



THE BOOSTER

CLUB

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Above: Red 930 class Alcos numbers 961 and 942 have arrived at Wooldowie on Ken House's Kanunda and Emu Flat Railway with the up grain train. They will pick up a further four AHGX hoppers from the Wooldowie silos.

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EDITORIAL

On the second Saturday in August, 9-8-25, at 2pm the Adelaide Model Railroaders will host a meeting for division 6 of the National Model Railroaders Association (NMRA) Australasian Region. Members of the AMR are welcome to attend. Usually there is not a lot of business to discuss at NMRA meetings they are more about “show and tell” and talking about what each member is working on, giving those attending inspiration and ideas and passing on techniques. The NMRA members will be interested in seeing trains running on the Southern Central Railroad. Tony will be staying behind after the meeting for those who want to run trains.

The AMR has a tradition of hosting the August NMRA meeting since 2017. We have a long history of involvement with the NMRA going right back to the AMR's inception when a group of NMRA members formed the AMR in 1948. Ever since then we have had NMRA members among our ranks to the point where we were 100% NMRA from November 2021 till June 2025. If you are free on the afternoon of the 9th of August I would encourage you to attend the NMRA meeting to meet other railway modellers and learn what they are about. You may just pick up one valuable idea or technique.

On a personal note I have not been to the club since I contracted covid after the June operating session. Because Margaret and I are leaving on August 5 to go up to the Sunshine Coast to spend time with our son I decided to stay away from the club for a few more Wednesdays, even though I am fully recovered, to avoid some cold evenings. I will be back by the last Wednesday in September so the Booster will look a little different for the next few issues. Hopefully I will be able to report on some railway modelling activity from Queensland for you.

In this issue, a couple of saved items, a letter to the editor from Christiaan Werk and an article by former member Mel Jones. Mel's main interest in the hobby is creating dioramas.

Ken

VICE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Storage Re-organisation

The re-organisation of storage at the Club is proceeding well. It has been a long term aim to consolidate most of materials and equipment into the workshop area, with smaller items in the lockers. This is far better than having them scattered in styrene foam boxes under the layout. Not knowing whether we have a particular item or where it is leads to frustration and wasteful double purchasing. Please note that all items stored in the Club lockers are listed in a folder on the meeting area bookshelf.

We have been aided in this process by Kent's generous donation of a large steel shelf unit which can accommodate many boxes of scenery materials. The remainder of the available space has been utilised by the construction of purpose-made timber shelving. This has been abnormally difficult process as the floor in the area slopes, the wall and floor junctions are rounded and the nib wall isn't perpendicular to the outside wall! Thanks also to Peter Wilcox who has donated veneered MDF sheets for the shelving.



The ladies toilet room has been almost cleared of materials and will soon be ready for Christiaan's builder mate to demolish the concrete partition walls.

One of the many positives from this exercise has been the review of electrical and comms cables stored in Kingy's cupboard. Copper is in high demand these days and scrap electrical cable attracts a high price. After making ample allowance for future use, surplus cable has been taken to Paramount Browns and the Club has earned approximately \$900.

Safe Access to Mezzanine

With the imminent demolition of the ladies toilet mezzanine, only the workshop mezzanine remains. (The platform above the workshop bench is definitely not trafficable!).

Access to that mezzanine has long been a concern. The typical method of setting up the A frame ladder adjacent to the edge and clambering over is highly dangerous, not least because the floor isn't level. Unfortunately, we don't have the space for a fixed ladder. The next best arrangement is to open out the A frame ladder and lean it against the floor, with a tether on the ladder to stop it from sliding sideways. Kent is arranging the tether. Please only access the mezzanine by this method.

Below: Tether to be set up



Keep it Tidy!

After returning to the Club recently from a month away, I observed a noticeable deterioration in the tidiness of the Clubrooms. Frankly, it's embarrassing showing visitors through the rooms when the floor is dirty and there are tools, scrap materials and tubs of landscaping material scattered across the layout and on the workshop bench. Here are the do's and don'ts we all should be adhering to:

DO put Club tools away at the completion of each work session. It's lazy and selfish to force others to walk all around the layout looking for missing tools.

