



Right On Track

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Send items for inclusion in this newsletter to the Editor via e-mail at miktrain@hotmail.com or phone on 8381 3821

This newsletter is now available as a download from our website (address above) saving the club postage and printing, most pictures are in colour. Notification is sent by email when it is available for download.

Southern Craft Fair



Both Paradigm and Peter's live steam layouts were on display at the Southern Craft Fair 29th April.

There was a good deal of interest and we handed out fliers about the club and our next swapmeet.



Management Committee

President	Ron Weeden
Vice President	Frank Crossley
Secretary	Graham Bartlett
Treasurer	Judith Morley
Membership Manager	John Cutler
Events Coordinator & Security Officer	Tony Mikolaj
Almoner & First Aid	Norm Andrew
Committee	David Morley

**Next Committee meeting
7:30pm Monday 5th April 2007**

N Scale Convention

**Saturday 19th May
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
NMRI Clubrooms**

We are to be host to the attendees of the N Scale Convention as part of their layout tours. The clubrooms will be open at 12:00 for setup. See the noticeboard for attendance sheet. Wear your club shirt please.

Casting Workshop

**Tuesday 29th May
8:00 pm sharp
NMRI Clubrooms
Free**

Adelaide Moulding & Casting Supplies have offered to come to the clubrooms and put on a 'how to workshop' the session will go for about 45 minutes and questions are invited. There is an attendance list on the notice board.

June Long Weekend

**9th – 11th June
9:30 am – 5:00 pm Sat & Sun
9:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday
Greyhound Park**

We have been accepted to display Paradigm, three days of promoting our club and activities so get your equipment up to scratch. There is an attendance list on the noticeboard.

Swapmeet

**Sunday 29th July
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Reynella Neighbourhood Centre**

Numbers will be limited by available space. \$20 per table or take advantage of the early bird discount, \$15 if paid in advance. Maximum two people entry per table.

Strathalbyn Exhibition

**27th – 28th October
9:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturday
9:30 am – 4:00 pm Sunday
Strathalbyn Show Grounds Hall**

This is in the same hall as last time; see the report on page 9

Card Table Swap

**Friday 2nd November
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
NMRI Clubrooms**

Numbers will be limited by available space. \$10 per table or take advantage of the early bird discount, \$5 if paid in advance. Strictly one person entry per table.

Reynella Fair

**Sunday 18th November
All day
Reynella Oval**

Another full day of sausage sizzling. The organisers have changed the name to: **Lions Reynella Village Christmas Fair**. Due to the lack of a sponsor guarantee the Reynella Gift will not be held so the fair will move back onto the oval.

Our Exhibition

**11th – 12th October 2008
9:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturday
9:30 am – 4:00 pm Sunday
Mitsubishi Entertainment Centre**

I know it is a little early but why not promote it anyway?

Model Railways of Australia – Sandown Model Railway Exhibition – March 2007

Prior to attending the Sandown Exhibition we learnt of a swap meet in Forrest Hill. Upon arrival it was a pleasant surprise to find that there was no entry fee. It was held within a large sporting hall there were tables of train related products, all types, all scales, all conditions. It may have been free entry but it cost us \$201 to leave.

For those unfamiliar with recent events on the Victorian exhibition scene, the Sandown exhibition was rapidly convened as a replacement to the regular Victorian AMRA Exhibition which was cancelled due to 'issues and demands' associated with their regular venue. All profit from this replacement exhibition is to be split between the **Dandenong Hospital** and the **Walhalla Goldfields Railway**.

At the Sandown race track we were surprised to find entry fees of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, we had been expecting to pay potentially double that. At the entrance it was surprising to learn that one of them men knew of NMRI.



One of the small yards of 'The Victorian Hardwood Company', just one of the many features on this small On30 layout.



The cattle yards featured on 'Murri' an HO layout by the Victorian branch of AMRA.

The morning was spent slowly perusing everything in the venue, mentally noting layouts that needed to be photographed and contacts made for future NMRI exhibitions. We noted a few ideas that we could implement.

The venue was large, and the exhibits were well spaced. The most notable 'different' thing when first walking into the venue was the excellent use made of the tens of televisions in the venue. Being a predominately sporting/racing venue one would assume that these TVs are normally used at race meetings to keep punters up to speed. For the duration of the exhibition, these were used to play various train oriented DVDs significantly adding to the overall atmosphere of the show.

