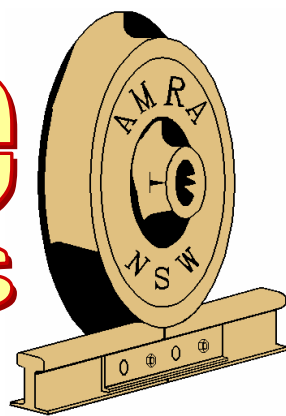


Mortdale Matters

December 2007



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

Around the Clubrooms



After the pack up from the 2007 exhibition and subsequent unpacking back the clubrooms a short while later, the weary volunteer workers retired for a well earned feed.

1 October, 2007. Photo: Rod Fussell



Tracklaying continues on the new O scale circuit. The “Engadine Engineers”, Lance and Gordon lay track through the new yard at Hoganvale. 28 November, 2007. Photo: Bruce Harris

On the Cover:

Adelaide H class tram No.358 cautiously crosses the Princes Highway at Loftus on its return from the Royal National Park during the Christmas BBQ. 1 December, 2007. Photo: Geoff Lanham

Welcome to the December Mortdale Matters

Once again the silly season is upon us and I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2008. Despite my best of intentions this month's Mortdale Matters is once again running late. I'd like to thank everyone who submitted material for this month's edition - I received everyone's contributions on time but no matter what I did I couldn't find the time to put everything together. The silly season struck me with a vengeance!

With this edition, its back to the usual 12 pages following the massive 20 pages of the November edition. This will get the file size of the email version. Frustratingly, after finding time to do a bit of weathering in the lead up to Christmas, I have run out of space to include my promised weathering article in this edition. It will now appear in next month's edition.

In place of the weathering article, I have included an article about our under construction exhibition - Wingecarribee. There has been some discussion amongst those working on the layout about its future which has led the staging of a debate on January 19th. If you have an interest in Wingecarribee or some ideas for its future, I recommend that you attend the debate because that's the time to speak up. *See the article on page 8 for details of the current layout.*

I'd also like to make mention of Glenn Percival's appeal for an assistant as exhibition manager. This is Glenn's last term as exhibition manager and he's looking for someone to take over the reins. If you're interested, 2008 is the perfect opportunity to learn the ropes as his assistant.

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. *Mortdale Matters* is also available to download on our website: www.amransw.asn.au

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 January 2008 *Mortdale Matters* is January 10th.

The Presidents Report

The Branch AGM was held in November and I am pleased to say that the 2006 Management Committee was re-elected unopposed. I take this as a vote of confidence in the committee and would like to thank the members for their support.

At the Branch AGM a Meritorious Award was presented to a stunned Col Shepherd. Col has made a huge contribution to the hobby of model railways, in particular in O gauge. Col is a prolific modeller of NSW locomotives and rollingstock, winning many awards in the Branch's annual open modelling competitions. Col's modelling skills were recognised by the NSW Railways and he was commissioned by them to build many models to run on their Easter Show layout.

Col does not keep his knowledge to himself. Many of his castings and other parts can be seen on members' and others' models. He is always willing to help when someone has a problem with a model that will not run properly and he is full of encouragement for those who are starting out in O gauge and are looking for information on how things are done.

Col has invested an enormous amount of time in working on the Branch layout and has recently just about single handedly converted the layout from stud contact to three rail.

At the Tramway Museum Christmas barbeque a Meritorious Award was presented to Graeme Shade. During the dismantling of the Mortdale building Graeme took on the task of cleaning out the front garden and the stormwater drains which had been blocked for a long time. He also worked tirelessly at all the labouring jobs around the site in both the dismantling and the reconstruction periods.

Since the Rockdale days, Graeme has been taking chocolates to work for sale and regularly returning to the clubrooms with cash from the sales and to pick up more chocolates. Over the years that he has been doing this he has added substantially to AMRA's fundraising efforts.

Congratulations to both Col and Graeme as worthy recipients of these awards.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a very safe and merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Barry Wilcockson

NSW Branch President

Pre-Paid Facility Fees

Pre-paid facility fees for 2007 can now be paid for 2007. We offer two options, a full year or six-monthly. To pay your pre-paid facility fee please see either a Committee member or the Duty officer for the day.

Pre-paid facility fees for 2008 are as follows:

	12 Months	6 Months
Adults	\$300	\$180
Juniors	\$180	\$100
Seniors	\$180	\$100

Pre-paid facility fees can be paid up until January 31, 2007. Pre-paid facility fees for 2008 are applicable from January 1, 2008. No reduction in price will be given for pre-paid facility fees received between January 1 and January 31, 2008.



