

Mortdale Matters

December 2023



Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc.

www.amra-nsw.com.au

From The Editor



Here we are with Christmas knocking on the door again. This year has certainly flown by. Around the club there have been a few changes during the year, that hopefully will make things better for the members. While there wasn't a great deal that happened during 2023, there are certainly a lot of plans being made for a bigger and more successful 2024.

Last month we saw a largely new committee elected to administer the club for the next 12 months, and they have certainly hit the ground running. Quite a few of the previous committee decided to take a much needed break and did not seek re-election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve, Peter, Max & last but by no means least Geoff for all their hard work over the many years they have spent on the committee. I know they won't become complete strangers and will still be active members of the club.

I hope you all enjoy this edition, and hope you and your families have a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year.

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

See you all in 2024.

Rhonda George

President/Editor

The next edition is due for release on 28th January.



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

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Front Cover: Some visiting JR N Scale trains stretching their legs on the clubs layout (*Unknown*)

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 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 2023

ELECTED Management Committee

President	Rhonda George	president@amransw.asn.au
Vice President	James Percival	vpresident@amransw.asn.au
Secretary	Nathan Hines	secretary@amransw.asn.au
Treasurer	Damien George	treasurer@amransw.asn.au
Exhibition Manager	David Kimpton	exhibition@amransw.asn.au
Publicity Officer	Philip Lee	publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au
Junior Development Officer	Aaron Hobson	juniorddev@amransw.asn.au

APPOINTED

Assistant Secretary	Glenn Percival	TBA
Branch Delegate	Barry Wilcockson	branchdelegate@amransw.asn.au
<i>Journal</i> Sub-Editor	Rhonda George	TBA
<i>Mortdale Matters</i> Editor	Rhonda George	matters@amransw.asn.au
Building Manager	Peter O'Brien	TBA
Librarian	Sally Ostland	TBA
Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	TBA
Historian	TBA	TBA
Webmaster/Social Media Manager	Damien George	TBA

LAYOUT

0 Scale (fixed)	Ihor Hinczak	TBA
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SUB-COMMITTEE

<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	James Percival Thomas Durber	TBA
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CO-ORDINATORS

N Scale	Richard Sinton	TBA
<i>East Matelend</i> (H0 Exhibition)	Andrew Murphy	TBA
<i>U-Drive</i>	Bill Whale	TBA



Around the Clubrooms

Opening Times

As many will already know, the opening time for Saturdays has changed. From 2nd December, the clubrooms do not open until 1pm. This change has been brought about by the declining attendance on Saturday mornings. If demand increases, the committee will revisit the opening times.

Drinks & Chocolates

As discussed at the AGM, the drink machine will be getting turned off from Saturday 27th January 2024. From this day drinks & chocolates can be purchased from the Duty Officer on duty. Also as part of the review of the drink machine, there will be price increases from this date. Whilst the final prices haven't been set at the time of publishing, there will be a Mortdale minute sent out to all once finalised. The increases will be as minimal as possible, but they have become necessary due to price increases from our suppliers.

NCE Throttles

There are a growing number of controllers that are damaged and in need of repair or replacement. It is near on impossible to get parts or new controllers at the moment. On top of the unavailability of units, the cost is something the club is not in a position to afford at this time. The committee asks all members, where you have a compatible controller or smart device that can be used as a controller please bring and use this as the preference. There are still some functioning controllers at the club, but the numbers of these is shrinking and we want to keep these for members that don't have their own controller and visitors.

Member Forum

The committee has set Saturday 27th January 2024 as the next members forum. This is your opportunity as members to make suggestions, ask questions of the committee and, to generally find out what's happening around the club. Prior to this members forum the committee will be holding a COM meeting on Sunday 14th January 2024. The COM will also be holding a planning day prior to the forum to map out the year ahead for the club. As is the norm, the forum will be in person at the clubrooms and also online. A link will be sent out closer to the day.



Left: The new portable layout built by some of our members. Its hoped it will get some use in the new year to help promote the club (*Rhonda George*)

A.M.R.A. NSW – PROGRAMME

As at December 2023

Until further notice

Saturdays

Every Saturday

– General Activities

1pm until 10pm #

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday

– General Activities

10am until 6pm #

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



Left: 7329 on shunting duties @ Yerrilyong. (*Unknown*)

Backpage: NSW member Gregg Notley-Smith leaning out of the cab of 2008 (now named 2-dads after Gregg) pauses with NT36 @ Hornsby on his retirement run. (*David Kimpton*)

Constitutional Changes

Prior to this years AGM, the club held a SGM to pass several special resolutions to amend 2 clauses in the NSW constitution. Whilst the changes were in themselves minor, it is no minor thing to make the changes. We have ticked the first requirement to make the changes by passing the special resolutions needed. The next step in the process is to lodge the changes with NSW Dept of Fair Trading to have effectively the new/updated constitution registered. This step could take a little bit of time as it will be mixed up with the changing of the Public Officer as well as the Christmas/new year period.

Once the committee gets a response for Fair Trading we will let all the members know. One thing members have to remember, until the constitution is registered by Fair Trading, we have to operate under the old rules. Should for some reason the changes be rejected then we will have to continue operating under the old constitution.



Left: Residents of Wincliff are all of a flutter following the apparition of a blue box. Simultaneously, one of the shopkeepers reported a tall man in a hat and excessively long scarf walked in and bought him out of jelly babies! (*Duck Wilson*)

2024 Committee of Management

President

Rhonda George

Vice President

James Percival

Secretary

Nathan Hines

Treasurer

Damien George

Exhibition Manager

David Kimpton

Publicity Officer

Philip Lee

Development Officer

Aaron Hobson

Federal Committee Delegate

Barry Wilcockson





Gregg's
LAST TRIP
Happy Retirement and Good Luck from your XPV Members
**1978
to
2023**

2008

2 Dads

MINI THE GAP

