

Mortdale Matters

January 2007



**Australian Model Railway Association
New South Wales Branch Inc. News**

Around the Clubrooms



Santa came to visit the clubrooms on Saturday December 9th, 2006. Unfortunately for John Bain, he stepped out at the wrong time and missed out on meeting him.

Photo: Glenn Percival



Christmas Lunch at the Clubrooms, shortly before the arrival of Santa Claus.

December 9, 2006. Photo: Glenn Percival

On the Cover:

C Class Tram No. 29 at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus. December 2, 2006. Photo: Barry Wilcockson

Welcome to the January Mortdale Matters

Welcome to the latest edition of *Mortdale Matters* and the start of a new year. Last month's edition of *Mortdale Matters* brought a new look and a new format. Developments have continued further this month and *Mortdale Matters* is now also available via our website www.amransw.asn.au.

This edition of *Mortdale Matters* has been prepared a little early so that it can be put to bed ahead of the Christmas rush. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year's and all the best for 2007.

I'd like to also thank everyone who has contributed to *Mortdale Matters* during the year since I have taken over the reigns. It is because of your efforts and support that *Mortdale Matters* continues to improve.

Chris Winston

Mortdale Matters Editor



Subscribing to Mortdale Matters

You can subscribe to *Mortdale Matters* by contacting our publicity officer, Philip Lee. Philip can be contacted either in person or by seeing a Duty Officer at the clubrooms, by email: publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au or by via our website: www.amransw.asn.au.

The preferred method of distribution for *Mortdale Matters* is via email. The file size for *Mortdale Matters* is usually around 2 to 3Mb. *Mortdale Matters* is also available via snail mail for those without a suitable internet connection and a number of copies are also available at the clubrooms, but be quick as these go fast.

Submitting to Mortdale Matters

With so much continually happening at our Mortdale Clubrooms, its easy for something to slip through the cracks. If you've got any news that you'd like to submit to *Mortdale Matters* please email me at subeditor@amransw.asn.au or leave a copy of your submission in the Journal pigeonhole in the office.

Mortdale Matters especially needs photos. With this edition I'm expanding the photographic net to include prototype photos. Only a few prototype photos will be included with each issue as the focus will always be on Branch activities and events. Any prototype will be considered. Photos can be emailed to me at the above address or you can leave a disk or CD in the Journal pigeonhole in the office. Image size does not need to be larger than 1024 x 768.

I must emphasise that ALL submissions must be original material, i.e. photos that you've taken yourself or articles that you've written yourself. Material is published in *Mortdale Matters* at the committee's discretion.

The deadline for submitting material for the February 2007 *Mortdale Matters* is January 22nd.

The President's Report

The 50th anniversary celebrations, held on 27th to 29th October, were a resounding success.

November began with the Branch AGM. There was a full house to hear the Branch reports and to elect the 2007 Management Committee. Bruce Harris resigned as Vice President. David Bennett was elected to this position, just ahead of Mic Wade.

During the proceedings of the AGM a meritorious award was presented to Robert Merrick. Robert is a member who goes about his work quietly and modestly. He is always doing something to advance the branch and his thoughtful approach to all matters is greatly respected. Congratulations Robert.

At the suggestion of Denis Gilmore, a 24 hour run was held on the HO layout on Nov 11, from 10am Saturday to 10am Sunday. There were six categories of trains; European, British, American, sound fitted locos, Australian steam and Australian diesel. Each category ran for two hours and then the process was repeated. By 10am Sunday there were some very weary people, but we looking forward to the next 24 hour event.

We again hosted Macarthur District Model Railway Club to a day at the clubrooms. Their members enjoyed a day of running trains and catching up with us and some even stayed for the regular Saturday night pizza extravaganza.

Alan Tonks was kept very busy with our November auction. He had an enormous number of lots to auction, and most items were sold to the satisfaction of both seller and buyer.

The Christmas / exhibition workers function was held at Loftus Tramway Museum again this year. The weather turned cold, windy and rainy, but this did not prevent us enjoying the activities at the museum. There were plenty of different trams to ride to Sutherland and National Park. After dinner the Branch Appreciation Awards were presented to the following members:

Kim Russell: for her friendly attitude towards visitors and newcomers, and for her willing assistance in the kitchen.

Neil Sorensen: for the effort that he has put into scenicking the O scale layout. His efforts are starting to bring this layout to life.

