

NMRA
AUSTRALASIAN
REGION

CONVENTION
BRISBANE 2025

CELEBRATING
90 YEARS

NMRA 2025 Brisbane Convention Newsletter

Key Dates

Registration Opens: Mid March 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 2, February 2025

Welcome to the second February Newsletter for the NMRA 2025 Brisbane Convention August 20th to 26th 2025.

More details are being finalised as the committee lock in venues, ops sessions, clinics and more. This convention not only are we offering **3 days** of clinics and workshops rather than 2 days offered in previous conventions but a week of activities of Layout tours, operating sessions & social dinners/functions! **BONUS:** Sunday afternoon activity for the rail enthusiast!

The Convention is located at "Flight One", 4 Qantas Avenue, Archerfield Airport, Archerfield. As the convention approaches, the flurry of preparations continues unabated. The team has been tireless in securing a plethora of well-wheeled sponsors eager to back our 7-day railway modelling extravaganza. These sponsors are dedicated to sourcing cutting-edge products and services to enrich the railway modelling community. Presently, eight sponsors stand poised to enhance the convention experience for registered participants, with more expected to contribute in the months ahead.

Moreover, we are thrilled to announce a growing rollcall of Traders who will grace the event, providing invaluable support to attendees for all their modelling needs. The lineup of traders is expanding steadily and promises to be a committed and formidable presence by the time the convention unfolds. Positioned amidst the clinics and seminar sessions, both sponsors and traders are primed to guide you in incorporating your newfound knowledge into your layouts, using only the finest materials of premium quality.

In a gesture of remarkable generosity, our sponsors and traders will be offering an abundance of modelling materials, locomotives, and rolling stock as raffle prizes and clinic achievement awards throughout the event. Keep your senses sharp to seize these opportunities as they arise and make the most of this exciting convergence of railway modelling expertise.

Day 1: Sunshine Coast Experience

About This Experience

This experience is an opportunity to develop some new friendships, whilst indulging in some great shopping experiences over multiple venues around the Sunshine Coast North of Brisbane.

The experience consists of a tour of the Ginger Factory at Yandina on the Sunshine Coast followed by a visit to Montville to participate in some "Retail Therapy".

Bus Details

- Pick up at Archerfield at 8:30AM
- Arrive back at Archerfield 3pm

This experience will take you to The Ginger Factory where you will experience the Factory & Processing Tour with tastings. At the end of the tour the bus will take you to Montville for lunch and an opportunity to view and shop.



The Ginger Factory & Processing Tour with tastings

Take a guided tour around the Buderim Ginger Factory, located in Yandina on the Sunshine Coast. See how ginger is grown, harvested and turned into a delicious range of Buderim Ginger products. Finish the tour with a tasting and discover why we produce the world's finest ginger!

Montville Experience

The Clock Shop

The Clock Shop lives in an iconic German chalet-inspired building, perched near the base of the Montville village.



Today, this building has become a 'must-see' for visitors near and far and is known and loved by many generations all over Australia. When you step inside, you'll be greeted by the rich smell of timber and the melody of chimes going off from the various elaborately-designed cuckoo and grandfather clocks. Gift ideas abound in this special shop, with cabinets full of German knickknacks, music boxes, watches, and more. The whole experience is like stepping into a new world full of fun and history.



Fudgyboombahs

Montville's Main Street confectioner will hit your sweet spot! Fudgyboombahs' sweet treats are handmade and gorgeously packaged. You'll find an ultra-delicious range of flavours in-store, such as butter candy macadamias, butterscotch vanilla fudge, and rocky road fudge. Try stopping at just one when there are dozens of delectable flavours to choose from!

Café culture

Local cafés and restaurants don't disappoint when it comes to coffee in Montville, serving a range of blends made from local and



imported fair trade beans. Have your coffee with a side of spectacular hinterland vistas at The Edge Café on Main Street; or a cup at The Poet's Café where the coffee's water is sourced from the property's natural bubbling spring. Dine amongst the trees at Secrets on the Lake, or head to Montville Café Bar and Grill for a hearty meal and a cuppa in the beautifully landscaped garden. With so many more choices available, come to Montville for the brew, and stay for the view!

