



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

**NMRA Information Stand
Toowoomba Model Train Exhibition**

Next Meeting
* **12 July 2003** *
Host - Ken Leitch

Awards.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the award of Master Builder - Scenery to Grahame Davis. This is the fourth award Grahame has received in the Achievement Program, so he is now well on the way to MMR status. Well-done Grahame.

**NMRA Modeller's Choice Award
Toowoomba Model Train Exhibition**

The winner of the 2003 NMRA Modeller's Choice Award is 'Moelfryn', a 9mm scale layout representing a Welsh Tramway. Congratulations to Kerry and Dale on a job well done.

This was the fourth year the NMRA has sponsored this award at the annual Toowoomba exhibition, with the previous winners being 'Caintode Flats', 'Ravenstor', and 'Forrest Hill'. When Division 1 first introduced this award, there was one or two layouts which definitely stood out, with 'Caintode Flats' setting the standard now for over five years. There is now about eight to ten layouts in the SE QLD circuit which are getting to that level, so the judging task is definitely not getting any easier.

The judging panel, comprising a member of NMRA and DDMRC, easily narrowed the field to five, however as our thoughts were as varied as the layouts, we added two additional judges and points were allocated 3-2-1. The immediate runner-up, by a very close margin, was 'Caintode Flats', with the efforts of 'Huntingdon Creek', 'Wongaburra', and 'Running Creek' commended by the judges.

For the second year, Division 1 manned an NMRA information stand at the annual Toowoomba exhibition. Whereas last year we concentrated on the AP program as an interest "grabber", this year Ken Leitch and I carried out our own modelling tasks to attract "customers", and this seems to have been the better approach.

Ken bought along his DCC equipment, including programming track, and installed DCC on three of my locos and two of his in preparation for running on our future display layout. The amount of interest in DCC was considerable and consistent over the whole weekend. For my half of the effort, I carried out a gear change on four P2000 FA's, and continued upgrading the detail on two Con-Cor GP-38's. I was happy to get the overflow from Ken's display and most people were genuinely interested in what we were doing.

From an NMRA perspective, we were successful in that we took four names and contact details to provide further information.



Meeting Notes:

12 April

The April 2003 gathering was hosted by Bob Brown, that well known modeller of things Santa-Fe. The meeting was attended by 9 members and two guests of members. At this meeting we welcomed Daniel Calvert and Justin Walker for the first time after their arrival from ENZED.

National Model Railway Association Inc.

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There being no formal agenda, we spent the afternoon running trains on Bob's layout. The editor of this fine newsletter had a Bachmann 2-10-0 and seven WM wagons to try out Brownie's helix. For a loco that is rumoured not to pull the skin off a custard, pulling seven weighted wagons up a six turn, 2¹/₂ % grade, was very good. It ran all afternoon, and mixed very well with Bob's first generation Santa-Fe diesels that were competing for track space.

Bob's layout is split level, with the levels connected by the helix. The lower portion is in the garage and comprises two small industrial areas which are part of the switching task when Bob has an operator run. The upper level is a rectangular single track mainline, with a major classification yard, storage sidings, and two industrial switching areas.

Bob's hospitality was up to his normal high standard, the trains ran all afternoon, and every one had a good time.



Visit

On Saturday, 28th June, Division 1, in conjunction with the UPMRC, hosted a layout tour for Gordon Miller, a USN NMRA member from a visiting ship.

First up was a visit to Austral Modelcraft, where Gordon not only caught up with 5 months of magazine supply, he found some Walthers passenger coaches in UP that he just had to have.

Then, accompanied by Denis Lane and Ian Venables, we had a couple of hours at the UPMRC clubrooms running trains on Sierra Central, and then lunch and

more running of trains on Brownie's layout in the afternoon.

The last stop for the day was my house, where Gordon ended up receiving a mini clinic on hand laying track from yours truly. He went back to the ship having sampled Sandra's cooking and with memories not only fine Australian modelling, but also culinary delights such as lamingtons, pavlova, and vegemite sandwiches.

Many thanks to Gordon for the ship visit, and to the UPMRC and Brownie for hosting the layout visits.

Display layout progress

Six NMRA members and two UPMRC members have been having preliminary discussions on putting together a HO scale display layout to highlight the North American prototype, and our modelling skills. As a result we have agreed to progress, with Bob Brown and Paul Skehan (of UPMRC) carrying out the calculation of timber required, and myself and Ian Venables doing a scale drawing of the proposed layout.

The layout will be sectional, rectangular in shape, and approximately 22 by 10 feet in size. A 10 track staging area at the back will store trains, with two separate (and not parallel) mainlines travelling through generic Illinois rolling country side (that way we can run almost anything we want with some credibility).

The main scenic feature is expected to be a low sloping ridge bisected by two cuttings, with a river on one side, and a road on the other, both parallel to the edges of the ridge, at 45 degrees to the front of the layout. There will be a small passenger depot and grain silo on the left of the ridge at the end of the road, and a rail line parallel to the river, connected to one mainline by an interchange track.

Upcoming meetings

13 September – venue TBA
8 November – Graeme Prideaux
7 December – venue TBA