Graeme Shade: for his tireless work in the building stage at Mortdale, and for the huge amount of fundraising chocolates that he sells to work colleagues at the RTA.

Congratulations to these three members who have made life at the clubrooms that much better through their efforts.

Finally I would like to mention the work done by Chris Winston in producing our monthly Branch News in Mortdale Matters. The December issue was in full colour and is quite an achievement. I look forward to seeing Chris's future editions.

Barry Wilcockson
NSW Branch President

Mortdale Building Report

The brick wall in the disabled toilet has been covered with battens and Gyprock, this has been painted and a row of tiles along the floor has been glued on and the area painted, this greatly improves the appearance of the area. Keith Bowles has done a great job on this project.

All Smoke Alarms have been installed and the fire extinguishers have been inspected by Wormald. The emergency lights were tested recently and all passed the time test.

The laundry tub installation is now a high priority as we only need to purchase a flexible connector to join the tap to the pipes, the rest is already to go.

David Bennett

Mortdale Building Supervisor



Neil Sorensen and Kim Russell after being presented with their Branch Appreciation Awards at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus. December 2nd, 2006.

Photo: Barry Wilcockson

Coming Up...

Friday the 12th of January is a Playback feature night. Bring your movies and videos and see them on the big screen of the AMRA NSW Theatre!

This month's *Stoney Creek* work day is on Sunday, January 7th.

The April Open days are over the weekend of April 28 / 29

Check the programme on page 10 for more details.

Layout Reports

N Scale Layout

Neil Watson has virtually done all of the plastering. Only the area at the right hand end of the bridge needing some rock texturing work to be done, this area was painted brown previously to cover the white snowfield effect.

Ash Garard has continued with the greening of the layout and is currently working near the Quarry, this is having a great effect on the appearance of the layout.

Chris Gorrington is still applying some ballast to the Quarry to enhance the appearance of that area.

The factory to sit near the wharf at Lanham is almost finished and will be installed soon.

Maintenance continues with an accessory switch in Bownen being replaced this week, two points in the Watsons Flat area have been repaired and three controllers have had minor problems rectified.

David Bennett

N Scale Layout Supervisor



Recent progress on the N scale has seen more grass texturing applied near the Quarry. The California Zephyr hauled by a pair of Santa Fe E units passes the Quarry Entrance. December 16, 2006.

Photo: Chris Winston

HO Scale Layout - 'Pizza Discussions'



Stephan Frelingos and Geoff Lanham watch "Priscilla" pass with a container train.

December 16, 2006. Photo: Chris Winston

Greetings, to all you good people and especially the people that make writing *Pizza Discussions* very easy. I hope you all had a good and safe Christmas and saw the New Year in with an eye on the future.

Time for *Stoney creek* to look back on last year and see what a band of dedicated workers have done to their pride and joy, *ME*, the *Stoney Creek* layout.

First to the workers, thank you for showing up and working on me. There have been some great leaps forward; new yard control panels have come on line making yard operation a great pleasure. My main line block wiring is approx 90% complete. The talk of signals being installed will make me look great. Most of the work has been under me and with the power distribution (low voltage) almost complete, that nasty 240 volt is not around me now. On my 240 volt side all is well with the world many extension leads have become spare. My track is still being laid on the extremes of the my network. My tracks are kept in good operating order with a group or eager operators.

The Saturday running times have become a social time as well, with many people staying to have pizza at night, great to see so many stay (highest is 22).

A 24 hour running time was arranged, many thanks to the people who came along and ran there trains and did other jobs without a whimper.

There are many people to thank so if I've missed you let me know and you will be on the list for next year. In no order of preference, I'd like to thank for their efforts Barry, Glenn, Chris, Phillip, Terry, Ian, Stan, Alex, Robert, Phill, Bill, Ben, Jeff, Shorn, Stephan, John, Kevin and of course their long suffering partners and the interest that other gauges show.

We have had a few visits from other clubs and the complements we, yes WE get are great. There is still much more work to do so the (now) new year looks more exciting with many projects reaching completion, working toward operator control.

Its been a great year and I look forward to the next.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor

O Scale Layout

Neil Sorensen continues to improve the scenery around the layout with the area approaching Hoganvale being the next to receive his attention.

The layout's popularity is continuing to increase with an ever growing number of people interested in operating the layout and getting into O scale.



