

Modelling Cane Railways

A C Lynn Zelmer, CaneSIG coordinator
Copyright © 2010. May be reproduced for non-commercial use
only; contact the coordinator for any other use.

35

Caledonian
Collieries Rail
Tractor

CaneSIG: <http://www.zelmeroz.com/canesig>

Modelling the Caledonian Collieries Rail Tractor

Introduction

While the Caledonian Collieries rail tractors have not been modelled, there is at least one serious project to do so using materials sourced from the CaneSIG web site. This Handbook article includes many of the images, etc., assembled for that modeller and will be updated as the modelling proceeds.

History

Caledonian Collieries operated a two foot gauge tramline connecting its pit mines and a QR siding near Thagoona, Qld. Fordson tractors, stripped of their rear wheels and front axle, were placed on the frame of an ex-QR steam locomotive leading bogie. The steering wheel was used as a brake wheel and an overall canopy covered the locomotives. The two locomotives operated the line until it closed in 1965 and are now preserved at ANGRMS, Woodford.

Rolled steel channels were bolted onto each side of the ex-bogie's top, with the channel facing out on the 1928 vehicle and in on the 1938 vehicle, with the 1938 channel appearing to be wider than the 1928 version. Wood buffers on each end were later replaced on the rear with the spring side buffers from an Orenstein and Koppel steam locomotive. A sheet metal shield protected the sprocket and chain connection between the tractor's rear axle and the extended rear axle of the bogie. An internal sprocket and chain system connected the front and rear axles to power all four wheels.

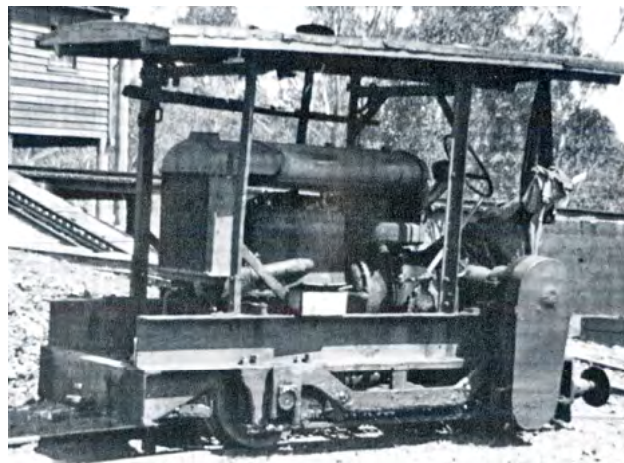
Fordson Rail Tractor: 2' (610 mm) gauge, 22 hp, 4w PM (chain drive), 5' 0" wheelbase. Built By Forrers Pty Ltd of Ipswich using 4 cylinder Fordson tractors 1928, 1938.

Acknowledgements

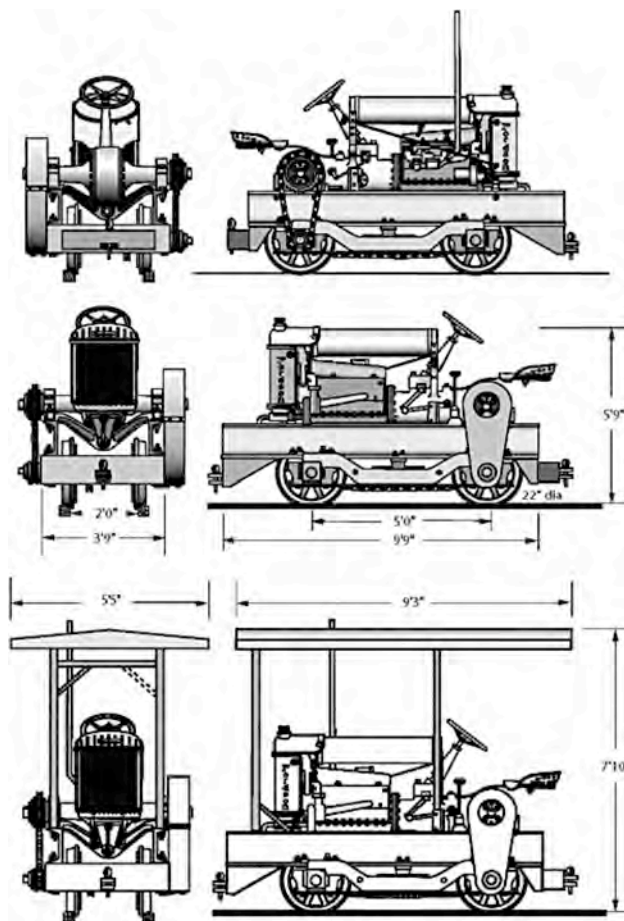
Historical information comes from John Armstrong's draft ANGRMS collection guide and from John Knowles' letter to *Light Railways* 170, April 2003, pp 24-5. A photo of one of the tractors with its metal canopy accompanies John's letter.

