

Welcome to our 2011 **Great Train Weekend** (GTW) edition of our newsletter. This year's 7th Great Train Weekend is packed with entertainment for all. One of the highlights will be the Steam Train Shuttle from Mount Victoria to Katoomba where you can ride behind the Vintage Steam Engine 3237. Tickets are now available from TPA at our Mt Vic Shop. Included is the latest program of the weekend's events.

We look forward to seeing you on the weekend.

Keith, John, Jan, Leslie, Denise, Tadhg, Mitchell, Barry and Geoff

Something for everyone at our next Train and Toy Auction

Our next auction at Annandale on Sunday May 1 includes some exceptional antique toys.

A sample of highlights include:

Marklin O-gauge 0-4-0 Live Steam Loco
Minic pre-war garage with original petrol pumps.
Dinky GuyWeetabix Van
French Hornby Station and Signal Box
Lima 38 Class HO Loco
Bing 1-gauge large signal gantry.
Several Bassett-Lowke O-gauge live steam locos.
Rare Triang OO locos
As new Corgi Batmobile and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Australian Robilt Sets
Range of Bing Live Steam accessories
Noch HO expanded Auto Rail Set
Marklin HO buildings
Original Andre Citroen Truck C1920
Lima HO XPT set
Rare Yesteryear G7 Set

Viewing is from 12 noon Saturday and Sunday morning – don't forget the starting time for the auction is 10am

TPA Great Train Weekend Special – 'your shuttle ride for free!'

Present your GTW Steam Train Shuttle ticket to TPA when you purchase any item valued at \$100 or more and we will deduct \$20 off the purchase price. This means you ride/rode for free (valid for the weekend of the 28th and 29th May 2011 only).

Dress up your Layout

We now have the full range of Scale Scenics - trees, gravel, turf etc. Also buildings by Hornby Skaledale, Bachmann Scenecraft, card models by Metcalfe and Superquick and paper kits from Schreiber-Bogen.

New Garden Spinners are in

A great selection of new garden spinners have arrived - tractors, various planes, bikes and even a 'Big Rig'. These spinners are renowned for their durability in all conditions.



Sets - the way to start railway modelling

We're often asked how to start a model railway. Sometimes the request comes from someone buying a gift, but frequently it comes from men who always wanted to own a train layout and now have the time to indulge themselves.

There are many options available. The best way to start is to purchase a complete train set since it has everything ready to run immediately. As a rule it's also the most economical way to purchase the items.

The decision on which kind of set to buy is usually based on nostalgia, and sometimes on what is popular – the train set flavour of the month. The next consideration is where the layout will be set up – on a table inside, in a garage, in the roof, under the house, or perhaps in the garden.

Next decision is to select a gauge (size) – N, OO/HO, O, 1/G or one of the specialist gauges/scales. Garden railways (most often 1-gauge, but sometimes O-gauge) continue to grow in popularity because of limited space indoors. There's also the fact that a garden layout often gets families in the garden together.

Another factor to consider is the country or region you want to represent (UK, US, Europe or Australia). You should also consider digital controls (DCC). For outdoors live steam is another option.

At Trains, Planes & Automobiles we can walk you through this process and advise how to best get started. We offer sets in all gauges mentioned and we may also be able to assemble together a special set to suit individual requirements. Our standard sets include: Fleischmann N and HO sets, the Hornby OO range, including their DCC sets and their Thomas the Tank Engine sets, Bachmann's OO range, their Thomas the Tank Engine sets and their Australian BHP-Billiton set. For the garden we have the LGB range of starter sets as well as sets from Piko and others. In O-gauge, apart from our range of vintage sets we can offer indoor and garden sets from Ace Trains, Bassett-Lowke, Darstaed, and ETS.

More than just Trains Planes & Automobiles...

We currently have a nice collection of pre-loved ships and boats. If you haven't been to our Mt Vic shop for a while its well worth a visit to take a look at these spectacular works of art, especially pieces made by John Cervenka. There are also some tin plate ships by Sutcliffe, wooden yachts, even a Pretoria Castle by Tri-ang.

Some DCC features without DCC - Quantum Engineer Controller

We recently lent a 'Quantum Engineer' controller to one of our regular customers to test on his traditional analogue layout. He was so enthused with the features he purchased it. He had the newer technology locos and the Quantum controller enabled him to access the different engine settings and effects such as flange squeal, dynamic brakes, coupler sounds, blower/fans, locomotive braking, and locomotive shut-down and start-up procedures. The Quantum Engineer Controller is easily installed between a standard 12VDC power pack and the track and is designed to operate locomotives that have QARC (Quantum Analogue Remote Control) technology.



Classic Model Cars (CMC) Update

The spectacular model SSKL Mille Miglia 1931 (White Elephant) comprising 1885 separate parts, and the light weight version, comprising some 1700 single parts are now in stock. Both models have all the drill holes in the chassis as per the original car. One only of the 15th Anniversary unpainted SSKL model is also available. CMC finished the car in this manner so as to highlight all the different materials used in the vehicle: zinc casting, stainless steel, copper and tin plate, all covered in a clear lacquer finish. So good is this vehicle CMC decided to produce 2000 only and present it in special display case. This example commemorates the 15th year of CMC's production.

We also have on display the 1:12 version 1937 Horsch in full copper finish (only 200 made). This is an outstanding model. The craftsmanship extends to fully detailed hood and folding mechanism, wind-up windows, leather interior even the carpet has the special edging of the real car.

Pocket Money Pieces

Some will have had the fun of rumbling through our 'Rust or Bust' or 'Smash or Crash' bins in search of that bargain or spare part – now we are offering a new bin section we call 'Pocket Money Pieces'. These are pre-loved, complete, and checked rolling stock and accessories to enable the expansion of your railway system at very affordable prices. So far we have items for Hornby & Triang OO and Lima HO operators. Have a look when you next visit Mt Vic.

Volunteers needed

Opportunities exist for volunteer conductors and ticket sellers on the GTW Steam Train Shuttle. If you are interested in assisting call our Mount Victoria Shop (02 4787 1590).

Mailing List

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, just email, fax, or phone and we'll ensure you're removed from the list.

If you are reading this and want to be on our mailing list, please let us know.

If we have your mailing details wrong, perhaps spelt your name in a way that made you laugh, let us know and we'll correct it – sometimes hand writing is hard to read.



TRAINS, PLANES & AUTOMOBILES

We sell, buy, auction, consign, value and repair antique (and new) toys and hobbies

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