

THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

October 2017

From the Editor

Greetings. This issue is a tad later than usual as work and home life took priority I'm afraid. I'd like to thank David Low for taking notes for me at the October meeting as I could not attend myself. In fact, David and visiting modeller David Mitchell, were so keen they even turned up to Brian and Fran's house for the meeting a week early!

I want to comment in this issue on how we can draw inspiration and learn things from other creative modelling hobbies. These include military modelling with plastic kits (such as ships, tanks and aircraft), radio-controlled boats, cars and aeroplanes, war gaming, board games, art and photography, and other craft hobbies.
(continued on back page)

In This Issue

- From the Editor
- October meeting
- Show and Tell
- Mystery photo
- Buffer Stop
- From the internet

Meeting hosts, Brian and Fran, have made considerable progress on their large SAR O scale layout (Photo: D. Low)



October 2017 meeting

Brian and Fran hosted the October meeting. There were over a dozen members and one guest in attendance. Div. 2 Superintendent Dion Koch was unable to attend, as was your erstwhile editor, so Brian and the group pretty much ran the meeting amongst themselves.

A general discussion covered the following topics:

- Comments was made about how good the N scale Convention was in Adelaide in September
- The NMRA Adelaide Convention numbers were a bit lower than expected and the Convention made a small loss. However, early reports indicated that those who did attend had an enjoyable time.
- Regarding conventions, apparently in the US the NMRA has created a national body that advises state bodies on how to run NMRA Conventions. This might be a model of use to the NMRA Australasia, although it will depend on volunteers and particular expertise.
- Problems in implementing Digital Command Control (DCC,) especially fitting and using decoders, seems to be a perennial issue. The steep learning curve required to fully understand DCC, and with the variety and scope of decoders these days, makes it all very confusing. That said, DCC offers a lot to the hobby when it all works.
- Decoder Pro (JMRI) is regarded as a good tool to use with DCC. It was suggested that a special “hands on” session be arranged specifically covering JMRI and how it is used. Whilst no date was fixed, it is something to consider for the near future.

Brian then presented a wonderful video of his home layout. Brian and Fran have an extensive O scale layout, based on the South Australian Railways (SAR) prototype, in a purpose-built room. The video showed Brian and Fran’s layout from the perspective of one of the O scale locomotives driving around the layout. A small camera, on a flat car at the head of the train, followed the layout from start to finish. The video was 15 minutes long. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing the layout from this “loco cab” perspective.

There was, of course, opportunity to see the layout (photo below by David Low) and to gauge the progress since the meeting last year. The layout is certainly an impressive sight. The *piece de resistance* was, however, the fabulous afternoon tea provided. Thank you Fran and Brian.



Show and tell

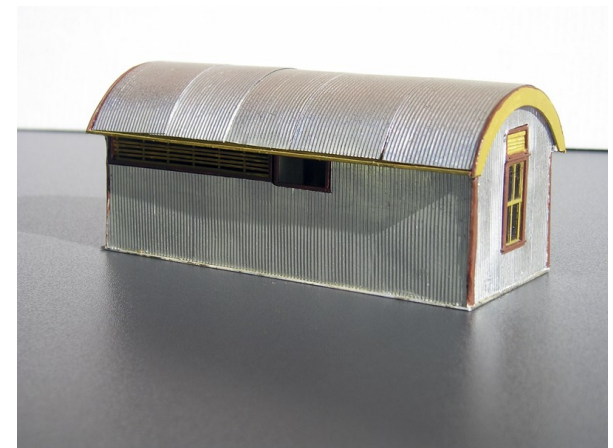
Rob Nesbitt showed us five superb buildings for his Wagga Wagga layout. Ladysmith goods shed, a *Walkers Models* NSW G2 goods shed, was modified to the Ladysmith configuration, and Humula goods shed was built from a *Bergs* NSW G1b kit (both are illustrated on the next page). Tumbarumba station (at right) used a *Rail Central* NSW Pc3 station kit as the starting point, but with a scratchbuilt new front and back walls, to be accurate for this building. Ladysmith C2 toilet and lamp room (right) is scratchbuilt from styrene and covered with aluminium foil. Ladysmith station (back page) was built from a *Walkers Models* NSW A4 station kit, modified and super detailed to approximate Ladysmith's 1980 configuration.

