

Hills Model Railway Society Inc.
PO Box 555
Castle Hill NSW 1765

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PUBLICATION OF THE HMRS INC.

Hills Rail Time

Merry Christmas



to all our readers.

Well, here we are as 2017 comes to a close and I need to say I'm sorry and apologise to you all that I haven't been able to keep you informed of what's been happening within the Society. Things have changed, and this programme is now working again so expect to see more editions over the coming year, 2018

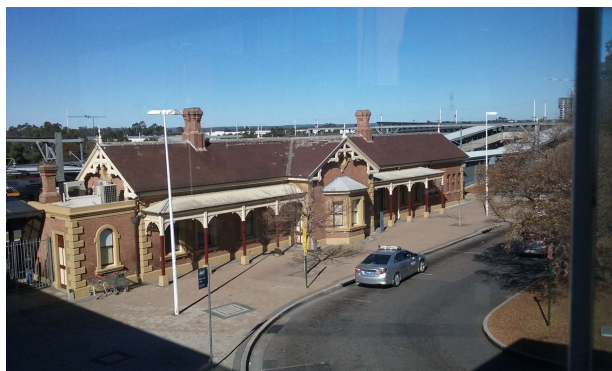
Do you have anything you would like to share?

All you need to do is feed me the information, anything that you consider your fellow members might be interested in.

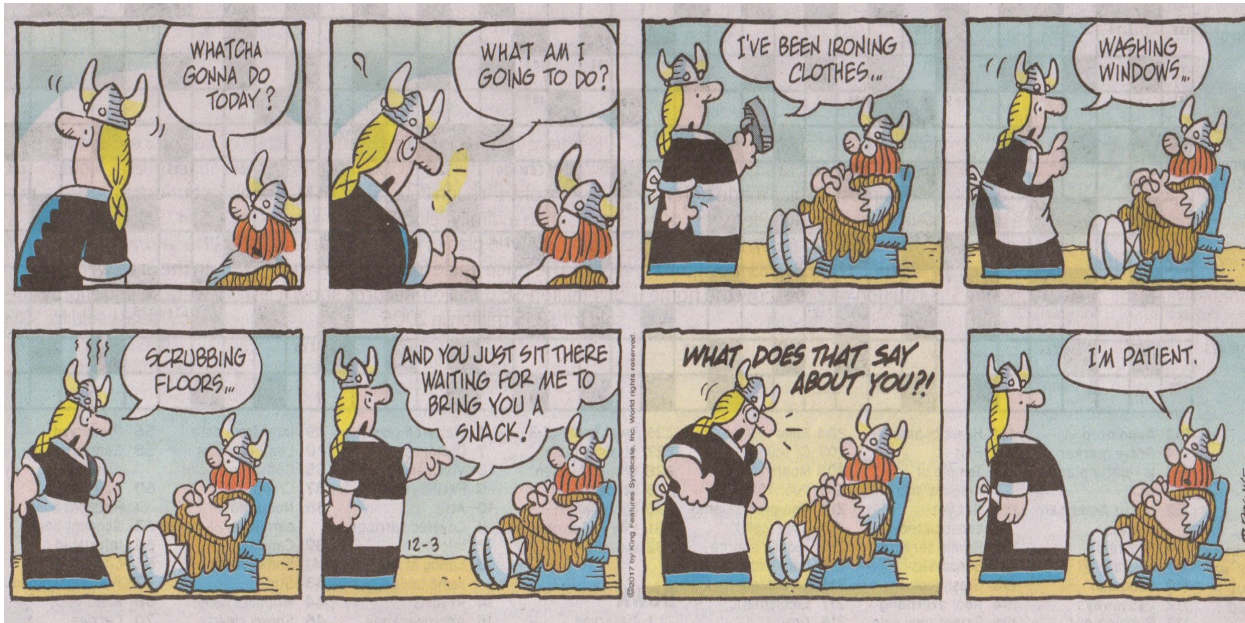
By the way, if you haven't heard, trains are coming to Castle Hill, yes trains their on the way, We had some hick-ups with the 2018 Harvey Lowe Exhibition Hall Hire from council.

Its now finally been booked for the 21st and 22nd July 2018, the 3rd full weekend. Mark it on your calendars, yearly planners and in your diary, we need everybody to assist this year and we need to be successful. Feel free to promote the exhibition as much as possible, we need to get it out there to the public and have a successful exhibition.

This looks like our last year at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill Showground.



Because I can. He's a brave man.



2018 Exhibition Calendar. - Mark your calendars.

March 3rd and 4th - Forestville - layout, Tulong

March 17th and 18th - Stanhope Gardens - layout, Royton

June 9th to 11th - Rosehill Racecourse - layout, Royton and Tulong ?

July 21st and 22nd - Castle Hill - layout, Tulong and U Drive

Possible October 20th and 21st - Murrurundi - layout, Tulong

Just for your information, you might need this when travelling.

The **National Public Toilet Map** has information about more than 16000 available public toilets across Australia. It includes accessibility and opening hours. It could also help you plan a trip so you know where the pit stops are.

