

Mortdale Matters

April 2007



**Australian Model Railway Association
New South Wales Branch Inc. News**

Around the Clubrooms



AMRA NSW members recently visited the Canberra Model Railway Club at Lyneham in the A.C.T. Here several of our members operate their HO layout.

March 24, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival



Ben Gilmore gets into the massive task of wiring the HO layout. He's seen here underneath Macleod Loop.

March 11, 2007.

Photo: Chris Winston

On the Cover:

Just before dawn Pacific National train 3PS6, slips into Cootamundra West behind filthy NR37. A brief stop is required here to return the staff for the section from Stockinbingal. March 23, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

Welcome to the April Mortdale Matters

Despite circumstances doing their best to work against me, it looks like this month I might actually have *Mortdale Matters* out on time! March has been a busy month not just for me, but around our clubrooms as well. There's been much progress on the HO layout with new yards and new features coming online in the last few weeks. At the same time the N scalers haven't been slouching around either. They've reached a major milestone this month with the last of the plaster being applied for scenery. Considering the size of the N scale layout it's a pretty big step towards completion.

A great motivation for all of this is forthcoming Open Weekend on April 28 & 29. This is where we throw open our clubrooms to the public and its always a good chance for us to show off our recent progress.

On the subject of the Open Weekend, I encourage everyone to try and come along, not only is it a great opportunity for us to promote our hobby to the wider community and encourage new members but its also a good excuse for us to run trains for two days straight! That being said the Open Days don't run themselves so please help us out by devoting a small part of your weekend to giving us a hand instead of running your trains.

In other news, Glenn and James Percival have mounted a three day expedition to explore and photograph parts of the Main Southern line, stopping by the Canberra Model Railway club on the way back. Glenn has kindly provided some of his photos for this month's edition. Thanks Glenn.

See you at the Clubrooms,

Chris Winston

Mortdale Matters Editor



Subscribing to Mortdale Matters

You can subscribe to *Mortdale Matters* by contacting our publicity officer, Philip Lee. Philip can be contacted either in person or by seeing a Duty Officer at the clubrooms, by email: publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au or by via our website: www.amransw.asn.au. Subscription is free.

The preferred method of distribution for *Mortdale Matters* is via email. The file size for *Mortdale Matters* is usually around 2 to 3Mb. *Mortdale Matters* is also available via snail mail or care of the clubrooms for those without a suitable internet connection. There is also a limited number of copies at the clubrooms for those not on our mailing list.

Submitting to Mortdale Matters

With so much continually happening at our Mortdale Clubrooms, its easy for something to slip through the cracks. If you've got any news that you'd like to submit to *Mortdale Matters* please email me at subeditor@amransw.asn.au or leave a copy of your submission in the Journal pigeonhole in the office.

Mortdale Matters especially needs photos. Prototype photos will also be included with each issue but the focus will always be on Branch activities and events. Any prototype will be considered. Photos can be emailed to me at the above address or you can leave a disk or CD in the Journal pigeonhole in the office. Image size does not need to be larger than 1024 x 768.

I must emphasise that ALL submissions must be original material, i.e. photos that you've taken yourself or articles that you've written yourself. Material is published in *Mortdale Matters* at the committee's discretion.

The deadline for submitting material for the May 2007 *Mortdale Matters* is April 23rd.

AMRA NSW Open Weekend Apr 28 / 29

Visit our model railway club on a typical operating day and there will be trains running on the N, HO and O scale layouts, along with work being carried out on layout extensions, electrical improvement and scenery construction. Youngsters as young as six years old will be operating their trains on the club's layouts alongside older boys and adult members of all ages. As many as 10 trains will be running at one time on the HO scale layout, many with the latest sound generating electronics to add realism to the scene. The O scale layout also is now seeing trains headed by locos equipped with the latest sound systems. And within a limited space, the N scale layout shows what can be achieved with small scale models.

