



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site

www.aals.asn.au

Limited

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28th January, 2010

To the Hon Secretary,

Dear Secretary,

NEW CONVENTION FORMAT TRIAL

In previous correspondence I alluded to the problem of finding clubs willing to host the AALS annual Convention at Easter time each year. A survey was sent to all clubs outlining the problem and asking for suggestions as to a new way ahead. Some useful replies and ideas have been received and after suitable consideration the following format is to be trialled over the next six years.

Location

Two clubs have volunteered to host the Convention year and year about. The clubs, Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Society at Edgeworth, NSW, and Penfield Model Engineers Society, Adelaide, have good long tracks, plenty of space and facilities and are, sort of, at each end of the country. Importantly they have a broad range of facilities for modellers. The idea is that these clubs will be geared up to host the Convention and this will lessen the administrative impact on them.

Importantly, we will now have an "opt in" system rather than the current "opt out". If a club wishes to have a go at hosting the Convention they may give the AALS two years notice of their intent. The club should present its proposal outlining its case. If the proposal is acceptable, the Convention will be awarded to that club. At the moment Castledare club in Perth, is considering to host in 2013. However, if no acceptable alternative is offered the two clubs will continue to host the event.

Format

The new proposal aims to simplify the formal requirement to host the Convention and ease the administrative burden:

Thursday: the track is open for people to arrive, register and unload;

Friday: track activity starts, the Safety Committee meeting in the afternoon and the Boiler meeting in the evening;

Saturday: track activity, five o'clockish, drinks and nibbles and the trophy awards, evening the AGM.

Sunday and Monday: end of formal activities, track running and departure.

Administration

Formal catering and registration are always big tasks. There will be an evening meal on Friday and Saturday nights. Lunches and morning and afternoon teas will be less formal. Although it will increase the cost of attendance a little, the use of a paid secretariat has been suggested to host clubs. The task of organizing paperwork, registration, catering for the evening meals, providing lunches and the morning/afternoon teas, rubbish clean-up, a marquee and tables and chairs, cool room, extra toilets, toilet maintenance, arranging and providing bus trips to places of interest and general administration is onerous to say the least. This person may be a professional, a club member or relation. The person doing the hard work will receive some reward and the rest of the club members are then free to attend to track and facilities.

Through this trial period it is hoped we can achieve the aims of the Convention, to get together, conduct the necessary business and have an enjoyable and convivial hobby event.

I look forward to seeing you in Brisbane at Easter.

Happy modelling!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Kershaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Kershaw (President AALS).