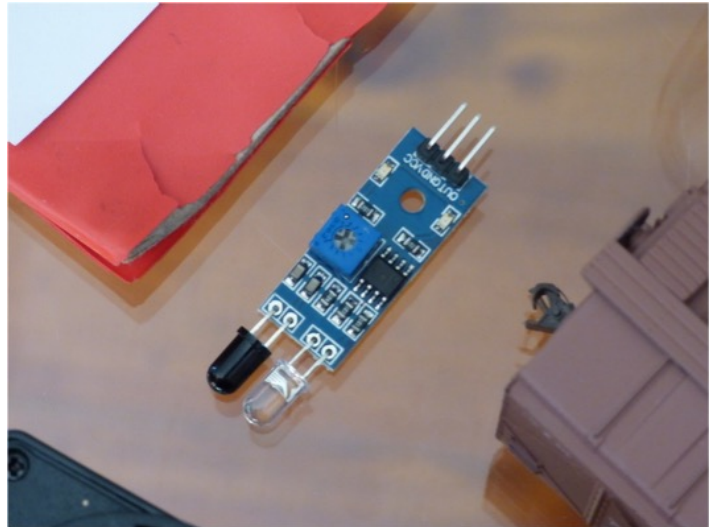


Jane Robinson

Jane has been helping son Michael with his garden layout, planting lots of plants.

Tony Mikolaj

Tony is another member of Adelaide Model Railroaders and has been fixing issues at the club. He also showed us a detector he's developed for use on the club's layout. The detector is a position sensor that detects only the spot over the sensor, this is to detect the end of a shunt lead inside a tunnel to prevent interference of the mainline or derailment over the mainline point. The sensor is an infrared line follower module for robot cars, they cost about \$1 from AliExpress or eBay. This sensor was chosen for cost and ease of use, they will work in total darkness up to quite bright light and have inbuilt adjustment of sensitivity. These run on 5 volts and give a low signal for detect.



*The display has a 12 volt supply and a buck converter (about \$1) to drop the volts down to 5 volts for the detector and an interface for 12 volt output.*

*I modified the sensor by extending the wires for the LEDs and putting them in the other side of the board so that they would poke up from under the track. As the club signalling is 12 volt the 0 volt output from the detector is fed to a 4N25 optocoupler to invert the signal to +12 volt that can interface with the club signalling system. This is done by feeding 5 volts to pin 1 and the signal to pin 2 then 12 volts to pin 5 and taking the output from pin 4. On the display this was via resistor to a LED. Pins 3 and 6 are not used.*

Rod Stewart

Rod tells us his wiring is complete. Yay, Rod!

Marcel van Eck

Marcel has been exorcising electrical demons!

Peter Jackson

Peter has been doing scenery on Jim Gifford's layout. On his home layout, he's put in another track (*don't we all!*) and scratchbuilt a couple of turnouts. Peter tells us he had to re-learn how to make them.

Peter showed the group some surface mount Leds he's acquired from Temu.



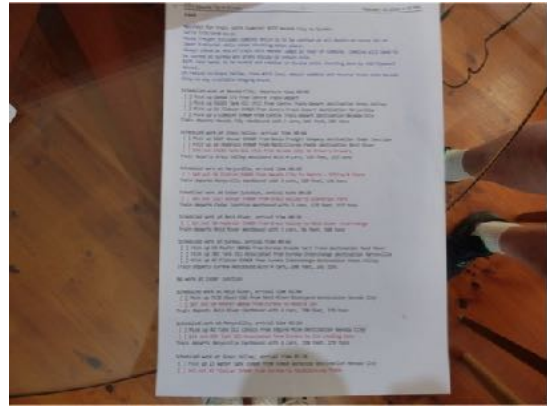
He's also trying to fix the issue of too many freight cars in his sidings, he uses JMRI Operations Pro.

Bob Bevan

Bob, and his assistants, Ray and Ron, have been putting control panels in . . . 14 of them!