Art galleries

Often called the creative heart of the hinterland, you'll find that Montville is a hub of quality art galleries and studios featuring works from established and emerging artists. Visit Illume Creations to view stunning glass sculptures and vases, or pop into the Montville Art Gallery, housed in a gorgeous 1920s Queenslander showcasing works from numerous award-winning artists.

Day 2: 1.5Hr Brisbane River Morning Tea Cruise

About This Experience

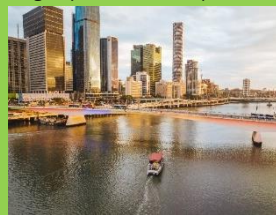
Sit back and relax on the MV Neptune, a boutique-style vessel with expansive lower and upper decks offering uninterrupted views of the riverside attractions. Enjoy your complimentary morning tea which includes a Devonshire Tea or coffee and scones.



Make the most of the outer decks for first-class photo ops – enjoy Kangaroo Point Cliffs, the iconic Story Bridge, Powerhouse Museum, and other major landmarks, from the water! See the original Customs House, proudly sitting amidst the modern-day high-rise architectures.



Discover the new developments, homes of the rich and famous, and the transformation of old buildings into new-age apartment complexes. All of this, while you learn about



Brisbane, its people and history, through informative and exciting commentary! You can also take home a free map as a souvenir!

Bus Details

- Pickup at Archerfield 09:00am

- Arrive back at Archerfield 3pm

Cruise Details

Start Time 10:30

Duration 1hr 45min

- 1.5hr morning sightseeing cruise on Brisbane River
- Complimentary Devonshire tea or coffee and scones
- Informative commentary about the city
- Complimentary souvenir map

Location: - **Cultural Centre Public Pontoon, South Bank**

Departure	Boards	Departs	Returns	Duration
1	10:15	10:30	12:00	1hr 45min

What's Included

- 1.5hr morning sightseeing cruise on Brisbane River
- Complimentary Devonshire tea or coffee and scones
- Informative commentary about the city
- Complimentary souvenir map

Highlights

- Cruise on the MV Neptune with ample seating on upper and lower decks

- See the original Customs House, Story Bridge, Kangaroo Point and more
- Educational experience – learn about the rich history of Brisbane

Day 3: South Bank Collective Markets

A Sunday option for Non-Rail Participants would be the Southbank Collective Markets. You would depart from Archerfield to Southbank by Bus at 9am returning to Archerfield after lunch at 3:30pm.

Every Saturday and Sunday, The Collective Markets at South Bank feature an exciting range of arts, craft, homewares, collectibles,



exotic items, designer fashion and much more. The Markets are an ideal way to find a unique gift, or simply stroll through and enjoy the atmosphere or a bite to eat.



The Market is an excellent place to sample delicious treats, organic produce and homemade fare. Enjoy the fabulous music and entertainment as you browse.

The markets are located in the heart of South Bank, Brisbane's premier recreational and cultural destination. The market stalls fill the Stanley



Street Plaza. There is a plethora of places at the markets or in Southbank for you to have lunch (own expense) and something to wet everybody's



appetite.

Bus Details

- Pick up at Archerfield at 9am
- Arrive back at Archerfield 3pm

Convention Gala Dinner– Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker at the Convention Dinner will be Andrew Moritz, CEO of Transport Heritage NSW. Transport Heritage NSW is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation focused on delivering in the following four areas: Heritage & Collections, Museums, Events & Experiences & Sector Development. Mr Moritz was previously CEO of Ipswich Railway Workshops west of Brisbane QLD.

THNSW directly manages and operates the following sites:

- NSW Rail Museum, Thirlmere
- Picton — Mittagong Loop Line (attached to the NSW Rail Museum)
- Valley Heights Locomotive Depot
- Large Erecting Shop, South Eveleigh
- Paint Shop, North Eveleigh
- Tank Annex Building, Chullora (Heritage Hub)
- Chullora Railway Workshops
- 'The Igloo', Chullora

THNSW Provide events such as:

- Vintage Tramway Festival Express
- Steam Train Rides at NSW Rail Museum
- Steam to Surf
- Day out with Thomas
- Hornsby Steam Train Rides
- Steamfest Flyer
- Hunter Valley Steamfest
- Penrith Steam Train Rides
- Thirlmere Festival of Steam

THNSW Operate such locomotives as Beyer-Garratt 6029, NSW Government Railways Locomotive 3526 and beginning reconstruction of Locomotive 3820 having recently received funding.

