



# Right On Track

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Clubroom Phone no. (08) 8322 7047 if it is busy (we are on the net) then try 0415 821 517

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

This newsletter is 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.

Just for the record and those that have trouble with names this is a wigwag it is found in the vicinity of railways not as some would call it a wigwam which is what Indians live in.



## **Management Committee**

President	John Cutler
Vice President	Frank Crossley
Secretary	Graham Bartlett
Treasurer	Judith Morley
Membership Manager	David Morley
Events Coordinator & Security Officer	Tony Mikolaj
Almoner	Ron Weeden
First Aid	Peter Lynch

**Next Committee meeting  
7:30pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

## **Our Exhibition 2008**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October**

**9:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturday**

**9:30 am – 4:00 pm Sunday**

**Mitsubishi Entertainment Centre**

1284 South Road Clovelly Park SA 5042

\$3 Kids \$6 Adults \$15 Families

Over 25 layouts plus displays and traders

A helper list is on the noticeboard

## **Renmark Show**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Renmark Oval**

One-day display at the Renmark Show, The Committee have decided that we will do this show so please get your name on the attendance list on the noticeboard so that we can confirm the numbers with the organisers.

## **Swapmeet**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

**7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**NMRI Clubrooms.**

Numbers will be limited by available space. \$10 per 900 mm x 750 mm table (supplied) or take advantage of the early bird discount, \$5 if paid in advance.

Strictly one person entry per table.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**2:30 pm Saturday**

**NMRI clubrooms**

These positions will be declared vacant

Vice President

Secretary

Two Committee members

## **Reynella Fair**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Reynella Oval.**

We will be doing our usual sausage sizzle

Details as they become known.

## **Celebration**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Time and location TBA

In December our clubrooms will be 10 years old, it has been suggested that we celebrate. Please make your ideas known to the Committee so that arrangements can be made.

## **Swapmeet**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**NMRI Clubrooms**

Numbers will be limited by available space. \$10 per 900 mm x 750 mm table (supplied) or take advantage of the early bird discount, \$5 if paid in advance.

Strictly one person entry per table.

## **Steam Up at Pichi Richi**

**April 2009**

**To be confirmed**

**Quorn workshops**

This is only a maybe at this stage but there is some talk of us doing a display at Quorn for the Pichi Richi. More details as they come to hand.

## **AMRE Exhibition**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Greyhound Park**

## **Sunshine Exhibition**

**August 2009**

Details as they become known

## NMRI & DCC – Outline of Proposed Standards - How we'll make it work.

As many members would be aware, the NMRI club has now moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the purchase of a Lenz DCC system. The purpose of this article is to promote a discussion around the club with a view to setting some basic ground rules for the transition toward DCC.

For a while in the lead up to the purchase of the Lenz system I have been thinking through the challenges of keeping a club DCC layout as conflict free as possible. By conflict free I mean avoiding the confusion that can result from having two locomotives with the same address on the layout at once.

I have come to the conclusion that before members get too far into setting up their locomotives with their own addressing ideas etc, the club should take the opportunity now to set some standards which will guarantee, as much as possible, trouble free DCCing within the club.

At present the club has a single hand control (the push button LH100) the rotary dial LH90 is still with the distributor awaiting upgrade to the new v3.6 software. The committee intends that the club will own only a limited number of controllers to allow members to experience each style of control before committing to purchasing their own. The club's controllers will be on hand to cover emergency situations and at exhibitions etc.



Lenz LH90



Lenz LH100

Other control options may be compatible with the Lenz system, compatibility with four digit addressing will be a must, as it is not planned to support two digit addressing for locomotives. The author has no intention of compiling a list of compatible controllers therefore; members will need to research their own XpressNet compatible options.

As mentioned the Lenz system fully supports four digit addressing, the plan is that each member will be allocated a 100 number range in which they can set the addresses for their locomotives as they wish.

Either by some form of ballot or by request (or better still, bribe) members will be assigned a two digit number between 10 and 99, this number will form the first two numbers in the address of the locomotive owned by that member, each loco in the member's collection can then be freely allocated any number between 00 and 99. This system will allow for up to 90 members, with each member being able to have up to 100 locomotives with absolute certainty that there will be no conflicts with other member's equipment.