Ron Solly

Ron has been working on panels at Bob's (*really?*). Ron is also the unofficial sparky for his P4 club. In his spare time, Ron's been working on his TT&TOs.



Michael Robinson

Michael has been busy painting wagons, ballasting his garden railway and selling excess rolling stock online.

David Orr

ODGAR ..... ODGAR is the Operations Discussion Group Australian Region. During a recent trawl through the Australian channels of the NMRA Interchange on the Discord platform, David discovered the Operations Discussion Group Australian Region channel. As a modeller keen on operations, this looked interesting.

Discord is an instant messaging and VoIP social platform that allows communication through voice calls, video calls, text messaging and media and files. NMRA has a presence on there called the NMRA Interchange.

ODGAR have sessions on there discussing various aspects of operations. Their next session is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>




March @ 7:30pm ACST. Register your interest first. Ken House and David plan to be there.

David runs a couple of stock cars on his layout and doesn't have enough cattle. So he asked a friend if the friend could 3D print some for him. David showed the group the 3D printed stock compared to some others he had. They've yet to be painted (*or maybe they could be Angus Greys*).

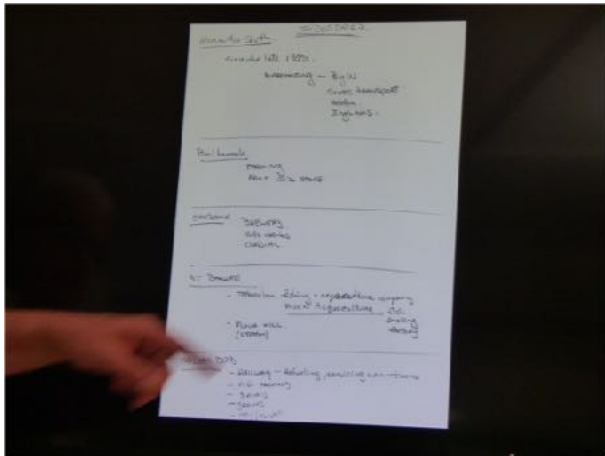
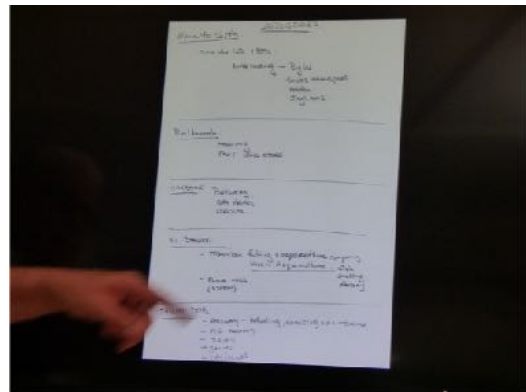
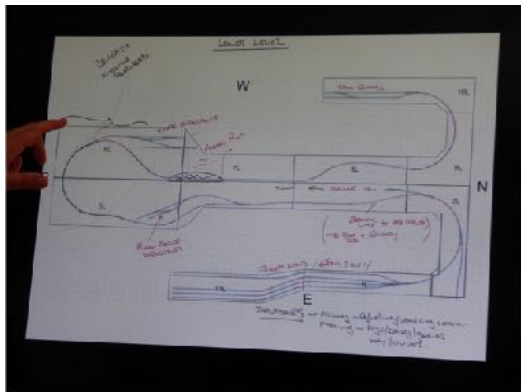
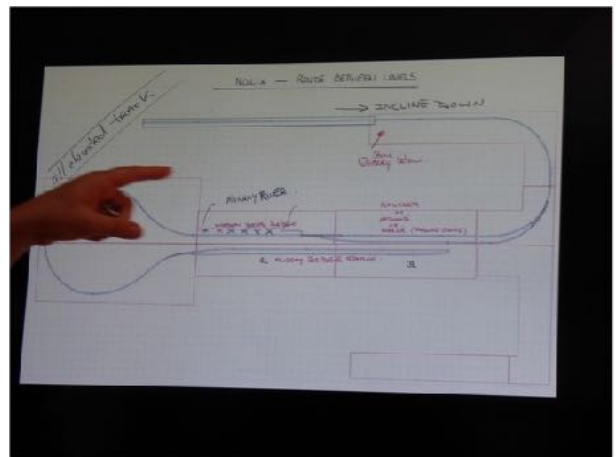
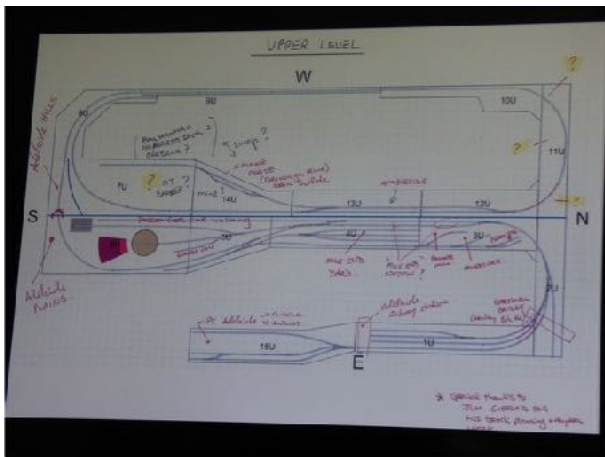
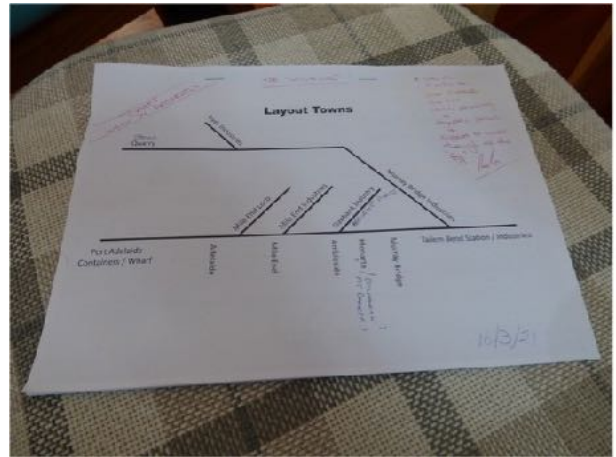
The meeting closed at 2:15pm and before we adjourned for a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by Chris and a look at Paolo's layout, Paolo gave us a description of his layout plans, complete with a slideshow.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Peter Jackson's, 4 Sharon Crt, Aldgate.....



