



NMRA DIVISION 1 (QUEENSLAND)

(www.Zelmeroz.com/anmra-1)

Next Meetings

* 12 December 2004 *

Division 1 Christmas Get-together Brisbane Port Authority Visitors Centre, Fishermen's Island

1. 24 members and visitors from all-round South East Queensland gathered at Glenn's on 6th November for a great afternoon of model railroading, at what was the largest meeting held in Division 1 since Glenn took over the reigns in 1994.

2. Glenn formally welcomed Geoff Aldridge & Richard Roskom to their first meeting, along with visitors Bob Deaken & Ron Ellis from the Caloundra Model Railway Club. It was also really good to see Ron Bennell after a long absence in Portland, Oregon.

Division 1 Business

3. As attendance had now consistently reached the 18 to 20 mark, it was proposed, and accepted, that in order to help defray the cost to the meeting host, a levy of \$2 be placed on attendees at each meeting.

4. There was discussion regarding what we wanted for a Christmas function, and it was decided as the Port of Brisbane Visitors Centre was within viewing distance of the bulk coal & grain facility, and the centre had large grassed areas, it would be an ideal spot. Following a visit to the centre on 7 November, it was decided that the function would be held on Sunday, the 12th of December, in lieu of Saturday the 11th.

5. Agreement was reached regarding next years meeting schedule, with hosts nominating for each meeting.

- 12 February – GCTDG.
- 16 April – Bob Brown.
- 18/19 June – Toowoomba Show.
- 2 July – Mark Ward & DDMRC.
- 10 September – Ian Wellings.
- 05 November – Graham Emery.

Show & Tell

6. After gathering in Glenn's garage (Queensland for basement) to watch the running of trains on his 8 x 4 test track, a little bit of ribbing was thrown around about the problems Glenn had with his curved bridge. The test track was initially intended to be smaller, but Glenn decided that

it was too small, and if he was laying track, it might as well have scenery, and some sort of operational ability. The increased size gave him a 21" radius, and 8X4 is the minimum size for the HO Scenery Award under the Achievement Program. Glenn's track work produced smooth running trains, with the test track featuring an oval around its outer edge and a turning "Y" and a 45 degree crossing. Glenn placed several buildings on the "Test Track" in advance of scenery.

7. Glenn gave a description of what was behind his test track, with several lessons learnt. First lesson was regarding the use of recycled layout parts - if it isn't right don't use it, it will always cost you more in the long run. Second lesson - measure thrice cut once. Glenn didn't allow for the length of his rolling stock when working out the required radius of the curved bridge, so now the bridge sides have been inverted to allow clearance and he is on the lookout for a new bridge.

8. Glenn then gave a presentation on the Achievement Program, using the Scenery Award as the example. He went through the award criteria point by point, using a handout containing AP guidelines, and his 8X4 layout. He pointed out the inclusion of hillsides, drainage, and roadways that had been designed in from the start, with telephone poles & crossing shanty's to add to the realism.

9. Roy Berryman gave a demonstration of his Athearn SD9 which had been modified by the use of Model Torque flywheels. They operate like a torque converter, with no direct coupling from the motor to the gearbox, and are a hell of a lot quieter. Their use completely stops jerky starts as they allow the motor to run up before motion is transmitted to the gearbox. In fact you can hold the loco stopped with your finger and the motor keeps turning with no wheel slip. It would be a definite worthwhile modification, not only to Athearn loco's, but maybe even Bachmann or Proto.

10. Phil Perry brought along couple of his super detailed DCC equipped "N Scale" diesels. The loco's were an Intermountain Cotton Belt SD40T-2 and a detailed Atlas GP7 in Union Pacific. Details included lift rings, coupler lift bars, windscreen wipers and brass intake screens. Several members are under the impression that Phil uses a microscope to assist his work.



Phil's GP7

National Model Railway Association Inc.

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11. He also displayed a beautifully constructed laser cut Bars Mills Warehouse. Very nice work.



Phil's Warehouse

12. Ken Leitch showed photos of a new (to Queensland) MK loco that has been testing and training crews on the mainline north of Brisbane for Pacific National. Ken provided lots of prototype information on this class and some of the new rolling stock soon to be working Queensland rails.

13. Alan Thomas was again displaying several items on which he is working. Firstly some tree stumps made from drinking straws, the result of someone saying to him "see what you can make of these". I don't think anyone was expecting such a result. Also on Display was Alan's On30 maintenance Rail truck and trailer. Alan has converted a cheap die cast truck, and scratch built a workshop, detailing the workshop with a generator and many tools including a drill press, gas bottles, grinder and all the tools you would expect to see on such a machine. Alan is also building a trailer that will feature a boom crane and rigging.



Alan's Maintenance Truck

14. Tony Reidpath displayed a 4 wheel work caboose he is building from a Boulder Valley caboose mounted on a HO Bachmann 4 wheel wagon, which provide good detailed under frames for On30 models.

15. Tony followed up with a quick clinic on building trees using natural tree armatures and home made ground foam and poly fibre. The basic idea of using these trees is to provide a large amount filling trees (those that will be between the track and the backdrop) for the large On30 club layout being built on the Gold Coast.

16. Garth Fraser displayed a newspaper article about a Krause 0-6-2 steam loco that he and a local group had helped to return to the Buderim area for a restoration project. The loco was built in 1914, and operated by the Buderim Tramway from 1914 to 1935. The group are hoping to bring the loco back to a condition suitable for static display in the township, as close as possible to the

site of the old station. A more detailed report will be in the next Newsletter.

17. A final closing comment from one of the first time visitors. "It was wonderful to see a group of people going out of their way to offer help and assistance to others". Model railways will do that to you. (Tony Reidpath – Div 1)

Regards to all, and see you on the 12th of December.

Glenn

Glenn Stevens

Division 1 Superintendent

November 2004