

# Mortdale



March-April 2014

# Matters



Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News



# Mortdale Matters

## March-April 2014 Editorial



Welcome to the March-April 2014 edition of *Mortdale Matters*.

It's great to see younger members around the clubrooms of late; we are keeping our hobby alive and strong for years to come! On some housekeeping matters though, it would be greatly appreciated if we can respect others by talking at a lower voice level; be mindful of what you say; and just respect what people have to say, remembering we are all entitled to an opinion and opinions differ.

A job well done to the U-Drive team who attended the 2014 "Thirlmere Festival of Steam", doing a great job looking after the layout and promoting our association AMRA in NSW. Another top job to the event organisers and THNSW (NSWRTM)! There was lots to do, with a great country culture present. Unfortunately I did not get to have a good look around as I was working as a Passenger Attendant on the Thirlmere Flyer™ to Sydney, luckily I got to hear all about it on the fantastic trip back into town.

**24 Hour Run:** This year we saw a solid turnout for the 24 hour run, with numbers higher than previous years. Some of the younger members even managed an all-nighter (just!). It was great to see all scales come together, play trains and exchange stories. A big thank you to all the layout sub-committees for organising their layouts and keeping the team spirit high, special thanks to the BBQ crew who cooked breakfast on Saturday morning.

**April Open Day 2014:** To be held on the 5th of April, members are more than welcome to run trains on the layout while guests may run their trains preferably after the event. This will make layout operations smooth running throughout the event, as we want to showcase our clubrooms to the public with no hiccups. A gentle reminder to members, please only bring and run trains that you know operate without problems. A BBQ lunch is available as well as snacks from canteen, we will also have a small number of retail outlets open.

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

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RIGHT: A NSWGR parcel van pulls a set of RUB cars into Hoganvale on the O Gauge layout. This model was from the Ken Butt collection. (Liam Blundell)



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FRONT PAGE: A tribute to Barry Tulloch, former owner of iconic NSW steam locomotive 3112, photographed with AMRA NSW's *Golden Jubilee Express* passing Omega, near Kiama, in 2006. (Phillip Martin)

BACK PAGE: Up Grafton XPT and down Grafton XPT cross Koolewong Curves on the NSW Central Coast. The down Grafton XPT was an hour and a half late due to maintenance requirements. 30 January 2014. (Dean Jones)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

***The deadline for the May 2014 issue is 10th May 2014***

## Branch Officers/Contacts 2014

<b>ELECTED Management Committee</b>	President	Alan Cross	<a href="mailto:president@amransw.asn.au">president@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Vice President	Gordon Wallace	<a href="mailto:sueandg@bigpond.net.au">sueandg@bigpond.net.au</a>
	Secretary	Barry Wilcockson	<a href="mailto:secretary@amransw.asn.au">secretary@amransw.asn.au</a>
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	Junior Development Officer	Rod Fussell	<a href="mailto:juniordev@amransw.asn.au">juniordev@amransw.asn.au</a>
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		Fred Stell	
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	Historian	June Larmour	<a href="mailto:historian@amransw.asn.au">historian@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Webmaster	David Bennett	<a href="mailto:ngauge@amransw.asn.au">ngauge@amransw.asn.au</a>
<b>LAYOUT SUB- COMMITTEE</b>	0 Scale (fixed)	Gordon Wallace	<a href="mailto:sueandg@bigpond.net.au">sueandg@bigpond.net.au</a>
	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Denis Gilmore	<a href="mailto:stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au">stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au</a>
<b>CO- ORDINATORS</b>	N Scale	David Bennett	<a href="mailto:ngauge@amransw.asn.au">ngauge@amransw.asn.au</a>
	<i>Past and Present</i> (0 Exhibition)	Lance Pickering	
	<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Barry Wilcockson	<a href="mailto:secretary@amransw.asn.au">secretary@amransw.asn.au</a>
	<i>U-Drive</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Bill Whale	<a href="mailto:udrive@amransw.asn.au">udrive@amransw.asn.au</a>





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**

• N SCALE • HO SCALE • O SCALE • U-DRIVE

• Retail Outlets • BBQ • Food for Sale



For more information please call (02) 9153 5901 or visit [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au)

## Members Gallery

### Liam Blundell



In 2010 I went away for a week with 3237 and the LVR FS set on its North Coast tour, doing shuttles at Coffs Harbour, Wauchope and Taree before coming back to Sydney. This is how 'Shirley'/'Lachlan' was coaled at Taree on the last night before shooting back to Sydney - a Franna crane, the flat-top truck loaded with coal bags which followed us around all the time, and a pocket knife.





