
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

70th Australian Association of Live Steamers Convention
Thursday 2nd April to Monday 6th April, 2026
at
COBDEN MINIATURE RAILWAY
29 Grayland Street, Cobden, Victoria, 3266

Hosted by
South Western Model Engineers Inc



Come help us celebrate 70 years of Conventions

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FORM

IMPORTANT: by registering for the 2026 Convention and entering our railway, you are agreeing you have read and will abide by the 2026 information and rules, attached to this registration form.

Fees & charges

Pre-Registration for the 2026 Convention is required by 15th March 2026. Late registrations and walk-ins will be accepted but will pay an extra \$5 per day.

For all AALS members and their partners and children 16 years and older the cost will be \$15 per person per day Friday, Saturday & Sunday, (Thursday & Monday no charge). Juniors or children 15 years and under will be Free.

Accommodation:

Non – Powered Camping (at convention participants own cost) will be available in the South West Kart Club (Go-Karts) complex at the rear of the railway, where some attendees to the 2016 Convention camped. Toilet and showers are at this site and would be cleaned daily.

The region boasts a wide range of accommodation choices, from hotels, motels, caravan parks and Bed & Breakfasts. Cobden itself has a couple of B&B's and a motel. Further afield in Camperdown, Simpson, Terang, Timboon, Colac, Warrnambool & Port Campbell you will also find a wide range of choices.

Meals:

Catering will be on and off site throughout the Convention (at Convention attendees' own cost). All evening meals to be pre ordered and pre-paid. There will be some availability to order on the day. Breakfast (Saturday, Sunday & Monday) will be available in our bbq area.

Lunch will be available to order, pay & collect from our canteen/refreshment rooms (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday) and Dinners Friday & Saturday at Cobden Civic Hall, (55 Victoria Street, Cobden). Sunday at Cobden Miniature Railway canteen/refreshment rooms.

All meals will be provided by SWME Inc members or local volunteer not for profit organisations. E.g. Cobden Rotary, Cobden Scouts & Venturers, Cobden Historical Society.

Dinner drinks will be BYO both alcoholic and non alcoholic. Tea & Coffee free.

We also have 3 undercover bbqs on site that will be available to Convention attendees free of charge.

Other options for meals in Cobden could be Thommos Hotel, Cobden Golf Club, Cobden Roadhouse, Nells Café, Cobden Bakery & Cobden IGA.

Our canteen/refreshment rooms will be available for visitors to sit and chat, make themselves a cuppa and where morning/afternoon tea will be served. Lunches and snacks and drinks will also be available from the refreshment rooms.

Happy hour nibbles provided free of charge by SWME Inc. in the refreshment rooms/canteen. BYO drinks except tea & coffee. Soft drinks will be available to purchase from the canteen.

Where is Cobden?

Approximately 2.5 hours drive south west of Melbourne, Victoria.



TRACK DETAILS AND FACILITIES

The layout provides approximately 1.35km of ground level tracks at 5" and 7-1/4". There is also a single loop of 3-1/2" and 5" raised track. "N" gauge layout. In our refreshment rooms, that visitors to the convention will be welcome to use.

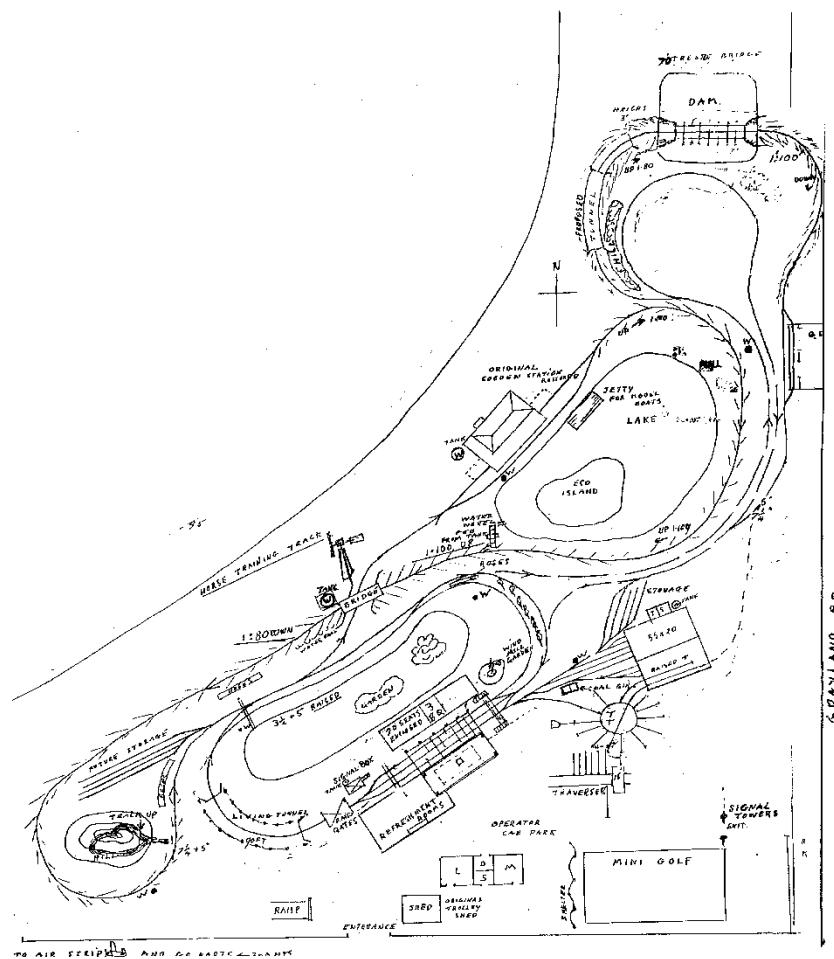
Services Available:

- Air (Ryco fittings)
- 240 volts for battery charging
- water

Visitors must:

- supply their own coal, char & fuel in suitable containers
- have spark arrestors fitted to steam engines
- be able to produce a current boiler certificate

TRACK LAYOUT



Road vehicles will have plenty of room to drive around our grounds, around the back of the railway and our main carpark. Our car park will be closed to the public and only be accessible to load and unload trains and for road vehicle use.

Overnight Security will be provided for locos and rolling stock. This is possible with thanks to a grant from the Cobden & Camperdown Community Bank.

Remote Control Boats will have a dam or two to run around in provided we get some good rains. At present there is very little water in the dams due to the drought in South West Victoria.

AALS meetings will be held at the Cobden Civic Hall, 55 Victoria Street, Cobden.

Entertainment:

Cobden is the Gateway to the Shipwreck Coast area of the 12 Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge, Bay of Islands, etc. We are also close to the Lakes and Craters area of Mt Leura and Lake Bullen Merri.

Being known as the Dairy Capital of Australia, Cobden is right in the heart of a wonderful food & wine loop, taking in award winning cheese, chocolate, wine, ice-cream and even a distillery.

We highly recommend you get online and check out www.visit12apostles.com.au for a comprehensive look at what's on, in, and around this wonderful part of South West Victoria.

Along with Cobden Miniature Railway and South West Kart Club the following are also part of the Racecourse Reserve group, Cobden Mini golf, Pioneer Park, South Western District Restoration Group, Cobden & District Historical Society and the Cobden Airport. All of which will be open during the Convention. Times to be confirmed in your information packs handed out at the convention.

Trade Stands. We would love to see some trade stands at the convention. To book a site or for more information please email or phone the convention secretary Sharron Howard. There will be no charge for trade stands.

Craft Workshops:

Cobden and Timboon have a couple of craft shops and, by special arrangement, craft workshops will be conducted at the Convention site by some of these enterprises. More details will be in the information packs handed out at the convention.

2026 Convention Badges will be available at a cost of \$10 per badge, to be ordered and prepaid on the registration form. A small number of additional badges will be available for sale during the convention.

South Western Model Engineers Inc. would like to thank Cobden & Camperdown Community Bank, Corangamite Shire and Wannon Water for their support of this event.



AALS 70th Convention 2026

Registration Form

SWME Use only.

Registration Number

Receipt Number

Where:

Cobden Miniature Railway
29 Grayland Street, Cobden, Victoria 3266

Contact:

The Convention Secretary
South Western Model Engineers Inc
PO Box 14, Cobden, Victoria, 3266

When:

Thursday 2nd April 2026 to
Monday 6th April 2026

Email: cobden2026@gmail.com
Phone: Sharron Howard 0491 720 534
Web: www.cobdenminiaturerail.org.au

Registration Lodgement:

- 1 Complete this form, and post to PO Box 14, Cobden VIC 3266
- 2 Complete this form, scan and email it to cobden2026@gmail.com

Name

Address

Town

State

P/C

Phone

Email

Club

Name Tags:

A name tag will be supplied for each attendee. Please indicate below what you would like printed on each persons name tag

Lanyard or pin name tag

1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Fees:

Please indicate below how many people will be attending each day and the cost.

