

Tribute to Milton Brown

Milton Brown was a long-standing member of the congregation of St Luke's, Hornby Heights.

In the early 1980s St Luke's still worshipped in an old ex-Army hut that had functioned as our church since 1952. However, the congregation was growing and the current church was about to be built. Once this was open (around 1984), the first building became our hall, used for the Sunday School.

The Sunday School membership exploded to over 250 children. The hall was too small, so someone suggested we buy an old railway carriage and convert it to classrooms. It was installed in 1987. This required extra funds, so a group of railway modelling parishioners organised our first model railway exhibition as a fund-raiser. Milton was part of that group. Over the next 32 years we raised tens of thousands of dollars which was ploughed back into youth-oriented activities focussed mainly on St Luke's. HADCEA also benefited from our activities. We formalised our group as a club functioning as a small group under the St Luke's Parish Council around 1989.

Milton was central to most of this. He helped design and build at least four club layouts. He fitted out our storage cupboards, firstly in the old hall and then in the new one. When the old hall was demolished, he donated a garden shed for us to use as temporary storage. This later became our lock-up which is now in the hall basement. Meanwhile, he built many of his own displays, which he named "Idaho Springs", "Green River", "Old Rock River", "Coffee Table Layout", "The Rock", "Umatilla Valley", "Ridgway", and "Rocky River". Most of these were very scenic N scale American railroads. He also dabbled in G scale models. Milton's displays featured in most of our 32 shows and he also ran a few woodcraft stalls to raise further funds during these events.

When St Luke's Railway Modellers accepted invitations to display at functions away from St Lukes, Milton was often part of the team. These included the Orange Blossom Festival at Kenthurst and several monthly market days at Bateau Bay Anglican Church, as well as many Hornsby Heights School fetes.

Milton was a quiet achiever within our group, bringing wisdom and practical knowledge. He organised several of our early shows and was a committee member for most of the period following the establishment of our club.

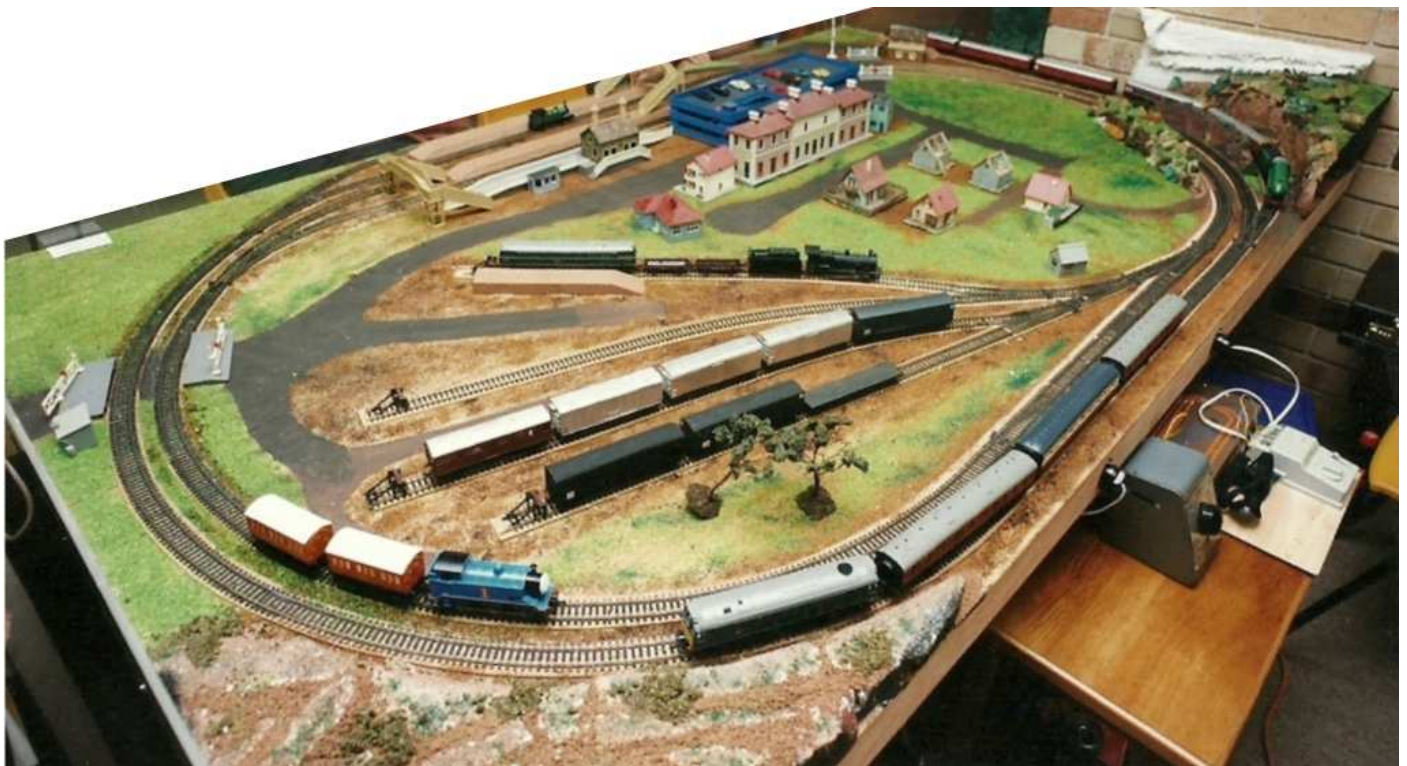
After a long battle with cancer, he passed away on 4 August, 2023. He is greatly missed.