If for example a member's number is 54 then each of their locomotives addresses will be of the form 54XX, if the member has locomotives they want numbered 09, 26, 52, and 63 then the four digit addresses for the locos will be 5409, 5426, 5452, and 5463.

Several members have already begun to set up their locomotives with four digit addressing following the planned pattern of numbering. Shortly a list will be prepared in which members can indicate their preference of number, be on the lookout for it on the notice board. If more than one member requests a number then some ballot system will be worked out.

This system also allows for a quick identity check, in the past there have been a few instances of members leaving locomotives behind. When an orphaned item is found, the owner can be identified simply by looking at the locomotive's address. This should not be regarded as a security measure though, as an address can be quickly and easily changed.

The reason for keeping numbers below 10 free (and why two digit addressing will not be supported) is that the forward thinking NMRI electrical department are planning to reserve them for use with non stationary decoders on the layouts.

0003 will need to remain free for use by members with brand new locomotives/newly installed decoders that have yet to be programmed and still set at the default address. Likewise, 0000 (also called zero stretch) which allows DC locos to be used on DCC will be available to the brave.

In the future we will already have the numbers available should we decide to go with anything like controlled signalling, mechanised structures, lit buildings and even DCC controllable points via accessory decoders (the present system of point operation will be kept) all these being controllable with 0 based numbers.

Keeping the numbers reserved for decoders on the layouts starting with 00 to 09 minimises as much as possible the difficulty involved with dialling these addresses up.

This will also preserve the continuity of four digit addressing for locomotives. Most members will simply dial up their four digit addressed locomotive and drive it until they change to another four digit addressed locomotive. The theory being that trains only need to be dialled up once to be driven all day.

There is just one final limitation I have found with the Lenz system which could affect the club's operations. The XpressNet (which is what the control devices plug into) supports only 31 devices, this is not a huge problem, because it is not envisaged that this amount of operators will ever be operating at once.

However, it does generate a small problem relating to addressing. Just like model locomotives, each controller needs to have it's own two digit number (the system uses this number to know who's talking to it), the default addresses on the LH100 and LH90 are 01 and 02 respectively.

For this reason it would be unwise to allocate these two numbers to any member, thus keeping them free for new equipment awaiting an address change.

If someone is using a controller on 01 or 02 and someone else plugs their brand new controller in, having not changed it's address the World might end (or something similar to that anyway).

In actual fact, if two controllers with the same address were connected to the layout at the same time, don't panic, there is no major problem. If a loco is dialled up by two operators on two controllers with different addresses then the display of the second controller will flash. This indicates to that operator that they do not have control of the loco. If a single loco is dialled up by two operators with controllers on the same address the flashing indication cannot be given and both operators will think they are controlling the loco, potentially causing some confusion.

The club will probably designate numbers 04 and 05 for it's own controllers. Club members will probably be allocated numbers counting back from 31 (although address 30 will remain reserved for another device). The club will also need to investigate some fail safe method of guaranteeing that no other controllers have a common address.

I envisage something similar to the frequency tag board found in model RC clubs. Ultimately (and I have contacted Lenz about this) it is hoped that the XpressNet will be able to support addresses right up to 99 (even if not all 99 can be plugged in at once), in which case each member can use their own number for their controller.

For now it will be a matter of making do, with what I hope is a reasonably failsafe solution. Fortunately changing the controller addresses is a relatively simple affair, which will probably only need to be done once, and we will have no issues with conflict at all unless we get beyond a total of 31 controllers owned by the club and it's members.

It is hoped that by adopting some basic standards as outlined within this article we can guarantee that no two locos in use at the club will ever have the same address and that operating sessions either within the clubrooms or at exhibitions will remain as flawless and as user friendly as possible.

Happy training with DCC.