Jack Childs brought along a completed *Mains West* epoxy kit of a HO NSW R JHG guards van that he has assembled and painted.

Tony Payne had three *Corgi* models British AEC buses that he purchased at a Model Transport Exhibition in Birmingham.

Jess Brisbane showed us a section of back-scene from her O scale layout. Jess explained the scenic composition and what each element represented.

Former Div. 2 member, David Mitchell, brought along his O scale *DJH* white metal "Flying Scotsman" locomotive that he has put together. Individual components came from a weekly magazine series (125 issues all up) that was published a few years ago now. Dave's dedication in buying all the issues and assembling the loco is quite an achievement. He is up to the painting stage as illustrated in the photo below.





Ladysmith goods shed (above) and Humula goods shed (below) as built by Rob Nesbitt (Photo R. Nesbitt)





Mystery photograph: What is this diesel locomotive and where might it be running? (Photo B. Hinton)

Buffer stop

John Martin came up trumps with his identification of the NZR steam loco in last month's mystery photograph. It was H.199, one of six H class locomotives used on the steep Fell Incline over the Rimutaka Ranges outside of Wellington. The loco is preserved at the historic [Fell Railway Museum](#). True, John Martin did have the advantage of being there with John Gillies at the time!

The mystery photo (above) should not be too difficult to identify but you will need to make a calculated inference as to where this loco was running at the time. The more information you can provide on this loco and where it might be running, the more points you get!

I look forward to your responses.

From the internet

This issue features some Youtube videos that cover off on a range of model railway layouts and skills.

First up is Ken Patterson's *What's Neat* series. This show is a monthly video production ([check out the November 2017 edition](#)) but there is also an accompanying, much more informal, series of video podcasts as well ([Podcast #16 is out for 11 November 2017](#)). There are some great guests and plenty of useful information in an entertaining format across all model railroad scales and prototypes.

For those of with a passion for N scale, the Youtube channel for [NSModeler24](#) is well worth a look. [This video](#) shows the removal of lettering from locomotives and is very informative.

And *Everard Junction* is back with the construction of a new OO scale British layout. Check out [the first episode of his new series](#) showing how he prepared the attic for his new layout and built the baseboards.

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I recently attended the Scale ACT modelling event at Kaleen and saw a panoply of wonderful kit-built model aircraft, including helicopters, ships, tanks (photo at right) and other associated armoured vehicles. The quality of construction, painting, and detail, was superb. A real skill tank modelers have developed is “chipping” where the model shows various chipped paint marks on the exposed steel surfaces due to constant wear and weathering.

Over the January 2018 Australia Day long weekend there will be a major games and war gaming event called [Cancon](#) to be held at EPIC in two giant halls. This is another opportunity for railway modellers to see some exquisite modelling. It's also useful to reacquaint oneself with games (both traditional board games and the “hex” wargames) as the thinking behind them can be of use for model train scenarios and operations.

I find visits to other types of creative modelling events to be very interesting and relevant to model railways. If you have the time next year, I recommend checking some of these events out.

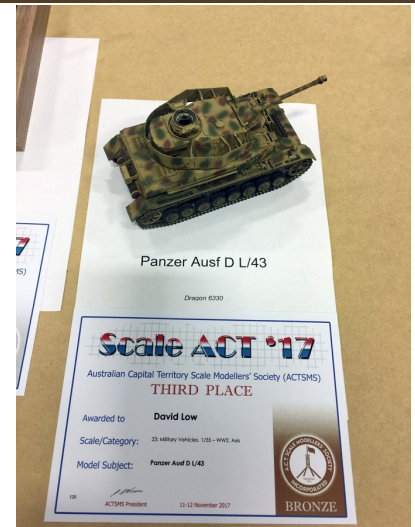
Brad

The next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the home of John Martin on 18/11/17.

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A delightful HO scale model of Ladysmith Station built by Rob Nesbitt for his Wagga Wagga layout (Photo: R. Nesbitt)

