

NZR modellers in all scales getting together to share their common interest in our own railways.
Regular meetings the **last Sunday** of every month from 10am at rear of **Colin Barry's garage, 7 Hadlow Place, Burnside**. 03 358 3681, colin.barry48@gmail.com



Newsletter March 2021

On a pleasant enough morning on a day that turned hot later there was a good turnout, perhaps spurred by the prospect of some bargains and/or hard-to-get-stuff emerging from the various boxes and bins that **Neil Andrews** had brought along on behalf of **Nelson Kennedy's** family.

It was good that **Neil** did not have too much to take back and that he also had a tidy sum of money to hand over.

It was just as pleasing to see things like part-built kits going to modellers well able to complete them, and other parts and materials back in circulation. **Celyn Bennet** for one picked up a fully motorised Press railcar chassis and is already well on the way to completing the body.

There's plenty more where that came from and there will be more opportunities to look for things you've been trying to find, beginning with Arthur's Pass this weekend.

In other news, the ever resourceful **Paul Christensen** had found an excellent glue for plastics. It's called Same Stuff Plastic Welder and comes from online seller, Micro Mark (see more over the page). **Peter Jamieson** added that Mulford Plastics in Sydenham also sells a good plastic cement.

Peter had been mulling over how best to keep the sections of his new layout in accurate alignment and was leaning towards hinges with removable pins.

Examples of members' modelling have been a bit scarce recently so it was good to see **James Gobbe's** three flat wagons, two USs and a USQ. **James** built the USs from Trackgang kits to which he added **Kevin Leigh** ends. The USQ was from a Trackside Details kit.

As is becoming more common, **Jason Horne** and some others were discussing the difficulties and advantages of 3D-printed and cast urethane parts and kits. One interesting point was that from a manufacturer's standpoint, writing instructions was generally more difficult than producing the kit.

It was nice to have **David Maciulaitis** bring along his brother **Paul** and mother **Glen** who were over on a visit from Taylorville on the West Coast.

Treasure hunt: Colin Barry (obscured), Brent O'Callahan, Peter and Celyn Bennet sift through boxes and boxes of our late friend Nelson Kennedy's part-built kits, parts and modelling materials.

Many of us have our own little modelling groups aside from this one. One such is **Neil Andrews** and **Mark Dalrymple**. They used to live within walking distance of each other and began setting aside time on a Thursday each week to exchange visits and work on modelling tasks together. When **Mark** moved out beyond West Melton they decided to keep up these visits and it occurred to me recently that **Jason McFadden**, who also lives on a lifestyle block, might have a lot in common with what **Mark** is doing. Anyway, **Jason** was about to visit **Mark** to compare notes. Whether that leads anything further remains to be seen, but modelling in small groups can be very enjoyable.

Meanwhile, **Jason** had brought along an interesting little sound module. From Amazon for about \$20 the 1cstation Recordable Sound Module has 8Mb of storage for MP3 files and includes a button-controlled small amplifier and speaker. Connected via a USB cable to a computer it behaves the same as any other USB storage device, allowing you to copy sound files into it. To play these you just push the button. There is a volume adjuster on the card but no other controls so you would want to set the levels of different sounds in the computer before copying. For ambient sounds like a babbling brook, birds singing, a factory whistle, etc, this is all you would need to give the layout some atmosphere. The amplifier requires 5v DC, which can be supplied from a wall wart or similar, or batteries. The makers suggest a button cell but there is no holder supplied. I'm using three AA batteries.

Jason has replaced the button with a switch ready for wiring back to the control panel. Unfortunately there are no instructions so you have to work some things out for yourself — or ask **Jason** — but it's pretty simple.

Reuben Romany's layout is now down from the "asbestos contaminated" attic and the attic sealed off, never mind that there's no access to the services up there.

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 →



Tim Webster is only an occasional visitor so it was good to see him picking up quite a lot of **Nelson's** stuff and to hear about his recent progress.

Colin Barry's Rewanui house had made further progress. Now undercoated it was looking nearly complete. **Colin's** collection of assorted sheds, dunnies and tanks had also grown.

Les Frost always manages to bring something interesting. This time he had tried using the craggy cut edge of some urethane foam board as the pattern for rock

Les's rock casting method



The edges of urethane insulating board have quite a craggy texture. Add a couple of scrapes and you have the start of something quite 'rocky'.



Left: Take a latex mould off the urethane in the usual way with alternate layers of latex and open weave cotton cloth. Right: Fill the mould with runny plaster and while it is still pliable form it by hand into the desired rocky shape.



