



THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

October 2016

Back in action...at last!

The Flimsy is back after a few months on extended leave. Hopefully, we will get back on track with a regular publication schedule in the coming months.

New Editor and some changes

Brad Hinton has taken over as editor of *The Flimsy*. Thanks to Dion for his work on previous issues. By way of introduction, I've had experience writing newsletters in my work life, and blogging in my hobby life. I also had a stint on the editorial team of the Australian Model Railway Magazine a long time ago, and was also involved with the production of issue 11 of the Australian Journal of Railway Modelling.

I intend to maintain much of the structure of past issues of *The Flimsy* but there will be some changes. Reporting of the monthly meeting, including show and tell, plus any presentations will remain a key focus. I also want to include a new feature that gives some news about member's planned or existing layouts—more on that next issue. There will be a section on blogs, videos, and websites that can help us in our model railway pursuits. And I want to include a previous suggestion from Dion where members can ask a question of the group and then others can submit a response for publication in the next edition. I hope these additions make *The Flimsy* even more interesting.

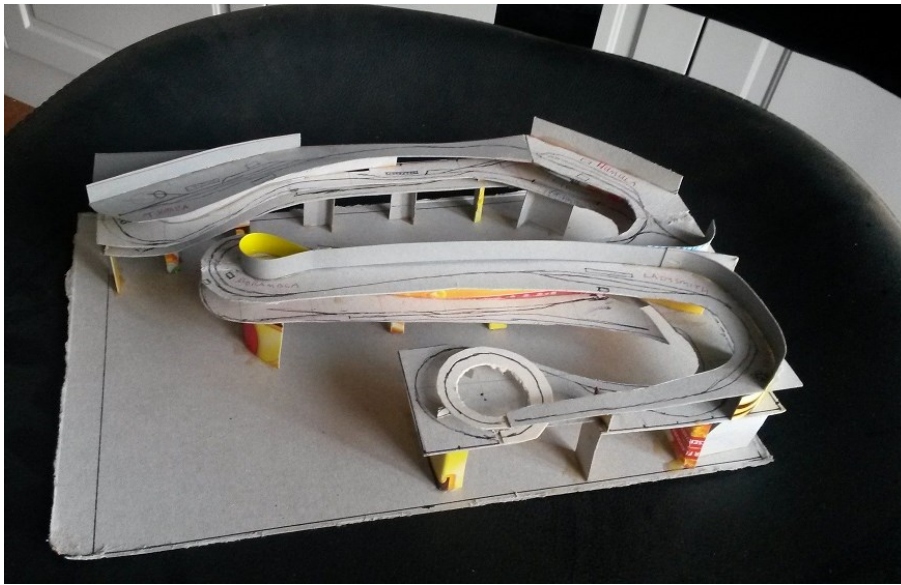
The Flimsy is still a member-focused publication which relies on member contributions for the newsletter and active participation at monthly meetings. If you have something interesting to share, then please contribute to *The Flimsy* so we can all benefit.



Brian and Fran's amazing O scale SAR layout under construction (Photo: B. Hinton)

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Rob Nesbitt's plan for his HO Wagga Wagga layout (Photo: J. Gillies, August meeting)

Meetings catch-up

Previous meetings included June (Dion), July (Stephe), August (Rob Nesbitt), and September (John Gillies). A special guest at Dion's was former Division 2 Superintendent Viv Brice. Stephe Jitts gave attendees the opportunity to visit his wonderful Kangaroo Valley layout. Rob's meeting featured his presentation on his future HO scale layout based on Wagga Wagga. Also, Rob finally received his NMRA 25 year membership plaque - well done! John gave a presentation at the Sept. meeting on US 40' box cars, based on a clinic at the 2014 Naperville RPM.

