

BR Brake Van World Tour 15 Christchurch Convention 2026

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Christchurch Garden Railway Convention February 2026

The conference was held in the Canterbury region in the South Island of New Zealand.

The hall in Prebbleton was used as a base for meeting between site visits to 13 garden railways over the three day weekend.

The convention showcased G scale, 16mm and other scales all running on 45mm track. The BR Brake van paid a visit to many of the hosting garden railways. Brake van was well chuffed to be able to attend a few of the great sites attended by the crowds.

WILSON VALLEY RAILWAY – WEST MELTON

A detailed reconstruction of rail lines on the West Coast of New Zealand, featuring four stations; Wilsonville with it's sawmill and loco depot, Charlies Town a coal and timber export port, Port Elizabeth and Woodsville where a whiskey distillery produces world class whiskey!



Owner Andrew Wilson was running several trains. Here the brake van is surveying an NZR DG loco pulling a train of newqida G-scale passenger cars. Possibly in a rather dangerous position, the excuse given by Brake was that he had been asked to do a track inspection.



The brake van watching, from the undergrowth, a LGB Uintah Railway Co. 2-6-6-2 Mallet steam locomotive as it passes with a freight load.



Excellent model of a brick engine shed. Brake is keeping a safe distance as the loco slowly passes through.





Well worth the wait in the undergrowth, this delightful Bachmann Big Hauler G Scale 2-4-2 steam locomotive slowly makes its way to the loco depot at the sawmill.



An impressive scene looking up the gorge of the multi-level layout showcasing the nice use of trestle bridges perfectly setting the scene for some added realism.



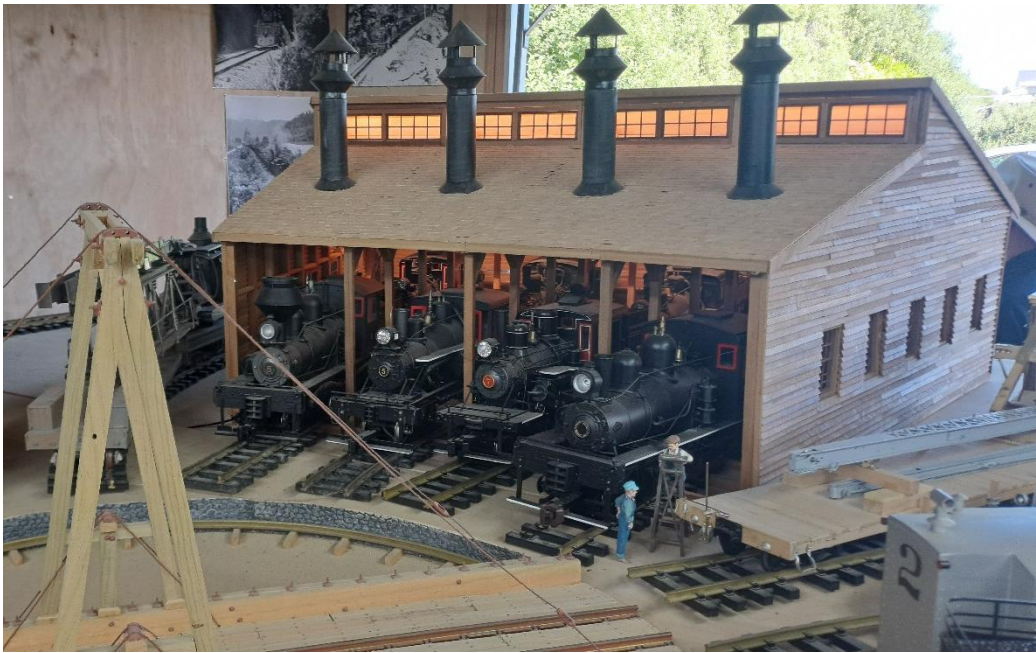
IRON CREEK RAILROAD - ROLLESTON

This site had two attractions, which were a main building housing a fantastic collection of trains & memorabilia and a garden railway loop around the outside.

The railroad is set in the 1940s based on narrow gauge logging railroads of Colorado. Most of the collection is Fn3 1:20.3 scale. Featuring many handmade buildings, the large engine shed that took hundreds of hours to build. The system is track powered DCC.



Inside the large shed the brake van (Brakey McBrakeFace) is very impressed with the hand made engine shed that includes over 7,000 handmade and applied roof tiles.



Pretending to be part of the huge and very impressive collection of railcars and locos, almost merging in, but not quite.



Here on the layout owner Ian Collingwood is running a Bachmann Spectrum.



In the far corner of the layout, Ian had this excellent camp of logging huts with a running Accucraft Heisler West Side Lumber locomotive.



COLLINS CREEK BRANCH LINE – LINCOLN

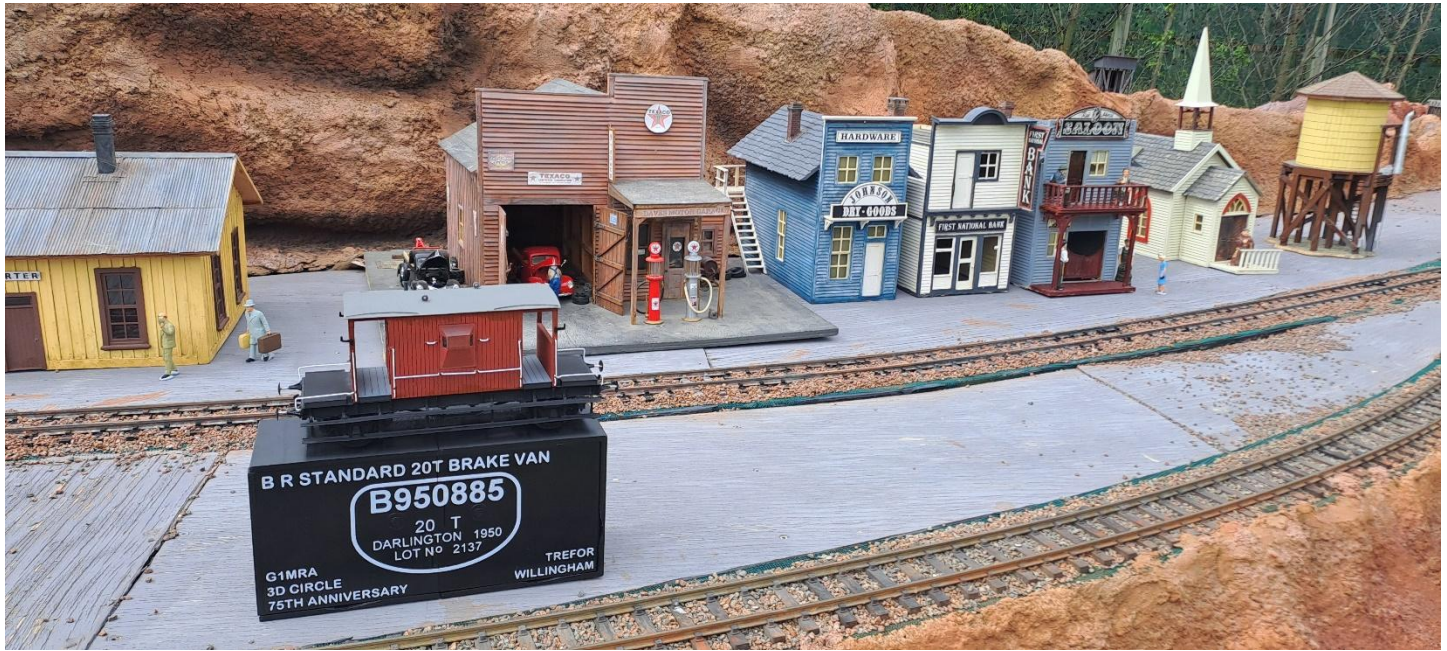
This large chest height layout is loosely based on the Rio Grande with multiple levels, mountains, tunnels and large bridges; in an L shape allowing two distinct running loops.

