

Mortdale



May 2012

Matters



Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

Mortdale

May 2012

Matters



From the editor: Welcome to the May 2012 edition of Mortdale Matters.

It's only a matter of time until our 50th Anniversary Exhibition strikes us. I cannot wait! There is an enormous amount of work to be done before the great event; one of them is spreading the news about the exhibition, the more people that know about it the greater the success the days will be. Let your family, friends even "Facebook" friends know about the exhibition including date, time and location. This year we hope to bring a massive 90+ layouts and trade stands to the exhibition.

We had our Open Weekend on the 31st March and the 1st of April 2012, unfortunately the crowd turnout wasn't flash hot, but the weekend was good in the way that we showcased our great club to the public and that several membership applications were taken home! To read more about the Open Weekend read pages 12 and 13. We can hope for a solid crowd at the October "Open Day", dates of which will be announced shortly.

That's all for this edition, till next time.

Keep safe and happy modelling,

Mark Dalli

AMRA NSW Mortdale Matters editor

Cover: 3526 stops for a crew change on the layout "Odd Walls" by "Geoff Small" at the 2011 Sydney Model Railway Exhibition.

PHOTO by Maikha Ly

Back cover: The 'Sydney Special Children's Christmas Party' train to Rosehill Gardens as 4501 assists on the rear of the train as it passes under the F4 freeway on the Carlingford line.

PHOTO by David Lane



An Australian National GM class sits on the layout "Barcoola" based in South Australia in the 1990s era. Photo captured at the Sydney Model Railway Exhibition 2011.

PHOTO by
Maikha Ly

The deadline for submitting material for the July 2012 issue is strictly 15th June 2012

Submitting to Mortdale Matters

With so much continually happening at our Clubrooms, its easy for something to slip through the cracks. *Mortdale Matters* especially needs photos! The main focus will always be on Branch activities and events, however any prototype photos or information will be considered. If you have a photo send it in, even if you don't think it will be published in the next issue just try, you'll be surprised. Just leave a disk/CD in the Journal pigeonhole in the office or send me an email at mdalli.mmatters@gmail.com with the photo and a brief description of the photo. The 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 have written yourself.

Material is published in *Mortdale Matters* at the Committee's discretion.

Subscribing to Mortdale Matters

Mortdale Matters is an e-newsletter. That simply means that it is electronic news. To subscribe to this e-newsletter please send an email to our Publicity Officer Philip Lee at pjlee@inet.net.au to let him know that you would like this sent to you. The file is sent via email and is around 2.5 - 3.5 MB and anyone can get this sent to them. A reminder that *Mortdale Matters* is not put up on the internet until some time after email copies go out. If you do not have capable internet or email you can pick up a hard copy at the clubrooms. If you cannot pick up a copy at the clubrooms, or do not have email, contact Philip to have *Mortdale Matters* posted to you.

