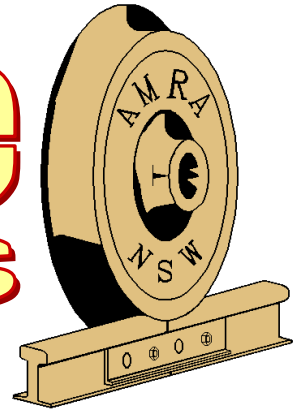


Mortdale Matters



January 2010



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

12 Inch to the Foot Scale



Above :4490, 4916 and 4520 lead the 2009 RTM Melbourne Cup Aurora through Wolli Creek on its way to Melbourne in November 2009
Photo by Mark Dalli.



Left :B65 in Auscision colours at Lindfield station during track refurbishment work
Original Photo Graham Tindale
Scanning & cropping Geoff Lanham

Cover Photo : Twin 44 class locomotives on the Guildford Model Railway Group's Wallerawang layout which made its exhibition debut at AMRA's October 2009 Exhibition
Photo Mark Dalli

Welcome to the January 2010 Mortdale Matters

My apologies for the failure to produce a November Mortdale Matters. With other things that needed to be attended such as the preparation for the NSW Branch AGM, commitments with other organisations and last but perhaps not least work commitments, it kept slipping down the list of priorities. I jokingly said at one stage, the priority was so low that it haven't even made the list.

Given this, I advised the NSW Branch Committee that I considered that I did not have enough time to do a quality job of the production of the Mortdale Matters.

The original concept of Mortdale Matters was to provide information to NSW Branch Members on the alternative months to the production of AMRA Journal with the focus on activities of the NSW Branch and NSW prototype operations.

The aim is to continue the production of Mortdale Matters and there are already offers of assistance.

If there are any other members that want to assist, please contact either myself or one of the other Committee members.

Thanks to Mark Dalli for his help in preparing this edition including taking photos and providing some tips in how to better use Publisher.

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.

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

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 or 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 2010 is 15th February 2010.

Twin P Class at Eveleigh



Power house Museums 3265 and Lachlan Valley Railways 3237 at Eveleigh in September 2009
Photos Chris Winston

N Scale Layout Report

David Bennett reports the following progress on the N Scale Layout

“All knobs on the controller selection rotary switches have been changed to a similar knob but with a flash of colour to denote which block it is connected to. Two more tortoise motors have been installed in Watsons Flat on a crossover, this is an ongoing process until we have replaced all Peco point motors on the hand built points on the branchline. The hand railing around the passenger’s ramp in Bownen platform has been installed and painted.”

Prepaid Facility Fees 2010

Full Calendar Year

(January to December)

Adults \$300 / Concession \$180

Six Months — Half Year

(January to June / July to December)

Adults \$150 / Concession \$90

Payable before the end of the January/July.

See a NSW Branch Committee Member or the Duty Officer

Around the Clubrooms



Read yard occupied by appropriate locomotives on a recent Australian Steam Theme running night

Photo Geoff Lanham

Pizza Discussions HO Fixed Layout - Stoney Creek

As at 15/12/2009 the Stoney Creek Layout has clocked up 3527 hours of operation

August and September was generally taken up with preparation for the Exhibition although some work was carried on with on Stoney Creek.

The work on Deawy is progressing well, although it may appear that progress is slow.

"Deawy" has an up yard, (one controller), a down yard (two controllers), a loco depot (one controller), Peel Ridge container depot, (one controller) and last but not least a Cement facility (one controller). There will be six controllers with interaction between five of them, the up yard is stand-alone. All this interaction will be interlocked using 3 PLC number 3. To add to all of the above there are eight possible entry/exits to the yards.

I almost forgot the turn back for trains coming of the up and returning to the down main. This feature will be able to cater for loco hauled trains as well as DMU/EMU's

There is a lot of work to do before Deawy comes on line. It gladdens my heart when Graeme Shade said he would do the wiring at Deawy. Graeme is making great progress little by little it's coming together. Robert Merrick has asked for a new direction of work and is now work on the PLC wiring for Deawy. Many other stand out people working on Deawy, thank you all.

Stoney Creek performed almost as good as always on open day in October. With so much operation on Stoney Creek it is bound to happen that there will be small interruptions to smooth operations.

Fayenton is also a hive of activity. Alex Brown has made progress in this area. Sad to say most of the points had to be lifted so the holes could be drilled to accommodate the point motors. The five (5)-platform terminus station is taking shape and looking good.

Fayenton branch is coming along with operation controlled from the Control Centre (CTC). As work proceeds the operation will be modified and Safe Notices will be issued.