October 2016 meeting

The October meeting was hosted by Brian and Fran Thomas with about twenty members in attendance. The meeting began with a report from Dion from the ARC. This was followed by a discussion about whether Div.2 could possibly host the 2019 NMRA National Convention in Canberra. Closer to home, the Canberra Model Railway Club extended an invitation for Division 2 to exhibit at the 2017 Canberra Model Railway Expo. Stephe Jitts' has kindly offered his "Sydney Station 1874" display if required. Dion was interested in feedback from members about building a group "Timesaver"-style layout for exhibition purposes. The layout would be compact enough to be easily transported and assembled at exhibitions.

"Show and Tell" (see separate report) was followed by a fabulous presentation about Brian and Fran's recent trip on "The Ghan" from Adelaide to Darwin, the day after they attended the Modelling the Railways of South Australia Convention.

The Ghan has been reduced from two trips to one trip per week. As a result, the length of the train was 39 carriages pulled by two Ghan-liveried NR locomotives - NR 75 and 109. Brian and Fran had their own room and ensuite. It was a very comfortable and roomy arrangement (photo below), with the two seats converting into beds for evening shut-eye.

The train left Adelaide at 12.15 pm on Sunday 2nd September, and rolled into Darwin just before 5.30 pm on the Tuesday.

Highlights of the trip included breakfast off the train at Marla Siding at 6.30 am Monday, the abnormal amount of vegetation and extensive carpets of wildflowers as a result of the then recent rains; the boat trip through Katherine Gorge; & the great service and food onboard.

The afternoon concluded with a superb afternoon tea (thanks Fran!) and a tour of the home layout. The layout, housed in a large purpose-built room, is O scale and based on the South Australian Railways. The layout is operational and partially signaled, but scenery is still to come. It is a very impressive layout indeed.



Show and tell

Dion Koch started proceedings with a nice four-car set of N scale covered hoppers in the delightful orange and white Sclair livery. Sclair is a US company that makes different types of resins.

David Mitchell, former Div. 2 member and now based on the Central Coast, brought along some servos that are used to power turnouts.

Jack Childs had a white metal kit of a NSW steam locomotive that he was finishing. The loco still has some wiring to do as you can see in the photo at right.

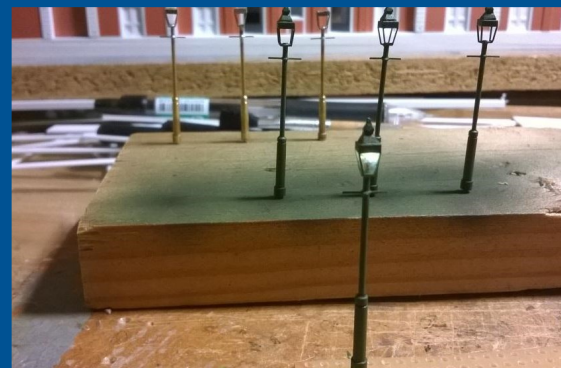
David Low brought his HO scale model of a NSW NCR passenger car that he made from the remnants of a former Lima TAM sleeping car. The TAM sides and roof had been broken and only the underframe, bogies and wheels were left in good order. Like most of us, David held onto his wrecked TAM because you never know when it might come in handy. As fate would have it, David spotted a very nice one-piece plastic passenger car body at the Eureka Models stand at the Epping Model Railway Club's exhibition in June. The body fitted the underframe of the TAM nicely. An added extra was the crisp factory-painted tuscan and russet livery to really set this car off. This model of a NSW NCR passenger car turned a disaster into a real gem.

The afternoon reached fever pitch when Ross Balderson unfurled a range of completed N scale passenger coaches, steam trams, gas lamps, and commercial merchandise such as barrels and drums; all for his Newcastle 1899 layout. The models were made from etchings based on drawings Ross had done himself. Not surprisingly, the quality of the models was superb.

