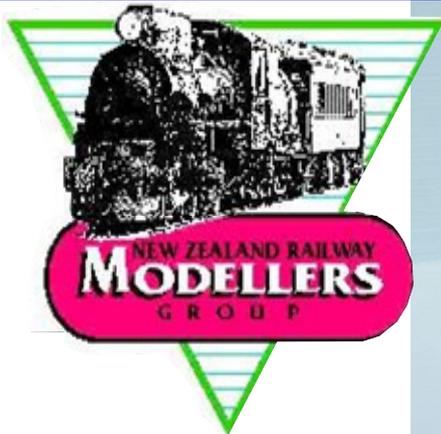


NZR modellers in all scales getting together to share their common interest in our own railways. Regular meetings the **last Sunday** of every month from 10am at rear of **Colin Barry's garage, 7 Hadlow Place, Burnside**. 03 358 3681, colin.barry48@gmail.com



Newsletter October 2019

John Dudson took a Woodland Scenics HO scale Pavilion kit and altered it slightly to make a typical band rotunda. Despite the scale it is quite large enough for 1:64.

On a beautifully fine and sunny spring morning a good gathering of modellers soon congregated inside and outside the shed at the **Barry's** place.

Glen Anthony was soon busy sorting a large number of **Robin Sutherland** negatives into those worth keeping and those not. **Glen** is becoming famous for his photos of the present-day prototype, and it was interesting to hear him outline the planning that goes into preparing for a shot.

Where are the books advertised in the last newsletter? **Colin Barry** was asked. All gone to Graeme Carter Books was the easily justified reply. Less hassle for **Colin** and probably a better return for **Robin Sutherland's** wife as well.

With the Big Little Train Show only a week away **Celyn Bennet** had been adding final details like brakes, etc, to his L class 2-4-0T and making sure it would be running well — which it proved to be.

Jessy Blunsdon had the same story. Last-minute improvements to one of his Dss and finishing off a recabbed DG using some **Robin Knight** bits and decals.



Jessy's recabbed DG missed having its photo taken but his original Dg with the recab in tow did look (and sound) good.

Paul Christensen had made a plinth to mount his 1:26-scale model of Stephenson's *Rocket* on. While doing this

he felt the edges just needed a bit more finish. This led to buying a Dremel router attachment quite cheaply that he then used to give the plinth a nice moulded edge. **Paul** said he had enjoyed watching the movie *Serena* on TV, part of which is set in a North Carolina logging operation.



One of the bush lokeys featured in the film *Serena*.

John Dudson had converted an HO-scale Woodland Scenics pavilion kit into to typical-looking band rotunda quite large enough for use in a 1:64 scene. We also saw the latest developments in his quest to make credible model toe toes using green twine salvaged from a garden shed. He cuts and bunches the strands and then glues them around a core made from scrunched up dampened egg box. The flower heads on the signature seed stalks are made from cotton wool.

Les Frost had found some promising tree making material but house hunting was the top priority at the moment. **Les** also brought along a couple of office chairs in case someone had a use for them (one came this way).

Bryan Lawrence sought advice on buying some Loksound decoders and I suggested AJM Railways, in the UK (www.ajmrailways.com). I have found the service very good, trouble free and prompt, and they offer free shipping so you know the actual cost (which currently is about

Thanks to Colin and Helen Barry for hosting us, and Helen for another fine morning tea
Remember : Come if you can this Sunday : Leave a gold coin before you go



\$159). One thing to beware of is that the website pricing is in Oz dollars with the NZ cost in smaller print.

This price is for a blank decoder, but I'm usually able to program the sounds, either free or for a few dollars, depending on how much trouble it is to do.

The easiest way to use the website is to put "blank decoder" in the Search pane. This will bring up several variants and you just need to select the one best suited to your needs. I generally favour the 8-pin 58410 for NZR models. For a smaller model where space is limited a 58810 Micro may be a better choice.

Kevin Leigh also had DCC on his mind. He has a Digitrax Zephyr that he has not used yet and would like to fit basic decoders to some of his locos. He was also wondering about resistors for lights. There is good advice on these and other things DCC on the Wiring for DCC website (www.wiringfordcc.com).

Like several others, **Reuben Romany** had been getting his layout ready for the train show.



Below: Some of the experimental toe toes John Dudson made from green twine salvaged from the shed and formed round a core (centre right) of scrunched up dampened egg box.



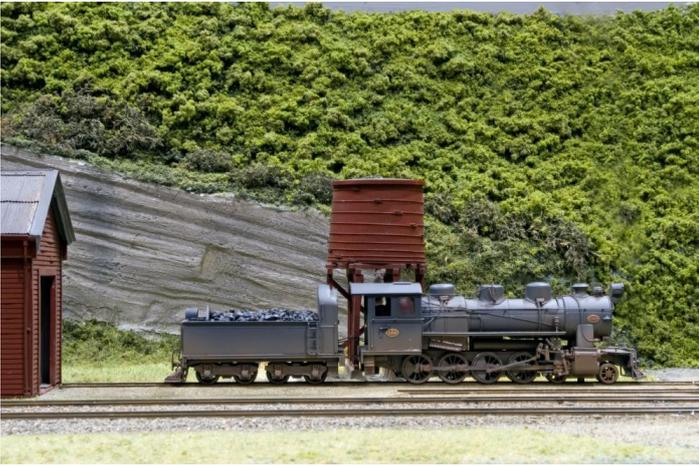
Top: The plinth Paul Christensen made for his model of Rocket, and (below) the Dremel router attachment he used to produce the neat moulded edge.