Photos: Paola's Layout







*The following three short articles are structures completed by Division 6 member, Marcel van Eck*

## HO Scale Small Goods Shed Kit

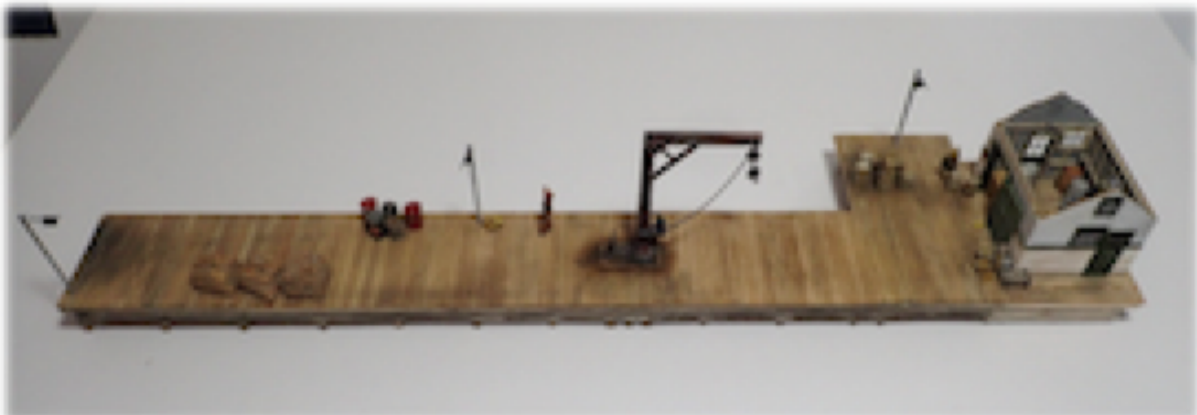


### Construction Materials

- **Outback Model Company** small goods shed cardboard and paper kit (without the supplied small platform base).

