

Mortdale Matters

May 2022



Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc.

From The Editor



Can you believe that 2022 is almost half over. After the slow drag of the past 2 years, it seems that this year is trying to make up for lost time.

First of all my apologies for the delay in this edition being released. I originally held it back a week to cover the members forum, then life and sick family got in the way, but, here it is at last.

There has been a lot happening around the club. I would like to congratulate Barry Wilcockson on receiving his Honorary Life Membership from federal president Ross McLean at the recent members forum. Also congratulations to Geoff Lanham on receiving a Paid Life Membership for his tireless work for the NSW branch over the past 19 years. For those wondering the difference, paid life membership is the only way a branch can give life membership.

There has been some changes to the operating days & hours of the clubrooms. Friday workdays will be returning from 27th May. There is more information on clubroom opening details later in this edition. 24hr runs have been planned again for October & November.

In this edition there is also information about a Special Operation Group finally restarting. POG is in the final stretches of getting COM approval to reform. See the article for more information.

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 26th June.

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: The old 'S' set & the not so old "T" set electric sets cross each other @ Yerrinyong on Stoney Creek (*Tim Pout*)

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

Hi Everyone, just a short report this month on activities in and around the club from me. First off, it was fantastic to see so many members join un on last Saturday for another Members Forum, for those who may not be aware, these meetings allow myself and the committee to bring everyone up to date with the latest goings on at committee level, while also giving members the chance to provide feedback, offer suggestions and have any questions they may have answered. This time we were fortunate enough to be joined by the Federal President which gave members a chance to get the latest info from a Federal level.

Ross, our Federal President also took the opportunity to present Barry Wilcockson with a Life Membership of AMRA in recognition of his many years of tireless service to the club and ongoing support of the Model Railway fraternity.

It was also my great pleasure to present to Geoff Lanham a Paid Life Membership in recognition of his equally outstanding work in supporting the club, just as with Barry, Geoff has put in many thousands of hours behind the scenes in helping to keep our club running. My heartiest congratulations to both of these fine gentlemen.

Around the clubrooms, work has recommenced in earnest on planning the rewiring and tidy up of 'East Maitland', it is expected that if all goes well the layout will be much more durable, reliable and an excellent showpiece at Exhibitions in the years ahead.

Finally, the committee in in the final stages of arrangements for working group activities to return to the club, please check in with your respective layout coordinators for all the details.

That's about it for now, I hope this reports finds you all well and, as always, see you down the track!

Steve Burrows
President
Australian Model Railway Association NSW Branch Inc.



Left: Federal President Ross McLean presenting NSW member Barry Wilcockson with his Honorary Life Membership at the members forum on 7th May
(Steve Burrows)

Prototype Operation Group - POG

Back in the Rockdale days, there was a small special interest group that would meet to use the HO layout on the 4th Sunday of the month. The group would operate the layout to within an inch of its life. There was not a piece of track on the layout that would not get used.

The premise of the group was to operate a timetable in a NSW prototypical way. With the move to Mortdale and the subsequent lack of operational layout for a considerable amount of time the group fell into an extended hiatus. With Stoney Creek now at a state of reliable operation and with 99% of the trackwork laid and operational, some of the old crew are looking to bring POG out of hiatus.

The committee has already agreed in principal to POG recommencing operation and just need a formal request in line with the Special Interest Group framework. The provisional day for the group to meet will be 2nd Sunday of each month.

It is hoped to be able to hold the 1st meeting in the next 2-3 months. If this sounds like something you are interested in please let Damien George know and he will gladly give you all the details.



Above: CF4408 awaiting a path during its mainline trial after repairs (*Aaron Seeto*)

Upcoming Events

Whilst the club hasn't returned to full pre-pandemic operations as yet, the COM is working on getting us there. The next event to be returned to the programme is the 24hr run.

Yes for the diehards amongst us that need that extra 12hrs of running trains, the 24hr run is back. There is currently 2 scheduled. The 1st will be held on the Saturday of the October Long Weekend (1st). With the 2nd starting on Saturday 26th November. Both sessions will start at 1pm.

The 24hr runs in the past have been great fun with themed sessions of around 2hrs rotating through the whole session.

More details will be released when the days get closer. Anyone that remains in attendance past midnight will be required to pay the facility fee for both days.



Above: A very rare picture of Thunderbird 1. Something has gone array at Winton and TB1 has arrived to save the day (*Duck Wilson*)

Exhibition Update

As has been posted in both of the clubs facebook pages, and announced at the recent members forum, the COM has made the tough decision not to hold an exhibition again this year. There were multiple factors that were considered when going through the decision making process. Uncertainty of restrictions at the time of critical timeline milestones, availability of volunteers for the weekend with other events taking a significant number of members away from AMRA, and also the financial situation of the branch.

As with most of the world, AMRA NSW has not come through the pandemic unscathed, and to hold an exhibition to the size and stature that we would normally hold would put a massive strain on the club bank account that the COM was not prepared to do.

In lieu of an exhibition this year, we will be holding at least 1 open day at the clubrooms. The date set for this is Sunday 9th October. This may even turn into a 2 day event. We are looking at getting a commercial exhibitor or 2 and hopefully a feature layout.

Discussions have already started around holding an exhibition in 2023 and what form that may take. All possibilities are on the table including only holding a 2 day event.

Stay tuned for more updates.

Damien George
Exhibition Manager

East Mateland Upgrade

Many of the members would be aware that our exhibition layout East Mateland is in need of some TLC. Plans for a complete re-wire were started after the 2019 exhibition. There are multiple problems on the layout that have impacted the operation and with its age a complete rewire was deemed to be the most suitable & cost effective solution.

As with any layout of the age that East Mateland has reached, the scenery has started to look very tired & has a few battle scars that need attention.

It is hoped that this work can be completed in time for the club open day in October. If you have ever wanted to learn about wiring a layout, laying some track or even building scenery this is the perfect chance for you to learn. Even if you are some what of a subject matter expert in 1 area there's no problem with learning something new.

There is a considerable amount of work to be done and the layout coordinator will be looking for all the help available. If you want to help out please speak to Andrew Murphy or Barry Wilcockson and they will certainly be grateful.



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.

- * 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.

Website Update

As many have noticed over recent times, the website has been in a static state since the commencement of the pandemic. Our webmaster has started to update the different pages, starting with the homepage, calendar and joining page.

There are plans to give the website a whole new fresh look in the future. If you have any suggestions on what we should include and/or remove from the website please drop our webmaster an email it@amransw.asn.au



A.M.R.A. NSW – PROGRAMME – **Post Pandemic – May 2022**

Until further notice

Saturdays

Every Saturday – General Activities 10am until 10pm #

Sundays

2nd Sunday of Month – Special Interest Groups (as pre-approved by COM) 10am until 6pm #
4th Sunday of Month – General Activities 10am until 6pm #

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday – General Activities 10am until 6pm #

Fridays

1st & 3rd Fridays of Month
- Workdays 9am until 6pm #
- General Activities 6pm until 10pm #

NOTES

- These clubrooms WILL NOT be available to be opened at any other time, without the specific approval of the AMRA NSW Committee of Management.
- # Clubroom hour are subject to availability of Duty Officers.
- 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.
- SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: These Groups must be pre-approved by the Committee of Management.
- WORKDAYS: please check with the appropriate layout supervisor, may be cancelled at short notice, No Facility Fee
- 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

Backpage: Sometimes it doesn't all go to plan. Several wheat/grain wagons in a spot of bother recently at Glenfield
(Photographer Unknown)



