



## NMRA 2025 BRISBANE CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

### Key Dates

#### Registration Opens: Mid March 2025

- Convention runs over 7 days from Wednesday 20th to Tuesday 26th August (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

# Welcome

Welcome to the first March Newsletter for the NMRA 2025 Brisbane Convention August 20th to 26th 2025.

**Registration is now open - book your tickets to the convention as well as convention merchandise! Details below.**

Despite Cyclone Alfred, the committee continues to finalise more details as the venues, ops sessions, clinics and more are finalised. Remember, this convention not only are we offering **3 days** of clinics and workshops and a week of activities of layout tours, operating sessions & social dinners/functions over a full week! **BONUS:** Sunday afternoon activity!

The Convention is located at "Flight One", 4 Qantas Avenue, Archerfield Airport, Archerfield. The team has been tireless in securing a plethora of well-heeled sponsors eager to back our 7-day railway modelling extravaganza. 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 continued growing rollcall of Traders who will grace the event, providing invaluable support to attendees for all their modelling needs. The line-up 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.

Our sponsors and traders continue to show remarkable generosity and 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.

# FROM THE CHAIR - REGISTRATION

## Registration details finally here!

It is with great pleasure that I formally advise you the registrations are open and invite you to attend the 2025 National Model Railroad Association – Australasian Region's Convention being held at Archerfield, Brisbane, Australia from 20th-26th August 2025.

Brisbane is the State Capital of Queensland and the heart of the Southeast region. Southeast Queensland offers beaches, World Heritage rainforest, theme parks (including Australia Zoo, Sea World Gold Coast) and all you would expect in an area 5.4 million people call home. Brisbane is also the Host City for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The convention is a fun filled week packed with activities for **ALL** model railroad enthusiasts from the beginner to the advanced modeller. You will not only learn new skills and meet new people, but you will be socialising /networking with other fellow modellers to further your passion for the hobby to create that model railway you have always dreamed of.

This is **NOT** just a 3-day convention. It is 7 days full of amazing opportunities and experiences. There is something to wet every modeller's appetite.

NMRA AR Division 1 is host for this marvellous biannual event and will be hosted in Brisbane at Archerfield Airport in a large hangar and training facilities thanks to one of our key sponsors, Flight One/Tisdall Aviation at 4 Qantas Avenue, Archerfield Airport, Archerfield.

What can you expect from this action-packed week?

- **Three** full days of presentations and hands-on clinics
- Many industry traders onsite
- Onsite model railroad layouts
- Drop-in hands-on clinics
- Celebration of Models contest
- Network with some of Australia's and International's best modellers
- Fellowship with like-minded modellers
- Raffles and giveaways
- Layout Tours 2 days before and 2 days after the formal convention
- Operations Sessions 2 days before and 2 days after the formal convention
- 3 days of onsite catering
- Partners/non-rail program (3 full days – additional charge applies)
- Welcome Social Gathering (additional charge applies)
- Convention Gala Dinner (additional charge applies)
- Offsite Activity (Sunday afternoon) – options to be advised and charges may apply
- Opportunity to book for:-
  - Hands on Flight Simulator (an actual commercial simulator) (additional fee \$70)
  - Joy flights over Brisbane and Moreton Bay (additional fee \$150)

All this for \$295 registration which is under \$43/day.

(N.B. the \$295 is the early bird fee applicable until 30th April 2025 for current NMRA members and then reverts to \$335).

**So what are you waiting for??** Act now and take advantage of the Early Bird rate before it expires and give yourself more money to spend on your modelling. We can't wait to see you in sunny Queensland for this signature event for 2025.

# Registration Opens!

**Its finally here - Registration Opens! Whoo Hoo!**

Registration is open time to get your Tickets and don't forget this years Convention merchandise.

