

Mortdale Matters

March 2009



**Official Opening of the O Gauge Extension is
at 1.00 pm on Saturday 14th March 2009**

see page 9



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

Around the Clubrooms



Saturday Night Pizza nights are always popular at the Mortdale club rooms. Some of the members enjoy a feed in early January 2009. Looks like they didn't cut the pizza to Ben's liking.

Photo Maikha Ly



A wide angle view of the O Gauge layout in operation at the April 2008 Open weekend with Ross McLean and Maurrie Haynes are in earnest discussion as the trains flash by.
Photo Maikha Ly

Cover photo GM22 & 4488 and V Set at Belmore Photo Bill Whale

Welcome to the March 2009 Mortdale Matters

Well its almost two months since the first edition of Mortdale Matters for 2009. As other members of the Branch Committee of Management will verify proof reading is not one of my strengths. A couple of errors crept into the January edition. These were picked up by Fred Stell and Ross Stell. This goes to prove that a least some people read Mortdale Matters !

As a person who attended and participated in a lot of motor racing in previous times I always was amused about tickets that stated "Motor Racing is Dangerous". I have never been involved in any incidents in motor racing. I have now come to the conclusion that "Railway Modelling is Dangerous" For those not "in the know" at a recent Stoney Creek work day I was assisting in running some cable runs for the CTC cameras. As I came out from under the layout I stood up under the MacLeod panel and gave myself an almighty bang on the head. Having no hair mean that it hurts and I landed up with a graze and a bump on my head. Those that saw it have been paying out on me since this happened and I can guaranteed that it hurt.

See you at the Clubrooms,
Geoff Lanham
Secretary AMRA NSW Branch
and 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, or by e-mail: pjlee@inet.net.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 post 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 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 secretary@amransw.asn.au or jethro_lenny@hotmail.com or leave a copy of your submission in the Secretary's 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 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 May 2009 *Mortdale Matters* is 15th April. 2009

Model Rail Photography

I don't want Mortdale Matters to be filled entirely with prototype and club photos but as those of us that who have previously tried to photograph their models or layouts will probably appreciate that its not always easy to get a good result. The Model Rail supplement to the February 2009 edition of Motive Power includes some tips on model rail photograph. We are fortunate that Maikha Ly, who was a visitor to our clubrooms on the April 2008 Open weekend and again in January 2009, has supplied us with a large number of photos and I have used a selection to cover each of the club layouts and included is one of what I consider my "better efforts".



NR 52 photographed on the Guildford Group's Moss Vale layout when it was at the AMRA clubroom for our 50th Anniversary celebrations in October 2006. I was fortunate that there were only a few people around and I could set the camera up on a tripod, use the count down timer and an exposure time to take account of the available light. This is often not possible at venues such as exhibitions.

Photo Geoff Lanham



Col Shepherd's U Boat set on the AMRA O Gauge Layout

Photo Maikha Ly



Now when you want a challenge try photographing N Scale. The club's N Scale layout has definitely benefited from Val Bennett's artistic touch.

Photo Maikha Ly



They say if you really want to see how good your models are that you should photograph them and then review the photos. The 82 class locomotives belong to Ben Gilmore

Below are an array of weathered candy locos from Rod Fusell

Both photos Maikha Ly



A Little Bit of History

One of the things that people often ask is why we get involved in certain hobbies. I suppose that trains and transport are in my family as my grandfather was a traindriver who worked around the New South Wales countryside in places such as West Wyalong, Molong, Casino and South Grafton. My father spent his entire working life on the railways in places such as Port Waratah, South Grafton and ultimately in Sydney at Enfield, Carriage works and No 1 York Street. Naturally our annual holidays were always spent travelling by trains. With an ancestral history such as this is it any wonder that I became interested in railway history and railway modelling.

One of the more significant achievements by my grandfather was that he was one of the crews that drove the engines associated with the Duke of Gloucester visit in 1934. In sorting some family papers I came across the following photo of 3266 with its immaculately dressed crew. (Probably taken before they started a journey)

Ron Preston's book "Standards in Steam The 32 Class" indicated that 3266 was painted in green livery for the 1934 Duke of Gloucester visit.

