

# HILLS RAIL TIME

HILLS MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.

PO BOX 555 CASTLE HILL NSW 1765

ISSUE 10 - APRIL 2019

PUBLICATION OF THE HMRS INC.

## EXHIBITION

### **HMRS Major Fundraiser at Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope 2019**

THIS YEAR WE ARE MOVING  
TO A NEW AND BIGGER  
VENUE TO INCLUDE MORE  
CLUB LAYOUTS, HOBBY  
SHOPS AND TRADE  
EXHIBITORS.

All members are expected  
to be in attendance both  
for setup and all weekend.

SETUP HOURS:  
FRIDAY MAY 17,  
12 MIDDAY TO 9PM

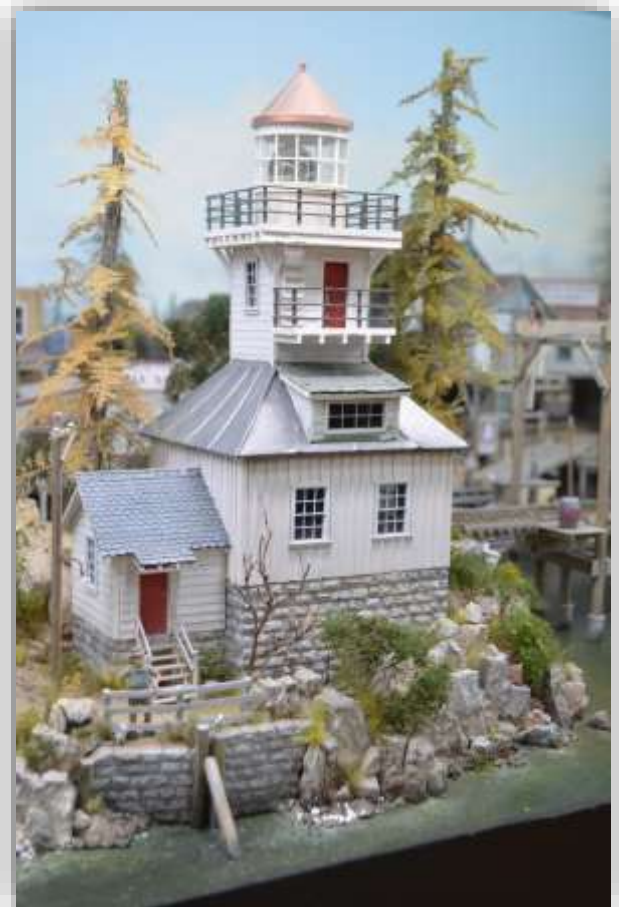
EXHIBITION HOURS:  
SATURDAY MAY 18, 9AM - 5PM &  
SUNDAY MAY 19, 9AM - 4PM

DISMANTLE  
SUNDAY MAY 19, 4 PM – 7PM

**REMEMBER:**  
**THIS IS YOUR CLUB AND MANY  
HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.**

## SMUGGLERS COVE

**HAS ARRIVED IN THE USA  
SAFE AND UNDAMAGED.**



*The recent visit by Charlie Getz (NMRA), Peter Jensen and their wives at our December 2018 barbecue was an enjoyable moment. Approval was given to initiate the shipping process to have this layout transferred to a new railway museum in Sacramento, California, USA.*

### FEEDBACK ABOUT SMUGGLERS COVE

Email from Charlie Getz, April 3rd

*"Had a meeting with our fabricator Gizmo in SF this AM. Smugglers Cove was there in excellent condition. Great job of packing and shipping. So, it is here safe and sound. Our never-ending gratitude to AR and all those involved in building and dedicating themselves to making this masterpiece available to us.*

*It is a tribute to the builders including the late Geoff Knott and the AR officers and Board to make such a magnificent contribution to the NMRA exhibit on Scale Model Railroading.*

*The public will be gobsmacked 😊 with this fantastic layout. Gizmo was!*

*Thanks again and best wishes to all concerned,  
Charlie"*

**A sincere vote of thanks to Ron McIntosh for his tireless effort in being our Editor-in-Chief for many past issues of The Hills Rail Times.**

If you have some ability with Microsoft Word, we have the document template and we would be grateful if members would have a go!