# N Gauge Layout

The lower backdrop boards in the Dine-on Yard area have now been installed, and removed again so that Richard Sinton's wife, Tracy can paint them more comfortably. The new control panel for Dine-on Yard has been laser cut and painted, it can now be wired up ready for installation. A Peco point motor in Bownen has been replaced by a Tortoise point motor because the Peco point lost its over centre spring, in addition two Local controllers have been installed in the Bownen panel to allow easier shunting operations.

*David Bennett*

N Gauge layout Coordinator



ABOVE LEFT: Progress on the N gauge layout extension at Leafton. (Mark Dalli)

ABOVE RIGHT: Leafton extension contrasted with the new sky blue back drops during installation in the Dine-on yard area.

BELOW: As the detailing of the N Gauge layout continues (is a layout ever finished?), Wallamudra has been graced with a couple of aerospace visitors. Both classics in their own right, can you spot them? (Glenn Percival)

BOTTOM: 4854 and 48123 ready to load there train at Watsons Flat. (Mark Dalli)



# H0 Stoney Creek

**"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"**

**(H0 FIXED LAYOUT – STONEY CREEK)**

**to 10/3/2014**

**9047 hours of operation**

## **Q & A**

The first Q & A (question and answer) with respect to Stoney Creek was held on 1/3/2014. Several questions were asked and answered. There will be more Q & As coming up, check the programme. As always questions will be taken from the floor, but if you have a question which you are willing to pass on beforehand, that would be great. This is so we can prepare and give the fullest answer or demonstration.



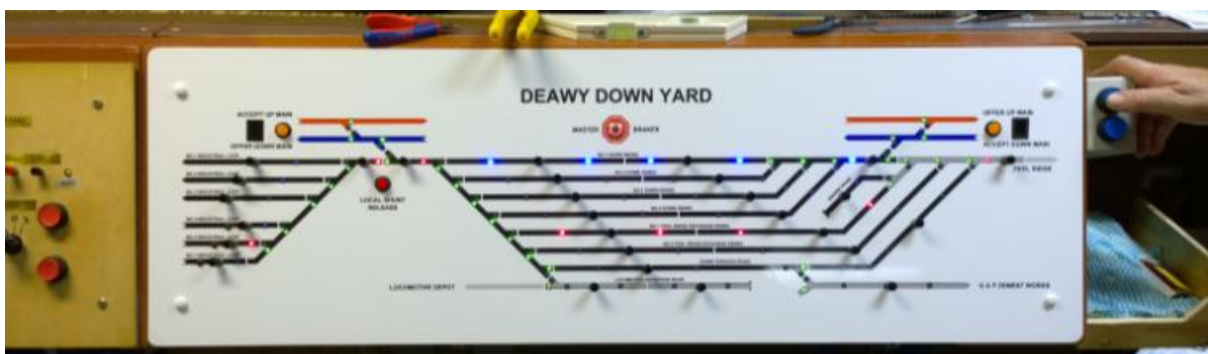
ABOVE: New tiles in place in the Control Centre. (Mark Dalli)

## **Control Centre (CTCC)**

Populating the newest tiles has commenced after all the holes have been drilled or cut out. The drilling of the holes is one of those jobs that everything else hangs off but is almost forgotten when the buttons and LEDs start to come on line.

## **Deawy Down Yard**

Over the time of the 24 hour run #3 PLC was powered up for the first time. The wiring of Deawy has progressed to the point where #3 PLC has to be brought on line to allow this long term project to continue.