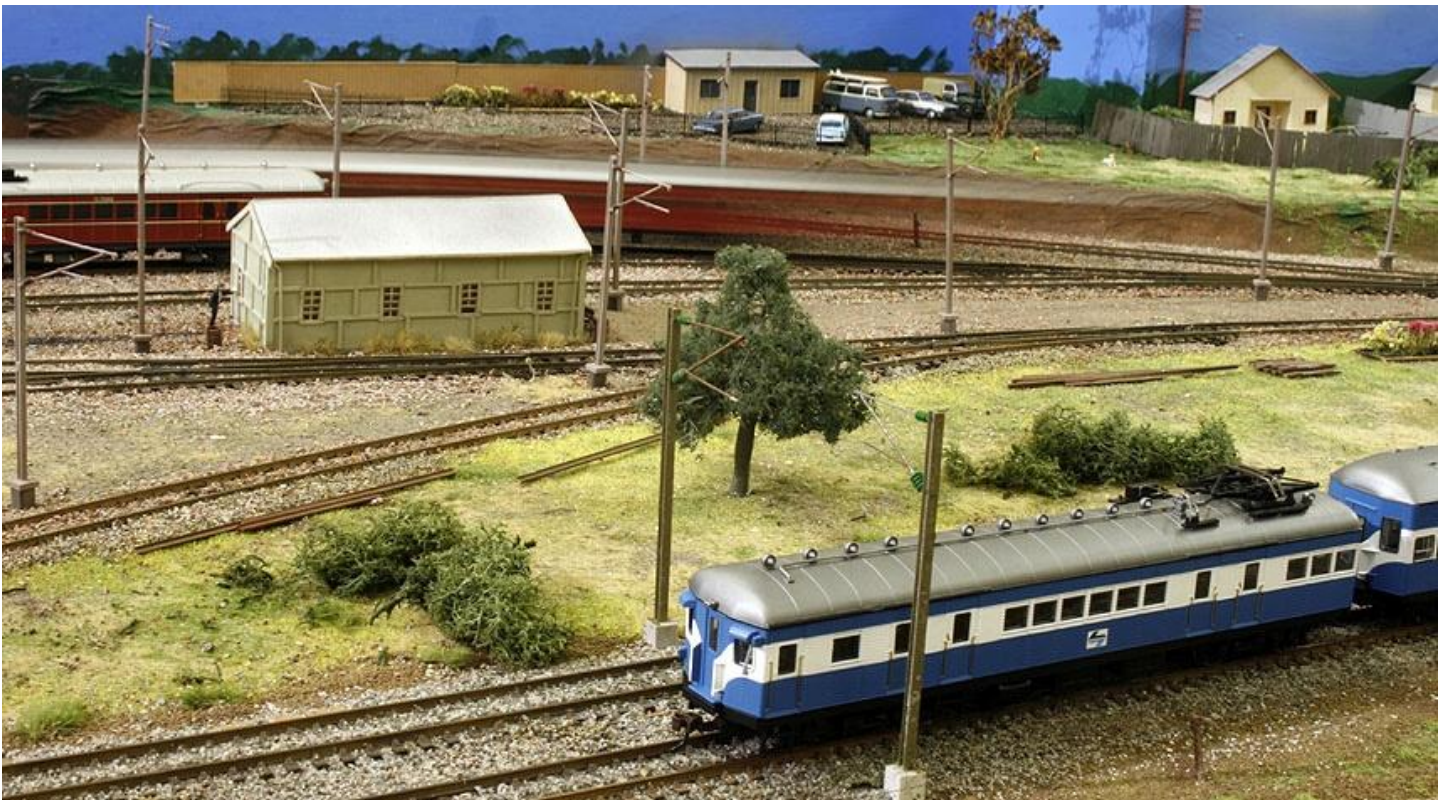
Branch Officers 2012/Contacts

ELECTED	President	Barry Wilcockson	president@amransw.asn.au
	Vice President	David Bennett	vicepresident@amransw.asn.au
	Secretary	Geoff Lanham	secretary@amransw.asn.au
	Treasurer	Marilyn Wilcockson	treasurer@amransw.asn.au
	Exhibition Manager	Alan Cross	exhibamransw@optusnet.com.au
	Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	pjlee@inet.net.au
	Junior Development Officer	Rod Fussell	juniordev@amransw.asn.au
APPOINTED	Journal Sub-Editor	Rod Fussell	subeditor@amransw.asn.au
	Auctioneers	Denis Gilmore / Alan Tonks	
	Building Manager	David Bennett	vicepresident@amransw.asn.au
	Librarians	John Smythe	
		Fred Stell	
	Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	TBA rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au
	Historian	June Larmour	historian@amransw.asn.au
LAYOUT	Webmaster	David Bennett	vicepresident@amransw.asn.au
SUB-COMMITTEE	O Scale	Maurie Haynes	
	N Scale	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
CO-ORDINATORS	Stoney Creek (HO fixed)	Denis Gilmore	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
	East Matelend (HO Exhibition)	Barry Wilcockson	president@amransw.asn.au
	U-Drive	Bill Whale	udrive@amransw.asn.au
	O Scale Exhibition	Lance Pickering	

In and Out of the Clubrooms...



