

Mortdale



November-December 2013

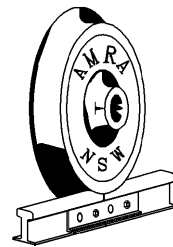
Matters

Sydney Model Railway
Exhibition Special

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

Mortdale Matters

November-December 2013 Editorial



Welcome to the bumper final edition of *Matters* for 2013.

Our Sydney Exhibition coverage highlights just some of the people that make it happen, our exhibitors and staff — members, relatives and friends. Thank you one and all.

The post-Exhibition Open Day was a quieter affair than usual, nonetheless a good day was had by all.

This month's Branch AGM saw a few changes to the Management Committee (MC), as detailed over the page.

Due to the massive filesize of this issue, a full-page Members Gallery by Bruce Harris and the next instalment of Mortdale Retrospective had to be held over.

Upcoming programme highlights include:

- **Branch Christmas Dinner** on Saturday 7th December— if you want to attend but haven't yet booked, particularly as a volunteer at the exhibition, contact the club to see if there are any last-minute cancellations;
- **Deceased Estate Sale** on Saturday 14th December — please note the arrangements highlighted with the Programme;
- **United Kingdom** (20th December) and **Australian Steam** (17th January) theme nights — usually occurring on the 3rd Friday of the month;
- **Monthly Forum** and **Needles & Natter**, usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month but always following the MC meeting.

We always welcome contributions, further information follows on the next page. Does anyone have an image of a derail device that I can use?

Finally, to all a happy and safe festive season — may your model railway wishes come true!

Until next issue,

Glenn Percival
Editor

Mark Dalli
Media Contributor



A low-nose T class hauls a goods train through the highest railway station in Victoria, *Shelley*. N scale, by Georges River Model Railway Club. (Mark Dalli)



FRONT PAGE: The only permitted operation of double-headed AD60 Beyer-Garratts was the "W44" lead/zinc concentrate train, shown passing through *Wallerawang* station on its long march from Broken Hill to Cockle Creek. H0 scale, by Guildford Model Railway Group. (Mark Dalli)

BACK PAGE: Prolific modeller Viv Farrow failed to disappoint with the highly detailed *San Hedrin* in On30 scale. (David Lane)

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/events, members' models and covers; 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.

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 or articles that you have written, and are published at MC's discretion.

Mortdale Matters is an e-newsletter, meaning simply 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 several 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 the Secretary 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 January 2014 issue is 7th January

Branch Officers/Contacts 2014

ELECTED Management Committee	President	Alan Cross	president@amransw.asn.au
	Vice President	Gordon Wallace	sueandg@bigpond.net.au
	Secretary	Barry Wilcockson	secretary@amransw.asn.au
	Treasurer	Marilyn Wilcockson	treasurer@amransw.asn.au
	Exhibition Manager	Roger Chin	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	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
	Librarians	John Smythe	
		Fred Stell	
	Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au
	Historian	June Larmour	historian@amransw.asn.au
LAYOUT SUB- COMMITTEE	Webmaster	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
	0 Gauge (fixed)	Gordon Wallace	sueandg@bigpond.net.au
	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Denis Gilmore	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
	N Gauge	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
	<i>Past and Present</i> (0 Exhibition)	Lance Pickering	
	<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Barry Wilcockson	secretary@amransw.asn.au
	<i>U-Drive</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Bill Whale	udrive@amransw.asn.au





O pen Day Report - 26th October

With the annual exhibition behind us, our club's Open Day was a relatively casual affair. In the days leading up to this bi-annual event and with little formality, floors were cleaned, chairs and tables rearranged, and notices updated on the computer. Wednesday was a tense time for the 0 Gauge team with some concerns about the operations of the club's newest layout – the modular 0 Gauge *Past and Present*. With patience and persistence, and a few expletives, the problems were fixed.

Early Saturday saw a flurry of activity as the tarpaulin and gazebo were erected, entry stand set up, notices posted, kitchen and barbecue readied and layouts set up for running. Fortunately, members are fairly practised at these activities after many years of running an open day, and everything was ready by the time the first visitors arrived a little before 10am.

Visitors were directed to the layouts that interested them most, although many had come to see what there was, without any preference for one scale or another. Those who had layouts at home were encouraged to talk to the club members who were running trains of their chosen scale. One modeller wondered where his Hornby Dublo collection would fit in. We talked about theme night running and how that would accommodate his scale. In any case, as members know, the club operates for all; and Dublo equipment would be fitted in with the American, Australian, Continental European and Japanese models that run on *Stoney Creek*, often all at the same time.

Many of the visitors were old faces, repeat visitors who come regularly to see what changes there have been. I encouraged them to note the developments that had taken place since their last visit. In the case of N Gauge, the improvements over the stair-well were easily recognised. Equally for the 0 Gauge which has enjoyed a deal of attention to scenery and effects. Many visitors had not seen *Past and Present* before, so it provided a new point of interest, not just because of the period of time covered by the models but the technological change in the method of controlling model trains.

