

**Hills Model Railway Society Inc.**  
**PO Box 555**  
**Castle Hill NSW 1765**

**ISSUE 07 - NOVEMBER 2016**

**PUBLICATION OF THE HMRS INC.**

## Hills Rail Time

### Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 25th of November. Attend and have your say. Why not show your interest and ally for the committee position, new ideas and faces are welcome. Forms are in the society rooms.

Models for the Annual modelling competition should be submitted no later than the AGM. The details for the competition are available on the clubs website.

Lastly, and the most important, our Annual Christmas Party.



**PARTY**

This will be held on Saturday the 10th of December. The cost for this event is only \$20.00 per person. Please make payments to the treasurer as soon as possible. Northmead Bowling Club (same place as in 2015) Windsor Road Northmead.

Your Committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and that you all have a safe new year.



I hope that this man is good to your families at this time of year and all your wishes come true.

Dear All, With Christmas and New year upon us again I would like to share a personal and life changing experience I had with my family and friends with drinking and driving.

As you know, some of us have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time on the way home after a social gathering with friends.

A few days ago we were in the City for an evening with friends and had more than a few beers followed by some bottles of excellent wine.

Although feeling OK we still had the sense to know we were probably slightly over the limit. That's when we did something that we normally would not do — we actually took the taxi. Sure enough on the way home there was a police roadblock but since we were in a taxi they waved us past and we arrived home safely without incident.

That was a real surprise, as we had never driven a taxi before. We don't know where we got it and now it's in our garage we don't know what to do with it.

So if you want to borrow it, Give us a call.



Merry Christmas and Happy New year to each and every one of you.

### What to do when a Loco does not Respond in DCC.

DCC is a 5 to 9,000 Hz square wave A.C. signal, that the microprocessor in the decoder has to decipher, to issue speed commands and function selection continuously for the decoder to operate. Sometimes the decoder does get confused for some reason. A reported common problem and it has happened to me. That when there is a short on the layout, the decoder acts strangely with some funny result. Sometimes the address CVs are affected which will prevent communication with the decoder. This is seen as a locked up decoder.

Sometimes this lock up could have been caused by Operator Error.

What should we do to correct this lockup or loco not operating situation? I have listed a few things below:

- **Power:** Move loco to a known clean track and check for power. This happens too often not to consider first.
- **Consist Address** One common operator fault is that we are trying to get a loco to move that was in a Consist previously. Program CV 19 to 0. Also operating command station may not know Advanced consist address that consist was set up on another layout. Set CV 19 to 0 and rebuild consist if required.
- **Command station** may be 128 speed steps configuration and decoder only supports 14 speed step configuration. Reset C/S
- **Manual Notching:** If a diesel sound decoder, you may have this set. Set to auto notching.

If the loco still does not work after checking the above Place loco on the Program Track and read the following CVs.

- **If Cannot read CVs or something similar shows** on display, dirty wheels, faulty pickups or damaged decoder, rectify.
- **CV 29** may be set incorrectly, ensure correct value for the required features especially which address is being used.
- **CV 3** Acceleration set to high, reset to 0

**Note:** Ensure acknowledgement of programming command by the small movement of the loco and/or a sound (sound locos).

If all else fails to get the loco to work do a reset.

- **Reset** the decoder on the Program Track. Most decoders are reset by writing 2 to CV 30. Refer to the Decoder Instructions and DCC system Manual. When a reset is done, the decoder will ONLY respond to the short address of 3. You will have to reprogram the long 4 digit address if that was being used any CVs that you changed to fine tune motor and lights.

For both NCE TCS and Soundtraxx, to reset decoders, select CV 30, enter value of 2 and cycle power.

For NCE system users you can also do this at the Program Track and select option 7 Recovery Programming with the new eprom.

See also [Resetting Decoders](#) at the Model Railroad Craftsman.

#### Programming difficulties for a new Sound Loco on the Program Track.

Some DCC systems cannot program sound locos especially BLIs. Confirm running of loco on default short address if possible and then Program on the Main. Some modelers are using the [Power Pax](#) from DCC Specialties to give more power on the Program Track.

Sometimes the loco comes from the factory using last two digits of road number, depending on model. Check included instructions for what number to address loco with. Remember without the correct address nothing happens.

BLIs and others that have QSI sound boards with DC running capability, may have a switch that has to be repositioned for DCC.

If a BLI does not run on an Atlas or Roco DCC system then track voltage may be too high > 22 volts DCC.

#### Programming

If loco does not program, then motor or motor connections may be faulty. If you cannot program on Program Track attempt to Program on the Main, maybe faulty program track wiring or faulty switch. This may result in difficulty or weird funny results.

