

Mortdale Matters



June 2024

Australian Model Railway Association New South Wales Branch Inc.

From The Editor



Wow can you believe its June already. The year is certainly flying by. We have had a great deal of things happening around the clubrooms with no sign of it slowing down in the next few months.

There has been a lot of catching up on the little annoying jobs that have needed to be done as well as some what the committee hope are well received improvements.

We have continued with the Bunnings BBQ's, with some of the members working hard at our latest BBQ this weekend just gone at Caringbah. We have 1 more BBQ booked in for Saturday 6th July @ Kingsgrove. After this we will take a few months off the BBQ's to concentrate on other activities. While these have been a great money earner for the club. It takes a fair bit of effort to successfully execute, and with the same few regulars helping out, we don't want to burn anyone out.

We have a few exciting events happening in the coming months, starting with our postponed Open/Table Sale Day in 2 weeks on Saturday 15th June. We also have the Christmas in July dinner on Saturday 20th July.

Looking a bit further into the future, we have the Melbourne trip over the weekend 25th - 27th October. Details for all these events can be found elsewhere in this edition.

The next committee planning day, where we map out the following 12 months will be held on Sunday 21st July. If you have anything you would like the committee to consider for the next 12 months please let 1 of us know before hand and we will consider it.

Finally a huge thank you goes to the members that gave up their time to setup, run and pack up the U-Drive layouts for the THNSW Festival of Steam weekend. From all the reports and from what I personally saw the layouts were well received. A full report of the weekend appears in this edition.

There's a lot more in the planning and we will let everyone know about it all as soon as we can.

See you around the clubrooms

Rhonda George

President/Editor

The next edition is due for release on 4th August.

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

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Front Cover: Two steam locomotives arrive at the main station on the O gauge 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 2024

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
Committee Members	David Kimpton	
	Philip Lee	
	Aaron Hobson	

APPOINTED

Assistant Secretary	Glenn Percival	asssecretary@amransw.asn.au
Branch Delegate	Barry Wilcockson	branchdelegate@amransw.asn.au
<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	TBA
Exhibition Roster Clerk	TBA	TBA
Historian	TBA	TBA
Webmaster/Social Media Manager	Damien George	webmaster@amransw.asn.au

LAYOUT

0 Scale (fixed)	Ihor Hinczak	TBA
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SUB-COMMITTEE

<i>Stoney Creek</i> (H0 fixed)	James Percival	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

Open Day

Our postponed first Open Day for this year is rapidly approaching on Saturday 15th June. We will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm. During this time we will have all layouts operating as well the u-drive. We will also have the kitchen open selling sausage sandwiches, pies, sausage rolls, cakes, sandwiches and the usual drinks & Chocolates. We need as many people as we can get to make the day a success. If you can spare anytime during the day please let Damien know treasurer@amransw.asn.au

Any member giving their time on the day before 4pm will have their facility fee waived for the day and the club will remain open for members until the normal Saturday closing time. Please help us show off our great club to the public.

Transport Heritage

Over the weekend of 18th & 19th May the club was invited by Transport Heritage to take our new U-Drive layout to Thirlmere for the Festival of Steam. We took Kelvyn's small layout with us and both layouts were very well received by young and old alike. At times the line up was 4 & 5 deep with people still waiting to have their turn after the official closing time on the Saturday. While the Sunday was not as busy as the Saturday due to there being events & activities outside the museum there was still a great amount of interest in the layouts.

Transport heritage were so impressed with the layouts, there is discussions happening around possibly taking the new & old U-Drives back to Thirlmere for events later in this year. Stayed tuned for further news on this.

The event was a great opportunity for us to show case the club and we have gained at least 1 new member from the event.

A huge thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to make sure the layouts got to and from Thirlmere, & that they ran all weekend.



Left: Nathan, Damien, Bill, Glenn & Kelvyn posing for a picture after setting up the layouts. (AMRA NSW)

Right: A quieter time on the layout. (Nathan Hines)



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 \$10 - 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

Communication

The committee has heard the members comments about better communication. As the editor mentioned earlier there is a committee member present for most operating sessions.

Also the committee would like to be able to make better use of electronic communication methods with it being a faster and more cost effective way to get information out to everyone. A recent check of the member records has found there are around 40% of members we don't have an email address for.

If you think you may be 1 of the 40%, could you please send our secretary an email at secretary@amransw.asn.au so we can update our records. This will let the committee get any communications out to you a lot quicker.

We thank you for your help in this matter



From the Secretary



We are almost halfway through 2024 and I can honestly say that I can't believe how quickly time is passing by. I am starting to feel more comfortable being in the secretary role, as it has been almost 6 months now but I'm still learning a lot of the intricacies of the AMRA NSW Branch and I greatly appreciate everyone's advice and support when I have reached out to you..

As you have read in this edition of Mortdale Matters, a lot has been happening for the clubroom, which is great to see, with a number of community events and clubroom activities successfully being held. Each and every one of these events assists the committee in ensuring that the ongoing clubroom operating costs are raised and that the clubroom facilities are continually maintained/improved for the benefit of all AMRA members.

I cannot express enough gratitude on behalf of the committee, to the members who are continually rolling up their sleeves and dedicating their time to support the clubroom/community events that in turn ensures that all AMRA members benefit. The ongoing support that you provide certainly doesn't go unnoticed and the committee is certainly looking at trying to bring back ways to express appreciation and recognition of that ongoing support.

What is disappointing to observe however is that there are a number of members who are not volunteering to support the clubroom at these events but are able to turn up to the clubroom on the very same day of these events to use the clubroom facilities. Simply turning up at the clubroom and only contributing a facility fee doesn't go a long way to supporting the ongoing costs of operating the clubroom.

