Small Rolling Stock with Character

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Presentation Definitions

• Shire/cane/branch line, industrial
• ~20’ max length
• Modelling in HOn30, On30, SM32
• Kit, kitbashing and scratchbuilding
• Narrow gauge up to/including 3’ 6”
KISS: Keep it simple…

- Modelling always a compromise!
- Photo-realism or impressionistic?
- Specific prototype or freelance?
- Modelling based on adapting from many sources

NMRA On30 Gauge with my Gauge, based on AMRA Brisbane practice, superimposed. Background On30 diorama
Pleystowe Mill, stored at North Eton Mill, 2000  
Greg Stephenson, photographer

Ex-Moreton Mill, tool wagons, 2007 at Durundur Railway (Woodford)
Bundaberg Sugar, bottom opening ballast wagon, at ASCR 2007

Fairymead Mill, 1981  Greg Stephenson, photographer
My Modelling

• Small home layout began HO (mixed traffic & logging)… now On30 shire/cane with HO logging branch
• Displays A4, 16” x 24”, 20” x 24”
• Future SM32 display & garden railway
Not just aging...

- HOn30 displays too small for viewing under typical museum lighting
- Eyesight/age HO/HOn30 --> change to On30
- Now building On30 display modules

Scratchbuilding/Kitbashing

- HOn30/On30/SM32 use track-related items from N/HO/O
- Freelance/realism: “Does this model or scene show the world as it was or might have been?”
Australian Narrow Gauge Convention: Small Rolling Stock with Character

Conceptual design overlaid on Jim Fainges © wholestick truck drawing

Lautoka Mill, Fiji: ‘insulated’ meat vans, 1963

John Teichmoeller, photographer

Australian Narrow Gauge Convention: Small Rolling Stock with Character

Fiji meat van: RJ Models On30 Moreton Mill wholestick truck underframe and scale lumber
Marian Mill, 1986
Greg Stephenson, photographer

Mossman Mill, Mowbray area, 1994
Greg Stephenson, photographer
Farleigh Mill, navvy transport, 1997  
Greg Stephenson, photographer

HOn30 kitbash/scratchbuilt on Peco N scale wagon chassis kit

Ex-Moreton Mill, gas car, 2007 at Durundur Railway (Woodford)
Proserpine Mill, 1997: weed sprayer, ballast hopper, bottom dump mill wagons  
Rob Nesbitt, photographer

Bundaberg Sugar, Ballast plow, at ASCR 2007
Scratchbuilt superstructure on Mountain Blue 18' 3" x 6' 4" On30 white metal underframe
Not just cane…

- Mining, firewood, etc
- Brickworks, smelters
- Sewage works
- Construction (dams, tunnels, rail, etc.)
- Wharves, munitions
- Weed sprayers and burners, navvy, etc.

Passenger Stock

- Tourist, museum or working line?
- Rail motors were used everywhere with potential mechs in all scales/gauges
- Even quite modern lines would still use older carriages, etc.
Tourist cars from St Helens Island, now relocated to the Durundur Railway (Woodford)

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Australian Sugar Cane Railway, Bundaberg  
Ross Driver, draughtsman
Styrene and brass superstructure on a RJ Models Moreton Mill cane bin underframe
Models in Quantity

- Jigs, masters and casting for 2-10
- Quality masters or digital drawings for suppliers: cast, etched brass, injection moulded styrene, etc.
- Costly in time & $$$
Narrow Gauge Inspiration

• Thematic modelling lets me cross eras and regauge stock (think regauged & rebuilt DH locos for the cane railways)
• What's realistic for my semi-bankrupt railway/tramway?

© Bill Blannin

QR explosives wagon, Caboolture

Bill Blannin, photographer
Happy Modelling!

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