



DECEMBER 2021

Guild News

New South Wales & Queensland

Area News

Latest News:

Graham and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hosted a meeting at my place on 5 December and was able to welcome four of our members. This was the last opportunity for visitors to see my P4 layout before I begin dismantling. Once my shed is clear I will be able to begin construction of my new layout which will be built as accurately as possible to represent Ashburton in Devon. All the pointwork for the station has been completed and was on show for visitors to see.

The state border between New South Wales and Queensland was opened just before Christmas. As was inevitable, the daily count of new cases of Omicron rose rapidly in Queensland. The numbers are not as bad as NSW and Victoria but the days before Christmas when Queenslanders could almost ignore the problem and live normal lives have gone. Western Australia remains closed and is having few if any cases per day. It is now very difficult to plan any activities, not because of government regulation but because of the uncertainty created by a rapidly changing situation.

I have been keeping myself busy creating a cad model of my new layout. Needing particular attention is the backscene which will be 10m long and 1.2m high (full size sheets of MDF). Those familiar with Ashburton will know that the town has a very distinctive appearance with two church towers, a tall chimney (since demolished) and a pattern of hedges on the hillside in the background which are the remnants of a medieval field system. From a GWR site plan and Google mapping I have created a 3-d computer model of these principal features. Having decided on a viewing position I then drew sight lines to these features. I was then able to use the cad system to determine where the sight lines intersected the backscene. As more sight lines were drawn it just becomes an exercise in joining the dots to draw the image on the backscene.

There seems to be little news from UK based manufacturers. Launch dates for new products continue to recede. I still have a number of items on advanced order. The Dapol MK1 coaches were put back to the end of November. November came and went, and we still have no idea when they might be available. Browsing Hattons website it is apparent that their stock levels of new items are very low. Much of their sales are for "pre-loved items".

I suppose we will just have to be patient and in the meanwhile get on with those tasks for which we can obtain the necessary materials. Good old Bunnings!



I have been re-scanning some colour slides on my new scanner and came across this picture of Terrier tank No.32650 at Robertsbridge on 31 July 1965, which is the subject of the Dapol model.

Meetings:

With the uncertainty caused by Covid it is now difficult to plan future meetings. Graham is trying to plan something down in Sydney but at the moment I cannot fix a date for our next meeting in Queensland. I hope to have my old layout dismantled by the end of February and to have made some progress in erecting the backscene and some temporary boards by the end of March. So, it looks as though it won't be until early April 2022 that I will have something to interest visitors.

If anyone would like to host a meeting in January, February or March I would be pleased to hear from you.

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