DON'T leave tubs of landscaping or other materials on the layout or workbench.

DO put surplus materials back where you obtained them from and scrap materials into the rubbish bin. Timber and plywood off-cuts go into the box under the metal bench.

DON'T leave unmarked bottles, jars or tubs on the layout or workbench, leaving others to guess the contents and whether they are still required. There is a box of labels for this purpose on the column at the left end of the workbench.

DO sweep the floor in the area where you have been working.

Warwick Graham

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Ken

You mentioned that sometimes we can also upload our latest developments on our own layout so attached are three pictures of the my two Y6b's up front with their auxiliary water tenders dragging all of my fully loaded coal cars and with my weathered Challenger (originally purchased from Jeremy over ten years ago) working as a helper.

The first Y6b is a Precision Class loco with a Loksound 3.5 decoder in it. I originally purchased it from a guy from the Noarlunga club several years ago and sold it to John Gayler a short time later so that I could buy the Broadway Limited Imports DCC Paragon 3 version of the Y6b which came with the Rolling Thunder.

However I had many problems with this later Y6b but eventually I took it to Ozrail who installed a new Loksound version 5 into it and I had it professionally weathered.

I asked John Gayler if I could buy the Y6b back again and he was most kind to let me have it back. Which occurred last night.

Today I practiced with the re-arranging of the best consist and I finally decided to put the Precision class Y6b upfront because of its beautiful original Norfolk and Western whistle.

This coal drag with these beautiful steam locomotives (and I am aware that a Class A should have been the helper instead of the Challenger but I decided not to keep my Class A) and the Challenger reminds me of the many spectacular videos online on YouTube showing these awesome steam locomotives working in the mountains in the Roanoke area of West Virginia and Virginia and Pennsylvania etc so I thought that I would try and replicate it on my layout and I am quite pleased with the result and that there are no complications.



Cheers Christiaan

Christiaan's photos



Above: The video Christiaan took at the time. Please click on image to view.

HOW TO - GUM TREES

by Mel Jones



Trees may appear perfect in nature but on closer examination they are all different so don't be afraid of experimenting or of making what you may believe is a mistake. These inexpensive trees provide a fantastic effect either on their own or as a group.

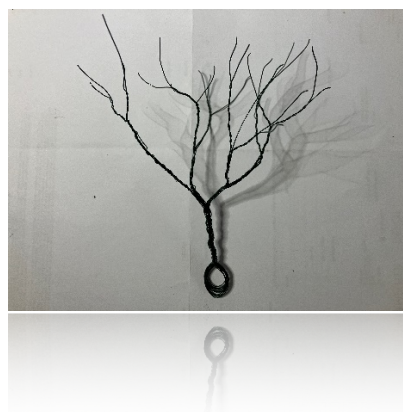
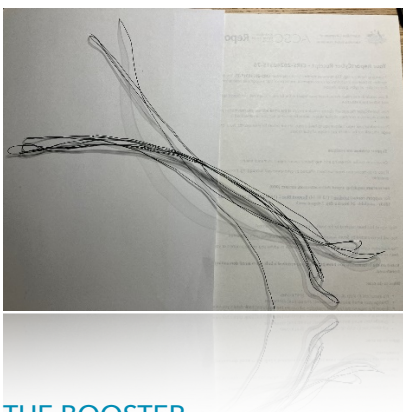
Warning – The idea of making “Scale Height” trees may sound exciting but when complete and placed on your layout may well appear “Over-sized” and “Out of Place”

What you need to make these trees is shown at the end of these instructions.

Step 1

Make 6 loops of Florist wire at 30cm in length (once you have made your first tree you will appreciate by adjusting the number and length of the loops you will be able to make various sizes of trees).

Fold the wire in half and make a small twist at the base and then cut the loops.



Select half of the wires and make a couple of twists, then select half of the remaining wires and twist. Repeat on the remaining wires until you have the shape of the tree.

Step 2

Take the Latex rubber and sieved soil.

Using a fairly thick paint brush cover the tree in the rubber, this not only hides the wire but also makes the tree robust and flexible.