If you're feeling more adventurous you can get a bit more forceful with the pliable plaster and pull it around to create fissures and breaks, and maybe even do a bit of sculpting.

moulds. **Les** has cottoned on to a supply of this board, which is used as insulation. It's similar to but different from the extruded polystyrene foam we have become familiar with, and seems at least equally suitable for creating terrain on a layout.

To give his rock castings some shape **Les** removes them from the mould while the plaster is still pliable and forms them to shape before they can harden.

— Peter

Same Stuff facts (from the Micro Mark website)

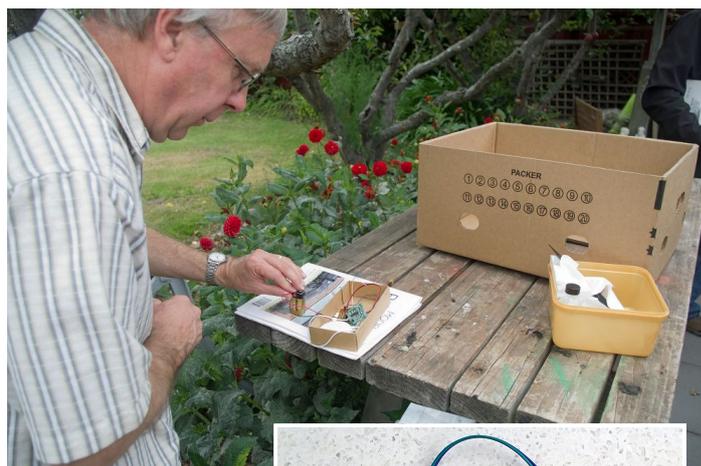
"Exactly the same as ProWeld and Tenax-7R, except for the name. Solvent-type cement uses capillary action to weld styrene, acrylic, butyrate and ABS plastic. To apply, place the parts together and then put a drop on the seam. Hold for 15 seconds. In that amount of time, **Same Stuff** bonds and starts to cure.

USD7.95 + shipping

Micro Mark adds that **Same Stuff** contains Methylene Chloride which is known to the State of California to cause cancer.

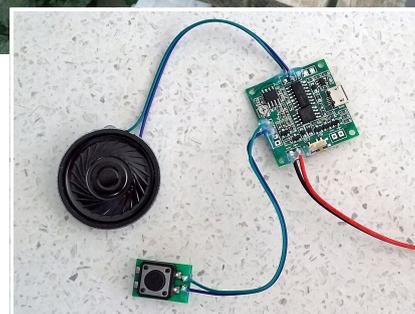


The bottle includes a simple applicator under the cap or for another USD10.95 you can get a micro-tipped applicator.



Above: Jason McFadden demonstrates the Icstation Recordable Sound Module. He's holding the leads on a 9v battery while the module produces the sounds of a babbling stream.

Inset: The module with speaker, push button and wires for power.



Helping clear Nelson Kennedy's estate



Early arrivals Celyn and Peter Bennet take a tentative look over what's on offer. Neil Andrews is very kindly helping Nelson Kennedy's family re-home Nelson's treasures.