Bruce Roberts  
President

### MODELLING COMPETITION

Awards have been distributed to the 2018 members who contributed to our competition. There were five first place winners of rolling stock and one diorama, plus a second diorama judged the Best-in-Show.

- Open Junior Kit Built Rolling Stock  
L.N.E.R. Bulk Grain Wagon  
Kevin Houseman.
- Open Kit and Modified  
Locomotive and Rolling Stock  
E.M.D. Test Car  
Gary Vaughan
- Open Diorama  
Australian Bush Narrow gauge Line  
Daniel Thomson
- Open Kit and Modified Structure  
Webster's Ltd Warehouse  
Rick Sharp
- Open Scratch Built Rolling Stock  
Maintenance Flat Car  
Harvey Facer
- Best in Show - Open Diorama,  
Australian bush narrow gauge  
Daniel Thompson
- Open Diorama 2<sup>nd</sup> Place,  
Foot of the Mountain  
Harvey Facer

Believe it or not we had three photographic wins, judged by members and their partners at our Christmas party. Ron Seddon scooped the pool and was so embarrassed he had to hide behind a building pillar in the function room as these awards were announced.

**Get your ideas and cameras ready for 2019 as the judging close off date is November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

#### 40<sup>TH</sup> HMRS EXHIBITION - STANHOPE

**By now all should be aware of this exhibition along with our first venue change in many years**

This year we are twice the size covering an area of two basketball courts with 22 club layouts (including TULONG and U-Drive), plus 11 trade exhibitors.

**This will require additional effort from all members with potentially new attendees to a train show from the local western Sydney areas.**

**The exhibition activity rosters are now placed in our club rooms, so please 'shoulder the load' for the many tasks during setup/pack-up and running for this weekend.**

#### IMPORTANT 2019 EXHIBITION DATES

Please keep aware of the annual exhibitions that are listed on the noticeboard and help out as these rosters are published:

Please place these dates in your diary:

- May 18-19 HMRS at Stanhope
- June 8-10 Epping at Rose Hill
- August 10-11 Märklin at Thornleigh
- August 3-4 Malkara at Canberra
- October 5-7 AMRA at Homebush

#### IMPORTANT 2019 CLUB MEMBER DATES

Please place these in your diary:

- Modelling judging close off date is November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Annual General Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November
- Christmas Party on the 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Northmead Bowling Club.

#### LAYOUT PROTOCOLS

Our endeavours to reduce user congestion on the increasingly popular DCC HO layouts the committee has introduced the following:

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month our junior members have priority to run on TULONG. The remaining Fridays of the month juniors have priority on Springfield Junction. Senior members may join either layout should run space be available.

TULONG has a running protocol located on the window wall for new and existing users to which your attention is drawn. Although specifically for this layout, most of the Do's and Don'ts can be applied to all layouts.

As a call to layout coordinators, it would be worthwhile creating similar posters specific to each layout. Certainly, a first step in highlighting the idiosyncrasies of the layouts relative to each members DC or DCC running skills.



# Excursion to/from Mount Lofty – Nov 2017

After some cajoling from our Ron McIntosh back in 2018, herein the part two of our trip to and from the Adelaide Hills (Refer HRT Issue 9). Travelling via a Mitsubishi Triton utility with a well-stocked and suspension testing load of supplies, ruck sacks, cameras, tripods and of course sufficient liquid refreshment, we left Sydney on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> for Mount Lofty.

If you ever wish to replicate this trip, club members can refer you to one member who has intimate knowledge of every bakery and cake shop from Sydney, through to Murray Bridge and down into Adelaide. Not only this, he is a master barbeque operator.

