

NZR modellers in all scales getting together to share their common interest in our own railways.

Regular meetings the last Saturday every month from 10am at my home, 7 Hadow Place, 3681, colin.barry48@gmail.com



Newsletter August 2021 Scott Shadbolt's model of DC4450 — scratchbuilt in styrene — makes an imposing sight.

Even though the morning was bright and sunny it was none too warm until later.

Colin Barry had cut out some plywood in the shape of flying ducks. With wings added and painted expertly by **Bryan Lawrence** the idea is to make a weather vane. One duck seemed quite keen on some dry bread lying on the lawn.

Colin's friend, **Ron Boyce** attended for the first time to see what we were about. Having made five visits to the USA, **Ron** is primarily interested in American railroads — or did he go there because he was already a fan? Anyway, his main passion is the Pennsy and he built a 5in gauge model of a PRR Pacific. Talk soon turned US big steam and the one time in May 2019 when Big Boy 4014 and UP Northern 844 ran on an excursion together.

Bryan Lawrence had brought both his Dgs along, one built from the Railmaster kit and the other from the Trackside one. When seen together there is a big difference. I have yet to determine which is closer to correct, though I suspect it is the Trackside version. The detail on it is generally finer and crisper and the body is smaller in height and width than the Railmaster version. The Railmaster nose also looks to be more bulbous than the prototype. On its own either would be acceptable to most modellers but you could not really run them together,



Model Dgs, Railmaster (left) and Trackside.

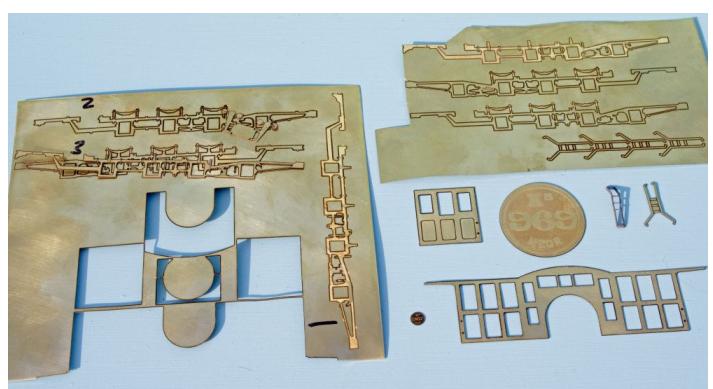
which is why **Bryan** is thinking of selling the Railmaster.

Bryan also brought along a family scrapbook with all manner of clippings, letters, etc, relating to family and relatives from earlier times. It was fascinating to read that his great grandfather while stationmaster at Cave ended up in court charged with allowing three cattle to stray into the station yard. The charge was reduced to two cattle and he was fined £5.

Glen Anthony promised another Minion story (see over).

It seems that whenever **Scott Shadbolt** can get to one of our gatherings (he comes in from Amberley) he unveils another superb scratchbuilt-from-styrene model. This time it was DC4450 looking impressive in Trans Rail 'Bumblebee' livery.

Where **Wayne Williams** works they have a laser cutter and it fell to him recently to make a cabinet for it. Not to let the grass grow, while he had access to this machine he thought he would put it through its paces on some model parts. So it came to pass that he drew up and cut out parts for his next loco project — a Baldwin O class. There are layers for a bar-framed chassis, stylish wooden cab, etc, and ladders for his KB project, all from thin brass sheet. At this stage what he did seemed quite comparable with



Parts for a Baldwin O class that Wayne Williams cut cleanly from thin brass sheet using his firm's laser cutter.

Thanks as always to Colin Barry for hosting us and to Helen for the usual fine morning tea

Remember : Come if you can this Sunday : Leave a gold coin before you go →



etching, half-etching even being just as possible, including number plates and the like.

Ian Murie has not been the regular he once was so it was good to see him for a catch-up. **Ian** now has his own home, a partner and small child, which was all good to hear. But restricted space where he is now living has him thinking of ways to downsize his modelling. He does, however, intend to remain a part of the *One Track Minds* layout group.

As usual, yours truly had little to report. My turn to host the Christchurch MRC was coming up and I thought I might discuss some of the alternative loudspeakers available for use with sound decoders. I made a box with 10 speakers mounted on the front and wired them to a rotary switch so that I could switch easily from one to another while the same sound was playing. The amount of difference really is quite surprising.

