

# Modern Cane Railways of Queensland

Carl Millington's presentation at the Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention, 2004

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## Part 11: Cane Bins and Bulk Sugar Boxes

### Cane Bins

Cane bins come in many shapes, sizes and capacities.

A cane bin simply put is a wire basket on wheels. Some of the first bins constructed were simply this as shown below, having being constructed using the frames of wholestalk trucks.

Today's bins are made of galvanized steel frames, sides and ends, fitted with mesh on the sides and mesh, sheet steel or corrugated iron used for the base of the bin. The majority of bins currently in use throughout Queensland are unsprung four wheelers.

Experiments in the early 1980's lead to the development of the bogie bin. Surprisingly only 3 mills use bogie bin: Pleystowe, Victoria and Macknade Mills. Mulgrave, Tully and Proserpine have opted for a large four wheeled 10 ton bin. The biggest reason for why more mills haven't gone to bogie or the big four wheeled 10 tonners, is the cost's involved in purchasing the bins and the modifications needed in the yards and at the tippler to handle such new bins.

Mossman Mill uses removable open top containers mounted on a frame fitted with bogies and are known as 'canetainers'. The canetainer is removed sideways from the frame onto trucks or stands for transport to areas not covered by the tramway.

Cane bins are either manufactured at the mill or by an outside contractor. Bins are unbraked.

### Bulk Sugar Boxes

The raw sugar produced by Victoria and Macknade Mills is transported to the bulk sugar terminal at Lucinda using the mill's tramway systems in 11 ton bulk sugar boxes. The boxes are filled from the top and are emptied by tipping the boxes on their sides. The side doors are kept in place by locks that are released prior to tipping. The boxes are removable from their bogied frames for maintenance.

South Johnstone and Mourilyan mills once sent their raw sugar to the terminal at Mourilyan Harbour by rail. Originally this operation was part of QGR's Innisfail Tramway. After the tramway was sold only Mourilyan mill kept shipping bulk sugar by rail, until road transport took over in 1997.





Early Mourilyan Mill cane 2.5 ton bin built on ex-wholestick truck frame



Marian Mill 4 ton bin; note extended sides on bin at left to increase capacity





Isis Mill 6 ton bin



Victoria Mill 11 ton bogie bin





Mulgrave Mill 10 ton bin



Mossman Mill nine tonne canetainer





Bulk sugar boxes used by Victoria and Macknade Mills.



Herbert River Mills (Victoria and Macknade) bulk sugar wagons, end view. Brian McWilliam, photographer