Date	Day	Adults 16 years & over \$15 per person		Junior (under 16 years) FREE	
		Cost	Number attending	Cost	Number attending
2/04/2026	Thu	Free		Free	
3/04/2026	Fri			Free	
4/04/2026	Sat			Free	
5/04/2026	Sun			Free	
6/04/2026	Mon	Free		Free	
Sub Total		\$		Free	

*Please transfer the \$ figures
to page 5 item 1*

Camping Sites:

Non-powered camping sites will be available on the grounds of the adjoining South West Kart Club for tents, caravans and motor homes. Toilet & Shower facilities are on-site.

Date	Day	Non-Powered camp site \$25 per night
31/03/2026	Tues	
1/04/2026	Wed	
2/04/2026	Thu	
3/04/2026	Fri	
4/04/2026	Sat	
5/04/2026	Sun	
6/04/2026	Mon	
7/04/2026	Tue	
8/04/2026	Wed	
Sub Total		\$

Please transfer the \$ figures to page 5 item 2

Convention Badges \$10 per badge

Number of badges
required

Sub Total		\$
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*Please transfer the \$ figures
to page 5 item 3*

Please tick if someone in your group might be interested in attending a craft session.
More information will be provided if this box is ticked.

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner is available for all attendees. Gluten Free & Vegetarian options available. Please advise dietary requirements below. Extra meals may be available on the day for latecomers. Breakfast & Lunch will be available on site at the Miniature Railway.

Date	Day	Breakfast	Lunch
2/04/2026	Thursday	Not Available	Not Available
3/04/2026	Good Friday	Not Available	Sandwiches available to order & purchase on the day
			Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.
			Meat Free
			Gluten Free
			Vegetarian
4/04/2026	Saturday	Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches \$8 each will be available to order & purchase the day before or on the day	Pies/Pasties/Sausage Rolls will be available to order & purchase on the day
		Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.	Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.
		Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches	Pies/Pastie or Sausage Rolls
		Gluten Free	Gluten Free Pie
		Vegetarian (2 eggs)	Vegetarian
5/04/2026	Sunday	Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches \$8 each will be available to order & purchase the day before or on the day	Sausage Sizzle \$3.50 per sausage available from the bbq in the car park
		Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.	Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.
		Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches	Sausage in bread
		Gluten Free	Gluten Free
		Vegetarian (2 eggs)	Vegetarian
6/04/2026	Monday	Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches \$8 each will be available to order & purchase the day before or on the day	Pies/Pasties/Sausage Rolls will be available to order & purchase on the day
		Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.	Please tick if you may require the following. This is not an order but for catering purposes only.
		Bacon & egg rolls/sandwiches	Pies/Pastie or Sausage Rolls
		Gluten Free	Gluten Free Pie
		Vegetarian (2 eggs)	Vegetarian

Meals (continued)

Friday & Saturday Dinner will be off site at the Cobden Civic Hall a 2 minute drive or 20 minute walk. Sunday dinner will be at Cobden Miniature Railway. All meals provided by local volunteer not for profit organisations or South Western Model Engineers Inc.

Dinner

Dinner			
2/04/2026	Thursday	Not available	
3/04/2026	Good Friday	2 course meal Baked potato with sour cream, cheese, butter and a choice of toppings , plus dessert. \$20 adults, \$15 children 12 & under	
		How many adults	How many kids
	Bolognase sauce Gluten Free		
	Mushroom sauce gluten free & vegetarian		
	Tuna mornay gluten free		
	coleslaw		
4/04/2026	Saturday	2 course meal Choice of meats, potato and vegies \$30 adults \$15 children 12 & under	
		How many adults	How many kids
	Roast Beef Gluten free		
	Roast Chicken Gluten Free		
	Vegetarian Option		
5/04/2026	Sunday	2 course corn beef, chicken & salad plus dessert. \$15 per person	
		How many meals adults & kids	Cost
	Meat & salad		
	Gluten Free		
	Vegetarian		
6/04/2026	Mon	Not available	
Total Dinners			\$

Please transfer the \$ figures to page 5 item 4

Cost Summary:

1 Fees:	Adults	\$
2 Camping:	Non-Powered	\$
3 Convention Badge	\$10 per badge	\$
4 Meals:	Dinner	\$
Total Cost		\$

Payment Method:

Payment can be made by either cheque (attached to this form) or direct deposit. Please tick your selected payment method:-

Cheque Please make cheque payable to South Western Model Engineers Inc and send with the completed registration form to AALS 2026 Convention, South Western Model Engineers Inc., PO Box 14, Cobden, VIC. 3266

