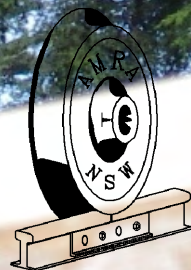


Mortdale



May 2013

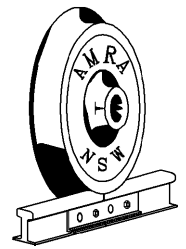
Matters



Mortdale Matters

May 2013

Editorial



Welcome to this edition of *Mortdale Matters*.

My apologies for this issue running even later than the last, due in part to ongoing interstate work travel. I promise the next one will be earlier.

By all accounts our Model Train Show (open weekend) on Saturday/Sunday 6th/7th April was a success. An illustrated report appears in this issue.

I hope you enjoyed the first instalment of Mortdale Retrospective, the series continues on page 7.

Our **"10th Anniversary Mortdale Dinner"** is being held on **Saturday 20th July**. Numbers are limited so contact the clubrooms as soon as possible to book. The O gauge display layout *Past and Present* has been invited to the Epping exhibition over the June long weekend. Other upcoming highlights include Australian Diesel (June) and American (July) theme nights.

I am continuing to refine the Subscriptions & Subscriptions section overleaf, and I would like to draw all regular contributors' attention to the latest information highlighted therein. We always need contributions, especially photos of happenings at the clubrooms and front or back cover candidates. Also, if anyone has an image of a derail device that I can use below, I'd be most grateful.

Until next issue,

Glenn Percival
Editor

Mark Dalli
Media Contributor

DERAIL

In the regular list of Branch Officers, the O Gauge fixed layout Coordinator is now Gordon Wallace. In the last issue (p.9) the date of the Bedford tower truck assisting was 27th January 2013, not ninety years in the future.



SOUTHERN AURORA 50TH ANNIVERSARY Expedition

FRONT PAGE: 4490 and 4306 lead the *Aurora* towards Exeter up platform and pedestrian crossing on the return leg of the re-enactment journey, Sunday afternoon 27th May 2012. (Geoff Lanham)

ABOVE: 4490 and 4306 break the 5:30am peace at Junee, pausing for a driver crew change and carriage watering on the run to Melbourne, Saturday 26th May 2012. (Glenn Percival)

BACK PAGE: The demise of manned signal boxes and semaphore signals saw the removal of majestic structures such as the Cootamundra North gantry. Fortunately it has been preserved and is lit at night to good effect as shown, presiding over the coach entrance to the station in the early hours of Sunday 27th May 2012. (Geoff Lanham)



Submissions and Subscriptions

With so much continually happening at our Clubrooms, it's easy for something to slip through the cracks. *Mortdale Matters* especially needs photos of Branch activities and events, however any prototype photos or information will be considered for use as space permits. Email mmatters.amransw@yahoo.com.au, or leave a disc in the *Journal* pigeonhole in the office, with the photo and a brief description. The long axis of an image need only be approx. 1000 pixels.

As developed with Management Committee, **would all reporters to MC please also copy to the Editor's address above, ensuring timely production of the newsletter following the committee meeting.**

All submissions must be original material, i.e. photos that you've taken yourself or articles that you have written yourself, and is published at MC's discretion.

Mortdale Matters is an e-newsletter. That simply means that it is electronic news. To subscribe, please send an email request to our publicity officer Philip Lee at pjlee@inet.net.au. Please note that the file can exceed 4 MB; and that Adobe 8.0 (PDF 1.7) or later compatibility is required, to minimise file size. *Mortdale Matters* is also available online from the AMRA NSW website.

If you do not have capable internet or email please contact Secretary Geoff Lanham to have a B&W printed copy available for you to collect from our clubrooms. Please note that this service is only available for those without capable internet.