For more information go to (www.toiletmap.gov.au)

What kind of transport gives people colds?

What kind of pet did Aladdin have?

(see last page for answers)

Trains Spotting at Mount Lofty

- On Saturday November 18th four of the HMRS Club members set off for South Australia and the Mt. Lofty railway station, located within the 'Adelaide Hills', to capture on film the many intermodal train consists with assorted freight plus the infrequent passenger trains. Mt. Lofty station sits unused by commercial rail traffic, but is privately leased.



The original station master's residence plus the old signal box have been upgraded as comfortable accommodation. This suits train buffs to enjoy and view the passage of trains or may be used by families or for a small business conference.

Early listings of sections for the original broad-gauge track from Adelaide rail yards began in 1883 to Maine; then to Murray Bridge in 1886, the Sleeps Hill Deviation in 1919; with double track to Mitcham laid in 1908. Extensions from Sleeps Hill to Eden, then Belaire through 1928 with the quadrupling of line from Adelaide to Goodwood in 1929.

The track elevation peak is at Mt. Lofty station in just under 97 kilometres over the Adelaide to Murray Bridge section. Historically this was reported as a real test of strength and endurance for early steam and still is for present diesel electric locomotives today. The most significant aspect is a rise to 676.4 metres



from Adelaide and a fall of 690 metres in just over 93 kilometres to Murray Bridge.



Now a single track standard gauge main line, except for a short dual gauge section near Melbourne, with work today still under way to modify the secondary tracks to standard gauge. The overall resulting track length from Adelaide to Melbourne is now 828 kilometres with passing loops of at least 1500 metres in length located approximately every 20 to 40 kilometres.

Great Southern Rail operates the twice weekly passenger service on The Overland passing through Mt. Lofty, the remaining goods trains viewed were a mix of Specialised Container Transport and Pacific National the largest freight company in Australia being well represented during the week. A Genesee & Wyoming Australia wheat consist and the last few AURIZON Intermodal Freight trains passed with their interstate transportation business about to cease.





One could not miss the many and 'intriguing' graffiti on some of the rolling stock, more specifically the bulk wheat wagons. Aside from these we were treated to a plethora of containers, sheet and rolled steel flat cars and wagons, bulk liquid tanks, sheet timber and large PVC drainage pipes.

Club members donned our 'Hi-Viz' orange safety vests and positioned our tripod, camera and ourselves at track side, on and under road bridges, on platform and any site that would create a great photograph or movie. The normal or S.A. 'blacked-out' signal protocol meant we had to have our ears peeled for the pending arrival of trains, with then a fast dash to our



camera positions. At platform track side the obvious slope and tight curves of the tracks down to Adelaide and up from Murray Bridge were quite unexpected when seen for the first time. The longer consists up to 1500 metres in length had 3 to 5 locomotives all straining under load and putting out clouds of sand to maintain wheel traction.



A section of track south of the station contained a partial water wash-away of track ballast, due to the heavy pounding of locomotive bogies using their anti-slip control, smashing the ballast stone into a powder like cement grey bonded together by the water runoff. Positioned at just over an arm length from track side, watching a multi headed consist from



Adelaide, you could see the track together with cement sleepers vibrating and feel the surrounding ground moving beneath one's feet.

Residents from the local township of Stirling must have at one time complained of noise and the ear-splitting screech of wheels on rail. We noted a grease reservoir and automatic track greasing system at the station which activated when signals displayed green. Regardless of this system the noise was still an impact

on the ears at track side.



AURIZON Intermodal - length 1500 metres - Melbourne to Adelaide at Mount Lofty Station



Although we had acquired the November timetable for rail traffic though Mt. Lofty, with some times a long wait between trains, some rarely on-time or others pass-

ing early before sunrise or the next day. Regardless our club members enjoyed the passage of trains, food and friendship with the occasional tippie of red wine or beer.



A big thank you to Bruce for the short story. Maybe, part 2 in the next issue.

Can you help, I've been asked if anyone can help.

Looking for photograph of the Tug 'AJAX' sister tug for the, 'ATLAS'

Both identical, except in name.



Over the last twelve months there seems to be some damage to our layouts and no-one seems to know how it's happened. PLEASE, if you notice any damage or you accidentally damaged anything, please let the layout co-ordinator know so repairs and be planned.

Unusual Photographs.

Do you have any you would like to share?



Answers.

A choo choo train. ——— A flying car-pet.

Do you know where this photograph was taken?



Answers to the quiz in the last issue.....

Due to the time frame, I left the photograph here.

You can find this location North of the Colo Vale railway station. Well worth a visit to the

Please Note.

The society rooms will be closed on Tuesday 26th, boxing Day and reopen as normal at other times. Keep an eye open on the Facebook page over the next week or so, competition photograph, congratulations to all our winners.

The committee would like to thank everyone who entered the modelling competition this year. Our standard of models increase each year, keep up the good work.

WE'RE ON THE WEB — WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU

Email: secretary@hmrs.org.au

DID YOU KNOW?

Old age is when you bend over to tie your shoelaces and you think:
Is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?