However we don't want to keep this all to ourselves. Once in a while, actually twice a year, our club, AMRA NSW Branch, opens its doors to the public. We call this the OPEN DAY. This is when we showcase what the club does and share the fun that can be experienced through our hobby of model railways. Members who do not often visit have the chance to see and enjoy what happens at the club – to **see and hear** models of modern diesel electric locomotives pulling trains like the Indian-Pacific, the Ghan and long container trains, and double headed Garratts working hard lifting a fully loaded coal train up a one-in-sixty grade. Alongside them there might be 3801 heading up a passenger express, a tank loco with a suburban passenger or a standard goods with a short mixed, the sort of trains that you would have seen in the fifties and early sixties around NSW.

It is also a day for friends. Do them a favour and invite them and their children or grand children to come along too. There will be a dedicated childrens' layout in operation including Thomas the Tank Engine so parents can enjoy their visit knowing that the children are happily occupied and having fun.

Our next OPEN DAY is at the end of April. Refreshments including non alcoholic beverages will be available and hot sausage sandwiches can be bought for lunch. Mark the dates on your calendar and bring your family and friends. **OPEN DAY** at the Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch at 48 Barry Avenue, Mortdale on Saturday and Sunday **28 and 29 April**.

Robert Merrick

Open Day Coordinator

Coming Up...

The Big One:

The April Open days are over the weekend of April 28 / 29.

See the above article for more details.

Also:

We'll be visiting the Macarthur District Model Railway Club, Ruse from 10am until late located at "St Thomas More Church" Hall, Acacia Avenue

Check the programme on page 10 for more details.

Layout Reports

N Scale Layout

The Quarry and the grass areas are still receiving attention, thanks to Chris Gorring and Ash Garard for their efforts in these areas.

Neil Watson has officially finished applying plaster to the layout, he will soon turn his efforts towards tree making.

A Tortoise point motor has been installed for Lischeld Siding, this required an extended operating arm on the motor, the standard gauge wire was not strong enough to operate the point over the extra length so Neil purchased and fashioned a thicker operating rod.

Another Tortoise point motor was installed in Wallamundra where we were separating a crossover arrangement into two individual points to improve operations in that area.

Another point in Watsons Flat requires it's blade soldered back onto the throw bar, so the opportunity will be taken to install another Tortoise motor under this point. The violent action of the Peco points has caused most of the hand laid points to fail in this way over time. The much softer action of the Tortoise motors should solve this problem. In total we will require sixteen (16) Tortoise Point Motors will be installed in the Branchline areas.

David Bennett

N Scale Layout Supervisor



The Quarry area on the N scale layout continues to come to life. Compare this shot with similar shots in earlier editions of Mortdale Matters.

March 11, 2007.

HO Scale Layout - Pizza Discussions



Alex Brown, Philip Lee, Denis and Ben Gilmore, Stan Ellis, Graham Shade and Terry Flynn at Deawy with the first through train under automatic control. March 11, 2007. Photo: Chris Winston

Where has the time come, here we are in the New Year and things are happening almost every week on Stoney Creek?

Many, including yours truly, will greet the news of the redevelopment of *Read* with mixed feelings. Long story short *Read*, when first developed, was designed as a drop in replacement for a major branchline terminus on the HO Layout at our old Rockdale clubrooms. It was then intended to use the semi completed boards as a terminus on *Stoney Creek*. Then things got changed and *Read* was relaid on new boards and became a through station. However it still had sidings only suitable for shorter trains.

Over the last many months an idea has been put forward to redevelop *Read* to reflect a modern Diesel era location to handle longer trains. This idea turned into a proposal that was passed by the layout committee and the AMRA management committee. In short the *Read* redevelopment will go ahead after open weekend in April.

A stray thought at the end of a Saturday normal running day lead to through running on Deawy yard to Benis coal loop and back through Deawy yard, adding another approx 30m run to the up main and two more trains. A temporary panel has been set up at Deawy and tired into the main train protection system.

