



the CALL BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSHEET
OF THE

MELBOURNE MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY Inc.
A 0029633 S

Volume – 18

Number – 2 May - July Issue 2011



**Steam Locomotive Skoda Albatross Pulling a Tourist train
on the Bratislava (Slovakia) April 16th 2011
Photograph by Peter Lovas**

Production: Andrew Manser

Office Bearers

President:	Andrew Manser
Vice President:	William (Bill) Fock
Secretary:	David Patrick
Treasurer:	Reg Roberts
Membership:	Tony Digby
Electrical:	William (Bill) Fock
Way & Works:	Mark Johnson
Mechanical:	Warwick Brisbane
Club Rooms:	Old Parcels Office Auburn Railway Station Victoria Road Auburn
Telephone:	0429 957 481
Web Address:	www.mmrs.org.au
Web Master:	Mark Johnson
Catering Officer:	Hughie Reeves
Call Board Production:	Andrew Manser
Meetings:	We meet on every Tuesday and Friday evening at 7.15pm. (Refer to our Web site for our calendar of events)

Index

Page: 3	Presidents Report
Page: 4	What's Happening
Page: 5	The Real World
Page: 8	Photo Gallery
Page: 10	Calendars for May to July 2011

Presidents Report



Welcome to the next issue of our Call Board, I hope you find it of interest.

Hello from Townsville, I hope you all well and enjoying our wonderful past time of model trains. I have been learning all about DCC (Digital Command Control) and have started converting some of my locos. I have had the opportunity to test and run these locos here in Townsville on an associate's layout that is a work in progress. There are a couple of photographs in the call board for you to see. DCC is very versatile and makes for very interesting running, especially when working in yards shunting and making up various consists. Perhaps the club should look at the next display layout being DCC to display at the various shows and exhibitions how timetable running and shunting work in the real world.

For all the latest happenings and up to date information please refer to our Web site at:
www.mmrs.org.au

If you have an article, picture, or item of interest for the Call Board please email it to me at
andrewjmanser@bigpond.com

Oh well that's enough from me until next time:

Keep On Steaming

Andrew Manser
President

What's happening?

FROM THE SECRETARY

Visitors

We welcomed about twenty members of The Signal Record Society of Victoria who visited the club on 18th February. Being quite interested in railway signaling, they were very impressed with what they saw. It was not surprising that a couple of their members were able to take over running one of the stations!

Geoff Crow's son Andrew is a member of the 1st Balwyn Scout Troop, and Geoff is on the family committee of the group. One of the things which the group is always looking for is activities for the various age groups (Joeys / Cubs / Scouts / Venturers / Rovers) to do each week. It occurred to Geoff that a visit to the MMRS layout, during a running night, would be of great interest to the Cubs (aged 7-10) and Scouts (11-14).

We have therefore invited the Cubs and Scouts to visit us for the running night on Tuesday, 31st May. If we can't inspire a few of these youngsters to develop an interest in trains, we aren't trying hard enough!

I will be in touch with regular Tuesday attendees to ensure that we have enough members on hand to demonstrate the layout, and answer questions.

Sandown

We displayed the exhibition layout at the Sandown exhibition on the labour day weekend of 12th to 14th March. This was our fourth trip to Sandown, and it looks like the layout is slowly but surely making the club's activities more visible on the railway modeling scene.

The display consisted of the layout, a selection of photos of the layout displayed using Mark's PC and monitor, and the usual kit building. This time, I dispensed with kits and, using my trusty razor saw, files and glue converted some left over carriage sides (L & C Kits TFX second class sitting car) into another carriage type (an MFX second class car), and mounted it on a Lima chassis left over from another conversion. A roof, torpedo vents and carriage ends from Casula Hobbies completed the project.

Fridge

The club's fridge was declared a failure after it was found to be cooler outside it than inside, and rather than take it into shops, it was decided to place it on the scrap road.

An almost new bar fridge was purchased, and is now in service under Brisbane Yard.

Saturday running

Don't forget to put the Saturday running days in your diaries – the next one is on 28th May.

Membership fees are now due – your early payment will be appreciated.