Above: John Dudson's rotunda, showing the nice detail inside the roof, and (below) a drone's eye view of the roof.



One Track Minds at the train show



Colin Barry's model of Ba148, recently completed for him by Kelvin Barry, made a fine sight just where it should be



Jessy's pair of Dgs passing through the *Atholton* module, reworked from Athol Hamilton's former *Kaitangata*.



Just across the Greymouth yard stands Trevor's fine semaphore signal. It and the points on the layout are operated by realistic levers like those below.



Details like this painter at work on one of Bryan Lawrence's houses are always popular with the public.



Jayden Robinson-Toohey's model of Ww480 pauses for passengers at Jason McFadden's *Blaketown* Station.



Bryan Lawrence and Wayne Williams' *Lyttelton* modules were looking as good as ever.



Down among the Q hoppers on the *Greymouth* wharf is Colin Barry's model of Uc367

Enjoying a sunny springtime Sunday morning



Host Colin Barry looks on as Bryan Lawrence and Steve Woolley sort out their cups of tea.



Above: Celyn and Peter Bennet and Glen Anthony (right) enjoying a relaxed chat.



A contemplative Kevin Leigh.



Continuing the relaxed chat theme are Kevin Leigh, Les Frost and John Dudson.



Bryan Lawrence and Steve Woolley. You don't get nowhere if you're too 'asty. Let's 'ave another cup of tea.

September roll call:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Glen Anthony | Paul Christensen | Kevin Leigh |
| Colin Barry | John Dudson | Tom Lynch |
| Celyn Bennet | Les Frost | Reuben Romany |
| Peter Bennet | Jason Horne | Peter Ross |
| Jessy Blunsdon | Bryan Lawrence | Steve Woolley |

Other bits and pieces

From Newsletter 4

Your convention needs YOU

We've done our best to make first rate arrangements, the question is what part will you play?

You are of course welcome to just come. Attend some clinics, tour some layouts, browse the trade stands and on-site layouts, and that will be fine. We guarantee that in the process you will learn some new things, buy some things to increase your enjoyment of the hobby, and find yourself being inspired by much of the modelling. Most of all you will make new friends and acquire some great new memories.



But to paraphrase JF Kennedy:

Ask not what your hobby can do for you, but what you can do for your hobby.

Clinic and workshop presenters

We're still looking for people to give clinics and to demonstrate a modelling skill or technique during the workshop sessions.

If you would like to volunteer or suggest someone we should contact, please email: petrosnz15@gmail.com.

Competition judges

Right now the Competition Committee is looking for people to train as judges for the model competitions.

Arrangements for this training are still being finalised but the idea is to have enough people available who understand about:

- The rules
- The entry forms
- At least one judging factor
- How to apportion marks

To be a judge adds a whole new dimension to attending a convention. Could this be your chance?

In the coming weeks there will be an opportunity to join a training session in Christchurch. This could be a fun preview of some convention attractions and we can help with expenses for out-of-towners.

To be a judge you don't necessarily need to be an 'expert' modeller or model NZR. The competitions are open to all prototypes, and the assessments you make as a judge are pretty much the same as those you make when shopping for a new model.

For more information, please email: NZAMRC.Competition@gmail.com



- For an overview of next year's convention attractions visit the website www.modelrailcon.co.nz
- There's still good quality low cost accommodation available, but it won't last long now.
- For all the newsletters, the budget accommodation booking form and the registration form, just click on this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bGU1J59uzqyLi93klYvF2m-cSnTa86lQ>



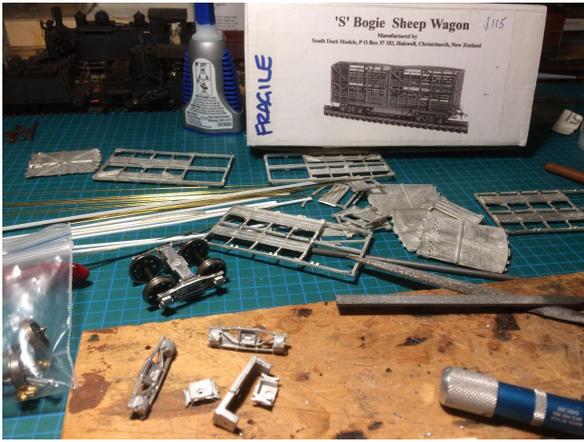
Kathy's Millatt's flights have all been booked and we've been discussing what she will be doing at the convention. You will have to wait a little longer for the details but we can say that she will be playing a big part in what promises to be a very memorable convention.

