



Australian Narrow Gauge Convention Sydney 2009

Saturday, 5 April 2008

9th AUSTRALIAN NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION SYDNEY 2009

The Convention Planning Committee is making some exciting plans for the Ninth Narrow Gauge Convention, which will be held at TARA Anglican School for Girls at North Parramatta (venue for the 2003 Convention) over the Easter weekend in 2009.

Dates: Easter weekend 10 – 12 April 2009. 13 April for home layout tours.

The Venue: TARA Anglican School for Girls, North Parramatta, (SYDNEY NSW)

Schedule: Friday 10 April (Good Friday) Registration & Contest items delivery. 4.00 – 7.00 PM

8.00 AM – 10.00 PM Saturday 11th Full schedule of clinics, workshops, display layouts and trade stands, plus an evening Banquet, Contest presentations and a spectacular after-dinner show.

8.00 AM – 5.00 PM Sunday 12th Close-up view of Muskrat Ramble, the new layout from a new modeling group, (includes the builders of the former Red Stag Lumber Company layout.) Plus a full convention clinic schedule.

10.00 AM – Monday 13th Self-guided Home Layout tours.

The motto of the 9th Convention is “Narrow Gauge – more than just the distance between the rails.” The aim of the committee is to provide as many opportunities as possible for convention attendees to “get their hands dirty” by participating in every facet of the hobby. Sleeping during clinic presentations will be actively discouraged. In fact, you’ll be too busy to sleep.

Whilst details have yet to be finalised, planning is well underway for some well-known modellers and some expert, but less well-known modellers to present a variety of clinics in the main auditorium. Presenters & Workshop hosts will be available in the main exhibition hall to conduct hands-on workshops where you can practice the skills, and maybe take home a sample of your work at the end of the day. This is an invaluable way to improve your skills and gain the confidence to go it alone in your own train room. It’s great to have the guidance of an expert.

CONTEST DETAILS

A full range of modelling contests is planned for the convention, including a new small layout contest that will test your creative skills and imagination to the limit.

As is the norm with Australian Narrow Gauge Conventions, entries in the model contest and the photography contest will be judged by convention attendees during Saturday so that awards can be given on Saturday evening. Modellers who do not like competitions may display their models, both complete and in-progress, in a separate display area that will be set up just for this purpose. Participation aids success, so please bring along your current project for all to see.

Every modeler who enters a model into either the contest or the display section will receive a \$5.00 voucher that may be used as payment or part-payment for goods from any of the trade stands in the main exhibition hall during the course of the convention. There will be a limit of one voucher per modeller

MODEL CATEGORIES

Steam Locomotives. Any steam propelled locomotive - rod type or gear type.

Other Locomotives. Any internal combustion propelled locomotive, including rail vehicles.

Passenger Cars. Any non-self propelled rolling stock designed for use in passenger service.

Freight Cars. Any non self-propelled rolling stock designed for use in freight service.

Non Revenue. Any item of rolling stock, self-propelled or not, including Maintenance-of-Way equipment and cabooses.

Structures. The committee has agreed to classify a structure as a single building, which may be displayed on a board for ease of handling and transport. There should be no additional structures or out-buildings, nor any other detail displayed beyond the boundary of the structure that is being judged. Can include details, people, decoration, etc as long as they are placed in or on the structure. The mounting board, however, may contain no scenery, no detail parts, nor any ground cover. The mounting board may be painted in a single colour if desired. A single structure is defined as “under the same roof,” in line with normal building regulations.

Dioramas. A complete static model representation of any scene. Dioramas may contain scenery, detail components and multiple structures, if desired.

Micro Layout. The challenge is to build an operating layout in any scale within an area of 450 mm x 600 mm. It can be point-to-point, a circle or part there-of or whatever you like, as long as a locomotive will run when power is applied to the rails.

Photographs. The days of film are well behind us, so there will be just two categories in the photography contest – **Prototype Photo** and **Model Photo**.

Photographs may be any size, colour or black & white, and they may be mounted on stiff card (optional), and framed with a cardboard mat board surround (optional). They must not, however, be framed in a glass/wood traditional picture frame. There is a limit of three photographs in each category per photographer.

Awards. All models entered into the modeling competition will be eligible for the following awards:

The M. & A. FRY Best-In-Show award. Judged by convention attendees and may be selected from any of the models on display in the contest room.

NGDU Magazine award. Judged by staff of Narrow Gauge Down Under magazine and is awarded to the model deemed to best “capture the spirit of narrow gauge.”

Best Junior Modeller award. Judged by a panel of members of the 9th Narrow Gauge Convention working group, and is awarded to the best model by a modeler who is under the age of 18 years.

Best Model with an Australian Theme award. Judged by a panel of members of the 9th Narrow Gauge Convention working group, and is awarded to the best model deemed to embody “typical Australian narrow gauge” flavour.