The 150 metres of track kept the drivers busy and the audience highly engaged in the proceedings. Locos featured were electric and live steam.

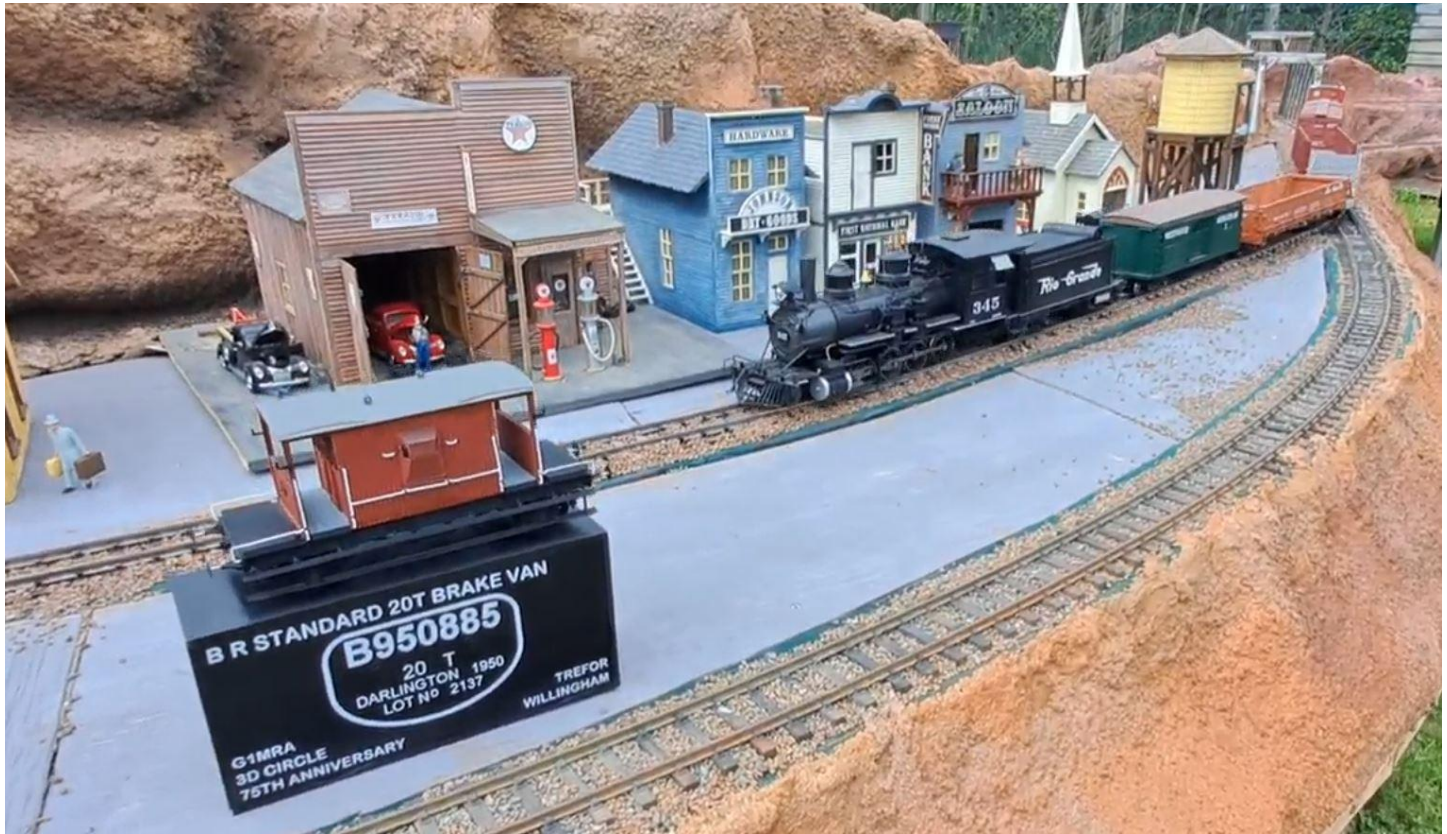
Owner Kabita Whale was running a Accucraft D&RGW K-27. The Brake watches as the K-27 and its' load cross the magnificent and photogenic bridge in this mountain scene.