The venue was completely carpeted a bonus for exhibitors standing on their feet for three days. The lighting was

good - halogen spot lights spaced around the roof supporting columns. This in some cases left some layouts/stands with odd lighting patterns, half the display being near the column and thus well lit, the other half being further away and therefore not so well lit, but generally lighting was sufficient to allow many layouts to do without their own lighting.

The quality of the catering did not appear to match the price so a pass to the nearby Springvale KFC helped both the wallet and the hunger pains.

There appeared to be a nice balance between traders and layouts. Many of the usual traders were represented. **‘Train World’** and **‘Powerline’**, **‘Broad Gauge Models’**, **‘Team Alco’**, **‘EFD Simply Glues’**, and **‘Auran Trainz’** have become familiar faces at many exhibitions over the years. Others included **‘Australian Railroad Photography’**, **‘ARHS Victorian Division’** selling books, videos and other railway merchandise, **‘Running With Scissors’** had an interesting collection of sharp things – scalpels, blades, scribing probes as well as tweezers, forceps, and pliers all aimed at the modeller’s toolbox. **‘Iron Horse Hobbies’**, **‘Rail Motor Models’**, **‘Brunel Models’**, **‘Victorian Hobby Centre’**, **‘J & K Hobbies’** the manufacturers of TRACKRITE flexible underlay and **‘The Railfan Shop’**. **‘Narrow Gauge Down Under’** and **‘Motive Power’** each had a stand displaying their magazines. **‘Steam Era’** were teamed up with **‘Hollywood Foundry’** both of whom would know the NMRI club reasonably well. Likewise Peter Vincent and Norm Bray were in attendance demonstrating their **‘VR Rolling Stock’** website, on which a few NMRI members are known to spend too much time.



Some of the excellent, large scale bridges on The Gauge One Gallery’s display layout.



One of the many excellent scenes on Murri, this one featuring the oil storage facilities.

For the gauge one fans **‘The Gauge One Gallery’** was on hand selling just about everything a large scale modeller could want, including a large scale shay with a large scale price... Beside the retail outlet was a ‘compact’ 45mm gauge layout, which had a footprint bigger than most of the layouts in the show. Only an oval of track running about 2’ off the ground, the layout featured some massive trestle bridges and an excellent viaduct.

The Victorian Branch of the AMRA were in attendance with several layouts and displays including rolling stock entered into the modelling competition, a model building display. Of some interest was their stand featuring photos of their clubrooms and club layouts. Their clubrooms sounded huge, being a two storey ex RSL hall complete with an external garden railway. AMRA Victoria were operating **‘Murri’** their HO scale exhibition layout, the largest

of the Victorian AMRA layouts present. Craftily built on aluminium modules and using snap fasteners to hold the modules in alignment. Featuring trains from Victoria, SA and NSW the scenery both scratch made and commercial product, it had a typically Australian feel but is not representative of any particular area.

‘Victoria Creek – Version 2’ was another large HO Australian outline layout, built by the Essendon Model Railway Group. A generically Victorian country themed layout with double track mainline and trains operating under DCC, the layout was one of two to feature a camera equipped train which was broadcast onto a nearby TV screen. Later in the day whilst talking to the operators we watched as one of the members ‘drove’ his train using the TV as a cab view.



A cottage featured on 'Tybrook' the creek just in front of the cottage is another of the excellently modelled features.

By far the largest layout in the venue was 'Tybrook (Cardina Rail Link)' quite a massive HO layout, with some excellent bridge and tunnel scenes. On both viewing occasions the layout was running entirely Australian outline rolling stock, though we were told by the operators (and the exhibition guide) that it often ran with an entirely American outline.

'Kentucky Division' a large N scale layout familiar to many of the NMRI members who travel to interstate exhibitions (Stawell '06) was in attendance. Modelled on the massive Norfolk and Southern Railroad, depicting the Tennessee River from Debutts Yard in Chattanooga to Oakdale, Kentucky Division is typical of most American outline N scale layouts, featuring long trains hauled by what seem like little locos. Sadly Ken Davies will not be attending the N scale convention which

means that he will not be a part of the convention's visit to the NMRI clubrooms nor can he attend our exhibition due to other commitments. After further 'investigative journalism' it can be said that the strong rumours that he will be bringing Kentucky Division to Adelaide for the June exhibition later this year are true.

