



THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

November 2018

From the Editor

Greetings.

This will be my last issue as editor of *The Flimsy*. As advised in the previous issue, I have decided that the time is right for a change. Robin Foster has kindly offered to take over, having previous experience with producing newsletters.

I wish Robin every success and look forward to future issues of *The Flimsy*.

I would like to thank all Div.2 members for their support over the past couple of years. I especially would like to thank all those people who took notes and photos at meetings where I couldn't attend. Thanks also to Stephe and John G. for proof reading, and to John B. with his keen eye post-publication! As I couldn't attend the November meeting due to my surgery; a big thank you Jack, Robin, John B., Rob, and Ross. I am especially grateful to Ross who drove around to my place with a copy of his notes that he issued at the November meeting. A summary is in the meeting report. Happy modelling!

Brad

In This Issue

- From the Editor
- November meeting
- Show and Tell
- Vale Graeme Hodges
- The last say

A wharf scene on Ross Balderson's *Newcastle 1899* layout in N scale - truly superb scale modelling!



October 2018 meeting

The November meeting was held at the home of Ross Balderson. There were 22 members in attendance.

As Stephen, John G. and my good self were unable to attend, John Bullen ably took the chair and ran the meeting like a Swiss clock. The members were saddened to hear about the death of member Graeme Hodges and also that of Goulburn member, John Payne. Graeme was well remembered for his sense of humour and warmth (see a special section dedicated to Graeme on page 6). John succumbed to cancer earlier in the year but news only filtered through to us much later. What I remember most about John was his rich, deep voice - a very knowledgeable man indeed. Both members will be greatly missed.

The National N-Scale Convention will be held in Canberra next year from 10-14 October. Some discussion on conventions occurred amongst the group. The consensus was that the N-Scale and Australian Narrow Gauge conventions have been of consistent high quality in recent years and should be looked at for future NMRA conventions. The next [Australian Narrow Gauge Convention](#) is to be held next year over the Easter holiday weekend.

There was also discussion about the editorship of *The Flimsy*. Thankfully, Robin Foster subsequently put his hand up to take over from Brad.

The Christmas Party date and time was confirmed (12.30 Saturday, 15 December) to be held at Old Linton in Yass. It will be a lunch in conjunction with the December monthly meeting. Please ensure prepayment is made.

The meeting then turned its attention to *Show and Tell* (reported separately, starting on page 3).

The meeting host, Ross, supplied a very useful and informative nine page handout illustrating some of the techniques and materials he uses for his modelling endeavours. We were advised that additional copies could be provided for those who missed out. The document was very informative and included the following:

- A comprehensive list with photos of the *Evergreen* styrene and *Plastruct* parts he uses when scratchbuilding
- Various tools and glues used in the construction process, including an assortment of files, scribes and cutters
- Photos of buildings showing various architectural features and what N scale styrene pieces Ross uses. For example, Ross uses round .64mm styrene for downpipes and square 1x1mm styrene for verandah posts
- Ross illustrated some of his modelling techniques such as styrene lamination to give depth to window frames
- Showcasing some really amazing skills, Ross told us how he created the stonework on the Hay Street bridge on his *Sydney Central* layout. A paper template was made copied to scale from a railway architectural drawing. This was marked out onto styrene then scribed using a scribe knife or pee cutter.

The meeting concluded with inspection of our host's legendary N-Scale model of *Sydney Central Station* as it was around 1950. Next to it was Ross's current project - his detailed and accurate N-Scale model of *Newcastle wharf and harbour in 1899*. We are familiar with Central - its buildings, trains, trams, buses and cars - but Newcastle is further advanced every time we see it. Newcastle is taking shape beautifully with its buildings, harbour, ships, railway, steam tram, horse drawn transport and its remarkably realistic backdrop. The amount of detail already on the layout is very impressive. When complete, Newcastle will set a very high standard in Australian modelling.

The day was a big success, topped off by a great afternoon tea. Thank you Cheryl!

Show and tell

John Martin brought along a nice *Tangent Scale Models* Airslide Covered Hopper which was described by John as being “very nicely detailed and correspondingly expensive”.



Mathew Waterreus showed us two American SDP 40F diesel electric locomotives from Athearn, as well as an Atlas ATSF BX-177 Box Car.



Show and tell (continued)

Jack Child presented his scratch built (mostly) NSWGR Signal Box, modelled after the Signal Box at Walcha Road Station. Materials used were basswood siding, styrene, pre-made windows and corrugated aluminium for the roof. Double-sided transfer tape was used to attach the corrugated roofing and it worked extremely well.

