

# Mortdale Matters



**January 2020**

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc. News

# Mortdale Matters

## January 2020



Welcome back to Mortdale Matters with the first edition of 2020. It has been well over a year since our last Mortdale Matters was published and a lot has happened in the club since. The matter of the constitution was completed and the 2019 exhibition located at our new site of Sydney Olympic Park.

In this edition of Mortdale Matters we have some very overdue updates from the layouts along with a report from our Exhibition manager Damien George on the results of last year's Exhibition. The new committee of 2020 has settled in and we should have news on this years exhibition in the coming editions. We have updated the branch officers/contacts for 2020.

Please join me in congratulating the new members of the committee and here's to a successful and fun year running trains.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Richard Chantler  
**Editor**



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**Front Cover:** 3 Era's of Electric Runners from last day of S sets (Glenn Percival)

**This Page:** Full platforms at Fayenton Station (Richard Chantler)

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### ***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](mailto: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 email, at [matters@amransw.asn.au](mailto:matters@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 2020

<b>ELECTED Management Committee</b>	President	Steve Burrows	<a href="mailto:president@amransw.asn.au">president@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Vice President	Peter O'Brien	<a href="mailto:vpresident@amransw.asn.au">vpresident@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Secretary	Cliff Wiltshire	<a href="mailto:secretary@amransw.asn.au">secretary@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Treasurer	Max King	<a href="mailto:treasurer@amransw.asn.au">treasurer@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Exhibition Manager	Damien George	<a href="mailto:exhibition@amransw.asn.au">exhibition@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	<a href="mailto:publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au">publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Development Officer	Greg Young	<a href="mailto:juniordev@amransw.asn.au">juniordev@amransw.asn.au</a>
<b>APPOINTED</b>	Mortdale Matters Editor	Richard Chantler	<a href="mailto:matters@amransw.asn.au">matters@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Journal Sub-Editor	Richard Chantler	<a href="mailto:subeditor@amransw.asn.au">subeditor@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Building Manager	David Bennett	<a href="mailto:buildingman@amransw.asn.au">buildingman@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Librarians	Sally Ostlund	N/A
	Information Technology	Richard Chantler	N/A
	Mortdale Market	Bruce Harris	N/A
	Webmaster/Digital Media	Richard Chantler	<a href="mailto:webmaster@amransw.asn.au">webmaster@amransw.asn.au</a>
	Public Officer	Geoff Lanham	N/A
<b>LAYOUT</b>	0 Scale (fixed)	Ihor Hinczak	N/A
<b>SUB-COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATORS</b>	<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Barry Wilcockson	<a href="mailto:stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au">stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au</a>
	N Scale	Richard Sinton	<a href="mailto:ngauge@amransw.asn.au">ngauge@amransw.asn.au</a>
	<i>Past and Present</i> (0 Exhibition)	Ihor Hinczak / Lance Pickering	N/A
	<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Cliff Wiltshire	N/A
	<i>U-Drive</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Bill Whale	<a href="mailto:udrive@amransw.asn.au">udrive@amransw.asn.au</a>



# P residents Report

# 2020

To my fellow members,

2019 has been a quite a year for the club with many changes taking place.

This year saw the club reach a resolution in our constitutional matters with Fair Trading, while the outcome has been greeted with mixed feelings by some, it is a relief to see the matter finally closed.

In consultation with all our members, the committee made the decision to move on the exhibition from its long-standing home at Liverpool to a new venue at the Southee Pavilion at Olympic Park. The move has brought with it its share of challenges to overcome but I am sure that as with all new things, once the bugs are shaken out and solved, we will have something truly special for all our members and the public to enjoy. The team out at the showgrounds have done an outstanding job in supporting us in this move and I look forward to the clubs continued collaboration with them.

The committee itself has undergone some changes over the last year, with the positions of Development Officer, Secretary and President all seeing new people take on the role, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has served on the committee, past and present for giving so generously of their time and effort in support of our club. These roles often go unacknowledged in the day to day happenings of the club but the club itself cannot function without the hard work of these people.

