



St Patrick's Day Parade Sunday 21st March 2010

1. Introduction

With 2009 having marked the 30th year of the Sydney St Patrick's Day Parade & Family Day in its current format, 2010 will mark 200 years of the Parade being recognised by the State Government of NSW. It is the aim of the organizing committee to build on past successes to bring a colourful, cultural parade to the streets of Sydney.

Each year the Sydney CBD is closed to traffic to allow the parade to proceed. Timelines are tight and the committee works hard to keep the parade within the allowed timeframe of 1 hour. The logistics of diverting traffic and public transport to minimize impact is quite extensive and requires detailed planning and the support of authorities such as the Roads & Traffic Authority, NSW Police & the State Transit Authority. We have developed excellent working relationships with these groups and to maintain this, it is our responsibility to keep the parade on schedule and to adhere to the requirements of the authorities. We ask you to follow instructions in this document and help us run one of the largest St Patrick's Day parades outside of Ireland.

Remember, this is our day and our chance to show our culture at its best, so send your entries in and let's make it a parade to remember.

2. Guidelines and Suggestions for planning your entry

Theme:

This year marks 200 years as I mentioned earlier and so there are many ways in which you can show this off in your entry:

- Characters in costume
- Signage
- Your front banner
- Music

Please note:

Offensive material will be banned from the parade. Any entries of a nature which may cause offence to any element of the Irish community will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

Draw it & plan it:

Take the time to draw, plan & discuss your ideas with your association or other participants. Pay attention to detail, consider how much the audience will see and ensure any messages are large enough to see.

Ask for help:

The Parade is a community event. There are lots of people who may be able to offer assistance, advice or expertise. Check local theatre groups for assistance, or local businesses for sponsorship. Consider approaching some Irish owned businesses or your local Chamber of Commerce for assistance. In addition to this, the Parade committee is also here to help if we can.

Mission Statement

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3. Entry Categories

Floats

Floats make the parade and are traditional to St Patrick's Day Parades around the world. Floats are where we show our creativity and our messages. A float is a vehicle covered and decorated. In 2010, we would like to see more floats in the parade. Some points to consider when planning your float entry are:

Utes

Useful for carrying small groups but generally too small to be a parade entry. If you are using a ute, please decorate it as much as possible and in a uniform manner. Remember that the crowds on the street will need to see your entry.

One tonne trucks

To be decorated as per the ute.

Three tonne truck

A medium sized truck that can support the needs of an average group. Again, please see note under ute regarding decoration.

Eight tonne truck

A big truck, big enough for most purposes. Whatever you put on this truck will have a prominent position in the parade. It's a great truck to get a number of people on and plan your theme.

Cars

Consider using a classic, vintage or convertible car as they display glamour. Ordinary cars with no purpose will not be permitted in the parade.

Minibuses

Minibuses need decoration as per the ute criteria. In addition to this, minibuses will only be accepted if they are transporting people who are unable to walk in the parade.

Trolleys, beds and prams

These are allowed in the parade providing they do not disrupt the flow and hold up traffic. Ideally, these should also be decorated and please advise the Parade committee so that your place in the parade is ensured.

Please Note

- ***Ensure that the allocated driver of the vehicle is licensed to drive this particular vehicle as some vehicles may need a special permit. If in doubt please check with the committee.***
- ***Under no circumstances must anyone participating in the parade be under the influence of alcohol. All entrants while setting up prior to the parade can be subject to random breath tests by the NSW police. If anyone is found consuming alcohol before, during or while dismantling the parade entry they will be automatically disqualified and asked to leave the Parade.***
- ***Maximum Dimensions of vehicles is- 2.4m wide x 3.9m high x 11m long maximum***
 - ***The width limit is imposed by the width of a lane of traffic (allowances have to be made for emergency vehicles). The height limit is by height of traffic signs, tree branches and the Monorail. The length limit ensures we can fit everyone into the parade.***

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- *For 2010 there will be a limit on the number of cranes or heavy duty working vehicles eg bulldozers, that will be allowed into the parade to encourage variety and creativity. Plain trucks are allowed.*

Marching Groups

A number of people will choose to walk in the parade with their county or association banner. We ask that you wear your county colours (be it jerseys or clothing in the county colours) as a minimum. The sight of a group of people marching in their county colours reinforces county pride and gives each of the groups their own identity within the parade.

Some points to consider for your marching group entry are:

- Wear the same colours to give a picture of uniformity
- Use a banner or flag to identify your group so people in the crowd will know who you are
- Keep together in formation as you walk so you do not get mixed up with another group

Marching Bands

We also love having Marching bands participate as it brings music and fun to the parade. We ask that you advise the committee of which songs you wish to play should any other band have chosen the same piece of music.

Animals

We love having animals participating in the parade and have had Irish setters and wolfhounds in the past. If you are entering animals in the parade, please ensure that you advise the committee of any special requirements such as not placing dogs or horses near marching bands. If your entry includes horses or carriages we ask that you arrive early as horse trucks take up a lot of space.

4. Parade Route

The Parade starts at 12pm sharp on the corner of George and Bathurst streets. It then turns right into Park Street and left into Elizabeth Street. It passes down by Hyde Park west and disperses at the entry to Hyde Park. Marching groups turn into Hyde Park North.

Floats and other vehicles turn into James Street to disassemble.

At all times follow instruction from the NSW police, RTA, Security & Parade marshals. If at any time you need to know something on what is going on just ask a St Patricks Day marshal and they will get you the information.

5. Assembly

Assembly will take place on George Street, between Liverpool and Bathurst Streets.

Please note:

Registration desks will be open from 7:00am on George St at the parade entry area to speed up the process of registration, appointing you to your parking area and ensuring that the entry fee has been paid.

Floats enter George St via Liverpool St and assemble on George St in the allocated lanes. On arrival please register immediately so you can be allocated your place. On the day there may be some movement required but we do advise you contact the committee prior to the parade for your number so you can be advised what time to arrive.

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Floats must be assembled and in position by 10am. Floats arriving after this time will automatically be allocated to the back of the parade.
Marching bands must be in place by 11:00am and marching groups in place by 11:30am at the very latest.

6. Conditions of Entry

Please ensure that your entry form includes all details of your entry as well as a description of your group for the Parade MC to present.
All groups are asked to arrive on time and be mindful of your place in the parade, so we can run it in order. If you are not in your correct place it also affects the running order and makes it difficult to deliver last minute changes to the MC.
All entrants must ensure that they keep a consistent pace to avoid any gaps in the Parade.

And most importantly of all please have lots of fun and enjoy yourselves out there.

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