



National Model Railway Convention

Newsletter # 5

February 2010

From the pen of the President

Not long to go now. By the time you read this missive there will be approximately 37 days to go to Convention 2010. It is therefore, much, much "Closer than You Think"!!!!

A big reminder that you have until Feb 28th to take advantage of the lower rate for registering. At the moment full registration is \$80.00 and from March 1st it will be \$100.00.

At the time of writing most items are nearly locked into place. There is always fine tuning going on and will in all probability still be being happening when the convention starts. We are looking for attendees to arrange/organise the various special interest group meetings (SIGs) that are on offer. I have put my hand up to look after the USA SIG. How that will turn out is anyone's guess!! A good friend of mine has been working on a little project to be used at the SIG, which promises to be a fun time for all.

The Alternative Programme is nearly finalised, with a couple of areas needing to be looked into, but I think that we will be able to cater to all tastes.

Layout tours look good, with approximately 24 layouts, with a variety of scales and prototypes to view.

A reminder that we are running our own in-house competition. This is for a diorama, operating layout, whatever, that does not exceed the footprint of an A3 sheet of paper. A3 is the equivalent of two A4 sheets. We have heard rumours of items being constructed for this competition. If this is the case it should be an excellent addition to the normal competitions.

There are three, HO scale 50ft box cars up for grabs. These have been donated by Eric Brooman. The recipients will be three registration numbers drawn from all who have registered

That's it from me, at the moment. Look forward to seeing you at Convention 2010!

Douglas Harrison

President

Christchurch Convention 2010

One day registrations

As noted previously there will be no public day but the convention is very definitely open to anyone, either by way of full registration or one-day registration. If you can't spare a whole weekend you can choose a day and participate fully in convention activities for that day. One-day registrations cost \$50 (under-14s \$20). Come on the Friday and you could go to two clinics plus Iain Rice's keynote talk, take part in a workshop session, build a small bridge and go to a couple of special interest group meetings (SIGs). Come on Saturday or Sunday and you could take in two clinics, go on a layout tour, learn figure painting or tree making, plus on the Saturday, take part in a workshop session and a couple of SIGs. Every day there will also be trade stands, a buy/sell table and in-house layouts—and a raft of other modellers.

Early registrations close Sunday 28 Feb. Late registrations: \$100

Want things to see and do? Picture this

Eight in-house layouts, another 25 or so on tours and some 40 how-to sessions. The pictures on these pages present just a few samples.

Find out more at <http://www.gcmrsleeper.org/NZAMRC/>

Just a few of the in-house layouts, (A) Arauatu, (B) One Track Minds, (C) TALMR.

The 40-odd how-to sessions include figure painting (D), photographing models (E), modelling in styrene (F) and a host of other topics.





1. A scene on the Garden City MRC's 16.5mm-gauge layout.
2. A bonus on the layout visit to Glen Anthony's G-scale Rocky Creek is a look at his fascinating animated Stamping Battery.
3. Learn how convert off-the-shelf models to other scales or prototypes. This 1:64 scale Heisler began life as a Rivarossi model in HO scale.
4. Without custom decals, making a model like this would be almost impossible. One of the workshops shows how these decals are made.
5. Seeing other people's modelling is always of interest, so bring something to display yourself.
6. Home layouts are a great source of new ideas and inspiration. They also show, as Lyttelton does, that building a layout need not be an overwhelming prospect.



Post-convention attractions

- Easter Monday: Solid Energy 'Trains, Trams & More' weekend at Ferrymead continues (with Mainline Steam's JB1236 & Ab663); model retailers open. Some additional home layouts will also be open to visitors Monday afternoon.
- Sat April 10: Mainline Steam's Waipara Wanderer excursion to the Weka Pass Railway.

A3 in-house competition reminder

Convention 2010 is also sponsoring its own novelty layout competition. This is intended as a bit of fun. Iain Rice will be our guest judge and there will be prizes for:

- The best diorama
- The best working layout
- And a special award—Iain Rice's Accolade for Ingenuity

So why not have a go ... just for the fun of it!

Could their lack of support be your opportunity?

We are sorry to have to report a lack of support from full time model shops, either locally or nationwide. That won't be as bad as it sounds for visiting modellers because Christchurch has some really good model shops and they will be open during their usual Easter hours on Thursday, Saturday and Monday.

Something for anyone with ambition to note however is that there looks like being a vacuum as far as non-cottage industry products are concerned at the convention itself. To someone with ambition that could mean a very real opportunity to step into that gap and get a new business away to flying start.

If that sounds like you, get in touch soon.

Alternative Activities programme feature: Darryl & Judys Cycle Adventures

For a unique experience, come exploring along some of Christchurch's dedicated cycleways, cycle lanes and country roads with Darryl & Judy's Cycle Adventure tours. Cost is \$14 per person per tour for a late model hired bike and helmet—or use your own and tour free. Two tours each taking from 40 to 80 minutes at a relaxed 'ambling' speed are planned for the Saturday (or Sunday if the weather is bad). The first leaving at 1:00pm and the other at 3:00pm, with the actual routes being chosen by consensus on the day. Darryl needs hired cycle numbers before the convention starts so please register your interest ASAP by writing to PO Box 13999, Christchurch 8141 (or E-mailing ch-railz@e3.co.nz). On arrival, please confirm your place at the Registration Desk and pay for cycle hire if applicable.



On-site pay facilities

In our modern age of Eftpos and credit card transactions, we need to remind you there'll be no electronic payment facilities available at the convention venue, so you'll either need to bring cash or your cheque book. There are ATM and retail outlets nearby plus a Select Shell shop (open 6am-12pm) located at the western end of Normans Rd (Strowan Rd. corner).

Buy/sell table

The buy/sell table promises to be a good way to find those hard-to-get items or quit the things you no longer have a use for. It will operate throughout the convention. Sellers pay a 10% commission on items sold. Go to <http://www.gcmrsleeper.org/NZAMRC/> to download a form on which to list items for sale. We already have a sizeable entry of models.