Ross began with a number of N scale passenger coaches to show us. Firstly, in the photo at right, this image shows a consist of composite guard, second and first class carriages with an eight wheel mountain radial all in wood. Ross also showed us his set of open second class carriages as well as an eight wheel mountain radial all painted in early days second class green (see the photo on the next page). Ross also showed two types of six wheel radial carriages painted in purple brown which looked terrific, and a set of wooden third class carriages.

Just to make us all squint even more, Ross also showed us a panoply of N scale platform lights (to represent gas lamps) that are made up of six individual pieces and illuminated with 0.5mm warm white LED's. Exceedingly thin wire goes through the base and inside the post to power the tiny LED lamp. Ross supplied the photos.

That's all we have for show and tell for this month. Please bring along your items of interest to our next meeting in November.





Open second class carriages as well as an 8 wheel mountain radial all painted in early days second class green.

Buffer stop

This section of *The Flimsy* is our equivalent of Q&A. Members can contact me with questions about any aspect of model railways. I will endeavor to publish them in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter. Members can respond at a meeting, or with an email, for inclusion in the following issue. Please let me know if you want to have your name mentioned.

Q: For those modelling a prototype from the United States, Sanborn (insurance) maps have often been identified in the model railway press as a valuable source of information. Does anyone know where one can access these maps?

From the internet

One of the great things about the World Wide Web is the immense amount of information out there in cyberspace. And some of the best sources of information that I have found is on Youtube. Youtube hosts many videos on model and prototype railways, including layout features, how-to videos, and railway history.

[The Central Jersey \(Conrail\) Sayrehurst Secondary](#) is a great N scale layout under construction by Joe in the US. The channel has episodes on layout planning, construction, wiring, backscenes and fascias, prototype research, and operations. The videos are very well put together and always informative.

[Everard Junction](#) is a UK 4mm scale diesel-era layout from Richard Warren and featured in the July 2016 issue of Hornby Magazine. This channel is a few years old and has a great many different episodes on all aspects of layout construction, scenery, and British model locomotives. There is some great material in the series so allow plenty of time to pick through all the options.

[Dean Park Station](#) is another 4mm scale British layout featuring ScotRail diesel prototypes in the late 1980s. There is plenty of HST and DMU passenger action around the wonderfully modelled Dean Park Station. Once again, there is lots of information about the building of this layout, as well as the odd model review too. The layout is featured in the November 2016 Hornby Magazine.

If you have a favourite Youtube video, blog site, or website, please let me know and I can add it to future issues of *The Flimsy* for us all to enjoy.

The last say....

As we get back into the swing of things with *The Flimsy* and some of the anticipated changes, I think it is important to acknowledge previous contributions that have enabled the newsletter to both inform and entertain.

Former Division Superintendent, Viv Brice, was a stalwart in putting together *The Flimsy* over the years with the very able literary assistance of master note-taker, John Bullen. Military metaphors came thick and fast with these chaps in charge!

After Viv moved to much warmer latitudes, John continued his scribing in conjunction with editor-by-default, Dion Koch. Between the two of them, *The Flimsy* continued through 2015 to early 2016 where we came to a short hiatus. John has had a number of family commitments that have prevented him from contributing regular content, and Dion also faced competing work and family time pressures.

Dion has passed the baton to me which is quite a privilege. I hope that both Dion and John, plus the other members, will contribute content for future issues of *The Flimsy*. The newsletter is an important part of the Division and a formal mechanism of communication within the local and broader NMRA membership.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 November at the residence of Wal Pywell. Please see the address and contact details in the email Dion will send through in the week prior to the meeting. Please let Wal know if you will be attending or not.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held on 17 December at La Piazza, 3/33 Gartside Street, Erindale. The banquet menu is \$26.50 per person—drinks extra.

Please RSVP to Dion by 10th December.

Membership dues

A gentle reminder for any Div. 2 members who are still to renew their membership. Please do so ASAP.

The Flimsy contact

Brad via Dion at
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The Ghan with its 39 carriages en route to Darwin with Brian and Fran (Photo: Brian's friend)

