

# Mortdale



October 2014  
Exhibition Special

# Matters

- In Memory of -  
Alan Cross and Graeme Shade





## October 2014

## Editorial

Welcome to the September-October 2014 edition of *Mortdale Matters* and as always, thank you for your patience.

It is with great sadness, our club President and Exhibition Manager Alan Cross passed away on the final afternoon of the 2014 exhibition. Alan was just an absolute gentleman, always helping others and always highly appreciative of peoples' work around the club. Alan was farewelled on the 13th October, at the West Chapel of Woronora Crematorium; members then gathered at the clubrooms for afternoon tea. Alan will be greatly missed by all; our thoughts go out to his friends and family. Alan may you rest in peace.

**PHOTO:** Alan Cross (middle) at the 2012 exhibition. (David Lane)

We are also deeply saddened with the death of Graeme 'Shadey' Shade. Graeme was a long time member of AMRA NSW and put many hours into our clubrooms, cleaning; fixing things and took part in extensive works on *Stoney Creek*. Whilst a few years ago he became less mobile and unfortunately moved to a nursing home late last year due to declining health, Graeme continued to exercise his interest in the Association and the H0 layout. Graeme rest in peace, you will be greatly missed.



Our 2014 Sydney Model Railway Exhibition went well this year; Saturday was once again overwhelming and saw more people than usual. Please read the President's report on page 11 for extra info on the Exhibition, by Gordon Wallace.

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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**FRONT PAGE:** "Legends of Steam" locomotive 3642 sits in Broadmeadow Endeavour Service Centre yard, about to form the last ever *Newcastle Flyer* to Sydney. (Mark Dalli)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Image captured in the operational environment was done so with permission and adhering to the appropriate rail safety guidelines.

**BACK PAGE:** LVR's 5917 with the *Fotoz Flyer* charter to Wallerawang, captured at Casula. (Geoff Lanham)

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## Submissions and Subscriptions

With so much continually happening at our Clubrooms, its 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.

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) 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 December 2014 issue is 10 December 2014***

## Branch Officers/Contacts 2015

<b>ELECTED Management Committee</b>	President	Gordon Wallace	<a href="mailto:president@amransw.asn.au">president@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Vice President	Denis Gilmore	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@amransw.asn.au">vicepresident@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Secretary	Ross Mclean	<a href="mailto:secretary@amransw.asn.au">secretary@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Treasurer	Marilyn Wilcockson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@amransw.asn.au">treasurer@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Exhibition Manager	Barry Wilcockson	<a href="mailto:exhibitman@amransw.asn.au">exhibitman@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	<a href="mailto:pjlee@inet.net.au">pjlee@inet.net.au</a>
	Junior Development Officer	Rod Fussell	<a href="mailto:juniordev@amransw.asn.au">juniordev@amransw.asn.au</a>
<b>APPOINTED</b>	<i>Journal</i> Sub-Editor	Rod Fussell	<a href="mailto:subeditor@amransw.asn.au">subeditor@amransw.asn.au</a>
	<i>Mortdale Matters</i> Editor	Mark Dalli	<a href="mailto:mmatters.amransw@yahoo.com.au">mmatters.amransw@yahoo.com.au</a>
	Building Manager	David Bennett	<a href="mailto:ngauge@amransw.asn.au">ngauge@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Librarians	John Smythe	N/A
	Exhibition Roster Clerk	<b>TBA</b>	<a href="mailto:rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au">rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au</a>
	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</b>	0 Scale (fixed)	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>SUB- COMMITTEE</b>	<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	<b>TBA</b>	<a href="mailto:ngauge@amransw.asn.au">ngauge@amransw.asn.au</a>
	<i>Past and Present</i> (0 Exhibition)	<b>TBA</b>	
	<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Barry Wilcockson	N/A
	<i>U-Drive</i> (H0 Exhibition)	<b>TBA</b>	<a href="mailto:udrive@amransw.asn.au">udrive@amransw.asn.au</a>





# - Alan Cross -

**5 July 1949 – 6 October 2014**

Although a relatively new member of the Australian Model Railway Association, Alan Cross arrived with a bang when he joined the Association on 21 April 2007, immediately becoming an active and involved member.

In less than six months, Alan had put his hand up to assist the club by taking on the role of Exhibition Manager. After 'shadowing' the then Exhibition Manager during the 2008 AMRA (NSW) annual exhibition (at Hurstville) in order to 'learn the ropes', he undertook the organisation of the 2009 exhibition, which also included the return to the Whitlam Leisure Centre at Liverpool. It did not take long for Alan to stamp his mark on the exhibition, making some minor, but effective, changes to the way things were done.

