

Central Otago Model News

Newsletter of IPMS Central Otago Model Society Inc

August 2017

Thoughts from Andrew

Our recent weekend workshop was a great success. There was a lot of work done on the rail joining system on club modules by Rex and Grant. Simon was busy working on the new corner module. Steve, Nigel, Jude, Bob and others busy building their kits as the IPMS competitions draws nearer. Lochland and Ryan continue to scenic their own layouts, ballasting and rock formations and I helped out as well. Overall a productive time had by all.

The club photo competition was held and after much deliberation a winner was picked. **WELL DONE TO STEVE** for his entry, the photo of his tank.



We shared fish and chips for tea and some members then continued to work into the night. Deidre provided vege soup, scones, cakes and pizza which was enjoyed by everyone. A big **THANKS TO DEIDRE** for that.



Community House Workshop

Sunday 13th August

Workshop 1-4

Meeting 4-5

... and ...

Scout Hall Workshop

Sunday 20th August

Workshop 1-5



Thoughts from Steve

July 15-16 was the weekend we held our winter workshop and because the karate club weren't using the hall on Friday night we were able to get there at 1900 and get set up and started on our projects. I think we left about 2200 and were back there at 0800 on Saturday. This was a busy day and Lester bought up lots of goodies from his shop and members were able to purchase more kits to replace the ones nearing completion (and some extras) and the much needed paint and glue. Our meal on Saturday night was a low key affair with lots of fish and chips being purchased and disappeared quickly and then we judged all the entries for the photo realism trophy (see the rear view of my Abrams tank) which was chosen as winner. My sister (Robyn Hills Photography) offered some tips on improving last year's photo and I took her advice and it worked. Desert followed which consisted of fruit salad and ice cream. Rex slept in the hall that night to guard our models (said he was in training for a tramp and getting used to sleeping in cold huts) but secretly we think he just



wanted to play more trains and get an early start modelling and playing trains on Sunday. It was -6 that morning so would have been very cold in the scout hall. This was an awesome weekend with lots of fun and laughter - thanks to all who turned up to make it a great weekend and especially to Deidre for all her yummy cooking.

My B-29 that I have been working on for over 25 years was completed. At last years workshop I got the wings attached so has taken a year to get the decals on and propellers and glazing fitted. The nose art is positioned further back because someone wanted to cut out the side to show off the interior but no one would know if I didn't tell you.



Simon worked on the new layout module buildings all weekend and you can see by the picture the approximate position they will be in. I have another one to paint and weather now (they are all supposed to look the same but different). This is a great way to practice your weathering techniques - do it on the club stuff and then you get it right for your own models. It's going to be a busy scene when completed.



Strange things happen when you leave models alone in rooms over night - they have babies. Check out Nigel's 72 scale Trumpeter Tu95 (still in build progress) and Steve's Dragon 200 scale one (finished).



Two weeks ago we took Lyndon to Christchurch to put him on the plane to Whistler so he can do his biking thing and the trip up was the most exciting I have ever done, but that's another story. We decided to come home via Ashburton to avoid some of the flooded roads etc and I found a shop called 128 Victoria. This is a gift shop with crafty things for sale and most importantly a good quarter of the shop is devoted to models . Their card says **Gift Ware - Craft and Hobby Supplies - Collectables - Revamped Furniture** and it is a shop that the ladies would really enjoy while you look at the excellent selection of models at reasonable prices - well worth the time to visit if you are up that way. It's situated at 128 Victoria St Ashburton.

2017 IPMS Nationals

Hi There - Just a further update regarding the 2017 IPMS Nationals being held in **Alexandra 23 -24 Sep 2017**. We are pleased to let you know that registrations are now open for this event. You can do this by going to our website www.rexedra.gen.nz/coms or just Google or facebook Central Otago Model Society and just follow the simple steps (instructions included). Should you have any trouble you can contact me Steve Hills on cas4wd@vodafone.co.nz or ring me 0272218148mobile - 034486275home -

034486826work. There will be class lists and entry forms coming shortly. We look forward to having you all attend and would appreciate it if you would let all your fellow modelers know about this event and would you mind sending me a quick email letting me know that you received this. - Many thanks - Steve Hills - Secretary COMS.