A Union Pacific 6900 loco sits in the shed on the N scale layout.
PHOTO by Mark Dalli



The suburban layout "Electric Car Sheds" on show at the "49th Sydney Model Railway Exhibition".
PHOTO by Maikha Ly

AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme MAY / JULY 2012

MAY		
Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	4th	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7pm until ...
Sat	5th	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> – cont from Friday night (see Notes) until late Saturday
		<i>Breakfast available</i>
Wed	9th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	11th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	12th	Layout Operation (see Notes) & Monthly Forum 10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter 2pm
Sun	13th	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Wed	16th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	18th	Layout Operation – American / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	19th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) 10am until late
Sun	20th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day - Layout Construction</i> <i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	25th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	26th	Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until late
Sun	27th	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Wed	30th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
JUNE		
Fri	1st	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	2nd	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (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	Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter 2pm
Sun	10th	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Mon	11th	Public Holiday – Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Wed	13th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	15th	Layout Operation – Electric Traction / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	16th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) & Monthly Forum 10am until late
Sun	17th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day - Layout Construction</i> <i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Fri	22nd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	23rd	Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until late
Sun	24th	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Fri	29th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	30th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) 10am until late
JULY		
Wed	4th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	7th	Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until late
Sun	8th	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Wed	11th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	14th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) & Monthly Forum 10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter 2pm
Sun	15th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day - Layout Construction</i> <i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Wed	19th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – European / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes) 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21st	Layout Operation (see Notes) 10am until late
Sun	22nd	General Activities (see Notes) No Pre-paid 10am until 4pm
Wed	25th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes) 10am until 5pm
Fri	27th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night 7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	28th	Layout Operation (see Notes) 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 \$6, 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



50th Anniversary Sydney Model Railway Exhibition

2012 October Long Weekend



**SAT 29 TH & SUN 30 TH SEPTEMBER 9AM–5PM
MON 1ST OCTOBER 9AM - 4PM**

**WHITLAM LEISURE CENTRE
MEMORIAL AVENUE, LIVERPOOL**

Adults	\$ 12.00	Seniors	\$ 9.00
Children	\$ 6.00	Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)	\$ 30.00
Multiday Pass	\$ 24.00		

- More layouts and trade stands than ever before
- Parking by gold coin donation to Lions Club Liverpool
- Thomas the Tank Engine rides available
- FREE buses from Liverpool Station

Proudly presented by the Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc:
www.sydneymodelrailwayexhibition.com

N Scale Layout

The replacement program for the Cobalt point motors to Tortoise point motors has started; we hope to have replaced all ten motors during the next week. The scenery in the Leafton area is receiving attention at the moment.

David Bennett
N Scale Layout Coordinator



Kevin works on constructing plaster formations on the new extension for the N scale layout.



A scene showing the detail on the N scales Layout.

PHOTOS by Mark Dalli

East Matelend

"East Matelend" was unpacked from its storage racks and set up a couple of weeks prior to the open weekend. This was to enable the layout to be test run and to allow time to manufacture a lighting system. When the layout was purchased from the Epping Model Railway Club it came without the lighting pelmet as it is a multi_layout pelmet used on all their layouts.

It was decided to make lights using 20mm grey plastic conduit and 50 watt 12 volt downlights. A description of how to build the lights is given in issue 11 of Australian Journal of Railway Modelling. The article is written by Jonathan Hilliard of the Illawarra Model Railway Association, who developed the system for his club's layouts "Kelly River" and "Waterfall" and David Lowe's "Eskbank".

It was calculated that thirteen lights were required to give a good coverage to "East Matelend". The conduit was purchased and cut to length and then Marilyn and I bent each piece to shape on a bending jig made of a length of MDF, a 4 litre paint can and a tuna can. The bends were achieved using a heat gun and a conduit bending spring. Once the conduit was bent the gooseneck end was counterbored to receive the downlight socket. A length of figure 8 cable, long enough to reach the transformer, was soldered to the socket wiring and the socket was then glued in place with Araldite.



Graeme Shade works "East Matelend" on a quite Wednesday morning. Note the new lighting and its overall effect on the layout.

