



# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

August 2017

## From the Editor

Greetings. It was great to go to John's place for the August meeting to hear about his recent experiences overseas at two model railroad conventions. He gave his presentation on the AMRA New Zealand Convention from June which sounded terrific. He also spoke briefly about the Railroad Prototype Meeting (RPM) he attended in St. Louis.

While going overseas for model railroad events might not be an option for everyone, it is a good reminder that the hobby of model railways is an international hobby. This international flavour not only gives variety to the hobby in terms of what is commercially produced for railway modellers, but it also means that we have like-minded individuals and groups throughout the world who we can connect with and share our interests.

Interstate conventions like the NMRA Convention in Adelaide, or international events like those John went to, are opportunities to meet people, share ideas, and build friendships.

*(continued back page)*

## In This Issue

- From the Editor
- August meeting
- Show and Tell
- Mystery photo
- Buffer Stop
- Blog Watch

One of the layouts at the AMRA New Zealand Convention attended by Meeting host, John Gillies (Photo: J. Martin)



# August 2017 meeting

John Gillies hosted the August meeting. There were thirteen members and one guest in attendance.

Div. 2 Superintendent Dion Koch welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dion has had some recent problems with his computer and gmail so he apologised for not being up to his usual digital communicative self.

Div. 2 was invited to attend the 2018 CMRCI Kaleen model railway exhibition. At this stage, we are not likely to display a layout but a NMRA information stand might be possible - for consideration by the group. Dion reminded everyone that the NMRA Convention in Adelaide is on in September and there would be no Div. 2 meeting until October. The Div. 2 Christmas dinner would be held in early December and some members suggested that the [Harmonie German Club](#) could be a suitable location. Dion would investigate this option.

John reported from the ARC that membership dues would increase by \$5 from 1st January 2018. John also informed us that it was confirmed at the NMRA Orlando Convention Board Meeting in the US that NMRA Australasia would pay for the transport of the layout "Smuggler's Cove" to the United States for display at the California Railroad Museum in Sacramento as a NMRA exhibit. There was some criticism of this use of NMRA funds but John confirmed that the war chest was pretty healthy and that the deal had pretty much been sealed some years ago. Following on from the previous meeting, the Narrow Gauge Convention group could become an NMRA AR SIG subject to some further information being supplied.

*Show and Tell* was next (reported on next page), followed by John's presentation about his recent trip to New Zealand for the American Model Railroad Association (AMRA) convention.

The convention was held outside of Wellington at Porirua between 2-5 June. This was JG's first time to the Convention but he was in good hands with the experienced John Martin from Div.2 to lead him astray.

John summarized the event this way:

- 1 ½ days / 3 operating sessions before convention
- 2 days of convention with evening meals provided on Friday after registration and Saturday nights
- After dinner speakers on Friday and Saturday nights, more formal dinner on Saturday night
- 8 clinics, 4 traders and model displays
- Layout tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons
- Wrap up and swap meet on Monday morning
- 126 registered attendees
- NZ\$170 cost for everything

John has put his recent RPM meet photos on *Flickr* for the following:

Bay Area Prototype Modelers meet: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/58526444@N07/sets/72157686179246155>

St Louis RPM: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/58526444@N07/sets/72157683607789904>

On behalf of the group, Dion thanked John Gillies for his presentation and hosting the meeting. John, as always, supplied a very appetising afternoon tea that was easily consumed by the attendees.

Many thanks, John!

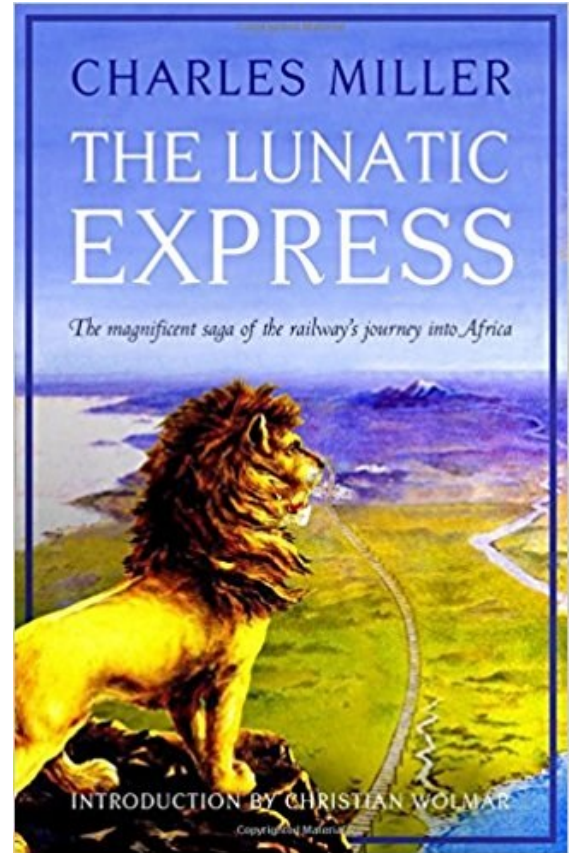
# Show and tell

There was a dearth of models on display at the meeting which was a little disappointing. However, Jack Child and John Bullen both brought along items for viewing.

