

Hills Model Railway Society Inc.

PO Box 555
Castle Hill NSW 1765

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Hills Rail Time

Our AGM held on 25th November and was attended by 36 members. What a good roll up. Voting was required again this year but at the end of the day, no changers are required.

This is your committee for 2017.
Chairperson. Ron Seddon
Vice Chairperson. Geoff Hope
Secretary. Grant Harris
Treasurer. Rob Peterson
Committee. Roy Orton, Doug Bouchier, Bruce Roberts

Lastly, and the most important, our Christmas 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 from 7 to 7.15 pm.

**The Committee wish you
a safe and very**



New Model Competition.

.For the first time the club will be holding a special 'CASH' award with a public vote competition. All people attending the Christmas Party will be able to vote, so to misquote a famous line "bring your model with you" to the Christmas Party. It is available to all comers and is not restricted to a railway theme, but it would be nice. No model that has won an award in an open classification previously can be entered. Give it a go. Cars, planes, trains almost anything is eligible.

\$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.



Any of our old school electricians work like this? I did.



Changing street light globes Tamworth 1933. (I'm not that old) The light fitting is hanging in the centre of the street and the electrician is using the counter balance method to stand a extension ladder in mid-air. What Fun.

Men at Work



We thank Gary & Margaret Vaughan from North Queensland for his photographs from his HO layout and their story of the trip they took on 'The Ghan'.



TRIP ON 'THE GHAN'.

My wife Margaret and I did a trip on the Ghan from Darwin to Adelaide.



We left Townsville on the 27th June and flew direct to Darwin to spend a couple of days looking around Darwin as we had not been there before. We boarded the train in Darwin on the 29th June for our 3 day ,2 night journey to Adelaide, travelling in Platinum class.

The train for this journey was a near record length of 44 carriages and pulled by 2 NR class locomotives. Our first stop on day one was at Katherine where we boarded a bus to take us to Katherine Gorge where we did the two gorge

cruise. Our stop in Katherine was for 4 hours. Back on the train for our dinner and overnight journey to Alice Springs where we stopped in the morning for another 4 hours to do a tour of the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Back on the train for lunch and a relaxing afternoon watching the broad outback landscape pass us by. After dinner the train stopped at Manguri siding, situated west of Coober Pedy, the time is 9.30pm and the weather is clear and pretty cold. The stop here is for one and a half hours to do some star gazing, stand around a large bonfire and nibble on premium chocolates. After another night in our comfortable cabin watching the stars from our large panoramic windows, the morning light revealed we were in the northern part of South Australia.

After breakfast in the 5 star dining car the train had a brisk run through the flatlands north of Adelaide to arrive in the capital at 11.30am on 1st July right on time. The train being so long had to split into two sections to fit into two platforms at Adelaide terminal.

After a stay with family in Adelaide for 3 nights we flew home to Townsville via Brisbane arriving late at 10.15pm on 4th July. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone and if you can afford it definitely travel Platinum class , the staff look after you like in a 5 star hotel, also you have your own lounge/restaurant car .

Facts about the train:

Length of train : 44 carriages (over 1 km in length).

Power supplied by 3 power vans throughout train (1 power van can do 14 carriages).

Sleeping cars : Gold class, Platinum class.

Sitting up cars : Red class (soon to be taken off the train).

Normally 2 NR class locomotives in The Ghan livery (when available).

Gary & Margaret Vaughan (member 6LH).

BLAM 'Wabash' Covered Hopper, 'N' scale — grey in colour — as per photo. Somebody (?) purchased one from Roy O and its in the wrong box He would like to correct this situation.



Contact
Roy at
the
rooms.

Seeing that Ron's article had some information on DCC problems, here is one that I can contribute. Had this nice loco that I bought at the last exhibition, Bachmann Frisco Russian 2-10-0. Very nice loco. I already had one, out of the box stock with DCC decoder fitted. The brain got thinking. Easy to unplug the decoder from one and plug it into the newly acquired one. Simple, yes? Put the newly equipped 2-10-0 onto my programming track to simply change the number. All I got was that dreaded message "Can Not Read CV". OK, try full factory reset.

Every step in this process got the same message. Seriously considered taking up some other hobby. Did lots of checks of the power supply and checked if there was voltage. Yep all good. However, no power at the track. Why not? My programming track has HO standard gauge, HOn3 and N scale tracks. Now I know the N scale is working as I've programmed several N scale locomotives. Checked again and N scale locos do work. Not the HO or HOn3. I got to thinking during a cuppa. I remember that I was pushed for time to get the N scale working before an exhibition. Unplugged all the cables and turned the programming track over to check the wiring to the tracks and there was the problem. In my haste to get it working I had not connected the HO or HOn3 tracks!

A few minutes work and the missing wiring were soldered in place and the 2-10-0 was programmed. All the detailed electrical testing could have been avoided by looking underneath the track.

Dumb mistake. Gary Norwood

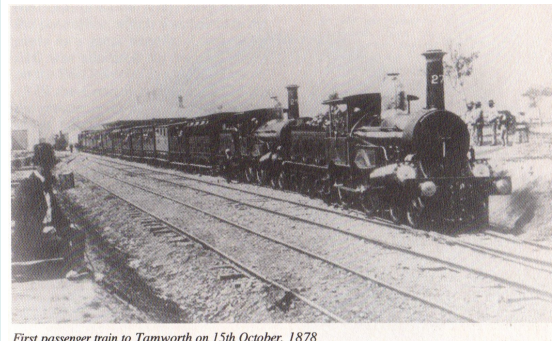
Do you know where this photograph was taken?



Answers next issue.

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

26 ton Alticar Cranes 1970 at 11 Birth Woolloomooloo Sydney..



First passenger train to Tamworth on 15th October, 1878

WE'RE ON THE WEB — WWW.HMRS.ORG.AU

Email: secretary@hmrs.org.au

Footwear.

Closed in footwear is to be used whilst in the clubs rooms and when attending any exhibition on behalf of the society. (See society protocols and rules)

If due to a medical condition which does not allow the wearing of closed in footwear, a doctor's certificate shall be sufficient evidence to wear sandals for that member. An indemnity form shall be signed by the member upon submitting the medical certificate. This is the only exception to this rule and will be only accepted when the doctors certificate has been sighted and a record has been filed with the members application form.