

EDITORIAL:

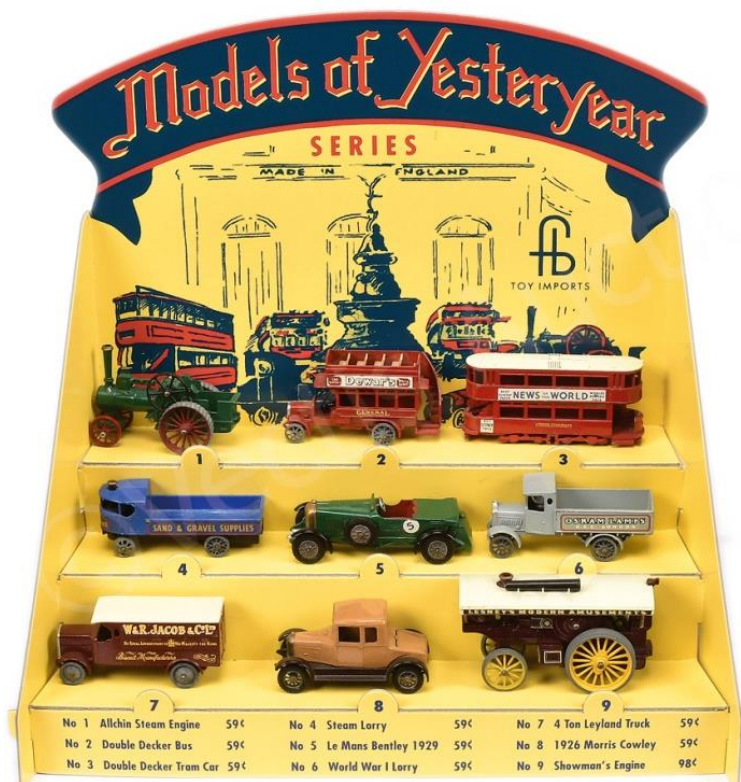
Dear Tasmanian HRCAA, BRMA Members, and fellow travellers. We have had quite a few replies to our newsletter requesting that it continue. A few articles have already been sent in. As I said at the outset this would be an occasional newsletter as time permits so I hope that folk are not expecting this to become a major feature of the Tasmania modelling scene. However while the social isolation persists I hope this will help a little to connect us together.

In addition to the newsletter I have started a **local web site** at <https://www.tassiemodeltrains.com> this is a work in progress and if any one has any contributions for any of the sections please let me know kind regards *Darcy*

MATCHBOX – 1: BOX SCALE

By Allyn Cooke

No model railway layout is complete unless model cars and trucks adorn the roads or are loaded on to railway flat trucks. The source of model cars available in the late 50's were either the scarce Dinky Dublo 00 scale models from Hornby or the ubiquitous matchbox 1-75 series introduced by Lesney Products in 1953, Later Lesney released the models of Yesteryear in 1956. The Matchbox brand was given its name because the original die-cast Matchbox toys were sold in boxes similar in style and size to real match boxes. The size of the boxes limited the size of the model so they were not a constant scale. Someone described the scale as 1: Box scale. I recall vividly the halcyon days of the 50's when matchbox toys were sold by newsagencies and Woolworths. Mother used to buy us one every so often when we went with her to Woolworths to choose one. In those days Woolworths had sloping counters centrally placed with glass dividers to separate goods for sale. Junior could just peer over the top of the glass dividers to gaze at the vast array of small toys and make their choice. I recall the matchbox toys were sold for 6 pence (6d) or 1 Shilling (1/-) depending on size of the box and

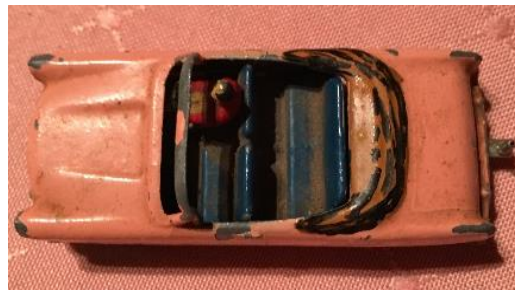


model. I loved the models and took them in my pocket to school so that I could play with them when I was bored in class only to have them confiscated by the teacher and never returned. Mother soon banned the cars from school. If that control had not been put in place I would not have any matchbox toys to talk about in this article. Over the years the matchbox models were used on all of my model railway layouts. The appeal of the early Matchbox toys was their sturdy simplified die-casting with open window frames and no interiors. They were ideal for playing in the sand box or sand pit available to children in 1950s-1960s easily washed and cleaned after playing although the steel axels often suffered rust and bending by the aficionado who want to drive them hard on gravel roads. Later models added glazing and interior fittings and plastic wheels but retained the die-cast sturdy look and feel. I have a small incomplete collection of the original matchbox 1-75