ABOVE: The two-cab yards - Deawy Down, Fayenton and Read - will have a "red" and "blue" local cab (unrelated to mainline colours). The red and blue buttons visible on each side of the panel, one each for DC and DCC mode, work just like the chrome buttons currently at Read and Yerriyong. Any two non-conflicting yard routes may be selected - in this example, red from No.2 Industrial Loop via No.1 Exchange Siding to Peel Ridge; and blue shunting No.1 Down Siding. During testing, the master brakes button is also illuminated. (Glenn Percival)

A simple programme was written to test as many functions as possible before the main programme can be written.

*Denis Gilmore*

Stoney Creek layout Coordinator





# O Gauge Layouts



ABOVE: Col Shepherd works on the O gauge exhibition layout 'Past and Present', installing shorter side sections of baseboard and track that will allow the layout to be exhibited more readily, both at our clubrooms and offsite. (Mark Dalli)



ABOVE: The end result after a revamp of the yet-to-be-named crossing. (Mark Dalli)



ABOVE: The O gauge layout from above, showing Davies terminus behind Central west and Shepherd's Sidings at right. (Glenn Percival)



# 2014 Sydney Model Railway Exhibition

**October Long Weekend 4th, 5th and 6th at Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool**



ABOVE: 2013 President Barry Wilcockson with Exhibition Manger Alan Cross, discuss our proud ongoing Exhibition with German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle and Horst Fleischmann, CEO of world leading model railway brand Fleischmann. (Mark Dalli)

For those who do not know, the annual Sydney Model Railway Exhibition is held each Labour Day long weekend at the Whitlam Leisure Centre in Memorial Avenue Liverpool. Dates, times and prices for the 2014 exhibition are:

**Saturday 4th October** 9:00am until 5:00pm

**Sunday 5th October** 9:00am until 5:00pm

**Monday 6th October** 9:00am until 4:00pm

**Adults** - \$ 14.00.

**Concessions/Seniors** - \$ 10.00.

**Children**, (5 to Year 12, at school) - \$ 7.00.

**Family** - \$ 35.00.

**Multi Day Pass** - \$ 28.00.

We are proud to be the longest running model railway exhibition in Australia and the largest in New South Wales. The layouts on display cover all scales and prototypes, and come from all over Australia.

It is the diversity and quality of the entrants that make the Sydney Model Railway Exhibition one of a kind. Over the three days many thousands of people of all ages and interests attend. They see not just layouts but commercial stands and demonstration clinics. Also exhibiting are many kindred organisations including the Sydney Tramway Museum, Transport Heritage NSW (Rail Transport Museum) and the Australian Railway Historical Society. Thomas the Tank Engine rides are available.

AMRA NSW also runs its U-Drive for the kids to have a go — a bargain at \$1 for 3 minutes.

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# AMRA NSW Annual 24-Hour Run 2014

AMRA NSW holds a 24-Hour running session/event each year usually in the second weekend of March, where the aim is to run trains for a FULL 24 hours and have lots of fun! As usual we accomplished that, with higher attendance and more younger blokes participating.

The fixed H0 layout ran to a timetable consisting of two hour intervals of different prototypes, train types and model features, e.g. British, Australian Steam/Diesel, Electric Traction, Sound Equipped. The other layouts ran to freelance prototypes although with numbers not as high as the H0 layout, operators still continually ran trains for the entire 24 hours on the 0 gauge and N gauge layouts.

The event started at 1900 on Friday night, getting off to a great start running sound locos on the H0 and 0 gauge layouts, while the N gauge layout operators ran freelance. As the night went along more numbers arrived and the action increased. Freelance was next on the H0 layout was a buzz! Everyone got along happily and there was lots of laughter.

At 2100 we went to have coffee break, on return trains were still running thanks to the few who decided not to have coffee; and a crowd gathered at the N gauge layout as more trains were operating.



LEFT: Matt and our club president Alan Cross, watch the N scale movements been conducted by Dave.  
RIGHT: Evan and Dave look over the N scale 'Flying Scotsman'. Much interest, many trains, many small!  
(both Mark Dalli)

At 2300 hours the box was flooded with calls from train drivers, but Liam was on top of the situation at all times. It was now Saturday, at 0005 hours most people still had lots of energy left .