*Vice President David Bennett presents Graeme Shade with a Branch Appreciation Award during the Christmas BBQ at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus.
1 December, 2007. Photo: Geoff Lanham*

Exhibition News

WANTED

Assistant Exhibition Manager

As 2008 will be my last year on Management Committee (sixteen years after I was elected to a reinstated Publicity Officer role), we need to have a succession plan. I am therefore calling for an assistant now, so that said person experiences the whole Exhibition cycle and would be as conversant as possible to either take on the Manager role from 2009, or at least continue as Assistant.

Please feel free to contact either myself or any Committee member to discuss your interest.

Glenn Percival

Exhibition Manager

exhibitionmgr@amransw.asn.au

Layout Reports

O Scale Layout



Col Shepherd's 46 class blasts through the crossovers at Central station as it departs for another trip around the O scale layout. 28 November, 2007. Photo: Geoff Lanham

Firstly, some comments directed at those members who get the chance to read "Mortdale Matters" but do not make it to the Club very often. You will hopefully be interested in why the stately, venerable gentlemen that hang around the "O" layout are adding more track.

Mainly, of course, it is because we need to spend money! Not just a couple of bucks, but some real dosh. Money has been accumulating in AMRA(NSW) coffers at a healthy rate, which is fine testament to the fund raising abilities of the whole team. Having spent virtually nothing since moving to Mortdale, "O"ers feel like poor cousins to some of our friends at the southern end of the building. So, with Christmas around the corner, we thought we should give ourselves a present and a decent one at that!

More seriously, we want to be able to give those members who have two and three rail locomotives a place to run their prize possessions. That hasn't been available up to now. Some time (early????) next year it will be. So if you are one of those disenfranchised members, get out the oil can, polish up the brightwork and get ready to join in the fun.

The work on the project is progressing very well. The first tortoise driven point is in place at Hoganvale and operating. Problems occur regularly but are resolved within minutes (well, days) after heated arguments and threatening remarks. However, no-one has actually been hit yet, despite hidden power points, steel girder bridges in cuttings (sic), free "horse and carts", artwork, and formwork that does not accept track!

'Tis the silly season, they say. I'd like to wish all members and their families a perfect Christmas time, and the best of new years. May all your presents be 7mm to the foot (or some other preferred formula). See you in 2008 ready to run that two-rail machinery.

Bruce Harris

O Scale Layout Reporter

HO Scale Layout - Pizza Discussions

November 30th, 2007 - 680 hours

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all the users of Stoney Creek and their families.

Another year has passed and Stoney Creek has made great leaps forward. Although seeing bare baseboards at Read on Saturday morning the 19th of May you could be forgiven for thinking we went backwards. Now a few short months later and with Read station and yard working very well it was for the better to take a little step backward to make a giant leap forward.

The first signal was put into operation just before the Open day. The signal caught the eye of many of our guests on the day. Although the signal indicates red/green and is tied in to the current control system, it is a start to what will be a very impressive signaling system. On the signal side of things many wires have been run, in the Read and Yerriyong area for signals.

Midway and the cement sidings are having their permanent wiring installed and in the near future the permanent control panels will be installed and commissioned.

The branch AGM has been held and I'm pleased to say my term as Layout Supervisor has been extended another year. I'm very happy to serve in this position. As part of my position I need to form a committee to oversee Stoney Creek. In the past the position have gone on from year to year. There will be a review of all positions on the layout committee. I will get around to speaking to people who have worked on Stoney Creek and would invite people who have an interest in serving on the layout committee to speak to me if they feel they would like to serve on the committee. Selection is at the layout supervisor's discretion.

The CTC panel is coming along very well. The 6 off 100 pair cables have been terminated at the CTC end and there are 4 off 100 pair cables still to be terminated at the PLC end. Soon there will be indication on the "train management panel" (CTC panel).

A pat on the back story:

On the Saturday night after our exhibition I was showing some modelers from another state around Stoney Creek. As they were being shown the layout and given an idea of where the layout will be in two or three years. (Operator control with CTC) I was apologizing for the basic (overall) control system we have now. The comment I got back was: - Stoney Creek's "basic" control system is better than most other full function systems on other layouts. No need to apologize. I had to say thank you but began to think that although what we are working toward will be great but what we have in place now is still very good. Stoney Creek operates approx 100 hours a week with very little trouble.

We can all take pride in our club layout, Stoney Creek.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor

N Scale Layout

The platform at Bownen has had some brick facing applied to the edge with two strips applied to the top surface, these have been painted a brick colour and weathered, soon the platform surface can be covered in a dust to represent the gravel surface that was used by the railways.

