

JM 2

MAXIMUM TRACTION

The Newsletter of the Model Tramway Association Victoria
P.O. Box 305 Camberwell 3124

Issue No: **2010.11** **December** **2010**

Meeting Room: Hawthorn Tram Depot, Wallen Rd., Hawthorn (Melway 45 B 12)
Meetings : **2nd Tuesday of each month** .
President : (Acting Sec/ Editor) : Graeme Inglis 9887 9367 or 0417 316 767
Website: *www.steeraust.com.au/mtav* **Email:** *gin78205@bigpond.net.au*

Minutes of Members' Meeting: Tuesday 14th December 2010

Meeting opened: 8.20pm

Present: Glen Mills, Simon Steer, Graeme Elliott, Graeme Inglis

Apologies: Jim Potts, Steven Altham, Kevin Taig

Minutes of previous meeting: Read. Moved received: Graeme Inglis
Seconded: Simon Steer

Business arising: Meetings: Many thanks to Glen and Eileen Mills for kindly hosting our December meeting at their home when it was impossible to meet at our usual venue - Hawthorn Tram Depot.

There followed a general discussion about meeting venues when the possibility of meeting in members' homes was raised once more. Graeme Elliott—(welcome as our newest member!) — suggested that meeting at various homes would allow on-site viewing of layouts; control systems; as well as generating ideas for further modelling. (On page ? is a list of meeting dates for2011, as well as a survey for your opinions about Graeme's suggestion.) It's suggested that the February meeting (8th Feb) be held at Hawthorn

as usual, but Graeme has kindly offered to host the March meeting (8th March) at his home. (Unit 2, 9 Narallah Grove, Box Hill North, 3129). As raised once before, the question of holding Winter meetings at Hawthorn will also need further discussion.

Working Bees - 2011: Once again we will aim to have a working bee on the Tuesday one week after the scheduled monthly meeting.

Correspondence: In: A.M.R.A. (email) -Exhibition invitation.
Enquiry (email ex-website) - model tram for a 3 year-old.
Out: Nil

General Business: None

Models for display: Graeme Elliott showed his Weico B2 painted in Yarra Trams' Mark IV livery - glossy white with bright yellow doors and various green leaf motifs, plus black lower skirting panels and roof. A wide-ranging discussion then took place regarding the best way to assemble a white-metal kit. The general consensus is that cyano-acrylate 'super' glue is not desirable as models glued with this stuff have been known to break apart if accidentally dropped. Graeme used fast-setting Araldite on the B2, but Glen was also able to demonstrate the virtues of low-melt solder and capillary action with an almost completed Tramalan kit of a Melbourne California single-trucker. From memory, he uses low-melt solder from Broad Gauge Models.

Painting tips: Continued discussion revealed that Graeme used 'Mr. Metal' spray primer, followed by Tamiya white spray primer which is quick-drying. Glen revealed a handy hint. After the initial base coat has been applied, masking up is done ready for the next coat. However, to avoid any bleeding of paint under the masking tape, another coat of the same base colour is applied which seals the edges of the masking tape against any subsequent bleeding of colour(s). Once dry, the next colour (usually darker to more easily cover a lighter base) is applied and when this too is dry the masking tape can be carefully peeled off, hopefully leaving a crisp, sharp line between the colours.

Meeting closed: 9.52pm, followed by Glen's slides of Freiburg, 22 May 1973.

We also had a Christmas supper, and then Glen kindly showed us his railway layout. Having not seen it before, Simon and Graeme E. were stunned to see the scope and extent of Glen's vision, but when told that what they saw had already taken more than ten years to build and there were many years of work still ahead, we all appreciated that building such a huge layout is definitely a long-term commitment.

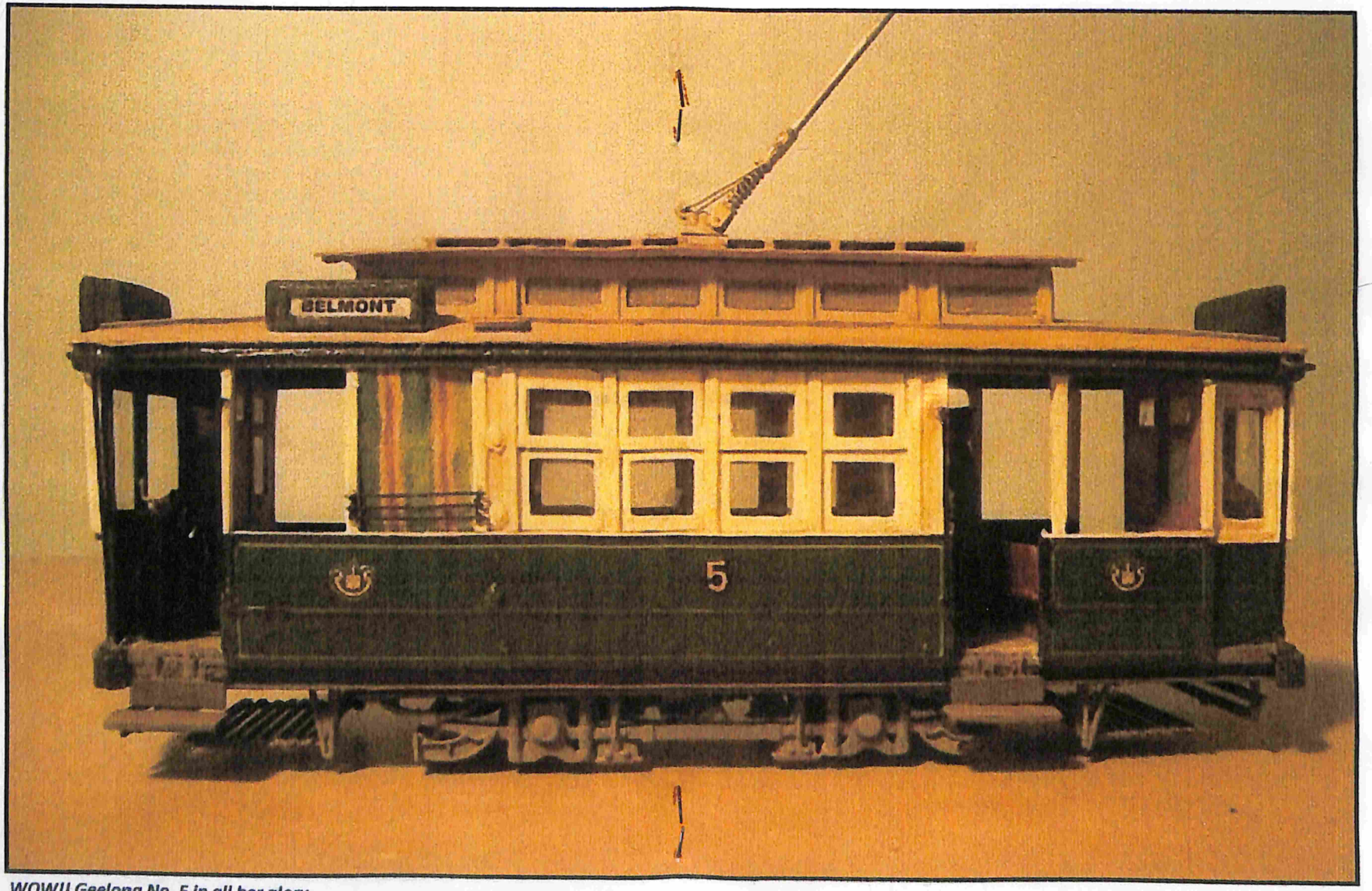
For those who don't know, Glen's multi-level layout is in a purpose-built basement room approx. 32ft x 30ft with a ceiling height of about 10 feet overall (which was just about item number 1 on the architect's brief when the house was designed)! Within the room, the walkway floor for the operators is built on a special framework about 4 feet above the concrete floor, accessed via a short ladder, with the layout baseboard a minimum level about 42+ inches above that again. Glen uses an open style of framework as favoured by US modellers. The only baseboards as such are in station areas, the rest of the sweeping curves and gradients are all built using the 'spline' technique attached to various risers, with a thin ply roadbed on top and then another layer of cork upon which the track is laid.

By this very clever use of the space, there is plenty of headroom below the layout. One can walk normally through to the 'crew lounge' and there is enough space for a work-bench; a second desk in another corner, plus plenty of storage space and shelving for railway books, etc. and a sophisticated arrangement of large electrical cabinets to handle all the switching/relays/ circuit breakers etc. which are a very necessary safety and security measure for such an extensive layout.