## Costings:

- Registration NMRA members – **Early Bird Fee (prior to 30/4/25)** - \$295
- Registration non-NMRA members – **Early Bird Fee (prior to 30/4/25)** - \$335 and includes 1 year **complimentary** NMRA-AR membership
- Registration NMRA members – (after 30/4/25) - \$335
- Registration non-NMRA members – (after 30/4/25) - \$375 and includes 1 year **complimentary** NMRA-AR membership
- Welcome Social Gathering - \$60
- Convention Galla Dinner - \$85
- Non-Rail Partner's Program
  - Friday 22nd August - Sunshine Coast Experience - \$165
  - Saturday 23rd August - Brisbane River Cruise with morning tea - \$70
  - Sunday 24th August - South Bank Collective Markets - \$20
- Convention Polo Shirt - \$40
  - Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL,
- Convention Cap - \$29
- Convention Mug - \$20



- Flight Experiences
  - 40 minute Cessna 172 flight over Moreton Bay (Scenic Charter - operator Flight One (Services) Pty Ltd - price per passenger - up to 3 passengers per flight - \$150
  - 30 minute flight in Cirrus SR20 simulator with instructor - \$70.00

# Link and QR Code to buy tickets here!

**You can now get onboard and buy your Convention tickets now!**

<https://buytickets.at/nmraar>



## Clinics

**Latest Survey said members wanted 'Hands on Clinics' so we have delivered**

Well the results are in. Australian members want at least two things. Following the various responses from the latest questionnaire/survey related to the upcoming AR Convention, members want 'Hands on Clinics' and another topic that is high up there are clinics related to 'Styrene construction'. So we have delivered.

For those intrepid modellers who are willing to give the styrene building clinics a go at the AR Convention in Brisbane in August this year, then it is recommended that you bring your own tools along to your registered class. Numbers for each class at this stage will be capped at 12 attendees and all classes will be run at least twice. If demand should warrant either a larger class complement or more repetitions of a class that will be contemplated by the organising committee pending room and presenter availability.

While these classes are meant for the very beginner in scratch building with styrene, they can be attended by more experienced modellers, and hopefully the end result will be a thirst for more scratch building with styrene. Be that for buildings, wagons, or various detail items for your layouts. The Clinics currently being scheduled are 'building 6 HO scale pallets out of styrene strip', and also 'building a HO scale Clothesline out of styrene'.

In order to keep the costs for the convention down, it has been decided that attendees really need to bring their own tools. The various styrene components will be provided on the day. So the recommended tools are as follows:-

### **Styrene Clinics**

- Cutting Mat
- Modelling knife – prefer snap off blade type
- 1 x 30cm steel ruler
- 1 x 15cm steel ruler
- 1 pair of tweezers – ones available from Jaycar are good and cheap
- 1 bottle of styrene glue – Revell Contactor professional is preferred (due to its delayed set time)

### Optional Items



- Set of modelling files

Attendees to these clinics need to be aware of how they will travel to the Convention. If travelling to the Convention by Plane, please do not put a cut-off blade knife in your carry-on luggage. Checked baggage is OK. Also the airlines may also take offence of having the glue and any files in carry-on luggage may raise a question or two. Please put everything in checked baggage.

### Modelling Tarpaulins Clinic

We also have another Clinic scheduled at the Convention where attendees will be able to spray paint and roll up some HO scale tarpaulins. Paints, tarpaulin material and cotton for wrapping the tarpaulins up, along with some other supporting construction materials will be provided at the clinic. To assist with this construction process, it would be appreciated if attendees to this clinic bring along their own **pair of scissors**. These are used to cut up the tarpaulin material to the size of a HO tarpaulin. Again planning may be required for any travelling via a plane, as scissors are not allowed in carry-on luggage.

- 1x pair of scissors

**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](mailto:membership@nmra.org.au)

# Convention Celebration

**You still have time to construct a model for the Model Celebration!**

Its five (5) months to the convention, you still have time to construct a model for the Model Celebration. Contests differ to the AP's in that we are looking for winners, the best entry. Yes, you can still earn merit as well for your AP. Knowing what in the model evaluation can help to give you that edge.

There is five (5) different attributes that is taken into account when evaluating models.

1. **Construction.** Complexity (0-15) Quality (0-25) Max 40 points.
  - Proper handling and selection of materials, assembly of components and parts, fit of components, neatness of glue, is it square, windows, doors, hatches are straight and plumb, repeat of multiple parts are evenly spaced. Avoid excess glue, glue cobwebs, glue on windows, fingerprints, uneven roofs, gaps in joints, mismatched joints.
2. **Detail.** Complexity (0-5), Completeness (0-15) Max 20 points.
  - Amount and complexity, number of subordinate parts, refinement, underbody detail for rollingstock, board by board vs scribe siding, gutters, downpipes fascia boards, bolt heads, nail heads, door knobs, accuracy, completeness and placement of colour and lettering.
3. **Conformity.** Completeness (0-5) Prototype Practice (0-20) Max 25 points.
  - Prototype documents, photos, completeness and placement of components as to the prototype, roof profiles, window/door locations, trucks, brake rigging, interior, era appropriate, size of structural components, thickness of walls, framing, bracing, supports.
4. **Finish & Lettering.** Complexity (0-5) Quality (0-20) Max 25 points.
  - Quality of application of paint, brush marks, unevenness, runs, thickness, amount and method of lettering, decals are straight, even spacing, bubbles, sheen and excess film, amount and

appearance of the weathering, line separation, and number of colours.