Alan took the club through the 50th Anniversary exhibition in 2012. This was a mammoth task, as we nearly doubled the size of the exhibition floor.

In November 2013, at the AGM, Alan elected to stand down as our Exhibition Manager and instead was elected to the position of President. However, due to the personal circumstances of the newly elected Exhibition Manager, Alan once again took on this role early in 2014. Alan



had been unwell for some days prior to the exhibition and his condition deteriorated on the Sunday of this year's exhibition. He passed away on Monday 6 October, in hospital, with his loving family by his side. So to the end, Alan was doing exactly what he enjoyed, 'playing trains'.

Alan was a very dedicated and dependable man. He would arrive at the clubrooms, always with his mobile phone at the ready. On most days, the phone would ring calling him in to work, or to solve some problem or another. Alan had retired a couple of years ago, but continued to work on a casual basis. Alan was also involved in other groups, including the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Alan, you will be sadly missed by all of us. Rest in Peace.

*Marilyn Wilcockson*

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ABOVE: Barry Wilcockson and a proud Alan Cross present Illawarra Model Railway Club with their award for Best Layout at the 2013 show. (David Lane)

# - Graeme Shade -

**10 December 1938 – 2 October 2014**

Graeme joined AMRA in 1993 and kept a low profile until the Branch purchased new premises at Mortdale. Even though Graeme had MS he rolled up his sleeves and was totally immersed in the demolition and rebuilding of the interior of the clubrooms. It was nothing to see him moving barrow loads of bricks, clearing a blocked stormwater drain in the front garden or climbing a ladder to paint the many steel beams in the ceiling.

Graeme was an N scaler and he assisted in the reassembly and redevelopment of the N scale layout that was brought from Rockdale. Shade's Quarry is named as a testament to his work on this layout.

When it came time to build a brand new H0 layout and ideas were sought

for various parts of the layout, Graeme was there with well thought out plans. When the initial building work began Graeme and I spent many a Monday night building frames and baseboards for the initial part of the layout and added sky boards as we went. With his meticulous eye for detail we laid the track in the first couple of yards.

Graeme was always a thinker and was always looking for a way to improve what had already been done or what was to come.

Graeme was Vice President for 4 years until he resigned for health reasons, but that did not stop him working for the club. He started coming in at night once a week to clean the toilets and restock paper towels and toilet paper and to empty the rubbish bins.

Graeme started to assist with making up the extensive wiring lists and wiring the track diagram tiles for the H0 control centre. As ill health overtook him and he moved into a nursing home he continued to show a keen interest in this task and offered help from the sideline. While in the nursing home he developed a computer programme to assist in drawing up the roster of volunteers for our exhibition.

Graeme will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We are all better off for having known him. He was a thorough gentleman.

*Barry Wilcockson*



ABOVE: Graeme Shade on the information stand at the 2010 exhibition. (Mark Dall'i)





