

All Aboard 2024

April 26 -28, 2024

Corban Estate Arts Centre, West Auckland

Newsletter 4



Brendon Lean built this kit-based model of a KiwiRail DH class loco, adding details and his own modifications including shunter's refuges.

Venue

Corban Estate Arts Centre, [2 Mount Lebanon Lane, Henderson, Auckland.](#)

Registration

Registration for the convention is now open.

- Full registration fee is \$100 if paid by March 31, 2024.
- The fee is \$120 for April 1, 2024 onwards.

[Click here to Register](#)

Layout Tours

The Southern Pacific joint line subdivision



The Southern Pacific joint line subdivision, originally a segment of the Pacific Electric Railway's mainline in Southern California, came under the ownership of the Southern Pacific in 1965. This subdivision features a double-deck HO scale layout, incorporating a single-track mainline complemented by two return loops. The layout operates on DCC (Digitrax) technology and has been operational for three years.

The Grande Southern Railroad



Embark on a journey through the Rockies aboard The Grande Southern Railroad. This 5m x 6m N scale layout, powered by DCC, captures the essence of the Rocky Mountain landscapes traversed by the D&RGW and SP, featuring quaint small towns and picturesque snow-capped hills. The layout boasts a sprawling main line complemented by two short lines, operated by the BN/SF and UP, offering a diverse and scenic railroading experience.

The Western Springs Railway - MOTAT Prototype tour



Explore the workshops that shelter three functioning large steam locomotives: F-180 “Meg Merrilies,” L507, and Y542, amidst an extensive array of trains and railway vehicles. The tour also features a variety of carriages and intriguing items. Enjoy jigger rides during your visit.

Note: This tour is exclusively available on the Saturday of the Convention.

Great Northern Minot Subdivision (Cira 1956) - Steve



The layout is a multiple deck, around the walls, shelf style layout with a helix to connect the levels. Built for Car Card operations. Point to Point design allows you to follow your train with staging at each end. Return loops for re-staging trains and continuous running. Plus branch line off the main with its own helix to lowest level.

Track work is 95% complete. Code 70 and 55 Microengineering Scale Rail and Yard Ladder system. 148m of Mainline from staging to staging. (485ft or 8 HO scale miles.) Mid deck 1230mm high Next Deck 1580mm. Small amount of Ballast & scenery completed.

NZR (9mil) – Trevor

Trevor's 9 mil layout is one of a small number of non-modular 9 mil layouts in New Zealand. The layout takes up most of a purpose-built 16m x 7m shed and models iconic New Zealand scenes. About two years ago, Trevor, with help from other well known NZR modellers, added a detailed model of the Opua Wharf as it was. The addition of the wharf means the maximum number of visitors to the layout at a time is 12.

Garden Railway – Michael

Michael's layout has been featured on TV and is one of New Zealand's best known garden layouts. The layout permits battery-powered and live steam locomotives. Michael has added a lot of scenery since the layout was last on a tour (in 2018). Different types of locomotive will be running during the layout tours.

Märklin Layout - Barry

Barry's layout is a large HO Märklin layout that models European scenes. It has been nine years since the layout was on a layout tour and it has been greatly enhanced since then. The enhancements include

automated train control and the use of the Faller Car System to control the movement of vehicles on the layout's roads.

Other layouts on the Tours (more information to come)

- USA - Martin T
- Waitakere & Western Railway HO - Western Districts Model Railway Club Inc.
- Waitakere & Western Railway N Scale - Western Districts Model Railway Club Inc.
- Freelance American Layout HO - Auckland Central Model Railway Club inc.
- Sheffield OO Layout - Auckland Central Model Railway Club inc.
- Small N-Scale Layout - Auckland Central Model Railway Club inc.
- Other layouts to be announced

There will also be the North Shore Model Railway Clubs portable NZR layout on site at the convention. As well as other displays, trade stands and some manufacturers.

Please be aware that all layout tours are subject to modification. Circumstances beyond our control may necessitate changes to the schedule or the content of the tours.

Clinics

Our agenda includes a series of 10 clinics, each lasting 45 minutes including questions

Our clinics cover a broad spectrum of topics within the model railway hobby, and we are particularly excited to introduce subjects that have not been featured at previous NZAMRC conventions. In addition, we aim to spotlight the modern innovations within the hobby, catering to a wide range of interests and expertise levels.

Highlighted below are a few of the clinics we are looking forward to:

- **Arduino: DCC++ EX with Low Cost DCC Boosters by Gary Snow:** Dive into the world of digital command control with an economical approach, exploring how Arduino can revolutionize your model railway setup.
- **Preparing and Assembling 3D Prints by Lewis Holden:** Gain invaluable insights into the preparation and assembly of 3D printed components, a cutting-edge aspect of model railway building.
- **Railway Work Equipment in Operations by Joshua Hill:** Discover the intricacies of railway work equipment and its operational significance, enhancing the realism and functionality of your layouts.
- **Loksound Decoder Clinic:** Peter Ross will conduct a clinic on Loksound decoders, providing valuable knowledge on sound decoders that enhance the realism and functionality of model railways.
- **Operating Small Layouts or Making Car Cards and Waybills by Robert Douglas:** Whether you're interested in the operational logistics of small layouts or the detailed process of creating car cards and waybills, this clinic offers practical advice and techniques.