Aaron

# 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)

## Exhibition Update

Only one month to go before our big weekend and the workload is ramping up in preparation for the event. There is a chart on the noticeboard to show the jobs and what is required, green means the item is done, yellow shows well underway and uncoloured items still require attention. Team Leaders had a meeting recently to square up on all aspects of the preparation so that we are all rowing in the same direction and not missing anything. From this meeting we discovered there were a few items that still need a little sorting;

A pie warmer (or two) beg, borrow, steal – Do you have access to one?

Two large hot water urns for coffee and tea in the exhibitor lounge and the canteen.

Numbers for the Saturday night swindle – Please fill in the list if you wish to participate.

Cakes etc for the exhibitor lounge and for sale through the canteen – Please fill out the list on the noticeboard. We would prefer log cakes as these are easier to slice and serve.

We have steadily improved all aspects of our exhibitions and now have most things well sorted. There was a major leap forward when we moved to the Mitsubishi site and some very good improvements were implemented last time. This year we have much less spare space and as per our design spec there are many layouts either new or new to us so there will be lots of variety. Fliers have been out for some time I have started putting banners up to let the public know it is on.

This is our biggest event and really puts the club on show, so it is important that we do it right therefore there will be a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the clubrooms directly following afternoon tea. This is for all helpers to bring everyone up to date and, for those new to the club exhibition scene, explain how we do things and what is expected from helpers. We do things a little different from most and this gives us an edge, but for it to work properly everyone has to know what is going on and our method of doing so.

Making it great in 2008

Events Coordinator

Tony Mikolaj

## **Exhibitions**

The Renmark and District Show Society Inc. have asked us to do a display at the Renmark Show on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 10 am – 5 pm. This will be indoors on a flat floor and sleeping would be allowed in the venue. The Committee has decided to attend so if you have not already done so, get your name on the list.

There is a list on the noticeboard for members to show their interest for all coming events, please tick the box(s) or add you name if it is not already there. Please fill it out ASAP

New to this list are AMRE (Adelaide) June 2009 and Sunshine (Vic) August 2009

Please remember that club shirts/windcheaters should be worn at all official events. Some shirts are in stock at \$25 see any Committee member for these. If you want a windcheater buy one in the same grey as the shirts and the club will get the emblem done at cost. Be proud of your club and wear the uniform.

## **Exhibition Update Meeting**

There will be a meeting at the clubrooms of all helpers following the afternoon tea on 20<sup>th</sup> September to bring everyone up to date and, for those new to the club exhibition scene, explain how we do things and what is expected from helpers.

Does anyone have access to a pie warmer? We would like to beg, borrow or steal one (or two) for the exhibition.

It is now less than a month away, boy do these things come around fast, members are asked to once again dig out items suitable as swindle prizes at our exhibition in October. I have seen lots of items arriving so thank you to the donors of them.

We also would like some people to volunteer to make some cakes etc for sale through the canteen and for use in the exhibitor lounge. There is a list on the board for you to let the Team Leaders know what and how many items the can expect.

Don't forget to fill in the helpers list for this event, there is also a box to tick if you wish to attend the Saturday night meal and swindle.

## **AGM**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 pm Saturday in the clubrooms

These positions will be declared vacant

Vice President

Secretary

Two Committee members

This is your chance to have a say in the running of your club. Nomination forms are available at the clubrooms; please return them to the Secretary before the AGM.

Nominees must have been members for at least 6 months. Only financial members may vote

## **Helping out**

Thanks to Peter Lynch and Grahame Hall for their continuous help in keeping the clubroom clean and liveable These two have been coming in every week and cleaning up your mess, how about giving them a hand by not making as much?

## **New Members**

Two new memberships this month, welcome to Brian Spencer and Joshua Schache. This takes us up to 58 members, the highest yet.

## **Recycling**

Cans and bottles are collected by the club for recycling; there is a blue container under the main layout for this purpose. Members are asked to please rinse cans before putting them in the bin as the sticky mess that otherwise results attracts ants and is hard to clean up.

## **Opening Times**

The clubrooms are open

Tuesdays from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturdays from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Thursdays from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

A key holder may offer to stay back late on a Saturday night and an evening meal may be decided on, but members are requested to clean up after.