Ash has continued to apply ballast to the branchline and Neil was recently showing Richard how we make trees from stainless steel cable.

We have also been looking at motorising the turntables, Richard brought in an Atlas motorised turntable that we will try as a base for our turntable pits and bridges.

David Bennett

N Scale Layout Supervisor

Wingecarribee - the Layout Debate

On Saturday, January 19, 2008, a debate is planned regarding our exhibition layout - Wingecarribee. With the move from Rockdale and the need to concentrate on getting the permanent layouts operational again, not a lot of progress has been made in the last few years. That being said, a small dedicated team has been working to get things moving again.

With several new faces on the team since the move to Mortdale, fresh ideas have arisen and several possible alternative locations to model on the layout have been proposed. With the layout approaching the stage where tracklaying will soon be able to commence, it was decided to hold a debate to discuss these alternatives before the layout reached the tracklaying stage.

The following is a summary of the original Wingecarribee proposal by David Bennett, Glenn & James Percival, Barry & Marilyn Wilcockson, Cliff Wiltshire and Quentin McLachlan that is the basis of the current layout design - *see the adjacent track plan*.

The layout is based on the NSW Main Southern line between Bowral and Moss Vale with the cross country line to Unanderra (Wollongong) at Moss Vale Junction leading to a central Fiddle Yard. The layout will allow virtually any train consist from the steam-era to the modern day to be realistically run with a mixture of semaphore and colour light signals.

Moss Vale yard contains a large island platform with railmotor docks, a stock race, milk siding, "drive through" goods shed and crane, 4 refuge sidings (1 down refuge and 3 up sidings) and a signal box. Moss Vale Junction features a triangle that can turn locomotives and whole trains, leading to 10 storage roads within the Fiddle yard. The old Hume Hwy overbridge forms a convenient scenic break leading to the Fiddle Yard.

Bowral features a curved loading bank, "drive through" goods shed and crane, a level crossing and overbridge, a brickworks siding and up and down refuge sidings.

The track plan is based on NSWGR plans obtained from the Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS) archive. Moss Vale is based on plans from the years 1929, 1941 & 1983, whilst Bowral is based on plans from the years 1919 & 1936.

The overall size of the layout is 8.4m x 4.8m formed by 15 modules. A feature of layout is that it can be assembled without the centre modules and fiddle yard to enable operation in a smaller space. A 900mm minimum radius has been used for the track plan.

If you have any ideas for alternate locations or any input regarding the layout, January 19th is the time to put them forward. A sketch or track plan showing how your idea would fit the existing modules, would be handy as well.