As part of the on-going project and the huge amount of new equipment coming on line or is already on line the layout committee has decided to run formal training sections on how to operate the panels and will develop written procedures for the same. You may think this is a

little over the top but as one of the people that work on the layout regularly, it is heart breaking to see people push a train onto the main line cause they have no idea how to do it with power.

Further work has also seen the installation of the CTC panel in the CTC room. Further work is still required to install the desks and the branch line panel, but the job of wiring up the mainlines for operator control can begin soon

Workdays continue to be a great success with a band of 10 – 16 turning up to be give jobs to continue the progress of Stony Creek. There are so many people that make my job easy, with ideas and just getting on with it. Far too many names to mention with leaving anyone out.

Denis Gilmore
Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor



The newly installed CTC panel for Stony Creek. A desk will be installed where the timber has been placed. March 24, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival



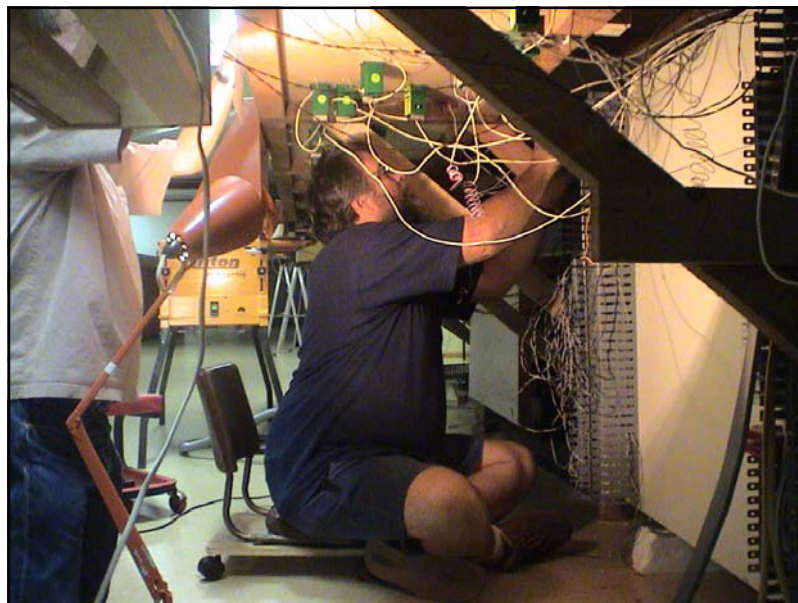
A pair of grubby 47 class locos speed through Read. This area will soon be redeveloped to make the area more suitable for this type of train. March 11, 2007.

Photo: Chris Winston

Stoney Creek Workday



*Terry Flynn (above) lays track around the Benis Coal loops trying to keep ahead of the wiring team led by Denis Gilmore (below). At one stage the wiring was actually ahead of the track laying!
March 11, 2007. Photos: Chris Winston*



Mortdale Building Report

The Kitchen cupboard people have been up and measured the hole for the Audio/Video cupboard. We are now awaiting a call from them to tell us they are ready to install it.

The workbench behind the rear roller shutter has been moved to the eastern wall to enable access to the double doors.

A flashing fluorescent light in the Ladies toilet will be replaced with a low voltage down light similar to the units used in the Gents toilet to reduce the number of spares required.

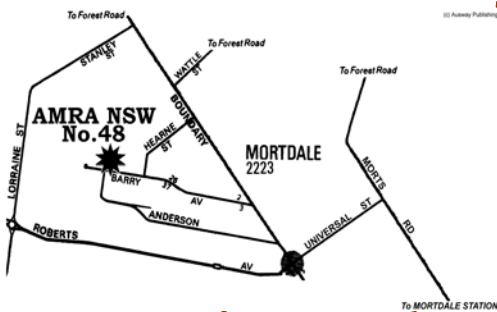
David Bennett

Mortdale Building Supervisor

OPEN DAY



Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch
48 Barry Avenue, Mortdale
Sat 28th & Sun 29th April 2006 -- 10am until 4pm
visitor entry by gold coin donation



Large Fixed Layouts
N Scale (1:160) HO Scale (1:87)
O Scale (1:43)
“U-Drive” HO Layout

For more information please phone 02-9153-5901 or visit www.amransw.asn.au

Just to fill up the Space...