5. **Scratchbuilding.** Complexity (0-5), Quantity (1-10) Max 15 points.

- Kit Construction - Max 8 points.

Drew own plans, use of scratch-built detail, scratch-built masters, percent scratch-built.

Additional information can be found in the Achievement Program Judging Guidelines – Motive Power, Cars & Structures. <https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-judging-guide-lines>.



The **photo celebration** has a couple of new categories to test your skills or to try out something new.

**Video** The committee recognises that many modellers prefer to video their models in action.

A maximum of 3 minutes duration of models in action.

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.*

Until now this important aspect of photography hasn't been recognised.

**AI.** AI generated images have become a Worldwide phenomenon, the committee has therefor 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.

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

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



If building models or taking photos is not for you, how about Art & Crafts, there will be a people choice award across three categories, General, Needlework and Railroadiana. Come and join in and show us your skills and be an encouragement to others.

There will be something for everyone in the celebration room each day of the clinics weekend of the convention.

There is now a drop box for the convention on the ARC website. Full details of the celebration can be found in Newsletter #1. <http://nmra.org.au/nmra-25-convention-2025/> If you have questions, please feel free to make contact with us.

Arthur Hayes MMR. 2025 AR Regional Convention. Celebration Co-ordinator.



# Convention Socials Information

**It's not all trains . . .**

The Brisbane 2025 Convention team have also organised two social events to help you get reacquainted with other modellers or maybe make some new friends.



The Convention opens with a Welcome Social late in the afternoon of Thursday 21 August. Attendees at the Welcome Social will be treated to a variety of hot and cold canapés while you and your partner have an opportunity to mix and mingle with friends old and new

With its charming ambiance, ample seating and lush greenery, the Calamvale Hotel's Terrace provides the perfect backdrop for socialising and creating memorable moments in a venue that reminds you that you really are in the sub-tropics.



Of course there is a Convention Dinner. As expected, this will be on the Saturday night and this time we move to the Skyline Room at the Calamvale Hotel where you will be served a three course dinner.

The Skyline room is on the top floor of the Calamvale Hotel and boasts of elegance with breath-taking views. If you can't get enough of the view from inside the Room itself, there is a covered balcony to view the lights of

the southern suburbs of Brisbane and the City during the evening.

After the three course dinner you're sure to be impressed when Andrew Moritz gives us all a greater appreciation of how the heritage of the Australian railway system is being managed. Andrew is well placed to do this as he was the inaugural Director of the Queensland Museum's Workshops Rail Museum and currently the Chief Executive Officer of Transport Heritage New South Wales. Don't stay too late - it's back to Flight One at Archerfield the next morning.



# Layout Tours and Ops

## NMRA AR 2025 Convention tours

The convention team continues to secure additional masterpiece private layouts for you to visit as part of the layout tours program with **18 layout owners have nominated with 20 Layouts currently available**. 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.

As previously mentioned, we have the "Bonus offer" where 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.









# Partners Program

**Its not all about trains**

Tickets to the Non-Rail Partner's Program are also available now with the Convention registration! Full details of the program was provided in the last newsletter and suggest you refer back to that newsletter, but a summary is below.

## Day 1: Sunshine Coast Experience (\$165)

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 full day 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”. Including the following:

- The Ginger Factory & Processing Tour with tastings
- Clock Shop (Montville)
- Fudgyboombahs
- Café’ Culture
- Art Galleries

### Bus Details:

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



## Day 2: Brisbane River Cruise Morning Tea Cruise (\$70)

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!

### Duration 1hr 45min

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

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



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

#### Bus Details:

- Pickup at Archerfield 09:00am
- Arrive back at Archerfield 3pm



### Day 3: South Brisbane Collective Markets (\$20)

A Sunday option for Non-Rail Participants would be the Southbank Collective Markets. You would depart from Archerfield to Southbank by Bus.

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.

