

Mortdale

Matters



Holiday Edition

December 2018

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

Mortdale Matters



December 2018

Editorial

Here we are in the last week of the 2018. One could be excused for asking the question, where has the year gone. AMRA NSW has certainly had a very full & productive year. A great deal of progress has been made on all the layouts. Whilst not all work is immediately visible, a great deal of time & effort has gone into the layouts this year. N Scale has been wiring & commissioning their signalling system. O Gauge has been busy reconfiguring the layout so a wider variety of control systems can be used on all the tracks. Stoney Creek has also continued to progress with scenery now appearing in more & more areas of the layout. A fair majority of the PLC programming has also been completed.

Away from the layouts there has been a lot happening as well. The chairs that are in everyday use have started to be replaced, and the aging computer infrastructure is getting upgraded with a few additions for members to use.

August saw the SGM to adopt a new & compliant constitution & rules of association. There was a minor administrative error with this meeting. We have corrected this & put the documents back to the members a few weeks ago. We are now just waiting on Fair Trading to do their bit so we can finally put this matter to bed.

The October long weekend saw the annual Sydney Model Railway Exhibition held @ Liverpool. This was a great chance to catch up with all the friends we only get to see once a year.

The AGM in November saw the retirement of long standing committee member Glenn Percival. Glenn has been on the committee in either elected or ex-officio roles for 28 years. Glenn has been Journal Sub-Editor, Mortdale Matters Editor, Exhibition Manager, Duty Officer, IT Manager and most recently Secretary. Glenn will continue to be an active member, but in a some what reduced manner. I would like you all to join me in thanking Glenn for his dedication & efforts during this time.

Finally, at the AGM, I was elected to the Exhibition Managers role. With this appointment, I have had to take stock of my roles within the club & the available time I have to do them. As a result, I will be stepping down from all my roles outside of Exhibition Manager. This is so I can give the exhibition managers role the full attention it needs, especially this year with all the issues that need to be addressed, not the least of all the venue. As such this will be my last edition as the Editor of Mortdale Matters. Richard Chantler will be stepping into the Editors position from next edition. Thank you to everyone that has offered their support over the past 2.5 years.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Damien George
Editor

This newsletter is published by Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc. 48 Barry Ave Mortdale NSW 2223.

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Front Cover: 4 generations of rollingstock @ Fayenton (*Damien George*)

PLEASE NOTE:

Images captured in the operational environment are done so with permission and adhering to the appropriate rail safety procedures & guidelines.



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 matters@amransw.asn.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 publicityofficer@amransw.asn.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.

Branch Officers/Contacts 2018

ELECTED Management Committee	President	Robert Merrick	president@amransw.asn.au
	Vice President	Philip Lee	vpresident@amransw.asn.au
	Secretary	Graham Blake	secretary@amransw.asn.au
	Treasurer	Geoff Lanham	treasurer@amransw.asn.au
	Exhibition Manager	Damien George	exhibition@amransw.asn.au
	Publicity Officer	Richard Chantler	publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au
	Junior Development Officer	Steve Burrows	juniorddev@amransw.asn.au
APPOINTED	<i>Journal</i> Sub-Editor	Richard Chantler	subeditor@amransw.asn.au
	<i>Mortdale Matters</i> Editor	Richard Chantler	matters@amransw.asn.au
	Building Manager	David Bennett	buildingman@amransw.asn.au
	Librarians	John Smythe	N/A
	Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au
	Historian	June Larmour	historian@amransw.asn.au
	Webmaster	Richard Chantler	webmaster@amransw.asn.au
LAYOUT	0 Scale (fixed)	Lance Pickering	TBA
SUB-COMMITTEE CO- ORDINATORS	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Barry Wilcockson & Philip Lee	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
	N Scale	David Bennett	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
	<i>Past and Present</i> (0 Exhibition)	Gordon Wallace	N/A
	<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Andrew Murphy & James Percival	N/A
	<i>U-Drive</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Bill Whale	udrive@amransw.asn.au



residents Report

2018

The year that began in July 2017 has been a very busy year.