models left over from childhood days and for a number of years I have been meaning to repair some of my models that were missing bits or were broken. Two **Berkley Caravans No 23** with broken towing loop, a pink **Ford Zodiac convertible NO:39** with a broken tow bar, a yellow **Citroen NO:66** with jammed back wheels and lavish overpaint job and missing window struts and lastly the **Fire Engine NO:9** with missing escape wheels for the ladder. So during the winter months of 2017, I decided to have a go and restore the models. I repaired the two Berkley caravans by gluing a small metal loop with 2-part epoxy





and filed to shape. The tow bar of the Ford Zodiac was made from a mini solder tag and pin epoxied in place. I discovered an online eBay shop called Recover Toy by

member [eclectic oz \(3275\)](#) that sells replica diecast replacement parts for Matchbox toys so I purchased two escape wheels for the fire engine and fitted them with small threaded bolts and a washer to make them stand proud of the body. The Citroen however, required a lot more work. I removed the base by levering it off the rivets. Then I stripped the paint using brake fluid and paint remover which was ineffective so I had to chip the residue paint off with a mini screwdriver



blade. Next I fixed the missing widow struts. The struts were cut from spare Marklin catenary strips and wedged between the roof and sides of the car then glued in place with 2-part epoxy glue. Both models were subsequently spray painted with Duplicolor paints obtained from Supercheap Auto. The finish is not a high gloss but a semi-gloss as you are supposed to wait for 5 days for it to harden and then buff it with polish to bring up the shine. See if you can spot them hiding in plain sight in my collection.



Allyn's collection of Matchbox cars including some of the original 1-75 and few Models of yesteryear from the first series

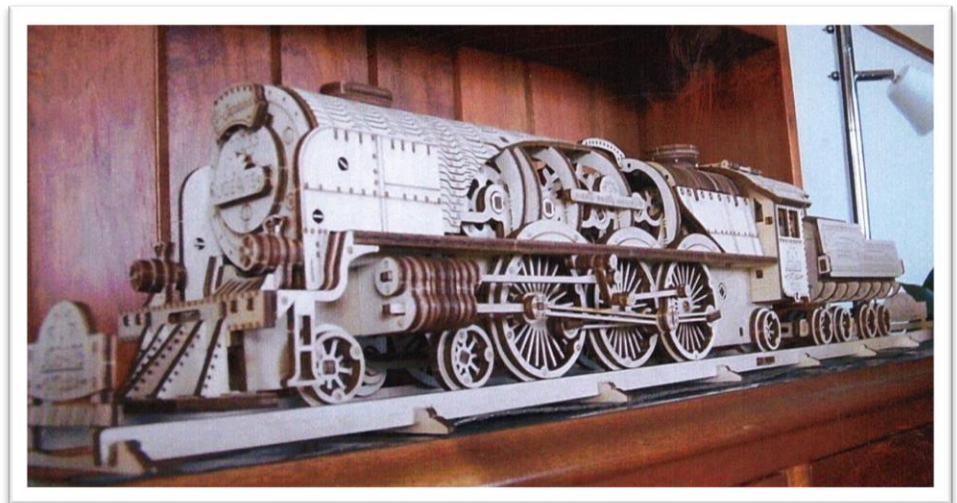
AN ISOLATION PROJECT

By Ian Simpson

Due to the current stay at home message. I have recently come across a range of constructive kits by a firm called U-GEARS. I chose a locomotive as shown in the accompanying photo. This is one of the most complicated of their kits. The kit is absolutely brilliant, basically laser cut components on 3 mm plywood with absolute accuracy. No glue or filings are required, as the assembly is square pegs in square holes plus a packet of precision toothpicks (dowels) to hold things together all by interference fit. A lot of patience is required, but the final result is superb. It is a working model running on 2

metres of supplied track. The scale is 1/32 and the whole thing is powered by 16 supplied rubber bands. The valve gear is accurate and works. The fire-hole doors open and close and there are adjustable vents on the roof. The back head gauges are laser printed. Their range of models is quite large with plenty to choose from. In addition to working on this project, I have been able to have some happy Hornby time on my 3 m x 2.2 m layout. The photo below is of part of this layout. So we do not need to feel totally shut in.

There are many things to do and we are blessed to have a hobby that is something we can easily do at home.



HRCAA AGM 2019

The 2019 HRCAA AGM was held at Winona on the Illawarra South Coast of New South Wales. The first picture in this series of photographs shows some of the magnificent views available in this area. This lookout known as Stanwell Tops looks down over Stanwell Park and the associated beaches. It is just possible to see in the distance the road going out over the ocean. In the early days the south coast road used to hug the cliff edge very closely. Multiple rock falls resulted in the deviation of the road away from the rock face being supported by piers into the very shallow ocean floor. This results in a magnificent panorama and a wonderful lookout at that point.