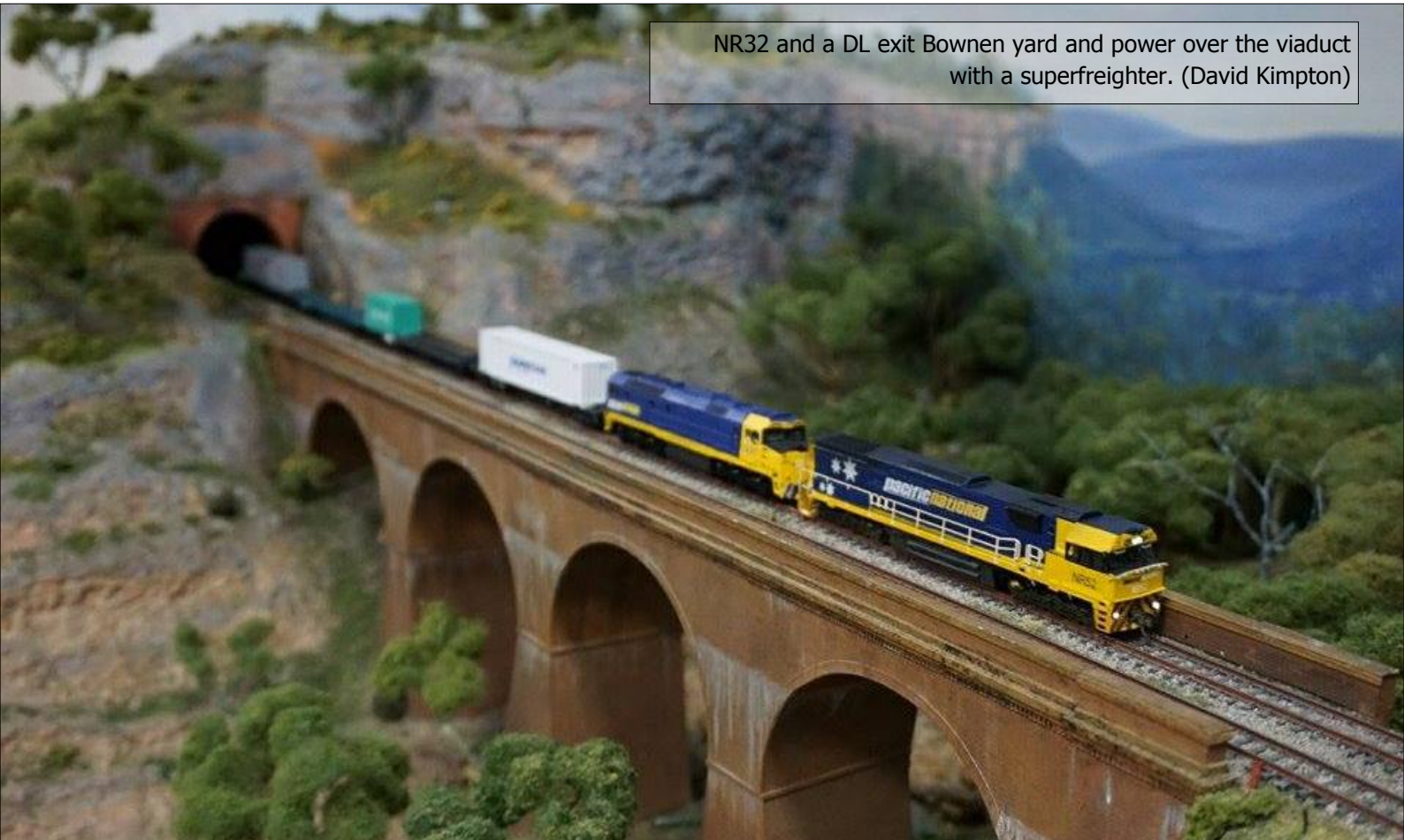


# Gauge Layout

The ballasting of the Dine-on yard area is progressing. A redesigned voltage regulator has been installed to power the electrics for the boom gates in the Leafton area and the gates are now operating.

*David Bennett*

N Gauge layout Coordinator



NR32 and a DL exit Bownen yard and power over the viaduct with a superfreighter. (David Kimpton)

A British DMU and NSW 620/720 sit on the branch at Watsons Flat station. (David Kimpton)







# Gauge Layout

## 0 Scale Exhibition Layout Report

### Exhibition Feedback

Our club exhibition layout went over very well considering me trying to fly, and Gordon with his hernia. We were a little short of crew but we managed.

By the time I got to the Whitlam Centre the layout was up and running thanks to those who helped. Our little Thomas the Tank Engine was a smash hit with the kids. I think if we had 6 or 7 of his friends we could have had every kid in the place at our display. We might have been able to start a child minding centre for a small fee, just fooling.



AMRA NSW 0 scale with the exhibition layout. (Mark Dalli)

I want to thank all those who helped with the heavy lifting and the running of our display, and to Bruce for helping me to and from St George Hospital.

The layout will not be going to the Wagga Wagga exhibition due to lack of staff.

*Lance Pickering*

0 Gauge Exhibition Layout Coordinator



# Mortdale Building Report

Bruce Harris has done a great job unearthing our sewer pipes under the garden to locate a broken pipe. He has organised our local plumber from Oatley Village Plumbing to repair the broken pipe, hopefully eliminating the blockages that have happened recently.

*David Bennett*

Mortdale Building Manager





# Stoney Creek

## "PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"

### (H0 FIXED LAYOUT)

**08/10/2014, 10073 HOURS OF OPERATION**



I would like to thank the many workers that have put in countless hours on *Stoney Creek* over the last year. I would also like to thank the MC for their continued support and guidance. Thanks to our combined efforts, *Stoney Creek* is racing forward. The usage of *Stoney Creek* has increased over the last six (6) months due to the increased level of work and testing being undertaken.