### Added Details

- Northeastern Scale Lumber 8" x 1" plank for lower external wall cladding
- 0402 LEDs (warm white) for external lighting
- 3mm LED (warm white) for internal lighting
- Northeastern Scale Lumber 4" x 2" plank for internal framing
- **Brunel Hobbies** corrugated iron maker and foil for roofing
- Assorted commercial barrels and oil cans, crates and sacks
- All mounted on a scratch-built goods platform
- Weathering powders and India Ink-IPA wash



## HO Scale Scratch-built Low-Level Wooden Trestle Bridge



### Construction Materials

- 3mm square balsa lengths for uprights – whittled to round; five per bent.
- Northeastern Scale Lumber 8" square for horizontals, and longitudinals under the rails
- Northeastern Scale Lumber 6" x 2" plank for diagonal and longitudinal supports

HOn3 Code 55 weathered flex track (1 in 10 sleepers retained to maintain gauge. I didn't have any loose rail at the time!)

- MicroEngineering wooden sleepers
- HOn3 Code 55 track gauges

### Added Details

- Grandt Line nut-bolt-washer castings
- India Ink (strong concentration)-IPA for waterlogged portions of uprights
- Hornby and Vallejo weathering powders; India Ink-IPA wash

### The Story

On the Muzzby Summwair (MkI), Marsh's Swamp posed the last major physical barrier to the passenger service between Muzzby and Summwair. Consequently, a low, almost straight, 80 metre-long, inclined wooden trestle bridge was built across the swamp.





## HO Scale Scratch-Built Ore Dump Trestle



### Construction Materials

- Northeastern Scale Lumber 10" square for trestle bents
- Northeastern Scale Lumber 8" x 6" for trestle bracing
- Northeastern Scale Lumber 10" x 1" plank for walkways
- Cheap As Chips coffee stirrers for side walls and dump deflector walls
- Cheap As Chips bamboo skewers for the retaining wall behind the trestle

### Added Details

- Woodland Scenics figures
- 0402 LEDs (warm white) for external lighting
- K&S 1.5mm OD thin-walled brass tubing for light posts
- Berkshire Junction EZ Line Fine black elastic line for overhead power cables
- Aluminium foil for lamp reflectors
- Tree twigs for power poles
- Plastruct ladders
- India Ink-IPA wash (various strengths) over all woodwork

### The Story

Copper ore was discovered in the west of the area. A rail spur was constructed off the mainline to service the copper mine. The copper ore is brought to an ore dump area by bottom dump gondolas. Orr Processing Pty Ltd. operates the dump and its facilities.

The completed model was displayed at the NMRA Division 6 meeting held on Saturday 14 October 2023.

From David Orr (NMRA Inc.-AR Div6 Superintendent)  
Report for April 13th, 2024 Meeting:-

**For Division Number:** 6  
**For the Month Of:** April, 2024  
**Meeting Date:** 13/4/2024  
**Reported By:** David Orr  
**Reporting Period:** From 10/3/2024 To 13/4/2024  
**Attendance:** Members - 14  
Guests - 1  
Via Zoom/Teams - N/A  
Apologies - 1  
**No. of Financial Members:** 59  
**NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:** Nil  
**Awards Presented:** Nil  
**Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:** Nil  
**Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division:** Nil

**Next Meeting Place & Date:** 11 May 2024, David & Maggie Orr's, 53 Rawlings Road, Modbury North.

**Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

14 members and 1 visitor gathered at Peter & Mary Jackson's residence for our April 2024 meeting. David welcomed the members and presented Peter with his Host Plaque.