The deadline for the July 2013 issue is 7th July

Branch Officers 2013/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	<i>Journal</i> Sub-Editor	Rod Fussell	subeditor@amransw.asn.au
	<i>Mortdale Matters</i> Editor	Glenn Percival	mmatters.amransw@yahoo.com.au
	Auctioneers	Denis Gilmore / Alan Tonks	
	Building Manager	David Bennett	vicepresident@amransw.asn.au
	Librarians	John Smythe	
		Fred Stell	
	Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au
	Historian	June Larmour	historian@amransw.asn.au
	Webmaster	David Bennett	vicepresident@amransw.asn.au
LAYOUT	O Gauge (fixed)	Gordon Wallace	
SUB-COMMITTEE	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (HO fixed)	Denis Gilmore	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
CO-ORDINATORS	N Gauge	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
	<i>Past and Present</i> (O Exhibition)	Lance Pickering	
	<i>East Matelend</i> (HO Exhibition)	Barry Wilcockson	president@amransw.asn.au
	<i>U-Drive</i>	Bill Whale	udrive@amransw.asn.au



Model Train Show report

Someone rather famous once said (slightly amended):

"Ask not what your club can do for you. Rather ask what you can do for your club."

A goodly number of our regular members did the latter on the weekend of 6/7 April.

We will probably never know why there was an upsurge in attendance at the Autumn 2013 shows. Perhaps it was the change in name from Open Day. Perhaps it was a rather more concentrated effort to advertise through model shops, through libraries, schools or on free announcement boards and car windows. Or because the days were neither for going to the beach nor staying at home.

The St George and Sutherland Leader entry in "What's on" would have helped. Announcements were requested from seven radio stations but whether they made it to air is unknown. An attempt to have it announced in the Sydney Morning Herald failed.

Could the end of daylight saving have been a factor? And Ms Gillard was out of the country, so seeing her instead was not an option!

The number of visitors, at 1176, made sure we were all kept busy. Thankfully they arrived in a steady stream so, as far as I could ascertain, reasonable comfort around the layouts was maintained. At times the refreshment queues tested the ladies and the barbeque-ers but they came through with flying colours. This leads me to suggest that a "good" number of visitors to aim for is 600 per day. Broadly speaking, the St George and Sutherland areas accounted for 87% of visitors.



Two experiments were tested. The junior competition seemed to be a hit, both with the youngsters and the Mums/Nannas and Dads/Pops. It certainly raised awareness among all visitors. The winners were drawn by a young visitor along with his Nan and Pop, and all prizes were received by the Monday. Many thanks go to Hobbyco and Casula Hobbies for providing the first two prizes.

Although the Toy Restoration Centre's stall did not do much business, the volunteers from there said they enjoyed the opportunity. It would be fair to say however that the experiment was only marginally successful.



Anecdotally, Casula Hobbies, Frate-N and Iron Horse kept their tills ticking over. Needles 'n' Natter reported it to be "a bit quiet". Thank you to all four for contributing.

The library managed to clear a small amount of space with sales and overall, treasurer Marilyn was happy to bank a surplus. This should help with Council rates for this year.

So, as coordinator, I am happy to say "it went well". That, rather obviously, relied hugely on the combined efforts of a whole stack of members who graciously volunteered their time, and smiling faces. Many put in a lot of effort, at times under somewhat trying circumstances. Thank you, from myself and on behalf of the MC and the members generally.

Bruce Harris
Model Train Show Coordinator
17 April 2013



(all images Glenn Percival, used with permission)

Gunzels' Gallery



On the job on the "Short South" (Sydney to Goulburn), 11th March 2013:

LEFT: The "coastie" export limestone train has just ascended the Illawarra escarpment from Port Kembla, passing through Moss Vale enroute to the South Marulan quarry for another load.

RIGHT: In this study of wagon detail and composition, the empty "clinka" limestone train, subject of last issue's back cover, has just arrived at Berrima Junction from Maldon. It is about to reverse into the Junction, just north of Moss Vale, thence the loco will shunt around the wagons, and head for the New Berrima works.

