

BRMA 2026 Convention Programme October 16th-18th

Venue: The convention venue is the Mantra at Parramatta, 25kms west of Sydney's CBD and 350m from Parramatta Railway Station, which can be reached from the domestic airport by train via Central Railway Station. Rail fares can be paid for with any debit or credit card. There is a convention rate available of \$189 per room, subject to availability. On-site parking is also available at \$25.00 per day. **Note:** the hotel does not accept cash payment.

Friday 16th: A visit to the heritage Zig Zag Railway at Lithgow has been arranged. We will travel on one of the new Mariung fleet of interurban trains from Parramatta to Katoomba. As group ticketing is not available, individual travel payment can be made with any debit or credit card at Parramatta and Katoomba Railway Stations. At Katoomba we will travel on a hired bus to Clarence for a 95-minute ride on the train. After the ride, our bus will take us to historic Leura where a large range of café style eateries will be available for lunch.

Friday evening: dinner will be at the restaurant at the Mantra Parramatta, which has been booked for the evening, hence delegates won't be moved along after the meal is completed. It will be a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Saturday 17th: the convention proper, all day. Our guest speaker Graham Nicholas is from the UK. Graham is a career railwayman and a lifetime modeller. He has developed a penchant for modelling prototype locations, with a particular interest on recreating steam age operations with their attendant track formations and signalling arrangements. He is the creator of two large exhibition layouts:

- Grantham - the Streamliner Years (LNER 1930s), right, winner of the Railway Modeller 2024 Cup and, returning to his first love;
- Hills of the North - the Spirit of Shap (1950s London Midland Region), below right, featuring the train banking arrangements.



Other planned presentations include:

- The trains of Wales
- Signalling
- 3D printing and laser-cutting
- Electrical motors in the hobby context
- The thought process and thinking behind building a layout.

There will be a second-hand table, raffle (with a fine range of prizes) as well as the layout photography and modelling competitions (entries restricted to BRMA members).

A Partners' Tour (for those partners not attending the convention), which will involve a ferry ride on the iconic Sydney harbour and lunch (venue to be decided).

Saturday evening: Convention dinner. This will be held in the convention rooms and will include a 3-course meal with table wine and soft drink. There might be an after dinner speaker or trivia competition. This will be another opportunity to spend quality time with your old and new BRMA friends. Graham will hand out the awards to the winners of the modelling and photographic competitions.

Sunday 18th: Morning layout visits and lunch.

- Woolmer Green, 00 (LNER), right
- Uley Junction, 0 (GWR), far right
- Fern Valley Railway, H0 (freelance)
- Ashprington Road, 00 (BR (WR) blue/grey 1980s)
- Salcombe, 0 (BR (WR) early 1960s steam)
- Norton 1937, 00 (GWR/SR)
- The River Division, West Shore Railroad of the New York Central in 1950, also running CSX in Year 2000 (O gauge, 1/48scale). This is where we conclude the layout visits with a bbq lunch at the home of David Howarth. David's layout has to be seen to be believed because of its immense scope and vision.



Post Convention

- **Monday 19th:** The Sydney N Scale Model Railway Club is opening its clubrooms this day for delegates.
- **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th:** the Great Train Show model railway exhibition will be held at Rosehill Racecourse, not far from the Mantra. It is the largest model railway exhibition held in Sydney and not to be missed if you can extend your stay.

Enquiries: Rodney Vanderwaals (0412 514 447 or brmarodneyv@gmail.com).



British Railway Modellers of Australia Inc.

Sydney Convention 16th – 18th October

Registration Form



Welcome to the 2026 BRMA NSW Convention to be held at the Mantra Hotel Parramatta.

Your Details

Name		BRMA No.	
Partners Name		BRMA No. if applicable	
Address		State	
		Post Code	
Email		Phone	
Special Dietary		Mobile	
Emergency Contact, name and phone number			

Event options. Please complete numbers for ***EVERY EVENT*** you will be attending

Event	Cost	No.	Total
Friday morning and afternoon - Zig Zag Railway	\$60		
Friday evening - Delegate buffet dinner at the Mantra Parramatta	\$70		
Saturday – Convention	\$95		
Saturday – Partners Tour	Own Cost		
Saturday evening – Dinner and awards night, wine & soft drink included at the meal	\$80		
Sunday morning - layout tour	Free		
Sunday afternoon – lunch	\$30		
		Total	\$

Prices are correct at the time of TCH going to press.

Payment options

Bank Transfer to BRMA Inc. BSB: 033-050. Account No: 410818	Include both your name and BRMA member number as the reference.
Credit card	Complete box below for details. You will be contacted before payment is taken

Card Details

Card No. _____ Expiry ____/____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Complete and post this form to **Rodney Vanderwaals, 6 Neale Court, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154** or email a copy to brmarodneyv@gmail.com

Conference convenor: Rodney Vanderwaals Email: brmarodneyv@gmail.com

Mobile: 0412 514 447



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Layout Photographic Competition



A layout photography competition will be held, open to all BRMA members (whether they attend the Convention or not), with the winning photos selected by a popular vote of the convention delegates.

Information

1. Entry will be by means of the form below which should be emailed to:

Rodney Vanderwaals at brmarodneyv@gmail.com or, alternatively, they can be posted to:

Rodney Vanderwaals, 6 Neale Crt., Castle Hill, NSW, 2154.