PHOTO by Mark Dalli

A trial mounting system was assembled at home using a piece of 70 x 19mm pine running the length of the bottom of a module with pieces of 42 x 19mm pine attached using T halving joints reaching to the top of the backscene board to form the light supports. Suitable conduit fittings were purchased and modified to mount the conduit light fitting on the timber mounting bracket. The bracket with lights was test fitted to the layout and the lights were turned on. The difference with lights was remarkable and the mounting system appeared satisfactory. This was the Saturday before the open weekend. Robert Merrick and Graeme Shade jumped in and looked after purchasing the timber for the remaining 4 mounting brackets and then cut the joints and assembled them. Geoff Lanham and I purchased the conduit fittings and modified them so that they were ready for use. Geoff then mounted the downlight transformers on 3 pieces of plywood, each with a power board to plug the transformers in to. By that night we started to mount the lights on the modules using coach bolts and wing nuts. The lights were terminated on the transformers and the layout began to come to life.

Once the lighting was sorted out it was time to consider the running quality of the track after a long storage time. The track was cleaned and trains were test run over the layout. Everything worked as expected and the layout was now ready for the open weekend.

Barry Wilcockson



PHOTOS on page 9 by Mark Dalli

H0 Scale Layout

6325 hours of operation

READ/CROSS OVER JUNCTION

The run-around track is taking shape at the crossover junction end, and as part of the work to install the points for access to the run-around track, a realignment of the Main Line will allow the Crossover to cross the Down Main without having to enter the Up Main Line until the departure end of READ Platform 5. The run-around track is to allow multiple Unit (MU) trains to turn back at READ platform 4. Loco_hauled trains will also be able to be turnback at READ platform 4 and be able to run-around via the run-around track. Overtaking moves on either the UP or DOWN mains will also be permitted.



CONTROL CENTRE (CC)

With the track work going on at READ there will be some changes to the READ tiles in the Control Centre (CC) to allow overtaking operation from either platform 4/5 into the run-around track. A simple switch like Platform 2 selection will be provided for now.

CCTV

A switch is now installed and working for the selection of the camera inputs to Monitor 1. Soon more CCTV selection switches will appear for other monitors.

DEAWY

The huge job of wiring the Down local panel for DEAWY has started. Artwork is on display for DEAWY Up local panel, have a look and see if there is anything that has been missed.

OPERATIONS TRAINING

It has pleased me no end to say two (2) people have asked for formal training in the Control Centre. I cannot stress enough it is NOT good enough just to get your train moving and put up with sudden stops/starts. A lot of effort has been put into the systems in the Control Centre to avoid sudden stops/starts, when the system is used correctly. Don't be scared to ask and receive training in what I consider to be THE most interesting non train running positions on "Stoney Creek".

Image: The new tiles that will control Yerriyong and Up and Down yards.
PHOTO by Mark Dalli

CONTROLLERS

A Controller in this case is the actual device used to directly control the trains. The Layout Committee has endorsed a new concept of train control. This is an enhancement to the overall system we have been working towards, everything we have done up to now is going to be needed to make this enhanced system work.

In short "Stoney Creek" will be able to run DC and DCC trains on the same track switchable on a train-by-train basis in either operator or display mode. In fact there will be five modes of operation.

Denis Gilmore

HO Layout coordinator

Mortdale Building Report

Two more LED tubes have been tried with success and we are going to go ahead with the purchase of 150 of these tubes to relamp the entire building. A laminated panel has been secured to the exhaust fan cover in the kitchen and the end panel has been painted. A second larger panel has been installed under the kitchen servery giving us a wood grained laminate panel that will be easier to keep clean than the painted gyprock panel that was originally installed there.

David Bennett

Mortdale Building Manager

3642 Back in action



After months of work to fix issues with 3642 a load trial to Moss Vale on Wednesday 04 April commenced to make sure that the loco was able to run tours without issues. Consist from the front SWT, VHO, 4306, 4490. The fitters were very happy with the loco's performance.

PHOTO by Geoff Olsen

AMRA NSW - Open Weekend 2012

The annual Open Weekend at the clubrooms was held on 30th March and 1st April. Preparations for the weekend began the Saturday before, with a general clean up of the clubrooms as usual. Friday night saw a small band of workers doing more preparation, and on Saturday morning the crew were on board to set up the entrance desks, the outdoor area and the barbecue, and get the meeting rooms and layouts ready for our visitors.

