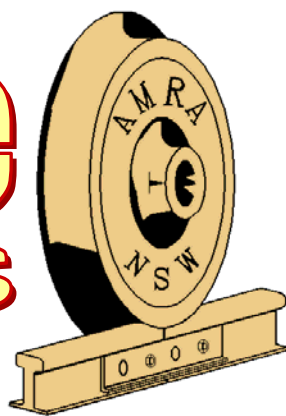


# Mortdale Matters

January 2009



**STOP PRESS See Page 5**

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

# Around the Clubrooms



*AMRA Members enjoy a Christmas afternoon tea on Saturday 15th December which was kindly provided by the Ladies Auxiliary*

*Photo Geoff Lanham*



*At the AMRA Christmas party at the Tramway Museum, 4 trams went across the Highway to National Park. A photo stop was organised on the return journey. The trams in order are Brisbane car 180, Nagasaki car 1054, Melbourne Birney car No 11 and Sydney C Class Nu 29. Thanks to David Bennett for assisting with the identification*

*Photo Geoff Lanham*

*Cover photo 8225 at Sandgate. Photo: Mark Dalli July 2008*



# Welcome to the January 2009 Mortdale Matters

Its hard to believe that its already January 2009 and that another year has passed. I have taken over the preparation of Mortdale Matters from Chris Winston. The intention is to publish on the alternative month to the AMRA Journal to provide the NSW members with information about Branch activities and to also provide a forum to publish photos of both prototype operations and railway modelling. Chris set an extremely high standard in previous Mortdale Matters and I will probably struggle to emulate this as I am basically learning the Publisher program as I prepare this edition. This will be a very basic and smaller edition as I continue to strive to master the program. My thanks to Ross McLean who has volunteered to help with Mortdale Matters and I will be taking up this offer so that we can provide more “bells and whistles” in forthcoming editions. I have been provided with a number of photos particularly of NSW prototype operations and will use these in future editions so that we can publish photos by various photographers. I am one of those people who like taking photos but avoid being in them and struggled to find an image of myself in a railway related setting so this will have to do.

See you at the Clubrooms,  
*Geoff Lanham*  
Secretary AMRA NSW Branch  
and 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, or by e-mail: [pilee@iinet.net.au](mailto:pilee@iinet.net.au). 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 post 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](http://www.amransw.asn.au)

## Submitting to Mortdale Matters

With so much continually happening at our 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 [secretary@amransw.asn.au](mailto:secretary@amransw.asn.au) or [jethro\\_lenny@hotmail.com](mailto:jethro_lenny@hotmail.com) or leave a copy of your submission in the Secretary's 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 March 2009 *Mortdale Matters* is 15th February. 2009

# Wanted : Assistance with Raffle Layout

Each year at around this time construction begins on the Raffle Layout for the Exhibition. As usual we are seeking club members who would like to assist with the construction of the layout. If you are interested in assisting with the layout construction, please contact any Committee member.

## Prepaid Facility Fees

Pre-paid facility fees can now be paid for 2009. There are two options available, either to pay for a full year or to pay on a six monthly basis. 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 2009 are as follows

	12 Months	6 Months
Adult	\$300	\$150
Junior	\$180	\$90
Senior	\$180	\$90

Prepaid facility fees apply from 1st January 2009 and can be paid up until January 31 2009. No reduction in these fees will be given for pre-paid fees received between January 1 and January 31 2009

## N Scale Layout Report

After seeking nominations the Committee has decided that the N Scale layout sub committee will be David Bennett, Neil Watson, Ash Garrard, Richard Sinton and Kevin Higginson. The Branch President and Branch Secretary are ex officio members.

Work is continuing on Monday nights and recently Blocks 2 and 4 were amalgamated and block 2 switches removed; this will give a longer block and simplify the automated signalling system. The second motorised turntable is still being worked on by Neil Watson and regular maintenance has been carried out on the layout.

*David Bennett*

N Scale Layout Supervisor

# Awards to Branch Members

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

At the November 2009 Branch Annual General Meeting Graeme Shade was presented with Honorary Life Membership to AMRA.

Graeme has been a member of AMRA since 1993 and has always worked in his quiet, unassuming and calm way to assist the running of the NSW Branch.

Over the years Graeme has added substantially to AMRA's fundraising efforts through the sale of chocolates at his workplace.

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.

He has continued to work quietly around the clubroom undertaking the somewhat thankless maintenance and cleaning tasks to ensure that the Branch's facilities can be enjoyed by other members.

Graeme has served on the Committee of the New South Wales Branch as vice president and was actively involved with the administration of the Branch.

He made a significant input to the development of the replacement HO club layout at Mortdale and continues to assist in the ongoing work on the layout.

## **BRANCH APPRECIATION AWARDS**

Towards the end of 2005 the Committee of the New South Wales Branch introduced a Branch Appreciation Award to recognise the contribution that member(s) had made to the Branch and encourage members to continue to assist with the operation of the branch.

Whilst not necessarily originally intended, there have been three annual awardees each year since their inception in 2005. In 2008 the Committee considered a number of possible recipients and decided to award Branch Appreciation awards to Ash Garrard, Maurie Haynes and Needles and Natter. These awards were presented at the Christmas afternoon tea on 15th December 2008.

Since joining ARMA, Ash Garrard has been heavily involved with the further development of the N Scale layout and has assisted with a variety of activities including Open days.

Maurie Haynes has one of the driving forces behind the development and construction of the universal extension to the O scale layout that has expanded the operational capacity of the layout.

