

Mortdale Matters

January 2008



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

Around the Clubrooms



The New "Universal" circuit is now operational on the O scale layout. For the opening day a marching band turned out at Hoganville to welcome the first trains on the new track. January 12, 2008. Photo: Glenn Percival



Recent work at the clubrooms has seen the vinyl floor covering cleaned and sealed. The downstairs meeting room shows the rather shiny end result. The big job now is to keep it clean!

16 January 2008. Photo: Glenn Percival

On the Cover:

L class 3106 leads an 830 class and another L class through Sutherland on the Up Manildra train returning from Bomaderry (Nowra) on the Illawarra line. January 19, 2008. Photo: Chris Winston

Welcome to the January Mortdale Matters

Happy New Year! *Mortdale Matters* is back for another year.. Over the last 12 months the readership of *Mortdale Matters* has expanded greatly. We now have well over a hundred email subscribers and almost 50 people subscribing to the hard copy version. Not only that but *Mortdale Matters* is now being read all over this country and even overseas!

This month I'm very pleased to present to you some great photos provided by Bob McLaughlin. Bob is currently our longest distance subscriber, all the way from the USA. While I would have liked to have put one of Bob's photos on the front cover this month, but that would have meant cropping it to fit. Instead I present it in its entirety on the back cover. Thanks Bob - please send me more if you've got them.

Also this month I finally present my promised article on basic weathering techniques. I hope this inspires you to have a go a weathering, if you haven't already. The hard part of weathering is finding out how to do it, after that all it takes is a little bit of practice. I recommend starting on an old wagon that you have lying about. The key is to just take your time and apply a little bit of paint at a time.

Congratulations are due to the O gaugers who have now have trains running on their new "Universal" track. Now in addition to the course scale three rail trains that have always run on the layout, it is now possible to run both two rail and finescale trains as well. An unofficial opening parade has already been held but the grand opening is still to come. More details to come over the next few months.

See you at the Clubrooms,
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. Subscription is free.

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 or care of the clubrooms for those without a suitable internet connection. There is also a limited number of copies at the clubrooms for those not on our mailing list. *Mortdale Matters* is also available to download on our website: www.amransw.asn.au

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. Prototype photos will also be included with each issue but 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 need not be larger than 1024 x 768. Please include details of when and where it was taken.

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 2008 *Mortdale Matters* is February 7th.

Layout Reports

O Scale Layout



Noel Davies' double tender 4-6-2 "Flying Scotsman" makes a great picture on the new track alongside Central with the Club's set of seven maroon LMS coaches. 12 January, 2007. Photo: Bruce Harris

Last month, we reported that we hoped to provide a much wider running facility by "early" this year. Little did we think we would achieve that in the first week of 2008.

A concentrated effort by the building team of Maurie, Gordon, Col, Neil, Lance, Ken and Arthur has resulted in a complete new circuit operating on both two and three rail, with connections to the old third rail system. It is all systems go.

Ross brought along not only a range of beautiful locomotives but also a fine collection of "Britain Soldiers" (ranging in age from 60 years to quite new) who paraded in front of Queen Victoria while she presented a medal to a gallant naval officer.

Down at Shepherd's Sidings, the scenery has been growing gradually and now extends up to the turntable, with a locomotive servicing area complete with coal loader, water tower, and ash pit. The "biros with wall plug", indicating the placement of de-coupling facilities, have been replaced with light towers. These will soon sprout LCDs courtesy of John Coffey.

The enthusiasm with which all these projects have been attacked is extremely pleasing to see. With an average age far higher than most would dare to contemplate – it's certainly past male pension age – who ever said that only the young can perform marvels.

A Happy New Year to all readers.

Bruce Harris

O Scale Layout Reporter



Neil Sorensen and Col Shepherd work on the street trackage at Hoganvale, where passengers will be able to exchange between systems. 22 December, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival



Heading north out of Hoganvale we find the main yard, which may allow stabling of trains when the operating mode is changed. 22 December, 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

H0 Scale Layout - Pizza Discussions

January 18, 2008 - 820 hours



No Christmas shutdowns at Mortdale! Operation continue as normal on the Stoney Creek layout. The layout is seen just prior to the commencement of the now regular evening sequence running.

29 December 2007. Photo: Glenn Percival

The Christmas and the New Year break is over for most of the regular users of Stoney Creek and their families. Now it back to the ongoing work on the layout

The next big date on the Stoney Creek calendar is the 2nd of February. 16:00 hours or 4pm will be the start of a process to choose **IF** we leave the layout as it is and keep moving forward to operator control **OR** move forward and follow a different path for the layout. There are several ideas being floated around some with explanatory notes. These explanatory notes give people an insight into what the author of the track plan had in mind and why. Any idea is worth considering so if you have an idea for part or the whole of Stoney Creek, please bring it forward.

Work has been a little slow over the Christmas period and this is to be expected with so many taking a well earn break from the job and getting away from it all. Stoney Creek has been used by a good number of people over the Christmas time so the average of 100 hours of running a month has been kept up.

We hear so much about the good deeds of people giving to others over the Christmas period. In our club what is known to many people around the club is how many people give their time and talents to make Stoney Creek the great layout that it is today and who knows what superlatives I will need to pull out in the future. What is not known is how many people spend their hard earned money on equipment for and then donate that equipment to Stoney Creek for the betterment of all. These people do so in a quiet and very generous manner, thank you from all the members.

On going work will be more signal and point motor wiring and of course the ever present block wiring. It good to see whole areas of the layout with every block, signal and point motor wire in and terminated. Still more detectors to be put together and soon we will need to make a start on making controllers for operator control.