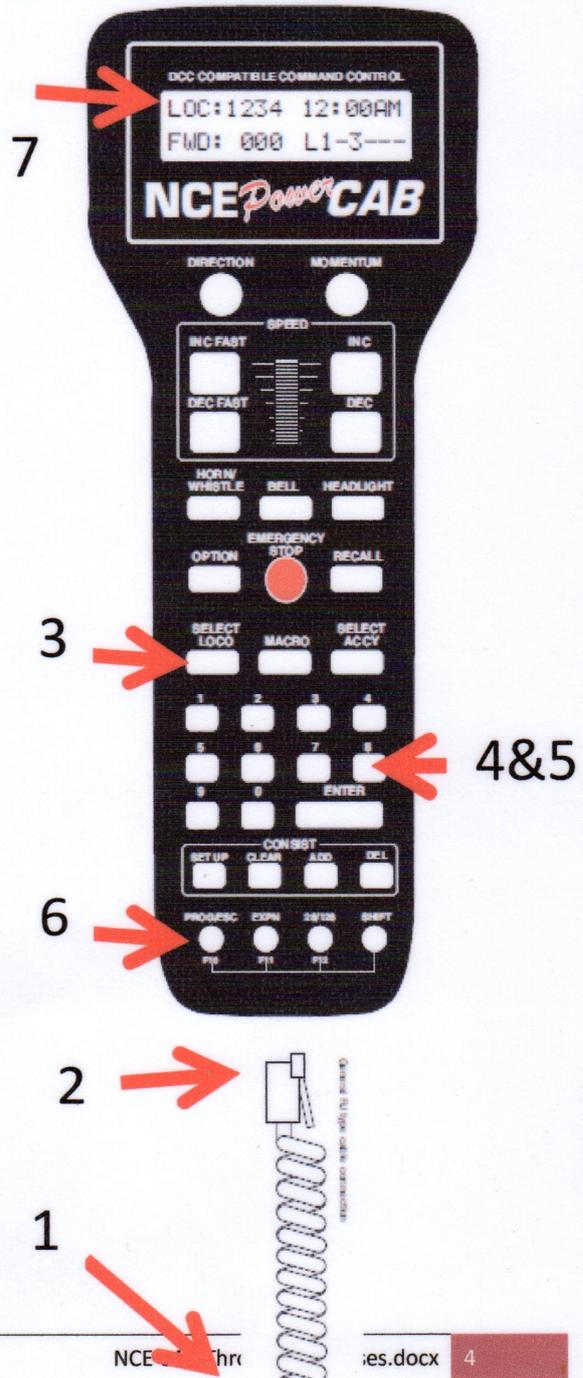
February 22, 2016

### Change CAB Address Method

1. Plug in the coiled cable to the UTP socket. Do not initially plug in your Power or Pro CAB
2. Before you plug in your CAB or if you did remove the coiled cable from the CAB
3. Hold down the *Select Loco* key and plug the coiled cable to the CAB
4. Release the button and the display will request an address number. Type your allocated club address and press *Enter*
5. The CAB display will now request *Yard (Shunting) or Normal* mode. Select your user mode.
6. Now press *PROG/ESC*
7. Press *Select Loco* and enter your *Loco* number.

Use above steps to return to your home CAB address with flat or coiled cables connected to PCP or UTP sockets.

### Power CAB, Pro CAB





Part of 'N' scale layout and round-house Under Construction

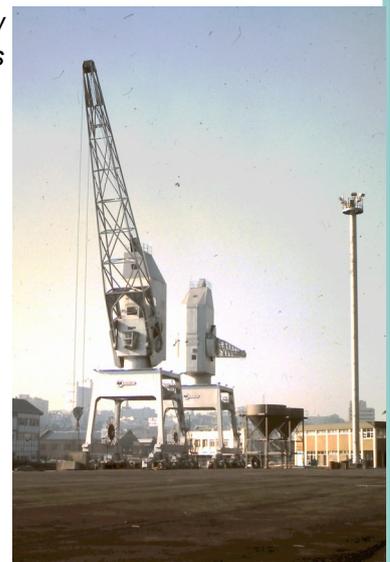
### **STOP PRESS. — New Model Competition.**

*\$25 prize, No paperwork, No counting rivets, No points, All Judging carried out by attendee's at the Christmas party ladies, gents and children, just bring your model, building, rolling stock, point work or whatever. Bring it to the party and take it home again, did you make it last year, 5 years ago, or last week, it doesn't matter. If it's won a prize in any other competition it can't be entered. Not necessary the best will win, but the most liked.*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB — [WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU)**

**Email: [secretary@hmrs.org.au](mailto:secretary@hmrs.org.au)**

Do you know where this photograph was taken?

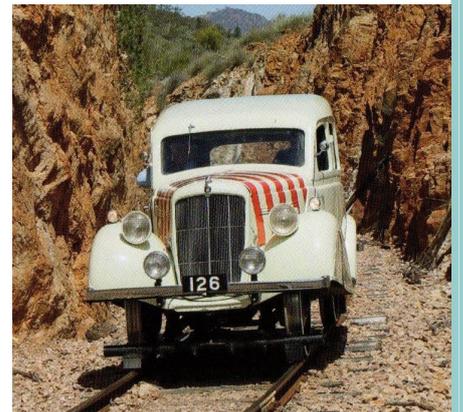


Answers next issue.

Answers to the quiz in the last issue .....

Goulburn Roundhouse.

**It's real,** (Grant hasn't lost it ) Inspection car 126 at Saltia on its way to Port Augusta, South Australia on 6th October 2013.



**Did you Know.** School teachers in 1880 had to stay fresh all day after a weekly swim in the dam. Fight off the swaggies who attempted to camp in the school house and keep the school property free from dust and cattle. They also had to patch the shingles on the school roof, set broken legs and wallpaper the residence with newspaper to keep out the winter winds and snakes.

Be careful. **Mad Wife Disease.** A guy was sitting quietly reading his railway magazine when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with the Woman's Weekly. 'What was that for?' he asked. 'That was for the piece of paper in your trousers pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it,' she replied. 'Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was one of the names of the horses I bet on'. 'Oh darling I'm sorry, I should have known there was a good explanation'

Three days later he was watching TV when she walked up and hit him on the head again, this time with the frying pan, which knocked him out cold. When he came to, he asked 'What was that for?' She replied, The horse phoned.