Visit <https://www.thnsw.com.au/> for more information on Transport Heritage NSW's latest news and events. We expect Andrew to give us some insight into the operations and challenges of the THNSW.

Clinics and Presentations

The Clinics and Presentations are coming along great! There is a great variety of subjects being offered, i.e. Scale Speed, Scratch Building using Styrene, ESP Home, Weathering, Scenery etc.

Having said this however, **WE NEED YOU** for Clinics (in particular hands-on Clinics), therefore if you are available to provide a Clinic or Presentation or know of someone who can, please get in touch with Glen McCarley - Mob.: 0435 064 004 or email: membership@nmra.org.au

Glen would love to hear from you to make this convention great. Please remember, it is your Convention, therefore if Members don't put their hands up to provide Clinics or Presentations, then they simply would not be available.

Convention Celebration

It is most encouraging that 30 members have indicated in the survey that they are considering entering the event.

This is a great opportunity for members who are seeking to grow and become better modellers. The model celebration gives members an occasion to put forward their work and have it assessed by experienced modellers using a proven and tried method used for many years. I know from my own experience by having someone else appraise your work is most helpful moving forward to your next modelling project. You still have some time to add some extra detail that could give you that winning edge. Or you can display your skills and show other members what can be achieved. I'm sure all delegates at the convention will be able take away something new that they can try for themselves on returning home.

The photo celebration is a chance for modellers to try new skills, a photo is a thousand words and are very helpful tools in our modelling endeavours. Your mobile phone with some planning and thinking out train spotting could give you first place. If you're latest modelling project is imbedded into your layout, a photo will bring your work to the convention. The photo celebration is open to all members, attending the convention or not. Just send your picture to us.

The craft celebration is something new to the contest room. If you are an Art & Craft person here is something for you. This is an opportunity for you to display your talents to members attending the convention.

Details for the Celebration of Model, Photo and Craft are in the February newsletter, Issue 1. If you would like additional information on the celebration, please feel free to call us.

Arthur Hayes MMR. Celebration Co-ordinator.

Accommodation, Welcome Social Gathering & Convention Gala Dinner

In typical Queensland fashion, if you're at our place around a mealtime - we'll make sure you don't go hungry.

We start on the Thursday night with the Welcome Social Gathering - Canapés and some drinks around a Garden Bar. We've looked after the food and drinks; all you need to do is enjoy yourself rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

During the sessions at Flight One, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are all included. Watch out for some special meals including a BBQ. The Convention Gala Dinner is - as you'd expect - on the Saturday night. We have lined up a spectacular view of Brisbane's south that is worth the price of the dinner in itself - let alone a three-course dinner with a guest speaker who knows a lot about rail heritage.

We haven't forgotten about where you sleep either. There are three good quality hotels within a 15-to-20-minute drive that have offered discounts to those attending the Convention. Don't forget we will also be running a shuttle bus if Brisbane traffic is too horrible a thought to consider. There will also be limited billets available with members of the NMRA in the Brisbane region. More details on the accommodation will be available soon.



Flight Simulator & Scenic Flights



At the convention we will also be offering Scenic Flights around Brisbane to see the sights of Brisbane from the air!

We will also be offering people the chance to experience flying a plane using the Flight One simulators used to train their student pilots.



Layouts on convention tours

Thus far the convention team have been able to secure 16 masterpiece private layouts for you to visit as part of the layout tours program. This will be a self-drive agenda, and you will be able to pick and choose what layouts you want to see.

These magnificent private home layouts available for the tours program depict a variety of scales and prototypes. This includes Australian and USA theme layouts.

Please note that layout and operating sessions are only available pre and post the convention weekend. This will allow you the time to enjoy the convention weekend clinics as well as see the layouts of your choice.



“Bonus offer” we have secured two layouts at the QLD coastline towns of Hervey Bay and Bowen which are available for layout visits outside of the convention 7-day window, for those members travelling past, too, or from these locations. Having been to both layouts we thoroughly recommend that you put these on your agenda as you will not be disappointed

So why not come and enjoy the fun and good old hospitality and extend your stay in the state of Queensland.



Layouts on convention tours (continued...)