Finally, I would like to express my hope that going forward, the new committee, whoever that may be are supported in their efforts by us, the members. It has been very disconcerting to see the club become somewhat factionalised in recent times, with distinct camps in conflict with one another.

At the end of the day, we are all here, united in our mutual passion for our hobby, something that seems to have been forgotten at times. We are all in this for enjoyment, I would hope the club continues to be a welcoming environment for everyone.

Wishing everyone well,

Steven Burrows

**President Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc.**







**Above:** B65 derails at the infamous Midway points (*Richard Chantler*)

**Below:** GNR No. 1 class Stirling Single wheeler collecting carriages for the day (*Richard Chantler*)





# 2020 Committee

Congratulations and thank you to the below members for volunteering to help run the club to the benefit of all members! We are still looking for an Exhibition Manager for this year available for anyone interested in applying for this position.

**Steve Burrows**  
President

**Damien George**  
Acting Exhibition Manager

**Peter O'Brien**  
Vice-President

**Philip Lee**  
Publicity Officer

**Cliff Wiltshire**  
Secretary

**Greg Young**  
Development Officer

**Max King**  
Treasurer

## Open Day

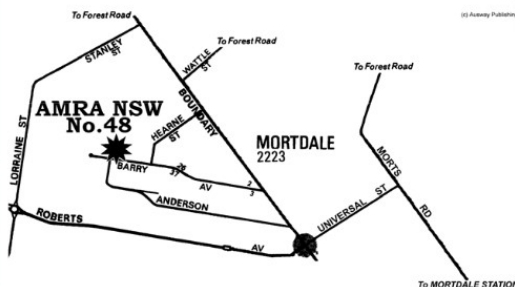
### Australian Model Railway Association - NSW Branch

**Saturday 4th April 2020**

48 Barry Avenue Mortdale

10am until 4pm

Visitors - Entry by donation



N Scale (1:160) - HO Scale (1:87) - O Scale (1:43)  
"U-Drive" HO Layout - Sausage sizzle - Retail Outlets

For more information please call (02) 9153-5901 or visit [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au)



# 2020 Sydney Model Railway Exhibition

Along with the events that have occurred within the club during 2019, there was also some big changes with the exhibition as well.

It was decided by the committee very soon after the 2018 exhibition that the Whitlam Centre had passed its life expectancy as far as our event was concerned, and a new venue would need to be found. Straight after the last AGM the search commenced. There were a lot of venues looked at with many either not meeting our needs space wise, or they were too far away from public transport and/or parking, had inadequate access or were just simply too damn expensive. After a site meeting with R.A.S it was decided to move to Hall 5 at the Sydney Showgrounds.

To say there was a lot of things that had to be learnt in relation to organising the exhibition despite it being our 58th is an understatement.

As expected, there was a few hiccups with the setting up on the Friday, but it was nothing that couldn't be overcome on the day. R.A.S. were fantastic with the support given to us throughout the whole process from booking the venue right the way through to post event.

The committee has already identified a number of improvements that can be made for future exhibitions and after a debrief meeting with R.A.S in the weeks after the exhibition most of the "issues" they had to raise with us we had already identified and come up with solutions that they were more than happy with.

It was very disappointing this year that many members for whatever reason decided to not assist with the exhibition. This coupled with a concerted effort by several commercial exhibitors to run what could be called a fear campaign against the move. What is even more distressing is that I also have hard evidence that members of this club doing the same thing and spreading what was completely wrong information to some exhibitors and in turn they made decisions re exhibiting based on this wrong information.

I have a few thank you's to make. Firstly Geoff Lanham. The support & guidance Geoff gave me over the year was invaluable. Glenn Percival was a sounding board and counsellor. Many times, during the year I would call Glenn and run ideas or suggestions past him without any worry of being judged no matter how wild an idea might be. My wife Rhonda. Without her I would simply have not made it to the exhibition. The support she gave me as well as gave the club through her tireless work over the exhibition including missing our youngest daughters 7th birthday cannot go unthanked. Finally, to the members that gave some of their time over the weekend to help at the exhibition.