Narrow gauge modelling was represented at the show by two On30 layouts, the first of which being 'The Victorian Hardwood Company'. A representation of a 1930's logging railway based on a section the Powelltown Timber Tramway, running beyond Powelltown into the Latrobe River Valley.

'Cannibal Creek' and 'The Art of The Diorama' will be becoming increasingly familiar to the NMRI members especially as it was seen at the last NMRI exhibition in October 06. Once again demonstrations of diorama building, and scratch building in general could be seen, answers to questions on most aspects of modelling could be obtained.



A depot scene modelled on 'Cannibal Creek'

'Tinplate Trains' a layout by the Hornby Railway Collectors Association Australia provided running space for a variety of classic metal trains. Their original O gauge trains represent the early days of model railways long before the advent of imported plastic models from China and DCC. The members of the group took great delight in telling of how their niche in the hobby is once again gaining in popularity.

The 'Waverley Model Club Inc.' were also demonstrating model building, mostly Victorian outline kit building with some scratch building occurring during the day. The WMRC's clubrooms in North Dandenong must be quite large, member's modelling interests include Australian, North American, European, British and Japanese outline, in all scales from N, HO/OO to G. They have 'several' exhibition standard layouts, and currently they are working on a new 'extensive' permanent layout in their clubrooms and two more layouts which will be used in exhibitions when completed. With such work being undertaken, it could be understood why they are looking for more eager members. We showed a bit of interest in their display, and the impression was that their membership manager wanted to sign us up, when told we were from SA he gave a slight look of disappointment.

The Ballarat & District Model Railway Club were again showing off their magnificent **'Phoenix Electric'** with a few extra details added since we last saw it at our NMRI exhibition Last October. With the extraordinary network of overhead wiring and trams cars operating on DCC this HO layout will continue to be a draw card wherever it is shown.

'The Valley', built by the Latrobe Valley MRA was another layout with an overhead wiring network. Having a much simpler track plan than that on the above layout enabled The Valley's catenary to be powered, faint sparks just the prototype could just be seen above the ambient lighting as breaks in contact occurred with the overhead line. The catenary and a combination of two and three rail track meant that just about any HO train could be run on the layout. The Valley also featured a coach and other vehicles that drove around a loop of roadway, safely stopping at level crossings if a train was approaching, then continuing on their journeys once the train had safely passed.



Midsomer Norton's coal mine, with fully laden coal train about to depart the yard.

For the fans of British modelling, **'Midsomer Norton'** would have to have been their main attraction. A layout spanning six modules laid out in a hexagonal shape and probably fighting it out with the above mentioned layout to be the best layout in show. The prototype for the layout is the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway circa 1950. Featuring two main lines, it is only once beyond the initial passing glance that it might be noticed that they are essentially two perfect circles of track. At various locations around the layout points feed small branches to industries which effectively fill the spaces between the mainlines and the corners of the hexagonal outside of the layout.

The only other display of British models was from the Victorian branch of the **'BRMA'** their demonstrations of building techniques were not seen, but there was a nice display of British prototype models, in a range of scales featuring RTR, modified and scratch built models.

'Hands on' layouts included **'Pierreville'** depicting a typically French scene and modelled in dual gauge O and Oe. Pierreville had many entertaining things for youngsters to have a go at, in front of the layout children could set in motion a pair of cable cars climbing and descending a steep incline. On the layout, there was an operating coal loader, and once full the coal hopper had to be emptied, requiring a shunt movement to the coal dumping area via the turntable. By far the biggest attraction was the operating yard crane, using the operating yard crane it was possible to transfer loads between trucks, railway wagons and the platform, this certainly generated queues of children wanting to pick something up and shift it around.



'Pierreville' – The cable car track is at the very front of the layout, right hand side of the photo.

One of the first people spoken to was a friendly owner of two layouts, both of which were generating a lot of interest and big crowds. **'HOWJADOIT'** is a layout that showed the construction process involved in building an exhibition layout. Effectively a circle of track with a single point leading out to a simple yard, one end of the layout being a bare L girder frame with track laid on cork roadbed, merging into a finished layout scene at the other end. Displaying various methods of recreating scenery including the use of foam, wire and plaster, various methods of making trees, different ballasts and roadbeds of both foam underlay and cork. Surely a great help to all Mum's, Dad's and new comers who are always wondering exactly what is behind all of the smoke and mirrors.

