

The Queensland Sugar Industry and its Tramways

Lynn Zelmer
lynn@zelmeroz.com
www.zelmeroz.com/CaneSIG

March 2005

The Australian Sugar Industry c 1979

New mills and growing areas have been established, especially on the Northern Queensland Tablelands and in Western Australia while mills in other areas have been closed.

Australian Sugar Industry
Production Areas and Bulk Sugar Ports (as served by 2 1/2 gauge)

RAILWAY/Tramway DETAILS

- Pine Ck Mill is still remaining mill receiving cane via a Government Railway
- All mills except:
 - Maryborough Mill
 - Rocky Pt Mill
 - Condamine Mill
 - Broadwater Mill
 - Harwood Mill
- Ore supplied in large part by mill Tramways or 2 1/2 gauge (except Pioneer Mill - 3 1/2)
- Maryborough and Rocky Pt Mills operate (3 1/2 and 2 1/2 gauge respectively) Systems within the mill yards will come on railroads brought to the mill yard by motor truck
- The three NSW mills converted to road transport in their entirety in the mid-70s
- The bulk sugar ports at Lucinda Pt (English District) and Mourmigan Harbour (Shire of District) are supplied by 2 1/2 gauge tramways; other ports are served by BSW and Road

18/3
6/78

Manning, K W (1983). In Their Own Hands, Farteigh CO-Op Sugar Milling Assoc. Ltd: Farteigh Qld, p x.

KEY TO SIGNS

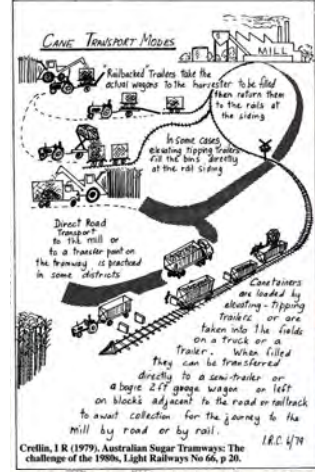
1 PIONEER	14 COA	28 MARYBOROUGH	42 WINDYBUSH	56 BEE
2 FORTYFOUR	15 FORTYFOUR	29 GUNNAP	43 MARYBOROUGH	57 MARYBOROUGH
3 CONNELL	16 CONNELL	30 MARYBOROUGH	44 MARYBOROUGH	58 CONNELL
4 DUNDAS	17 DUNDAS	31 MARYBOROUGH	45 MARYBOROUGH	59 MARYBOROUGH
5 BARRON	18 BARRON	32 MARYBOROUGH	46 MARYBOROUGH	60 MARYBOROUGH
6 MARYBOROUGH	19 MARYBOROUGH	33 MARYBOROUGH	47 MARYBOROUGH	61 MARYBOROUGH
7 MARYBOROUGH	20 MARYBOROUGH	34 MARYBOROUGH	48 MARYBOROUGH	62 MARYBOROUGH
8 MARYBOROUGH	21 MARYBOROUGH	35 MARYBOROUGH	49 MARYBOROUGH	63 MARYBOROUGH
9 MARYBOROUGH	22 MARYBOROUGH	36 MARYBOROUGH	50 MARYBOROUGH	64 MARYBOROUGH
10 MARYBOROUGH	23 MARYBOROUGH	37 MARYBOROUGH	51 MARYBOROUGH	65 MARYBOROUGH
11 MARYBOROUGH	24 MARYBOROUGH	38 MARYBOROUGH	52 MARYBOROUGH	66 MARYBOROUGH
12 MARYBOROUGH	25 MARYBOROUGH	39 MARYBOROUGH	53 MARYBOROUGH	67 MARYBOROUGH
13 MARYBOROUGH	26 MARYBOROUGH	40 MARYBOROUGH	54 MARYBOROUGH	68 MARYBOROUGH
14 MARYBOROUGH	27 MARYBOROUGH	41 MARYBOROUGH	55 MARYBOROUGH	69 MARYBOROUGH
15 MARYBOROUGH	28 MARYBOROUGH	42 MARYBOROUGH	56 MARYBOROUGH	70 MARYBOROUGH
16 MARYBOROUGH	29 MARYBOROUGH	43 MARYBOROUGH	57 MARYBOROUGH	71 MARYBOROUGH
17 MARYBOROUGH	30 MARYBOROUGH	44 MARYBOROUGH	58 MARYBOROUGH	72 MARYBOROUGH
18 MARYBOROUGH	31 MARYBOROUGH	45 MARYBOROUGH	59 MARYBOROUGH	73 MARYBOROUGH
19 MARYBOROUGH	32 MARYBOROUGH	46 MARYBOROUGH	60 MARYBOROUGH	74 MARYBOROUGH
20 MARYBOROUGH	33 MARYBOROUGH	47 MARYBOROUGH	61 MARYBOROUGH	75 MARYBOROUGH

