



NMRA AUSTRALASIAN REGION

**CONVENTION
BRISBANE 2025**

CELEBRATING
90 YEARS

NMRA 2025 Brisbane Convention Newsletter

Key Dates

Registration Opens: 28th February 2025

Convention runs over 7 days from Wednesday 20th to Tuesday 26th (inclusive) offering all the following activities:

- 3 days of clinics and workshops
- 4 days of layout tours and Ops sessions
- 7 days of socializing with fellow enthusiasts
- 2 official social functions

Issue 1, February 2025

Welcome All!

Welcome to the February Newsletter for the NMRA 2025 Brisbane Convention August 22nd to 24th, the first newsletter for the Brisbane 2025 Convention. The Convention Committee are hard at work to bring you a great convention.

There are many details to be finalised as the committee look at different venues and options suitable for such an event while trying to give attendees good value.

As seen in the flyer released via the Australasian NMRA mailing list and NMRA Facebook Page, we have

already secured the Convention location at Flight One, Qantas Drive, Archerfield Brisbane.

Merchandise - Swag

This year we will be offering Convention Shirts & Mugs for Purchase to remember the event long after the convention finishes. Details to come!

Convention Survey

Watch out for the convention survey being sent out to help the committee deliver a great convention with what you are looking for in a convention.

The committee have tried to keep it as brief as possible and encourage

you to complete the survey to assist the committee gauge potential numbers & clinics you would like to see at the convention.

The better we can estimate numbers the better value we can deliver to you.

Registration Opens end February

We hope to have registrations open by end of February along with accommodation deals. Stay tuned.

Clinics

The clinics on offer are being compiled from presenters who have generously volunteered

already. The committee have already sent a request via the NMRA mailing list requesting for more clinicians.

The Brisbane convention is attempting to focus on hands on clinics, but we need clinicians who can accommodate hands on clinics.

Please consider giving a presentation at the

conference. These clinics are great source of information & inspiration!

Layout tours & Operation sessions

The convention will offer layout tours and operating sessions. These tours and session will occur over the 20th, 21st & 25th August. More details will be posted as they become available.

Where to find out more..

The Australasian NMRA website will be where to find out all the information on the Convention. Website will be updated as details become available.

<https://nmra.org.au/nmra-ar-convention-2025/>

Contest Details (by Arthur Hayes MMR)

A Celebration of Models, Photos & Crafts. (Contests)

Happy New Year to you all, I trust over the holiday period you've found time to start a new project or have taken one through to completion.

The convention is just seven months away, giving members time to consider their entry for the Celebration, or perhaps to start a new project or add the finishing detail to your latest model.

In 2020 the National Convention reviewed their contest guidelines, resulting in a fresh direction with new sections and categories, while also renaming the event "A Celebration of Models, Photos & Crafts". Last year with the Australasian Region 2025 convention on the horizon, the guidelines were reviewed by the organising committee, which resulted in the adoption of much of the national celebration format, which it was felt more fully reflects our contemporary lifestyle.

The celebration is a great way to show off your latest modelling project, and if desired, receive feedback to assist you in becoming a better modeller. Models earning a Merit Award (above 87.5 pts or 70%) can be used for your Achievement Program (A.P 's).

Model Celebration (Judged)

This will follow the same guidelines as the national event using the same forms.

Two Classifications: - Scratch built and Kit built.

Eight Categories: -

Steam Locomotive, Diesel locomotive or other traction types (Tram/Railcar etc.), Passenger Car (Including vehicles found on passenger trains), Freight Car/Goods Wagon, Caboose/Guards Van, Non-Revenue Car/Wagon, Structure, Display.

The models in each of the above categories will be judged by a panel of judges, using the NMRA “Judging Guidelines”. The displays will be judged using the scenery Awards Program evaluation.

Entries are to be presented to NMRA staff at the Celebration Room by 1:00 pm on Friday the 22nd of August.

First place or Gold Awards winners from previous NMRA Contests are not eligible.

Each entry must include the following information prior to entering the celebration room.

A completed Contest Entry Form (Form # 901). <http://www.nmra.org/form #901>

A completed Model Judging Form (Form # 902). <http://www.nmra.org/form #902>

Online printable forms are available.

Documents (Photos, Plans, information on the prototype & construction of the model).

Entries to be collected after 12 midday on Sunday 24th of August or as arranged with the Celebration Co-ordinator.

Other useful information.

Entry Form Hints and Tips. (Filling out the form to finish First - Bob Hamm MMR)

https://www.nmra.org/system/files/edutrain/filling_forms_nat_10-9-15_rev.pdf

Achievement Program Judging Guidelines – Motive Power, Cars & Structures.

<https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-judging-guide-lines.>

Rules, Code of Conduct, eligibility and other information can be found on the NMRA National Website. <http://www.nmra.org/celebration-contest>

Model Celebration Show Case (Display only)

Entries are to be presented to NMRA staff at the Celebration Room by 1:00 pm on Friday the 22nd of August.

Each entry must include the following information prior to entering the celebration room:

A completed Contest Entry Form (Form # 901). <http://www.nmra.org/form #901>

Entries may be collected after 12 mid-day on Sunday 24th of August or as arranged with the Celebration Co-ordinator.

Photo Celebration (Judged)

Division one member Dr. Charles J. Page (www.charlespagephotography.com) a Professional Photographer, retired Lecturer Queensland College of Art and an excellent modeller ([Main Line March/April 2022](#)) has volunteered to judge this event. Charles has conducted a review of the guidelines and made recommendations to the convention committee. Digital imaging is now the medium used by much of society to document their lives and the things that are important to them, including model trains.

The 2025 photography contest will be **all digital**.