'HOWJADOIT' a cutaway look at how an exhibition layout is constructed.



Freight movements occurring under the capable hands of the young folk operating 'Switcher'.

The owner's other layout, **'Switcher'** is another educational layout, proving to all that there is more to running than watching trains go around in a circle. A simple shunting layout, three tracks with a head shunt, one loco, five or six wagons and a deck of cards, each card featuring the photo of one of the wagons. The cards are shuffled and three placed in a stand the operator's job is to then shunt the wagons around to create the train as shown on the cards. A constant, massive group of budding shunters necessitated a novel 'take a number' style queuing and proved that even 'boring shunting' can be a hit if it's 'hands on'!

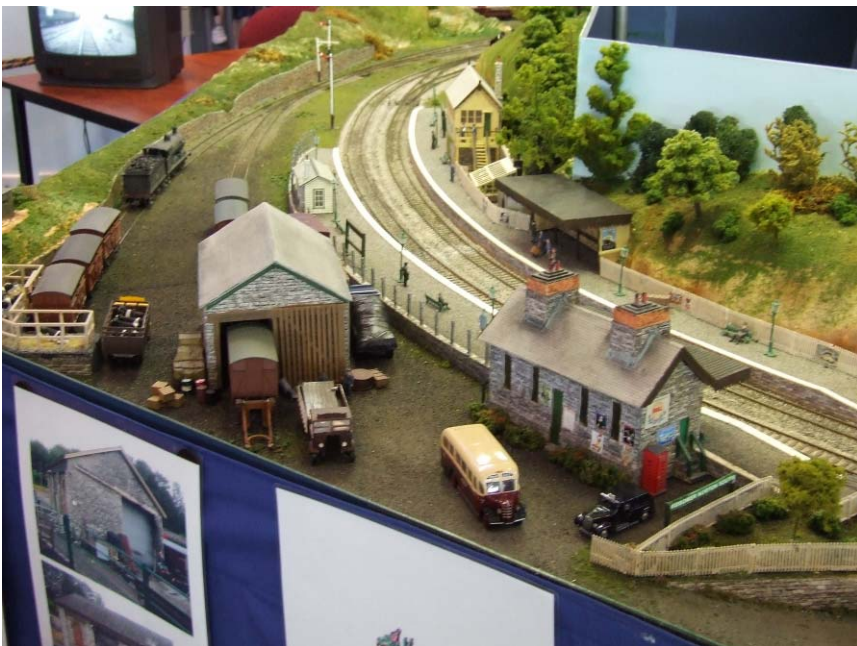
Another hands on opportunity for the youngies was the appropriately named **'U-Drive'** built by AMRA members. For a fee of 50c children had the option of driving either Thomas or his good mate Percy around the OO scale layout.

Finally two passenger carrying railways were represented. The **'Diamond Valley Railway'** operates on 7 1/4" gauge track through natural bushland near Eltham. With an extensive track plan, the DVR would be well worth a look at if you ever find yourself near by. The other being the **'Walhalla Goldfields Railway'** a non profit organisation formed in 1991. The volunteers at the railway operate their trains every Wednesday, weekend, public holiday and throughout the entire month of January. Currently proceeds from running are being used, hopefully in conjunction with some Victorian Government grants to restore a small trestle bridge that was destroyed and some track that was damaged during the bushfires in the Great Southern Divide in December 2006.



Children operating AMRA's 'U-DRIVE'

A large yard full of trains on 'Kentucky Division'.



Station platforms on 'Midsomer Norton'.

End Of The Line Hobbies

Your One Stop Hobby Shop

End Of The Line Hobbies is offering club members a 5% discount off all purchases. To be eligible you must be a current financial member and mention your club membership at the time of purchase. The club will receive the same amount as a voucher for use as we see fit. So you can help yourself and the club at the same time.

Delivery can be arranged anywhere in the world and orders may be placed in person at the shop, via e-mail, snail mail, phone or fax. There is a stock hold option and payments can be made by Visa Card, Master Card, EFTPOS and good old fashioned cash!