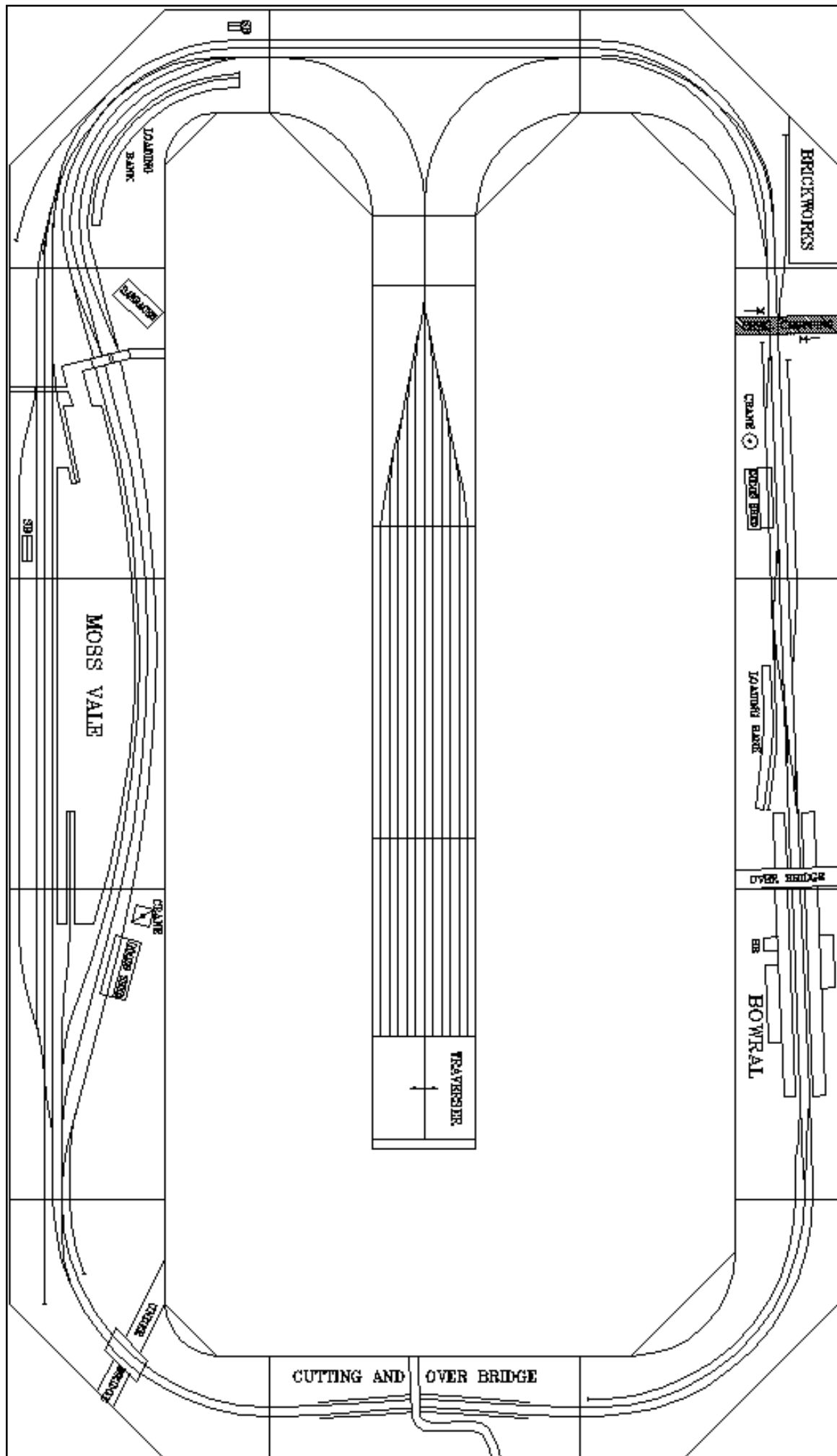
Clubwear

We now keep limited numbers of logo embroidered items ready for purchase, effectively resurrecting the "AMRA Shop". You may if you wish take your garment to any embroiderer to place your name on the opposite side of the garment; we ask only that it be done in a monogram font of approx. 2cm height, the colour to match the club name on your garment.

After the AGM is out of the way, I will produce a new order form which can also be filled in and submitted electronically – this will be a taste of things to come for Branch operations, from clubwear to exhibition applications, rostering and more.

I thank all those who have supported this project since June 1992, providing a professional (and hopefully comfortable!) face to our club.

Glenn Percival
Coordinator



AMRA NSW Programme

Dec '07 - Feb '08

DECEMBER

Sat	1st	Xmas / Exhibition Workers' BBQ @ Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus From 2pm - BYO meat & drink - A\$20 Conc\$15 C\$13 (SPER members / friends \$5)	Register at club
Sun	2nd	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	5th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 5pm
Sat	8th	General Activities (see Notes) Ladies Needles & Natter	10am until late 2pm
Wed	12th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 5pm
Fri	14th	Feature Night – H.O. Signal Workshop	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	15th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	19th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 5pm
Sat	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	26th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 5pm
Fri	28th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	29th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late

JANUARY 2008

Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Sat	5th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	9th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	11th	Feature Night – <i>T.B.A.</i>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	12th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	16th	<u>Closed for Building Maintenance</u>	<u>Closed</u>
Sat	19th	Layout Operation (see Notes) Exhibition Layout Debate	10am until late 2 pm
Sun	20th	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	25th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	26th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Mon	28th	<u>Public Holiday</u> Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	30th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm

FEBRUARY

Fri	1st	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</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 finished No Facility Fee
Wed	6th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	8th	Feature Night – Play Back (Audio / Video / DVD).	7:30pm
Sat	9th	Layout Operation (see Notes) Ladies Needles & Natter	10am until late 2pm
Wed	13th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	15th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	16th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	20th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	23rd	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Wed	27th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	29th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm No Facility Fee

NOTES

- WORK NIGHTS: every Monday night & 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday night, please check with the appropriate layout supervisor, 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 program may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, or 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



*Adelaide H class tram 358, heads a line up of trams from around Australia at the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus.
December 1, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival*



*The Prefabricated station building at the crossing loop of Mt Murray, near Robertson, on the cross country line between Unanderra and Moss Vale. It is still possible to reach Mt Murray by road, but access to the platform is now gated off.
November 29, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival*

*On the back cover:
Sydney R class tram 1979 rests at Loftus in the early evening after returning from a run the Royal National Park.
1 December, 2007. Photo: Geoff Lanham*