Jim Fainges 1:48 scale drawing is available from the CaneSIG and ANGRMS' web sites, follow the links to the Image Collection.

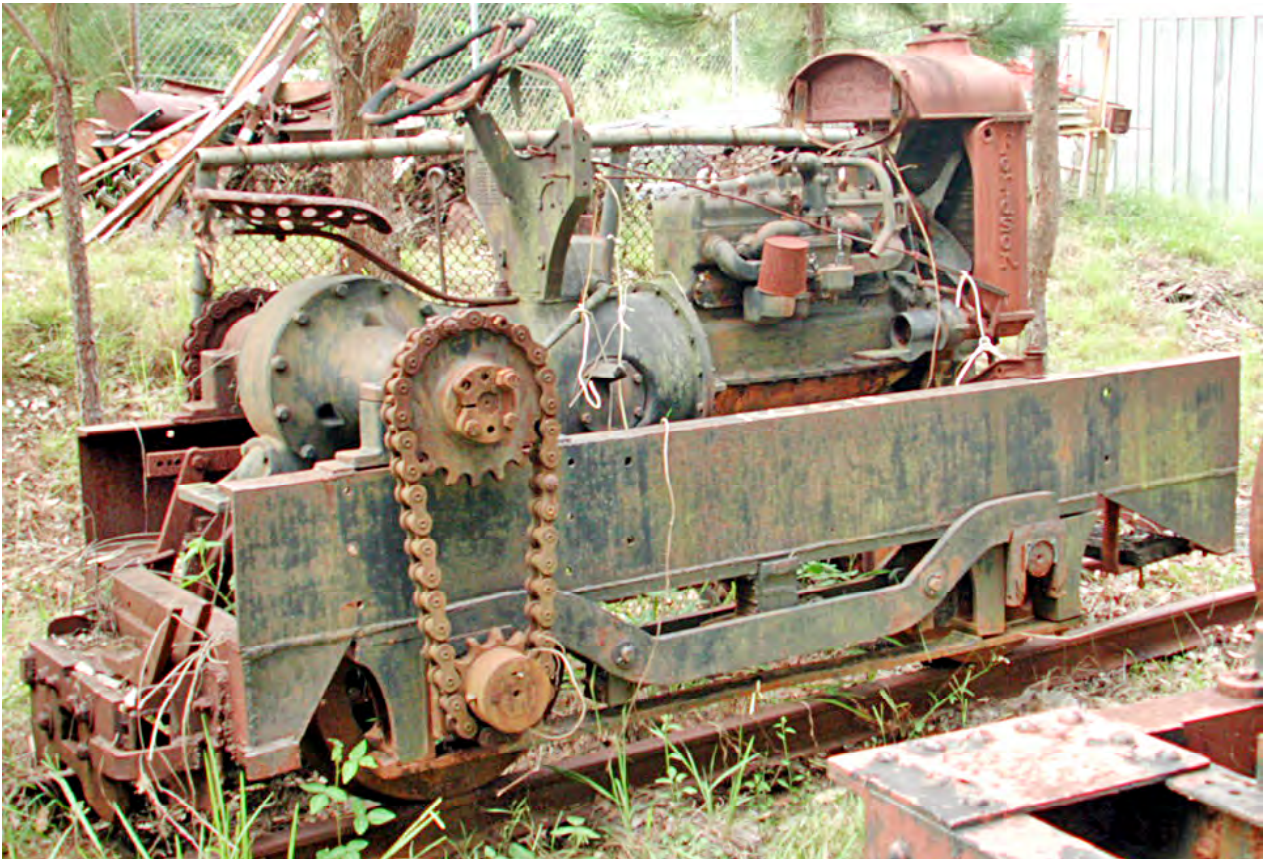
A history of the Colliery can apparently be found in the *ARHS Bulletin*, August 1968, p 178, and a letter in *ARHS Bulletin*, April 1974, p 94.



The 1928 Fordson in 1957. John Knowles photographer, from Letters, *Light Railways* (LRRSA): 170, April 2003, p 25.



Jim Fainges' drawing (above) is available in 1:48 scale from the CaneSIG web site. The roof measurements have been calculated by photogrammetry, thus are conjectural only.



Side views (previous page), Lynn Zelmer photographer.

Detail Photos, Both Tractors



Front and back views of the 1938 tractor at ANGRMS. Mark Gough photographer (above), Greg Stephenson (below)..



Detail photos, 2011 (two images below and seven images next page). Note that there are differences (in appearance and dimensions) between the two tractors, and not just the side frames. Mark Gough photographer.



Two views of the 1928 tractor (above and top next column), 2011. Mark Gough photographer.





Detail photos, 2009 (bottom right and six images next page).
Greg Stephenson photographer.



Modelling
To be continued...