Wednesday – Sunday 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

End Of The Line Hobbies 74 Ocean Street Victor Harbor SA 5211 (near the turntable)

Ph 8552 7900

Find us at

www.endofthelinehobbies.com.au

Fax 8552 7933

Email

shop@endofthelinehobbies.com.au

Quick update on preparations for the Strathalbyn Model Railroad Show

We now have 6 confirmed layouts exhibiting at the Strathalbyn Show in October. Our own David and Peter will be bringing along their layouts, Rob and Jan Partington will be bringing their N gauge British layout "Muchwaring", Peter Lucas and friends will be returning with his live steam G gauge, Paradigm will also be returning and I intend to show my HOe snow layout. This provides us with a fair cross section of gauges.

Paul and Rod from End of the Line Hobbies have also agreed to set up a traders stand and to donate a door prize. Paul has also kindly offered to cater for one lunch with a BBQ at his home. I have suggest to the CFS PR committee they run a sausage sizzle for the other lunch.

I have booked the Strathalbyn Show hall for the 27th and 28th and am currently playing with the floor plan before deciding on inviting another layout. I have considered making up an instant layout as we previously had at the Cummins Show. This proved popular at Cummins (a bit too popular when the kids spent more time watching Norm's "teddy bear's picnic" train than our layouts).

Another possibility would be a wooden Thomas set to keep the little ones amused. One advantage of this would be that it is a set and forget style of layout with derailments fairly rare and easy to rectify. However I will need to spirit away Jesse's prized battery powered Thomas, carriages and some tracks without him noticing. I have recently been caught "testing" this idea with Jesse on the family room floor a little too regularly when I should have been doing chores. The only disadvantage I can see is the temptation to little fingers but, unlike our finely crafted models, they bounce.

Anyway I will keep you all updated as I progress.

Cheers
Andrew

Late Night Run

At the request of members, Saturday 7th April (Easter) was another of our popular late night runs. Being Easter, attendance was a little lower than usual but a good time was had by all. A nice little extra was the bowl of Easter eggs, thanks to Vivien.

Clean up

Tuesday 15th May

This night will be a clean up in preparation for the activities on Saturday. It will only take a short time if all help so there will be no running until the clubrooms are ready for our guests.

Special Opening Time

Saturday 19th May

Due to the visit by the N Scale Convention (see below) the clubrooms will be open at 12:00 pm so that we can be ready

N scale Convention

The attendees of the N Scale Convention are to visit our clubrooms in the afternoon of Saturday 19th May as part of their layout tours. They will come in four coach loads of around 25.

Groups will arrive approximately one hour intervals starting at 12:30, each group will stay for about one hour to give all time to view our layouts and socialise over a drink and some munchies.

We will need a few members to show them around and answer questions and others to help with drinks etc. the rest will just have to put up with running some trains.

As this will be an official event you are requested to wear your club shirt.

An attendance sheet is on the noticeboard.

Club Shirts

The club has stocked up on shirts so if you do not have one now is the time to correct the omission. There has been a small price increase, they are now \$24

For Sale

The small layout that currently resides under the end of permanent layout is surplus to our needs so bidding is open to all. Place your bid in an envelope with your name and hand it to any Committee member or post it to our mail box. Bidding closes at the next committee meeting (4th June)

The layout comes as is with track, wiring and some scenery but no controller.

Display Running

As we have gained some new members recently it is probably time to have a training session for display running. With the way that Paradigm is set up for multiple operators, display running is a completely different ballgame to the normal individual Saturday running. First, it is done for the benefit of the paying public. Second you will be operating trains belonging to other people and possibly 2 or 3 at once.

A date has not been set for this but it will happen soon after the track modifications to Paradigm are finished. Watch the notice board.

June Long Weekend

Paradigm has been accepted for display at Greyhound Park.

The cut off date for this list has now passed, if you were not on the list you will have to organise your own pass.

2006 Exhibition DVD

These are available for \$1 to cover costs.

Please see Tony about getting yours.

Help

In an attempt to speed up the progress on the permanent layout Ron would like some helpers for the scenery, so see him to join in, newbies are welcome.

There are also a few wiring jobs to be done and you should see Tony to help in this area, but with the time constraints in place, this is not a teaching exercise, only those competent with circuits and a soldering iron please.

Other events

Mildura Exhibition

22nd - 23rd September

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday

Irymple Leisure Centre 5 kms from Mildura