



**NMRA DIVISION 1 (QUEENSLAND)**  
(www.Zelmeroz.com/anmra-1)

**Next Meeting**  
**\* 19/20 June 2004 \***  
**Toowoomba Model Train Show**  
**&**  
**10 July**  
**Host - Bob Brown**

**Note: A reminder that Division 1 will have an information stand at the Toowoomba Show.**

**Meeting Notes (1):**

On a perfect Autumn day, 18 modellers gathered at the home of Allan Thomas at Mudgeeraba just inland from the Gold Coast. The 18 included a good number of our regular NMRA members plus members of the Gold Coast – Tweed Railway Modellers & Diorama Club. As we entered Allan's large garage area two things stood out. Firstly the along-the-wall shelf layout of a QR branch partially completed but with some beautiful work. Secondly, the best models of Australian trees I have ever seen; but more of that later.

The business part of the meeting included a report by the Division 1 Superintendent, Glenn Stevens, on the progress of the Division 1 display layout. The benchwork would be made professionally as it would be cheaper and quicker than building it ourselves, thus saving saving a heap of our valuable (and scarce) time. An overview of the proposed layout was given, which is basically two separate mainlines, running NCE DCC, with the emphasis on scenery and trains. Glenn also reported that Division 1 had booked space for an NMRA information stand at the Toowoomba Train Show, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

After the business was over, the meeting focus became Show & Tell. Leo Fitzsummons of the Gold Coast group displayed his partially complete QR BB18 <sup>1/4</sup> that he is scratch building using tin can sheet. His bends/curves were very cleanly executed making the cab in particular, very accurate. The stack was made from a medical

thermometer case as this had the perfect beading, with the sand dome made from the base of a small light bulb.



**Leo's BB18 <sup>1/4</sup>**

Modellers are known to be very resourceful, but Leo showed by his example, that good models could still be made using the most basic of materials.

Ian Venables of Division 1 displayed the progress of an 0-6-0 switcher which is being highly kitbashed from a MDC Roundhouse kit bought at a Buy & Sell for \$20. Many brass parts have been scratchbuilt for this loco so that eventually it will be a model of the L & N Class B-4 switcher.

Next on the agenda, our host, Allan Thomas, explained how he made those beautiful trees. He had used the old electrical wire method but with a few different twists (pun intended). The frame of trunks and branches were made from multi-strand wire, sometimes with the insulation left on in places. Extra strands were twisted around the main trunk and fanned out in a realistic manner. He had then "painted" them with "No-More-Gaps", and by using rough or smooth brushes he controlled the bark texture. This took away the wire appearance and left him with an armature/branch that was flexible so that further adjustments could be made and bits wouldn't fall off if the tree was bumped.

**NMRA DIVISION 1 (QUEENSLAND)**  
(www.Zelmeroz.com/anmra-1)



**Alan with one of his Trees**

The trunks were then painted in a most realistic way so that a few of us were saying, "That's a paper-bark, or that's an eucalypt". Allan then used fine fibre and the usual ground foams to foliage his trees. Another plus was that his trees were a realistic height, some 60 feet or more, and so on the layout we looked at his scenes in a typical manner.

Finally Bob Brown showed us some of the latest offering from Hornby that he had purchased. There was a BR dining coach with the table lamps and the centre interior lights that all lit. A very nice brake van model was shown. The valve gear on the locos was just as impressive as the best American models. The quality of these models was first class and in particular the two steam locos shown couldn't be bettered. Bob said that the 7 pole skewed armatures made these locos perform superbly. Then he displayed his Kato SD-70 that he changed from the original BNSF colours to BN heritage livery, which looked outstanding.

Mentioned must be made of Allan's On30 Shay that had been much kitbashed by him with added steam winches, chains, tools, etc. Some even said that they could recognise the crew! This was a most enjoyable outing for us all and people seemed reluctant to leave even though many had the drive back to Brisbane and beyond to do. (Ian Venables – Div 1 member).

**Meeting Notes (2):**

On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2004, the Union Pacific Model Railroad Club (UPMRC) of Brisbane kindly ran an operating session with Division 1 members as invited guests. The evening at their Holland Park clubhouse was eagerly anticipated, with eleven Division 1 members attending. The weather was perfect for what was to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Each member was personally welcomed on arrival, and for those that had not previously seen the layout an introduction to the layout's design and construction was provided, and given guided layout tour on arrival. The efforts of many UPMRC members over 30 years have contributed to a layout which resulted in a large model railroad with a purpose - operations.



**Pacific Flats Yard with  
UPMRC Members Kim, Mike & Graham**

At approximately 8pm the call was made for all operators to take their positions. Communications were established between the centrally located Dispatcher's Panel and ten mainline or yard operators. Walk around control with numerous plug-in points, in conjunction with radio headsets makes operating this layout a complex and yet organised process.

Although asked to keep visitor movements within the confines of the layout to a minimum, the camera in my hands provided me with a somewhat

## NMRA DIVISION 1 (QUEENSLAND)

(www.Zelmeroz.com/anmra-1)

plausible (albeit weak) excuse to 'roam the land' in search of images of interest.



**Dispatchers Panel with  
UPMRC members Ray, Anatol & Jim**

Needless to say, many were found, and taking interesting photographs on such an established layout was indeed a straightforward proposition, with all operators being more than willing to assist in the occasional "would you just briefly stop there?" requests. Fortunately for me, those driving trains were able to still comply with the Dispatchers instructions, and allow me to take those pesky photos.



**CSX at the Sierra Central Roundhouse**

To the credit of all involved, and with years of practice, the instructions provided to each operator were clear and precise resulting in a smooth running session. In the midst of the

seemingly organised chaos, much laughter was had by many over the course of the evening, and during my travels in the middle of what is a large fully operating layout, the friendship of those involved was clearly evident. The banter experienced when this many model railroad enthusiasts get together was terrific, and each member that I came across was genuinely interested in making the evening an enjoyable experience for all.



**UPMRC Member Bob Clelland  
Switching at Bliss Siding**

When the operating session proper came to its scheduled end, the call was made for any/all visitors to man the throttles and participate in running the layout. No second requests necessary here! For the next forty five minutes, various NMRA members made great use of this generous offer, which capped off an excellent evening. What more could there be left to offer us guests on this evening? - cakes, tea and coffee of course! What a well rounded and brilliant visit for all concerned.

Glenn Stevens, Division 1 Superintendent, on behalf of all the NMRA members attending, provided a heartfelt thank-you to the President and members of the UPMRC for their efforts on this memorable evening, and presented an NMRA Meeting Appreciation plaque in recognition of the visit. (Mark Ward – Member Div 1)

***National Model Railway Association Inc.***

PO Box 3656, Loganholme, 4129