After returning the staff train 3PS6 (as seen on the front cover) departs Cootamundra West and turns northwards to join the Main South at Cootamundra North Junction and continue its journey toward Sydney.

March 23, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

AMRA NSW Programme

Apr '07 - Jun '07

APRIL

Sun	1st	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 5:30pm	No Facility Fee
Wed	4th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	6th	Good Friday.	- CLOSED -	
Sat	7th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	11th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	13th	Feature Night – Play Back (Members Owned).	7:30pm until 10pm	
Sat	14th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm	
Wed	18th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	20th	Pre-Open Day – Working Bee	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	21st	Pre-Open Day – Working Bee	10am until late	No Facility Fee
Wed	25th	"Daylighters" Work & Run ANZAC DAY	12 Noon until 5:30pm	
Fri	27th	Open Weekend - Preparation	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	28th	* * OPEN WEEKEND * *	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation	
Sun	29th	* * OPEN WEEKEND * *	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation	

MAY

Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	4th	<i>Wingecarribee</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	5th	Visit to Macarthur District Model Railway Club, Ruse	10am until late	
		"St Thomas More Church" Hall, Acacia Avenue	Mortdale – Closed.	
Wed	9th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	11th	Feature Night – T.B.A.	7:30pm until 10pm	
Sat	12th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm	
Wed	16th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	18th	<i>Wingecarribee</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	19th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Sun	20th	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 5:30pm	No Facility Fee
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	25th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm	
Sat	26th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Wingecarribee</i>	10am until late	
Wed	30th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	

JUNE

Fri	1st	<i>Wingecarribee</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	2nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Sun	3rd	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 5:30pm	No Facility Fee
Wed	6th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	8th	Feature Night – H.O. Signal Construction	7:30pm until 10pm	
Sat	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until late	
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm	
Sat	9th to			
Mon	11th	Visit to Coffs Harbour and Glenreagh Mountain Railway (To be confirmed)		
Wed	13th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	15th	<i>Wingecarribee</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	16th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	20th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm	
Sat	23rd	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Wingecarribee</i>	10am until late	
Wed	27th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	29th	<i>Wingecarribee</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm	No Facility Fee
Sat	30th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	

NOTES

- WORK NIGHTS: Mondays & Fridays unless otherwise indicated, 7:30pm until 10pm. No Facility Fee.
- LAYOUT OPERATION: O and N Gauges operational, HO (fixed) as permitted during construction.
- GENERAL ACTIVITIES: the facilities may be used as permitted e.g. layout construction, some running, modelling, library, etc.
- Members Facility Fee unless otherwise indicated: Adults \$5, Juniors/Seniors (70+) \$3.
- Guests are welcome unless otherwise indicated.
- This programme may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, by e-mail to publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au or from www.amransw.asn.au.
- Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223. Phone (02)9153-5901, Fax (02)9153-5905.

12 Inch to the Foot Scale



The rarely photographed location of Joppa Junction. 8179 leads a 48 class and a second 81 on train 2122, the empty rubbish train. The train is leaving the Canberra line and rejoining the main south. On the other side of the bridge the train will cross over to the Up main. March 22, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival



Further along the Main South, Down Pacific National train 5BM2 speeds into Cootamundra behind an NR + DL + NR combination. Cootamundra North Junction, which leads to Stockinbingal and then Temora, Griffith or Parkes is just ahead of the train to the right. March 23, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

On the back cover:

A very atmospheric late afternoon shot of Gunning's Up platform and home signal. Rapid progress of ARTC's signalling upgrades along the Main South will soon see the upper quadrant semaphore replaced. March 22, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