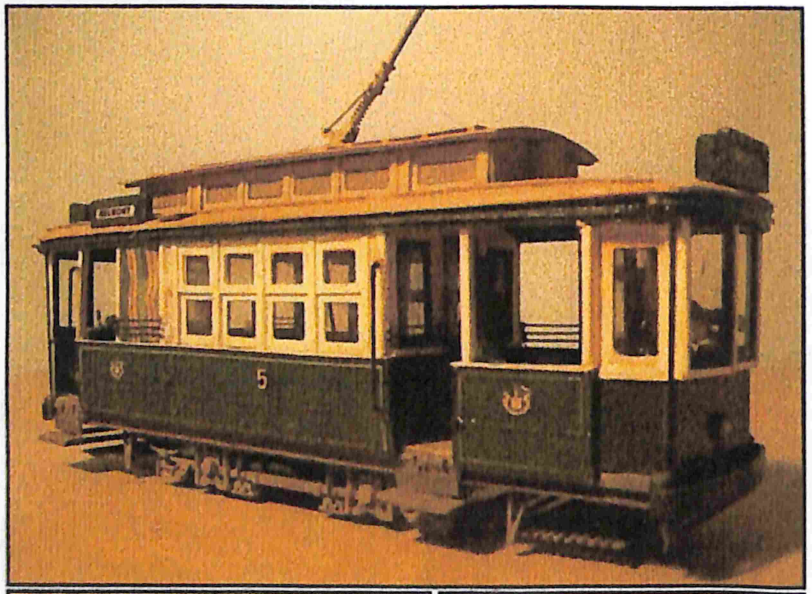
By the time we left it was almost midnight, so thanks very much Glen for allowing us to enjoy seeing the layout, and the inspiration it has given each one of us to get stuck into our own modelling.

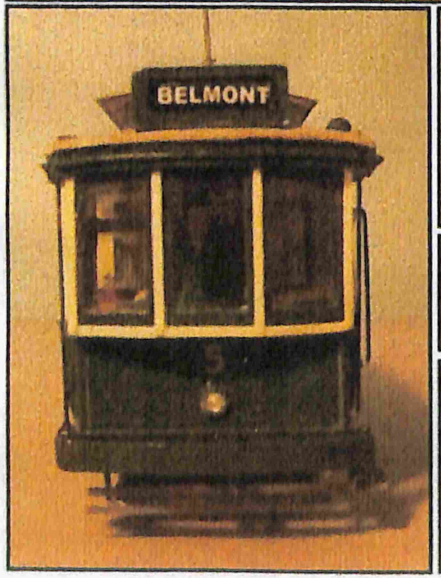
A little bit of Geelong in Canada

After moving on from the 'Malop Tramways' featured some time ago in 'Maximum Traction', Jonathan Milne has been busy building a 7mm:1ft model of a Geelong 'Butterbox' No. 5. It has a Terry Russell (UK) Brill truck with the correct 8ft wheelbase. Although it does not have the correct Brush side-frames, the running qualities of the Terry Russell truck are an acceptable compromise, and according to Jonathan No.5 'runs ever so smoothly'. Overleaf is the sort of centre-fold we tramfans drool over, and some other shots too (p6). Jonathan has built the baker's van and wagon from cardboard - including the wheels - together with some wood putty on the spokes. The human figures are also made from wood putty over soft wire armatures, and the horses came at the cost of 5 for $1 from a 'dollar store' (and the correct scale too!) The motorbike, post-boxes and phone-box are also scratch-built from card and odds and ends. Terrific modelling I'm sure you'd agree.



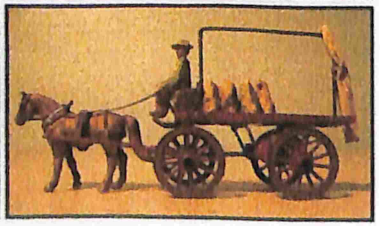
WOW!! Geelong No. 5 in all her glory.











Sydney Tram Museum

Over the weekend 26 & 27th February 2011, STM will be celebrating:

- 150 years of Tramways in Sydney, and
- 50 years since the closure of the extensive electric tram network.

Saturday: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm **Sunday:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Admission: Adult $15; Child $8; Concession $10; Children under 5 free
Family $46 (2 Adults, 2 Children, additional child free)

Entry allows unlimited rides on trams and vintage buses.

For further information, check the STM website:
http://www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au/tramfans/festival.html

Bachmann HO scale Birney cars:

Bachmann have released their HO Birney models in the US for a list price of $USD 160, although there are discounted models available.

Cat No: 80201 Philadelphia
80202 Baltimore
80203 Sacramento
80204 NY & Queens
50205 NYC 3rd Avenue System



80204 NY & Queens—orange & cream

Features:

- DCC-equipped for speed, direction, and lighting
- designed for aftermarket sound system installation
- dual-mode NMRA-compliant decoder with 8-pin plug
- precision can motor
- finescale gearing for slow-speed operation
- working trolley poles
- all-wheel drive
- detailed painted interior
- LED lighting