

# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

December 2017

## From the Editor

Greetings.

This December 2017 edition is being distributed to members in early January 2018 - Happy New Year to you all.

The big news for Div. 2 was the election unopposed of Stephe Jitts as our new Superintendent. Ross Balderson will take over the AP judging and awards.

I trust that everyone has their New Year's resolutions all worked out by now. It remains to be seen how long it is before those New Year's resolutions subside away. However, one thing I do want to achieve this year is some regular operating sessions on my layout. What are some of your New Year's resolutions?

*Brad*

## In This Issue

- From the Editor
- December meeting
- Show and Tell
- The last say

Stephe Jitts hosted the December meeting and showed us his *Kangaroo Valley Railway* layout (Photo: B. Hinton)



# December 2017 meeting

Stephe Jitts hosted the meeting at his beautiful house, *Old Linton*. There were twelve members in attendance at the meeting. First up was the discussion about a new Div.2 Superintendent. John Gillies and Stephe Jitts briefed the meeting on the provisions of Rule 3.3.10 in the NMRA Rules of Association and on Section B8 (Divisional Superintendents) in the NMRA AR Executive Handbook. Accordingly, the meeting appointed John Bullen as Returning Officer for the election of a new Superintendent. Nominations to be made by 31 December to the returning officer. If more than one nomination, then an election will be held in January 2018. With that settled, there was a brief discussion about finances and fees for 2018. A new NMRA Pacific Director needs to be elected and details in latest *Mainline*. More broadly, if anyone is not receiving *Roundhouse* and/or *Turntable* regularly, this should be brought to attention of the new Div. Super' to take up with NMRA AR Committee.

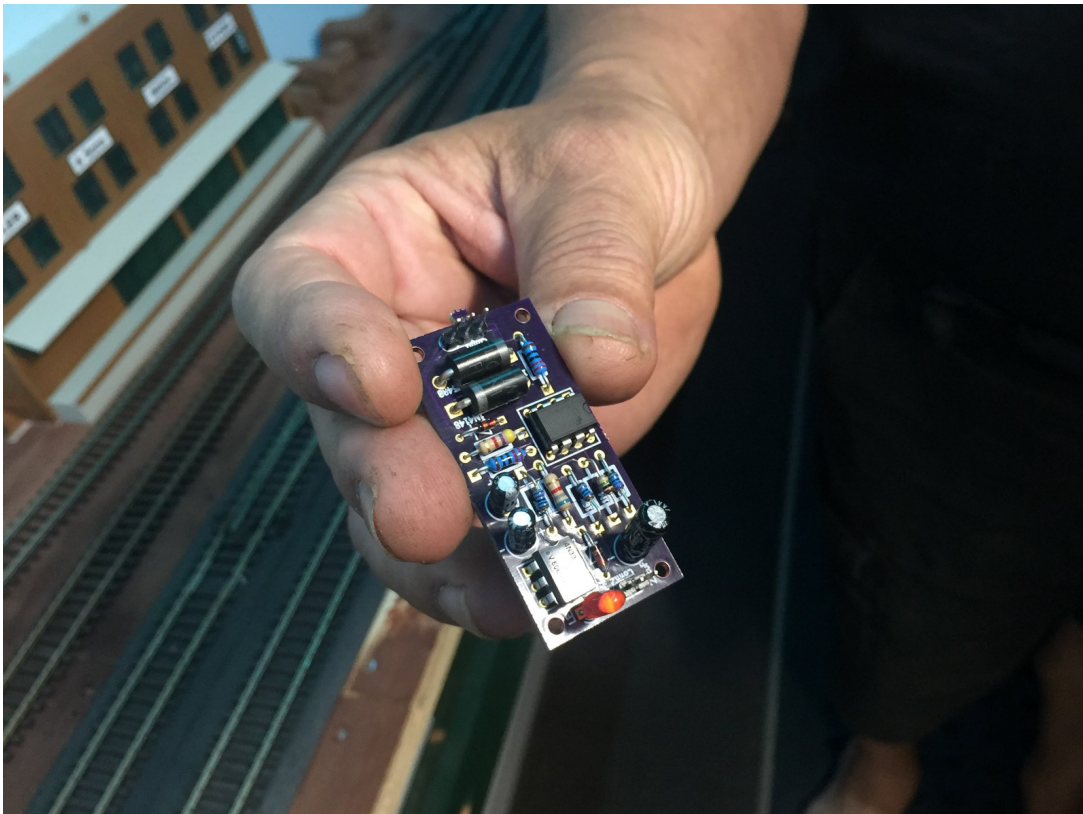
Stephe Jitts spoke on staffs for safe working on model railways with particular reference to the use of Arduino electronic equipment for issue and return of a staff for each block along the railway line.

Rather than have staffs made of wood or metal which can get put into trouser pockets or onto the edge of the layout and then forgotten, Stephe prefers a wholly electronic system which works as follows...