A lot of time this year was dedicated by committee and club members to a review and amendment of our old constitution. As an independent incorporated association, it was important that we comply with Acts and Regulations applying to such organisations. The issues involved were discussed many times, occasionally generating emotions and conflicting opinions. This gave me no pleasure, as disagreements tend to divide us despite all of us having the same purpose – that is to engage in the hobby of model trains and to share that participation with others having similar interests. However it was important that the review should proceed.

By the end of June, at the end of our financial year, a constitution based on a Model constitution issued by the Department of Fair trading had been prepared for presentation to members. It was presented to members at a Special General Meeting and adopted in August, after the end of the Association's operating year.

It is my hope that, when the constitution matter is finally settled, we can focus on the hobby that brings us together, and share the enjoyment of exchanging experiences, knowledge and opinions in a cordial fashion with other members and friends.

So turning to club operations, what has happened in the year.

I spoke last year about preparation for the 2017 exhibition. Planning work was begun by John Zubrickas but when we lost his services as our Exhibition Manager, there was a significant challenge for the committee to ensure continuity in planning and finally running the exhibition. It was a bit like a football team playing one man short – everyone else has to work a lot harder. Geoff Lanham and Glenn Percival did most of that extra work. Geoff Lanham did an extraordinary job carrying the job of exhibition manager in addition to Association treasurer. Glenn, already club secretary, also contributed very substantially to filling the gap resulting from the loss of an exhibition manager. The exhibition was successful, and I especially have to thank Geoff and Glenn, as well as the committee and other contributors. It is easy to lose sight of that event, because at the time of this 2018 Annual General Meeting, another exhibition has taken place.

Apart from that, work has continued at the club. Significant advances have been made on the layouts – a “crash avoidance system” – I think the N-scale operators may prefer it to be called a “safe working system” – has been designed and circuits built, and it is in the process of being installed on the N-Scale layout, as well as many additional scenic features. Many signals have been

added to the HO Scale layout, with programming of the controlling PLCs kept up to date. Scenery, ballasting and rail painting have been advanced. Improvements have been made to the O Gauge layout including designs for replacement layout control boards and the installation of safe fully enclosed power supplies.

We tend to take the facilities and layouts for granted until we have an open day and the public sees what we have. Invariably there are appreciative comments. As club members, on those occasions especially, we can be proud of what we have.

Downstairs, we enjoy very good kitchen and dining facilities, but again we tend to take the club rooms for granted while visitors from other clubs and outsiders marvel that a club consisting of railway modellers can own such premises.

Remembering that the purpose of our Association includes promoting the hobby, and encouraging new members, it is interesting to note that members of another visiting club remarked on the number of younger generation people engaged in running trains on our layouts. This is a good sign. The introduction of Mortdale Market in place of our club auction over two years ago continues to be a real success. Pre-owned equipment has been sold to new owners generating a surplus for the club of close to \$8,000. This surplus combined with a surplus from the annual exhibition is the principal source of funds for capital improvements including layouts in our club but also are needed to cover the shortfall between the club's administrative income and the operating costs of the club. There are others I would like to recognise for their consistent contributions to the club, its facilities and layouts. Among these are Barry Wilcockson, Bruce Harris, Colin Wood, David Bennett, Ken Auchterlonie, Kevin Higginson, Philip Lee, Richard Sinton, and Zita Percival. Zita may not be known to many of us, but she did a wonderful job in planning and managing the catering at the exhibition, both last year and this year.

As always, there is a team of ladies that is always there when it comes to Open Day or an event that requires an operating kitchen and friendly helpers. Thank you all.

I thank the committee members for their commitment of time and effort. The activities of our Association are conducted by dedicated committee members in their own time and without reward. We all benefit from these facilities in what is probably the best equipped model railway club in Australia. This is an outstanding club. To those members who contribute more than just their facility fees, my sincere thanks.

