



Right On Track

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Visit us on the internet at www.nmri.web1000.com

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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

Below: Paradigm on display at Mt Compass with a few eager helpers looking on. See story page 3



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 Committee	Norm Andrew David Morley

**Next Committee meeting
7:30pm Monday 5th June 2006**

Adelaide Exhibition

**10th – 12th June
9:30 – 5:00 Sat / Sun 9:30 – 4:00 Monday
Greyhound Park**

NMRI are not displaying at this event as Paradigm will be at the Ballarat exhibition.

Ballarat Exhibition

**10th – 12th June
Times to be advised
Eastwood Leisure Centre Ballarat**

Do you wish to go? Fill out the attendance form for this and Stawell on the noticeboard. Should be a couple of good weekends.

Stawell Exhibition

**8th – 9th July 2006
9:00 – 6:00 Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 Sunday
SES Hall – Sloane St Stawell Vic**

Flier on the noticeboard
We have been invited to again be a part of this great weekend and the paperwork has been sent. Fill out the attendance form for this and Ballarat on the noticeboard

Swapmeet

**30th July
9:00am – 12:00pm
Reynella Neighbourhood Centre**

Book and pay for your table early as 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 free entry per table

Part proceeds help support the St John Volunteers

Our Exhibition

**7th – 8th October
9.30am-5:00pm Saturday
9.30am-4:00pm Sunday
Mitsubishi Entertainment Centre
1284 South Road, Tonsley Park**

There will be a short Team Leader meeting Saturday 27/5/06 after PMT (4:30) at clubrooms to bring everyone up to date, check on progress and sort any problems.

See the notice board at the clubrooms for a helpers list and more information.

Part proceeds help support the St John Volunteers

Card Table Swap

**Friday 3rd November
7:30am – 9:00pm
NMRI Clubrooms**

Book and pay for your table early as 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 free entry per table

Reynella Fair

**Sunday 12 November
All day**

Another full day of sizzling, more details nearer the time.

Mt Compass

We displayed Paradigm at the Mt Compass Area School Fete on Sunday 9th April. Located in the clubrooms on the oval we were joined by the Classic Train Collectors with their layout and surrounded by various craft displays. As this display was put on to help raise funds for the school we only charged a minimal fee and used the day to promote our upcoming swapmeets, October exhibition and the club.

Once set-up we ran into some problems caused by recent alterations to the layout. One of these was crosstalk between two controllers; this was traced to the earth connection of the track detectors and was cured by temporally disconnecting one detector. The second problem was track misalignment at the exit of the top fiddle yard caused by a build up of scenic material, some gentle persuasion of the scenery with a screwdriver and our troubles were over.



The set-up was what has become a standard for NMRI, no barriers and lots of 'hands on' experience for the viewing public. We have found this to be generally a good way to get the public, especially the kids, so engrossed in controlling the layout that they forget about 'looking' at the scenery with their hands and the layout survives quite unscathed.

Throughout the day there was a steady stream of drivers and onlookers. The event organisers were very happy with our display and the day in general and there was some talk of repeating it next year. There was the usual mix of stalls found at such an event including ice creams, plants and produce, hot food, drinks, music etc. there were also some hotrods on display.

Thanks to all that helped to transport, set-up, run and pack up Paradigm to make this a successful day.

Noarlunga Craft Fair

Once again we were asked to display Paradigm at the Noarlunga Craft Fair, another one day display for us to promote our hobby and coming events. We were in the same position as last year and Peter set-up his live steam along side so that we could all get a regular dose of that sweet smell to help us over the stress of working with diseasels. At least that is what we like to believe, the public probably thought it was actually for their benefit. In between while waiting for his loco to cool and be refilled the track power was changed to allow normal locos to run to keep the public entertained. Paradigm went together and ran all day without a hitch except a few operator errors, unfortunately Peter had a problem early on but this was easily cured and he was soon up and running.

Andrew brought along his DCC control and following all the claims from the experts that “you only need two wires to the track” we just hooked up the two track-power wires to the yard on Paradigm and were off and running instantly. Norm spent much time shuffling up and down the yard blowing the horn etc. on his latest acquisition, a railcar set, while Andrew’s steam locomotive simmered on one of the side tracks. Every now and then he would come to his senses, park the railcars and run the steamer. He was having so much fun that I will predict that it will not be long before Norm is hooked on shunting.

Because we do not always listen to the “experts” it was a simple matter of flicking one switch to return to our normal twin controller DC in the shunt yard for those with locomotives not yet converted to DCC. This is something we were told in no uncertain terms “could not be done as the voltage doubling will kill all the decoders” It is lucky that we know better, eventually the whole layout will be like this.

Throughout the day there was a queue of kids having a go on the controls, one of two got a little carried away and needed to be reminded that we run trains not slot cars but many of them did a fine job, some better than one or two members! One of the highlights for these kids was the ability to blow the whistle / horn and ring the bell on the locomotives that have sound chips fitted, as there are now more members with these it was quite noisy at times.

To all the visitors that we attracted we handed out fliers promoting our October exhibition and other coming events, the next of which is the July swapmeet. I overheard two teenage girls looking at the layout and discussing “how cool it would be to be about this big” while holding their fingers at a close distance. They were looking at some of the recent changes to the cutting end of the layout and especially the trees while imagining walking along the road.

Thank you to all that helped with this display I believe we made a good impression and hopefully will realise the results at our exhibition.