David Patrick

The Real World

By David Patrick

GRAIN HAULAGE IN VICTORIA IN 2011

Each summer sees the movement of the grain harvest from the farm to domestic users, and to the ports for export. In Victoria, the rail movement is carried out mainly by two operators – Pacific National and El Zorro.

Pacific National is the better known operator, and has been moving grain from Dimboola to Portland for some months, using XR class locomotives and former VR wheat hoppers. These movements are, of course, on the standard gauge.

The first six XR class locomotives (550 to 555) are first and second series X class locos rebuilt around 2004 with G class engines which give 3300 hp compared with 1810 or 2210 hp of the originals. The last three (557 to 559) were newly built from late 2005.



Locomotives XR555 and XR558 have just left Heywood on the Portland – Maroona line with an empty grain train on 8th April 2011.

El Zorro is a Melbourne based niche accredited rail operator which runs infrastructure trains and freight trains in Victoria, and grain trains in Victoria and NSW.

It owns a small number of locos, and hires others as necessary from companies such as CFCLA (Chicago Freight Car Leasing Australia) on the standard gauge, and from preservation groups such as Seymour Railway Heritage Centre and Steamrail on the broad gauge.

This season, it has been running grain trains mainly from Dimboola to Portland, but recently ran some trains from Oaklands to Geelong, and Murtoa to Geelong. Oaklands is in southern NSW on a branch line from Benalla which was recently converted to standard gauge following the standardisation of the north eastern line north of Seymour.

Motive power has been extremely varied – ex NSW 44209 resplendent in R&H Transport livery has been used on Oaklands and Dimboola trains. It is seen here at Geelong export terminal on 29th March with El Zorro's T342:



Hired from CFCLA were T385, TL155 and TL153, seen here approaching Ararat with empty hoppers after discharging at Geelong on 7th April. The TL's were built by Clyde in 1955 and 1957 for the Kowloon - Canton Railway, and have recently been returned to Australia. They are based largely on Victoria's flat top T class locos. Interestingly, Austrains will be bringing out a model of the K&C Railways 51 class as they were known in Hong Kong.



This is TL153 on the same train at Maroona. The resemblance to the flat top T is obvious, except that there are a few more bumps on the roof. (One of the bumps is the top of a palm tree, so ignore that one)!

Other locos used on the standard gauge were GM36 in Commonwealth Railways livery, and newly returned to service S312 in all over black livery.

On the broad gauge, you could be excused for thinking that VR was alive and well, with blue and gold B, S, T, and X class locos being used, often five at a time.

Acknowledgements:
Photos by the author.
Austrains web site
Wikipedia article - El Zorro.

Photo Gallery



My Victorian Railways
T359 High Nose
running on the test
track after converting to
DCC

My V/Line B63
being tested after
being converted to
DCC.





Robert Stanley's M B Ry & N Co. 280 Locomotive sitting in the yards waiting to depart.



Robert Stanley's Norfolk and Western 484 Locomotive returning to the yard

Photographs by Andrew Manser

MELBOURNE MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME MAY / JUNE / JULY 2011

Tuesday

Friday

May 2011

3	<u>Work night</u>
10	<u>Work night Committee meeting</u>
17	<u>Timetable running</u>
24	<u>Work night</u>
31	Visit by Scouts

May 2011

6	Timetable running	WF
13	Timetable running	WB
20	Timetable running Theme – 1950's Australia	DP
Sat 28	Timetable running	MJ
		MJ

June 2011

7	<u>Work night</u>
14	<u>Work night Committee meeting</u>
21	<u>Timetable running</u>
28	<u>Work night</u>

June 2011

3	Timetable running	WF
10	Timetable running	WB
17	Timetable running Theme – American	DP
Sat 25	Timetable running	MJ

July 2011

5	Work night
12	<u>Work night Committee meeting</u>
19	Timetable running Theme - British
26	<u>Work night</u>

July 2011

1	Timetable running	WF
8	Timetable running	WB
15	Timetable running Theme Great Australian passenger trains	DP
Sat 23	Timetable running	MJ
29	<u>Work night</u>	

NOTE: SATURDAY RUNNING DAYS: FOURTH FRIDAY'S RUNNING WILL BE ON THE SATURDAY AT 1.30PM