Frate-N was our only retailers this year, as Casula Hobbies were at the Canberra exhibition, and Ironhorse Hobbies were unable to attend due to family commitments. All three of these retailers have been long-time supporters of the Branch, and we appreciate that support. Greg and Pete from Frate-N had a good range of locos, wagons and buildings on offer. The Branch Ladies Auxiliary's Needle and Natter Group also had their usual sale table. The ladies do a sterling job in supporting the Branch with their craft sales. Thank you.

Upstairs we had all three layouts operating again. The extensions to the N scale layout had their first public showing, and received many favourable comments. The O scale layout once again attracted many interested visitors. The progress on the HO layout, Stoney Creek, was also noted, however there were many comments heard that we need some scenery on this layout.



A small but steady crowd on the Saturday afternoon of the Open Weekend viewing the O and N scale layouts. This area was very popular with the people, as shunting movements took place nonstop with the movements of locos both in steam and diesel, as well as rollingstock up and down the layout using the turntable and surrounding yards.

PHOTO by Mark Dalli

Downstairs in the exhibition layout room, the U-Drive was once again a popular spot for the younger visitors. Jason Every kept the layout operating for the first few hours on Sunday until Bill arrived at around lunchtime to assist. Thanks to Jason for his fantastic help. The HO exhibition layout, still named "East Matelend", was also operating in the layout exhibition room. With new lighting installed on the layout, it was able to be viewed to its full potential. Once again, however, we were short staffed for operators on this layout as well.

This year we were privileged to be chosen by MTH to be a part of their 'See It, Hold It, Run It' programme. This programme is aimed at bringing new participants of all ages into the hobby. Dave Allen who is their representative in Australia, and also a club member, organised with MTH to run a raffle over the weekend, with a prize of an MTH train set, donated by Dave, the train set was set up on a table and was running for the whole weekend. Visitors were invited to touch and hold the train, and to operate it using the controller.

The members who manned the front entry desk, and welcomed our visitors, did a sterling job. We had over 500 visitors through the rooms over the weekend, and over 80 members. As usual the ladies looked after the culinary needs of both the visitors and members. The barbecue was busy for several hours on both days, and the sandwiches, tea and coffee, and pikelets with jam and cream kept the ladies busy in the kitchen.