Further clinics to be announced.

Special Interest Groups and AGMs

There will be time available for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and AGMs. Please contact the organising committee or make notes on your registration form and we will get in touch.

NZAMRC Model Competition



Who in their heart of hearts does not want to make the best models they can – the best locomotive, carriage, wagon, scene or whatever? But we're human and sometimes wanting is not enough, we need a focus, a deadline, and something bigger than ourselves to make the extra effort seem worth it. Entering the model competitions can provide that incentive – even more so with all the effort that has gone into preparations this time.

[Guidelines for Entrants](#)

[Online entry form](#)

The next best thing to being a mind reader – a quality that's very rare even among judges – is information gathered from the entry form. Like most online forms, you just scroll down, mostly ticking boxes, and it doesn't actually take long. No apologies, but there's something else too. Please try to include up to a couple of pages of supplementary information like prototype photos, plans or notes. You can upload these in any common format like jpg, pdf, tif, png, etc, or just bring paper copies along with your entry.



The origins of the competitions were scratch builds, and there's still a place for those. This bungalow built by Gordon Barr is a good example.

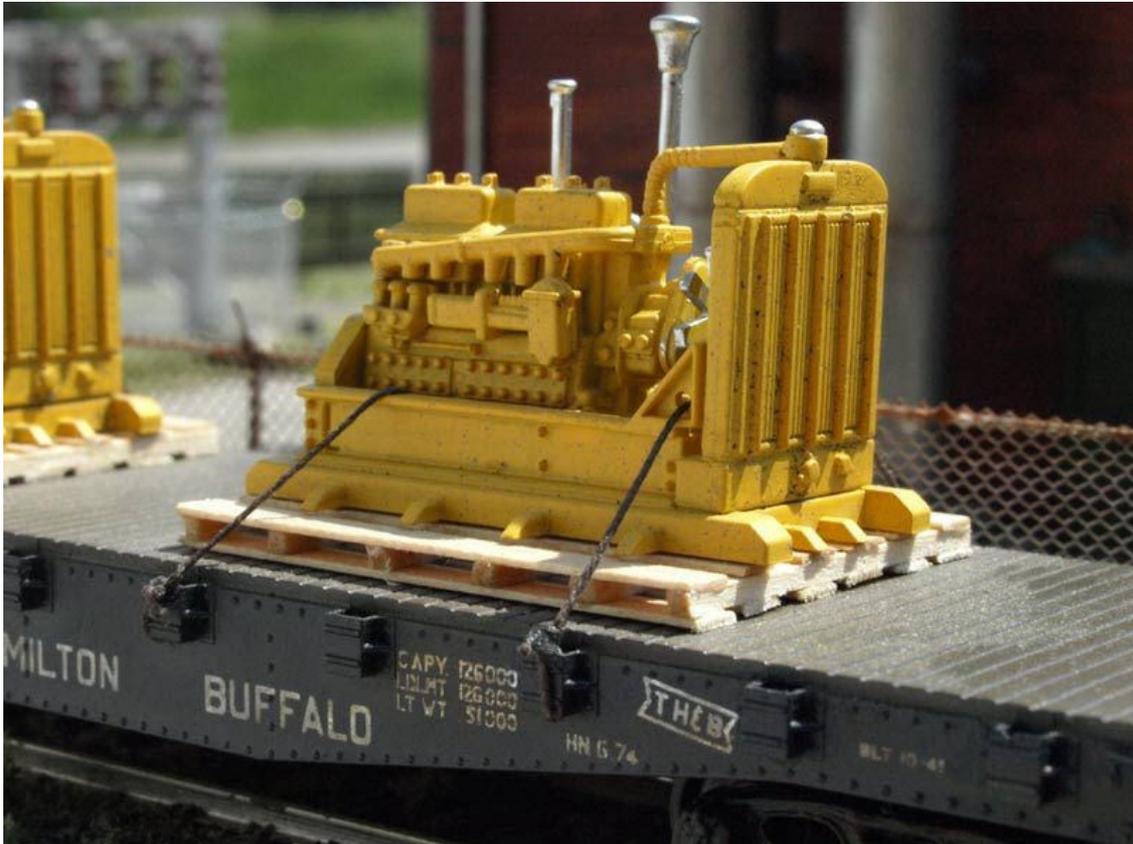
Like to be a judge?

This is also our first call for people to be judges. While not an easy task this is something of a privilege and a chance to really get close to a whole spectrum of the country's best models – and it should be possible to do most if not all of it without missing other programmed activities.

Judge's Guidelines

Peter Ross (petrosnz15@gmail.com), Chair NZAMRC Competition Committee

Flatcar Load Challenge



The Flatcar Load Challenge (FLC) is a modelling competition run by the local organising committee. The FLC is independent of the NZAMRC model competition and will be run under a different set of rules (the rules are given at the end of section of the newsletter). The Australasian Region of the National Model Railroaders Association is sponsoring the trophies for first, second and third place. The judging is by popular vote.