OR

Direct Deposit Funds can be deposited directly into the following bank account. Please use your surname as the reference and then email or post the registration form to AALS 2026 Convention, South Western Model Engineers Inc., PO Box 14, Cobden, VIC. 3266

Account Name South Western Model Engineers Inc.
BSB 633-000 Bendigo Bank
Account No. 236010013

Locomotives owners name:

Locomotives:

If you are bringing a locomotive (or three) with you, please supply the following details:-

Gauge	<input type="text"/>	Wheel Arrangement	<input type="text"/>
Colour	<input type="text"/>	Name	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>	Motive Power	<input type="text"/>
Boiler No:	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

If you intend to bring rolling stock, please advise how many and what length

Please attach a copy of your boiler certificate to expedite check in and registration

Gauge	<input type="text"/>	Wheel Arrangement	<input type="text"/>
Colour	<input type="text"/>	Name	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>	Motive Power	<input type="text"/>
Boiler No:	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

If you intend to bring rolling stock, please advise how many and what length

Please attach a copy of your boiler certificate to expedite check in and registration

Would you like to take the public on Sunday during our public run from 12noon to 4pm **YES/NO**

SOUTH WESTERN MODEL ENGINEERS INC.
COBDEN MINIATURE RAILWAY
RULES FOR THE 2026 CONVENTION

All attendees to check in at the Registration table in the Refreshment rooms/Canteen, when you arrive, prior to unloading your trains or setting up your camp site. You will then receive all necessary documentation for the duration of your attendance at the convention. Attendees are responsible for the security of all equipment while in the grounds of the Cobden Miniature Railway Park and or South West Kart Club. Overnight Security will be provided thanks to the Camperdown & Cobden Community Bank.

Pets will be allowed provided they are on a lead and not in any meal service areas. Service animals excepted. Please ensure you clean up after your pets. Pet disturbance is the responsibility of the pet owners.

All attendees must sign in, in the sign in book in the Station building every day you attend the Convention.

Operational terms and conditions

1. The railway operation will be under the direction of SWME Inc. members and all equipment running on the track will only be permitted at the direction of the Duty Officer or his/her assistants.
2. Train lengths will be limited to your loco, riding car and 1 passenger carriage or 1 item of rolling stock between 8am and 5pm to allow access for all attendees, unless otherwise announced by the Duty Officer. Train lengths are unlimited outside this timeframe and there is no curfew except no horns and whistles between 10pm and 8am.
3. If you wish to be involved in public passenger haulage on Sunday between 12 noon and 4pm you will be allowed to run additional passenger wagons, after consultation and approval from the SWME Inc. Duty Officer or his/her assistants. If you would like to run your loco during public running without the public that's ok with us.
4. No coal or fuel will be supplied. Air, water & electricity will be available.
5. All steam models will require a current boiler certificate as per AALS rules, which will be checked and recorded.
6. The maximum operating speed on the track shall not exceed 10 Kph. Any signed speed restrictions placed on sections of track are to be observed. A safe operating speed should be observed coming into the station.
7. Track 2 will be the through track. No stopping in the station on Track 2 unless in an emergency. Track 1 stopping only for water and pickup/drop off of passengers. Track 3 will be for parking, water and pickup/drop off of passengers. Public running rules on Sunday between 12noon and 4pm will be explained on the day.
8. Radio controlled locomotives must follow AALS rules.
9. Night running must have lights. White light for front and red for rear.
10. All incidents must be reported to the Duty Officer or his/her assistants and the AALS incident report filled in.

ACCOMMODATION

Cobden Crest Cottages
300 Port Campbell Road, Cobden

Cobden Free Camp (no facilities)
35 Bond Street, Cobden

Cobden Roadhouse Motel
Cobden-Camperdown Road, Cobden

Heytesbury House
33 Parrott Street, Cobden

Richos Retreat
43 Roberts Road, Cobden

Thommo's Pub
36 Curdie Street, Cobden

Bellvue Farm Stay
80 Couchs Road, Scotts Creek

Camperdown Cascade Motel
311 Manifold Street, Camperdown

Lakes & Craters Holiday Park
220 Park Road, Camperdown

Manifold Motor Inn
295 Manifold Street, Camperdown

The Camperdown Mill
3-5 Curdie Street, Camperdown

Dalvue Motel
51-53 High Street, Terang

Terang Community Caravan Park
School Road, Terang

The Terang Motor Inn
6746 Princes Hwy, Terang

There are lots more accommodation options in Warrnambool, Port Campbell, Simpson & Colac. SWME Inc have no pecuniary interest in any of the businesses listed above.