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JANUARY 2012

Coming Meetings

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All meetings start at **10.30am**
unless otherwise notified.

Feb 18, Eddie Stavleu, Lunch
available.

Mar 17, Leigh Craig, Lunch available.

Apr 21, Ian Wellings, Lunch
available.

New Superintendent

We have a new Superintendent for Division 1. The Returning Officer, Bob Cuffe, received only one nomination for this position after a month's notice, by midnight 16th December. As he accepted the nomination and was duly nominated and seconded, **Martyn Jenkins** is our new Superintendent.

Christmas Function

Our Christmas Function held at the Beerwah Hotel on 17th December was a great success, thanks to the organising and work of Katrina and Charles Clarke. About 50 members and partners attended. It seemed to end far too soon.

John and Bernice Lebsanft brought with them from Bundaberg, famous for its fruit, several containers of cold, sliced rock melon and

watermelon, and many of us indulged before motoring home – a nice touch.

Sale Dates for Caloundra & District Model Railway Association

Received as listed below are the sale dates for C.D.M.R.A in 2012:

April - Library Display 22nd March to 17th April. **Sale & Display** 14th April.

October – Library Display 20th September – 11th October. **Sale & Display** 6th October.

For enquiries ring Bob Deakin on (07) 5499 6572.

Our November Gathering with Martyn Jenkins

At the November 19th meeting at Martyn Jenkins, it was decided the new Superintendent should have some helpers to ease the workload for overall efficiency.

Firstly, in case we had to have an election Bob Cuffe was nominated and voted to be the Returning Officer.

Besides nominating a Martyn as Superintendent, we decided to have a secretary and Charles Clarke was nominated, seconded and voted to take that position.

Similarly, a treasurer was sought.

We don't have big bank accounts but it was thought that someone should keep our finances right. Eddie Stavleu was duly elected.

Paul Skehan will remain co-ordinator of the modular group and also be responsible for the ordering of name tags and plaques.

The Newsletter Editor will remain Ian Venables.

The NMRA Div 1 Show committee will be Martyn Jenkins and Eddie Stavleu and they may co-op others to help. AP Awards will be in the hands of Graham Emery and Laurie McLean.

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There was then some discussion on what we should do as a memorial to Glenn. Of several ideas discussed, a trophy for the Division 1 member who does the most to get new members to the NMRA seemed to be the favourite. Nothing has been confirmed yet though.

Show and Tell's first item was an unusual and interesting item. Roc Wall showed his Armoured Scout Trains by Lilliput. These are models of railway powered units that look like war tanks and plied the rails, mostly in the Balkans during WW II. They were powered by 8 cylinder diesel engines and usually moved in groups of 12. Having typical tank turrets and cannons they must have been a formidable weapon. As the motors wore out and fuel became scarce, they were still used but moved by steam locomotives. These accurate models created a lot of interest.

Dennis Turner showed some N scale Micro Trains Maintenance-of-Way rolling stock comprising of loaded gondolas, crane, loco, cabooses, flat car, etc.

George Stainlay showed 6 wagons for the QR in Sn3.5, nostalgic! Charles Clarke showed his new BN Alco C415. Then he showed his operating gantry crane and a SP U50 and DD35 all in HO. He then switched scales and showed his SP U50 in N scale.

Graeme Prideaux pointed out some successes he has had surfing the web for transport and railway photographs.

Much of the gathering was spent looking at and operating out host, Martyn Jenkins's several layouts and on different themes. Helping him in this were several members of the Gold Coast group.

Change of Address

Gwydir Valley Models run by Warren Herbert, has just changed its email address to:

warren@gwydirvalleymodels.com

NMRA Website

The Australasian Region NMRA website now has a special section for the module SIG. Thanks Gerry! It has our standards and rules plus photos of the modules in action. If you don't yet have a layout, consider a module as a less expensive option and a way to hone your skills before you build that grand design you have been thinking about. Besides, you have the experience of those who already have modules to help you. Some modules are not much longer than a metre, but having that little bit you can test rolling stock and plan your future operating conditions. Besides you may have a mate who lives close and who is also keen to have a module or already has one. Local get-togethers at someone's home are a good way of furthering your model railroad pleasure without necessarily getting all modules together.

Comment

Model Railroaders are collectors. I am almost certain that no one reading this disagrees. Few of us are resolute enough to only have what we could just use on our own railroads, prototypically.

I know some of you have models of rolling stock that would never have been seen beside each other except in model form. Already many of you would be saying, "Is he talking about me?" Still we all have fun and enjoy whatever we have. Is this being acquisitive only or is there some aesthetic reasoning behind it? Added to this is the other gear we have to help us model but is not an actual model itself, like cameras, books and magazines, DVD's and tapes, tools, etc.

I have almost all of the Model Railroaders since January 1948, a sizeable collection. Add to this all of the Railroad Model Craftsman since 1960, all of the Classic Trains (a great magazine), almost all of the

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Louisville & Nashville Historic Society's publications, many Mainline Modeler and Prototype Modeler, NMRA Bulletins and magazines, etc., etc.

There are over 300 cars, 40 locos, a Unimat lathe, tools, etc. There are compartmental boxes with bulbs, springs, spikes, rail-joiners, cast air brake systems, reefer hinges, etc.