**Achievement Program:**

AP Asst Manager, SA, Ray Brownbill, advised the meeting that in the month of March, there were 4 Achievement Program Certificates awarded in Aust, 1 for Master Builder - Cars, 1 for Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, 1 for Chief Dispatcher and 1 for Association Volunteer. There were 34 AP Certificates awarded elsewhere in the world making a total of 38 worldwide. There was also 1 MMR Certificate awarded in the US, a busy month!

**ARC:**

Hopefully members have read the ARC minutes that were distributed previously.



Finance:

Treasurer, Ron Solly, advised the meeting of our current financial state.

Library Report:

Librarian Michael Robinson advised the group that the library was here at the meeting and encouraged people to use it.

AMRE:

Ron Solly advised the meeting that everything was looking good for the Adelaide Model Railway Exhibition.

Ray Brownbill advises that so far, we have 4 members assisting on Friday set up, 6 members on Saturday, 6 members on Sunday and 4 members on Monday. The opportunity to be part of the NMRA stand at AMRE has been extended to 11<sup>th</sup> May. But get your name in or miss out.

NT Junction:

Ray Brownbill and David Orr have started adding the modules donated by Ainslie Brittain to NT Junction.

Member Benefits:

David advised the group and advises all members that the list was returned to the organiser. Watch this space!

ODGAR:

In case you missed last month's meeting report, ODGAR is the Operations Discussion Group Australian Region. During a recent trawl through the Australian channels of the NMRA Interchange on the Discord platform, David discovered the Operations Discussion Group Australian Region channel. As a modeller keen on operations, this looked interesting.

Discord is an instant messaging and VoIP social platform that allows communication through voice calls, video calls, text messaging and media and files. NMRA has a presence on there called the NMRA Interchange.

ODGAR have sessions on there, discussing various aspects of operations. Their next session is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm Eastern, so 6:30pm here. Register your interest first. Ken House and David Orr plan to be there.

Shirts and Name Badges:

The subject of shirts & logos was discussed with the concern that, although we had agreed to proceed with light blue Bisley or Bisley-type shirts and navy polo shirts, what were we going to do when winter came. As those of us know, Greyhound Park is a cold place in June when the Adelaide Model Railway Exhibition is held.



Wearing a windcheater, jumper or jacket would hide the NMRA logo. So the meeting decided that we would have a navy, zipped jacket - not a hoodie, that would be embroidered with the NMRA AR logo. This will not be a suit jacket but like a windcheater with a zip.

At the meeting, we had 3 examples of navy, zipped jackets. Michael Robinson and David Teague were wearing theirs and modelled them with style and flair. Some time later, when we were enjoying Mary's warm scones with jam and cream, I remembered that I had one in the car. I retrieved it and showed it to those who hadn't yet gone to admire Peter's layout. And I'm afraid, Michael and David, that my jacket won the day 😊.



The jacket I have is a Cougars brand, available from Lowes Menswear. Here is a link to the jacket.

[Cougars Full Zip Plain Navy Fleece Jacket - Lowes Menswear](#)

Being fleece-lined, I can attest to this jacket being extremely comfortable and warm, especially warm.

As we are doing with logos on shirts, you buy the jacket and Div6 will pay for the embroidery. And to minimise costs, you tell me your size and I will arrange to buy them from Lowes, obtaining the Member's discount for all.

Addendum

I've now discovered that I can't buy everyone's jacket from Lowes as they don't cater for every size. So, whilst we will still have navy jackets, the styles will be a little different.

Next meeting:

Our next meeting will be at David Orr's, 53.Rawlings Road, Modbury North.

[Round the group](#)

Michael Robinson

Michael has completed the trackwork for the garden railway and had a successful trial run.

On his HO, layout, he has been making up small square pillows for the inspection pit out of Evergreen square plastic and doing some laser cut model building by Trakside models.

Jane Robinson

Jane has been slogging away in the garden for Michael's railway.



