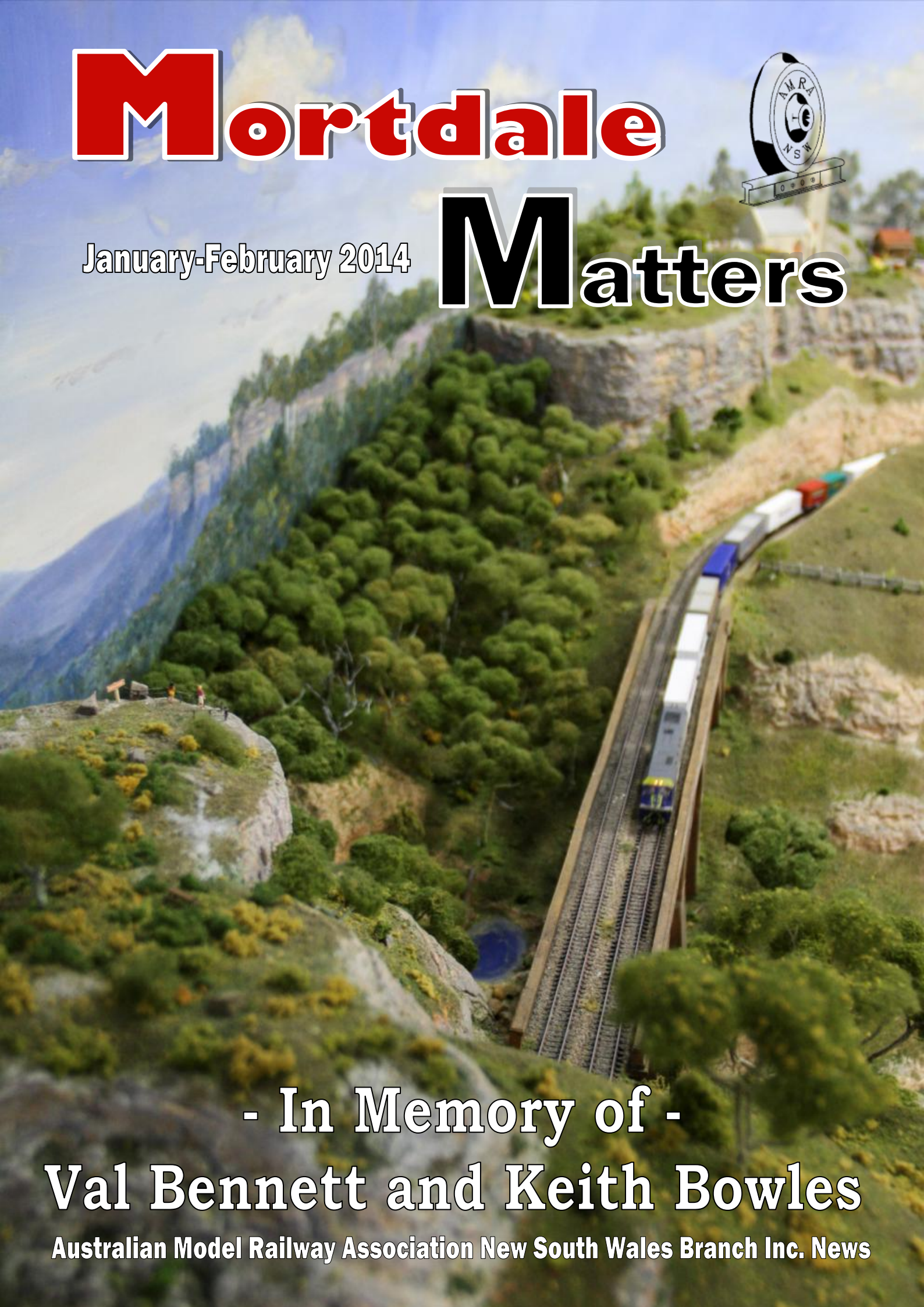


Mortdale



January-February 2014

Matters



- In Memory of -

Val Bennett and Keith Bowles

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

Mortdale Matters

January-February 2014 Editorial



Welcome to the January-February 2014 edition of *Mortdale Matters*.