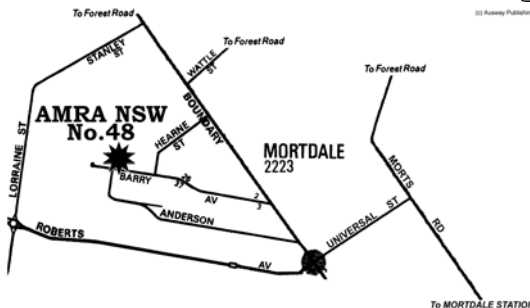
Also of significance but not obvious in the photograph are that the crew had special cap badges for the visit.



OPEN WEEKEND



Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch
48 Barry Avenue, Mortdale
Sat 4th & Sun 5th April 2009 -- 10am until 4pm
visitor entry by gold coin donation



Large Fixed Layouts
 N Scale (1:160) HO Scale (1:87) O Scale (1:43)
“U-Drive” HO Layout
Modelling Demonstration
PC Simulations

For more information please phone 02-9153-5901 or visit www.amransw.asn.au

Other Events

I thought that I might include some other events that may be of interest to AMRA Members and modellers.

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
21st & 22nd March 2009	Springwood Exhibition	St Thomas Aquinas Pri- mary School Springwood	mdyer1@parra.catholic.edu.au
10-13th April 2009	Australian Narrow Gauge Convention	Tara Anglican School North Parramatta	http://www.nrma.org.au/convention (ng/home
18th to 19th April 2009	Maitland Steamfest	Maitland	http:// www.maitlandhuntermvalley.com.au/ accom_result1/hunter-valley- steamfest/
2nd & 3rd May 2009	Day out with Thomas	Thirlmere	http://www.heritageexpress.com.au/
22nd & 23rd August	Our Town Model Show	Newcastle Jockey Club	http://www.ourtownms.com.au/
3rd to 5th October 2009	Sydney Model Railway Exhibition	Whitlam Centre Liverpool	http://www.amransw.asn.au/
16th to 17th October 2009	11th National N Scale Convention	Hotel Heritage Canberra	http://www.nscale.com.au/ convention2009/

O Gauge - March 2009

The official opening of the “O” gauge extension will take place on Saturday 14th March 2009 at the clubrooms. All members – and, for that matter, any visitors – are cordially invited to attend.

The “ceremony” will occur once lunch has been completed – so that means around 1.00pm. We are reliably informed that there will be marching bands, trains from around the globe steaming through ribbons, a cake cutting, and, in a world first, a visit from royalty is promised. As if that is not enough, Howarth Castle, of Harry Potter fame, has cancelled other commitments to put in an appearance.

The whole event will be filmed to appear on multiple screens later (well, on 2 anyway!).

That day is also a “Needles and Natter” meeting, so, come along ladies and join in the celebrations.

A few facts about the extension.

It is built using universal track that caters for two or three rail operation using any of DC, AC or DCC systems.

This means it facilitates the running of all makes of “O” gauge trains.

There is around 60 metres of track, which translates into 4.2 kilometres once it is scaled up.

- There are 15 points (turnouts).
- It passes alongside Central and Hoganvale stations but through a new US-style station, which is yet to be named.
- It passes over a curved viaduct, which owes a lot to the one at Picton for it’s inspiration.
- It is added to a layout commenced in 1952 at Burwood Police Boys Club.
- Come and join in all the fun of the fair.

Bruce Harris

“O” Gauge reporter.

N Scale Layout Report

Maintenance is continuing. The second turntable is now fully operational and the third turntable is being worked on. Peco point motors are being replaced with tortoise motors particularly on the branch line where the sharp movement of the Peco motors is damaging the hand built points

David Bennett

N Scale Layout Supervisor

Assistance with Raffle Layout

Each year at around this time construction begins on the Raffle Layout for the Exhibition. As usual we are seeking club members who would like to assist with the construction of the layout. If you are interested in assisting with the layout construction, please contact any Committee member. The timber for the frame has been purchased and we are getting ready to commence this task.

Stoney Creek Layout Report

Welcome to the New Year and the new layout committee, some new faces and some familiar ones. There is a very exciting time just around the corner, the design for Deawy/Fayenton and the Control Centre have been signed off by the layout committee. Preparations continue for the much awaited switch over to use the new track alignment at Deawy. Progress appears to be slow as much of the work is under the layout. Stoney Creek continues to run and run well, with an average usage of 3.5 hours every day of the year.