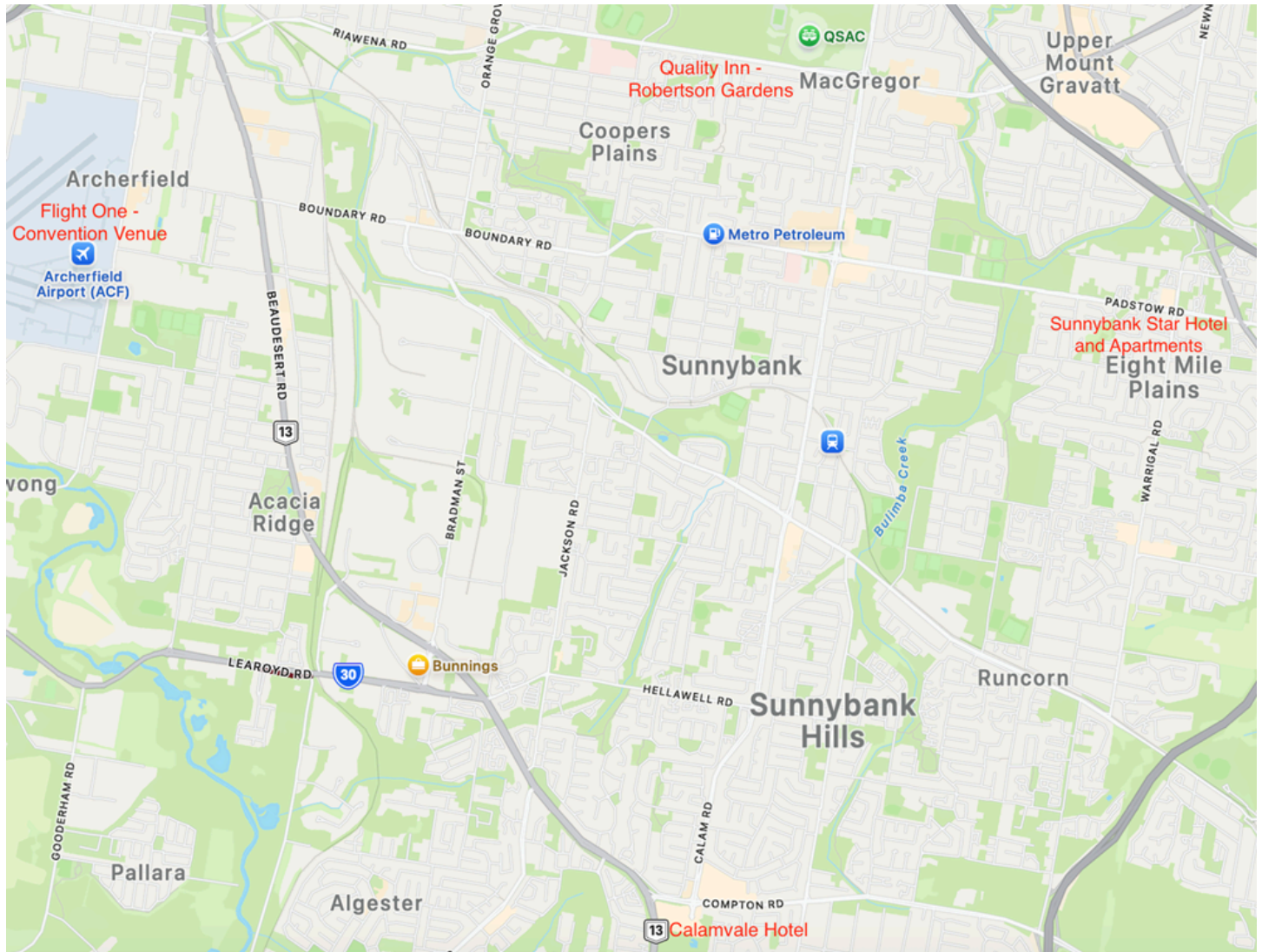
#### Bus Details:

- Pick up at Archerfield at 9:00am
- Arrive back at Archerfield 3pm



# Where do I stay while at the Convention?

Here are some offers and other nearby accommodation options



## Where do I stay while the convention is on?

The three hotels named above have agreed to offer discounted accommodation to attendees at the NMRAAR Convention Brisbane 2025.

