



# Right On Track

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Send items for inclusion in this newsletter to the Editor via e-mail at [miktrain@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## Mt. Compass School Fair

After hitching up the trailers at 8:00 am and leaving the clubrooms, we were set up at Mt Compass Oval and ready to put on our show by the 10:00 am start. This was the second time that NMRI has displayed Paradigm at this event. Positioning options are a little limited in the clubrooms so we used the same, carpeted spot as last time.

There were accolades about the “new” layout from many people that attended last year; it just shows what a little update of the scenery can do. Good job guys, the jetty scene is looking much better. The repositioning of the points and the new track adjustment method at the entrance to the top fiddle yard also worked very well and this method will be repeated at other module joins as time allows. A description of this method will appear in this newsletter soon so that interested parties can follow our lead.

With lots of help from the kids, most of the trains ran on time and there were plenty of horns and whistles from the DCC equipped locos. There was a larger crowd around the layout this year, this was probably helped by better advertising by the organisers, but we would like to think that it was helped by everyone telling their friends to check out the trains. Either way, there were times that we had queues waiting for their turn at the controls.

During the pack up process, the organisers told us that they loved our performance and extended an invite to attend again next year. This is an enjoyable day and there is no reason not to do it again.

While there were enough members to run the layout it was a little disappointing that those who have bemoaned the lack of local shows were not there to show their support. Perhaps this situation will be different at the Southern Craft Fair on 29<sup>th</sup> April where both Paradigm and Peter’s live steam will be on display.

*Next display 29<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 am - 4:00 pm -- Morphett Vale Basketball Stadium*

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

## **Southern Craft Fair**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
10:00 – 4:00  
Morphett Vale Stadium**

We are doing a display again at the Southern Craft Fair, at Morphett Vale Stadium. Peter will also be showing his live steam. An attendance sheet is on the noticeboard.

## **N Scale Convention**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Afternoon  
NMRI Clubrooms**

We are to be host to the attendees of the N Scale Convention as part of their layout tours. See the noticeboard for attendance sheet. Wear your club shirt please.

## **Casting Workshop**

### **Date & time to be advised**

Adelaide Moulding & Casting Supplies have offered to come to the clubrooms and put on a 'how to workshop'

The plan is to hold this sometime early in 2007 on one of our normal meeting days. Details will be noted here and on the notice board.

## **June Long Weekend**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Swapmeet**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Card Table Swap**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **Our Exhibition**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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?

## Croydon and Yarra Valley Tourist Railway Train Show - Healesville

The Healesville Railway Show featured both models and the real things! It was a joint venture held by the Croydon Model Railway Club (CMRC) and Yarra Valley Tourist Railway (YVTR).

The model exhibition was a small affair run by the CMRC and held in the local scout hall. Entry was \$3, 5, 15. Joint tickets to the model exhibition and YVTR trolley rides could be purchased for \$8, 12, 35. The joint ticket certainly turned out to offer excellent value!

Inside the scout hall were a handful of layouts, two major manufacturers and one or two smaller trade stands. The largest layout being the Bendigo Model Railroaders' **Elphinstone**. A HO modular layout measuring 24' by 8' constructed by the members over the last four years.



The tunnel mouth near Elphinstone Station showing that tunnels don't necessarily need to be black and ultra grubby to look superb.

The layout is a representation of Elphinstone from 1971 to 1990. Elphinstone is a small, rural town about 43km south of Bendigo on the mainline to Melbourne. Several structures on the layout were scratch built based on photos and measurements taken from the prototype. The scenery is mostly plaster layered over foam, with coverings ranging from printed bricks, dyed saw dust and grey sand. The layout is home to over 200 trees, handmade using various herb bushes, sticks and foam.

Unfortunately the other layouts were not featured heavily in the photo collection. **Thomas and Friends** built by the CMRC featured standard Thomas products and demonstrated nicely to mums and dads that a first layout need not be huge or complex to foster younger railroaders.

**End of the Line** displayed a snapshot of a once busy terminus to a VR branchline in the 1970s, before it and many others like it disappeared.

This small exhibition managed to attract a couple of major manufacturers, one was **Auscision Models**. They were very proudly exhibiting their soon to be released EL class locomotive, and various grain and coal hoppers mostly of NSW outline. Curiously, after an introduction they too seemed to know about the Noarlunga Model Railroad Club, this almost became a pattern of things to come during the weekend.

The only N scale layout in the show was **River Bend**. Built on an old door, it showed that layouts built directly from plan books can both work and look good; rolling stock was of American outline circa 1950s.



The station building and platforms of Elphinstone

The only O scale layout at the show was **Illinois Yard** the base of which is built from four hollow doors sitting on trestle legs with loose pin hinges keeping everything in position. Featuring hand laid track soldered to PCB sleepers, shell grit ballast and points made from kits. An end to end layout set in the 1950s depicting a mid west industrial yard serviced by diesels of the Pennsylvania and Santa Fe Railroads propelling freight traffic.



A general impression of the venue. Illinois Yard on the left, Elphinstone on the right.

**John Eassie** and **Austrains** were in attendance selling the current range of available locomotives. Their stand and the crowd inspecting new locos can be seen right.

Also on show were the soon to be released Victorian Y class and Victorian JX/VPCX cement wagons, both later seen running on Elphinstone. Of course no time was lost in introducing ourselves, straight away he knew who we were and we thanked him for his generous support of our last exhibition.

The CMRC also ran a raffle and small second hand stall.



A short walk away, across the road the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway were having an open day at the heritage listed Healesville Station. Originally built in 1903 and restored by the local community, it has an operating turntable, water tower and water crane.

