



# RAILS @ ROSEHILL

Australasian Region National Convention 2023  
National Model Railroad Association

29 September - 2 October 2023

6029 is part of the collection managed by Transport Heritage NSW

Newsletter #3 | March 2023

[rails@rosehill.org.au](http://rails@rosehill.org.au)

On Track to Rosehill

## Welcome to our third Rails@Rosehill Newsletter!

I am delighted to announce that **registrations** are **now open** for **Rails@Rosehill**! [Click this link](#) to access the event booking system to reserve your ticket.

Ticket options are explained on the next page covering the Friday Evening Canapes, Convention Clinics, Convention Dinner and the Partners Program.

I am excited by what your convention team have been able to put into the 'Convention Ticket', I truly believe we are presenting good value options.

Also open is registration for your accommodation at our host venue, **Rydges Parramatta**. [Click this link](#) to access and make your booking direct with the Hotel.

Thank you to the Members who have offered to run clinics. On Page 3 of this Newsletter we have listed the clinics we have scheduled so far for each of Saturday and Sunday. I think you will agree that the range of topics offered is exciting! In April we will bring you a detailed list including: clinic timing, a narrative, the 'take outs', and intended audience for each Clinic. This information will enable you to plan your clinic journey.

Our Layout Tour planning is well advanced with an diverse range of layouts to visit. We are scheduling the tour program over three days and you will have the opportunity to visit both private and club layouts on Friday, Monday and Tuesday of the Convention.

Tour layouts on display demonstrate extraordinary features of planning, operation and scenery. You can choose to inspect well known and acclaimed layouts in the hobby. Layouts for **Rails@Rosehill** feature new and never-before-seen layouts from highly skilled modellers; on display for the first time!

The participants in the Partners Program will be joined by their Hostess and travel by coach to Darling Harbour to join 3 hour cruise and a 3 course 'Top Deck Long Lunch'. A great Saturday outing returning to Rydges Parramatta by 5pm. On Sunday, Partners will be taken on a tour of two iconic, historic sites in Parramatta and will return back to the Hotel for lunch around mid-day. This is looking to be an exciting program!

As part of the **Rails@Rosehill** Convention we hold a Modelling Contest that any/all attending members can enter! I am hoping to see quite a number of entries. Please read the information in this Newsletter about entering into the Contest.

Over the winter months I encouraging you to put your skills and talents into building an 'A4' sized diorama and bring this with you to **Rails@Rosehill**. I have seen some amazing creations from a focused challenge such as our 'A4' Challenge! More information is on the Contest page.



- ◆ Convention Registrations are open: [Click here to Register](#)
- ◆ Partners Program Registrations are open: [Click here to Register](#)
- ◆ Accommodation Bookings are open: [Click here to book](#)

Yours sincerely

**John Arrowsmith**

Convention Host

Email: [host@rosehill.org.au](mailto:host@rosehill.org.au)

Div 7 Super



## Key Information

\* Save the Date

Dates: 29 September—2 October

The Venue: **Rydges Parramatta**  
116-118 James Ruse Drive  
Rosehill NSW 2412

Program Outline:

**Friday:** Layout Tours, Welcome Canapes  
**Saturday:** Clinic Program, Convention Dinner  
**Sunday:** Clinic Program, Kids & Grandkids  
**Monday:** Layout Tours  
**Tuesday:** Layout Tours

Clinic Program: **Clinics offered to support modellers new to the hobby through to emerging topics and techniques, and prototype modelers.**

Bring Your Kids/Grandkids! **Sunday morning bring your kids and grandkids to see and run the on-site layouts.**

Partners Program: **A lunch cruise on Sydney Harbour and visit to Parramatta historic sites.**

Layout Tours: **Tour program covers south of Sydney, general Sydney area, and north of Sydney over three days.**

Accommodation: **Available at Rydges Parramatta, and other venues nearby.**

## Contact Us:

- ⇒ **Program:** [rails@rosehill.org.au](mailto:rails@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Contest:** [contest@rosehill.org.au](mailto:contest@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Layout Tours:** [layouttours@rosehill.org.au](mailto:layouttours@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Prototype Tours:** [prototype@rosehill.org.au](mailto:prototype@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Partners Program:** [partners@rosehill.org.au](mailto:partners@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Registrations:** [registrations@rosehill.org.au](mailto:registrations@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Shop:** [shop@rosehill.org.au](mailto:shop@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Accounts:** [accounts@rosehill.org.au](mailto:accounts@rosehill.org.au)
- ⇒ **Host:** [host@rosehill.org.au](mailto:host@rosehill.org.au)



A diesel-hauled rake of wholestick cane trucks passes through the station yard on the way to the mill in a typical Queensland country scene. The wholestick trucks were scratch built using an HOe chassis, the locomotives were often built on an N gauge chassis.