Belpaire boilered 36 class, 3641, is turned on the turntable at Pageton after arriving with a goods train. This area is yet another example of Neil Sorensen's scenic work. December 16, 2006.

Photo: Chris Winston

Pre-paid Facility Fees 2007

Pre-paid facility fees for 2007 can now be paid for 2007. We offer two options, a full year or six-monthly. To pay your pre-paid facility fee please see either a Committee member or the Duty officer for the day.

Pre-paid facility fees for 2007 are as follows:

	12 Months	6 Months
Adults	\$300	\$180
Juniors	\$180	\$100
Seniors	\$180	\$100

Pre-paid facility fees can be paid up until January 31, 2007. Pre-paid facility fees for 2007 are applicable from January 1, 2007. No reduction in price will be given for pre-paid facility fees received between January 1 and January 31, 2007.

Seen on the Layouts



*An 18 class prepares to leave Read yard while 44 class "Priscilla" speeds past on the Down Main.
December 16, 2006. Photo: Chris Winston*



*Rarely modeled in any scale, a NSWGR 11 class 4-4-2 tank departs Central with a short train on the O scale layout.
December 16, 2006. Photo: Chris Winston*

Clubwear

Orders will be taken for Clubwear early in the new year. If you're after a personalised AMRA NSW shirt or jacket please see the ordering form attached to this issue.

AMRA NSW Programme

Dec'06 - Feb '07

DECEMBER

Fri	1st	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	2nd	Xmas/Exhibition Workers' BBQ From 2pm. BYO meat & drink. AS\$18 Conc\$15 C\$13 (SPER members/friends \$5). Register at club.	Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus	
Wed	6th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	8th	Feature Night – H.O. Signal Construction	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	9th	General Activities (see Notes) Ladies Needles & Natter & Monthly Forum	10am until late 2pm	
Sun	10th	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 4pm	no Facility Fee
<u>Wed</u>	13th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	15th	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	16th	Layout Operation & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	20th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	23rd	General Activities (see Notes) & Wingecarribee	10am until late	
Wed	27th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	29th	General Activities (see Notes) & Wingecarribee	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	30th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	

JANUARY 2007

Wed	3rd	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	5th	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	6th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Sun	7th	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 4pm	no Facility Fee
<u>Wed</u>	10th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	12th	Feature Night – Play Back (Members Owned).	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	13th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	17th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	19th	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	20th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	24th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	26th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	27th	General Activities (see Notes) & Wingecarribee	10am until late	
Wed	31st	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	

FEBRUARY

Fri	2nd	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	3rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late	
Sun	4th	Stoney Creek Work Day	10am until 4pm	no Facility Fee
Wed	7th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	9th	Feature Night – T.B.A.	7pm until 10pm	
Sat	10th	General Activities (see Notes) Ladies Needles & Natter & Monthly Forum	10am until late 2pm	
<u>Wed</u>	14th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	16th	Wingecarribee Work Night	7pm until 10pm	no Facility Fee
Sat	17th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late	
Wed	21st	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	
Fri	23rd	Visit to Hills Model Railway Society , Baulkham Hills Unit 8, Balcombe Hts Community Centre, Seven Hills Rd.	7pm until 10pm, light BBQ at 8pm Own transport. no Facility Fee	
Sat	24th	General Activities (see Notes) & Wingecarribee	10am until late	
Wed	28th	"Daylighters" Work & Run	10am until 4pm	

NOTES

- WORK NIGHTS: Mondays & Fridays unless otherwise indicated, 7pm until 10pm. No Facility Fee.
- LAYOUT OPERATION: O and N Gauges operational, HO (fixed) *as permitted during construction*.
- 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 \$5, Juniors/Seniors (70+) \$3.
- Guests are welcome unless otherwise indicated.
- This programme may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, by e-mail to publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au or from www.amransw.asn.au.
- Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223. Phone (02)9153-5901, Fax (02)9153-5905.

12 Inch to the Foot Scale



QR National 2819 leads a freight train through Lidcombe towards Port Botany.

December 2nd, 2006.

Photo: Chris Winston



22 Class (formerly 422 class) and X class locos rest at Clyde.

December 2nd, 2006.

Photo: Chris Winston

On the back cover:

Members pose in front of 4 wheel tram No.29 during the Christmas and Exhibition Workers BBQ at the Sydney Tramway Museum, Loftus. December 2nd, 2006. Photo: Barry Wilcockson

