

Central Otago Model News

Newsletter of IPMS Central Otago Model Society Inc

September 2015

From the President's Desk

THE TRAIN SHED

Well I have been spending a lot of time down in the shed working on my stoney river junction layout as it was going to the Otago Model Engineers Train Show in August. The new module was finished with bridges, track, trees, and a couple of buildings added (one which I got from a second hand/antiques shop, it was a house which you would have in a collection of fine china, if only the previous owner could see it now they would be surprised/shocked!!) The whole layout sides have been re-painted and look great. Water re-varnished and more trees planted. I set it up for DCC and once it was all running ok we dismantled it and put into the truck ready to take to Dunedin.

DUNEDIN SHOW OMES

We set off early Friday morning (Deidre, Lochland and I) and arrived about 9:30 am and began setting up. Lochland took his Hoe layout which he ran all weekend as well as helping run my layout. I ended up running dc most of the weekend as this was easier and could leave the trains running themselves as I looked around. Only a couple of problems came up which turned out to be loose connections on track power which can happen as the layout is transported around the countryside in the back of the truck. There was a good variety of layouts and although there were 2 separate venues public numbers seemed good. Lochland got some bargains off the second hand table as did I and I also purchased a new Tomix six car bullet train n scale which ran faultless during the weekend. Over all another great weekend running trains and meeting new faces, thanks to the team at the Otago Model Engineers. I was lucky and won the public vote for best layout.

OUR TWO DAY WORKSHOP

This was a great weekend and there was lots of modelling going on. Members from Dunedin and Invercargill IPMS came along and participated which was great. We held a model competition and shared lunch on Sunday. Grant won the lifelike reflections trophy. Well done as the competition was high with lots of excellent entries.

Andrew



Pictured above is Grant receiving the trophy from Andrew. The trophy was established by Max. It is intended that the trophy be competed for at least twice a year as it will help us all to push hard for reality in our modelling.

Community House Workshop

Sunday 13th September

Workshop 1-4

Committee Meeting 4-5:30

... and ...

Scout Den Workshop

Sunday 20th September

Workshop 1-5:30

Thoughts from Steve

Our weekend workshop went off very well starting with setting up on the Friday night with trains running and models being built before the night was over. Saturday was a 9 o'clock start with plenty happening all day and Rex giving a very in depth talk and demo on some new control systems for the trains starting off with a basic home system to some very elaborate ones to control points etc with a smart phone (more learning to do for me) but will allow more people to do things on our club layout. Modellers were busy getting final touches on their kits for the inter club competition on Sunday. It was great to have some from Dunedin come through and make use of the Saturday and it was good to have some extra catch up time. Kimberly came in the afternoon and started to cook us a wonderful meal for the Saturday night and the nice smells wafting through the hall made it difficult to concentrate on our jobs. DVDs were playing all day with turn about between railway and military related titles so if you wanted a break from what you were doing there was something to look at. The meal went down a treat and then more modelling and then home to bed. Sunday was another early start and a heap of Invercargill modellers came up and soon competition models were on the table and a light pizza lunch and lots of catch up natter. Greg took the trophy with his model of Mr Fury and Grant took out the life like trophy - well done guys and congratulations to you both. Lester bought his shop up so unfortunately the wallets got lightened a little. All in all a fantastic weekend and a big thanks to all who turned up and took part and made it the great time that it was.



Pictured on the left is Andrew presenting the trophy to Greg for his model of Mr Fury. The competition was a lot of fun, with a huge range of models presented (see next photo).



Dates For Your Diary

- 13 Sept **Community House Workshop**
- 13-14 Sept **IPMS Brisbane model competition**
- 20 Sept **Scout Den Workshop**
- 27-28 Sept **Alexandra Blossom Festival**
- 4-5 Oct **Christchurch Train Show**
- 10-11 Oct **IPMS National Champs Dunedin**
- 11 Oct **Community House Workshop**
- 18 Oct **Scout Den Workshop**
- 15 Nov **Scout Den Workshop**
- 13 Dec **Community House Workshop and AGM**
- 20 Dec **Scout Den Workshop**

Kit review Tamiya M1A2 Abrams 53th scale Kit no 35-269

Some of the sprues in this kit were dated 1992 and an update in 2003 possibly to make the basic kit up to the Iraqi Freedom spec tank in this kit. This kit went together in typical tamiya fashion; perfect fit and very little flash clean up. The tank could be motorised but no parts were included to do so and the vinyl tracks looked good enough except they did curve inwards around the drive sprocket and as mine is going to be on a base I clued some small pieces of copper wire between the drive sprocket teeth and this held the tracks flat. Just a small detail to make it look more realistic. There are parts provided for 5 different versions of tank so you need to decide from step 2 which version you are building and be careful with the instructions from there on. The hull was painted matt black and then flat earth and then dark yellow and the tracks dark brown and then washed with dark blue and the inside rubbed with a builders pencil to show the road wheel wear and then fitted as the side skirts wouldn't allow fitment afterwards with the drive sprocket glued in place. The gun barrel is a 2 piece item with a lovely seam running down its length which required some filler to remove. Tamiya provided some mesh for the bottom of the turret bustle and thin sheet for the CIP identification panels and then came the interesting part of fitting out the turret top with the different armament and sensors for the different versions. I chose to open the hatches and have the crew visible (3 figures supplied and a small dog). some of the turret bustle wires were bent on my kit but I left them this way as to give that more "in service " look and the later edition sprues that contained lots of stowage would soon disguise the bent pieces. Looking through a few books soon showed photos of just how much stowage was carried and so most of the supplied extra parts found their way on to the tank. This model was used to practise some new weathering styles so will show another photo of the finished item on its base ready for the nationals. This was a good build and would recommend it for all grades of modellers.

Steve



Kit review Emhar MkA Whippet 35th scale Kit no EM4003

Talk about chalk and cheese kits - this one has very clunky detail, lots of flash and no positive fitment lugs which made assembling the flat panel hull pieces a trying experience and still ending up with lots of gaps that had to be filled with super glue. Thankfully these tanks were covered in mud while in service so this will help to disguise some of ill fitting joints after I apply lots of mud and weathering. I did drill out the machine gun barrels and the 2 exhaust pipes and opened up all the vision slots in the hull just to improve the look of the kit. Even the front mounted fuel tank would not fit squarely onto the front of the tank and after doing a bit of research I found out that the front and rear angle iron brackets were used to hold up a piece of rubber strip to stop mud from getting onto the hull top. The tracks are moulded in sections and required heating to bend around the sprockets (I could have cut each link separately and glued them on each). This may have avoided the need to apply heat and would have had very little visual appeal. I did cut some lengths of suitable sized sprue and glue to each second track link to make mud grousers I saw in some photos. Even with all the fit problems this kit was finished in less than 8 hours and am now working on a base for it. A very poor kit but with a bit of work makes an interesting subject - I still enjoyed it.

Steve