**LEFT:** Barry, Philip and Denis (under layout) carry out testing at MacLeod. (Mark Dalli)

Looking forward to next year, I would like to continue in the role of *Stoney Creek* Layout Coordinator.

### Fayenton Branch:

Work has started on replacing the half tile with the permanent controls on the full tiles. Only one button function has been transferred to the full tiles so far. As each button has multiple functions, it will be a slow and steady process.

Progress has also been made in the areas of the Fayenton Branch to Fayenton goods sidings.



### Yerriyong:

Two ground signals (dollies) have been installed on the head shunts.

### Deawy:

Two ground signals (dollies) have been installed on the turnback.

**LEFT:** 42202 in the turnback road with the dolly signal at red. (Mark Dalli)

### Peel Ridge:

The Peel Ridge control panel has been drawn, printed and mounted ready for population and wiring, in preparation for lowering this area. *STOP PRESS — the new Peel Ridge is operational, see next page.*

### Ongoing Work:

Draft drawings have also been prepared for Sutton, Fayenton and Kurranulla panels, ready for the next stage of Branch(es) control.

### Milestone:

**At approximately 10:00am on the 17th of September 2014, *Stoney Creek* hour run meter ticked over the magic 10,000 hours of operation; a very brief celebration was held!**

*Denis Gilmore*

*Stoney Creek* layout coordinator

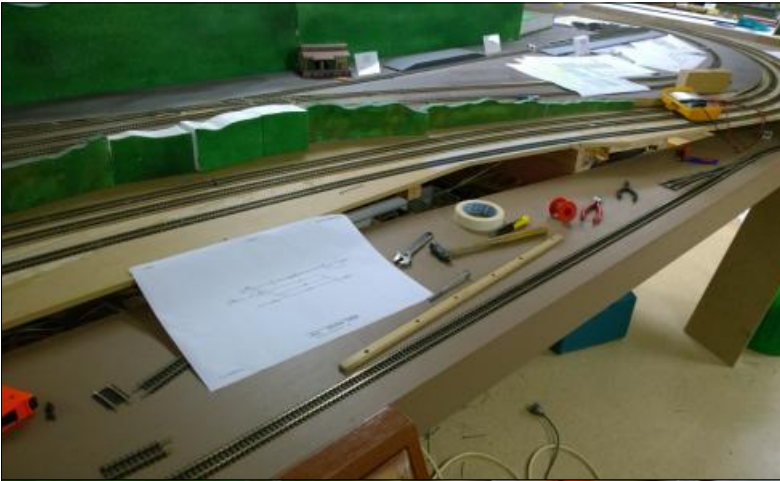




# STOP PRESS

## - Peel Ridge Yard -

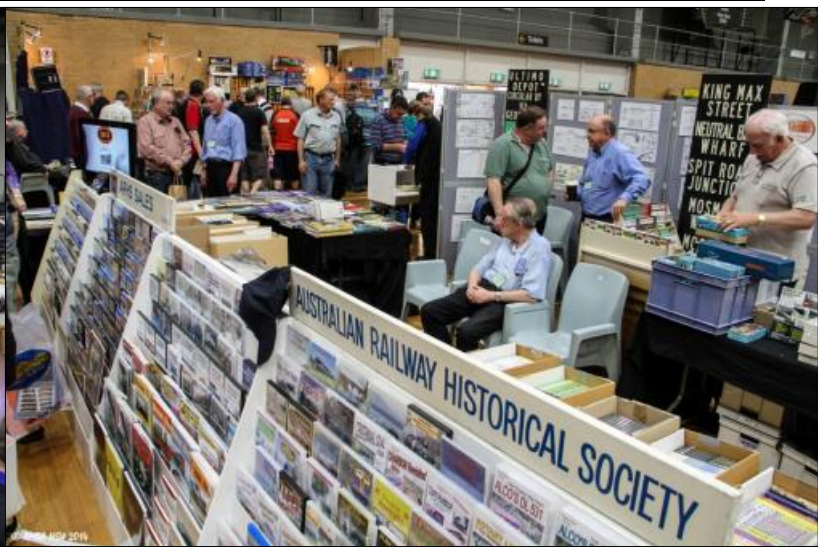
All photos by Glenn Percival, 18th October 2014.





# 2014 Exhibition

All photos by Mark Dalli





# - The Exchange Train -



## < The Exchange Train:

The Exchange Train was given to the NSW Branch of AMRA in 2000 in exchange for an Aussie Goods train which *Ross McLean* took back to the *Mohegan-Pequot Model Railroad Club*. It also features signs in the gondolas stating that it is an Exchange Train with AMRA.