FARTEIGH TRAMWAY
BRUCE HIGHWAY
QLD GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

Kilometres 0 10 20

Farteigh's tramway system showing Bruce Highway and Government railway

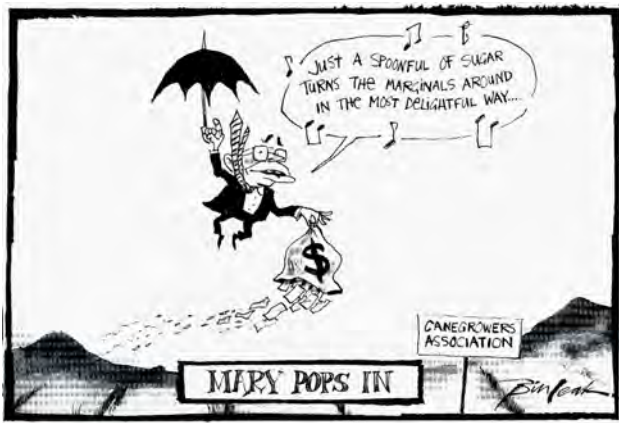




© Greg Stephenson

Bingera Mill, August 2004





The Australian, 28 April 2004, p 12



Fairymead Mill, August 2004
Closed January 2005



Mill Closures since 1955

- Gin Gin, 1974
- Qunaba, 1985
- Goondi, 1986
- North Eton, 1988
- Cattle Creek, 1990
- Hambledon, 1991
- Moreton, 2003
- Fairymead, 2004

Fairymead Mill, August 2004
Closed January 2005
Source: John Downling, Torii News



Bill, Petrie and the 'destructo' train 5 Jan 05.
The locos departed Moreton rails for Bingera Mill
at Bundabeg 14 Jan 05. © Carl Millington



The Tramways

- DANGER**
- Still in operation with tramways:**
 Isis, Millaquin, Bingera,
 Plane Creek, Racecourse, Pleystowe,
 Marian, Farleigh, Proserpine,
 Inkerman, Kalamia, Pioneer (1067mm),
 Invicta, Victoria, Macknade,
 South Johnstone, Mourilyan,
 Babinda, Mulgrave, Mossman
- In operations without tramways:**
 NSW (3 mills), Rocky Point,
 Maryborough, Tablelands,
 Ord (WA)



Ron Aubrey drawing, Ian Dunn photo ©



Lan Dunn, Feb 2003



© K J Walker, 1977
Greg Stephenson Collection



© K J Walker, 1977
Greg Stephenson Collection



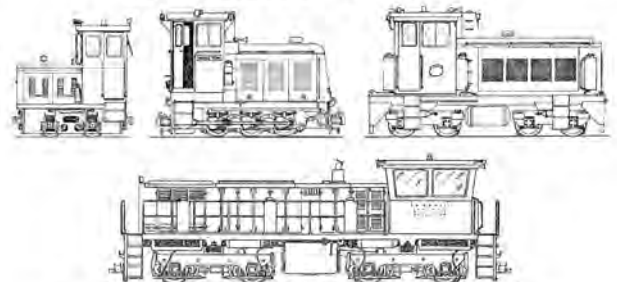
Moreton Sugar Mill 1977, © Peter Jensen



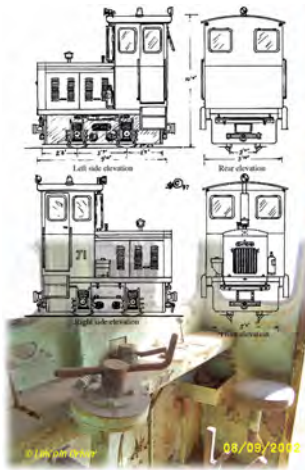
Mill #18, Obdulio Morales, Cuba,
2' 3.5" gauge; Claus Kleinhapt ©2003

