

Mortdale

November 2016 Matters



In memory of Stephen Chapman & Ashley Garrard

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

Mortdale Matters

November 2016



Editorial

Wow, what a roller-coaster of emotions we have experienced in the Branch since the last issue. We have had the high of our annual exhibition being held, with the sad news received on the Monday of the sudden passing of Stephen Chapman. Just as we were getting over that shock and preparing for the open day we then received the news of the passing of another of our members, Ash Garrard. Although these passings are very sad and did weigh heavy on our hearts, the 2 events held at the time continued on as I'm sure both gentlemen would have wanted, and we certainly provided the entertainment and enjoyment the crowds of people came to experience.

As has been the norm for the past several years, the Branch had an open day on Saturday 15th October. There was a reasonable number of visitors on this day, with several comments being made on the level of detail and operational ability of the HO layout control centre.

If October wasn't already busy enough, on Friday 28th October the Branch celebrated its 60th Anniversary. This is a huge achievement for any club, and all the members both past & present should be very proud that the Branch reached this milestone. The branch held several events over a long weekend to commemorate the diamond jubilee. There was a gathering at the clubrooms on the Friday evening. On Saturday & Sunday there was 2 different tours in The Rail Motor Society's CPH1&7. Saturday saw a tour to most ends of the suburban network. After leaving Sydney, we travelled to Carlingford, Richmond, Macarthur and Waterfall before returning to Sydney.

Sunday saw the railmotors head to Moss Vale via Southern Sydney Freight Line, returning to Sydney via the Illawarra escarpment. A more detailed report of the weekend's railmotor activities will appear in the next issue.

The last thing I would like to do, is offer my appreciation to both Barry & Marilyn Wilcockson. At this year's AGM they both decided to step down after a combined 35 years on the committee. Barry has held the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary & Exhibition Manger, while Marilyn has been the treasurer for the past 17 years. I would like you all to join me in thanking them for their tireless efforts over the years.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Until next issue,

Damien George
Editor

Glenn Percival
Assistant Editor

Right: The plaque given to the branch by the federal committee in recognition of our 60th anniversary.



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 pjlee@iinet.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.

Branch Officers/Contacts 2017

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



2017 Committee



Robert Merrick President

This is Robert's 2nd year as President. He has been a member for 20+ years and has always been keen to get involved with whatever is happening at the time. Robert has been very actively involved in the wiring of the CTC panel for *Stoney Creek*.



Damien George Vice-President

Damien is not new to the committee. Damien has served in ex-officio roles for many years in various roles including Journal Sub-Editor & Roster Clerk.



Glenn Percival Secretary

Glenn has been a member for 25+ years. During this time he has held numerous jobs including committee member, Publicity Officer, Exhibition Manager & Journal Sub-Editor. He is also our current clubroom IT department.

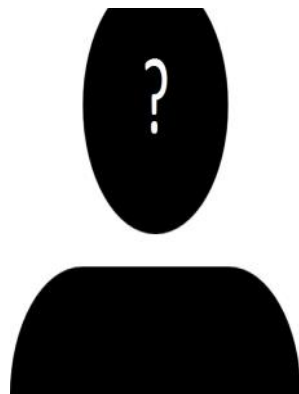


Geoff Lanham Treasurer

Geoff previously held the position of Secretary from 2005 – 2012, and was Vice-President last year. Geoff has also been Roster Clerk for the past few years.

Exhibition Manager

This role is currently vacant. If you are interested in taking on this role, please speak to 1 of the other committee members.



Philip Lee Publicity Officer

Phil has been involved in the NSW Branch for 30+ years. Phil has been the exhibition Roster Clerk and a member of the committee since 2004. Phil is actively involved in the programming of the PLCs that control *Stoney Creek* and also maintains all the documentation for the layout.



Andrew Murphy Development Officer

This year is Andrew's 2nd year as Development Officer. Andrew is also an administrator of the Branch and Exhibition Facebook pages.



2016 Committee

We would like to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work during their term.

From L to R:

Robert Merrick, Barry Wilcockson,
Marilyn Wilcockson, Philip Lee, Andrew
Murphy, Geoff Lanham, Glenn Percival

residents Report

When I nominated for the position of President a year ago, I was conscious of the fact that our club has to serve members who have varied interests, yet at the same time share a common interest. Our principal activity may be running trains on a particular gauge, but as members collectively we are owners and custodians of the building, the facilities and all the layouts. The Management Committee you elect tries to ensure that these varied and common interests are all accommodated.