A Brisbane modeller, **Greg Stephenson** is one of more than a hundred contributors to NMRA-affiliated **CaneSIG**. Greg has also been a frequent contributor to the Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention.

*Greg Stephenson's OO9 freelance Queensland-style layout.*



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## Your Convention Ticket Options:

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

	Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea	Friday Canapes	Layout Tours Friday, Monday and Tuesday	Clinic Program Saturday and Sunday	Convention Three Course Dinner	Partner Program Saturday and Sunday	Ticket Value
NMRA Member and Dinner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	\$330
Non-NMRA Member and Dinner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	\$360
NMRA Member (No Dinner option)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	\$260
Non-NMRA Member (No Dinner option)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	\$290
Partner Program and Dinner	✓	✓	Optional	—	✓	✓	\$280
Partner Program (No Dinner option)	✓	✓	Optional	—	—	✓	\$210
Convention Dinner Only	—	—	—	—	✓	—	\$80

## Your Rydges Parramatta Options:

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

	Friday Night	Saturday Night	Sunday Night	Monday Night	Car Parking	Breakfasts	Included
Superior Queen	\$240	\$240	\$180	\$180	Complementary subject to availability	Own Cost	WiFi
King Room Converted to two Queen Beds	\$240	\$240	\$180	\$180	Complementary subject to availability	Own Cost	WiFi

On-site facilities include: Restaurant, Bar, ATM, laundry, room service. Facilities are available for disabled or mobility impaired guests.

## 2 Day Partners Program Overview:

Saturday starts from Rydges Parramatta at 10.00am for a coach trip into King Street Wharf where guests will embark at mid-day on a three hour cruise on Sydney Harbour. Soak up the Harbour sights, engage in fellowship all the while enjoying a three course lunch. Your choice of beverages will be extra. Guests will arrive back at the hotel by coach by 5.00pm.

Sunday starts at 9.00am back on the coach for a tour of Parramatta and surrounding historical landmarks including **Hambledon Cottage** with a guided tour and morning tea/refreshments, then on to **Old Government House**, Parramatta. Back to the Hotel for Lunch and a chat!

Built in 1824, **Hambledon Cottage**, was part of John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm estate. It was used as additional accommodation by the Macarthur family and their friends. Best known resident was Penelope Lucas, governess to the Macarthur daughters. All of the furnishings are genuine period pieces and some have a special connection with the early colony. The cottage is built of sandstone brick and is a house museum - offering you an accurate sense of a colonial cottage in the early to mid 19th century! To find out more you will need to book on the Partners Program!

Did you know that **Old Government House**, which was built by convicts in 1799 on Indigenous Darug land, is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site? It is the oldest surviving public building in Australia. To find out more interesting history...book on the Partners Program!



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



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## Clinic Program Overview

Clinics are scheduled over Saturday and Sunday and are offered in three streams: 1) for the beginner or early adopter of model railway/railroad or a technology, 2) for modellers who are down the track with their layouts, and 3) a stream covering prototype modelling.

At the time of writing, 27 Clinics are scheduled, some 45 minutes and others 1 hour 45 minutes duration. Workshops, discussions and presentations make up the styles of clinics. The list below outlines the Clinics scheduled for each day.

### Saturday

- Arthur Hayes MMR: **Prototype to Model**
- Chris Minahan: **LCC – the Current State of Use in Layouts**
- Duncan Cabassi: **Setting Up For Operations with JMRI Ops Pro**
- Garry Glazebrook: **Moving Coal on the Newcastle-Fassifern Layout**
- Garry Glazebrook: **A Newcastle Rail and Industry Museum**
- Gerry Hopkins MMR: **Getting Those Projects Finished You Started a Few Years Back!**
- Gerry Hopkins MMR: **Wheels, Rails, Pickups**
- Jeff Lee MMR: **Scratch Building Industrial Sites**
- Ruth Garbutt: **Photography: Focus on Composition, Creativity, and Telling the Story.**
- Steve Chapman MMR: **On30 Module Puzzle**
- Steve Pettit MMR: **Baseline Weathering**

### Sunday

- Arthur Hayes MMR: **Building a Farm Shed**
- Arthur Hayes MMR: **Tips & Techniques For Modelling in Styrene**
- Craig Mackie: **How to Train Your Crew**
- Craig Mackie and PK: **Weathering in a Can and with an Accent**
- Darren Lee: **Operations: How to get started and the enjoyment it adds**
- David Howarth MMR: **The Journey in developing an O Scale Layout of the New York Central West Shore River Division**
- David O'Hearn MMR: **3D Printing**
- Gary Ruming: **The Online Resources**
- Graeme Barnes MMR: **Planning Your Layout using the rewards and constraints of your aspirations**
- Ian Barnes: **Layout Operations - A Workshop**
- Ian Barnes: **Logging Railways - a Modeller's Dream**
- Ian Sprent: **An Introduction to JMRI and Why You Need It ?**
- Ian Sprent: **JMRI Software Installation and Configuration**
- Martyn Jenkins: **Interactive with Jim Scarse (NCE) on History and Direction of NCE**
- Paul Cassar: **Proto Throttle by Iowa Scaled Engineering Prototypical Operations**
- Peter Jensen: **Operations Using Track Warrants**
- Steve Pettit MMR: **Trees for the Forest**