I'm back again!! It's been a year since I left the editor position of *Mortdale Matters*, in that time I was completing my HSC and unable to carry on the task of editor due to the immense study load. I achieved a good result in my exams and course work. I am now back on track to carry out *Mortdale Matters* for the long haul.

Not much to report around the clubrooms of late, although a big thank you to the members who donated parts and money to purchase *Graeme Shade* seven H0 NSWGR RUB passenger car kits, he was very grateful!! Its great to see the members at Mortdale unite to help one another out!!

Another addition of Mortdale Retrospective by Glenn Percival can be viewed on page 8 and 9, in this issue we look back on where we were in Rockdale and where we are now in Mortdale.

Upcoming programme highlights include:

- **Public Holiday running** on Monday the 27th of January - All layouts are operational on this day, you are more than welcome to run your trains.
- **Structured Running** on Friday the 21st of February - All layouts can participate in structured running of only American prototype trains.
- **24 Hour Run** on Friday the 7th of March and Saturday the 8th of March - All layouts can participate in this great annual event, where we see non stop running of trains for a whole 24 hours.
- **Open Day** on Saturday 5th April, 10:00am til 4:00pm - A great opportunity to showcase our club to the public. You are more than welcome to invite friends and family along, its a great morning or afternoon out with all layouts operating.

We always welcome contributions, further information follows on the next page. Just try you will be surprised!!

Until next issue,

Mark Dalli

Editor

Glenn Percival

Assistant Editor

RIGHT: National Rail NR class units with NR53 in 'Trailerail' at the helm await entry to Fayenton yard, for a regional passenger train to pass on its run down Fayenton Bank, aka "Down 11". (Thomas Durber)



FRONT PAGE: A CFCLA EL class passes the viaduct on the N Scale layout. (Mark Dalli)

BACK PAGE: 'As the sun sets'. (David Kimpton)



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@iinet.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 March 2014 issue is 20th February

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	Alan Cross	exhibamransw@optusnet.com.au
	Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	pjlee@iinet.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	Mark Dalli	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
	Webmaster	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
LAYOUT SUB- COMMITTEE CO- ORDINATORS	0 Scale (fixed)	Gordon Wallace	sueandg@bigpond.net.au
	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Denis Gilmore	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
	N Scale	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



N Scale Layout

The N Scale air conditioner was replaced recently and the opportunity was taken to install a panel of blue sky board where the air conditioner is, before the new unit was installed. Since then the remainder of blue sky board has been installed, soon the lower backdrop boards will be installed.

The new control panel for Dine-on Yard has been laser cut and is currently being painted.

David Bennett

N Scale layout Coordinator



LEFT: Kevin continues to work on the Watsons Flat area on the N scale layout, seen here laying down some ballast close to the crossing. (Mark Dalli)

RIGHT: 3801 approaches Bownen, where this train will unload passengers then stable. (Liam Brundle)



Australian Model
Railway Association

OPEN DAY

At Clubrooms – 48 Barry Ave, Mortdale

SATURDAY, 5th APRIL
10:00am til 4:00pm

FREE ENTRY • Gold coin donation appreciated

**LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY
AND OPERATING**

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- Retail Outlets • BBQ • Food for Sale

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H0 Stoney Creek

"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"
(H0 FIXED LAYOUT – STONEY CREEK)
to 21/01/2014
8766 hours of operation



Read

The departure signals have been installed and are now working. This signal gives a small yellow for shunting and two yellows for departure from Read yard.

Control centre (CTCC)

At long last the remaining nine (9) tiles for the CTC panel passed the checking and final checking and one last checking stages, had corrections, were made and as of Friday 17th of January have been printed and mounted in the CTCC room. The time consuming job of populating will commence followed by final wiring and programming them. Signal indication driver boards have been installed and the very first signal indication on the CTC panel is now indicating the status of the signal in the field.

It is nice to see some of the small jobs around Deawy being completed while the layout is running. This is mainly track detectors on the CTCC panel.

Sutton

Power feeds have been installed on track leading to Sutton.

