

# HRCA SE QUEENSLAND GROUP NEWS

## July 2018 Meeting

Another new venue. Another public library, this one located in Redcliffe which is a peninsula just to the north of Brisbane.

The entire foyer of the library (with the usual Health and Safety conditions applying) was made over to a display of O-Gauge and Hornby Dublo with an interesting interactive multi-gauge layout (more below).

The major display was a 12 foot X 6 foot O-Gauge Hornby three-rail layout dominated by the group's HRCA banner.

Next in size was a 9 foot diameter circular O-Gauge layout with one simple three-rail circle and one two-rail circle, all in solid brass rail. On this ran a mixture of Hornby, Lionel and scratch-built VR models.

Next down in size was an O-Gauge Lionel 3-rail FasTrack layout on which ran a Lionel Hogwarts Express, a Darsted Mallard with teak coaches and numerous examples of Ace Trains including an Underground Metropolitan Bo-Bo locomotive. Hornby was represented by a clockwork M0 loco and tender hauling a short goods consist and running on a loop laid on top of the tunnel over the electric trains.

Next to this, on a small layout, was a display showing the difference in size between the common gauges used in modern model railways. This consisted of a circle each of O-Gauge, HO/OO gauge, TT-gauge, N-gauge and Z-gauge. A ridge ran down from the outer edge of the layout towards the centre and a locomotive for each gauge was garaged under this hill. The public could use a rotary switch to select a track and press a momentary switch to activate the selected locomotive. I am not sure how much learning about gauge was achieved, but people had lots of fun.

Two Dublo layouts were on display; both were three-rail. The first was a free-lance layout (constructed on a superfluous door) and which has been described previously. It included the usual mainline and island stations located on dead-end sidings plus a turntable, running off a long goods siding. Locomotives run included a BR N2 with tinsplate goods consist, LMS 'N2' with BR tin-printed suburban coaches, Duchess of Atholl with LMS D2 consist, BR 4MT 2-6-4T with BR D11 consist, and Class 20 Bo-Bo which ultimately failed with a mysterious cogging problem.

The second was a single circle of track on which a re-painted (in CR blue) N2 hauling two D11 coaches ran all day. Scattered around the track was as many examples of Dublo rolling stock, track, accessories, boxes, etc. as could be shoe-horned onto a standard card table.

The final exhibit was static. It displayed models from Gauge-1 to N-gauge and ranging in age from ninety-plus years to recent. It generated considerable interest, particularly from younger visitors who could not envisage any toys lasting over ninety years!

The day was not onerous, being only open to the public for a total of five hours. However Queenslanders are not used to having to get out of bed to a 1<sup>0</sup> outside temperature.

Our thanks must go to the staff of the Redcliffe library who went out of their way to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Comment of the day:

Middle-age gentleman, looking bemused, comments that (almost) all of the layouts on display have a third track in the middle of the other two. Asks: "Is this something to do with DCC or is it just the latest thing".

**John Bateman (Member 8962)**