I'm sure most of you think I'm describing your things. Doesn't it take up a lot of room? If you don't realise it I'm sure your wife has been telling you that for years.

So along comes Kalmbach with a 3 DVD set of all the Model Railroaders from the beginning in 1934 to 2009. That's several cubic metres of space it will save me! And just in time too! I had just started a major re-organisation to fit things in and now I have been saved.

When those DVD's arrive, what am I going to do with the MR's? Well maybe some can be sold. Then anybody who wants them from our group gets next pick. Next I will go around to various waiting rooms at medical centres and dentists, tyre waiting rooms, etc. and slip a few in their bundles of reading matter and try to swamp the Womans Weeklys and New Ideas. Maybe that will get a few new members. What's left can be used as handouts at MR shows.

It will be hard to actually rid myself of a collection that took years, a lot of money and some detective work, to build up. But they have given me tremendous pleasure, reading them and making things from them. Still, I am running out of room and there is no alternative unless any of you have some bright ideas.

When that new extra room becomes available I have to resist the urge to fill it with more rolling stock.

If I look up an issue for a plan of a boxcar, it usually takes hours because I can't stop myself re-reading other articles in the magazines.

Further Comment

I've just been looking through a few books about American railroads and in particular yard throats, both passenger and freight. One thing struck me and that was I never saw a single turnout that didn't have some "box" beside it.

These "boxes" are turnout mechanisms, ice melting gear, direction indicators, or something that is important to the operation of the turnout.

Sadly you don't see many such additions on a model layout, yet they must be easy to make and give the turnout a further touch of authenticity.

Many are simple rectangular boxes and these could easily be made with a few styrene scraps and being smoothly textured, don't need filling, just painting and that's usually a grunge colour. You could use balsa scraps but they need a bit of filling and sanding to look metallic rather than wood.

Others are a simple post extending out of a small box with a marker light on top. It's easy to make these out of piano wire and a cast marker light. The marker light could come from a rolling stock kit or a special piece from one of the casting companies like CalScale. Then you could make one from a bit of Evergreen tube or rod and finger drill with a couple of twirls, four dimples and either use coloured jewels or paint the dimples appropriately. Others are a couple of rectangular boxes, one large, one small joined by a rod or two. For these, use the first method and piano wire to join them together.

Another simple one is a pad of concrete with a box or two standing on the pad. The pad can be painted with Tamiya deck tan, dirtied up a bit with a wash of black. And then surmounted with one or two rectangles painted black, or silver, or whatever colour takes your fancy. If you bought a few lid containers from Crazy Clarks to tidy up a bit over the holidays, they usually have black

double corner protectors (four to a container) that are ideal. Paint then of course to take away the plastic look.

Even if your standards are very high, any of the above will look great until you get around to making working indicators and installing them.

Another item we miss is drain or manhole covers. As I write this I can see one in a photo of the yard at the Atlanta, Georgia terminal yard. It is so simple to make. All you need is a rectangle or a square of scrap 20 thou styrene and a smaller 15 thou piece of styrene the same shape, centred on top of it. Paint the lower and larger piece a concrete colour and the smaller upper lid weathered black. You could make up a dozen of these, paint them and install them in an hour or less yet they help to give a more finished look to your layout. Another obvious item we miss is the many paths across tracks. We have the odd level crossing, but if you look at a good photo you see many other paths across the rails in yards that are un-official. These can be walking tracks for workers, paths to move maintenance trikes or hand pumpers from storage to track, and un-official roads for signal maintenance people to get tools and supplies to the base of a signal. If you go in for some of these, make the path seem as though it is going from work point to work point.

Sleepers and rail lengths lying on the slope of track ballast is just too easy and too common to comment further, yet in real railroads you see this so often.

How often do you see weeds growing between the rails on siding tracks? An awful lot on the prototype, yet rarely in the model.

Another thing the book in front of me shows is that cattle grids aren't just a thing of the west but quite common on all railroads and I notice in one particular case where there is a cattle grid before a tunnel entrance, obviously meant to keep cattle from entering the tunnel for a bit of shade.

Paper waste is often seen in photos and this is more common around depots and stations.

You often see conduits running along tracks then disappearing under the track or into some trackside building.

All of these little touches can enhance the look of your layout and each one taken as a single unit will fit into a fifteen minute project.

Finally, for further enhancement is a very common sight, that is, trackside pools of water. The reflective quality of water gives a scenic change from the matt coloured scenery around the layout.

I've tried this by using small pieces of flat, plain, thin glass painted on the underside with the colour one would expect water to be in these situations and that would be anything from nearly black to pale grunge. I've used microscope glass but any flat broken glass you can find perhaps around the streets, or rubbish tip, or behind industries, is suitable but be careful and use gardening gloves.

Most of the time you wouldn't need it to be any wider than a half inch and probably no longer than an inch or two. Set into your plaster or Polyfilla making sure that it is very level and solidly contained. Once the plaster around it is dry, polish it with a bit of old rag. The effect is most realistic and don't forget areas around water tanks and cleaning racks.

**MAY YOU ALL HAVE A
WONDERFUL AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR, AND MAY THAT CONTINUE
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR.
AND MAY YOU FIND THE TIME,
THE ENERGY, AND THE
RESOURCES TO HAVE A MORE
REALISTIC RAILROAD BY THE
END OF 2012.**