Late into the afternoon of day one we managed by telephone to twist the owner's



arm to hold open and have the opportunity to visit Elmore Miniature Railway (Railway Rd, Elmore VIC 3558). The railway had since been acquired from the creator and owner, by the local school teacher and his family, plus the original members. All have continued the operation of the railway which is set in the middle of town. The track

layout is spread over a few hectares surrounded by natural vegetation alongside a branch line and wheat silo. Passenger carriages have internal seating being suitable for the younger age group and even us oldies. Regular maintenance was obvious, being a testament to the enthusiasts' dedication to this railway's





longevity, for the enjoyment of visiting children and rail enthusiasts. Locomotives had petrol driven engines plus a few battery-powered utility vehicles.

Lever operated turnout switching was used to route trains to and from the station, around the grounds, over and under a trestle bridge and back to the maintenance sheds.

After our train rides we're back in the car and onwards we travelled stopping the night at Bridgewater on the Calder Highway, Vic. We had several disconcerting moments fighting with a mechanical motel receptionist mounted on a wall, which only wanted our credit card before dropping our room keys into a box below. After several attempts we succeeded in getting into our rooms, then



us travellers, but we left the locals to the visiting band, dancing plus a mechanical bull for the children's enjoyment.



headed across the highway and river to the Loddon Bridge Hotel for dinner. This appeared to be the only open hotel as all the locals had come to town. Each in their elegant evening attire, which looked to us city folk almost as if straight from an R.M. William's store. Dinner was well received by





Day two we visited the town bakery for a quick breakfast, although it was thoroughly enjoyed, it may not have benefitted our waistline, but the coffee was great.

Continuing on our way we came across a turntable and water tank relics and many rail crossings. We pulled up at one crossing for a passing Pacific National freight and received a friendly wave and horn blast from the engine driver. We shared the driving throughout the day arriving at Mount Lofty in early evening ready for the week ahead. Despite the time spent over dinner thanks to our travelling chef and video camera man, we managed to get some night freight photographs before retiring for the evening.



Only once was the entire driver's cabin of one oncoming diesel locomotive illuminated by a camera flash. The offender will remain anonymous, but the drivers of trains during the night and at sunrise unwittingly had their comeback, as their head and ditch lights created reflection within our camera's lens.





Monday, we were all up to catch an early freight train but the rail time table was empty for the main part of the day, so we headed off to Port Adelaide for the Aviation and National Railway Museums.



Much to the delight and joy to behold by one member was an F-111 fighter jet, since being donated from the RAAF. If the opportunity presents itself this site is well recommended to enthusiasts and families alike. Many planes can be viewed under and over or walked into or through the fuselage. Several older planes and more

recent designs have a service history through recent and many past conflicts. A quick walk 'next door' we entered the rail museum to both ride a narrow-gauge train and view many of the excellently restored locomotives and rolling stock.



Of course, there were some older relics awaiting their turn for rust removal and a lick of paint. Attention to detail both in quality of restoration and artefacts on display being a credit to the museum's staff and volunteers.





The grounds around the museum hold a story book of history, if only we knew what some of the old railway relics had been through in their service life.

Remembering the past transport options from passenger to goods rolling stock was certainly a memory jogger. At one stage you ask yourself where have I seen this before or even - what is that!



So, make this a mandatory stop when next in Adelaide as the entry fee covers both museums and one or two train rides throughout the day.



Returning back to the present day of railways driving back to Mount Lofty, we encountered Adelaide's city light rail while still under construction including their main roads expansion.





We decided to let this light rail train pass, but one has to 'watch out' when turning left for the rising boom gate in this case!! I can't speak too loudly as I upset a local driver at a round-about the previous day.

Safely back at Mount Lofty station we settled into another barbeque, liquid refreshment and a floodlit night of photography.

Mid-week we investigated a very nice luncheon shop near Belaire (more calories), before moving on to the local station. Belaire station sits across the main narrow-gauge Melbourne to Adelaide line, plus is the end of the line for interurban broad-gauge trains.

A sight quite unexpected was a wig-wag signal, amongst the collection of signals and signs at the rear of the station.



At weeks end our return journey home was uneventful via Murray Bridge, although we missed trains on the bridge the nearby park holds a few relics of the past. The Murray

River at this point has a characteristic odour of its own, which may not be to the liking of visitors' intent on a riverboat cruise and luncheon.





