

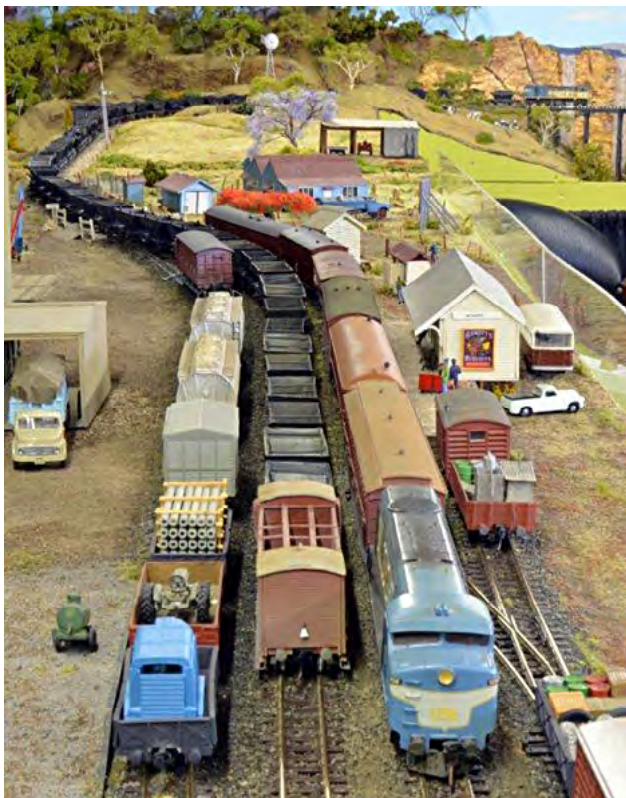
MODELLING THE RAILWAYS OF QUEENSLAND CONVENTION

Modelling Notebook



SWR B 17 Coal Export

With an upturn in coal export, SWR has added Train B 17 to the Time Table.



A couple of my locos including the 1723 will pull the 59 hoppers and van around the layout.

But a train this size is too big on the layout, only one road will hold it, plus being 4 wheelers, breaking up the train has a few issues. Thomas was right "them troublesome trucks".

Thus I made two trains, one loaded (30 wagons) and the other (29 wagons) all empties. All wagons have been weighted to 23/25 grams.

Construction

The underframes are Peco TT3 solebars, they came in two sizes, 9 foot wooden frame and 10 foot steel

frame. I purchased them in the mid-70s from Clive McTaggart, the then owner of Austral Modelcraft.

They are a long way from a QR hopper frame, about the only thing the same is they both have 4 wheels, but there is nothing else about, I have waited 40 years, it was time to do it.

The frames have been modified with brass/berlin wheel bearings, 9mm plastic wheels have been replaced with correct size metal wheels; the headstocks have been milled to take a whisker scale KD coupler at the correct height (9.3 mm centre). Outside brake blocks were added, Kerroby HD 0069.

The VJM bodies are styrene sheet vacuum formed over a wooden block made by the late Jim Fainges in the mid-70s, the styrene sheet was heated over a hot plate and dropped over the wooden mould mounted on a wooden box hooked to Marj's (his wife's) vacuum cleaner. When cool the shape was cut and micro strip was added for detail.

The various wooden hoppers were scratch built using Evergreen scribed sheet. The rivets are a mix of Archer (smaller ones) and Micromark decals.

QR in the 60s/70s

Loco 1270 is visiting from Oldstead to assist with the increased traffic.

The two coal trains look great passing each other and running through the stations on Westgate, my QR South West Region layout.

My 10 VJMG are next for the modification.

Enjoy, bringing back some memories of the 60s/70s.

Editor's note: A video tour of Westgate, including an interview with Arthur, is available (June 2017) on YouTube (AU): https://youtu.be/4C_yqi0LPfc.

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The VJM bodies (above) were scratch built from styrene sheet vacuum formed over a wooden block and detailed. The wooden hoppers (below) were scratch built with scribed siding. All are weighted to 23-25 grams.



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SWR train B 17 heading to the mines with empty 4w coal wagons (above) and returning loaded (below).