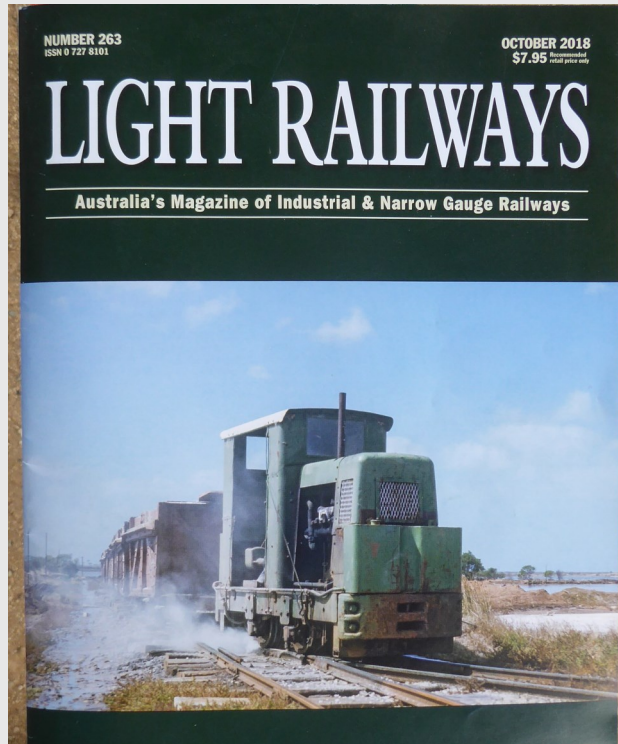


Robin Foster provided some technical tips with some modified heat sink clips used when soldering droppers to his rails, and some quick easy-to-use electrical connectors which you simply twist on.

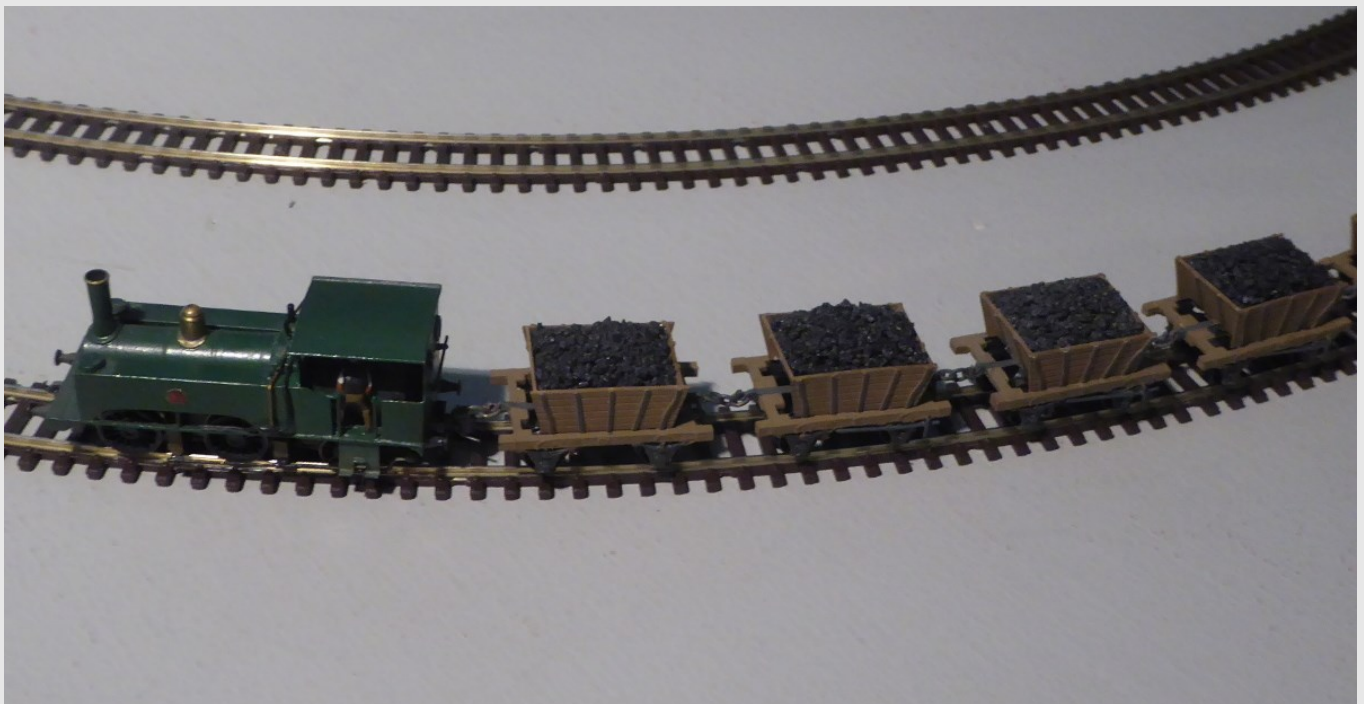


Show and Tell (continued)

Ian Barnes showed us a copy of 'Light Railways' (October issue) which, coincidentally, contained an article by Ian. The article talks about Guy's Tramway at Pebbly Beach, not far north from Batemans Bay: This tramway appears to have been 3'6" gauge, powered by gravity (full hoppers) in one direction and by horse (empties) in the other.



