



# Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention - 2018

## Bringing Your Layout to Life

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# Modelling the Railways of Queensland Convention - 2018

## Agenda

- Basic Diorama
- How do we Bring it to Life?
- Use your Imagination
- What do you see in real life?
- Here we Go
- Final Diorama
- It is Up to You!

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This presentation will demonstrate using a small module/diorama what can be done on a large scale to a layout in order to 'bring it to life'. The presentation seeks to stimulate your imagination to develop a number of related scenes that can easily be incorporated into any layout, and following some preparation, and then perspiration, these few simple scenes will enhance your basic layout scenery providing a visual sensation. A number of potential scenes will be covered and a number of simple steps associated with each scene that will help to move a basic layout towards being classed as a highly detailed layout with many small scenes that can be further detailed over time. Two identical diorama modules will be presented, the before and the after, and via a Powerpoint presentation the step by step progression of the after diorama will be brought to life.

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## Context Setting

- This presentation is going to try and visualise to you what happens on a layout with the help of small Dioramas as examples of what you can do on a much larger scale and in a bigger area
- Of course a layout is just done on a bigger scale and has more of what is on a diorama

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Basic Diorama

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What do we see on a Diorama/Layout?

- Scenery Contours
- Track
- Greenery

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The photos that were taken when building my dioramas for this session were accidentally lost

However, we are blessed with many talented people and they have documented their processes many times before

So I stole someone else's photos

With thanks to PK – from his blog  
[mixedpk.blogspot.com](http://mixedpk.blogspot.com)



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What I do is the following:-

- Start with an idea of what you are going to do, before the track is laid.
- Lay the track
- Contour the scenery to your plans
- Plaster over the scenery
- Paint the plaster
- Add dirt and scatters