This year has certainly been interesting, and I feel we have all learnt a lot.

At the time of writing this we are still in negotiations with R.A.S for use of the venue this year. The committee has decided that we will use the lack of NRL Grand final to our advantage and stay at Sydney Showground for the next 3 years.

I will send out an update as soon as the negotiations have been completed with further information. The COM is also investigating the viability of running a heritage train service to Olympic Park over the weekend of the exhibition as well as a few other exciting ideas. Stayed tuned for more details of these as they are available.

Damien George  
**Exhibition Manager**



# HO Stoney Creek

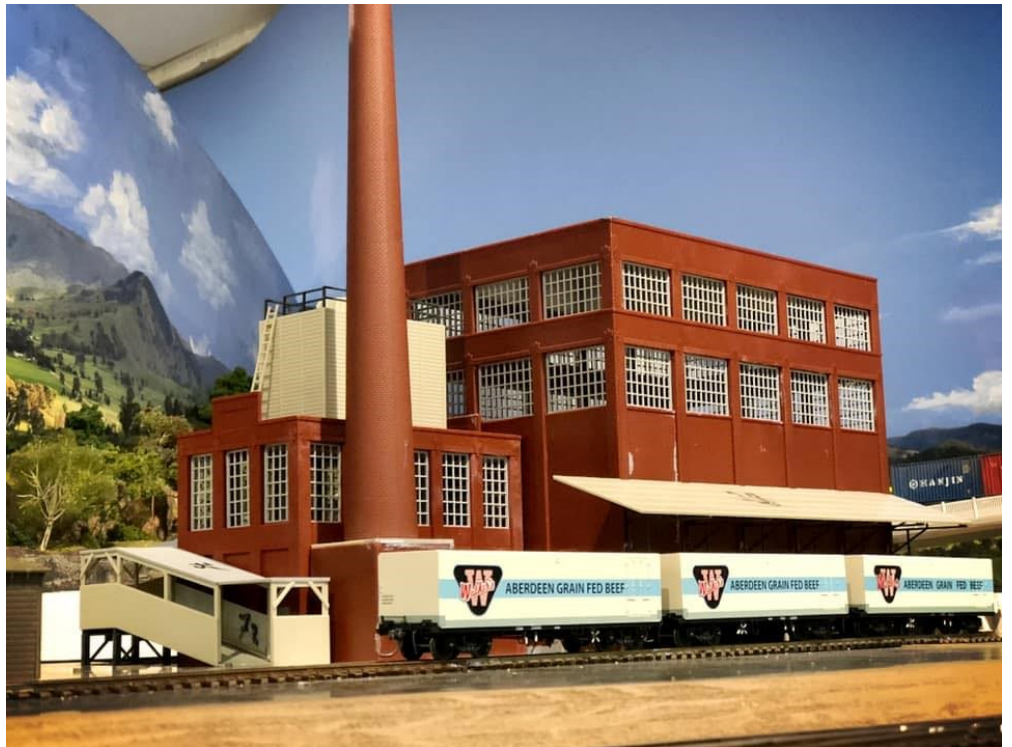
Those who attend the club will notice the gradual appearance of scenery on the layout. This is not something that happens by itself but because of a dedicated team who work behind the scenes to plan, construct and install it. In the areas where the scenery has been placed there is a remarkable improvement to the look of the layout. Keep watching as there is more new work on the way.

While the scenery is being done there is a programme to modify points to make them DCC friendly and modify point motors to make them pluggable. There is also work in progress to bring on more operational features to the layout.

There are a number of issues that appear to be related to the PLCs that controls the layout. The management committee has given approval to contact Toshiba to assist in resolving this. Please be patient if there are problems while you are using the layout and make sure that you document the fault on the clipboard forms near the whiteboard. All faults are investigated, so please give as much information as possible.

We are looking forward to the layout having big improvements this year so stay tuned.

