



MARCH 2021

Guild News

*New South Wales &
Queensland*

Area News



New area representative for New South Wales & Queensland

Dear Member,

You will have read in the Guild News that two new area representatives were to be appointed for Western Australia and New South Wales & Queensland. I have the pleasure of taking up the role for NSW and Qld.

My name is **Paul Plowman**. I am a retired trackwork design engineer, 76 years of age. I live at Boyland in the Gold Coast Hinterland.

During my career I specialised in the design

of major new permanent way layouts

I was responsible for the design of all new track layouts in connection with major resignalling schemes including the Victoria Area, the Waterloo Area, Southampton Area and the London Tilbury and Southend Resignalling Scheme.

I was responsible for the design of the new terminus station at Belfast, Great Victoria Street in Northern Ireland.

At the time of our migration to Australia in 1998, I held the position of Trackwork Design Engineer for the Thames Valley Section of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link between Dagenham and the Medway Bridge with running speeds of up to 300 kph.

In Australia I held the position of Technical Adviser to the NSW Government for the alignment and trackwork design for the Epping – Chatswood Rail Link in Sydney.



London Victoria Station - 1976



My design for London Victoria - 1980

I held the held the position of computing services manager with responsibility for all computing activity within the Chief Civil Engineer's Department of Southern Region.

With the availability of TSO Mainframe facilities in 1979 became involved in the development of computerised systems for the

design of railway switch and crossing layouts.

I was the first person in the United Kingdom, possibly the World to produce automated detailed designs of switch and crossing layouts using a mainframe computer. The first such scheme was at Micheldever followed by the new carriage maintenance

and berthing depot at Selhurst.

I achieved membership of The British Computer Society and the status of Chartered IT Professional for my work in the development of automated switch and crossing design systems.

Over the years I have had an involvement with heritage railways. I was a member of the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society and served on the Long-Term Planning Committee which was principally responsible for the planning of the Northern Extension to East Grinstead.

I undertook the detailed design for remodelling of Sheffield Park in 1978, which included the installation of a scissors crossover.

I was responsible for organising the reserving of land at East Grinstead in 1981

without which the Bluebell would not be running into East Grinstead today. I was responsible for the preliminary design of the new station layout at East Grinstead in 1981.

I am currently a member of the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Trust.



**Scissors Crossover at Sheffield Park - 1981
Layout designed by Paul Plowman**

I have a lifetime interest in model railways. My 'Torrington' OO gauge layout appeared in the Ian Allan Model Railway Constructor Magazine in May 1963.

Between 2004 and 2019 my interest was a P4 layout based on the BR(WR) main line in South Devon.

See an article which I wrote in October 2019 about my Littlehempston layout [here](#).

See a Youtube video made in June 2014 about my Littlehempston layout [here](#).

Due to personal circumstances further work on my P4 layout has ceased.

I am currently working on the construction of a new O Gauge layout, which will be a model of Ashburton Station in Devon, built as accurately as possible.

See articles about the construction of my model of Ashburton [here](#).

Outside of railways and model railways I am actively involved in motorhoming.

I served as President of the CMCA Paradise Wanderers Gold Coast Chapter for three years with responsibility for arranging monthly meetings for around 30 people. Meetings are held over weekends lasting five days.

Currently I serve as Chapter Secretary.

From time to time it may be helpful for me to make reference or provide links to the [Model Railways On-Line](#) website, which is owned by my son Graham and for which I am the editor and content manager. This will be solely a means of convenience to convey useful information to you. I must stress that in no way does our website reflect GoG policy. Neither is it connected to the GOG in any way.

The newly formed GOG NSW and Qld Area has 64 resident members including the ACT. Of that number only 37 are fully paid up. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible or you might miss out on the next edition of the Gazette and Guild News.

As a group we are scattered over a very large geographical area. It is going to be difficult arranging monthly meetings for us to get together in the normal way. I am sure that there will already be some informal groups formed among our members.

I am going to have to experiment to find the best way to administer the Area. In the meanwhile it would be a tremendous help if members would like to email their ideas to me

as to how we might arrange meetings over such a large area.

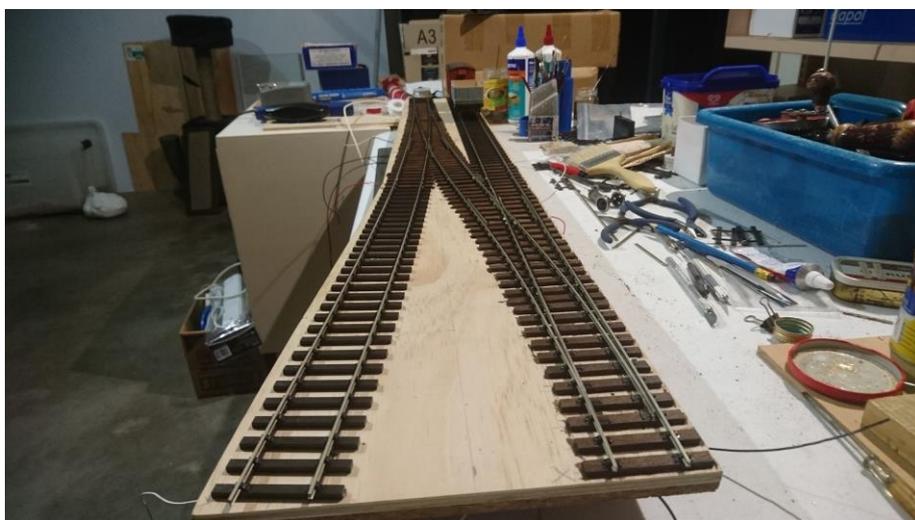
My thoughts are that we can best communicate our modelling activities through our own area monthly magazine. I will attempt to send out a magazine to you as near as possible to the 1st of each month. I would welcome contributions from you about your activities for inclusion. They need not be full blown articles, just some notes. Photographs are a great source of information and inspiration.

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Trackwork for Ashburton. The wagons are standing on Tuckers Malthouse Siding