Sprinkle the tree with the dirt, this provides texture and helps to hide the wire. Set aside to dry for 24hrs and wash the brush.

N.B. At this stage the tree is sticky so it is advised to place in a container to protect what you have done thus far.

Step 3

Take the Hob E Tac glue, Super Glue Gel and Seafoam

Cut the individual heads from the Seafoam. Now bend the branches, and tips, to provide maximum separation and minimum interference. They will be bent back to required shape later on.



Using a paint brush apply Hobby Tac to the tip of half the branches. Set aside for 30 mins until the glue goes clear and becomes very tacky. Place an individual head of Seafoam to about 4 branches, at a time, and then apply a small amount of Super Glue Gel to each, then repeat with the other branches.

N.B. SuperGlue Gel is preferred as it is tacky, doesn't run and therefore creates less mess.

Set aside to dry.

Step 4

Take the Jasper and Dune spray paints.

Use the darker Jasper paint first. Shake can well and holding about 30cms from the tree spray the entire tree. When dry use the Jasper sparingly to add highlights to the top but a more complete coverage further down.

Set aside to dry.

Step 5

Take the Selleys Kwick Grip, and coarse Turf ground cover. It is recommended Burnt Grass, Weeds and Earth colours are used but this is up to you.

Making sure the individual branches are well separated spray a few heads at a time taking care NOT to spray the branches. This is best achieved by spraying from the sides. Take one of the coarse turf's and push onto individual heads, both top and bottom. You may wish to repeat the process and use a 2nd colour for contrast. Repeat until all branches are covered then set aside to dry.

Step 6

Now bend the branches to achieve the required shape. The loop at the bottom may now be "Straightened" and used as a firm base with which to plant the tree.



Materials Used

Items are available from various suppliers, below is where the builder purchased and in no way represents suggested brands.

Trunks: Florist Wire \$6 Spotlight – comes in 2 sizes and the thicker is better



Latex Rubber \$38 Hobby Shop or On Line



Foliage: Seafoam \$48 Model shop or On Line



Glue: Super Glue Gel \$10-15 Bunnings – This is tackier than normal super glue and prevents mess. Feel free to use normal super glue (much cheaper) but be careful



Hob e Tac \$17 Model shop or On Line – Apply and wait 30mins until clear and very tacky



Selleys Kwik Grip Spray \$15 Bunnings – Be careful not to spray the tree trunks so best to spray from the side



Paint: Jasper and Dune \$15 Bunnings – Obviously if you have a spray gun then this would be cheaper.



Tree Colour: Woodland Scenics Coarse Ground Cover \$6.80 Model shop or On Line. Burnt Grass/Earth/Weeds provide the best results for Gum trees.



Cost per Tree \$6 approx

FOR SALE

Steel shelf unit with five MDF shelves

Measures 1800 high x 900 wide x 400 deep



Price - \$20. See Secretary Tony.

VIDEOS Please click on the images to view.



Above: Christian Werk, Emilio Werk and Ken House at Prattis during the June operating session.



Above: Anthony Goldsmith's SDS models ANR 900 class locos pulling a long train through the mainline at Houseman during a casual running session.

AMR TIMETABLE

Visitors welcome by prior arrangement.

If club owned rolling stock is used during casual running it must be returned to it's exact position ready for the next operating session

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6

Operating session set up, track cleaning & limited work and running.

SATURDAY AUGUST 9 2PM

NMRA meeting in AMR clubrooms

If you wish to attend please advise Tony Mikolaj

secretary@adelaidemodelrailroaders.com

and Scott Taylor Div 6 superintendent div6sup@nmra.org.au

by Wednesday August 6

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13

SCR operating session (no work or casual running) Please advise Tony Mikolaj secretary@adelaidemodelrailroaders.com by August 12 if you wish to take part.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20

General meeting & Casual running session, limited work, running priority

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27

Work session, limited running (lift up bridges to remain up)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3

Operating session set up, track cleaning & limited work and running.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10

SCR operating session (no work or informal running) Please advise Tony Mikolaj secretary@adelaidemodelrailroaders.com by Sept 9 if you wish to take part.