—Peter

Colin Barry

Most of you will be aware that **Colin** had a stroke at the beginning of August.

Fortunately, as strokes go this one was not so bad. At first he could not speak or swallow, but his speech returned quite quickly and swallowing soon after.

He had use of his arms quite early on as well but his left leg has taken a while to get going and he will need new glasses to be able to see properly again.

Last week **Colin** was transferred to Burwood Hospital. He is now able to walk a little, which he is being encouraged to do. He still gets very tired but as this is being written he is due to go home tomorrow (Thursday).

Of course, **no visitors whatsoever** at the moment, but hopefully that will soon change.

★★ Sunday ★★

Regulars at our Sunday gatherings will be wondering about this coming Sunday, **August 29**.

The *One Track Minds* layout group was planning to put the layout up in the **Albert Hall** at **Ferrymead** that weekend.

As has happened before when these two events clash, we were going to suggest that the NZR Group comes to Ferrymead. **That will now be the only option, Covid permitting.**

To keep it simple:

- If we go down to **Level 2 before Saturday morning meet in the Albert Hall Sunday.**
- If we do not go down to **Level 2 before Saturday morning there will be no meeting.**

IF we're at Level 2

Combined NZR Group and
One Track Minds layout meeting

Albert Hall Ferrymead

Sunday August 29 from 9am

Entry is via the North (back) Gate

Take the golf course road, go over the level crossing, turn hard left and the gate, which will be locked, is around a slight bend to the right.

For the lock combination:

Phone Peter Ross 021 115 1696 or

John Dudson 027 236 2301



Only just over week before his stroke Colin is seen chatting with his friend Ron Boyce, who was paying his first visit to one of our gatherings.



A colourful new flying duck weather vane was a typical little Colin Barry home improvement project. Colin cut out the plywood shapes and Bryan Lawrence, who is holding one of the ducks, painted them expertly. Inset: One of the ducks seemed quite hungry.

NZR Group future

Nothing has to be decided yet but we will have to see before the end of September how Colin is progressing and how Helen is coping.

We may need to put that meeting off, and we could even need to look for a new gathering place altogether.

Those are bridges we can cross as we come to them.

One possibility is that we continue to meet at Colin's on the basis that it would be quite therapeutic.

That would depend on Helen as well because we would not want to put added pressure on her. We could, I'm sure, rustle up some morning tea if we had to. Not as good as Helen's but enough to keep the wolf from the door.

North Yard

Breaking News from the NZMR Guild website

Rumours in the model railway world have been suggesting a change of hands for the *North Yard Model Railway Parts* business.

We can now confirm that Rodger and Christine Cullen have sold *North Yard* to Roger Dawson who will be continuing the business under the name *North Yard Engineering*.

Roger will be adding this to his existing *Prototype NZR Models* business, which markets 1:64 scale NZR kits and parts.

Roger has been reissuing a number of locomotive kits recently including the much admired K and J classes. *North Yard* can be contacted by email at northyard@xtra.co.nz.

In the meantime Rodger Cullen will be continuing with the long standing *South Dock* range of quality 1:64 scale NZR wagon and carriage kits. Rodger can be contacted at sales@southdock.co.nz.



A scene that will be familiar to anyone who has come to one of the Sunday gatherings at Colin and Helen Barry's but one that may not be repeated for a while.



Bryan Lawrence and Scott Shadbolt discuss the differences between Bryan's two Dgs while Wayne Williams looks on.



One of the Dgs in question, this one from the Trackside Details kit has generally finer and more accurate details.

