

Mortdale Matters

March 2022



Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc.

From The Editor



Can you believe that we are in March already. The year is certainly flying by.

The clubrooms have reopened and it's great to see the members back enjoying our hobby. There has been a few changes in the way we do things and this is covered later in this edition.

The committee held the first members forum for the year and it was well attended by members. The online access to these forums via zoom has been well received and will certainly continue to be available for future forums. The added benefit of having the forums on zoom is the ability it gives the committee to record the forum to make it available after the fact for those members that were unable to participate on the day. David Kimpton has already sent out a link to the February forum recording in the branch update. If you haven't received that email please contact David to check your email details we have on file are correct.

One of the biggest changes that has occurred is the way members sign into the clubrooms. Gone are the days of the old paper based sign in book. The club now has an electronic sign in process. All the details of the new process are detailed on page 7 of this edition. There are more improvements to the club operations planned, and these will be communicated to the members as they are implemented.

One of the biggest things members want to see more of is communication about what is happening in & around the club. This has certainly been on the minds of several of the last few committee's and how best to improve communications. There have been several attempts to make improvements in the past with varying success. The committee has made a decision to move a majority of the communications to electronic methods. The club has opened an Instagram account to add to our facebook page. The icons on the bottom of most pages are hyperlinks that will take you straight to our accounts.

The com has also started using a bulk email delivery provider called mailchimp. All our bulk emails will now be sent out via this method including Matters. Each email will come from the relevant officer within the club. If you haven't received any emails from the secretary in the past 6 weeks please send David an email he can make sure we have the correct details in our database.

If you have any stories or articles you would like included in an edition of Matters please send it to me matters@amransw.asn.au

Enjoy the rest of this edition. The next edition is due for release on 1st May.

Rhonda George

Editor

This newsletter is published by Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc. 48 Barry Ave Mortdale NSW 2223.

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Front Cover: 3526 leading an excursion train through Yerriyong on the first running day of 2022 (*David Wilson*)

PLEASE NOTE:

Images captured in the operational environment are done so with permission and adhering to the appropriate rail safety procedures & guidelines.



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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 thumb-drive 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 publicityofficer@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 2022

ELECTED Management Committee

President	Steven Burrows	president@amransw.asn.au
Vice President	Peter O'Brien	vpresident@amransw.asn.au
Secretary	David Kimpton	secretary@amransw.asn.au
Treasurer	Max King	treasurer@amransw.asn.au
Exhibition Manager	Damien George	exhibition@amransw.asn.au
Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au
Junior Development Officer	Aaron Hobson	juniordev@amransw.asn.au

APPOINTED

Assistant Secretary	Geoff Lanham	
Assistant Treasurer	Geoff Lanham	
<i>Journal</i> Sub-Editor	Rhonda George	subeditor@amransw.asn.au
<i>Mortdale Matters</i> Editor	Rhonda George	matters@amransw.asn.au
Building Manager	Peter O'Brien	buildingman@amransw.asn.au
Librarian	Sally Ostland	N/A
Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	rosterclerk@amransw.asn.au
Historian	Vacant	historian@amransw.asn.au
Webmaster/Social Media Manager	Damien George	webmaster@amransw.asn.au

LAYOUT

0 Scale (fixed)	Ihor Hinczak	TBA
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SUB-COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATORS

<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	Barry Wilcockson	stoneycreek@amransw.asn.au
N Scale	Richard Sinton	ngauge@amransw.asn.au
<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Andrew Murphy & James Percival	N/A
<i>U-Drive</i>	Bill Whale	udrive@amransw.asn.au



From the President

Wow 2022 is certainly moving very fast. It feels like only yesterday we were all in a food coma after eating Christmas lunch. There has been a lot of activity happening around the club and some long awaited changes have started to occur.

Firstly the topic on everyone's tongues for the past 2 years, Covid. The government & health department have once again started to ease restrictions and mandates. The committee has been monitoring this situation very carefully through our tireless "Covid Marshall" Geoff Lanham doing the lions share of the work wading through the pages upon pages of guidelines to try and put it into layman's terms for the rest of the committee. I will pause here to give my personal thanks to Geoff for his fantastic efforts over the past years dealing with all the health orders etc and guiding the committee to make the necessary & at times hard decisions to ensure the health & safety of the members & visitors. Thank you Geoff.