Barry Wilcockson  
Stoney Creek Layout Coordinator



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**Top:** 44206 delivering ballast to Kurranulla. (*Aaron Hobson*)

**Bottom:** Abattoir built by Aaron Hobson. (*Steve Burrows*)

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# U Drive

The construction of the new U drive has been making steady progress.

When set up, the transport frames support the layout at the back and on the sides. The front modules are supported on the outer ends by the transport frames, and in the middle they are supported by in-built swivelling aluminium legs with adjustable feet.

Irregularities of the surfaces at the baseboard meeting joins have been smoothed out. The basic track plan has been marked out, with possible scenic areas also marked. The layout is 4 tracks, comprising 2 double track main lines. The 2 pairs of tracks are not concentric. The outer pair will pass through a tunnel at one corner of the set-up. At one end all 4 tracks come together to pass under a narrow road-over bridge which will service houses on the inner side of the layout at one end. Short platform halts at the back side give children opportunity to "stop at the station". The front of the layout has the main station where the trains start and finish. Because most of the trains are "Thomas and Friends" the scenery will have an English theme. Some of the buildings from the previous U drive will be able to be used to this end. A possibility is a low vertical photographic backdrop of green rolling English countryside.

Min radius on the layout is 24 inches, with 26 and 28 inch radius being used where possible. The inner track, containing the 24 inch radius curves, was laid temporarily and tested. A Hornby P2 2-8-2 steam loco with 8 coaches performed faultlessly on this inner track, proving the concept. The track underlay chosen is Track-right foam rubber, mainly for its sound –insulating properties. Each of the 4 tracks takes about 10 m of this underlay to do a complete circuit. The underlay is held to the baseboard by a very thin but very sticky double sided tape. The tracks are held on the underlay by this same tape.

At time of writing, the underlay for the inner track has been laid. With experience gained this far, the rest of the underlay will be able to be laid quickly and easily. What will be tricky is the fitting of printed circuit board at the baseboard joints and soldering the rails to get a nice clean transition at the joints.

Suggestions are sought for the naming of the station and halts. Something catchy and amusing. "Sodor Central" was one possibility for the main station. There are a myriad of small British places with (to us Australians) amusing names. Or even Australian names (Comebychance, Neverytyre, Bringabeeralong, etc). Something that kids who can read and notice, will appreciate.

The electrics are in the planning stage and will take a while to develop. It is planned to have a system similar to the present U Drive, with automatically timed operation, and an extra refinement. When time runs out, a train will complete the loop and stop automatically at the station.

Thanks are due to Ken and David for the planning and making of the transport frames, which double as support frames when the layout is set up, and Robert and helpers for making the baseboards. Also thanks to Barry for obtaining the all-important baseboard alignment pins and sockets, which work very well.

At the appropriate times, help will be sought from members with specific skills as construction progresses.

Bill Whale  
**U-Drive Layout Coordinator**



# HO East Matelend

The HO layout 'East Matelend' has been put into temporary storage pending both its maintenance work and also to allow the O Gauge layout 'Past and Present' to be set up in the area that East Matelend usually occupies. This is to allow maintenance work to be carried out on this layout with a view to check its feasibility to be displayed at a forthcoming exhibition and to ascertain if sufficient volunteers will make themselves available to assist in this.

This will require the assistance of members present at a future layout running day to assist the O Gauger's to move this layout into position so that those interested can work on it.

Cliff Wiltshire  
**East Matelend Layout Coordinator**



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**Above:** East Matelend full of trains . (*Richard Chantler*)



# Building Report

Discussions are still in progress regarding replacement of our dishwasher with a possible grant. We will provide updates as soon as we hear more.

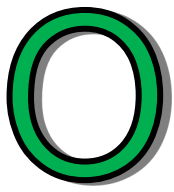
As many of you may have noticed we have a new AMRA sign organized by Peter O'Brien out the front of the building:



# 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 Bruce





# Scale Fixed Layout

## UNIVERSAL TRACKS.

Work on the Control Panels is progressing. The Traction power rewiring is complete, two DC traction controllers and digital displays showing 2-track or 3-track operation and the type of traction power selected have been installed into the two new control panels.

