

CaneSIG: The Cane Railway (Tramline) Modelling Special Interest Group



Box 1414, Rockhampton Qld 4700, 7/12/02

This progress report is being sent to the NMRA SIG Coordinator, CaneSIG contributors, etc., and should bring you up to date on CaneSIG and its website, as well as foreshadowing future developments.

CaneSIG, the on-line (virtual) special interest group for cane railway modellers, is open to any individual who supports its objectives. SIG resource materials are generally available for free download from the CaneSIG web site.

I don't keep traffic counts on the web site but our ISP says that the CaneSIG site is the busiest of the several sites they physically host. As the CaneSIG Coordinator I'm very pleased with the positive feedback from site visitors and wish to thank the contributors to the site... so take a bow: John Armstrong, Ron Aubrey, Tom Badger, Les Behan, Bill Blannin, Malcolm Brown, John Browning, Bob Dow, Ross Evans, Jim Fainges, Bob Gough, Chris Hart, Jeff Hatcher, Jim Hutchinson, Peter Jones, Steve Malone, George Marsh, Greg McHugh, Ken McHugh, David Mewes, Carl Millington, Rob Nesbitt., Jim Quinlan, Greg Stephenson, John Teichmoeller... and any others I've missed. Your contributions are appreciated!

Image Collection

One of the most significant changes during the past year has been the addition of hundreds of prototype images to the searchable database. These can be accessed by typing in a one or two word search term and then selecting from the resulting list. Some of the images are also searchable from the two museum sites I maintain, thus hopefully attracting more visitors to the CaneSIG web site.

There have been enough new images that I still haven't managed to include everything or to transfer some topic page images to the database. I did get Jim Fainges' plans included and do hope to get the remaining images indexed eventually.

I hope to add two new searchable databases in the near future. One will access cane railway model images in the same way as the existing prototype images. The other will be a 'card catalogue' for my

library, allowing viewers to identify books, videos, etc., with relevant modelling or prototype details.

Modelling Convention and Handbook

The notes I prepared for my cane railway presentation at the *Modelling the Railways of Queensland 2002 Convention* have been converted into downloadable pdf files and are available from the web site, along with the first of a series of notes on modelling engine sheds from Jim Hutchinson.

I had a CaneSIG booth with the *Field to Mill* micro-layout (see the modelling section of the web site) at the Convention as well as doing the presentation and all seemed to be well received.

The banner image at the top of this page showing one of our Queensland mills is from the general modelling notes and will hopefully also be the mill in the distance for the cane train simulator project (see below). I'll keep expanding both the general and engine shed notes as time permits. Jim Fainges and I have also discussed publishing some of his plans, with photographs of the locomotives and wagons, in a high quality paper format as a fund raiser... we'll see how time permits.

My HOn30/On30 Models

You'll have to look at either the modelling notes or the web site for photos of my recent HOn30 model building results. I had a real spate of building prior to the Convention but the additions to the image collection then became a major priority. I'm hoping that the lure of the air conditioner this summer will encourage more building.



This *Chivers* generic 2 plank open wagon, built per the instructions and as yet unpainted, is my first

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On30 model, although I've also been experimenting with options for On30 whole stick trucks. I've almost finished a *Link Rugga* chassis kit (7mm, conversion from 2') and it looks like its wheel sets and bearings could work for quite reasonable (albeit not inexpensive) wholestick truck and chopped cane bin models.

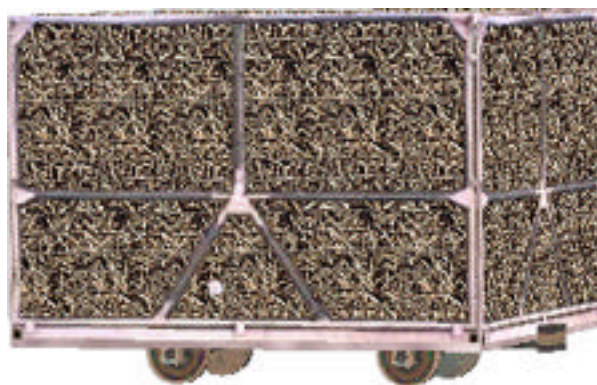
Card Models

Jim Fainges has very generously allowed me to put his cane locomotive and wagon drawings, plus his shire tramway drawings, up on the web site. He's also a well known developer of card models and provided a locomotive and several bin models for free downloading from the web site. These are 7mm scale and, with care, result in quite credible models.

TrainSIG (Capricorn Sugar)

As you can see from the cane bin (above right) I've also been doing some virtual modelling—and I can assure you that it isn't any easier building a good quality 3D model on the computer than it is in 3.5 or 7mm scale. I suspect that the NMRA isn't quite up to allowing virtual models in their competitions, etc., but I suspect that this is one way we could attract a lot of new younger members to the hobby.

I'm using third party software to build models (cane bins, 0-4-0 diesel locomotive, engine shed and other



buildings, Aussie style trees, etc.) for *Microsoft's TrainSIM* software and intend to develop a short (5-10 km) branch with the mill visible in the distance. The object will be for visitors to the Durundur Railway (and perhaps other museums) to shift a rake of bins from a farm siding to a collection point nearer the mill, thus gaining some appreciation of cane railway operation and safety requirements.

2003 in Toronto, Eugene & Honolulu

Amy and I are planning a mid-2003 trip to the UK (Welsh railways), Toronto (NMRA convention and relatives), Alberta and British Columbia (relatives), Eugene Oregon (PNR convention) and Hawaii (cane museum). The NMRA convention should provide an opportunity to promote CaneSIG and I'll be doing a clinic on cane modelling at Eugene.

Cane Tram Notes

A C Lynn Zelmer, Series Editor



ANGRMS, Botanical Gardens Railway (Bundaberg) and Cane Tram Notes

I've been the ANGRMS webmaster (or web slave, depending upon your point of view) for several years now and have recently agreed to also look after the web site for the Bundaberg steam railway preservation group. This has implications for CaneSIG as the online image libraries for all three groups are managed through the same database.

In practice some of the images are only accessible from one site but many are shared. CaneSIG visitors, for example, cannot retrieve ANGRMS or BGR news or special collection images, and visitors to the two museums sites cannot retrieve model images, but all three sites share the caption database and can retrieve most of the prototype images.

Cane Tram Notes are a new initiative. They'll be a regular 2-4 page insert in the ANGRMS (and maybe BGR) newsletter and available as an annual compila-

tion from the museum shop. Each illustrated note will deal with a single topic relating to sugar cane and its transport.

The first note will be on Queensland's cane industry at the end of the 2002 crushing season and other topics in preparation include the Lautoka Mill in the 1960s, harvesting and transport, diesel generations, etc. I'll be editing the series but asking many of you for help with the content... either in generating new material or repackaging previously published items.

Thanks and Best Wishes

I may have missed something but I promised myself I'd keep this report to 2 pages. Please do visit the web site and let me know what you think about what's there, what's missing, and where the site and/or CaneSIG itself needs improving.

Wishing you all the best for 2003,

Lynn (lynn@zelmeroz.com)