Cable Storage

The storage trolleys have been made and installed under Yerriyong. The first two trolleys look and work well and now two more will be made.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek layout Coordinator



TOP RIGHT: The latest signals to be operating include those exiting Read Yard. 8044, in Coote Industrial livery, awaits "double yellow" to exit onto the down main. (Mark Dalli)

ABOVE: 8206 sits in the inner loop at 'Brewers Creek' on the HO layout heavy branch line. (Mark Dalli)



0 Scale Layout

I would like to start this year's reports firstly with a big note of thanks, to all those members who helped or contributed in anyway on the layout throughout last year. There were quite a few additions and improvements on the layout, such as the revamping of Hoganvale town buildings, the addition of street lighting, through to the completion of stages 1 AND 2 of the duplication of the inner Universal track.

2014 will be another busy year with the final stage of duplication (stage 3) due to proceed once final drawings are complete and approved. There will also be a power upgrade on the outer layout, with the addition of a new and stronger transformer to give a more even power supply to the layout.

Again thanks to all that helped, your layout is looking better all the time.

Gordon Wallace
0 Scale Layout Coordinator



ABOVE: Gordon Wallace and Robin Yates work together on constructing a new level crossing at the soon-to-be-named inner station (Mark Dalli)

U Drive

The next big event for the *U-Drive* layout and its team will be the 2014 'Thirlmere Festival of Steam'. The layout will be operating at Thirlmere Public School in the school hall; it is just a few minutes walk from the Rail Heritage Centre/Trainworks.

The *U-Drive* will join other layouts and retail outlets at this event, where children can drive a train for \$2.00 for three (3) minutes.

All money raised goes to a children's charity, it's a great cause, so come on down and say hello!!

LEFT: Barry Wilcockson and Bruce Harris monitoring train operations on the U Drive layout at the 2013 'Thirlmere Festival of Steam'. (Melissa Park Events)



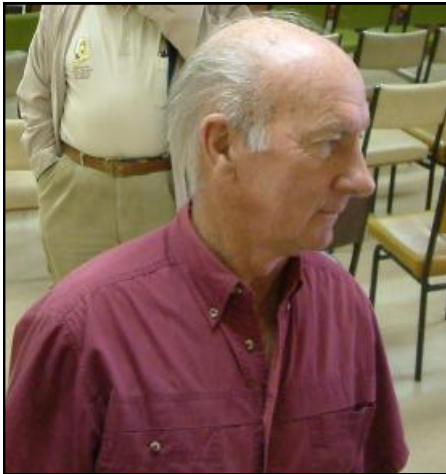
- VALE -

The AMRA extended family sadly lost Val Bennett and Keith Bowles in December, but their influence remains with us.

(Text by Glenn Percival, images from AMRA archives)

We may not have seen Val much in recent times, but her influence remains for all to see and appreciate - in the wonderful backdrops of the N Scale layout; and as a founding member of Southern Cross Artists Group, our resident "kindred association".

At right is my enduring image of Val. Admiring her once-whole handiwork? Admiring, maybe perplexed at, the effort required to rebuild and extend the layout? Who really knows, but Val was there, through the thick of it. And still is.



Two weeks earlier, we lost another Mortdale stalwart. Keith came to know AMRA as we discovered Bowles Joinery, whilst learning about our neighbours as we settled into Mortdale. The Joinery, now in Padstow, is noted for its arches, doors and associated framing. Look under the *Stoney Creek* layout and you will find Keith's craftsmanship in the donated arches. Keith also kindly donated the scale 130ft turntable which will once again grace Deawy Loco when rebuilt.

Keith and his grandson Mitch were regulars during the week, having a go at both the *U-Drive* and *Stoney Creek*. And that Nissan Skyline, what a lark. Keith's good-natured, almost laconic "Aussie" attitude and support of our club is sorely missed.

Members Model Gallery

NSW in 1982 and beyond

Modelling and photographs by Paul O'Flaherty

Some photographs of Paul O'Flaherty's NSW H0 fleet of the SRA Candy era. These models have been detailed and weathered by Paul and can often be scene running on the club's H0 layout.