Our next outing is Ballarat over the June long weekend, only a few weeks away so no major changes will be made to Paradigm, just the usual little additions to keep it fresh.

Cowra NSW

On a recent trip to Sydney I Passed through Cowra, between West Wyalong and Bathurst. I visited the Japanese war cemetery.

I did not realize that the Lachlan Valley Rail Museum that used to be in Parkes had relocated to Cowra, so at 9 am I went to have a look, the signs said closed, but the gate was unlocked, so I went in. A few old ex railway workers were busy restoring a host of old NSW rail stock, a lot of old steam locos, freight wagons and passenger carriages. There were also many examples of diesel locos most of these are operational, in fact they were about to take one for a trip 30 kilometres down the line, so I prepared to leave, even though they had only shown me through their half-restored Roundhouse and workshop, with various projects in all stages of progress. You can imagine my surprise when they told me, STAY and look around just lock the gate when you leave! I thoroughly recommend that any railfan passing through this area plan a visit. I had a great morning.

Just 5 Kilometres down the road, heading towards Bathurst is another private museum that they recommended to me, it's on the left side of the road and is a combined war / car / bike and rail museum with an unbelievable collection including, what they advertise as, the world's biggest working HO model railway. While I doubt this claim, it is a good, busy, working model, well worth the few gold coins to get in.

For the petrol heads in the club (John) I also drove around the track at Bathurst and the brake marks from Ambrose and Murphy last year are still there.

While in Sydney Brisbane and Melbourne I visited a number of Rail shops that most of you long term members are probably familiar with, but a new bloke like me had not seen before, I came away satisfied that here in Adelaide we are pretty well catered for.

In future when the club librarian / journalist returns from these club field trips a less hostile return reception would be appreciated!

Ken

Have Your Say

Do you have something to get off your chest? If you would like to have some input or get across a point then as long as it is related to the club / railways and not too controversial this is the place. Send a letter or email to the Editor

No input again this month, everything must be hunky dory!

For sale

7 x Bachmann Spectrum passenger cars in Union Pacific	\$30 each or \$200 for all
2 x Proto 2000 PA 1 & PB 2 in Union Pacific	\$220 or \$120 each
2 x Athearn PA's painted in Northern Pacific PA 1 & PB 2 with Lima motors	\$40 or \$25 each
Athearn passenger cars in Amtrak	\$12 each
1 x Bachmann Spectrum 4-8-2 steam locomotive in Union Pacific	\$180
1 x Bachmann Spectrum 2-8-0 steam locomotive in Union Pacific	\$180
1 x Northern Models CK class with Athearn	\$140
1 x Athearn diesel GP 40 in Conrail	\$65
1 x Athearn diesel GP 50 in Burlington Northern	\$65
1 x Dual Gauge Product CK class body with brass parts	\$60
1 x Dual Gauge Product T class Body with brass parts	\$60
Shoe box full of Lima motors & more	\$ mix prices

Phone Michael (08) 82701002

On the Notice Board

Attendance lists:

Exhibition – Ballarat
June 10th – 12th

Exhibition – Stawell
July 8th – 9th

Exhibition – Ours at Mitsubishi
October 7th – 8th

If you are interested in attending / helping, fill in the relevant details to help with the organising.

Top and Tails

While we are on the subject of displays and exhibitions, the Committee would like to remind everyone that it is club policy for all members to wear a club shirt / windcheater at all official functions.

There are several sizes of t-shirts in stock; the current price is \$20, which includes the emblem on the pocket.

For windcheaters please buy one in a grey as near as possible to the shirts and the club will have the emblem embroidered for you at cost

October Exhibition

A helpers list and jobs to do chart are on the notice board so add your name to be a part of the best model railway exhibition.

Replies are in from traders and layout owners, a good percentage have been via our Online Application.

The acceptances will be sent out this month and then we can get on with organising another great exhibition. The first item on the agenda is a short Team Leader meeting Saturday 27/5/06 after PMT (4:30) at clubrooms to bring everyone up to date, check on progress and sort any problems. If any Team Leader cannot attend please let me know so that we can make some alternative arrangements.

While this meeting is really for the Leaders, other members are welcome to add their ideas and opinions. I will arrange a full meeting for all helpers a little closer to the exhibition.

Online Train Spotter

Have you ever wondered what it is like to go train spotting but do not know the best place or time? Perhaps you do not own an anorak. Fear not, as there is an online version you can try in the privacy of your home with the ability to do all the things that entertain the serious train spotter. You can find it at <http://www.rbz.smartemail.co.uk/>

New Heights

The Committee have decided to buy four new stools for use when Paradigm is on display. Being foldable, they will fit in to the trailers to make it easier for transporting; we will keep the current stools be for use at the clubrooms.

Cleaning duties

The club would like to acquire some cleaning wagons for use at both the clubrooms and when we are on display. We need a volunteer(s) to make a few of each with various couplers to suit US, UK and Australian so that those that do not have their own can still help to keep the track clean. This will improve the running qualities of all trains.

New prices

Due to the increased cost of all chocolate bars, they are now \$1.20 each

Special Diet Coke cans are now 70c each, only while stocks last.

Note, all other drinks are still \$1

The Romance of British Steam

Course 64244 Friday 26 May 2006

1 session x 3 hours \$24

WEA centre 223 Angus Street Adelaide
Tony Gates BA,L.TH.

Enrolments Ph 8223 1979 Fax 8232 3690

www.wea-sa.com.au

I believe this is the same course as last time