(both Mitch Morgan)



AMRA NSW Branch Program - May/July 2013

MAY

Wed	1st	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	3rd	CLOSED - Special Preparation	Closed
Sat	4th	Deceased Estate - Sale Day / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	9am until late
Wed	8th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	10th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	11th	Layout Operation (see Notes) & Monthly Forum Ladies Needles & Natter	10am until late 2pm
Sun	12th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Wed	15th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	17th	Layout Operation – United Kingdom / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	18th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	19th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	<i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Wed	22nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	24th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	25th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	26th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Wed	29th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	31st	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm

JUNE

Sat	1st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	5th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	7th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	8th	Layout Operation (see Notes) Ladies Needles & Natter	10am until late 2pm
Sun	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Mon	10th	Public Holiday – Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Wed	12th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	14th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	15th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) & Monthly Forum	10am until late
Sun	16th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	<i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Wed	19th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	21st	Layout Operation – Australian Diesel / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	23rd	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Wed	26th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	28th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	29th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late

JULY

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	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	10th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	12th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	13th	Layout Operation (see Notes) & Monthly Forum Ladies Needles & Natter	10am until late 2pm
Sun	14th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
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</i> (see Notes) 10th Anniversary of Mortdale - Dinner	10am until 5:30pm
Sun	21st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	Booking Required 6pm
Fri	26th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	<i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Sat	27th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sun	28th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until late 10am until 4pm

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



Mortdale Retrospective - 2002



From ANZAC Day 2002, it took members around six months to almost completely dismantle the sub-divided interior.

LEFT: View across current office to original front amenities block.

RIGHT: View towards the middle wall, after it was lowered to take the first floor.



LEFT: The front amenities block came down brick by brick, piece by piece.

UPPER RIGHT: Milestone reached, ready for the first floor and stud walls, viewed towards the back wall. Due to termite activity, the building shell was treated and the decision made to use steel for the internal structures.



LOWER RIGHT: The "greenfield" view towards the front door and office. The amount of material removed was an ongoing "Chinese puzzle", as shown below.

LEFT: Hollow beams formed of welded complimentary "J" sections, the first floor takes shape, viewed across the back towards the roller door, still at its original 4.5m height.



LEFT: Until all the plumbing was reworked, only a basic WC was available. In the same area as our Gents/Disabled, the "modesty screen" was slung from above.

RIGHT: The original front office stairs were rebuilt for internal access to the O Gauge fixed layout, shown looking through the workshop stud wall.



With minimal lighting and maximum debris density, our "darkest hour" figuratively and literally?

LEFT: View from the front door towards workshop and middle wall.

RIGHT: Reverse view towards office and amenities.



HO Scale Layout

"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"
(HO FIXED LAYOUT – *STONEY CREEK*)

08/05/2013

7895 hours of operation

Yerriyong

The wiring has been installed to allow the two departure signals to be installed in the Down Yard. These signals should go in soon. On the Down Main the "too close" protection has been programmed and is working. "Too close" protection is needed so that the train can't be on top of the point and the point allowed to operate. The Up Main will receive the same treatment. Some of the signal wiring that was missed some time ago has now been installed.

Control Centre

The three Deawy Tiles (1A, 2A and 3A) have been wired and installed in the CTC frame. All point indication is being displayed and 90% of the track block indication is in and working. The programming to give the route setting in and out if the yard is still to be done. The turn back will also be bought on at the same time.

Documentation

In the time of rapid progress it is easy to forget the huge effort that our document control officer puts in to keep the records up to date. This is a thankless job and often overlooked. I would like to thank all for their efforts in keeping the information flow recorded.

Train Show Weekend (Open Weekend)

A great thank you for all the willing operators who displayed their trains. These all ran very well and mostly the same people crewed *Stoney Creek*. From my point of view *Stoney Creek* ran extremely well with few if any problems.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek layout Coordinator

Did You Know?

If you can operate any of the route-setting yard panels — MacLeod, Read or Yerriyong Down — then you already understand the basic concept behind the Control Centre panel. We are currently finalising the format of a user manual, which after initial instruction will be your handy reference. Come on in!

Glenn Percival

Stoney Creek layout committee



N Scale Layout

Three more local controllers have been installed, one at Shades Quarry, one at Lanham and one to replace the old local controller at Watsons Flat. Work is continuing at Wallamudra to replace the local controller with two new controllers.

David Bennett
N Scale layout Coordinator



ABOVE: Shades Quarry



LEFT and BELOW: Some of the wonderful detail emerging on the Leafton extension.
(all Glenn Percival)



Mortdale Report

Routine Maintenance is ongoing, Thursday 16th May was our annual inspection of fire extinguishers and hose reels.

David Bennett
Mortdale Building Manager



Photo of the Issue: Geoff Lanham