There are a number of members who when providing support to the clubroom are sacrificing time with family and friends and also time that they would also much prefer to be utilising the clubroom facilities to enjoy the very same benefit that other members are getting with only contributing facility fees. We are a club with a current membership of over 200 members. I don't think it is an unreasonable request that a larger number of members try to dedicate some time to clubroom/community events, as a lot of members are able to dedicate time to using the clubroom facilities. With a larger number of member support, the time required for members supporting each of these events/activities is reduced and in turn allows the committee to focus on additional areas that members would like to see improvements in.

In the last few weeks, I have been doing some research looking back in time at the branch history and its easy to see just how much this branch can achieve. This is completely dependent, however, on all members coming together to support not only the clubroom but also one another. The handful of members that are providing continual support (including the committee) can only do so much and the ability to improve/expand the clubroom facilities is what becomes limited if we are unable to grow the number of members supporting the clubroom beyond just a facility fee.

In the fairness of openness and transparency I felt that I needed to bring this to everyone's attention. I know that there are a number of external factors or limitations that restrict or prohibit members from volunteering their time and all I'm simply trying to bring to everyone's attention that without more support, only so much can be accomplished in the operation/improvement of the clubroom facilities. I would like to specifically thank the following people. They have contributed their time to helping make sure the club stays viable and a place for all of us to enjoy our hobby

Damien George
Kelvin Marshall

Rhonda George
Steven Burrows

Glenn Percival
Gregg Notley-Smith

James Percival
Richard Chantler

Chris Winston
Josh Griffiths



Richard Sinton
Graeme Jones
Zane Maber
Tim Pout

Tracey Sinton
Graeme Young
James Silver
David Kimpton

Steven Walker
Matthew Denning
Tom Denham
Max King

Bruce Harris
Bianca George
Bob Taylor
Ihor Hinczak

Martin Vella
Aaron Hobson
Peter O'Brien
Sally Oustland

If any member would like to discuss this further, or has any other branch matter that they would like to discuss, or has any suggestions about how we could increase the member volunteer support base, please reach out to me in person or by sending an email to: secretary@amransw.asn.au

Regards,
Nathan Hines
Secretary



Above: When Treasurer's meet. AMRA NSW & AMRA Qld Treasurer's Damien George (left) & Frank Brigginsshaw (right) deep in discussion talking all things treasury. Didn't make cents to us common folk (*Bruce Meiklejohn*)



AMRA NSW Interclub Visit to Melbourne Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October 2024

Itinerary

Friday 25th

Travel to Melbourne on XPT ST23
Dep SYT 0740
CTN 0818
Arr Mel 1830
Have Dinner and travel to Accom

Saturday 26th

AMRA Vic Clubroom visit
DVR Birthday Weekend 1600 - Late
Will be able to travel on numerous trains and
wonder around the impressive facilities
Dinner will be at DVR

Sunday 27th

Puffing Billy Belgrave to Lakeside
Dep Bel 1000
Arr Lakeside
Dep Lakeside
Arr Bel—1320
Travel to Airport for flight home
QF478
Dep MEL 1800
Arr SYD 1925



Cost is \$680pp This includes accom, all
transport and Puffing Billy fares.

If you wish to make alternative travel ar-
rangements that can be accommodated.

To book email Damien
treasurer@amransw.asn.au
A \$180 deposit is required to secure your
place.

Max places is 15

Happy Birthday AMRA Qld

On Saturday 18th May the President and Treasurer had the honour to be the invited guests at the 70th birthday celebrations for AMRA Qld. The day kicked off very early for the guests with a 6am flight to Brisbane. After sourcing some much needed coffee, it was off to Zillmere for a very warm and inviting welcome at their clubrooms.

To say we were impressed by the facilities would be a very accurate description. The HO/OO layout takes pride of place in the main room. This impressive layout, in the shape of an e, has a double track mainline effectively around the outside with a “branchline” on the inside of the layout. One of the most interesting parts of the layout is the fact you have to “work” your train from yard to yard and you cant simply plonk your train on the track at set it loose to run around the layout.

During our visit, there was a lot of comparing of notes on many topics, with both side of the conversation getting some good ideas. The NSW President was very impressed with the size of the Qld library alone being about the size of our meeting room.

Later in the evening everyone made their way to the Hornets AFL Club for the “formal” part of the evening. An absolutely delicious meal was put on by the club and there were many people seen going back for 2nd's maybe be even some for 3rd's.

After the speeches , the current and all surviving previous presidents of Qld and at the invitation of the Qld president, the NSW president all posed for pictures and cut the birthday cake. We were made feel more than welcome during our entire short stay in Qld and an invitation was extended to any member wishing to visit the club.

On behalf of the NSW committee and members, congratulations to AMRA Qld for making it to the significant milestone of 70 years young and here's to many more birthdays for the club



Above: All the QLD past & present Presidents and NSW President cutting the cake at the AMRA QLD 70th birthday
(Damien George)

Backpage: THNSW 4001 on shuttle duties with 6029 (other end of the train out of shot) running between Picton & Thirlmere on the Festival of Steam weekend. (Damien George)



AMRA NSW

Christmas in July

Saturday 20th July 2024 5:30 pm
\$35pp 2 course meal

Main

Roast pork
Roast Turkey
Baked Vegetables
Gravy

Dessert

Plum Pudding with Custard
or
Fruit Salad with Ice Cream
Tea & Coffee

Bookings are essential as very limited numbers. Please email

treasurer@amransw.asn.au to book



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