The last layout committee meeting for the out going layout committee was held early December and minutes will be posted on the clipboard top of the steps. My hope is the layout committee from last year will be retained.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Stoney Creek layout supervisor and hope to continue for a while yet.

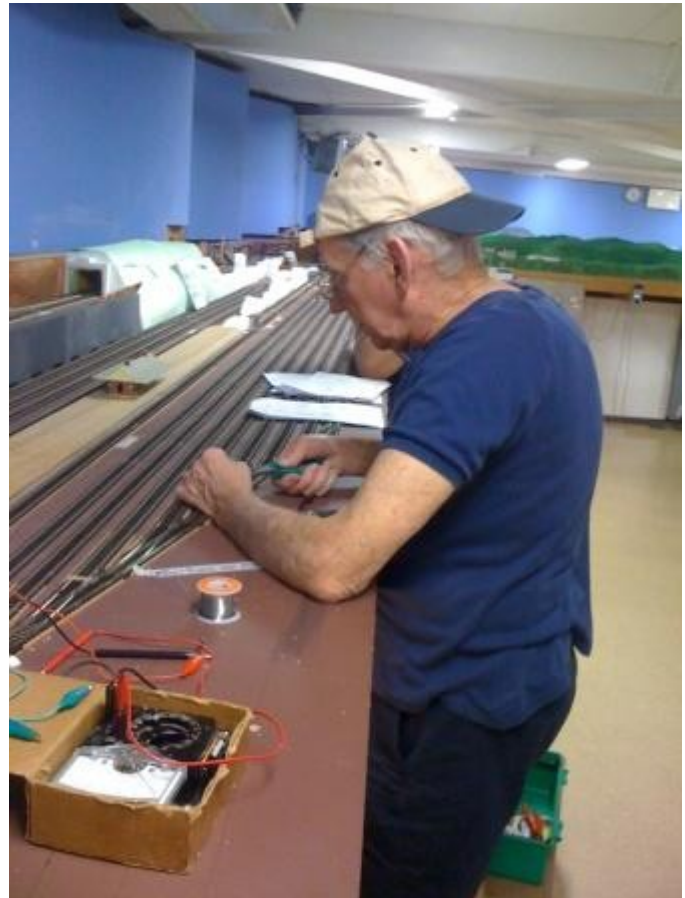
Denis Gilmore
Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor

H0 Fixed Layout - Stoney Creek Photos

Left:

Graeme Shade wearing the latest in protective headwear used when wiring under the Stoney Creek layout. Graeme has been heavily involved in the under layout wiring of the Deawy yard.

Photo Rod Fussell



Left:

The move towards operator control and the construction of the Control Centre is continuing to progress.

Five TVs are now permanently mounted to monitor operations Philip Lee is shown concentrating on the train movements that are occurring

Photo Mark Dalli

AMRA NSW Programme January 2010 to March 2010

JANUARY

Fri 1st	Public Holiday – Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	10am until 10pm
Sat 2nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed 6th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 8th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed 13th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 15th	Layout Operation – United Kingdom / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 16th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun 17th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i> No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed 20th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 22nd	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 23rd	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Tue 26th	Public Holiday – Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Wed 27th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 29th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 30th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
	HO Exhibition Layout Group meeting	2pm

FEBRUARY

Wed 3rd	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 5th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 6th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed 10th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 12th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 13th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
	Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
Wed 17th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 19th	Layout Operation – American / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 20th	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun 21st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i> No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed 24th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 26th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 27th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late

MARCH

Wed 3rd	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 5th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	10am until 10pm
Sat 6th	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed 10th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 12th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 13th	Layout Operation & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
	Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
Wed 17th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 19th	Layout Operation – Electric Traction / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 20th	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes) – (SCLM)	10am until late
Sun 21st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i> No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed 24th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri 26th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat 27th	Members Auction Lodgements until midday, Viewing strictly 12-1pm, <u>Hammer 1pm.</u>	
Wed 31st	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm

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 from

www.amransw.asn.au

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

AMRA NSW 2009 Christmas function

After a number of years going to the Tramway Museum at Loftus, a decision was made for change of venue for the Christmas function and Exhibition Volunteers thank you event. On 12th December we ventured to Western Districts Live Steam at Fairfield for a catered lunch, Branch Appreciation award presentation and a general afternoon of riding and operating the miniature locomotives. Whilst it was a hot day, there was adequate shade, and substantial increase in attendance to that experienced at recent Loftus events.

The Branch appreciation award went to the HO exhibition layout construction team. This was ably lead by David Bennett and consisted of Ash Garrard, Neil Watson, Kevin Higginson, Richard Sinton, Steve Edwards and Robert Merrick. As you may notice in the accompanying photo Kevin was absent and a space was left for him to be photoshopped into the photo !