LEFT: Liam looking at the monitor above the panel before setting the road for Read Yard to Down Main.  
RIGHT: Andrew and Thomas say hello to the camera. (both Mark Dalli)

It was 0100 Saturday Sydney time and it was time for a midnight photo, unfortunately some people left prior but returned the next day to finish off the job.



LEFT: L/R, Matt, Dave, Evan, Thomas, Liam, Warren, Mark (on the floor) Alan, Ben (on the floor) Andrew, Barry and Denis smile for a photo for the AMRA records. (Mark Dalli)

By 0200 hours Saturday morning, people started to go home to get some well deserved rest. But the layouts were still going strong. When members did not run model trains they played trains on a computer projected onto the wall with surround sound.

At 0400 hours it was time for a small nap for the younger members, beds consisted of 5 chairs put together for each person.



Far LEFT: Thomas playing Trainz 2012 in front of the projector. (Mark Dalli)

LEFT: Mark had been up since 0545 on Friday and its now time for a nap at 0400 Saturday. (Thomas Durber)

0500 hours and nap time was over for some, the layouts were still going although the operators looked tired, you could tell caffeine was needed.

0530 hours, almost breakfast and it was BBQ light-up time, cooking commenced at 0545. We had about 10 members stay for breakfast and they were all part of the night crew! Trains continued to operate throughout the day and more members flooded the layouts. Members started to take photographs of their models.



Far LEFT: Denis and Barry on the grill cooking breakfast.

RIGHT: Andrew takes another nap. (both Mark Dalli)

It was 1500 and the night crew were getting tired, too much for some though.

It was almost dinner time and dinner was ordered for 15 people, consisting of pizza. Most people called it a day and night and went home after dinner.

It was a great event as normal and hopefully next year we see a few more members attend or even stay the full 24 hours. Everyone had a blast and said they will do it again!

*Mark Dalli*

Mortdale Matters Editor





# AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme – March to May 2014

## MARCH

Sat	1st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) <b>Stoney Creek Layout Q &amp; A</b>	10am until late 1pm
Sun	2nd	<b><u>Thirlmere Festival of Steam - Display Thirlmere</u></b>	
Wed	5th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	7th	Layout Operation / <b><u>24 Hour Running</u></b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7pm until ...
Sat	8th	Layout Operation / <b><u>24 Hour Running</u></b> / <i>Structured Running</i> – <i>cont from Friday night</i> (see Notes) <i>Breakfast available. - plus Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</i>	
Sun	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	until late Saturday 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) & <b><u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u></b>	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 – <b><u>Electric Traction</u></b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	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	<b>Pre-Open Day – Working Bee</b>	10am until late

## APRIL

Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	4th	Open Day – Preparation	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	5th	<b>** OPEN DAY **</b>	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation
Wed	9th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	11th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	12th	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b> & <b><u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u></b>	10am until late
Sun	13th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Wed	16th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	18th	<b><u>CLOSED</u></b> – Good Friday	<b><u>Closed</u></b>
Sat	19th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	20th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i> <i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Mon	21st	<b><u>Public Holiday</u></b> – Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	25th	<b><u>ANZAC Day - Public Holiday</u></b> Layout Operation (see Notes)	<b><u>1 pm</u></b> until 5pm
Sat	26th	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	10am until late
Sun	27th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm

## MAY

Fri	2nd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	3rd	<b><u>Table Sale</u></b> / General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	7th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	9th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	10th	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b> & <b><u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u></b>	10am until late
Sun	11th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Wed	14th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	16th	Layout Operation – <b><u>European</u></b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	17th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	18th	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i> <i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Wed	21st	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	23rd	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	24th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) & <b><u>Stoney Creek Layout - Q &amp; A (1 pm)</u></b> <b>- Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	
Sun	25th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until late 10am until 4pm
Wed	28th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	30th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	31st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (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](http://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:  
Dean Jones*