The FLC requires the modeler to make a load for a flatcar. We expect most modelers will take one of their flatcars and make the load. A modeler could make the flatcar as well as the load but there are no points for the flatcar - the load only will be judged.

There are no restrictions on the load except that it must be made from at least two parts. There is an almost limitless choice for loads. Possible loads include a small steam locomotive, a large diesel engine or turbine, large pipes, a small submarine or a bathyscaphe, wheel sets for freight cars, large blocks of marble, a boat, a large run or tanks, a small spacecraft, large tanks, large spools of cable, circuit equipment, covered vintage cars, lumber, and the hero in a movie chasing a villain.

1. Each entry for the challenge consists of a flatcar with a load. The flatcar must be operational but will not be judged. The load only will be judged.
2. The judging will be by popular vote.
3. An entry can be in any scale from T to 7/8".
4. A modeler can submit more than one entry.
5. A modeler can submit an entry on behalf of another modeler.
6. No documentation is to be supplied with the model.
7. The load on a flatcar must be made from more than one part. These parts need not be scratch built.



Partner program

The Partners' Program is being coordinated by Elizabeth Mead. Elizabeth has created the possible list of activities given below. The list is intended to cater for a wide range of interests. Elizabeth has first-hand experience of most of these activities and will be available to answer questions about them. Partners will choose on the day which activity or activities they wish to participate in. The choice could well depend on the weather. Partners can split into groups and each group goes on different activities. Some activities will incur a cost.

Ferry to Devonport

From the city take a [ferry](#) to Auckland's North Shore and the suburb of Devonport.

From Devonport, walk past the Navy Museum and up North Head, or Maungauika, one of Auckland's volcanoes



Walking Tour

A [walking tour](#) is a way to discover Auckland, pay what you feel the tour is worth at the finish.



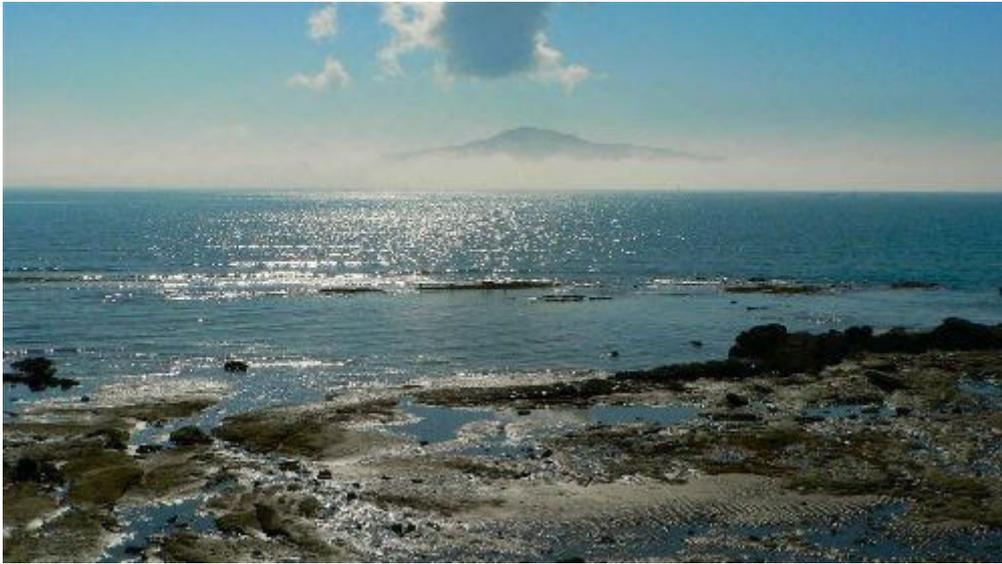
Film effects workshop

[Weta Workshop](#) is a film effects workshop, see how film effects are designed, built and brought to life.



Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

The [Auckland Whale & Dolphin Safari](#) offers tours of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park



Maritime Museum

The [New Zealand Maritime Museum](#) is a place where Aotearoa's stories of people and the sea are preserved.



Sky Tower

View the Auckland skyline from the [Sky Tower](#)



Museum

[Auckland War Memorial Museum](#) tells the story of Aotearoa.



Auckland Art Gallery

Explore [Auckland Art Gallery](#) viewing New Zealand historic, modern and contemporary art



Auckland Zoo

[Auckland Zoo](#) is home to at least 130 different species of animals



Waiheke Island

Take a 40 min ferry ride to explore [Waiheke Island](#) and vineyards



Accommodation

The accommodation in Auckland varies considerably in quality and the local organising committee (LOC) will leave it to individual attendees to decide on their

accommodation. Although there is some accommodation near the venue in Henderson, there is a greater choice to the east of Henderson. There are more accommodation choices within central Auckland and that is only 20km travel.

[Check out Trivago for accommodation options](#)

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[Click here to Register](#)



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