



## NEWSLETTER OF THE NOARLUNGA MODEL RAILROADERS

*On the Right Track*

November, 2016.

Visit us on Internet [www.noarlungarail.com](http://www.noarlungarail.com)

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This newsletter is available as a download from our website [www.noarlungarail.com](http://www.noarlungarail.com)

### Coming events:

#### Model Railway Swapmeet.

Friday, November 18, 7.30-9.00pm.

Uniting Church Hall, 28 Hillier Rd, Morphett Vale.

#### NMRI Christmas Dinner.

Saturday, November 19, 6pm.

Fresh Choice, Diagonal Rd, Sturt.

### Frank Crossley Appointed Honorary Life Member.



## **Our New Committee of Management.**

The Annual General Meeting held on November 12 saw five members “elected” onto the Committee of Management (“elected” because for each position there was only one nominee...). There was a “casual” vacancy, created by the resignation of a committee member (John Cutler) who was then nominated for Vice-president, leaving one “ordinary” committee member (Denis Woolard volunteered) with only a twelve-month term to serve, instead of the usual two years.

**Ron Weeden** remains our president.

**John Cutler** is our new vice-president.

**Peter Lynch** remains our treasurer.

**Bruce Ewens** is our new secretary.

**Peter Saunders** remains a committee member.

**Jeff Kohler** was re-elected a committee member.

**Justin Coombes** is a new committee member.

**Denis Woolard** becomes an “ordinary” committee member (short-term).

## Selecting and Fitting Kadee Couplers.

Since they became available, Kadee couplers have been the *de facto* standard for models of trains where knuckle couplers were used. However, over the last twenty years the range of Kadee couplers has proliferated at a near alarming rate. Even more alarming is that some couplers, now regarded as obsolete and replaced by new products, have been deleted from the catalog (note the US spelling...). Even "Old Faithful", the #5 coupler, is obsolescent, and retained in the catalog, I suspect, only because its coupler box is not interchangeable with the "Black Box" included with the much better #148 "whisker" coupler.

There was a time, not so long ago, when I (and many other modellers) used a wide diversity of Kadee couplers, many of which are now obsolete, or, at best, obsolescent. Some I will use up, some I will never use again.

### The Rules.

1. Couplers must be fitted on the centre line of the wagon. Measure it.
2. Couplers must be set at the correct height. Check with a coupler height gauge.
3. For standard height couplers (numbers 5, 58, 148 and 158 – and lots of others), the *back end* of a coupler height gauge is the correct height for the top of the coupler box.
4. The coupler box must be level. Dead level.
5. The front of the coupler box should be aligned with the end beam of the wagon – *unless there are dumb buffers or a rigid diaphragm present* – when the coupling point must be clear of the diaphragm, or well clear of the buffer faces.
6. The coupler box must be firmly fixed. It can be glued, but it is better screwed.
7. The coupler must be free to rotate from left to right, but should have no mobility up-and-down.
8. The coupler should return to the centre position automatically.
9. A wagon must weigh at least 3.5oz (100g) for Kadee couplers to work effectively, which is to allow shunting. If you intend to use the couplers only as a towing mechanism, 2oz (50g) will be sufficient weight.

Apart from the "conventional" Kadee couplers, there are some "special purpose" couplers, too. Kadee #9 couplers, quite frankly, are obsolete: these have a screw-together coupler box with a #5 coupler, designed to be glued to the long tails of some old passenger bogies. Nothing that a #148 whisker coupler cannot do better. Kadees #17-20 are "swallow-tailed" couplers of varying lengths, intended for NEM 362 coupler boxes, but can also be used to replace Hornby "plug-in" couplers.

Kadee's 20 series couplers are of plastic, hence insulating, but offer long, intermediate and short lengths, as well as offset coupler heads, up and down. If you ever need an insulated coupler... Kadee 30 series couplers are metal, and also come in longs, shorts, ups and downs, but with a unique small coupler box that is horrid to assemble: 40 series couplers were the same, but with "normal" coupler boxes. Kadee's 140 series whisker couplers do the the same as the 20, 30 and 40 series couplers, unless you need an insulated coupler, and if you need a small coupler box, #252s work, and snap together.

Kadee #58 were the original "scale-size-head" couplers: I've got a lot of them. Use #158 instead – it's a better coupler. Kadee #115 couplers are #148 couplers in a peculiar coupler box, intended only, I think, for Kadee's own logging trucks.

Kadees #118 and 119 are models of AAR SF and SE "shelf" couplers, mandated on US tank wagons so that they remain coupled under duress: they are also useful if you have long wagons and ordinary trackwork – they don't let go!

Kadee 140 series couplers are not "special purpose" couplers: rather, they are the most "normal" of couplers, available in longs and shorts, as well as offset up and down. Number 148 couplers are the successors to #5s: they do the same job, but better, and are easier to fit. If you are replacing #5s, do not discard the original coupler box, as the new one is not the same...

Some of us have warmed to the 150 series couplers, whisker couplers with "scale" heads. Unlike the 140 series, there is not a full range of the longs and shorts and ups and downs – yet. For the time being, my chosen coupler is the #153 – short, centre-set, whisker, scale head, works well and looks great. Others will have different ideas.

Allan Lees

Kadee has a very good and comprehensive website at <http://www.kadee.com/>

## Club Member Responsibilities 2016/17

President	Ron Weeden
Vice-President	John Cutler
Secretary	Bruce Ewens
Treasurer	Peter Lynch
Committee Members	Denis Woolard, Frank Crossley, Jeff Kohler, Peter Lynch, John Cutler, Ron Weeden, Peter Saunders, Bruce Ewens, Justin Coombes
Public Officer	Bruce Ewens
Events (Open Days, Swap Meets, etc.)	Bruce Ewens, Peter Lynch
Membership	Jeff Kohler
Security	Peter Saunders
First Aid	Peter Lynch
Cleaning	Peter Lynch, Jeff Kohler (extra help always welcome...)
Web Administrator	Bruce Ewens
Newsletter	Allan Lees
Main Layout	Frank Crossley
Lakeside	Ron Weeden, Denis Woolard, Jeff Kohler, Peter Saunders
Paradigm	Committee
Drinks and Confectionary Purchasing	Jeff Kohler
Sausage Sizzle Group Leaders	Justin Coombes, John Cutler, Peter Lynch
Sausage Sizzle Sausage Purchasing	Peter Lynch
Sausage Sizzle Onion Purchasing	Justin Coombes

**Quite clearly, with the AGM only days ago, this table is provisional...**

**Next committee meeting December 12 at 7.30pm.**

Yes, folks, these are advertisements, but not ordinary advertisements. These businesses each help our club and its activities.

## End Of The Line Hobbies

Your One Stop Hobby Shop

End Of The Line Hobbies is offering club members a 5% discount off all purchases. To be eligible you must be a current financial member and mention your club membership at the time of purchase. The club will receive the same amount as a voucher for use as we see fit. So you can help yourself and the club at the same time.

Delivery can be arranged anywhere in the world and orders may be placed in person at the shop, via email, snail mail, phone or fax. There is a stock hold option and payments can be made by Visa Card, Master Card, EFTPOS and good old fashioned cash!

Wednesday – Sunday 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

End Of The Line Hobbies 74 Ocean Street Victor Harbor SA 5211(near the turntable)

Ph 8552 7900 Find us at [www.endofthelinehobbies.com.au](http://www.endofthelinehobbies.com.au)

Fax 8552 7933 Email [shop@endofthelinehobbies.com.au](mailto:shop@endofthelinehobbies.com.au)



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