Wiring of the new control panels is about 75 percent complete. Separation of point motor controls is underway and when completed the two tracks will be separated and connected to the new control panel making the layout truly universal

A third control panel for the turntable will be constructed when current work is completed and installation of the turntable commenced.

The Universal Tracks have been and still are operational during the rewiring process.

The operational conflict between HO Layout RF and O Gauge DCS was resolved by trialling an MTH Wi-Fi Unit added to the Track Interface Unit and controlling with an iPad and a smart phone. A switch has also been installed to turn off the HO RF transmitter if no WiFi Unit is available and the TIU handset has to be used.

Two Wi-Fi Units, a second Revision L TIU and a reconditioned iPad may have to be purchased when rewiring of the Universal Track is completed.

## HERITAGE TRACK.

This is operational with required maintenance increasing. The traction power controllers are the main problem and it may be necessary to install the same units as have been used for the Universal Tracks.

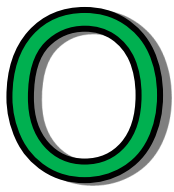
Ihor Hinczak

**O Gauge Fixed Layout Coordinator**



**Above:** Thomas running on O Gauge layout . *(Richard Chantler)*





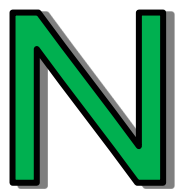
# Scale Past And Present Layout

The exhibition layout is in storage.

When the required area is cleared and the modules delivered to the area work will commence on repair and testing of the layout for suitability of use for exhibition purposes.

Ihor Hinczak

**O Gauge Past and Present Layout Coordinator**



## Scale Layout

Happy New Year to all "N scale" enthusiasts !

We have a brilliant "N scale" track now, so come along and enjoy the friendship with like minded folk, while running your favourite trains.

Our repairs & new work will be ongoing throughout the year, so please feel free to share your expertise.

Richard Sinton

**N Scale Layout Coordinator**



**Above:** N gauge roundhouse . *(Richard Chantler)*





**Above:** LNER visiting Read yard (*Richard Chantler*)

**Below:** 3801 preparing for her first train of the day (*Richard Chantler*)



**Back Cover:** S28 last day of S sets (*Glenn Percival*)



# AMRA NSW Branch Inc. Programme - February to April 2020

## FEBRUARY

Sat	1st	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Fri	7th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	8th	<b>Layout Operation</b> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	9th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	14th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	15th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes) - <b><u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u></b>	10am until late
Sun	16th	Layout Construction / Work Day	10am until finished
		<i>No Facility Fee</i>	
Fri	21st	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	22nd	<b>Layout Operation</b> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	23rd	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	28th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	29th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late

## MARCH

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

## APRIL

Fri	3rd	<b><u>Open Day – Preparation</u></b>	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	4th	<b><u>** OPEN DAY **</u></b>	<b>10am until 4pm</b>
		Clean Up and General Activities	... until late
Fri	10th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	11th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	12th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm
Fri	17th	Layout Operation / <i>Programmed Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	18th	<b>Layout Operation</b> (see Notes) - <b><u>Monthly Forum (3:30 pm)</u></b>	10am until late
Sun	19th	Layout Construction / Work Day	10am until finished
		<i>No Facility Fee</i>	
Fri	24th	Train Maintenance and Testing Night	7:30pm until 11pm
Sat	25th	General Activities / <i>Layout Construction</i> (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	26th	General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 4pm

## NOTES

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

**WORK DAYS:** please check with the appropriate layout supervisor, may be cancelled at short notice, No Facility Fee

Monday nights - 7:30pm until 11pm    Thursday and Friday – 9am until 5pm    3rd Sunday of Month – 10am until 5pm

**FACILITY FEE** unless otherwise indicated for Members and Guests:    Adults \$8 - Juniors \$5

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

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

**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

This program may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, or from [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au)

Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223 - Phone (02) 9153-5901, Fax (02) 9153-5905