### Calamvale Hotel

(Phone: 07 3273 4777 - Webpage: [thecalamvalehotel.com.au](http://thecalamvalehotel.com.au))

The Calamvale Hotel has offered 10% off the rack (advertised) rate on their website at the time of booking. To receive this offer, attendees will need to book through the hotel's website and quote NMRA2025. Please note, the Calamvale Hotel have advised us that they increase their room rates as they get closer to the current date and also room availability as part of their business model.

**\*\*\*The Welcome Social Gathering and Convention Gala Dinner will be held here\*\*\***

## Terms and Conditions

- ALL bookings must be made on their website. They will not accept phone or email bookings.
- ALL additional notes or requests can be added to the booking
- No other discount or promotion can be used in conjunction with this discount
- Discount will NOT apply to existing bookings
- Discount will NOT apply to third party bookings (Booking.com, Agoda etc)
- A Credit Card will be required to secure booking and will be charged 24 hours prior check-in (first night only). Credit Card MUST be presented with ID on check-in OR you will be asked to pay via any alternative means (or not permitted to check-in).
- A \$100 pre-auth is required on check-in

## Quality Hotel Robertson Gardens

(Phone: 07 3875 1999 - Webpage: [robertsongardens.com.au](http://robertsongardens.com.au))

Quality Hotel Robertson Gardens have offered the following:

Room Type	Nett Rate per night
STDQ - <b>Standard Hotel Room</b> – 1 Queen Bed; microwave, mini fridge, kettle, tea & coffee, iron. Free Wi-fi, Free Parking, Free local Gym access	\$169
1SDXL - <b>Deluxe Hotel Room</b> – 1 Queen Bed; microwave, mini fridge, kettle, tea & coffee, iron. Free Wi-fi, Free Parking, Free local Gym access fully refurbished	\$179
DLXQ - <b>Deluxe Hotel Room</b> – 1 Queen Bed & 1 Single Bed; microwave, mini fridge, kettle, tea & coffee, iron. Free Wi-fi, Free Parking, Free local Gym access fully refurbished	\$189
VILL1 - <b>Fully self-contained Villa</b> - 1 Queen Bed in room. Full kitchen. Separate bathroom. Free Wi-fi and parking, fully refurbished	\$229
VILL2 - <b>Fully self-contained Villa</b> - 1 Queen bed in first bedroom, 2 single beds in second bedroom. Full Kitchen. Separate Bathroom. Free Wi-fi and parking, fully refurbished	\$259

## Terms & Conditions

- Book directly with property via email or phone. Credit card required to confirm a booking.
- Rooms are subject to availability at time of booking. 72 Hrs minimum notice required for cancellation. Attendees are to call or email directly to redeem the discounted rates.
- Please address the email to [flavia.filitoga@robertsongardens.com.au](mailto:flavia.filitoga@robertsongardens.com.au) or ask for Flavia when you make the call. Prefer to be contacted on Mon-Friday, 8am – 4pm.

# Sunnybank Star Hotel & Apartments

(Phone 07 3341 7488 - Webpage: <https://sunnybankstarhotel.com.au>)

Sunnybank Star Hotel & Apartments has offered:

Room type	Rate per night
Standard Room 1 Queen, 1 Single bed	\$165
Executive Room 1 Queen Bed	\$175
Kitchenette Studio Room 1 Queen Bed	\$200
Kitchenette Family Room ! Queen, 2 Single beds	\$245
Two bedroom Townhouse 1 Queen, 2 Single Beds	\$280
Executive Two Bedroom Apartment 1 King, 3 Single beds	\$340

## **Terms & Conditions**

- Not refundable. Accommodation costs must be paid when the booking is made
- Only valid for bookings made before 31 May 2025. Subject to availability.
- Prices only valid for accommodation from 21 to 24 August
- To book this accommodation contact the hotel directly by phone or email ([info@sunnybankstarhotel.com.au](mailto:info@sunnybankstarhotel.com.au)) and quote NMRA2124.

## **Other Accommodation Options**

Some other nearby accommodation options available are:

- Coopers Colonial Motel, 1260 Beaudesert Rd, Acacia Ridge - phone 07 3875 1874
- Brisbane Holiday Village, 10 Holmead Rd, Eight Mile Plains - phone 07 3371 6133 (caravan park)
- Salisbury Hotel, 668 Toohey Rd, Salisbury - phone 07 3275 1922
- Acacia Ridge Hotel/Motel. 1386 Beaudesert Rd, Acacia Ridge - phone 07 3274 1444
- Sunnybank Hotel, 275 McCullough St, Sunnybank - phone 07 3345 1081