

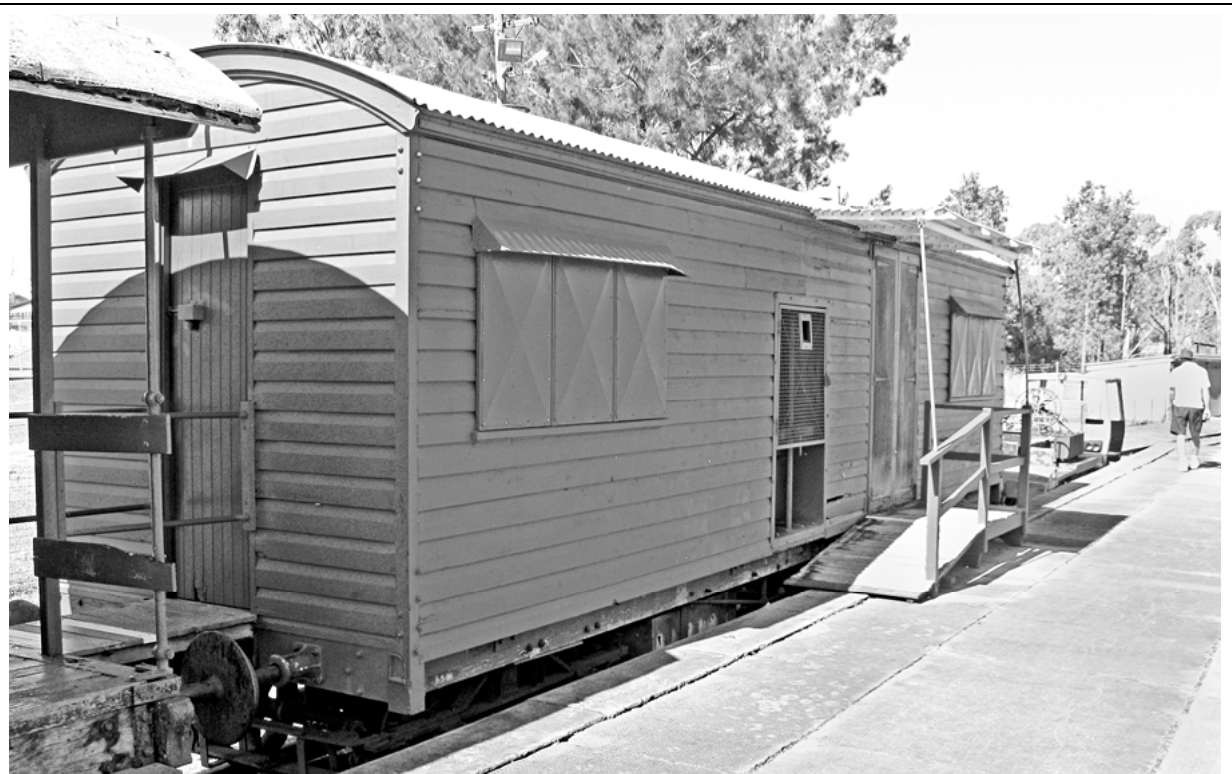
Demonstration: Modelling an O Scale QR Camp Wagon

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Most of my recent modelling efforts have been with freelance On30 shire and sugar cane railway equipment. Since there are few Queensland specific models in O scale (1:48), I've scratch built or kit bashed locomotives, rolling stock and structures. I recently decided to try building one or two On42 rolling stock and this hands-on demonstration will look at the first of these models, a QR camp wagon.

QR built a variety of camp wagons, generally on a 32' underframe with a timber body and distinctive horizontal weather board sheathing. As built these wagons had manually operated brakes, buffers and standard QR type hook couplings. Many were fitted with gas cylinders for cooking and some even had showers, rather than just a sink with water pumped from an under-floor tank. Being of timber construction these wagons were easy to modify as needs changed, leading to many variations on a common design.

Some camp wagons were destroyed when they became derelict, but a few remain in railway service and others ended up as local museum offices, shops or storage sheds. And a large part of the population would likely recognise a camp wagons as part of Queensland's rail heritage, making them a reasonable choice for modelling.