The developments on *Stoney Creek* include a newly decorated corner and operating signals on the layout. These were a talking point but a casual observer would not necessarily see the more subtle changes without some prompting. There were many admirers of Stoney Creek Control Centre which is where some of the changes are on show. However to many of the attendees, mainly juniors, the most appealing aspect of the layouts was seeing lots of trains operating, in many cases the faster the better.

The U-Drive was in operation allowing younger visitors to try their hands as drivers. A new club member, Tomas Bulic, stepped up to the task of being chief operator for much of the afternoon, and proved an able assistant to Bill Whale.

I noticed a number of visitors negotiating a purchase at the sole member-run commercial stand, and John Smythe made a number of book sales from surplus library stock.

The efforts of Marilyn and Barry (The Chef) Wilcockson, Pat Sorenson and Annette Hinczak providing the catering is appreciated. Kerry set up and ran the craft stall for the day and her efforts are appreciated also. The N-gauge 'team' – Ash, Richard, Kevin – with other club members and committee set up the marquee, manned the entry and acted as hosts to the visitors as they arrived and departed. Barry Green, Ken Auchterlonie and Peter O'Brien did a sterling job welcoming visitors as they arrived. Others contributed also, and their help is appreciated.

At the end of the day, 232 visitors had been to visit our club, and every report I heard was positive. Due to the efforts of a number of members throughout the day, the total takings, that is entry donations, kitchen, barbecue, U-Drive and book sales generated funds to help keep our club going forward on a sound footing.

Thanks to members who set up and managed the trains on all 5 layouts. In all, a good day.

Robert Merrick
Member 5036

O Gauge Layouts

Both the fixed layout and exhibition layout *Past and Present* ran continuously throughout the Open day without any problems occurring.

Stage 2 of the duplication of the universal track, on the fixed layout, is now underway with the repositioning of the point on the milk road siding on the outer layout.

Gordon Wallace
O Gauge fixed layout Coordinator



BANNER: 1955-era "U-boat" single deck interurban, Set U24, awaits its next duty in the refuge siding at Hoganvale. (Mark Dalli)

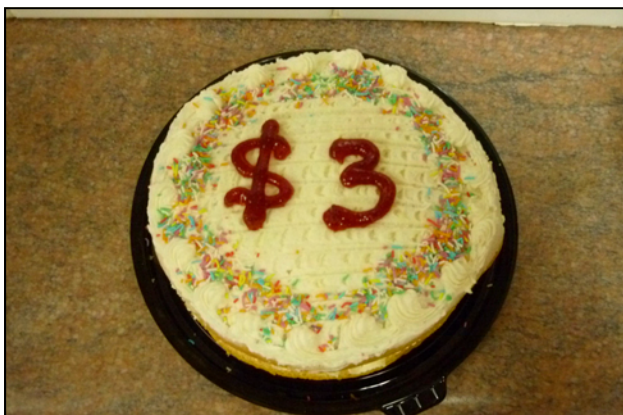
ABOVE: *Past and Present* in action at the Model Train Show/Open Day earlier this year. (Glenn Percival)

LEFT: The fixed layout branch terminus, formerly Paigeton, was renamed in honour of the late Norm Davies. There has been a surge in civil works approaching the milk sidings. (Mark Dalli)

Members Gallery

Lance Pickering's 70th by Roger Chin

On the 9th of October, Lance Pickering turned 70. A small celebration of this took place at the clubrooms that afternoon. The message on the cake says it all.



HO *Stoney Creek*

"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"
(HO FIXED LAYOUT – *STONEY CREEK*)
to 12/11/2013
8585 hours of operation



General operations have been good on *Stoney Creek*. Over the last few months there have been a group of members and their guest operating the layout in a very intense manner. At the same time many of these operators are stepping up and learning the CTC operations.

Control Centre (CTCC)

The outside wall has been painted and photos from outside (looking in) a signal box have been mounted on the window area. The drawings for the remaining 9.5 tiles in the CTCC room have been updated again and of course will go through the checking process (again).

Read

A Tortoise Point Motor will need to be replaced. The point motor for the UP direction departure makes a clicking sound; I suspect that the noise is from a miss aligned gear, or just normal operation. After a time the noise stops and the point motor is still operational. [This has been done. –Ed.]

Jarrah Road

The shuttle to Jarrah road has been brought into operation.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek layout Coordinator



BANNER: 42110 awaits next duty in Read Yard. (Mark Dalli)

RIGHT: It may only be a mock-up but it certainly gives a good impression. (Denis Gilmore/Glenn Percival)

ABOVE: 42217+42211 lead the Indian-Pacific past Deawy Down Yard. (Paul O'Flaherty)

H0 *East Matelend*

East Matelend is currently packed away. The new protective end boards have been added. When the modules were out to have the end boards fitted I noticed that the track had lifted at the end on one of the fiddle yard modules. This will be repaired when there is some space in the back room. The wiring of the layout also needs to be reviewed and redundant wiring removed. The wiring then needs to be documented.