Rex Johnson's Train Holiday (Part 1) Australia - May-June 2017

In Cromwell many people know the best way to beat the winter chills is to run away to somewhere warm. I (Rex) thought I would try that trick this year, so I got onto the Internet and planned myself a train holiday in Australia. Here is how my grand plan worked out.

West Australia

A day of flying got me from Queenstown to Perth and after a couple of days exploring the bright lights and skyscrapers I took my first train trip. It was on a TransWA railcar service named the Australind (1) which took me from Perth south for 167 km and 2 1/2 hours to the small harbour town of Bunbury. The train gets its name from a combination of 'Australia' and 'Indian Ocean' and was the name of a small town that is now a suburb of Bunbury.



The Australind started at Perth Central Station, which is a bit unusual as that is where all the 'local' TransPerth passenger metro units leave from. All the other regional passenger train services use a separate terminal out at East Perth a few km away. The reason for this was the Australind is a narrow-gauge service (i.e 3 ft

6 inch track), as are the TransPerth metro units. The other TransWA regional passenger services run on standard gauge track (i.e 4 ft 8 1/2 inch) which is not laid into Perth Central. This was my introduction to the multiple railway gauges used in Australia.

Kiwi's know the 3 ft 6 inch gauge as that of New Zealand's 'standard' track on our national railway network. However, in Australia this 'narrow gauge' is mainly used in Tasmania and to a smaller extent in other mainland States. The Australian 'standard gauge' track of 4 ft 8 1/2 inches dates back to the wheel width of a horse and cart in Britain and has become an international track standard. Australia also has two other gauges in common use, these being 'broad gauge' at 5 feet 3 inches and the sugar-cane tracks in Queensland at 2 feet gauge.

My Australind journey started by using TransPerth metro track as far as the suburb of Armadale, before it moved onto dedicated Australind track to Bunbury. At Pinjarra about 100 km south of Perth I spotted the Hotham Valley Railway (HVR) heritage rail operation (2), so made a note of that for a visit if I come back to WA some time. The HVR has about 32 km of narrow gauge track that had previously been used for timber milling operations. At Bunbury the Australind station was out in the suburbs. A free bus connection was provided to the city transit centre based around the original railway station which had been turned into an information centre and cafe.

I had a quiet couple of days in Bunbury, then returned to Perth on the Australind. In Perth I used the TransPerth metro service and buses to explore Freemantle, really enjoying visits to the Freemantle Prison and to the Shipwreck Museum. The next day I took a boat ride down the Swan River from Perth out to Rottnest Island where I discovered a tram that took tours to a restored heritage gun emplacement in the sandhills. During WWII the tram tracks had been supply lines to the Rottnest fortifications which were protecting a major (wartime secret) submarine base located at Freemantle.



On my last day in Perth I took another metro ride, this time to the showgrounds to see the WA Model Train Show. Here I got to meet the team from DCC Concepts, who manufacture the Cobalt digitalIP point motors we installed on our Max's Meat Works n-gauge module. We had a good discussion about these motors and about their new Cobalt-SS product (3) based on tiny stepper-motors which are intended for use surface-mounted on layout baseboards. In wandering around the show I noticed that most layouts were unfenced from public access. Also, the average floor height of layouts was noticeably lower (again to appeal to smaller folk) and the majority of displays used velcro tape glued to the outside edge of the layout to support their display-front drop cloths. A gent told me they had done away with layout barriers at model shows about seven years ago and had very few problems with inquisitive little hands.

Video

My video of layouts at the Perth and Adelaide 2017 Train Shows is on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPn0UCCD_-o

The Perth Mecanno layout is particularly impressive!

Links:

(1) Australind Railcars

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westrail_ADP/ADQ_class

(2) Hotham Valley Railway

<http://www.hothamvalleyrailway.com.au/>

(3) DCC Concepts Cobalt-SS

<https://www.dccconcepts.com/product-category/the-cobalt-collection/cobalt-point-motors/cobalt-ss/>