

THE NARROW GAUGE WORLD OF SUGAR CANE

LYNN ZELMER

<http://www.zelmeroz.com>

As presented at the 10th Australian Narrow Gauge Convention, 23 – 24 April 2011
The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich, Queensland

The CaneSIG, the Sugar Cane Railway (Tramline) Modelling Special Interest Group, web site provides information on sugar industry railways, whether narrow or standard gauge, as well as modelling information. A companion web site provides support for the Narrow Gauge SIG of the NMRA's Australasian Region.

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

<http://www.zelmeroz.com/ngrail>.

As the coordinator for CaneSIG I've had access to images and information on cane railways in many countries. This presentation looks at some of these primarily narrow gauge operations through the images of CaneSIG contributors. The images which follow indicate the scope of the session.

Acknowledgements and References

images and other resources available for the non-commercial use of modellers. Copyright © remains with the original photographers and their support is freely acknowledged.

LRRSA's *Light Railways* magazine is an essential reference with back issues readily available. Rob Dickinson's CDs containing hundreds of images from Indonesia and Cuba are only one example of the variety of video, CD and DVD resources available.

The following are mostly recent references from my personal collection to provide a starting point for modellers. Histories have been written for many Australian mills, look on the second hand market. Recent books about the sugar industry in other countries are less common, again check the second hand market for older publications.

Alcorn, Berenis and Dunn, Robin (1997). *Moreton Sugar Mill: Sweet heart of Nambour*.

Chiddix, Jim and Simpson, Mackinnon (2004). *Next Stop Honolulu: Oahu Railway and Land Company 1889-1971*, Sugar Cane Press.

Conde, J C (1975). *Sugar Trains Pictorial*, Glenwood. Includes a reproduction of the 1914 Gregg Company catalogue of cane cars and related equipment.

Dunn, Ian (2010). *Clydes Among the Cane: Fiji's sugar railway on Viti Levu in the twenty-first century*, Everleigh Press.

Dunn, John (2008). *Comeng: A history of Commonwealth Engineering, Vol 2: 1956-1966*, Rosenberg.

Dyer, Peter and Peter Hodge. (1988). *Cane Train: The Sugar-cane Railways of Fiji*, NZRLS. Definitive reference for the various cane railways in Fiji.

Gough, Bob and Webber, Brian (1999). *Queensland Sugar Cane Railways Album*.

Kerr, Bill, and Blyth, Ken [Comp] (1993). *They're All Half Crazy: 100 years of mechanised cane harvesting*, Canegrowers.

Madson, Hal (2006). *Betteravia: memories of a modern California ghost town*. The three differently gauged railways serving Union Sugar's company town. [Sugar Beets].

Marshall, Lawrence G (2001). *Indian Narrow Gauge Remembered*, Plateway Press. A pictorial record of Indian narrow gauge railways from the mid-70s to the 1990s,.

Walker, Christopher (2009). *Narrow Gauge Railways of Cuba: from the 1860s to the present day*, Trackside Publications.

Wilson, Craig (2002). *Built by Baldwin: The story of E M Baldwin & Sons, Castle Hill, New South Wales*, LRRSA. Australia's E M Baldwin, manufacturer of sugar mill and mining locomotives.



***Fiji:** Rarawai, #9 at Tavua depot. That's a fuel bowser just inside the enclosure to the right of the locomotive. Ian Dunn photographer, October 2009.*



***Java:** Sumberharjo is one of the few mills left in Indonesia to operate field lines. The area is low-lying and obviously flood-prone, with extensive drainage works having built through what were once swamps, so the future of these tramways is quite optimistic. Here domestic water buffalo haul cane trucks over temporary track laid in the fields. John Browning photographer, July 2010.*



South Africa: Douth African Railways branch, Umtwalume Valley Estates #2, a 2' gauge still working Avonside built in 1933. John Browning photographer, June 2010.



Egypt: Dishna Sugar Factory, #1 JENBACHER (Austria). Martin Heier photographer, 2009.



Okinawa, Japan: #8 (4w DH?) with rake of full bins at mill. Tom Eagles, USN, Ret, photographer, c 1970.



Australia: Two cane locomotives, at least one likely a Bundaberg-built Fowler, at Quanaba Mill, Queensland. Peter Bruce photographer, late 1964.