One of several camp cars at Mount Morgan's heritage railway station, currently being used as a sales outlet for a community arts group. [lz_8539]

I've chosen to build a typical camp wagon, rather than model a specific wagon. I've also chosen to model the wagon in computer printed card with photorealistic textures. Attendees will see the model's development from design to finished product: a discussion of alternatives and how both the distinctive weatherboard and fine details were produced.

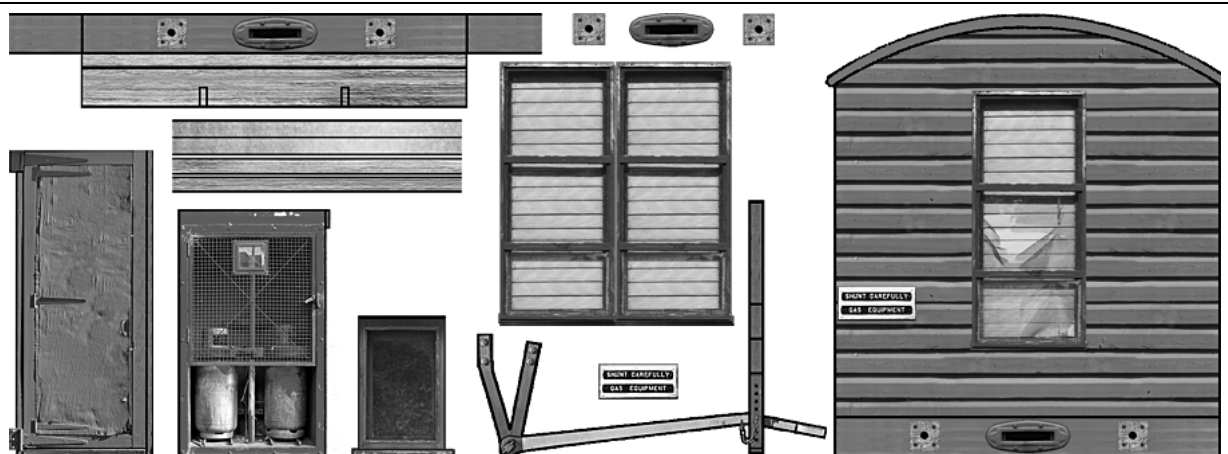
The model's development started with photos of several QR camp wagons. Selected images, or part of images, were squared up and resized on the computer so that they could be applied to an outline drawing of the wagon. The weatherboard siding, for example, is a part of a wagon side cloned enough times to cover the whole side. Some textures were also modified

from components on a Clever Models llc CD. Where appropriate, extra copies of details have been printed for applying in layers to add relief to the wagon.



Full size for O scale, this partial side view shows the photorealistic textures created from detail photos using the computer, scaled and positioned appropriately. While a simple wagon could be built from the printed side alone, a 'board by board' construction isolating individual components and applying them in layers produces a quite realistic 3D effect.

The model itself starts with what is essentially a 32' flat wagon. Experimenting with different materials resulted in headstocks, sole bars, bolster beams and crossbars all being created from textures wrapped around mat board. The result is obviously not heavy enough for operation, but has a good appearance, with the best alternative likely being a pewter casting.



A selection of model components (left to right): headstock, designed to wrap around a single thickness of mat board, and extra hardware; door from opposite side of the car; metal and timber textures for constructing strap steps; gas bottle compartment; single window, cut out for frame; extra end window units to be cut up for individual louvres; shunt sign; brake lever; and wagon end. The wrap around headstock 'wings' won't be needed if the mat board end is covered by overlay at a later stage.

The demonstration will include the alternatives explored in developing the model. The several trial models, etc., will be available as well as photos and other images showing how the model components were developed on the computer. Copies of the printed A4 210 gsm card and other materials required for the model will also be available.

The model was not yet finished as this note was prepared early 2012, however trials for all the essential components, including the creation of the 3D weatherboard, had been completed and the third 'build' of the wagon was under way. My intention is to initially create a camp wagon complete with brake gear, bogies, etc., then to build another version as a fixed location structure. Both versions should ultimately be available as a free downloadable card kit from the Modelling the Railways of Queensland web site (QldRailHeritage.com/mrqc/).