Locomotive Generations

Mostly 0-6-0 DH or B-B DH (15-40 tonnes), but also smaller locos



Since 1954 most have been manufactured in Australia, sometimes under license. From 1991 all "new" locomotives have been rebuilt from ex-Government railway B-B DH (QR 1067mm, NSW 1435mm gauge)





Moreton Mill 'diesel shops', December 1966; © Peter Jensen
Note that locos shown here were still in use when the mill closed late 2003



Moreton Mill water wagon 1966
© Peter Jensen, both photos
Note wheels on wagon, dual tanks with corrugated cover over centre of wagon, older style water pump on one end.



CaneSIG: © Lynn Zelmer



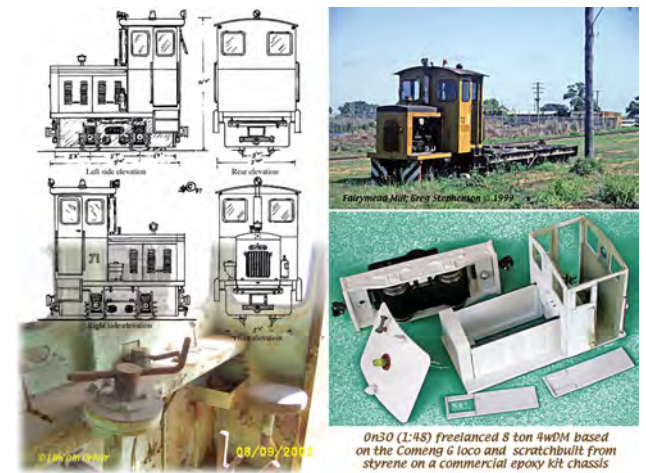
CaneSIG: A C Lynn Zelmer © 2003



© Gary Stephenson



CaneSIG: A C Lynn Zelmer © 2003



H0n30 modelling

- Queensland prototype
- 9 mm gauge
- 'N' scale or 009 mechanisms, wheelsets and couplers
- Styrene and other materials for scratchbuilding
- Resin and white metal for commercial models

Models here by Queensland modeller Carl Millington.

- Bilibi (upper left) is as it was in 1990 and was Carl's first scratchbuilding project (Bemo mechanism).
- Prosperine #2 (right) is a standard Chivers kit.
- The tamper (upper right) and brake van #5 (below tamper) are scratchbuilt from styrene using plans which Carl measured from the prototype (he works on a cane railway).
- The track jack (right) is removable from the navy (MoW) truck.

Modelling the Bundaberg Jenbach

Prototype drawings by Jim Fairbairn; model adapted from Bob Dow's original plans/design.

Bundaberg Jenbach photo © Jim Fairbairn



Far North Hobbies 1:87 model of Marian Mill's Eimco loco

MARION SUGAR MILL
Eimco, B-B bogie d/h loco

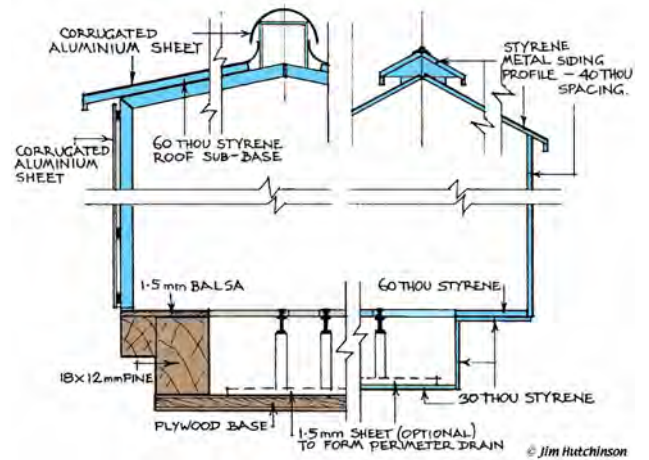
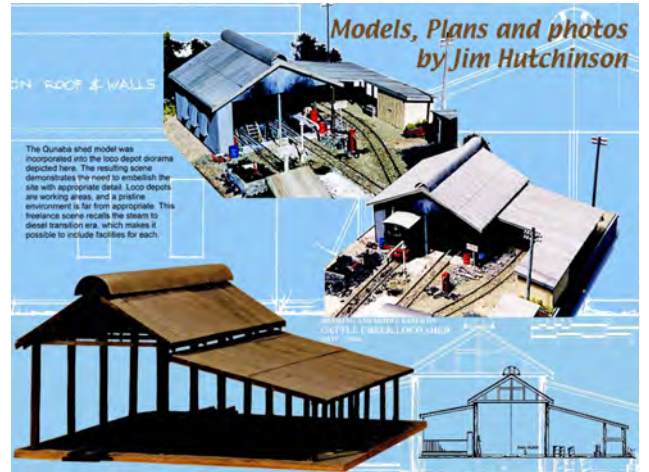
Modelling Queensland's Cane Railways Brake Vans