1. At each end of each block is a button and an LED.
2. When requesting the staff at the start of a block, a driver presses the button and the LED flashes green.
3. An Arduino determines if the staff can be issued.
4. When the staff for a block is issued, the LED at the end requesting the staff turns solid green and the LED at the far end turns solid red.
5. Once at the far end of the block, the driver presses the second button to cancel the staff and both LEDs are extinguished

That is the basic method of operation, but there is much more to it than that. Using PowerPoint, Stephe led his audience through the finer points of this system, including electronic connection with signal boxes around the layout..

The electronic device used with Arduino for Stephe's staff and block control (Photo: B. Hinton)



# Show and tell

John Bullen showcased his fit bod' and an anniversary T-shirt commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Federal Railways.

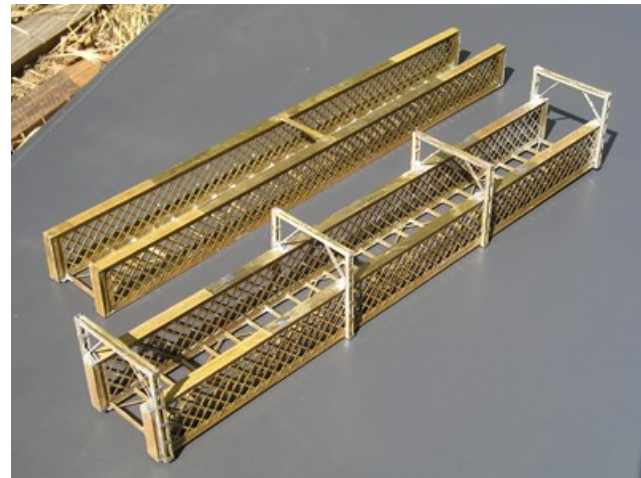
Rob Nesbitt had some nice structures on display. Rob displayed a completed brass etch bridge he will use on his Wagga Wagga layout. Rob also brought along a five tonne yard crane built from a Stephen Johnson kit which Rob said was a tad difficult to assemble, or words to that effect.

Matt Wauterreus brought along the December 2017 issue of Model Railroader. Matt was very impressed with the article on airbrushing.

Jack Child and his wife are embarking on a layout-build based on Walcha Road and Woolbrook between Tamworth and Armidale in NSW, including the lattice bridge over the Macdonald River. The size of the layout is 3.2 metres by 3.8 metres. The model of the church was built by Jack's wife. We look forward to hearing about the progress of this layout in the coming months. Jack has a blog called [Starbytestrains](http://Starbytestrains) where you can follow his progress.

Jess showed us more of her scenery work - this time an ice harvesting scene for use on her On30 layout.

Lastly, host Stephe Jitts showed us some valuable historical documentation of NSW Government Railways. The book from 1955, *Carrying Capacity of Goods Wagons, Coal Hoppers, Horse Boxes, and Motor Trucks* gave an enormous amount of information about NSW rolling stock. *The Composition and Marshalling of Express, Mail, and Country Passenger Trains arriving and departing at Sydney* (1955) also contained a plethora of information about the extensive passenger car traffic on the NSW Government Railways in the mid-1950s. Stephe was lucky to have found these records at a fellow model railroader's house and he quickly borrowed them to copy.



## The last say....

We all know what a vast amount of information about model railroading, prototype railroads, industries, and historical research can be found on the internet. However, just as informative and interesting are the traditional model railroad magazines that are published throughout the world.

Popular US model railroad magazines include *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *Model Railroader* (although it has thinned down in recent years), *NMRA Magazine*, and publications from NMRA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) like the Layout Design SIG and Operations SIG. There are also some prototype historical societies that publish model railroad articles such as the [Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society Modeler](#), albeit it has just published its last issue (unless a new editor can be found)

The UK has a plethora of publications: *Model Railway Journal*, *Model Rail*, *British Railway Modeller*, *Railway Modeller*, and *Hornby Magazine*.

Australia has the *Australian Model Railway Magazine* (AMRM) and *Narrow Gauge Down Under*; while New Zealand has the *New Zealand Model Railway Guild Journal*.

Whatever your taste, there is bound to be a model rail magazine to enjoy.

*Brad*

## The next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mal Risby on Sunday 21 January 2018. Start time will be 2pm. Stephe will send out a reminder email to all members.

Stephe hopes the first meeting of the year will make some concrete decisions about whether to host the NMRA Australasia National Convention in 2018 given that there has been little direction in that regard.

Stephe will also be looking for meeting hosts in 2018. Please consider putting your name forward.

---

## The Flimsy contact

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

Operation on the KVR is an important aspect of the hobby for Stephe and his crew. Along with his innovative use of staff and block control, the KVR uses a car card system as illustrated in this photos below (Photo: B. Hinton)