Mortdale Retrospective - 5

In this final instalment we book-end the last decade by contrasting where we were, Rockdale, with where we are now; and see just how accurate the master plan turned out to be. All images in this series were sourced from the Branch's archives, with thanks to all those who contributed. Thanks must also go to the Committees, members, families and friends who have worked during this time to create the outstanding facility we now have. If you haven't visited us before, please check the meeting programme in each issue and come along! (Series compiled by Glenn Percival).



Whilst the fixed 0 Scale layout now occupies almost the same footprint (84m²), track, scenery and electrics have all seen changes.

LEFT: At Rockdale the layout occupied a cantilevered mezzanine above the meeting room, which provided even more ambience than the meeting room hears now. This image was captured from the Central side and shows the branch terminus, formerly known as Paigeton, which was located beneath Central.

RIGHT: Officially opened in 2008, the inside multi-mode "Universal" track caters for 2 and 3-rail, AC, DC and DCS models. The terminus, upper right in this image, is now called Davies and is a discrete peninsula inside the layout.

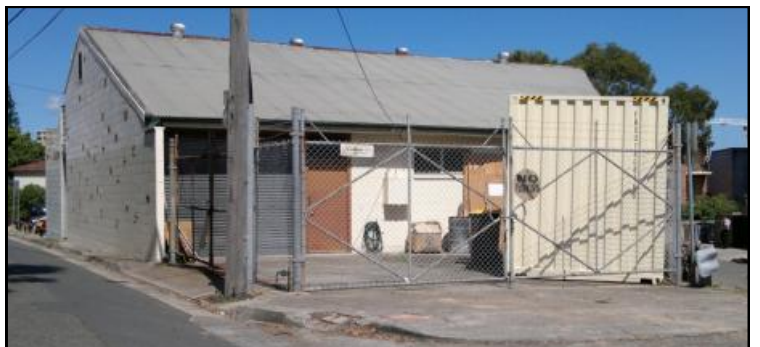


When drawn schematically, both Rockdale and Mortdale fixed H0 Scale layouts are actually double-track point-to-point main lines, with loop track to permit circuit running; and a branch line or two.

ABOVE LEFT: The 49m² Rockdale layout was housed in its own room, plus a terminus along the wall of the meeting room.

ABOVE RIGHT: Showing roughly the same area, of the 109m² *Stoney Creek* at Mortdale.

RIGHT: Apart from externally stored items, our old home looks largely intact in this early 2013 view. So much for the local Council wanting to widen the lane on the left and expand the adjacent carpark.





The 22m² N Scale layout at Rockdale (LEFT) was located along an angled wall at the end of the meeting room. At Mortdale (RIGHT), it was expanded by adding a peninsula in the middle of the existing run and extending the dog-bone main line to Dine-on Yard along the back wall (visible on the plan below). This resulted in a 45m² layout, which has been further extended with the return loop now at Leafston, above the rear stairs.



With greater than 50% more dedicated meeting space, long gone is the weekly shuffle of setups and pull-downs of furniture and the *U-Drive*.