We departed and drove past many of the regional wheat silos and rail sidings. Taking photographs from a moving vehicle did have its difficulties, but the camera 'sports mode' was great, if only one could only maintain the camera level.

Our driver at the time did well putting up with the camera shutter clicks behind his head or over his shoulder. Of course, we had to check out the progress of rail work from broad to standard gauge at a few rail



crossings. Roadside scenic shots taken through the car windows while being driven at 100kms/hr were surprisingly good.



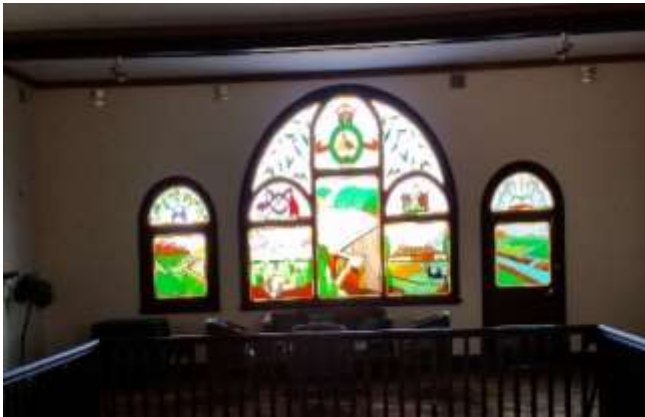
Our overnight stop at Leeton at the Hydro Motor Inn was a step back in time as one could visualise the former glory of this establishment. The foyer and upstairs window mural are an example of this region's history.





A buffet breakfast was enjoyed by all then we departed for Sydney via the Hay Plains, but wait-for-it more photography!!

We saw the local farmers doing their bit for Australia's economy and happened upon a wheat consist being loaded from a pair of new steel silos. See if you can spot the 'grease monkey' up on the conveyor belt gantry, above the left silo, diligently pumping grease into every one of the belt's roller bearings.



Driving on through Temora we happened upon another local coffee shop, but passed it by as 'witch craft' was not on our menu.



However, the pangs of hunger made us stop at Gunning. The local bakery and cake shop were duly visited for lunch, which was consumed whilst sitting on the station platform.

To our surprise we were greeted by this station poster stating that "*Elvis had not left the building*". So, it appears State Rail and even the locals were getting ready for the Elvis Festival, with trains to leave Central Station, Sydney for the seven-hour ride to Parkes on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018



After lunch as I sat on a disused concrete plinth, previously occupied by a point lever switch, I managed to catch on camera an empty steel train passing through.

Just as well I don't wear a broad brimmed hat or it would have been carried off by the passing headwind from the train.

From this point we headed off for home after a week of camaraderie and with thousands of photographs between us.

Not to mention another member who has a collection of live videos on four DVD.

Thanks guys, the time was great. If you get the chance GO and to do something like this!

**Bruce**





#### REMINDER FOR DCC USERS

Checkout the Power/ProCAB identification list on the noticeboard as you enter the club hallway. You must adhere to these club IDs to eliminate duplication. They will cause operational failure of layouts or conflicting locomotive control.

Remember for your home layout, you will need to change your CAB ID back to suit which DCC booster you use. Information is provided for home, club use and instruction steps for CAB ID settings.

***Please advise a layout coordinator if you acquire a new CAB to have an ID issued.***

#### STIMULATE YOUR MIND

**Why was Cinderella no good at football?**

Because her coach was a pumpkin!

**How do you make a jacket last?**

Make the trousers first!

**Why did the strawberry get a lawyer?**

Because it was is a jam!

**What does a frog do when his car breaks down?**

He gets it toad away!

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE EXISTING AND NEW CONTENT ON OUR WEB SITE PLUS FACEBOOK PAGES.**

**WEB – [WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU)**



**hillsmodelrailwaysociety**

And if all else fails, send an email to our secretary! [secretary@hmrs.org.au](mailto:secretary@hmrs.org.au)