CTC panel is coming along very well. The 6 off 100 pair cables have been terminated at the CTC end and there are 4 off 100 pair cables still to be terminated at the PLC end. Soon there will be indication on the “train management panel” (CTC panel). As soon as these cables are terminated there will be functions operating from CTC, very exciting.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor



The cleaning of the vinyl floor necessitated a clean up around the floor space of the Stoney Creek layout. The end result of all the cleaning and sealing efforts is seen around the Fayenton peninsula.

January 16, 2008. Photo: Glenn Percival

Basic Weathering Techniques

Weathering is one of the few aspects of the hobby where there really isn't a right way or a wrong way to do things. Over the years many different techniques have been developed to apply weathering.

At the end of the day it doesn't matter what techniques you use as long as you get the results that you're looking for.

In this article I use two common techniques - Dry Brushing and Air Brushing. Both of these techniques use paints to achieve the weathered effect. Another common technique is to use chalk powders instead of paints.

The paints I use are the Tamiya acrylics that are available from most hobby shops. They have a big advantage over enamels in that cleaning up can be done with water.

For this article I am weathering a TrainOrama HCH coal hopper to the reasonably battered state that these wagons were in at the end of their working lives.

Photo 1: To begin with I represent areas of light rust by Dry Brushing. Put a small amount of paint onto your brush and then wipe the brush on a paper towel until very little paint is left. This gives a brush with a very small amount of almost dry paint.

Photo 2: Lightly paint the areas where you want a light rust using your Dry Brush. Raised areas of detail will tend to pick up a small amount of paint and show the rust colour.

Photo 3: To represent areas of heavy rust I use a Satay stick. The pointy but not too sharp tip is ideal for picking out small areas detail. Note how the large patches of rust done this way look particularly bright. Don't be afraid if the heavy rust looks particularly garish at this stage. This will be toned down when other colours are applied.

Photo 4: The remainder of the colours are applied with an air brush. I use a Pasch single action type, however any reasonable quality air brush is suitable. Set up your air brush as per the instructions provided. Most paints require thinning before they can be used in an air brush. For the Tamiya paints I use a 50/50 mix of paint and Tamiya thinners. Set your air brush to a fine light spray by testing it on cardboard or timber.

The first colour I apply is Flat Earth. This represents dirt and brake dust etc kicked up by the



wheels. Because of this I aim the brush slightly below the wagon so the paint mist bounces up from underneath. Just make one quick pass of the brush at a time and slowly build up the paint until you get a degree of weathering you are happy with. Make sure you roll the wagon even once in a while to get an even coverage of the wheels. The wheels are the only part of a wagon where you are looking for an even finish.

Photo 5: The wagon is finished by applying more colours from above and to the sides. I used a medium grey (German Grey) to represent soot and other dirt followed by Black to represent coal dust from when the wagon was loaded and unloaded.

Photo 6: The same techniques can be used for locomotives as well. In order to get an even coverage of the wheels run the locomotive against a stop while I'm air brushing it.

Photos 7 & 8: Two views of the completed 44 class (TrainOrama). I did not apply any rust to the locomotive as I wanted to represent a dirty but otherwise reasonably good condition 44 class. I did however air brush on some Black across the exhaust port in the roof and down the sides to give an impression of the oily muck typically put out by Alco diesels.

I hope this gives you some inspiration to have a go yourself. Its really not that difficult, all it takes is a little time and patience.

Chris Winston



AMRA NSW Programme

Jan '08 - Mar '08

JANUARY

Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Sat	5th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
<u>Wed</u>	9th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	11th	Feature Night – <i>T.B.A.</i>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	12th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
<u>Wed</u>	16th	<u>CLOSED</u> - for Building Maintenance	<u>Closed</u>
Sat	19th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
		Exhibition Layout Debate	2 pm
Sun	20th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	25th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	26th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Mon	28th	<u>Public Holiday</u> Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	30th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm

FEBRUARY

Fri	1st	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm til 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	2nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
		H.O. Gauge Fixed Layout "Stoney Creek" Debate	4 pm
Sun	3rd	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	6th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	8th	Feature Night – <i>Play Back</i> (Audio / Video / DVD)	7:30pm
Sat	9th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
<u>Wed</u>	13th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	15th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm til 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	16th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	20th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	22nd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	23rd	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Wed	27th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	29th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm No Facility Fee

MARCH

Sat	1st	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	2nd	Display @ Thirlmere Festival of Steam – U-Drive Layout	9am until 5pm No Facility Fee
Wed	5th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	7th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	8th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter	2pm
<u>Wed</u>	12th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	14th	Feature Night – <i>H.O. Signal Workshop</i>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	15th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	2nd	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	19th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	21st	<u>CLOSED</u> – Good Friday	<u>Closed</u>
Sat	22nd	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Mon	24th	<u>Public Holiday</u> Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	26th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	28th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	29th	Members Auction	Lodgements until midday, Viewing
		strictly 12-1pm, <u>Hammer 1pm.</u>	

NOTES

WORK NIGHTS: every Monday night & 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday 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.*

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 program may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, or 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



This month's 12 inch to the foot scale features going away shots of the trains on both covers. The Manildra train drops down the 1 in 42 grade from Sutherland on its way north to the George's River crossing at Como. January 19, 2008. Photo: Chris Winston



Putting on a spectacular show, the Rio Grande demonstration freight train slogs through Cresco as it continues its uphill journey in Colorado, USA. Photo: Bob McLaughlin

*On the back cover:
Three Denver and Rio Grande Western 2-8-2's storm uphill with a demonstration freight train. The locomotives are separated due to weight restrictions on the various bridges on the line. Photo: Bob McLaughlin*