## David Teague

On the 4th of April David travelled to Karoonda to assist SANGS member Nick Davy and his partner Lisa in running a T-Trak layout at the Karoonda Show. We set up on Thursday, cleaned and tested the track and were ready to start first thing Friday morning. We had no real problems over the next two days and it was well received by the locals. After packing up David came home, but Nick and Lisa stayed overnight.

## Tony Mikolaj

Tony has been continuing with the points wiring around the Adelaide Model Railroaders layout, and helped with the backscene for the steel works with the first side now done. He's been trying to design, and if given permission to spend the \$\$, build a lightweight and easily assembled back wall for the AMR exhibition display.

## Ainslie Brittain

Ainslie says;

"I have been able to complete the 'cog' track on the HOm part of the layout which is about 3M in length.

The rack loco, a BEMO Bo-Bo electric works very well and so far, reliably.

Because it forms part of the reverse loop in the HOm track, I put together a polarity changer circuit as featured in the October 2012 Australian 'Silicon Chip' magazine. However as often happens it did not work at first power-up. This has since been sorted out and was due to a recalcitrant diode which was replaced!

The unit works very well and changes the polarity in approx.. 20ms, so quick that it is not noticeable to the operator. I can now operate the Cog or Rack loco all the way through the reverse loop with no polarity issues.

I now can turn my attention to organising a replacement track diagram as the first effort had an incorrect turnout position. As this involves 14 toggle switches (for point operation etc) and so therefore is not a two minute job, I hope this time it will be correct!"

## Paolo Arman

Visited Port Dock and perused their publications for historical information on industrial sites that were served by the rail line between Adelaide and Taillem Bend. He's in the process of making a time to access the archives at the museum.

## John Marsh

Layout room finally finished. Now it's on to building his empire.

## Ron Solly

Ron told us he's been working on the passes for the Adelaide Model Railway Exhibition, and wiring at St Kilda on the P4 layout. Panel creation on Bob Bevan's layout is another task and he's still working on new timetables for his own layout, the Devan & Summersett Railway

### Vern Cracknell

Vern has been writing an article, with photos, on his Uphill Logging layout for the Narrow Gauge Down Under magazine.

### Ray Brownbill

Ray continues his "underground" wiring work. He's completed the task of adding lights to Wild Creek MPD and Service Area and has now started on lights for other areas.

In the meantime, he's been working on Bob Bevan's layout with 2 station panels installed and operating and trackwork for the new sheep stock track (in between many cups of tea!).

### Bob Bevan

Bob told us his layout is progressing.

### Peter Jackson

Peter presented samples and spoke about the different variety of materials and armatures that he used to represent trees on his Eureka Valley On3 layout. These included dead twigs collected near seaside locations to make deciduous trees, the dried flower stalks of Echiiums to represent pines and furnace filter and balsa to make various cedar-types.



He also spoke about the work that he'd done in working with

the JMRI Ops mode software to generate switch lists for operating sessions.

He then thanked Ainslie for the assistance that he'd provided in designing and making a circuit board used to operate a 3-way turnout in a difficult to reach location on the layout. Peter has written an article about this exercise and it should appear in the next issue of the Mainline magazine.

Getting a good internet connection to Peter's studio in the garden and some distance from the house and main router had been a problem. This appears to have been resolved now with the use of an extender made by Wavelink and purchased from Jaycar. The signal can now make it thru a double brick wall and steel cladding!

Peter then invited members to visit the layout and mentioned several new features that had been built since the last NMRA meeting.

### David Orr

David's duck-under at his layout will soon be a thing of the past. Ray Brownbill and Steve Weedon are building a new lift up bridge, the same style in use at Ray Brownbill's Wild Creek Layout.



Scott Taylor

I received a remote update from Scott Taylor on the items Scott has been working on.

Scott says; *'The parts finally arrived for my endeavours'.*




The FRN flatcar wheels, axles and bogies, couplers, air resevoirs and brake piston assemblies arrived. Even though they look great there is a fragility with them.

So next prints will be of a thicker design at the weak points and of a stronger type of filament.



Also had worked on the FBN flatcars testing the construction, where it needs strengthening as well as what details parts need to be added and how.