Robert Merrick

Member Number 17001

President

Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc.





Stoney Creek

"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"
17337hrs @ 12/12/18
(H0 FIXED LAYOUT)

Progress during the last month has slowed due to

- Installation of additional lights over the Layout (waiting Mic Wade's return)
- Unavailability of those who usually work on Stoney Creek and posable impasse with a location concept

Progress has been made on;

- The programming desk adjacent to the control room is operational, still waiting for "N" scale coupler height gauges
- Down lights have replaced the tub lighting above Kurranulla / Yerriyong and Midway / MacLoed, as there is now no physical light fixtures above these location now there will be no need for anybody to climb on the layout to change tubs
- A 5 metre backscene has been supplied by Stuart Walker (Model Train Buildings). Stuart has also recently supplied additional back scenes
- The start of installation of layout valances
- Installation of false ceiling under Yerriyong Up Yard (above stairs) which requires painting to complete the project
- Construction of a building façade (supplied by Stuart Walker) to be placed adjacent to the main station building at Faynton
- Review and rationalising of PLCs programming to free-up additional memory for operations

The major item that has not progressed is how to resolve the issue of V2000 PLC upgrade, PLC 1 and PLC 2 will not communicating with each other under the current arrangements. Initial attempts at contacting the Toshiba representative have not been successful and a different strategy and/or offers to pay for the work and parts required or locating another source of expertise will be required.

In addition to this PLC 2 seems to have developed a Memory Lock, believed to have been created by our members performing a hard reset of the layout. When a hard reset is required the PLC's

Above: An English interloper on a trial run ex workshops heads towards Faynton on the up . *(Wilson)*



need to be unpowered for at least 10 minutes before being powered up again.

As far as scenery is concerned, there has been some progress made in this area, but there seems to be some reviews of the original concepts being undertaken. Further details on this will be made available at a later time.

Layout Co Co-ordinator
Philip Lee



Scale Fixed Layout

No new report received at time of publication



Building Report

No new report received at time of publication



Scale Layout

No new report received at time of publication



Mortdale Market

There are still plenty of items available for sale in the cabinet. If you are interested in any of these items please speak to Ken





Above: The SMR invasion continues. *(Chris Winston)*

Below: The old & the not so old . *(Steve Burrows)*



Back Cover: Hmm has anyone seen my keys??? Guess I'll just wait here for the taxi bringing my spare.

(Mystery Photographer)

AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme - January to February 2019

JANUARY

Fri	4th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	5th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	11th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	12th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	13th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	18th	Layout Operation – U.K. / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	19th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)	10am until late
Sun	20th	Layout Construction / Work Day	<i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Fri	25th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	26th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	27th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm

FEBRUARY

Fri	1st	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	2nd	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	8th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	9th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	10th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	15th	Layout Operation – Australian Diesel / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	16th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)	10am until late
Sun	17th	Layout Construction / Work Day	<i>No Facility Fee</i> 10am until finished
Fri	22nd	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	23rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	24th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm

NOTES

DAYLIGHTERS: every Wednesday - 10am until 5pm, the facilities may be used *as permitted* e.g. layout construction, limited running, modelling, etc.

FACILITY FEE unless otherwise indicated: Adults \$8 - Juniors \$5

GENERAL ACTIVITIES: the facilities may be used *as permitted* e.g. layout construction, building maintenance, limited running, modelling, etc

WORK NIGHTS: **most** Monday night, please check with the appropriate layout supervisor, 7:30pm until 11pm, No Facility Fee

LAYOUT OPERATION: O and N Gauges operational, HO (fixed) *as permitted during construction*

PROGRAMMED RUNNING: Destination, Sequenced or Timetabled operation as organized for each layout

Guests are always welcome unless otherwise indicated, no fee payable for three (3) complementary visits.

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