2. Competition entry forms must be received no later than **26th September 2026**.

3. Only one entry is allowed per BRMA member.

4. Entries that have previously won the competition cannot be re-entered.

5. To allow entries to be viewed on a level playing field, each entry will ultimately consist of three 6" x 4" landscape format photos of the member's own layout or layouts, in a 3 photograph frame.

6. The layouts must be British outline.

7. There will be no restrictions relating as to when the photographs were taken or the use of editing tools such as Photoshop, providing you did the editing. The photographs and printing must be your work.

8. Each entry must be mounted in a suitable frame as per the example to the right, which is a K Mart "Eden Collage Frame 8in. x 16in", black, white or oak look, currently retailing for \$10.00, or a similar frame if from another source.

9. The photographs can be either hand-delivered, mounted in the frame, to **Rodney Vanderwaals** at the convention with the member's name and BRMA number written on the back of the frame or if posted, they should be sent unframed (but in a suitable protective envelope) and a frame will be organised for the photographs.

10. Convention delegates will receive a voting form on which they enter the number of the entry they like the best. There will be no judging criteria. The delegates will vote according to their personal preferences.

11. The trophy winner will be the entry with the most votes. No other scores or rankings will be announced. The BRMA President or, in his absence, the Vice President will have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

12. Members entering the competition will retain the copyright of his/her photographs. The member will also retain ownership of the photographs. Hand-delivered framed entries will be returned at the end of the day. If the entrant posted his/her photographs, then his/her entry will be returned via the post minus the frame, which will remain the property of the BRMA.

Any queries with respect of the competition should be addressed to **Rodney Vanderwaals at the email address above or on 0412 514 447**



Your name: _____ BRMA membership no.: _____

Your address (include postcode): _____

Contact telephone number: _____ Your email address: _____

Delivery Method	☐	I, or a friend, will bring my entry ready-framed to the Convention and will hand it in for display before 9.00a.m. on Saturday 17 th October 2026.
	☐	I will post my unframed photographs to the organiser, Rodney Vanderwaals, to be received by 26th September 2026 , for him to frame and display.
Permissions	☐	I have no objection to my photographs being published on the cover of the Membership list, with appropriate acknowledgement.
	☐	I have no objection to my photographs being published in TCH or on the BRMA web site, with appropriate acknowledgement.
	☐	I do not want my photographs to be published.



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Rules for the Modelling Competition



Trophies are awarded for models brought along by financial members of BRMA or sent to the BRMA's annual Convention by a friend or a partner where family membership applies.

"Loco Builders Trophy"

Awarded for the best locomotive, rail-motor or other self-propelled railway vehicle in any scale, scratch-built, kit-built or modified RTR.

"Stanier Trophy"

Awarded for the best scratch-built or kit-built line side structure or other piece of real estate.

"Finden Trophy"

Awarded for the best of either wagons or coaches. The rolling stock may be scratch-built, kit-built or modified RTR. In the case of modified RTR, there must be a minimum of two of the same type of vehicles.

"Gresley Trophy"

For novice entrants. Models in any gauge, either a locomotive, rolling stock (as Finden Trophy) or lineside structure. Novice Entrants are defined as "a BRMA member or a partner where family membership applies who has not previously won a national competition". *In the event that an entrant is awarded first place in any of the other modelling competitions at the same convention, then the entrant is deemed to be disqualified from the Gresley Trophy.*

"N Gauge Trophy"

Models in N Scale 1:148 or 2mm Finescale 1:152, either a locomotive, rolling stock (as per the Finden Trophy) or lineside structure.

Entry rules for ALL Trophies

Eligible Locomotives are:

Scratch-built

Kit-built

Super detailed RTR of the same type as the original or of a different type from the original.

A photo of the unmodified RTR model must accompany the entry.

Eligible Rolling Stock must be either wagons or coaches:

Scratch-built

Kit-built

Super detailed RTR of the same type as the original or of a different type from the original.

A photo of the unmodified RTR model must accompany the entry.

Eligible Lineside structures are:

Scratch-built

Kit-built

Kit-bashed

General Notes

Competitions are for locomotives and rolling stock which have run on British railway metals, for example, a locomotive or item of rolling stock provided it has traversed rail on British soil could include:

- Historically – 'Wartime 'foreigners'
- Current - Non-British stock used in Channel Tunnel operations
- Likewise, scenery, buildings and railway related structures, should where applicable be British.

Where possible a photograph or drawing should accompany the entry with information on the prototype. The method of construction, materials used and whether the model was scratch-built, kit-built, or modified r-t-r must be stated. If the model is modified r-t-r, then a brief outline of the starting point and what was done to achieve the finished result must be included.

Please note: - models worthy of winning in a category at previous conventions were unsuccessful because no information on the prototype was provided, hence the judges, who are generally non-British modellers, had no idea how accurate the model was and consequently scored no points in the authenticity category (see entry form for detail of scoring categories used by the judges on the BRMA website). Competition entry forms are available on the BRMA website.

Each Trophy must have at least two entrants (two people) for a winner to be selected, otherwise no winner will be declared for that trophy.

Models having previously won any of the National Trophies are not eligible for re-entry in any National competition. An individual model can only be entered into one competition at a Convention.