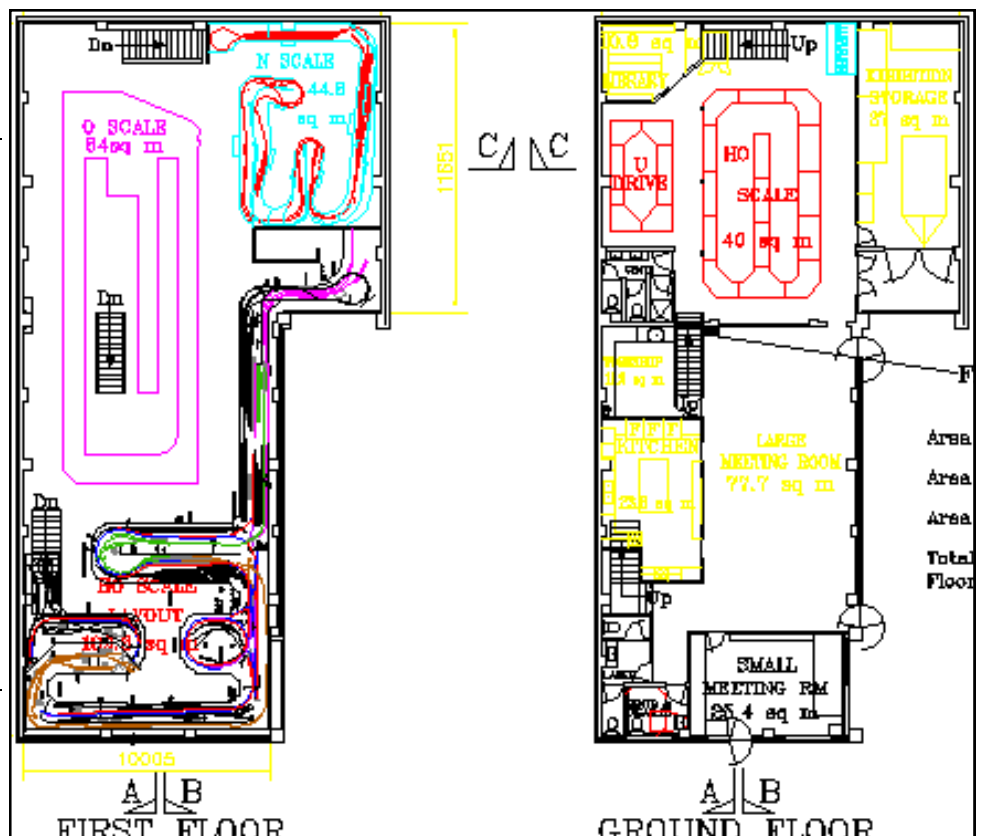
(LEFT) Main meeting rooms at Rockdale.

(RIGHT) Main meeting rooms Mortdale.

RIGHT: Excerpt from the "final" master plan of December 2003. It is a testament to then-Secretary and ongoing Building Manager David Bennett's original work, that little needed changing along the way.

Floor space of all previous areas increased, e.g. Kitchen from 11 to 24m²; Office/Small Meeting Room from approx. 7 to 26m²; Meeting Room from approx. 50 to 78m²; and from two toilets to five plus a shower.

Total floor space more than doubled, from 300 to 668m².



Members Gallery

"Chifley's Engine" and *Spirit of the Outback* by Bruce Harris

Locomotive number 5112 was built by Beyer Peacock & Co in Manchester, England, becoming one of 280 in the NSWGR's successful 2-8-0 twin cylinder D50 class of standard gauge goods vehicles. 5112 retains the original saturated-steam boiler design but now comes with a standard NSWGR Turret tender rather than the original low-sided tender.

5112 is famous because it was regularly assigned to former prime minister Ben Chifley (1885-1951) when he was an locomotive driver in the latter part of his 28 years as a railwayman.

It is now preserved as a static display at Bathurst Station, Chifley's home town and where his railway work was based, shown here in May 2013. The preservation took a total of nearly 30 years, in many places: Orange, Bathurst, Lithgow, and Brantxton. Full restoration to steam operation was seen as prohibitively expensive.



The *Spirit of the Outback* stands at Barcaldine station on Sunday 25 August 2013, before departing on the last leg of its journey from Brisbane to Longreach, a total of 1325 km and 24 hours of travelling.

The lead loco is Queensland Rail 2323 Co-Co, built at Clyde for narrow gauge (1067mm, 3 foot 6 inches) operation and in service since July 1977.

The support loco is Queensland Rail 1725D Co-Co, built by Comeng and in service since December 1966.

AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme – January to March 2014

JANUARY

Wed	1st	Layout Public Holiday – 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 – Australian Steam / <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 Public Holiday – Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Wed	29th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	31st	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm

FEBRUARY

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)	10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
Sun	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
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 – American / <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

MARCH

Sat	1st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
		Stoney Creek Layout Q & A	1pm
Sun	2nd	Thirlmere Festival of Steam - Display Thirlmere	
Wed	5th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	7th	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7pm until ...
Sat	8th	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> – cont from Friday night (see Notes)	
		<i>Breakfast available</i>	until late Saturday
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
Sun	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
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 – Electric Traction / <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
Fri	28th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	29th	Pre-Open Day – Working Bee	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





*Photo of the Issue:
David Kimpton*