

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



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**MARCH 2008 OUR CONVENTION YEAR**

**Coming Meetings**

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**19/20<sup>th</sup> April – Northern Rivers NMRA  
Lismore and Ballina.**

**3/4/5<sup>th</sup> May – AMRA Train Show at  
Exhibition Grounds, Brisbane.**

**14/15<sup>th</sup> June – Toowoomba Train Show at  
Showgrounds.**

**12<sup>th</sup> July – Laurie Mclean, Timberwah,  
10.00am.**

**12/13/14<sup>th</sup> September, Australasian  
Regional Convention, Brisbane.**

**8<sup>th</sup> November, Colin Upton, Jimboomba.**

All meeting start at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated.

**2007 Division 1 Annual Report**

1.This Annual Report is an overview of activities within Division 1 during 2007, and is submitted for information of the Australasian Regional Committee (ARC) and members of Division 1.

**Membership**

2.At the end of 2007, division 1 had four 100% clubs and a group of 40 members not affiliated with any of the 100% clubs, giving a total membership of 156. This was an overall increase of six members in the year.

- a. Darling Downs MRC in Toowoomba 68 members.
- b. Caloundra & District MRC on Sunshine Coast 18 members.
- c. Logan & District MRC in Logan 22 members.

d. Downs & South Western MRG in Warwick 8 members.

e. Un-affiliated members 40.

**Meetings**

3.The scheduled bi-monthly meetings are held in the Brisbane /SE Queensland area, with an average attendance during 2007 of 18 members and 3 visitors at each meeting. Considering the diverse geographical nature of the Queensland membership, this attendance is quite reasonable.

4.Eight meetings were scheduled for the year. These were made up of six meetings hosted by members, a meeting hosted by the Darling Downs Club in Toowoomba, and a railway oriented weekend held in Bundaberg, originated by John Lebsanft.

**Model Railway Exhibitions**

5. The following is an overview of attendance by Division 1 members at SE Queensland model railway exhibitions during 2007.

**Sandgate PCYC:**

DDMRC with Z, N, & HO layouts.

Division 1 members with one 9mm, 2 N scale and 1 HO layout.

**AMRA:**

L&DMRC with 1 N, 1 Hon3 and 2 HO layouts.

**Toowoomba:**

Division 1 Modular Group.

L&DMRC with 1 N, 1 Hon3 and 2 HO layouts.

Division 1 members with 1 9mm, 2 N and 1 HO layout.

**RMCQ:**

DDMRC with 1 N layout.

Division 1 members with two N scale and 1 HO layout.

**Taree:**

L&DMRC with 1 HO layout.

**Ipswich Workshops:**

L&DMRC with 1 N scale, 1 Hon3 and 1 HO layout.

DDMRC with 1 Z, 1 N and 2 HO layouts.

**UPMRC:**

L&DMRC with 1 N layout.

Community Events/Celebrations:

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In addition to the above shows, both DDMRC as a club and other members of Division 1 exhibited their layouts at various community events during the year.

### Achievement Program

During 2007, 5 AP certificates were awarded to members of Division 1. Laurie McLean was awarded the golden Spike, Structures, Scenery and Electrical Certificates and Lynn Zelmer was awarded the Volunteer Certificate.

Glenn Stevens,  
Div 1 Superintendent,  
24<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2008.

### **Ideas Wanted!**

Geoff Aldridge has recently shifted house and the layout room is as yet vacant, needing his ideal railroad. He is still looking for ideas, druthers, dos and don'ts. These could be profitable for us all. We will publish the best of them in Newsletter or some other way so that all will have your ideas.

Now so far Geoff hasn't been overwhelmed with responses yet I know many of you have heaps of ideas. So please get in touch, especially those planning layouts. Here, you can put some of your theories in practice without having the commitment yourself!

### **Exhibition Layout**

Work still proceeding with particular attention being paid to track joints over module joins. The aim is of course, to ensure reliability, ease of erection and good appearance.

### **The May AMRA Show**

As usual the annual AMRA May show will be held on the long May weekend, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May. Besides the large number of layouts on display there will be many trade stands, society stands, etc. This is also a wonderful place to meet up with modelling colleagues and in particular those you don't often see.

### **Convention Extra**

One of the activities associated with our Convention this September is that guests have been invited to spend some time on the Friday in Toowoomba. Mark Ward's fantastic Oma Lines will be open and the always interesting Darling Downs MR club rooms will be open.

This has been planned to be an attraction especially to those travelling by road from the south up the New England Highway. Instead of turning right after Warwick towards Cunninghams Gap, they could motor on to Toowoomba and take in these delights. Some might want to spend a night in Toowoomba and there are plenty of good motels and eateries there. Besides, the famous Carnival of Flowers will be starting a week later but the gardens will be just about at their peak so Toowoomba will be a beautiful stop-over.

The Federal Motel in Geddes Street just off James Street (1800 650 839) is a very good motel at a reasonable price. Also, a dinner or lunch at Weis (4632 7666), Margaret St East is an event to remember.