Talking first about our fixed layouts, this year has seen a resurgence of interest in developing the layouts – on improving their operational capability and thus enhancing the experience of running trains on them. Improvements on the N scale layout are being implemented to manage the separation of trains where previously this relied on the quick responses of alert operators to avoid a collision. There have been many other incremental steps as well, including scenery. If you haven't seen it, have a look.

On the fixed HO layout, hundreds of man hours have gone into the realisation of a system – believed by many to be impossible – which enables the concurrent running of the new generation of DCC locomotives and earlier generation DC (analogue) powered locomotives. Paying a visit to the layout and its "signal box" control room is worth doing even if you are not an HO modeller, and I would encourage you to do so.

The O Gauge is planning and implementing upgrades to its fixed layout. A club with as long a history as ours has to provide for models that were running sixty years ago as well as the latest DCS or AC controlled types.

Progress has also been made on our modular layouts. A new replacement U drive is under way. The HO modular layout East Matelend is being upgraded with new lighting and new wiring. The O Gauge modular layout has also had some improvements and has made a couple of journeys to Murrurundi where it was well received.

At the same time the club rooms have to be maintained and the running costs paid for. You know that we have taken steps to cut our electricity bill. The installation of solar panels to generate electricity and defray some of the costs of power was achieved this year. The result is that our electricity bill for the year to June was cut from \$6,062 in 2015 to \$3,017 in 2016 – a saving of \$3,045 or 50.2%. The cost per annum of leasing the solar panels is \$4,043 so our outgoings are up but at the end of four years we will own the solar panels outright so from then on we will be benefitting from lower electricity costs. However the fact that we own this building does not mean that it is free. The basic running costs made up of council and water rates, insurance, electricity, telephone, maintenance and other basic costs total around \$25,000 per annum - say \$500 per week. That is the cost of having a club building like this. But if we did not own this building and rented an equivalent space, we would be paying rent from \$55,000 p.a. upwards plus the running the costs.

We get tremendous value out of this club and we should encourage new members so that it remains the leading model railway club in NSW.

This past 12 months a number of members have passed away, some at an older age, some prematurely. As friends we offer condolences and support to relatives. And a message for each of us: don't ignore medical advice about early detection and keeping healthy.

At the conclusion of one year, it is appropriate to acknowledge the efforts of committee members. It was only after joining the committee did I realise the amount of work involved and which is undertaken by committee members in their own time. My personal involvement was impacted by medical circumstances late last year, but the committee continued to function without missing a beat. As well as managing the affairs of the club and running our annual exhibition and two open days, the committee had the additional workload this year of organising the 60th anniversary weekend. I would like to recognise the contributions of our VP Geoff Lanham, our treasurer Marilyn Wilcockson, secretary Glenn Percival, exhibition manager Barry Wilcockson, program manager Philip Lee, and development officer Andrew Murphy. As well I thank David Bennett our building manager, and Damien George editor of Mortdale Matters and liaison person for the hiring of the rail motors for the anniversary weekend. I must thank also John Smythe who spends his time at our club keeping the library in order, and generating income through sales of duplicate books and magazines.



We have an outstanding club, and layouts of which we should be very proud. Let us make the year ahead an enjoyable and successful one.

Robert Merrick
2016 Branch President

Recognition for long serving member

For over 17 years Marilyn Wilcockson has carried out the function of Treasurer of AMRA NSW. As well as that she has, among other things, headed up the catering services at the exhibition in recent years. Both these roles go relatively unnoticed and unrewarded, and yet are vital to the ongoing operation of the club. The Treasurer function in particular demands time on a weekly basis, if not daily, to meet the payment demands of our suppliers and local authorities, and to satisfy the requests of sometimes unappreciative club members.

Marilyn's stewardship has encapsulated the most significant period in the Branch's modern history, the sale of the Rockdale premises and the purchase of our current building at Mortdale, after a lengthy process ruling out five previous options. This included closing the deal by phone from the middle of London Court in Perth and coordinating the property transactions. Marilyn has since been an integral part of developing the substantial facility we all enjoy today.

At the recommendation of the NSW Branch Committee, the Federal Committee of the Australian Model Railway Association recognises Marilyn's considerable contribution to the effective ongoing operation of the club over a long period by awarding her Honorary Life Membership.



Right: Marilyn proudly displaying her Life Membership award. (*Damien George*)



Stoney Creek



"PIZZA DISCUSSIONS"

(H0 FIXED LAYOUT)

08/11/2016, 13337 Hours Of Operation.

Control System

In the month since the changeover fine-tuning and PLC housekeeping have taken up most of the work time.

"Q" Board (The Drawer)

Great to see most operators are embracing the "NEW" concept of Stoney Creek and the use of the drawer.