The Needles and Natter group were recognised for their ongoing contribution to the Branch as their fundraising efforts that have contributed substantially to the NSW Branch funds and have greatly assisted with the catering side of the annual exhibition.

# STOP PRESS - Exhibition location

Following the decision by Hurstville Council not to accept booking for 2009 because of redevelopment of the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre, the Committee had to find a new location for the October 2009 exhibition. In somewhat of a déjà vu move the Committee has decided that the venue for the October 2009 exhibition will be the Whitlam Leisure Centre at Liverpool. This centre has undergone substantial refurbishment since our last exhibition there in 2005 and Centre Management is strongly supportive of our return.

# AMRA NSW Programme January '09 - March '09

## AMRA NSW Branch Inc. PROGRAMME – January to March 2009

### JANUARY 2009

Fri	2nd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	3rd	Layout Operation (see notes)		10am until late
Wed	7th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	9th	<b>Feature Night – TBA...</b> if not possible General Activities		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	10th	General Activities (see notes) & <i>Layout Construction Day</i>		10am until late
Wed	14th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	16th	Layout Operation – <b>Australian Steam</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	17th	Layout Operation (see notes) & <b>Monthly Forum</b>		10am until late
Sun	18th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	21st	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	23rd	Testing Night ( <i>Not General Running</i> )		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	24th	General Activities (see notes) & <i>Layout Construction Day</i>		10am until late
Mon	26th	<b>Public Holiday</b> – Layout Operation (see notes)		10am until late
Wed	28th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	30th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	31st	Layout Operation (see notes)		10am until late

### FEBRUARY

Sun	1st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	4rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	7rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	11th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	<b>Feature Night – TBA...</b> if not possible General Activities		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	14th	General Activities & <b>Monthly Forum</b> (see Notes)		10am until late
		<b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>		- 2pm
Wed	18th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – <b>United Kingdom</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21th	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	25th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	27th	Testing Night ( <i>Not General Running</i> )		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	28th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late

### MARCH

Sun	1st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	4rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	7rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	11th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	<b>Feature Night – TBA...</b> if not possible General Activities		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	14th	General Activities & <b>Monthly Forum</b> (see Notes)		10am until late
		<b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>		- 2pm
Wed	18th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – <b>American</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21th	<b>Members Auction</b>	Lodgements until midday, Viewing strictly 12-1pm, <b>Hammer 1pm.</b>	
Wed	25th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	27th	Pre-Open Weekend – Working Bee	No Facility Fee	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	28th	Pre-Open Weekend – Working Bee	No Facility Fee	10am until late

### NOTES

WORK NIGHTS: every Monday 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*

STRUCTURED RUNNING: Sequenced or timetabled operation as organised for each layout

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](mailto:publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au) or from [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au)

Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223 - Phone (02) 9153-5901, Fax (02) 9153-5905



# A Rail Cruise Around the State with 402

## ARHS/NSW-TRMS Tour Report

*Glenn Percival*

In June 2007 an attempt was made to take Rail Motor HPC402 (formerly DPH402) on its first passenger-carrying trip in over 30 years. As a result of the severe weather leading up to the event (remember the *Pasha Bulker*?), it became impossible to get 402 out of The Rail Motor Society shed siding, even with a crane. Instead, CPHs 1 and 7 went on what became the “Last Railmotor to Cowra and Mudgee” tour.

Fast forward to November 11th 2008, when 402 successfully departed with 17 very lucky passengers and 4 crew, on a 6 day epic that covered approximately 3000km as follows:

Day 1: Paterson – Farley Triangle – Maitland – Broadmeadow – North Strathfield – Flemington Junctions – Enfield – Meeks Road – Wollongong – Unanderra – Moss Vale – Goulburn – Joppa Junction – Canberra

Day 2: Canberra – Joppa Junction – Goulburn – Harden – Demondrille – Cowra – Demondrille – Harden (staff hut) - Cootamundra

Day 3: Cootamundra – Albury – Junee – Yanco – Griffith

Day 4: Griffith – Temora – Wyalong (Central) – Temora – Stockinbingal – Forbes

Day 5: Forbes – Parkes – Goobang Junction – Orange West Fork – Dubbo – Merrygoen – Binnaway

Day 6: Binnaway – Gap Junction – Werris Creek – Tamworth – Werris Creek – Broadmeadow – Farley Triangle – Paterson

Apart from major overheating ascending the Illawarra Escarpment resulting in three standing starts and the odd motor stalling, HPC402 performed well and generated the expected interest wherever she went.

Thanks and congratulations are due to the ARHS/nsw and TRMS for executing a very successful tour. 402's recent duties as a RailCorp/ARTC radio test vehicle are not yet over, for within 48 hours of stabling at Paterson, she was off working the North Coast to Brisbane for ARTC.



*Having dropped most of the passengers off at the Tarago platform and moved into the loop to let the Up empty garbage train through, HPC402 awaits a crossing with the Up Canberra Explorer.*

*Photo Glenn Percival*



*402 crosses the Talbragar River, east of Elong Elong, on the route from Dubbo to Merrygoen thence Binnaway.*

*Photo Glenn Percival*

Editors Note: If you want to see the photographer being photographed check the back cover of the January 2009 edition of Australian Railway Digest

## 12 Inch to the Foot Scale



*5917 passes through Otford on one of the Cockatoo runs that it did in early December 2008*

*Photo Geoff Lanham*