Categories:-

- Models in Colour or Black and white format

- Prototype in Colour or Black and White format
- Videos of models
- AI

Information about the categories:

Still image, models: Colour or Black and White Colour images are unquestionably a popular choice, however the committee recognises that many modellers also enjoy producing Black and White images, so you may submit in either format. If you wish to enhance your image using tools such as Photoshop, feel free to do so.

Prototype

The committee has decided that to reflect the contemporary rail environment, **only still images produced in the last two years**, beginning on August 1st. 2023 will be accepted. We will not check meta data; we are confident that our fellow members will abide by the rules. The contemporary rail scene is extremely vibrant, offering limitless photographic opportunities for creative photographers. Of course, for the steam enthusiasts there is still a plethora of operating preserved steam locomotives in Australia and indeed the World.

Video The committee recognises that many modellers prefer to video their models in action. Until now this important aspect of photography hasn't been recognised in previous contests.

AI.

AI generated images have become a Worldwide phenomenon, the committee has therefore decided to be pro-active and encourage contestants to engage with this rapidly evolving technology. The committee feel that this is an aspect of our hobby that offers exciting opportunities that need to be explored. A chance to create still images of model trains that have no foundation in reality.

Outcomes. There will be a First, Second and Third place awarded in each category. We are intending to upload a selection of images onto the Australasian National NMRA site. By submitting your entry, you accept that your photograph could be uploaded. Selected images may also be published in the NMRA Mainline magazine.

Requirements

Still Images:

Models, Prototype and AI
file size 72 DPI jpeg

Video of Models

A maximum of 3 minutes duration

You may submit work in all categories; however, it is limited to a maximum of one entry only in each category.

There are no other parameters for submissions, contestants have the freedom to express visually their relationship with our hobby.

How to submit your entry

Entries must be submitted by mail on a USB Memory Stick.

The submission must include your name and NMRA membership Number and the category in which you are submitting.

Please include your preferred way for us to contact you.

If you would like your memory stick returned after judging please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The last date that entries will be accepted for judging is **Friday, August 15th**.

The address for submissions is to Arthur Hayes, 21 Madison Street, Sunnybank Hills, Qld, 4109.

The Photo Celebrations is open to all members attending the convention or not. Entries will be displayed in a slide show in the Celebration Room and on the big screen during the convention.

Arts & Crafts (People's Choice Awards)

1. General
2. Needlework
3. Railroadians

Entrants will be required to complete National Contest Entry (Form #901)

Entries are to be presented to NMRA staff at the Celebration Room by 1:00 pm on Friday the 22nd of August.

Entries to be collected after 12 mid-day on Sunday 24th of August or as arranged with the Celebration Co-ordinator.

Delegates attending the convention will be given a voting form upon entering the "Celebration" room. A ballot box will be provided adjacent to the exit.

Awards.

President's Award.

"Best in Show" – Gold Award. (Entry with the highest number of points)

Being best in Show, the model will not be considered for any other awards except Merit Award and Popular Vote Award.

Perpetual Awards.

These will be awarded to the model with the highest points in their category following the awarding of the President Award.

Rick Shoup Award - Best model of Australasian Prototype.

John Baker Award - Best Model of American Prototype.

These models can be a loco, item of rollingstock or a structure.

Popular Vote Award.

Delegates have an opportunity to cast a vote on any of the models in the Celebration Room.

A certificate to be awarded for first, second and third places in all categories.

Awards Presentation.

Placed winners will be announced at the Convention Dinner.

Plaques/trophies will be presented at the Convention Dinner.

Certificates for first, second and third place and Merit Awards will be placed with the model in the Celebration Room. Delegates can view the winning entries on Sunday morning.

Meet the Modeller.

Entrants in the celebration are invited to participate in a “Meet the Modeller” event. On Sunday morning, during breaks, entrants are invited to the celebration room to elaborate and discuss the construction of their exhibit with convention delegates. It is a semi-formal event, if you would like to be involved, please drop me an email.

Model Celebration Judging.

Most modellers attending model railway events judge layouts and models to some degree without thinking about it. We use this information to assist us in our modelling. One of the best methods to becoming a better modeller is to judge models using a scoring matrix. The Model Celebration will be carried out with a panel of judges using the NMRA Achievement Program Judging Guidelines. This is a great opportunity to see and learn from other fellow modeller. If you feel you would like to part of the panel, please let me know.

If you are new to the hobby and feel you want to be part of the team, may I suggest you attend David O’Hearn presentation “Basic to Award – Winning Modelling”. This will give you an understanding of the process.

Let me introduce to you members thus far who have responded to be on the panel.

Ross Balderson MMR:

AP Program Participant.

Assist AP Manager Canberra Division before moving to Queensland.

Builder of Award winning Layouts, Sydney Central & Newcastle. Contest Judge for a number of Conventions around Australia.

Philip Sharp:

Division 5 (NZ) Division Superintendent.

AP Program Participant.

Has assisted on various National Committees including the Standards Committee.

National Contest judge 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Arthur Hayes. MMR: Celebration Co-ordinator 2025.

AP Program Participant.

Assist AP Manager Division One (Queensland) since 2018.

Convention Chairman Gold Coast 2018.

Has been entering model contests since 1986. First place category award winner in AMRA comps, NMRA Regional Conventions, Armidale Convention, and New Zealand convention.

Has completed the necessary requirements to judge at National Conventions in 2015 and 2017.

Celebration Room.

No food, drinks or bags will be permitted in the room during viewing times.

The room will be closed during judging.

Closing.

I would strongly encourage you to be involved, perhaps to enter the celebration or assist in some way.

It offers an opportunity to expand your knowledge and experience while enjoying a rewarding time shared with fellow members.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with your questions.

Happy Modelling.

Arthur Hayes MMR

2025 NMRA Regional Convention Committee