Barry Wilcockson
East Matelend layout Coordinator



ABOVE: NN class "Nanny" 3526 approaches the titular station with a down passenger service.

LEFT: Steam action aplenty, with a crossing on the coal roads of up 3804 and down 6042; and a Standard Goods loco on the breakdown train waiting for trouble.

(both Mark Dalli)

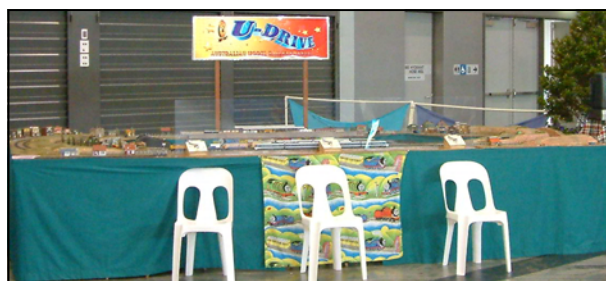
U Drive

The most recent public usage of the U-Drive was at our Exhibition and the following Open Day. For the exhibition we had a total of about 600 kids operating, down a bit compared to previous years, but in keeping with the reduced numbers of people who attended the exhibition. Although we make a point of telling visitors on open days that we are not charging for kids to use the U-Drive, it is interesting that often they happily slip a donation into our donation tins...

It is pleasing to report that the trains and layout in general worked very well, with a minimum of derailments and other troubles. During the last hour of the exhibition the outside track went dead. Due to being so close to closing, it was decided the matter could be better looked at when the U-Drive was set up again in the clubrooms. This was duly done and it was discovered that the top speed limiter for the outer track was open circuiting unless the knob was turned to the full-speed position. It was operated in this condition on the Open Day due to a lack of spares, with verbal warnings to the young customers to "slow it down a bit" if the train was going too fast. This arrangement worked well. At the time of writing, a new potentiometer is yet to be fitted.

I must say thank you again to Jason Every, who has been my faithful helper in staffing the U-Drive for many years. He has been a big help, has virtually grown up with the layout; and is a knowledgeable and reliable instructor for those who get rostered to operate the layout, but who have not done the job before. It is also very helpful that others have taken the trouble to learn how to help or supervise the dismantling and setting up without me being present, and I thank them for that.

Bill Whale
U-Drive layout Coordinator



N Gauge Layout

The layout operated nicely on the recent Open Day with enough operators to staff the layout all day, thank you to those who turned up and gave their time to assist. On Monday night we looked at the relays for the boom gates in the Leafston area, we are experiencing voltage regulation problems that are allowing the relays to drop out when they should stay pulled in. A larger regulated power supply will replace the existing power supply.

David Bennett
N Gauge layout Coordinator



BANNER: The hamlet of Bennett, on the main line. (David Lane)

LEFT: The branch line terminus of Watsons Flat, with Kevin Higginson at work producing the scenery shown in the last issue. (Glenn Percival)

RIGHT: 3801 approaches Shades Quarry, having just departed Bennett. (Liam Brundle)

Mortdale Report

Recently a switch mechanism was replaced for the HO area upstairs lighting, the old mech was showing signs of melting of some parts, this probably occurred before we replaced the fluorescent tubes with LED tubes.

David Bennett
Mortdale Building Manager

At the height of a storm late on Friday 15th November, not long before the last of us had departed, the 0 Gauge aisle beside Hoganvale was inundated as the gutter flash-flooded. Water ran right across the first floor, seeping downstairs in several areas; and *Stoney Creek* also suffered damage. Thanks to Justin, Kyle, Liam, Nick and Steve for staying back over two hours to clean up the worst of it. (Glenn Percival)



AMRA NSW Branch Programme - December 2013 / January 2014

DECEASED ESTATE - O SCALE SALE

CLOSED – Friday 13 December

Saturday 14 December

**Members Only – 9:30am for Viewing
 Selling From - 10am**

No Layouts Will Be Operating Before 3pm

DECEMBER - 2013

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 6pm
		<u>Branch Christmas Function at Clubrooms</u>	<i>Pre-register at clubrooms required</i>	6pm until late
Sun	8th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Wed	11th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	<u>CLOSED</u>		<u>Closed</u>
Sat	14th	Deceased Estate - O Scale Sale & Monthly Forum		10am until 3pm
		General Activities (see Notes)		From 3pm
Sun	15th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Wed	18th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – U K / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21st	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	25th	<u>CLOSED</u> – Christmas Day		<u>Closed</u>
Thur	26th	<u>Public Holiday</u> – Layout Operation (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

JANUARY - 2014

Wed	1st	Layout <u>Public Holiday</u> – Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	3rd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	4th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am 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		10am until late
Sun	12th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Wed	15th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	17th	Layout Operation – <u>Australian Steam</u> / <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
Mon	27th	Layout <u>Public Holiday</u> – Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	31st	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm

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

Photo of the Issue:
David Lane