Ok back to the other stuff. The committee has started to ease the requirements for the clubrooms and these are covered elsewhere in this edition.

The committee has also been slowly improving the technology around the clubrooms & have finally got the electronic attendance system online. This is still in the early stages & there maybe a few tweaks here & there to correct some minor issues found along the way. Thanks goes to David Kimpton & Damien George for getting this project to where it is finally a reality.

It was great to see the turnout we had for the members forum earlier this month. Whilst the intent had previously been to hold a forum every month, that has not always happened. We have been able to now hold a forum in a in-person & virtual setting simultaneously and this is certainly the way the COM wishes to continue. We have stretched the timing out to every 2 months but we can certainly reduce this timeframe should the need arise. The forums are now also recorded so members that were unable to attend on the day can still get the benefit of the information given through the forum.

Finally it is appearing more & more probable that the club will not be in a position to hold a full scale exhibition this year. This is not an ideal situation but unfortunately we were not spared in the pandemic related downturn. That said the COM plans to hold several smaller open days throughout the year as a way of giving the public an opportunity to experience our hobby first hand. More details will be sent out as they are finalised.

Hope to see you around the club.

Steve Burrows
President
Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc.





Above: The Master & The Apprentice. AMRA NSW President Steve Burrows in his role as THfNSW Driver Trainer, giving instruction to AMRA NSW Secretary David Kimpton aka Trainee Driver on the finer points of operating a heritage CPH Railmotor on the loop line, while Guard James Ngo looks on(*THfNSW*)

Additional Opening Days for the Clubrooms

As reported in the last edition of Matters, the committee was in a position to add the 2nd & 4th Sundays to the club calendar. Following on from this , one of the DO's has volunteered to work on Friday nights. As a result the clubrooms are now open on the 1st & 3rd Friday evenings from 6pm - 10pm.

The clubrooms are now open Wednesday's, 1st & 3rd Fridays, Saturday's, & 2nd & 4th Sundays. These days are subject to a DO being available and may change with short notice.

The committee is working hard to make the clubrooms available on more days and will make announcements as things change.

Current Requirements for Attending the clubrooms

For anyone wishing to attend the clubrooms the following protocols are to be followed at all times. Please check at the clubrooms for any changes to these as the situation can change with very short notice.

- * You must be fully vaccinated and show proof of this when asked.
- * You must pre-book your attendance for the day you wish to attend. Bookings open each Saturday for the following week. Bookings can be made by using the link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amra-nsw-running-session-tickets-108844731522>

- * It is recommended you check-in using the Service NSW QR code on arrival.
- * Masks are recommended to be worn in the clubrooms when social distancing can not be maintained.
- * Only 3 people are to sit at any table at the same time. 1 person in the middle of 1 side, and 1 person at each end of the opposite side.

These protocols have been put in place as part of our Covid safe plan as required by NSW Public Health Orders.

Please remember the health & safety of our members is the number 1 priority for the committee and this is always at the front of any process implemented.

Backpage: Heritage unit C3426 finally seeing the light of day after receiving a full repaint by the HET members. The carriage is being hauled to FMC to be put into F1 & renter service (*Chris Winston*)



Electronic Sign in Process

As part of the latest stage of the project to modernise and update the processes at the clubrooms we have introduced an electronic sign in process for members & visitors.

This process was introduced from Saturday 19th Feb and has been well received by those that have used it. Each member will be issued a card as shown below and it will have all the check-in possibilities for the member, i.e. general member, duty officer or committee. At this stage cards have only been produced for members that have attended the clubrooms since October 2021. We will be getting regular batches produced as required. We have the ability to check-in members that don't have a card as yet or have misplaced their card, but this is a slower process that just scanning your card. There will no cost to the members for the initial card, but if you lose your card the replacement cost is \$2.50.

Examples of the cards are shown below.

Front				
Back				
	General Member	Duty Officer	Committee	Visitor

Even with this update we are still using the Eventbrite system for pre-booking for a period of approx. 6 weeks. This is to ensure that the new system is working and capturing all the information we need. At the time of writing it is planned to stop using Eventbrite at the end of March. There will be further communication about this closer to the date.

Check-In Procedure

1. Present your card to the DO at the door to check-in. It will automatically calculate the facility fee due.
2. Finalise payment via cash or EFTPOS

Check-Out Procedure

1. Present your card on departure to the DO for scanning.
2. DO will select the checkout option.