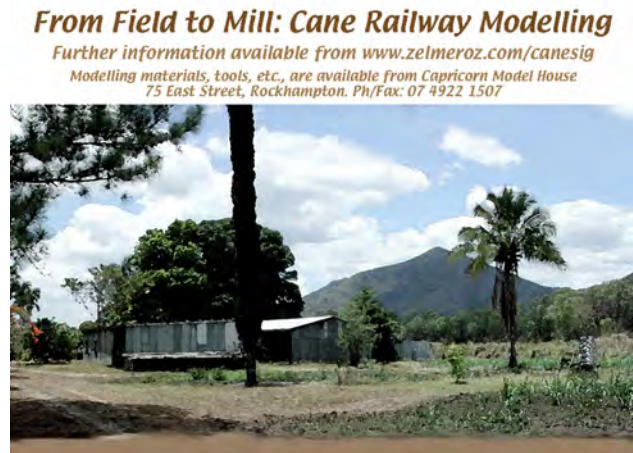
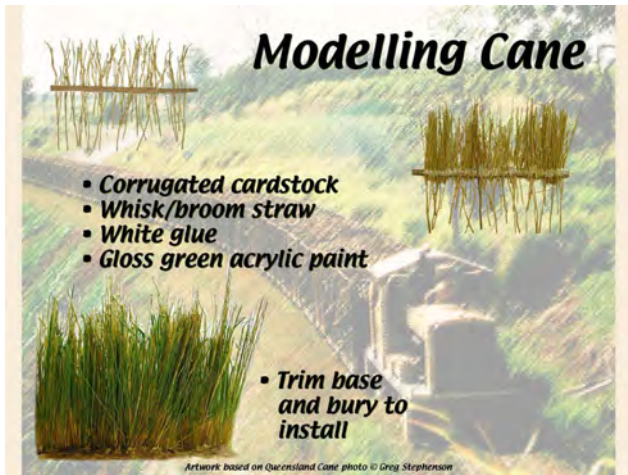
Cane bins on Queensland cane railways lack brakes, thus the need for radio-controlled brake vans, normally positioned at the end of the rake, to supplement loco brakes.

Prototype photos by Greg Macgregor

Modelling Queensland Cane Railways Transporting Sugar

Prototype photos by Chris Hart and Greg Macgregor





Historical Information Sources

- Libraries and Archives (government & private)
- Museums, including small local groups
- Historical Societies (especially their journals)
- Rail Research Groups and their journals
- Industry publications
- Internet sites
- Online discussion groups
- Mapping organisations
- Corporate records
- Postcards & slide sets
- Individual photographers
- Site visits



State Library of Queensland, MS 14239
State Records, GP 1782
State Library of Queensland, MS 14239
State Records, GP 1782



CaneSIG: <http://www.zelmeroz.com/canesig>
Qld Rail Heritage: <http://QldRailHeritage.com>
ANGRMS: <http://www.angrms.org.au>
ASCR: <http://QldRailHeritage.com/ascr>
ASIM: <http://www.sugarmuseum.org.au>
ILRMS: <http://www.gghome.com/ILRMS>
Light Rails: <http://www.lrrsa.org.au>