On the walk over it seemed as though a tour was about to be led through one of the big sheds, this was quickly joined. Inside was part of the YVTR's storage and workshop facilities. They certainly have an impressive collection of rolling stock. Firstly we were greeted by a VR W car and a ZLP (number 68) further into the building was a VR Walker railmotor (153 type) in near perfect condition and the first of two VR J class steam locomotives, this one in a mostly dismantled state for inspection and cataloguing of work required, but the chassis and boiler were still in seemingly excellent condition.

The Walker railmotor had only that morning had the trailer lifted from the motor unit for inspection prior to a small amount of minor work being undertaken before it rolls down the rails carrying passengers.

Outside in the yard were a VR 'DERM' railcar (high on the 'to be restored' list), a few freight wagons loaded with logs that we later learnt were destined for use in the rebuilding of some of the bridges a little further down the line, and an immaculately restored VR W class diesel shunter (W 250).

The highlight of the day was the ride on YVTR's trolley train. Priced at \$7/9/25 the 10km, half hour round trip was certainly well worth the price. The trip commences from Healesville Station and crosses the Yarra Glen / Chum Creek Road before skirting the local racecourse. Crossing 'Watts River' the line climbs to 'Donovans Road' overbridge, further on a 1 in 40 climb begins on the sharp 'Devils Bend' curve.

The climb to the top of the high embankment provides excellent views across the Yarra Valley, before entering a deep cutting leading up to the tunnel. The tunnel built in 1888-89 from local bricks is a feature of the line, and before the YVTR could take trains through the tunnel it had to be carefully restored. The tunnel's poor state of repair included bricks falling from the roof forming the basis of the railway's 'excuse' for closing the line in 1980.

Following the work of the YVTR the trolley trains can now continue right through the tunnel and down grade toward the valley past 'Ryries Halt' to the current 'temporary end of line' at the rear of the Tarrawarra Winery. Here passengers are informed that the line between here and Yarra Glen is just a few sleepers too short to run passengers and that for now at least this is as far as they can be taken, the trolley train then reverses to bring the passengers back to Healesville.

Getting the line to Yarra Glen ready to carry passengers is currently a high priority of the YVTR and they suggest that the complete journey should be achievable within a year, by which time their Walker railcar should be fully serviceable.



Volunteers of the YVTR push the cab of the Walker Rail Motor out of the workshop



YVTR's Trolley Train heading out toward Yarra Glen having barely departed Healesville Station.



Left:  
The superbly restored W250 diesel hydraulic locomotive.

Right:  
VR DERM RM 62 the 'Spirit of Healesville' awaiting it's turn to be lovingly restored back to full operation.



Left:  
One of the tunnel's entrances, this one in particular showing the weathering effects of water and mineral deposits.

Right:  
W250 in action, shunting ZLP 68 at Healesville Station, eventually the ZLP will be seen behind a string of W cars.



# 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](http://www.endofthelinehobbies.com.au)

Fax 8552 7933

Email

[shop@endofthelinehobbies.com.au](mailto:shop@endofthelinehobbies.com.au)

### June Long Weekend

Paradigm has been accepted for display at Greyhound Park. There is an attendance list on the notice board, please fill it out if you wish to run the layout. If your name is not on the list then add it at the bottom. This information is required for passes and lunch tickets so fill it out or miss out. If you wish to take part in the Sunday night dinner it costs \$25.

The cut off date for this list is the end of April, after that you will miss out.

### 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.

### BBQ

The BBQ now has a new box, thanks to Ron and the crew. The first test was last week; all gave it the thumbs up

### Layout Damage

The permanent layout is suffering from more than its fair share of “accidental” damage, not just in the more prone areas but also some distance from the edge where it should be safe. All members are requested to take a little more care, as a lot of hard work has been expended on the layout and it is disappointing to see this damage.

### Exhibition DVD

It took some time but the DVD of photos from our 2006 exhibition is now available. It consists of a slideshow of around 400 photos including the Friday night setup, general public, individual displays and layouts and the Saturday night meal and swindle activities.

For those with computer access there is also an extras folder with all the photos and a pdf of the exhibition guide.

The Committee has decided that all members are entitled to have one of these at the special discount of \$1 to cover costs. Please see Tony about getting yours.

### Smokers

The area around the front door to the clubrooms has been cleaned of cigarette butts, all smokers are requested to please keep it that way, ie. Butt it and bin it. Thank you

## Website

Don't forget to see me if you would like your own album on our website.

Aaron has added heaps of photos from his recent trip to some exhibitions to his album in the Member's Gallery section of our site [noarail.com](http://noarail.com) there is still plenty of space for your collection.

## N scale Convention

The attendees of the N Scale Convention are to visit our clubrooms in the afternoon of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May as part of their layout tours. They will come in three coach loads of around 35.

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

## 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

## Late Night Run

At the request of members, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April (Easter) will be another of our popular late night runs. Organise your own food / take away.

## Opening Times

With the influx of new members recently there have been one or two misunderstandings about our official opening times, so to clear things up they are as follows:

**Saturday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm**  
**Tuesday 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

While the clubrooms are often open much longer, unless officially notified as a special event, any times outside of these are at the discretion of key holders (Committee Members)

## What is it?



Weighing in at 1 ton, in 1956 the 305 RAMAC was the first computer in the world with a hard disc drive. There were 50 discs 600 mm in diameter. With a massive 5Mb of storage it would not quite cut it today: we can hang 1000 times that on a key ring.

## Other events

### N scale Convention

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**8:30 am – 1:00 pm each day**

St Francis Winery Convention Centre

Contact SANGS for details

### SARMA Railshow

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Golden Grove Arts and Recreation Centre**

**5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Friday**

**9:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturday**

**9:30 am – 4:00 pm Sunday**

### Mildura Exhibition

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday**

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday**

**Irymple Leisure Centre 5 kms from Mildura**