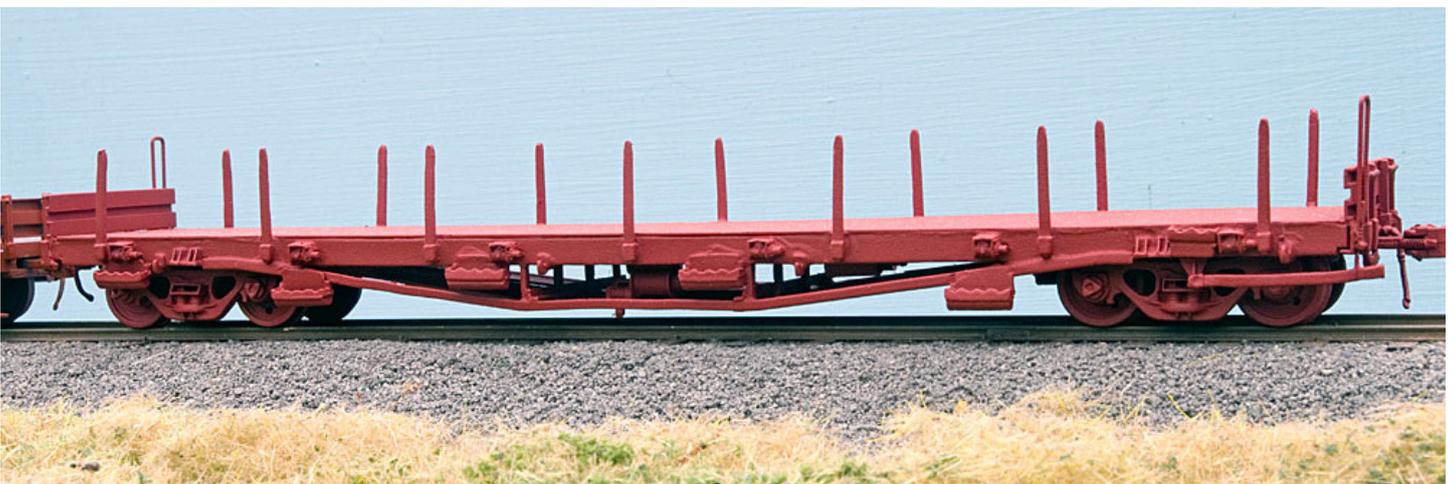
The initial raid over the combatants discuss their acquisitions — and the ones that got away. From left: Jason Horne, Neil Andrews (obscured), Brent O'Callahan, Tim Webster, Kevin Leigh (obscured), Paul Christensen, Jason McFadden, Peter Bennet (obscured, and Celyn Bennet. Rocket courtesy of Space-X.



A look inside one of the boxes. This one contained a number of models produced from different styles of Nelson's own urethane castings and moulds.



Jason McFadden (right) closely examines a nearly-completed station building that Nelson had been building from a laser cut ply kit while Paul Christensen (left) and Brent O'Callahan look on.

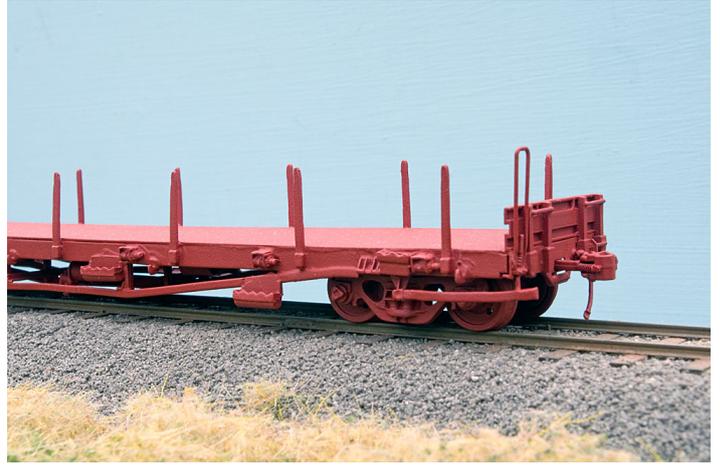


This month's quiz question: US or USQ? James Gobbe brought two USs and one USQ, all good looking models, but now I can't tell which is which. Even my trusty *KiwiRail Locomotive and Rolling Stock Register — 2011* is no help to this steam man.

Garage sale

The next opportunity to search through Nelson's vast range of NZR bits and pieces will be where it all lived at his home in Rolleston. More details later but April 9/10 are the dates. Friday night for modellers, Saturday for public.

The day's models



Which is which is too hard to call but one of these James Gobbe models is a US and the other a USQ. He built the USs from Trackgang kits, adding Kevin Leigh ends, which may mean that the one on the right is a US. The USQ is from a Trackside Details kit.