A number of members also enjoyed themselves having a drive of drive of Bill Whale's X100 5 inch class loco which probably has never travels so fast. Our thanks to Bill for providing this opportunity.



Left:
The recipients of the 2009
Branch Appreciation award
with space left for Kevin
Higginson

Photo Geoff Lanham

Right: AMRA members
enjoying the shade at the
Christmas function at
Western District Live
Steam facility at Fairfield

Photo Geoff Lanham



Thank you to Exhibition Volunteers

Steve Edwards asked that the following be including in Mortdale Matters

"My sincere thanks are extended to all who enthusiastically volunteered their time at this year's exhibition.

My gratitude is also extended to Jill, my wonderful and supportive wife who assisted more than she realises, our hard working committee, and of course Phil Lee.

Through your efforts you bought smiles to the faces of many, made my job so much easier and ensured our exhibition maintained its status as a premium event.

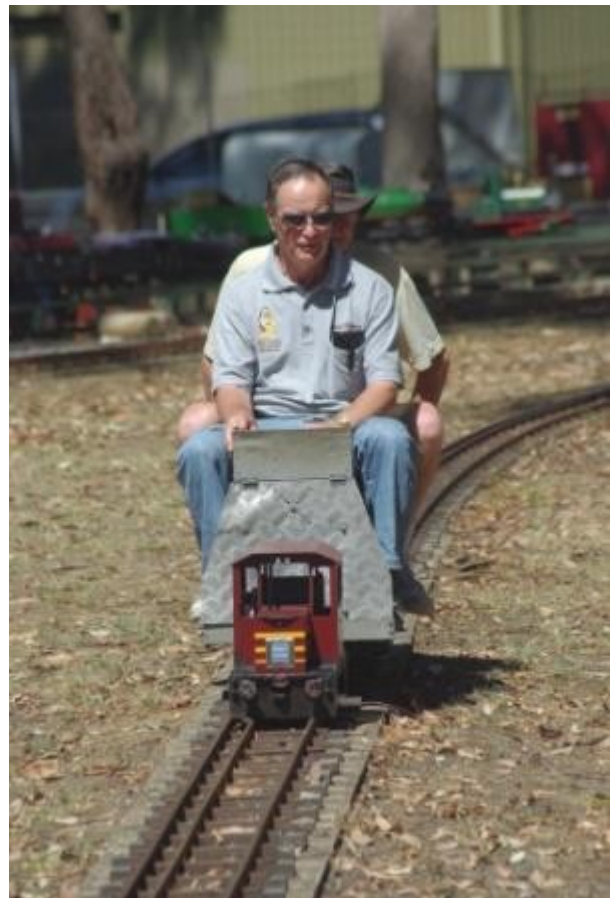
Thank you, bless your cotton socks, and best wishes for this festive season."

Steve Edwards
Exhibition Roster Clerk



Left: AMRA NSW Branch President Barry Wilcockson enjoying a drive on Bill Whale's X100 shunting tractor 5 inch gauge battery powered locomotive

Photo Geoff Lanham



Right:
AMRA NSW Branch Vice President David Bennett enjoying a drive.

Photo Geoff Lanham

More from Western Districts Live Steam

Right : Some of the rolling stock that was at Western Districts Live Steam included NSW prototype as shown by this 73 class.

Photo: Glenn Percival



Left: Another view showing the variety of rolling stock that was also on hand

Photo: Geoff Lanham

Right:
Isn't this what its all about.
AMRA members obviously
enjoying themselves.

Photo Geoff Lanham



From our Roving Reporter

Whilst in Melbourne over Christmas/New Year, Glenn Percival took the opportunity to reacquaint himself with the Diamond Valley Railway (DVR) at Eltham Lower Park, north-east of the Central Business District. DVR operates for the public almost every Sunday plus public holidays and Wednesdays of school holidays. This surely places a major operational and logistical burden on the organisation, resulting in one of the best miniature railways in the country. When in Melbourne, a visit is highly recommended, otherwise in cyberspace go to www.dvr.com.au. Glenn would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the DVR for their hospitality during his family's visit. Included are images showing some of the changes since his last visit a few years ago.

All photos by Glenn Percival



Left One of Glenn's favourites, a Melbourne suburban 'electric'.

*Right:
Another favourite, a beautifully detailed NSW Bicentennial 81-class that is actually powered by a diesel engine.*



Left: A major rebuild/expansion of the workshops area is underway, replacing the former carriage shed with further elevated workshop ("Loco") space.