



THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

March 2017

From the Editor

As you can see from this issue, and past issues, the *Show and Tell* part of the monthly meetings generates some very interesting show pieces. There is a great variety of rail-road knowledge within Division 2 of the NMRA and this comes across especially in the *Show and Tell* segment at the meetings and reported in *The Flimsy*.

I can see three key benefits from *Show and Tell*:

1. it is a way for members to showcase both their interests and their modelling talents
2. it gives other members the opportunity to ask questions and learn new things
3. it provides impetus for members to actually do some modelling, or prepare for modelling with research material and modelling aids.

What do you think?

Brad

In This Issue

- From the Editor
- March meeting
- Show and Tell
- Buffer Stop
- The last say...

The magnificent vista of Sydney Central in N scale by our March meeting host, Ross Balderson (Photo: B. Hinton).



March 2017 meeting

The March meeting was held at the home of Ross Balderson. There were eighteen members in attendance and all were keen to get a good close-up look of Ross's *Sydney Central* N scale masterpiece and to see progress on his new layout, *Newcastle circa. 1899*.

Div. 2 Superintendent Dion Koch gave a short introduction. There wasn't too much to report on, albeit Dion confirmed his intention to stay on as Div. 2 Superintendent. Members present were very pleased to hear that.

Dion said that the ARC meeting was to be held on the following Tuesday (the news out of that meeting was that the NMRA HO standards gauge gives a narrower than prototype S-7 clearance and that it will be widened accordingly. John Gillies has asked NMRA HQ in the USA about the cost of sending 100 new gauges over for sale here in Australia). Details from the recent AGM will be in the next issue of *Mainline*.

Dion reminded everyone about the Canberra Model Railway Expo at Kaleen on 25-26 March. Stephe Jitts's layout would represent the NMRA. Volunteers were still needed to operate the layout over the weekend.

A short discussion followed about wearing NMRA name badges when exhibiting, either on the "official" NMRA layout, or whether operating other layouts at the exhibition.

Dion mentioned that he was starting to think about possible options for the proposed NMRA Convention in 2019. One idea was to run the convention one week apart from the N scale Convention at the same venue. Dion also said he was looking into possible speakers; possibly from overseas but it was too early to go into detail.

The meeting wrapped up for a delicious afternoon tea and a beeline to the back shed for an overview of the new layout and a closer look at *Sydney Central*. Both were impressive—the Newcastle project will be superb!

In the end it was hard to know whether the meeting was a big success due to the wonderful scones provided for afternoon tea, or whether the expert modelling skills featured in *Sydney Central* and *Newcastle circa. 1899* made the trip well worthwhile. I think it was a combination of both! Thanks to Ross and partner for a great afternoon.

Newcastle circa. 1899 under construction by Ross was a key drawcard for the March meeting (Photo: B. Hinton).



Show and tell

Jess Brisbane is scratchbuilding flat cars for her layout which was featured last month in *The Flimsy*. The photo at right shows the prototype and the first stage of construction of the model. Jess is aiming for some AP awards for rollingstock, authorship and volunteering.

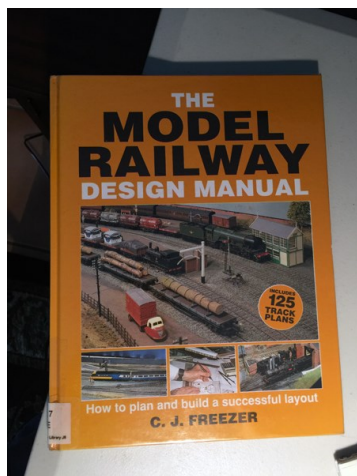
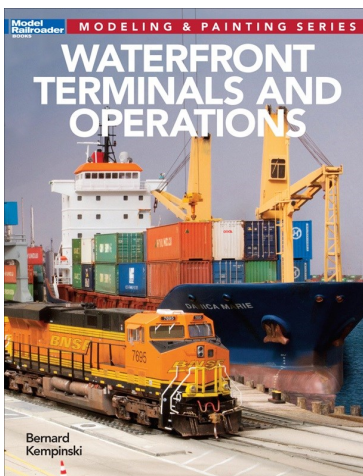
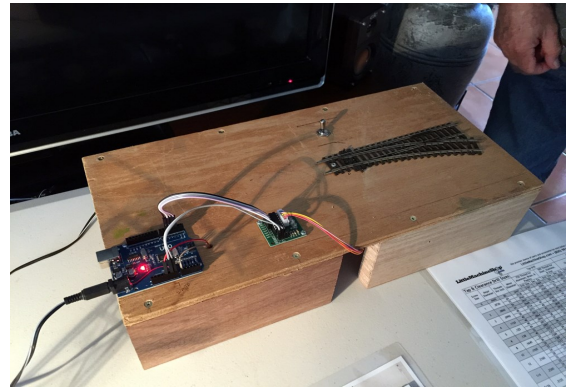
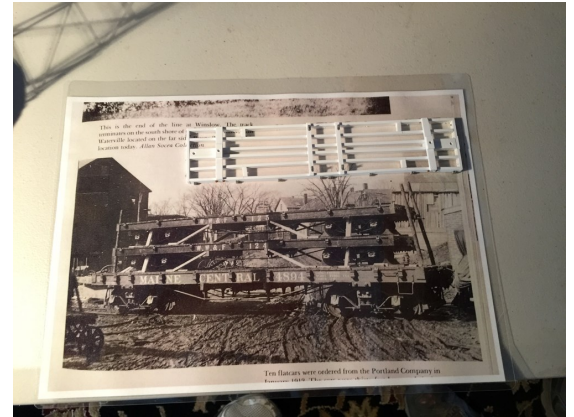
Jack Childs had been busy on another Arduino and stepper motor project—this time for powering turnouts. Jack used another demonstration box to show how everything worked.