Further clinics are being finalised and will be included in the April Newsletter along with a **full briefing and current timetable for each clinic**, including what you can expect as a 'take out' from each of the clinics.







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## Layout Tours

Visits to private and club layouts are an appealing feature of model railroad Conventions. **Rails@Rosehill** will hold 3 days of layout visits to give all modellers an opportunity to view the progress of the hobby.

Layouts on display demonstrate extraordinary features of planning, operation and scenery. Guests can choose to inspect well known and acclaimed layouts in the hobby. Layouts for **Rails@Rosehill** feature new and never-before-seen layouts from highly skilled modellers; on display for the first time.

Modellers attending **Rails@Rosehill** can create their own personalised layout tours using a booking system specially created for the Convention.

Layout tours will span three days either side of the formal Convention sessions. Travellers from interstate have the opportunity to book and visit layouts as they drive to the Convention, and on their return home. Guests can select layouts from all parts of Sydney and surrounding regions.

Hosts will offer their layouts in reserved times on Friday 29 September, Monday 2 October and Tuesday 3 October. All Hosts will be open for general inspection and some Hosts will offer operating sessions.

There are many model railway clubs open for inspection as part of the NMRA National Convention. Clubs have more than a single layout; in some cases up to five layouts of diverse scales. The listing of layouts include clubs and private layouts in clusters for ease of location.

To plan your layout tour itinerary, an online booking system will be available from Thursday 1 June. The booking system will offer layouts clustered together for ease of selecting nearby locations. For each layout, Hosts will offer visit times and maximum numbers of Guests. All layouts will be open for inspection and some Hosts will offer operation of the layout as part of your visit. Operating sessions are a feature of club layouts.







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The booking system will give confidence to Guests that their reserved visit will be trouble free and restricted to a maximum number of total visitors. The Host will explain to all Guests at the same time the features and operation of the layout. Using the maps and locations of all layouts gives a mechanism for Guests to plan travel times between layouts.

Introduction of three day layout visits gives Hosts an opportunity to also become a Guest at layouts they may have never visited. Hosts offering their layouts for inspection as part of the National Convention receive AP (Achievement Program) points as volunteers to the NMRA.

The search for layouts for **Rails@Rosehill** is ongoing. Layouts can still be included. To be a Host, or to get more information about layout tours, contact [layouttours@rosehill.org.au](mailto:layouttours@rosehill.org.au) or call **Graeme Barnes** on 042 740 0755.







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## **Contest Information:** Contest Chairman: Gerry Hopkins MMR FMRA

As part of the Convention we hold a **Modelling Contest** that any/all attending members can enter! Click this link to the [Contest Information](#) page on the AR Region Website which explains the options and categories available.

The link above includes an explanation of the contest rules and categories available, with links to explanations of the forms needed to enter a model in the contest.

Have you thought about entering into the **Photography Contest**? This will be judged by someone who has won the contest a few times herself – *Ruth Garbutt*.

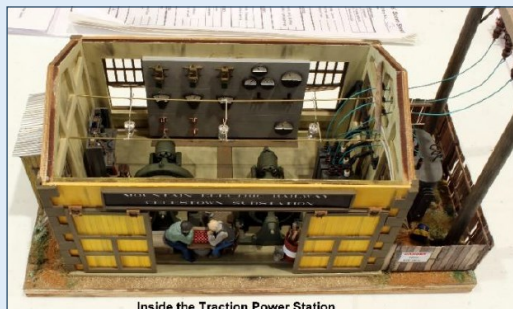
The **Rick Shoup Award** is awarded for the Best Model Of An Australasian Prototype. This model can be a loco, rolling stock or structure. The choice is yours!

The **John Baker Award** is awarded for the best Model Of An American Prototype. This model can be a loco, rolling stock or structure. The choice is yours!

Additionally, attaining a point score of 87.5 points, or 70%, entitles the entrant to a **Merit Award** which counts towards the **Master Builder Awards** in the **NMRA Achievement Program**.

Here is the link again: <https://nmra.org.au/contest-information/>

*These are some photos of previous entries:*



Inside the Traction Power Station



NSW PC1 Station



If you require any information on the Modelling Contest, please email the [Contest Chairman](#), he is happy to assist.