John showed us a new book purchase: "The Lunatic Express" by Charles Miller which describes the building of the Nairobi-Mombasa railroad in Kenya. Here is part of the blurb about the book from Amazon.com : " (the book) explores the building of this great railway in an earlier Africa of slave and ivory empires, of tribal monarchs and the vast lands that they ruled. Above all, it is the story of the white intruders whose combination of avarice, honour and tenacious courage made them a breed apart". Interestingly, and many years ago now, I read a book called "The man-eaters of Tsavo" by John Henry Patterson which was also about the building of this railroad and the run-in the construction workers had with a group of man-eating lions, also covered in Miller's book.

Jack showed us a HO scale 60' turntable (Anton's Models) that he had reworked to improve the drive and motor capability of the machine using his tried and tested Arduino and stepper motor. This was a very nicely reconstructed piece of work which has enhanced the operation of this turntable. One interesting improvement was the replacement of the appalling rubber band (like that used for a record turntable) with a gasket from a telescope!

Hopefully, at the next meeting in October, we will have a few more items for *Show and Tell* to view and write about.





**Mystery photograph: What is this steam locomotive and where is it currently located? (Photo J. Gillies)**

## Buffer stop

John Martin was the winner of the July issue's mystery photograph.

John correctly identified the locomotive as China Railways JS class 2-8-2 number 8419 which is stabled at the *Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad*.

This Chinese steam locomotive does run excursion trains on the *Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad*. Photos of 8419 at the scenic railway's shop certainly showed an impressive sight.

The mystery photo for August (above) might at first glance be difficult. I am confident, however, that there is someone out there who can pull the pieces of the puzzle together, especially in light of the photographer and his recent meeting report.....

I look forward to your responses!

## Blog Watch

There are a couple of Div. 2 members who have blogs about their home layouts - some are more frequently updated than others!

Leading the charge with regular updates is Mr Rob Nesbitt with his blog, [Building Wagga](#). There is some great info here. Let's encourage him to keep up the good work!

Jess Brisbane's blog is the [Arkham and Vermont Rly Co.](#) in O scale (1/48 scale). There are some nice photos and modelling techniques described by Jess in this blog.

Brad has a couple of blogs that get updates every now and then. The first blog is called [Armchair Modeller Down Under](#) and features model railway exhibition reports and general observations about the hobby.

The second blog, [DME Down Under](#), is a very infrequent but possibly interesting blog about the HO scale model railroad he is building based on the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad as featured in last month's *Flimsy*.

If you have a blog, please let me know.

## Continued from front page...

More locally, Div. 2 has a wide geographic area that encompasses the lower NSW south coast, Tumut, Yass, Goulburn, and the Wagga Wagga region. Div.2 is therefore a good example of reaching across distances to allow people to meet and share their individual hobby interests.

If you have ideas to improve how Div.2 communicates with members, please let me know. The membership list should now have been updated and finalised. We have a regular publication schedule with *The Flimsy*. And we have the monthly meetings (September excepted this year) which brings people face-to-face.

And just another reminder that in September, there is the [National N scale Convention](#) (7th-10th) and the [NMRA Australasia Convention](#) (16th-17th), both of which are in Adelaide. After that we have the [AMRA Sydney Model Railway Exhibition](#) at Liverpool on the Labor Day long weekend of 30th September - 2nd October. Exhibitions, as we all know, are also great places to meet people and talk and talk and talk.....

There is plenty of opportunity for individuals to engage with other people who have this common interest in model railways (and prototype railways) if that is what you want to do. Let's take those opportunities and really enjoy this side of the hobby as much as the actual hobby time itself.

*Brad*

## NMRA Memberships are due - renew now!

NMRA memberships are now associated with the financial year (July-June). Please renew as soon as possible to keep your membership current.

## The next meeting

There is no September meeting due to the NMRA Convention in Adelaide. Next meeting will be held in October at the home of Brian and Fran. Details will be emailed prior to meeting.

## The Flimsy contact

[editor.theflimsy@gmail.com](mailto:editor.theflimsy@gmail.com)

A nice selection of models of different scales at the New Zealand AMRA Convention 2017 (Photo: J. Gillies)