It is traditional at AGMs to have layout visits but as there are few members in the south coast region with layouts. The main focus was on the extensive display of Ross Maclean at Helensburgh. Ross is a keen collector of two rail Hornby 00 and also of the French Hornby AChO.

He is also a keen collector of American O gauge and military figures. Ross and his partner Sally, provided a fully catered all-day visiting experience for AGM attendees.. The photos from top to bottom are as follows.

Stanwell tops lookout,

Military figure, diorama,

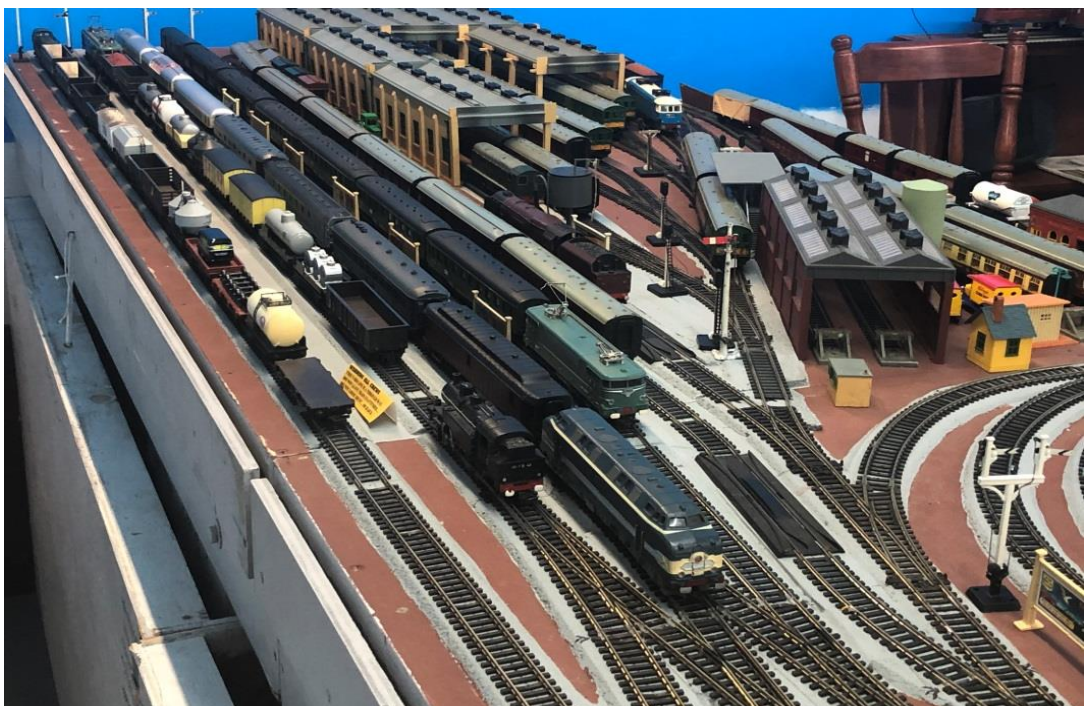
French Hornby AChO

Two rail British Dublo

American O gauge

Hornby O Gauge

Lionel Bridge







LOCAL TRADERS AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Handmade Accessories by Rob Matthews

<http://www.handmadeacc.com/brochure/index.html>

An excellent range of signals and railway accessories locally made in Launceston



The Little Train Shop at Newnham

<https://littletrainshop.com.au/>

This New business in Launceston has quite an extensive range and an online shop with Free Postage at present on most orders .

They has the **Delux** range of Glues and railway related products .

They also stock or can order the **DCC concepts Cobalt** point motors and accessories

Check out their online store

The service is limited on a face to face basis due to Corona virus restrictions and phone contact is difficult as the store is only open limited hours

The online shop however is efficient and rapid

Check out their online store



Tail Lamp



Well since our last newsletter we have had a number of contributions both to the new website and also for this newsletter. We are in the process of preparing a photo essay of **Steen Anderson's new N gauge layout** and also a contribution from **John Fielding** both of which will be hosted on the **new website**. See in editorial for the link. Members who attended the BRMA Tasmanian Convention will remember John's very interesting talk on using various different materials easily available for **scratch building and scenery building**. Your editor has been busy over the last few weeks working on a UFO. For those of you who are not familiar with this modelling term, it refers to **UnFinished Objects**. Years ago a start was made on converting early Athern RDC cars to a close approximation of NSWGR Budd cars. They are significantly different to the American version but a reasonable approximation can be made by modifying the front end and the entrance doors to match the NSWGR South Coast Daylight express. This was a 4 car set with an extra spare car in the event of a failure of one of the

Kind regards to all Darcy