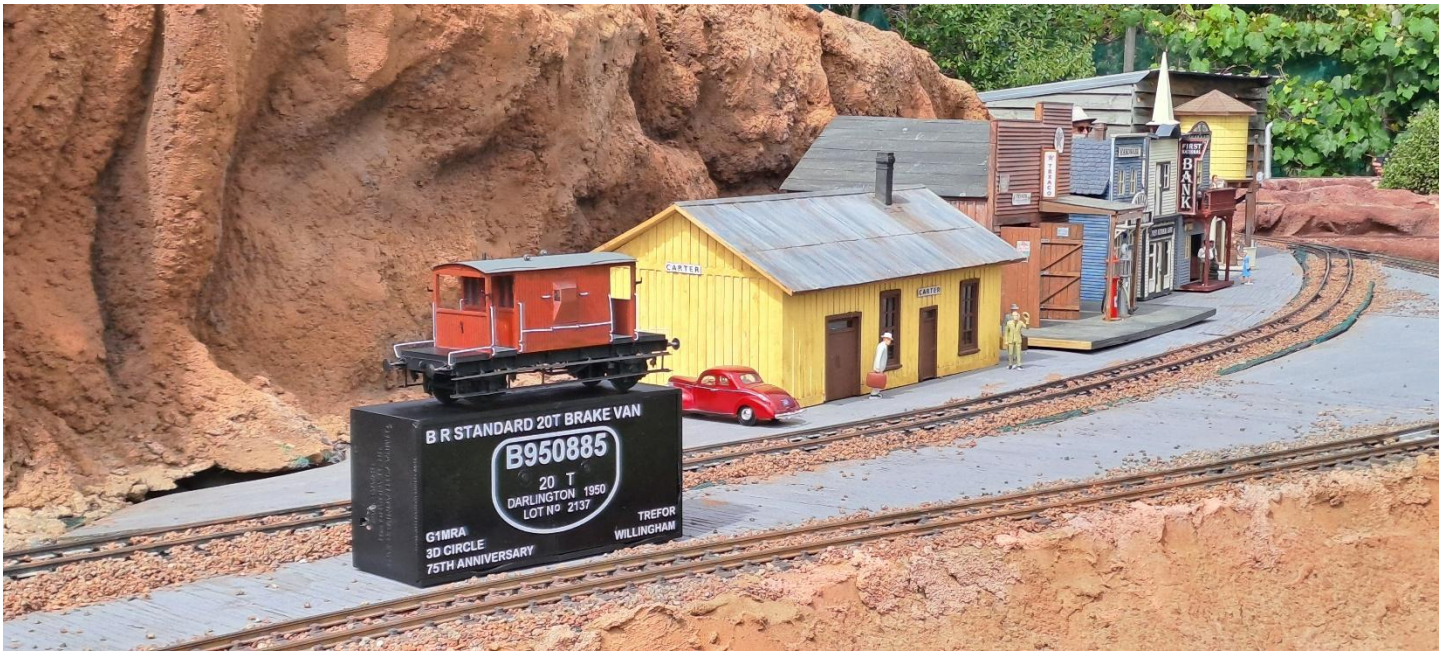


Hanging out in the village in the mountains, looking for some action.



Woohoo a Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad C-19 passes through, well worth the wait.





PIRFIC STATION - LINCOLN

Wonderful weather greeted the crowds at this spectacular ground height layout featuring eight running locos!!! President Bill Stanley has his impressive layout beautifully set in the garden with a great back drop of a country golf course and high trees. The attendees could just sit back and watch the action. The 450 sq metre railroad features over 380 metres of track, with the complete collection including 65 buildings, 100 items of rolling stock and 17 locomotives. All locos were battery powered. Everyone was very engaged in all the proceedings, and it was indeed a great setting for the end of an amazing garden railway conference set in Canterbury New Zealand.