Rob Nesbitt brought along his recently constructed Pacific Electric street car assembled using a Hollywood Foundry mechanism. The glazed windows were from Tichy (photo lower right). Rob also showed us his entry in the diorama competition for the upcoming Narrow Gauge Convention in Geelong (the model has to fit on an end-piece of pipe of 90mm). Rob's model is a scratchbuilt single-rope ropeway inspired by [Hercules Haulage](#) in Tasmania. It is in O scale and represents the ropeway tower standing 40' tall (photo over the page). Of note was the use of old audio cassette wheels and piano wire for the ropeway.

John Gillies showed us some recent purchases—Tangent Models 4180 cu. ft covered hopper lettered for Northern Pacific. The two HO scale vehicles are Ford F100 pick-ups from Atlas models.

John also brought with him a copy of the C. J. Freezer authored book from many years ago called, "The Model Railway Design Manual: How to Plan and Build a Successful Layout". The book was first published in 1996 but still offers some very useful ideas.

Lastly, Brad also brought along a recent purchase from Kalmbach Books —"Waterfront Terminals and Operations" by noted modeller, Bernard Kempinski. The book is 96 pages long and covers a range of topics, including: rail-marine operations, grain terminals, container terminals, barge terminals, and modelling wharves and water.





What is this locomotive and on what railroad does it currently run? Photo supplied by John Gillies.

Buffer stop

The February issue featured a prototype photo of a small diesel locomotive. But what kind of diesel locomotive was it and where was it located?

Once again, Rob Nesbitt was quick off the mark correctly identifying the locomotive as a 45 tonner owned by US short line operator Progressive Rail.

Rob wasn't so sure of the location but guessed Lakeview Industrial Park which is where Progressive Rail has its operations.

Alas, the Progressive Rail 45 tonner is actually situated at Faribault which is south of Lakeview and serves a number of local industries.

Will Rob make the trifecta next month or will he be pipped at the post?



Above: Rob Nesbitt's single rope ropeway from *Show and Tell*.

The last say....

One unique feature of membership of the NMRA that is probably underestimated, certainly underutilised by Div. 2 members, is the NMRA Achievement Program (AP).

Details about the AP are on the NMRA Australasia website and are well worth a read. Here is [the direct link](#). A new addition is the page showcasing a member's achievement—[this one](#) is for Div. 7 Central Coast member Dennis Clarke's NSW D53 steam locomotive

Stephe Jitts, our very own Master Model Railroader (MMR), looks after the AP for Div. 2 members. Members wishing to be considered for various AP award categories should talk to Stephe about having their work judged and adjudicated.

While the AP is not for everybody, it is a unique value-add for members of the NMRA. The AP can encourage activity and provide recognition for your skills and contribution to the world's greatest hobby.

Until next month, enjoy your railway modelling in all its forms.

Brad

Canberra Model Rail Expo 25-26 March

Our Div. 2 exhibited "Old Sydney" at the Canberra Model Rail Expo at Kaleen. Thanks to all who helped out on the layout. More details next issue about the Expo and the layout.

The next meeting

Dion will host the April 22 meeting. Dion will send out an email with the meeting details to Div.2 members in the preceding week.

The Flimsy contact

editor.theflimsy@gmail.com

Another photo showing the magnificent *Sydney Central* in N scale by Ross Balderson (Photo: B. Hinton).