Signals

Two milestones have been reached over the last month:

The last of the "end of Power section" signals have been installed;

The first of the intermediate Power Section signals have been installed.

Both signals are displaying their correct indication.

Scenery

Yerriyong container yard is looking very good as work continues.

General

Stoney Creek's control system will evolve and become very reliable but as we work the bugs out please be penitent and report all faults (in detail, one per form) so we can work on them.

Denis Gilmore

Stoney Creek layout Coordinator

Mortdale Market

There are still plenty of items available for sale in the cabinet. We also still have a large quantity of items from Norm Davies estate to be sold. If you are interested in any of these items please speak to either Ken or Bruce.

Above: XPT's have taken over Fayetteon station with 4x 7 car sets awaiting departure. (*Andrew Murphy*)



E

ast Matelend

The layout performed well at the recent open day. Plans are well under way for the rewiring, with most the necessary materials needed having been sourced.
Barry Wilcockson

Image credits: Above, Andrew Murphy — Below, David Lane

N

Scale Layout

Thanks to all our "Monday Nighters", they keep busy with running repairs. The scenery and signalling are both progressing well.

Vale: Ash Garrard is sadly missed by all, especially on running days and work nights.
Richard Sinton

National N Scale Convention Adelaide 2017



The 15th National N Scale Convention will be held in Adelaide over the weekend of 7th—10th September 2017. The convention will be held at St Francis Winery located at Old Reynella. The venue has accommodation, but you must mention you are attending the convention when you book. While the final programme has not yet been finalised there will be clinics, demonstrations and layout tours.

Further details can be found on the convention website at www.convention2017.nscale.org.au or on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/NationalNScaleConvention2017. Registrations will open in December, so if you wish to attend you might want to get in early.





Above: Richmond was the lunch stop for the Saturday "End of Line Tour" *(Glenn Percival)*

Below: CPH1&7 after arriving in Moss Vale with the Sunday "Diamond Jubilee Limited". *(Glenn Percival)*



Back Cover: F1 ready for departure from Central heading for Liverpool to drop guests off for the short heritage bus ride to the Exhibition. *(Glenn Percival)*

AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme - October to December 2016

NOVEMBER

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 late
Fri	11th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes) - FEDERAL AGM <u>Postponed</u>		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	12th	Layout Operation (see Notes) ** <u>BRANCH AGM</u> - 2 pm ** (Members Only)	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until late
Sun	13th	General Activities (see Notes) - <i><u>Ladies Needles & Natter (2 pm)</u></i>		10am until 4pm
Fri	18th	Layout Operation - <u>European</u> / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	19th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - <u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u>		10am until late
Sun	20th	(<i>Stoney Creek</i>) Layout 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) - <u>Stoney Creek Layout - Q & A (1 pm)</u>		10am until late
Sun	27th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until 4pm

DECEMBER

Fri	2nd	** <u>FEDERAL AGM</u> ** New date (Members Only)	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	3rd	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until late
Fri	9th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	10th	Layout Operation / <u>24 Hour Running (from 1 pm)</u>		10am (Sat) until ...
Sun	11th	Layout Operation / <u>24 Hour Running</u> - <i>cont. from Saturday - Breakfast available 6 am.</i> <i><u>Ladies Needles & Natter (2 pm)</u></i>		... until 4pm (Sun)
Fri	16th	Layout Operation - <u>Australian Steam</u> / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until
Sat	17th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - <u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u>		10am until late
Sun	18th	(<i>Stoney Creek</i>) Layout Work Day	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Fri	23rd	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	24th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	25th	<u>CLOSED</u> - Christmas Day		<u>Closed</u>
Fri	30th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	31st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until late

JANUARY - 2017

Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	7th	Layout Operation (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	8th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Fri	13th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	14th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until late
Sun	15th	(<i>Stoney Creek</i>) Layout Work Day	<i>No Facility Fee</i>	10am until finished
Fri	20th	Layout Operation - <u>U.K.</u> / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	21st	Layout Operation (see Notes) - <u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u>		10am until late
Sun	22nd	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until 4pm
Fri	27th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night		7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	28th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)		10am until late

NOTES

- **DAYLIGHTERS:** every Wednesday - 10am until 5pm, the facilities may be used *as permitted* e.g. layout construction, limited running, modelling, etc.
- GENERAL ACTIVITIES: the facilities may be used *as permitted* e.g. layout construction, building maintenance, limited running, modelling, etc.
- WORK NIGHTS: every 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
- Facility Fee unless otherwise indicated: Adults \$8 - Juniors/Seniors (70+) \$5 - Visiting Interstate Member Free.
- Guests are always 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
- Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223 - Phone (02) 9153-5901, Fax (02) 9153-5905



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