You can see this train on display up stairs in the 0 Gauge cabinet.

It was fantastic to see this valuable train run at the Open Day.

We would like to congratulate the Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad Club on becoming the Premier 'Modular' Model Railroad Club in the USA for 2014.

## - 2014 Sydney Exhibition acebook -

This year we ramped up our social media campaign on Facebook, and saw a dramatic increase in page 'Likes' and lots more page interaction from families, not just the enthusiast since we started 'Facebook advertising'.

Two weeks out from the exhibition we were getting about 10,000 clicks on the page.

It is my goal next year to do continual 'Facebook advertising', not just a few weeks prior. This will enable us to build up our audience over a three month period, hopefully getting those train fans and families through the door.

**Page highlights:** From 260 page 'Likes' to over 700 page 'Likes'; 10,000 views a day; just under 100 page 'Shares' (if someone shares a post all of their friends can see it too); average age of audience 20-40 year olds; 7,000 people on a weekly average viewed the **event page** on Facebook!

Overall I was quite chuffed with our efforts, but I was disappointed with the fact we did not see an increase in numbers through the door. In my opinion I think we need to look at other social media options such as Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest; and investigate ways to get us on TV for free!

*Mark Dalli*



# - Open Day -

## October 2014

Open day dawned with a bright sunny day. The usual group was there to erect the awning and gazebo, set up the entrance desk and the tables and chairs and barbeque in preparation for our expected visitors. **(Photo, right)**. The bread and rissoles and other sustenance had been purchased and was ready to go. Iron Horse Hobbies and Needles and Natter were set up and ready to go.

The back room had a completely new crew in charge. Junior member Thomas Bulic very ably ran the *U-Drive* on his own in the absence of the usual operators **(Photo, middle right)**. Liam, Andrew and Lucas took over the control of *East Matelend* and had it humming with use of loop lines and loco changes on trains.

The upstairs layouts were all running and showing off the additions and improvements since last open day.

In all there were 261 visitors. While this is not a huge number they were very interested in what was on offer, and it was a great opportunity to showcase the wonderful asset that we sometimes take for granted.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members, family and friends who worked so hard to make this day such a success.

*Barry Wilcockson*

***RIGHT: Are these H0'ers planning a defection to 0 scale?***

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All photos by Barry Wilcockson







42202 and 44201 run parallel through East Matelend. (Ross Thomason)



# - For Sale -

## AMRA Victorian Branch

O Gauge Items as shown  
Rare Ferris and motorised three-rail point.  
Contact: Bill Secker (03)9888-1399



# E

## ast Matelend

All photos by David Kimpton





# AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme - November 2014 to January 2015

## NOVEMBER:

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	<b>** FEDERAL AGM ** (Members Only)</b>	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	8th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
		<b>** BRANCH AGM - 2 pm ** (Members Only)</b>	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	
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)		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>European</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter (2 pm) - Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</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	Layout Operation / <b>24 Hour Running</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7pm until ...
Sat	29th	Layout Operation / <b>24 Hour Running</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> – <i>cont from Friday night</i> (see Notes)		
		<i>Breakfast available. - Stoney Creek Layout - Q &amp; A (1 pm)</i>		until late Saturday

## DECEMBER:

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	7th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until <b>6pm</b>
		<b>Branch Christmas Function at Clubrooms</b> <i>Pre-register at clubrooms required</i>		<b>6pm until late</b>
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) - <b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter (2 pm)</b>		10am until late
Sun	14th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Wed	17th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	19th	Layout Operation – <b>Australian Steam</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	20th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - <b>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</b>		10am until late
Sun	21st	<i>Stoney Creek Work Day</i>	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Wed	24th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	26th	<b>Public Holiday</b> – Layout Operation (see Notes)		<b>12noon</b> until 10pm
Sat	27th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	28th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Wed	31st	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm

## JANUARY - 2015:

Thur	1st	<b>Public Holiday</b> – Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until 10pm
Fri	2nd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	3rd	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	8th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	9th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	10th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		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>UK</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	17th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - <b>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</b>		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	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	25th	General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Mon	26th	<b>Public Holiday</b> – Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until 10pm
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: Destination, Sequenced or Timetabled operation as organized 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 \$7, Juniors/Seniors (70+) \$4.

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)

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*Photo of the Issue:  
Geoff Lanham*