### **Family Day**

I've occasionally made a comment about how useful non-modelling activities can be to instil a new awareness in MR. Let's consider how useful one non-modelling activity was to us modellers. This year's Family Day at the Tramways Museum was one such occasion. Apart from the trams and the nostalgia and apart from the normal friendliness, there were examples of Lynn Zelmer's cane rolling stock there that made me realise how cane trains might be a good way to go for those deprived of layout room and with eyesight lessening with age. Apart from that off course, cane trains in Queensland didn't just carry cane.

Just a few minutes of riding in a tram was enough to wipe out 40 years from my memory. All of the noise, smells and some of the sights of tram riding made it seem as though we hadn't done without them for so long. For anyone who hasn't seen this museum, get there soon and enjoy the re-learning. What helped to make it a nostalgic event were the authentic advertisements on the upper corners of the cabins.

There were a lot of stories being aired about how our members used trams in their youth.

Volunteer staff at the museum were most helpful and we rode all of the serviceable trams on display, from the earliest to the most modern.

### **Snippets**

Here's a few "let-outs" for those modelling a particular period yet having the odd car that may not fit into your era.

Vertical brake staffs were outlawed in 1928. Yet from the photos in "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" by Kline and Culotta (published by NMRA, Chattanooga, 2006) there are still plenty of boxcars, hoppers, refrigerator cars and stockcars in interchange in 1946-48 with vertical brake shafts.

Also from the same source are still a few cars in the mid forties with arch-bar trucks.

From Railroad Model Craftsman, October 2007 is an article on scratchbuilding a wooden vinegar tank car. Not from the early 1900's but this one put into service in April 1957! This would be an excellent choice for your first scratchbuilding project.

### **Comment**

Most of us are always thinking of ways to improve our models railroads. Many improvements can be made in the simplest of ways and one of the best ways is to look at prototype photos for inspiration. What can you glean from a photo in a book or magazine or DVD. It's often the little things done well that are the most effective.

Going up to Buderim with Bob Cuffe and John Saxon to see Garth Fraser's layout and his work on the Palmwoods – Buderim railway loco, we mentioned one book that is full of such inspiration. All three of us have a copy thanks to Graham Prideaux's vigilance and we had looked at it often. The book is "Steel Wheels Rolling" – some photos of J. Parker Lamb. All of the photos are monochrome and that probably gives them some of their dramatic appeal. So here are a few ideas from that book.

Bridges are often numbered to facilitate location finding for repair crews. Small number labels made on your computer would be a great start. Remember to make several numbers the same for each bridge as you might want one for each end and also on the abutments.

Anchor your model crossing control cabin to reality with conduits running from the tower to the ground. A couple of different diameters of copper wire will be useful here.

Don't forget dwarf signals. These can be bought or you can make them yourself from bits of Evergreen. For a bit of "scenic animation" they should be lit. With small LED's carefully filed down in size or from fibre optic strands you can easily accomplish this. They are used at diamond crossings, in yards and even at the end of platforms for passenger trains.

The tools of washing or outdoor small repairs can be left in the area where this work might be carried out. A ladder, hoses, buckets, brooms, large spanners, etc. can be left there and slop a bit of clear gloss around to make it look as though water was used there recently.

Most electrical service poles have bevelled tops to rid the pole of rain water. But there is one in a photo where one of the six poles shown is not bevelled and has about eight foot of pole above the top crossarm. It just looks different and ever so "human".

Another photo has the electrical crossarms on only one side of a short pole because this pole is anchored to the girders of a bridge. We've all seen that in Queensland. But you haven't seen it in a model, I'll bet.

Anyone as old as I am will remember turntables being operated from the air supply of a loco. There is a beautiful picture of a diesel being turned in this manner. For modelling though, the safety railed operating platform with a rolling stock Ajax brake wheel to open and shut off the air supply would look great.

Here's one I've never seen before. Several lengths of wood suspended over the same number of tracks by wire anchored I assume at each end on poles. These lengths of wood carry Tell Tales over each track. It must be just before a bridge over those tracks.

So there's eight from just a few photos. I don't think I've seen any of these on a model and if I have it would be the dwarf signals and that may be from one or two great Australian layouts. Effort required for any of these is minimal yet they will go a long way towards making your layout look as though it is populated by clever yet fallible people.

### **March Outing**



Garth Fraser and Glenn Stevens look absolutely mystified trying to think how they are going to fit the decoder in this 1:1 loco of the Palmwoods – Buderim Railway. Photo by Laurie McLean.

The outing to Buderim and Garth and Myra Frazer's was as usual a most pleasant day. We were taken to see the Krauss locomotive that has caused Garth to change scales for much of his recent life. It's amazing what volunteers can do. We were then taken to a part of the right-of-way on the western side of the mountain. This turned out to be a delightful walk through wet sclerophyll forest, cuttings, culverts, bridges, etc. We all then enjoyed afternoon tea at the Fraser's and many availed themselves of the opportunity to see Garth's layout before driving back to Brisbane.