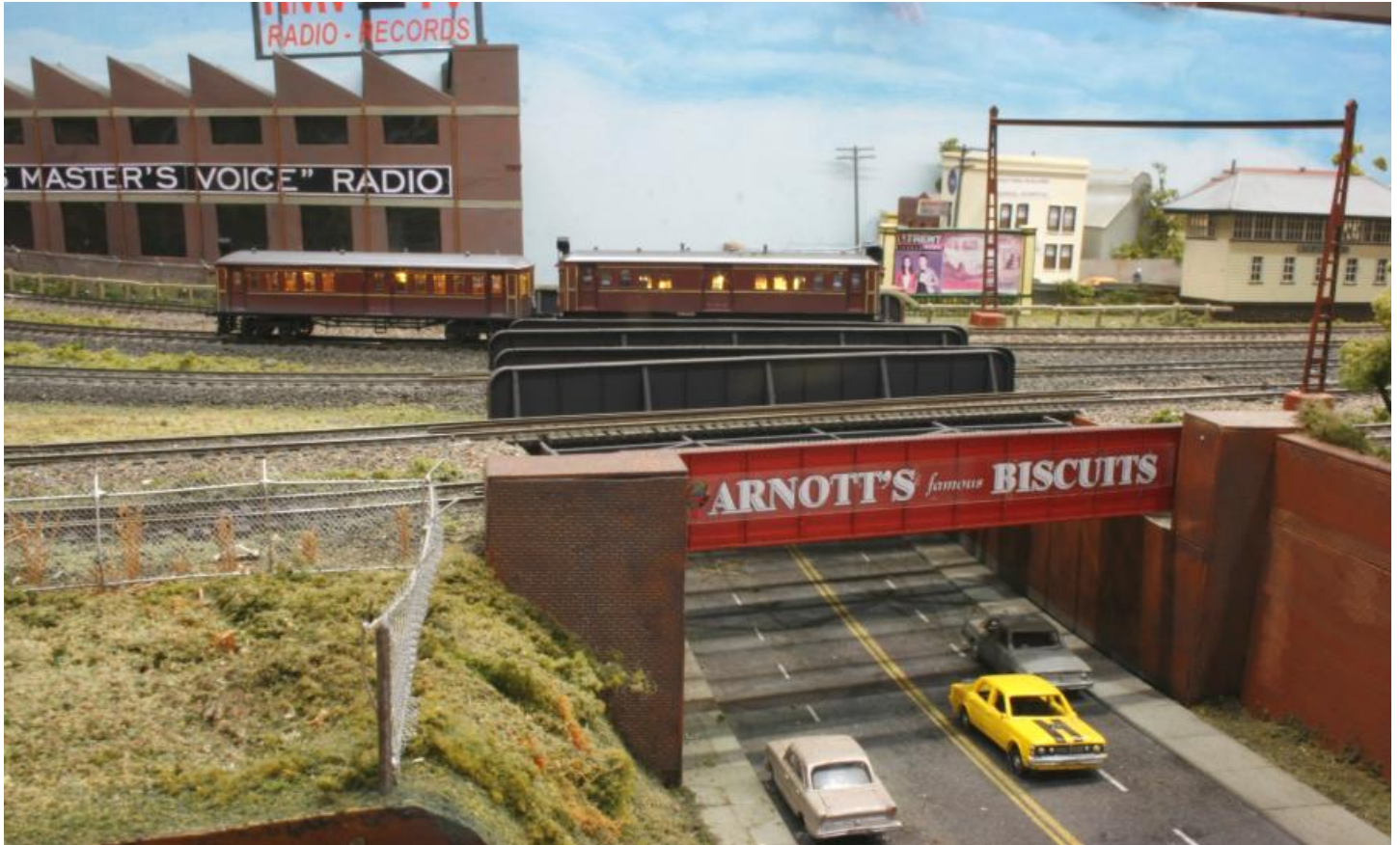
Once again, we had a very successful weekend, with many membership forms either taken by visitors, or filled in on the spot. Thank you to all who helped in any way – we just need to get more members to get involved and give one or two hours of their time over the weekend.

Marilyn Wilcockson



AMRA members pose for a photo during the Open Weekend.
PHOTO by Mark Dalli

More from the Exhibition...



CPH rail motors cross a bridge on Epping Model Railway Cub's layout "Brunswick Park", the layout based on the Sydney suburb of North Strathfield.

PHOTO by Maikha Ly



A NSWGR 36 class 3673 speeds a wheat train through Geoff Smalls, layout "Odd Walls" based on the Main South line in the 1980s.

PHOTO by David Lane

NO more Diamond NRs

Image by Mitchell Morgan



NR62 in "Vanilla" with diamonds

In 1995 building commenced of the 120 NR (National Rail) class locos. "National Rail" now "Pacific National" operate these locos all around Australia for intermodal, steel, bulk and passenger services with GSR ("Great Southern Rail"). The NR class originally came out in the 'Vanilla' livery with diamonds as scene in the above photo. The original paint scheme is now referred to as vanilla as vanilla ice-cream is the original flavour as this livery was the original. Some NRs were repainted into special liveries for GSR such as "Ghan", "Indian Pacific", "Indian Pacific MK2" and "Southern Spirit", these liveries still remain. There will be new GSR liveries to come including the "Ghan MK2" and a one off "Overland" livery, this was hoped to be completed by the end of 2011, Information regarding the new liveries is limited. Some were painted in Indigenous colours including NR30 "The Snake" and NR52. A Few NRs were painted in "Trailerail", "SeaTrain" and "Steelink" they are no longer in these colours. Now the majority of the NR class fleet are in Pacific National Blue and yellow, but some still remain in the original Vanilla colours. The "National Rail" diamond NRs are all gone except for one - NR62, which by the time this magazine is out it will most likely be repainted. In the last few months the paint shop at Chullora has been in overdrive re painting them in the PN (Pacific National) colours. PN wants all the NRs to be in PN blue and Yellow (except GSR liveries) by the end of the year 2012. There will be photos to come of the new GSR liveries as they are introduced.

Mark Dalli



Photo of the issue goes to David Lane

David Lane