

# *Hills Rail Time*

## *Hills Model Railway Society Inc.*

*PO Box 555 Castle Hill NSW 1765*

**DECEMBER 2022**

**PUBLICATION OF THE HMRS INC.**

### President Report.

*Here we go again, it's 40 years in 2023 and another year is just about to pass, so let's all return to the rooms and enjoy what we do.*

*May I take this opportunity to wish everyone and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*2022 has not been a great year what with covid restrictions and of course the maintenance and painting of the rooms. Thank you to all who helped in cleaning out the rooms and place everything into the containers, a big job.*

*A few weeks later everything had to be returned into the club rooms. Another great job to all who participated. Thank you very much.*

*A newsletter what a great idea, but we need your help. If you have a layout at home let's, see some photos and a short story of construction, how, what material you used, any unforeseen issues or maybe something that you have scratch built and how you went about it.*

*We need content.*

*Ron Seddon.*



### Secretary Report.

*Who's driving the train? - see below, plus a picture and words of wisdom.*

*Our AGM was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and your committee members are.*

*President ..... Ron Seddon*

*Vice President ..... Elaine Houseman*

*Secretary ..... Bruce Roberts*

*Treasurer ..... Jonathon Harbour*

*Committee ..... Dennis Caverley, Richard Douglas and John Bennett*

*Public Officer ..... Lindsay McEwan*

### Club Activity

*During our club room refurbishment, to whom we thank The Hills Shire Council, many items long forgotten were uncovered others being donated to opportunity shops. Now we're all ready to re-assemble, setup and get our train layouts operational, look out for bent tracks and damaged scenery as we all need to pitch-in to get thing operational.*



*We need to keep on parallel tracks, curved or straight track.*

*Also give a thought as to what we may do as a club in the future. We hosted the Wollongong region's train club members many months ago and were offered a reciprocal day visit. Let the committee have your ideas.*

*Bruce Roberts, Secretary.*

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### From the Editors archives - A little bit of history.

*Do you know how we decided on the width of the International Standard Gauge for railways in NSW?*

*When we travel by train, the train is running on tracks exactly 4feet 8 1/2inches apart. Most countries but not all (including certain Australian States, then called colonies) followed this standard.*

*Why was this width selected?*

*It is based on an ancient measurement, the distance between the wheels of the old Roman War-Chariot, which is also based on, wait for it, none other than that of the behinds of the two horses which drew the chariots.*

*The evidence can be seen in the ruts in the stone flagged roadways of the ancient Italian city of Pompeii which was excavated many centuries after being covered by lava during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79.*

*For those who don't know our rooms are back, well, we are as strong as ever. Thank you everyone who assisted in removing everything out of the rooms and into the containers supplied by council for storage during the painting etc.*

*Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we started to reorganise and rebuild our model railways. We started to move back in after 7 weeks of pulling our hair out, suffering from withdrawal symptoms and not seeing anyone. The council has completed and carried out some building repairs, maintenance and repainted our rooms. Our plan (hopefully) is that all layouts will be fully operational before Christmas, as I said, that's the plan.*

*Thank you to everybody who has assisted in the above move out and move in. Our carpet in the meeting room has also been cleaned, so please be careful with any food and drinks and any mud and dirt when its wet outside.*







*We are very fortunate having these rooms and over the years we have built a good relationship with council so let all look after the rooms and not destroy them.*



Bruce writes.

*I received an E-mail from Bruce the other day. Just some material for the Newsletter - Kevin, Dennis and Richard are just visible with me atop of the rise just the north of the crossing.*



***Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc, 150th anniversary April 2-3, 2022.***

*Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc. held the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rail line north from Newcastle to Murrurundi at the northernmost tip of the Hunter Valley. The line stopped for four years until contractors-built Australia's oldest operating tunnel through the Liverpool Range to the Queensland Boarder. HMRS took our TULONG Exhibition Layout as did three other model railroad clubs to help make this a successful weekend.*

*Sunday morning four of the club members arose from sleep at 5am to drive north of the Ardglan Tunnel to catch this empty coal consist headed by three Aurizon NR locomotives. Then back for breakfast and our model trains setup in the local Bowling Club. This event was a great success as was the camaraderie between local and country folk plus fellow model railroaders.*

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*Any short stories out there that you might like to share with us?  
Just send them to the [secretary@hmrs.org.au](mailto:secretary@hmrs.org.au)*  
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*Two old blokes talking.  
I love steam trains; they have brought me a fortune.  
Are you an investor?  
No  
How come then?  
The fact is, I have lost a number of rich relatives in railway accidents.*

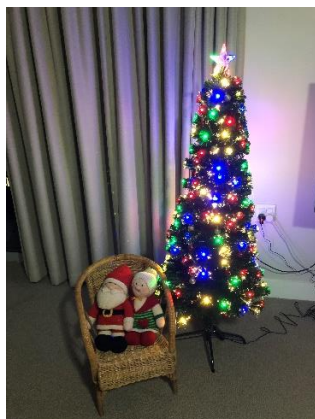
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*Do you know when and where these two photographs were taken?  
What's in photograph 2 that's unusual?  
Answer next issue.*



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*Your committee would like to wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas  
and safe New Year.*



*Happy Modelling, keep on Track and have a great Christmas and New year. Ed*

*For more information  
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