Departures

On September 29, Doug Harrison, well-known American modeller and servant of the hobby, died after a long illness. Highlights from Doug's modelling life include being an active member of the Garden City MRC, chairing the 2010 convention committee and making the early arrangements for the 2020 convention. Doug was 79.

On October 10, Reid McNaught also died, having just achieved 100 issues as Features Editor of *NZ Railfan* magazine, he was 71. Reid was an occasional visitor to Colin Barry's, sometimes bringing copies of his *Passing Trains* calendars. It's arguable that he, along with friend and business partner, Karl Morris, set a new benchmark for railway publishing in this country.

More from abroad: No more sheep jokes



An easy way to reduce a growing collection of kitsets is to build one of them, writes **John Atkinson** in his latest blog (<http://lostlapiaz.com/nomoresheepjokes>)

I've been collecting NZR loco kitsets like they're going out of fashion. Despite struggling to get my Wa running I knew that when it eventually did run, I'd need to have something for it to do. So, I pulled out one of the rolling stock kits I'd also been studiously collecting.

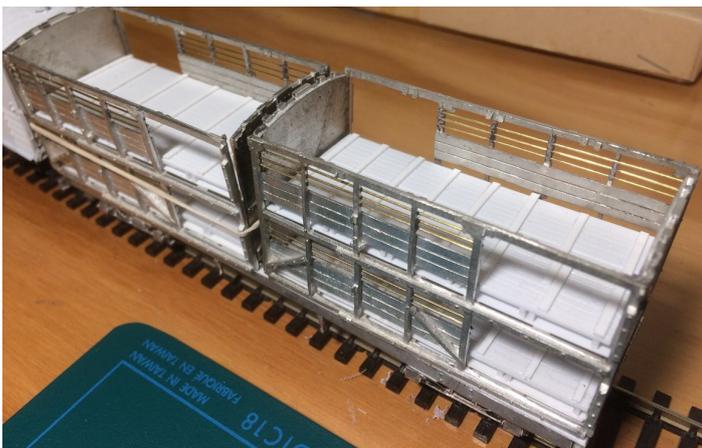
It looked like the S wagon was made from two, four-wheel sheep wagons, plonked on a bogie frame. The frame itself was easy enough to make. I didn't add extra detail like brakes, I just wanted to get it on the rails and running.

The slat sides of the sheep-carrying bits went together okay, after being subject to a lot of cleanup. I used a file, followed by a #11 scalpel to scrape flash off the edges of all the slats, and scribe planking a bit more deeply to sharpen up the detail.

I had first used low-melt solder on a Q coal wagon and used it again on this kit. Once I'd gotten the hang of it, low-melt solder was faster to use than five-minute epoxy, and easier to work. I just scratch the castings so they are bright, and then use a reasonable amount of flux. I need to talk to a pro about the best flux to use, next time. I have a nice paste flux that's great for brass, but I don't think it's aggressive enough for white metal.

The low-melt solder also made adding the brass wire that simulates the upper cage, much neater and easier than epoxy.

The only thing that caught me out was due to shrinkage (I suppose) the two boxes were not quite accurate in size



Scribed flooring and slats added a nice bit of extra detail.



Roof slats are yet to be touched up, and next time I'll make them in wood.

and were a little twisted.

I have another of these kits and when I'm building it, I'll make a jig so that the sides and ends are all the same size — as well as square.

The sheep boxes were double-decked, but the simple styrene sheets supplied for the floor seemed a bit basic. I used distressed scribed styrene instead, and added a framework underneath it. I had a good look online, but couldn't quite tell how it all went together in the real world. I think double 2 x 4 wooden joists were added across the width of the wagon, with planking on top of that, and smaller slats to add a foothold. Couldn't have all those delicious sheep sliding around uncomfortably, while they



The weathering is done and touch-ups almost complete — I just need some decals and some sheep.

took their final trip onwards to the dinner table.

I added the roof slats, door handles and grab-handles to finish the build then washed the model to get rid of grease and flux. I should have used some sort of degreaser, because there was residue from the flux that bled through the paint afterwards. I just tell myself it's extra weathering.

Painting was an involved process. In order to reach everywhere inside with the spray, I had to make each box in two halves (one side and one end), then glue them together. I pre-painted the styrene top slats and glued them last, after painting and weathering the decks.

Because I had yet to learn the joys of oil pin-washes, I used Vallejo's acrylic wash. It dries too fast and doesn't build up the detail as well as oil washes do. I'm sure other modellers could do a better job if it. A bit of dry-brushing, some chalk weathering, a final touch-up and I was done.

When I'm back in New Zealand, I'll find a prototype and have a look at how the deck was built, to see how wrong I got it. The roof slats supplied were styrene and a pain to glue to the castings. Next time I'll use wood.

I'll also get some decals made. They always seem to finish things nicely. Maybe I'll add some sheep, as well.