Best Small Scale award. Judged by convention attendees, the best model overall in a scale smaller than O Scale.

Best Large Scale award. Judged by convention attendees, the best model overall in O Scale or larger.

LAYOUTS

A selection of narrow gauge layouts will be on display in the main exhibition hall. Don't miss the release of the brand new swamp layout - "Muskrat Ramble."

Final layout numbers are still to be confirmed, but there may possibly be about nine layouts for your viewing, several of which will not have had a public outing before.

HOME LAYOUT TOURS

A number of modellers have offered to make their home layout available for viewing by convention attendees via self-guided tour during Monday 13th. Details will be confirmed closer to the convention date.

TRADERS

Approximately 10 traders have indicated they are keen to attend the convention, but the final list will be confirmed closer to the convention date.

BRING AND BUY

There will be NO bring and buy stand this time round, but there will be a Trading Post in operation. Just pin a For Sale note to the Trading Post with your contact time and place on it and you can meet your buyer during the convention and do a deal on the spot. There are NO FEES to pay, and you get to negotiate directly with your customers. Just like a car boot sale.

REGISTRATION FEE

The Committee has worked hard to keep the registration fee at an acceptable level, despite a brisk economy. Registration for the whole convention is just \$90.00 if you register by Friday 27 February 2009, and \$105.00 for registrations post-marked Monday 2 March 2009 or later. So register early and save.

Remember, registration includes attendance at all clinics and workshops, a bound copy of all clinic notes, morning tea, afternoon tea and a light lunch on both Saturday and Sunday. That's excellent value for the money.

BANQUET

Stay Saturday evening and enjoy a great roving roast banquet in the newly completed dining room. Dinner (drinks included) will cost just an additional \$25.00 per person.

After dinner, we will convene in the main theatre for the contest award presentations. This will be followed by a spectacular theatrical event with lights, camera and action for the release of the new swamp layout - "Muskrat Ramble." This is a not-to-be-missed event!

Please help our planning and lower our stress levels by registering early. You will find a registration form, together with contest entry forms and a contest rules guide enclosed with this letter. Additional forms may also be downloaded from the web site.

All information is posted on the web site and will be updated as the need arises. If you have any questions or suggestions to make, contact any of the convention committee members listed below, via the Registrar:

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairman / Clinic Coordinator / Layout Coordinator
Exhibition Manager / Technical & Trader Coordinator
Registrar/ Treasurer
Model & Photography Comp. Coordinator/Trader Coordinator

Geoff Nott
John Dimitrievich
Michael Flack
George Paxon

Publicity/ Publications Coordinator
Editor/ Publicity Coordinator/ Web Design
Merchandise Manager
Graphic Design / Master of Ceremonies

Dieter Chidel
Keith McCarron
Steve Pettit
Ray Walter

ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

Some Hotels/Motels experience full occupancy during Easter, so it is recommended that you book your room early. This list is not comprehensive – please research alternate deals for yourself.

INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

There are numerous 4 & 5 star hotels located in the main Sydney business district, about 30 – 40 minutes drive from the convention venue. International hotels closer to the convention include:

Park Royal	www.parkroyal.com.au	(02) 9689 3333
Crowne Plaza NORWEST	1 Columbia Court BAULKHAM HILLS	10 minutes from conference +61-2-96349634
Crowne Plaza PARRAMATTA	30 Phillip Street Parramatta	10 minutes from conference venue + 61-2-96893333
Holiday Inn ROOTY HILL	33 Railway St. Rooty Hill	20 minutes from conference venue + 61-2-98323888
Courtyard by Marriott PARRAMATTA	18- 40 Anderson Street Parramatta	10 minutes from convention venue www.hotel.com.au
Mercure Hotel PARRAMATTA	Adjacent to Rosehill Gardens Racecourse	5 minutes from convention venue (02) 4393 5744

BUDGET HOTELS

There are numerous 3½ star hotels & motels in and around Parramatta. You can view details and even book online at: http://www.check-in.com.au/Sydney/Parramatta_hotels.htm

Parramatta City Motel (Golden Chain group)	40-44 Great Western Highway, Parramatta	www.citymotel.com.au/ (02) 9635 7266
Formule One Motel Wentworthville	377-383 Great Western Highway	20 minutes from convention venue (02) 9769 1240
Wesley Lodge (Best Western chain)	175 Hawkesbury Rd Westmead	http://lm.hotel.com.au/Hotel.asp?HotelID=8401 15 minutes from convention venue

I look forward to your participation, as we anticipate a very successful 2009 Convention.

On behalf of the organising committee,

(Original Signed by)

Michael Flack
Registrar

Enclosures:

1. Convention Registration Form
2. Model Contest Entry Form
3. Photography Contest Entry Form
4. Contest Rules