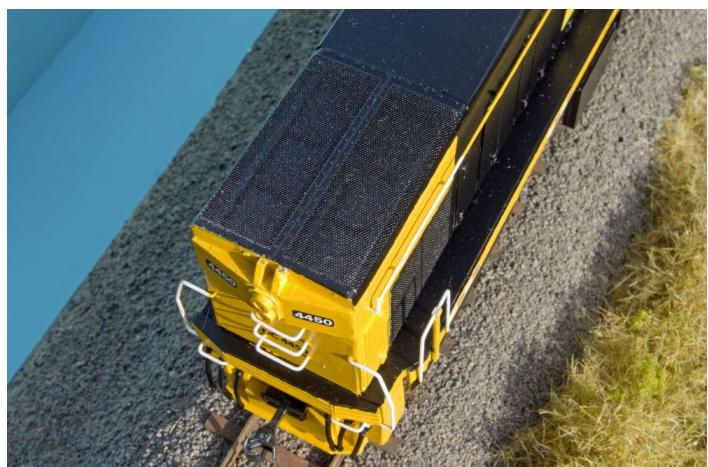


The roof details of the two Dgs compared, Railmaster left, and Trackside, right.



Trackside Details Dg front end.

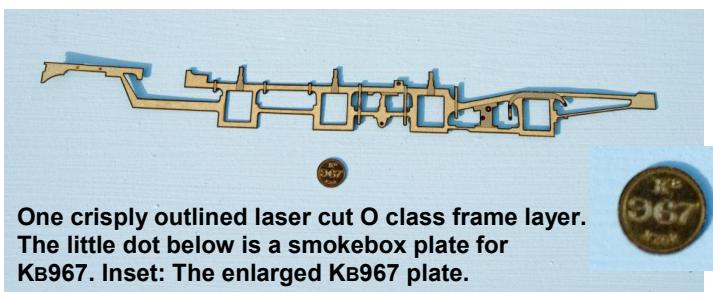
Scott Shadbolt's DC: A fine piece of scratchbuilding in styrene



Details like circular grille and fan blades, radio antenna and fine etched mesh from VCC and Mark's Model Works respectively help complete a fine model



"Here it is." Ian Murie points to information on his phone.



One crisply outlined laser cut O class frame layer. The little dot below is a smokebox plate for Kb967. Inset: The enlarged Kb967 plate.



Minions, S1 E2



Glen Anthony writes:

"The first Minion loco was a great success ... when running on other peoples' railways. However the combination of the wheel missing a traction tyre, and propelling the loco over uneven track meant that running on my railway was sub-optimal. I could have spent time fixing the track, but there were plans to build another loco anyway. And towing the first loco double-headed style was going to fix the running problems.

So plans for a second loco were fast-tracked.

This loco is in the style of a de-Winton industrial narrow gauge type with a vertical boiler and extra outside motion added for visual effect. The reason for the vertical boiler is easy access to change the batteries.

The boiler is made from plastic drain pipe. It's bigger than I wanted, but the six AA batteries determined that.

I managed to glue styrene to the wheels to allow connecting rods to be added. The main connecting rod is aluminium and all other motion gear styrene with a small brass bush where the screw goes through. The bushes and screws were from a servo mounting set. The boiler is

Left: Double headed Minions head a goods train (new loco leading) over the trestle on Glen's home railway.
Right: The vertical boiler serves as the battery box.

Glen Anthony photos



lacking many details, obvious in the static photos but hardly noticeable when your eye is drawn to the moving motion gear.

There were plans for more motion gear, but the visual effect at the end was not going to be any more impressive, so I scaled it back. This loco has already done more than five hours running at the Timaru Model Train Show, where it ran well double heading (pulling) the first Minion loco and some wagons."

From the prototype for everything department

The Christchurch Star, 24 October 1923

RAILING COAL TO WEST COAST NO ONE-WAY MONOPOLY

Although coal is supposed to be one-way freight on the West Coast line half a dozen trucks of Avoca coal have recently been railed from Canterbury to the West Coast to supply the American dredge at Rimu Flat, Hokitika, owing to the shortage of mining on the West Coast.

And the rebuttal ...

The Hokitika Guardian, 27 October 1923

We are informed that there is no truth in the paragraph appearing in yesterday's paper culled from the *Lyttelton Times* in reference to the importation of coal from Avoca for the Rimu dredge. All coal required, which amounts to about three truck loads in a year is obtained from Rewanui.



No worries if your model bicycle has no spokes. Not sure about the fat tyres though. Source YouTube.

July roll call:

Glen Anthony
 Colin Barry
 Ron Boyce
 Paul Christensen

Bryan Lawrence
 Kevin Leigh
 Tom Lynch
 David Maciulaitis

Ian Murie
 Peter Ross
 Scott Shadbolt
 Wayne Williams