Stephen Curry displayed several N-scale coal trains on a portable layout with minimal, but highly effective, scenery. The steam locos and coal hoppers were all scratch-built, replicating the privately owned J&A Brown coal line in the Hunter Valley. The older J&A Brown #1 locomotive was built by Hawthorne in England in 1853. The later 2-8-2 locomotives were from 1908 and 1911. The models are DCC, of course. Interestingly, the loaded coal wagons are made from styrene while the empties are made from brass to provide additional weight.



Vale Graeme Hodges

Graeme Hodges “the First” (as he liked to be known) died unexpectedly on 11 November from a stroke in the aftermath of hip replacement surgery. The funeral service was held on 15 November and was well attended by Div. 2 members. Graeme was the founder of *The Flimsy* which, before the days of email, he used to print himself and post to Div. 2 members at his own expense. An NMRA member for a quarter of a century, Graeme is remembered fondly for his mischievous sense of humour and also for the novel table decorations he would provide at Christmas dinners – always somehow combining rail-ways with a Christmas theme.

John Bullen remembered Graeme thus:

“I have known Graeme since I joined the model railroaders some 25 years ago, not long after Graeme joined. He was also a kindly master at Canberra Grammar School when my son, now 52, was a pupil there. In model railway circles Graeme, with grave dignity, always insisted on being given his full title of Graeme Hodges the First, often abbreviated to GH1. This distinguished him from another model railroader, namely GH2. Never mind that GH2’s name was actually Graham, not Graeme – the important thing was SENIORITY, especially in a company town such as Canberra, dominated by the Australian Public Service. I shall miss Graeme’s sense of humour, neatly delivered and always with a straight face – which meant that his subtlety sometimes went clean over the head of the baffled target, adding to the enjoyment of the rest of us”.

And from former Div. 2 Superintendent, Viv Brice:

“It was over twenty years ago that my wife became worried that I had no hobby and knowing my interest in trains, signed me up for an evening course in model railroading at the local high school. That was when I first met Graeme Hodges. In this course, e had to build a short stretch of line with a curve, something over the rail level and something under. I still have that little track and I include a picture of it, somewhat the worse for wear after its move to Queensland. And at the end, he pushed me to rejoin the NMRA and that led to many happy years of camaraderie. So in a very real way, Graeme was my mentor in model railroading, a hobby I'd left some 20 years before. He was a stalwart of the hobby in Canberra and was always a support to me in the many years I was involved with NMRA Division 2. I have not researched this but I would be very surprised if he had not brought more things to Show 'n' Tell than any other member of Division 2. He was a gentle man, with much wit and humour. In only one area was he really a stickler and that was his name - he was always Graeme Hodges the First! I will miss him, as will the hobby”.



The last say....

As this is my last issue as editor of *The Flimsy*, let me share some of the experiences in putting together this monthly newsletter.

Attending meetings, taking notes and photos, and having a good time were all key moments in preparing for each month's issue. I tried to attend all monthly meetings but this proved harder than I thought. Sometimes other commitments got in the way. Luckily, I received good support from members on those occasions who supplied meeting notes & photos.

Learning MS Publisher was not too difficult, albeit I confess to perhaps not using the program as effectively as I should. Putting the text together in each segment and using photos to illustrate models and layouts was always fun. I often used photos from manufacturer websites or asked members to provide additional photos where I thought my photos were not good enough. This ensured good quality images. I liked to try to match colour combinations from the images in *Show and tell* which often meant a different sequencing of models from what actually occurred at the meeting. No problem there. For the text, I tried to make the text flow in a logical sequence. A few initiatives received mixed support - the "what and where is it?" was fun but only a few members participated.

All in all, it was a great experience and I wish Robin much success.

Brad

The next meeting

The next meeting will be at the home of Stephe Jitts at Old Linton in Yass. Lunch starts at 12.30 with the meeting to follow. Please RSVP and let Stephe know so he can establish the numbers

December 2018

Robin Foster will take over as editor for the December issue.

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If you are interested in hosting a meeting next year, or would like to discuss what is involved, please get in touch with Stephe who can provide you with all the necessary info.

Host Ross Balderson is continuing to work away on his *Newcastle 1899* layout in N scale.