Gallery:

1988 – Idaho Springs at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #2:



1988 - St Luke’s Railway Modellers’ first club layout, which Milton helped build, at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #2:



1994: Milton with "Green River" at St Luke's Model Railway Show #8:



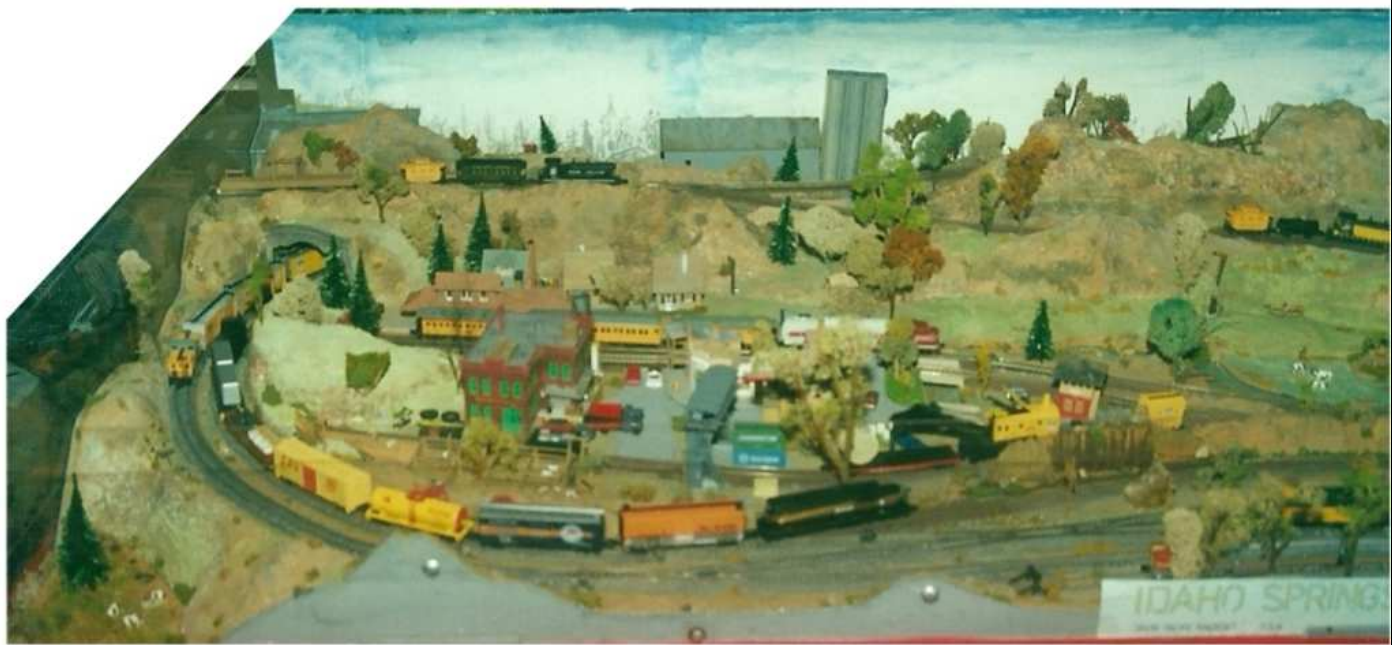
1998 – Milton with "Green River" at St Luke's Model Railway Show #12:



1999 – Milton with several other club members at a clinic session in St Luke's old hall



2000 – "Idaho Springs" at St Luke's Model Railway Show #14:



2000 – “Nebuchanezzar’s Crossing” - St Luke’s Railway Modellers’ second club layout, which Milton helped build, at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #14:



2002 – “Old Rock River RR Co.” (part 1 – N scale) at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #16:



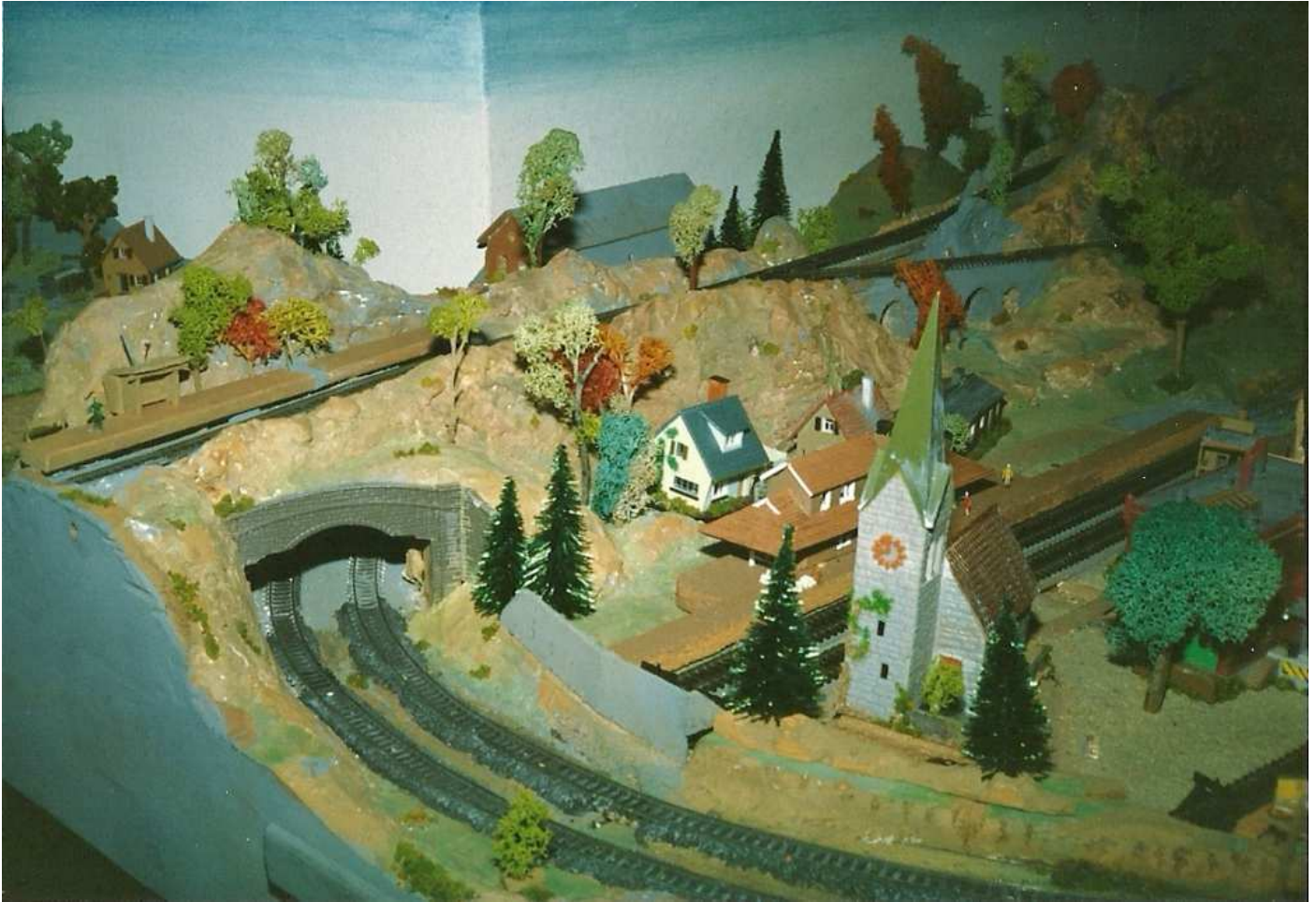
2002 – “Old Rock River RR Co.” (part 2 – G scale) at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #16:



2003 – Milton with Coffee Table Layout at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #17:



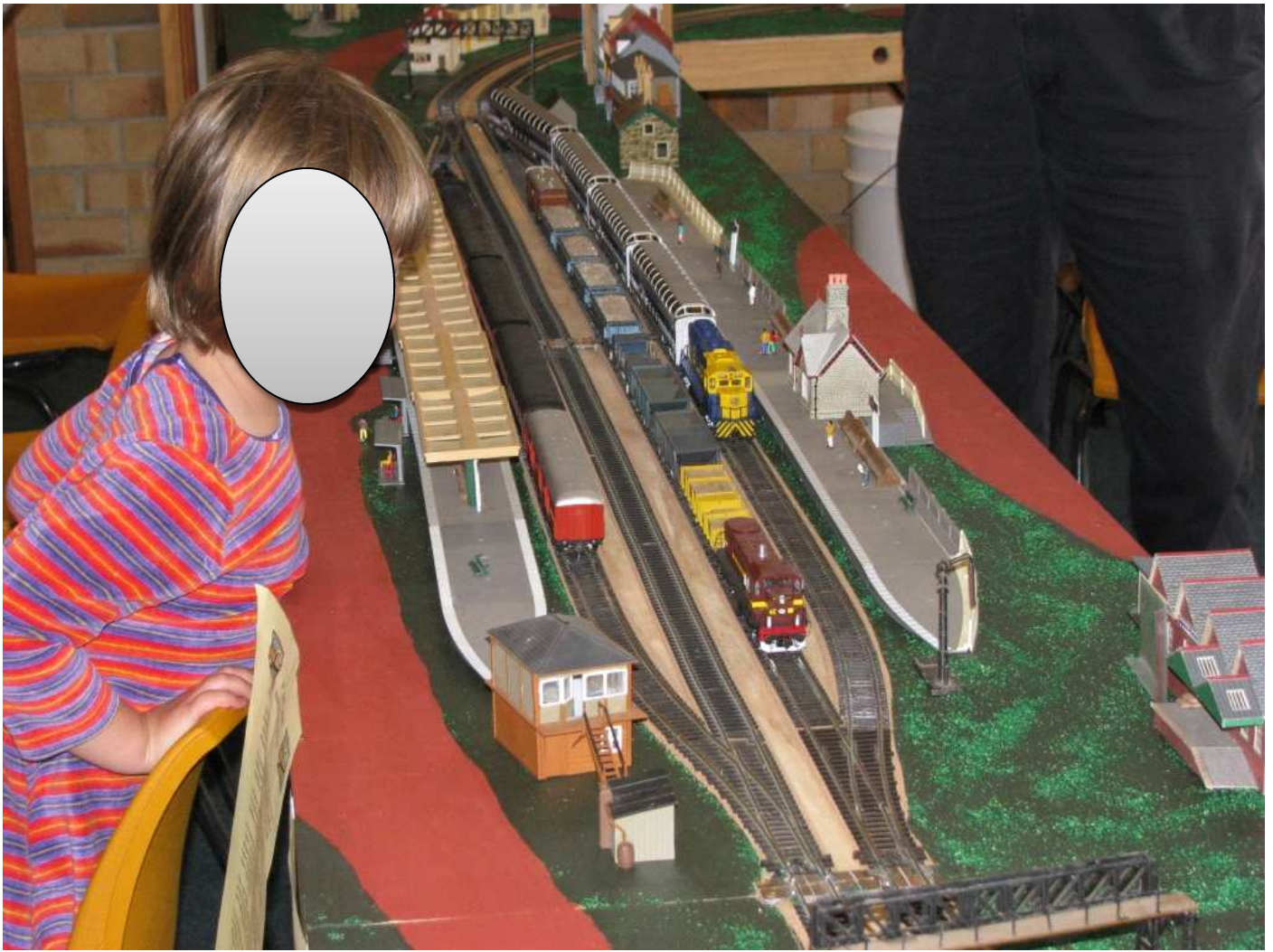
2004 – “Idaho Springs” at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #18:



2005 – Milton with – “Idaho Springs” at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #19:



2008 – “Defty” - St Luke’s Railway Modellers’ third club layout, which Milton helped build, at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #22:



2010 – Milton with “Idaho Springs” at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #24:



2012 – Milton and other club members with “Green River” at Orange Blossom Festival, Kenthurst:



2012 – Milton with “Green River” at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #26:



2013 – Milton with Coffee Table Layout at Bateau Bay Anglican Church market day:



2013 – Milton with "The Rock" at St Luke's Model Railway Show #27:



2013 – Cupboard (which Milton helped construct) in old Church Hall for “Defty” baseboard modules:



2014 – Milton and other club members with “Defty” in new Church Hall:



2014 – Milton and son Geremy with “Idaho” at Bateau Bay Anglican Church market day:



2014 – Milton with “Umatilla Valley RR” at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #28:



2014 – Milton's woodcraft stall at St Luke's Model Railway Show #28:



2014 – Club lockup shed donated by Milton installed in Church hall basement:



2015 – Baseboard for “New Defty”, designed by Milton, under construction:



2015 – Milton and other club members pausing during construction of “New Defty”:



2016 – “New Defty”, for which Milton built the baseboards, at its first outing at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #30:



2016 – Craft group display, including Milton’s woodcraft at St Luke’s Model Railway Show #30:



2019 – Milton and his woodcraft display St Luke's Model Railway Show #32:

