

Revitalisation Proposal - Questions and Answers

General

1. **Q.** Why have the proposed changes not been done before?

A. There were impediments to making the changes. These impediments have largely been removed. In addition, although the proposal is being presented for the first time now, we have been refining it over the last three years.

2. **Q.** Modellers who do not have home internet will be disadvantaged. Have you considered these modellers?

A. Yes. We have had experience working with modellers without home internet and have found the following strategies work.

Electronic Newsletter: This can be emailed to a family member or friend. This friend can either print out the newsletter and deliver it to the modeller or place it on the club noticeboard, or the modeller can visit and read the newsletter on a computer screen.

Announcement of events: A phone call from another modeller.

Virtual events: The modeller can watch the event at the home of another modeller.

3. **Q.** Can you guarantee that what is being proposed will be achieved?

A. Guaranteed, no. Very likely to be achieved, yes.

4. **Q.** In recent years the NZAMRC has not done enough to promote the hobby. How will the new association ensure there is enough promotion?

A. We agree there has not been enough promotion in recent years. As stated in the proposal, we regard promotion as an important function of the new association and will have regular announcements through several channels. This promotion will be mostly done by the events coordinator (who will be assisted by other executive members as required).

Biennial Convention

5. **Q.** Why do you want to change the biennial convention? It is working well as it is.

A. We would only make changes that were supported by the majority of members.

6. **Q.** What percentage of the profits from the convention would the hosting club receive.

A. Up to 50%. The exact formula will be decided upon by the members when the new association is formed.

Loans

7. **Q.** How large can a loan be?

A. That will depend on the what the loan is required for and the potential risk of non-payment.

8. **Q.** What happens if a club is unable to pay back all of the loan?

A. The new association will have two options: arrange a realistic repayment option with the club or write off the outstanding balance of the loan as a bad debt.

Hands-on Workshops

9. **Q.** What happens if a hands-on workshop can not be held because of Covid restrictions?

A. The workshop will be postponed or cancelled, postponement is preferred. If the workshop is cancelled, those who registered for the workshop will get a full refund.

Operating Sessions

10. **Q.** Few NZR modellers are interested in operating sessions, so why bother having operating sessions?

A. The new association is for all prototypes and we know from experience there are many non-NZR modellers who would attend operating sessions.

Clinic Days

11. **Q.** Why have in-person clinic days given that virtual clinic days are cheaper to run?

A. We know from professional experience that in-person meetings are often more productive than virtual meetings. The same conclusion holds with clinics.

Facebook Page

12. **Q.** There are at least a dozen Facebook pages devoted to the hobby in New Zealand. Why introduce another page?

A. The Facebook page would be the official page of the new association and provide information about all aspects of the hobby in New Zealand. None of the existing Facebook pages satisfy these two criteria.

Website

13. **Q.** The NZAMRC's current website is rarely up to date. Do you believe you can keep the proposed website up to date and, if so, how?

A. We believe we can. The new website will take less time to maintain and there will be at least two people doing the maintaining and not just one person as is so for the current website.

Achievement Program

14. **Q.** The NMRA's achievement program is known to be time-consuming to administer. What will you do to ensure the proposed achievement program does not take a lot of time to administer?

A. The program will be developed in stages. If we believe the next stage will take too much time to administer, the next stage will not be implemented. At this time, it is intended the first stage will consist of three certificates: Cars and Wagons, Structures, and Operations.

While the first two certificates will require assessments by experts, the Operations certificate will just need verification that the required number of operating hours have been performed, reducing the time to administer the program.

15. **Q.** Our experience is that the judging of models at the biennial convention has variability. How will you avoid this variability with the proposed achievement program?

A. Three Points:

First, it is impossible to eliminate variability and the new association would not try to. Instead, the aim would be to keep the variability to an acceptable level.

Second, non-interactive webinars that instruct on assessing models will be available.

Third, collaborative judging and not independent judging will be used.