

# The Leeds Forge Launch



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On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010, members Glenn Ryan and Roy Howarth launched the first of a planned series of books that is devoted to recording the history of Sydney's famous single deck suburban carriages.

The hard covered 152 page book is called "Sydney's Suburban Standards The Leeds Forge Cars C 3101 to C 3150 and took two years to complete.

It would have been most fitting for the launch to be held in the presence of one of these carriages, but appropriately it was held at Sydney Electric Train Society's bi monthly meeting aboard the most famous of Sydney's ferries, South Steyne.

The South Steyne was built in Scotland in 1938 and was sailed to Sydney under its own power.

In comparison, the Leeds Forge Cars were transported in a similar manner over a decade earlier.

In their instance, they were shipped from the United Kingdom in a knocked down state and assembled locally.

Guests at the launch included those who provided significant contributions of historical information and photographs, including Michael Kerry, Stephen Halgren and Peter Ferguson, as well as representatives from the printers, Principle Source Pty Ltd, all of whom were acknowledged for their assistance in making the book happen.

The authors have theorized that the bodies of the fifty cars were sailed through Sydney Harbour and were

likely landed here at Darling Harbour in early 1925. They have spent considerable time trawling the Sydney newspapers from the years from 1924-1925, but could not come up with the 'Holy Grail', so to speak, that being a newspaper article or a photograph of the cars being unloaded onto a Sydney dock.

Unfortunately it would appear that this part of Sydney's transport history was overlooked by the journalists of the day, although the lack of a photograph is somewhat not surprising owing to the general lack of photographs that newspapers of that era printed anyway.

During his speech, Glenn announced that he and Roy have commenced initial work on their next book, which will explore the history of the carriages that were built at the Walsh Island Dockyard in Newcastle. This publication will cover cars C 3171 – C 3220, C 3251 – C 3300, and Trailer cars T 4301 – T 4548.

Given the large volume of cars to be researched, the authors have not estimated a release date, but have appealed to members and guests for contributions of photographs and information (see separate advertisement).

The launch concluded with both Glenn and Roy signing copies for an exclusive launch day price of \$50. About 30 copies were sold, with proceeds of the book sale donated to SETS.

**Note: Images from the book launch can be found on the following pages.**