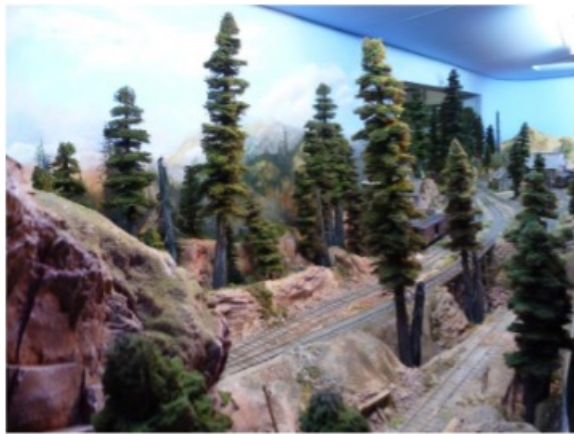
The other projects are progressing nicely. Attached are pics.

The meeting closed at 3:30pm and we adjourned for a sumptuous afternoon tea of warm scones with jam and cream, provided by Mary, and a look at Peter's layout.....



Next meeting: *Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at David Orr's, 53 Rawlings Rd, Modbury North.*

**Photos:** Peter's layout.





## **Division 7**

*John Arrowsmith (NMRA Inc.-AR Div7 Superintendent)*

March / April 2024 Meeting Report:-

There is no report available from Division 7 for inclusion in this edition.

## **Division 8 / 9 NorthernNSW**

*Ian West (NMRA Inc.-AR Div 8/9 Northern NSW Superintendent)*

March / April, 2024 Meeting Report:-

There is no report available from Division 8/9 Northern NSW for inclusion in this edition.

## **Division 10**

*From Pat Britten (NMRA Inc.-AR Div10 Superintendent)*

Report for February & March, 2024 Meetings:-

<b>For Division Number:</b>	10
<b>For the Month Of:</b>	March, 2024
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	No Meeting This month
<b>Reported By:</b>	Pat Britten
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	From 1/3/2024 To 31/3/2024
<b>Attendance:</b>	Members - 0 Guests - 0 Via Zoom/Teams - 0 Apologies - 0
<b>No. of Financial Members:</b>	9
<b>NMRA Inc.-AR ARC Feedback:</b>	Nil
<b>Awards Presented:</b>	Nil
<b>Clinics Held in this Division during the Month:</b>	Nil
<b>Upcoming Expos / Train Shows / Excursions in the Division:</b>	Nil
<b>Next Meeting Place &amp; Date:</b>	20th April at the house of Pat Britten


### **Division Feedback & Report in Detail:**

No meeting held this month.

Next meeting will be held 20<sup>th</sup> April at the house of Pat Britten.

Division is starting to come together with a few members starting their AP journey, nice to see. Myself awarded the official AP certificate.

When the Bunnings cards arrive I will try and get a informal meeting and hand them out.

I will also be asking if any body is interested in doing the super's role, If no one is interested I will be happy to continue in the role.....

## *What's in the Next Edition*

- *Leeville is a contemporary period UP / BNSF N Scale layout by Jeff Lee MMR<sup>®</sup>, which has had a 16-car auto rack train for years, but has had no loading facility. Operators complain that there is no facility, so he had to build one. Although space was limited, he did have a long spur that could be developed and would have enough room for a 50 cars plus loading facility.*
- *Gerry Hopkins MMR<sup>®</sup> FNMRA, raises the question and clarifies, 'What is a Consist'. Answer - it is when a number of Diesel locomotives are connected together and are controlled by one driver, with one throttle. Gerry discusses the many ways of setting up and using model DCC Diesel Electric locomotives in a consist.*
- *Stephen Reeves wrote an article for MainLine a couple of years ago with an explanation of Back Electromotive Force, or BEMF, in motors. In writing that article he mentioned the terms momentum and inertia. In this article Stephen explains these terms and the relevance in both the real world and model trains.*

*plus a lot more informative reading as well.....*