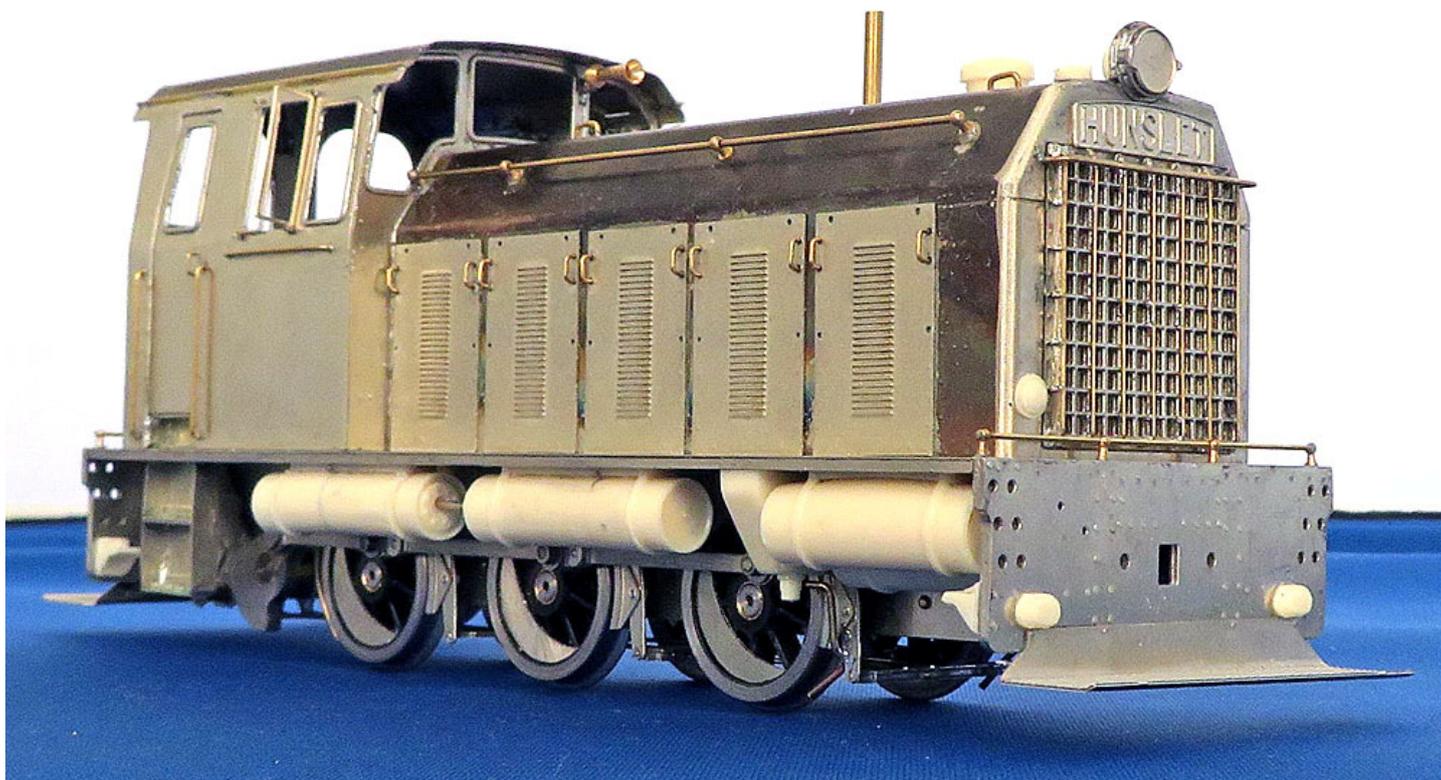


Colin Barry's Rewanui house had made further progress and the undercoat had relieved Colin's fears that some of the glue might be visible.



Just like in life it's not only the big things that matter. Where there are large buildings there also sheds, dunnies and tanks. Colin scratchbuilt this shed and another the same, the dunny was from a resin kit, and Lawrence Boul 3D printed the round tank and stand as a favour. The square tanks may be from a plastic kit.

Developments in 1:48 scale



The pilot model for a new NZ48 Hunslet DSA kit. (Greg Keay photos)



NZ48 Hunslet Dsa on the horizon

These pictures of a pilot model for a new NZ48 Hunslet DSA came in from Greg Keay just at the right time for inclusion. They to signify the coming of an etched brass kit. No details, such as cost or what it contains are yet available, but apparently it also includes numerous 3D printed details.

Greg writes: *"Yes of course its fine to include the Hunslet DSA in your newsletter — the model will accommodate both the original National engine version and the re-engined Caterpillar ones.*

I also have an EB in the pilot etch stage and a 30ft BP543 Mk II clerestory guards van on the go to add to the gradually increasing range of NZ48 items becoming available ..." So as they say, watch this space.



Polyurethane foam board

Les Frost has been in touch to say that he has access to some of the same polyurethane foam board as he used when making his rock moulds. It is also ideal for sculpting to form terrain on a layout. These are offcuts, all shapes and sizes and 100mm thick. Genuine inquiries to 027 437 3178.

February roll call:

Neil Andrews	James Gobbe	Jason McFadden
Colin Barry	Jason Horne	Brent O'Callahan
Celyn Bennet	Peter Jamieson	Reuben Romany
Peter Bennet	Michael Leefe	Peter Ross
Paul Christensen	Kevin Leigh	Tim Webster
Les Frost	David Maciulaitis	