## **Up for a Challenge—an 'A4' Challenge?**

Your skills and talents are called upon to create a diorama with a foot print exactly the size of an A4 page—that is 297mm by 210mm.

\* Your diorama can be any height! \* Must have at least one human and one animal included. \* Not to include any 'trains'.

*Think about:* movement, light, and sound. Maybe something typical of the location or era your modelling. *What about:* ...water...lights... Dioramas will be on display in the Contest area and during the Convention Dinner.





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## More Places to Stay

There are other places you could choose to stay during **Rails@Rosehill**. You will need to make contact with the hotel or motel to make your own enquiries and bookings. Here is a selection:

**Nesuto Parramatta**—within 0.1km

**Mercure Sydney Parramatta**—0.6km

**Meriton Suites Parramatta**—1.5km

**Holiday Inn Parramatta**—1.6km

**SKYE Hotel Suites Parramatta**—2.2km

**Novotel Sydney Parramatta**—3km

Optionally, check with: [www.bookings.com](http://www.bookings.com), [www.wotif.com](http://www.wotif.com), [www.hotelscombined.com.au](http://www.hotelscombined.com.au), [www.stayz.com.au](http://www.stayz.com.au) for these and other options. *Be mindful of the distance and cost to get to and from the Rydges Parramatta when considering your choice of accommodation.*

## On Line Resources:

In this hobby there are many exceptional online resources both here within our Region as well as internationally. These are found as podcasts, websites, YouTube channels, blogs, chats, etc. *For example:* Luke Towan, Will James Railways, Around The Layout, Second Section, TCD Crossing Gate, Modellers Life, NMRax, DCC Guy, Chadwick Model Railways, Ron's Trains and Things, Little Wicket Railway...

**The questions is:** what other resources have you found of value and would *highly recommend* to the members in our Region?

Dispatch an email to: [Rails@Rosehill.org.au](mailto:Rails@Rosehill.org.au). The contributions will be published at Rails@Rosehill.

## Bring Your Kids and Grandkids (BYKG)

Sunday morning will be a special time when Conference attendees are able to share some of the Conference with their 'kids and grandkids' (BYKG)! A time when you can personally host them to see and run some of the exciting layouts we have on-site —to see more of what it is that takes up your spare time!

If you have family in the Sydney area during Rails@Rosehill who you would like to be able to share this experience with, let them know now so they can mark their calendar.

There will be two timeslots available:

- ◇ 9.30am through to 10.30am followed by morning tea at 10.30am
- ◇ 11.00am through to 12.00min-day preceded by morning tea at 10.30am

There will be no cost for BYKG, but bookings will be essential. Numbers will be limited.

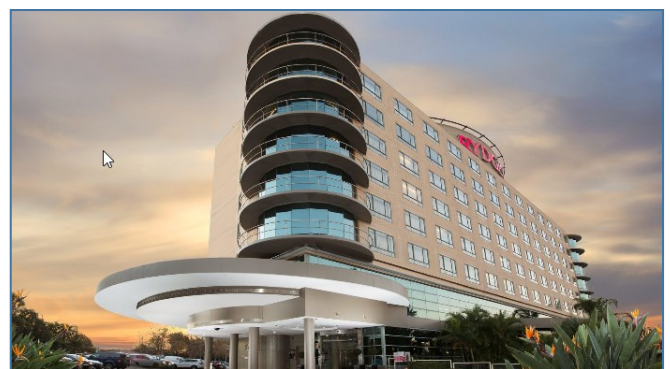
*Further details in coming Newsletters.*

## Getting to Rydges Parramatta:

**By Car:** Rosehill is accessible from Sydney's Motorway network:-

Use your GPS for directions to Rydges Parramatta (situated opposite Rosehill racecourse). Complementary parking subject to availability.

- ◆ M1—North Connex—Carlingford—James Ruse Drive
- ◆ M2/Hills Motorway—Carlingford—James Ruse Drive
- ◆ M4/Western Motorway: either direction—turning off at James Ruse Drive
- ◆ A40/Victoria Road turn off into James Ruse Drive
- ◆ A44/Parramatta Road: turn off into James Ruse Drive



**By Train:** From Parramatta Station (the closest major station) then catch the M92 bus to stop 2142152 (opposite Prospect Street).

**Flying:** from Sydney Domestic Airport:-

- ◆ From Platform 1 to Central Station platform 21 (usually) - T8 Line
- ◆ From Platform 18 (usually) to Parramatta Station - T1 Line
- ◆ Then either by M92 bus to stop 2142152 (opposite Prospect Street) or by taxi to Rydges Parramatta

**Best Supporting Tools:**

- ◆ Apple/Google Maps
- ◆ TripView from the App Store or Google Play