Denis Gilmore
Stoney Creek Layout Coordinator

The HO LAYOUT Sub COMMITTEE met on 17th January 2009 and the following decisions and agreements were reached.

Deawy Main Line, Yards, Storage Loop and Locomotive Depot

The track plan as redrawn by Denis Gilmore to include the turn back road was approved with the addition of points at Deawy junction. Industries and the locomotive depot are to be designed at a later stage.

Storage roads to operate in the opposite direction to current operation as it reduces the number of facing points

Control Centre Panel Design

D Gilmore to follow up signwriting or other methods of preparation of panels. Commence with Yerriyong top and bottom panels. Individual panel design to be made available for approval of the final configuration.

G Percival presented design of bottom ½ tile panels. Amendments as discussed to be incorporated in revised design which has now been submitted.

After the layout subcommittee meeting a sample and quotation for vinyl printed material to adhere to the aluminium Control Centre panels has been obtained. The Branch Committee of Management has agreed in principle that to this approach.

Stony Creek Work Days.

Agreed that where possible the Stony Creek work days will be on the third Sunday of the month. The exception will be in May when the NSW N Scale group has requested that they hold their monthly meeting at AMRA on 17th May. There will also be an extra Stony Creek workday on Sunday 29th March to prepare the layout for the 4th & 5th April Open Weekend.

Brewers Creek Yard

D Gilmore outlined a concept of a temporary balloon loop at Brewers Creek as it is difficult to fit in a double length run around as this would require approximately 5.6 metres in length. G Percival spoke about the original design concept for this location. It was agreed that a single loop be installed on a temporary basis.

Functional Specifications

G Percival & S Edwards are to revise the Functional Specifications document and present it for review as work progresses.

Peel Ridge Yard.

The concept plan as prepared by James Percival and other possible plans were discussed. Agreed to develop a concept that does not require substantial propelling of wagons to avoid operational difficulties such as derailments.

AMRA NSW Programme

March '09 - May 09

AMRA NSW Branch Inc. PROGRAMME – March to May 2009

MARCH

Sun	1st	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	4rd	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	7rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
<u>Wed</u>	11th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	14th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)		10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter		- 2pm
Wed	18th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – American / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21th	Members Auction	Lodgements until midday, Viewing strictly 12-1pm,	Hammer 1pm.
Wed	25th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	27th	Testing Night (Not General Running)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	28th	Pre-Open Weekend – Working Bee	No Facility Fee	10am until late
Sun	29th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	No Facility Fee	10am until finished

APRIL

Wed	1st	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	3rd	Pre-Open Weekend – Working Bee	No Facility Fee	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	4th	** OPEN WEEKEND **	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation	
Sun	5th	** OPEN WEEKEND **	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation	
<u>Wed</u>	8th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	10th	CLOSED – Good Friday		Closed
Sat	11th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)		10am until late
		Ladies Needles & Natter		- 2pm
Mon	13th	Public Holiday – Layout Operation (see notes)		10am until late
Wed	15th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	17th	Layout Operation – Australian Diesel / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	18th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	19th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	22th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	24th	Testing Night (Not General Running)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	25th	ANZAC Day – General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)		12noon until late
Wed	29th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm

MAY

Fri	1st	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7pm until ...
Sat	2nd	Layout Operation / 24 Hour Running / <i>Structured Running</i> – cont from Friday night (see Notes)		until late Saturday
		<i>Breakfast available</i>		
Wed	6th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	8th	Feature Night – TBA... if not possible General Activities		7:30pm until 10pm
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	Layout Operation – European / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	16th	General Activities & Monthly Forum (see Notes)		10am until late
Wed	20th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	22nd	Testing Night (Not General Running)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	23rd	General Activities & <i>Layout Construction Day</i> (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	24th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	No Facility Fee	10am until finished
Wed	27th	“Daylighters” - General Activities (see Notes)		10am until 5pm
Fri	29th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	30th	Layout Operation (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



One of our club members relaxing on HPC 402 on a 6 day epic railcruise in November that covered approximately 3000km

Photo Glenn Percival:

12 Inch to Foot Scale



X54 at Hurlstone Park photo now reproduced in colour in lieu of the black and white image published in the November December AMRA Journal

Photo Bill Whale