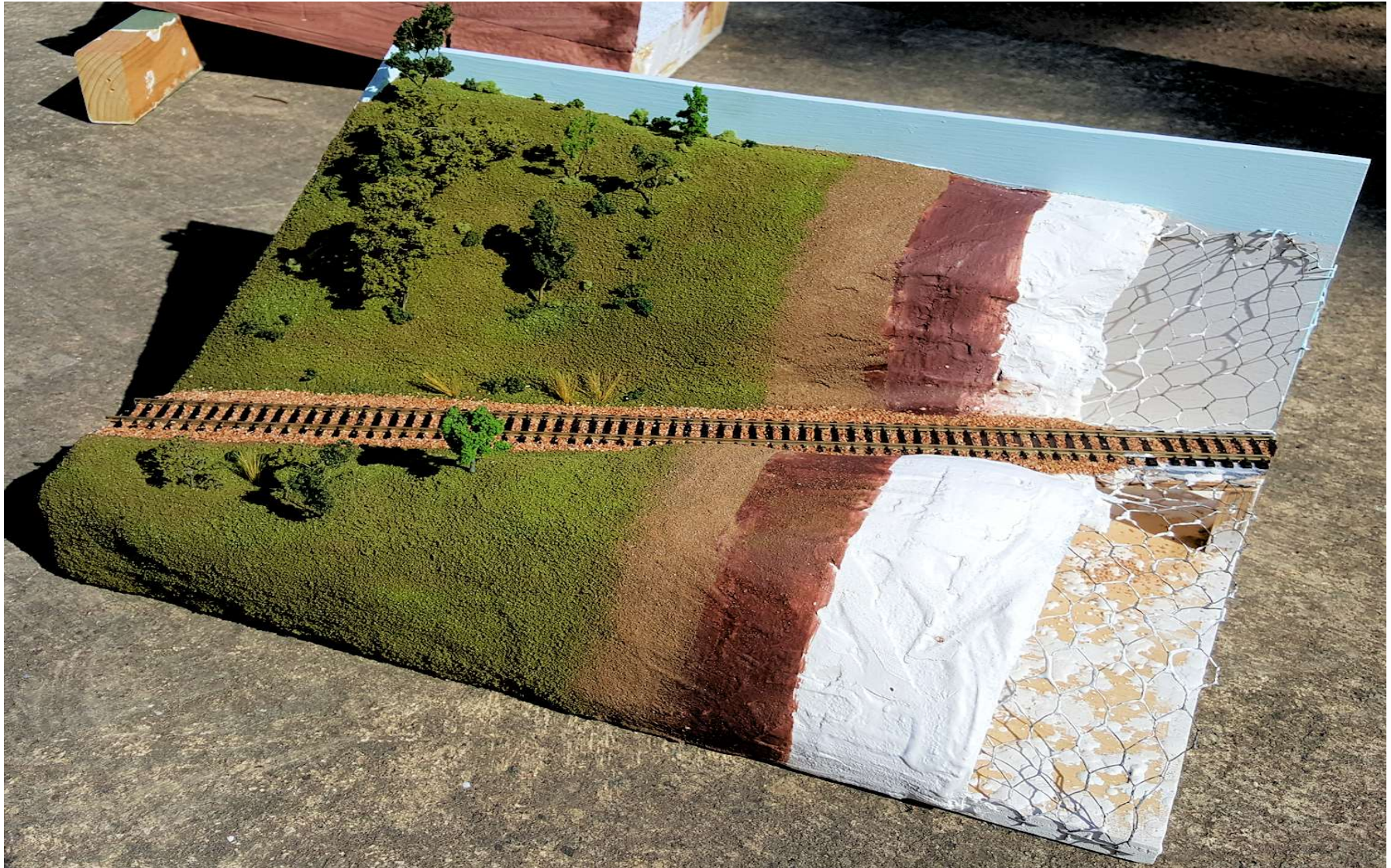
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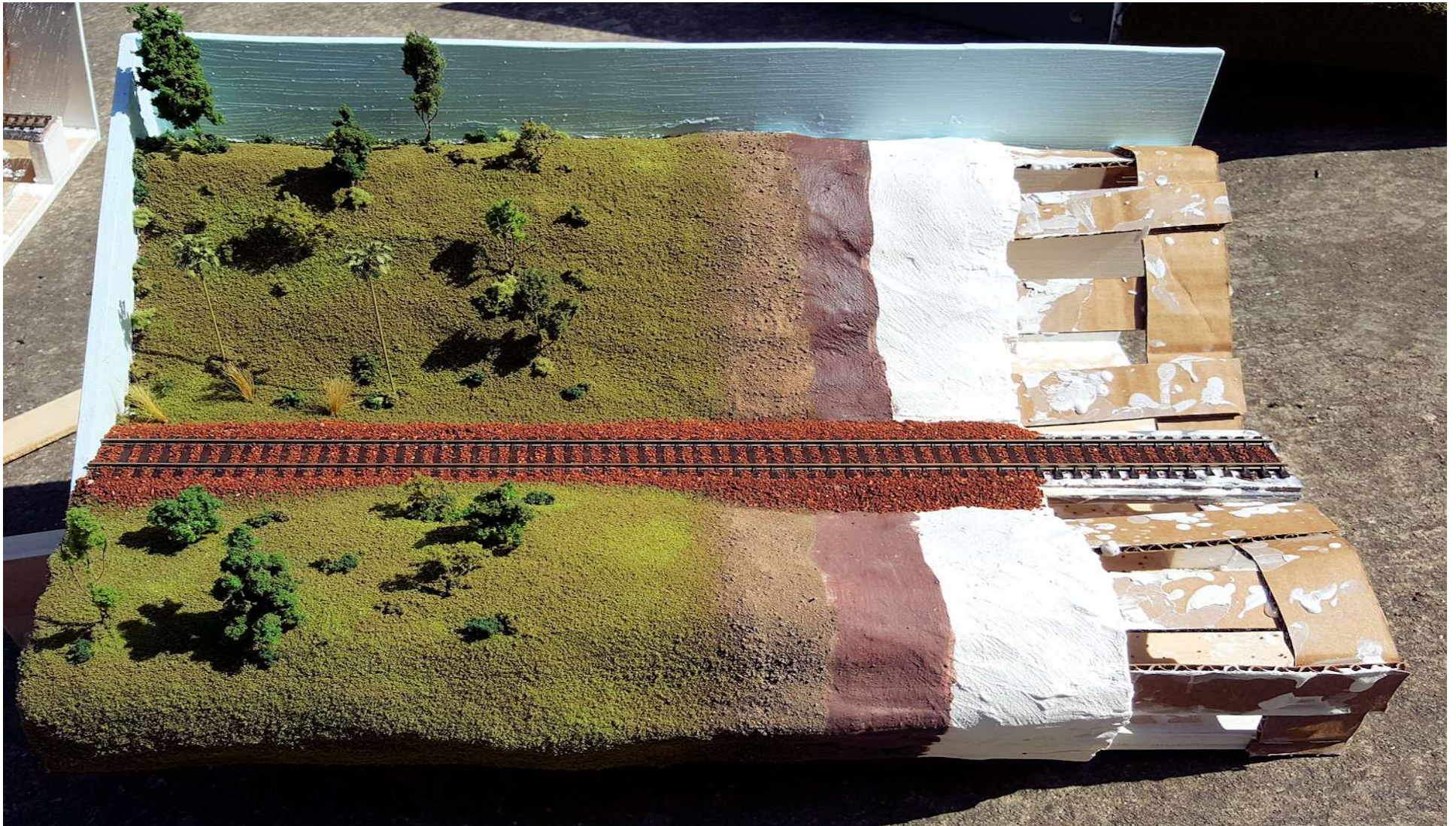
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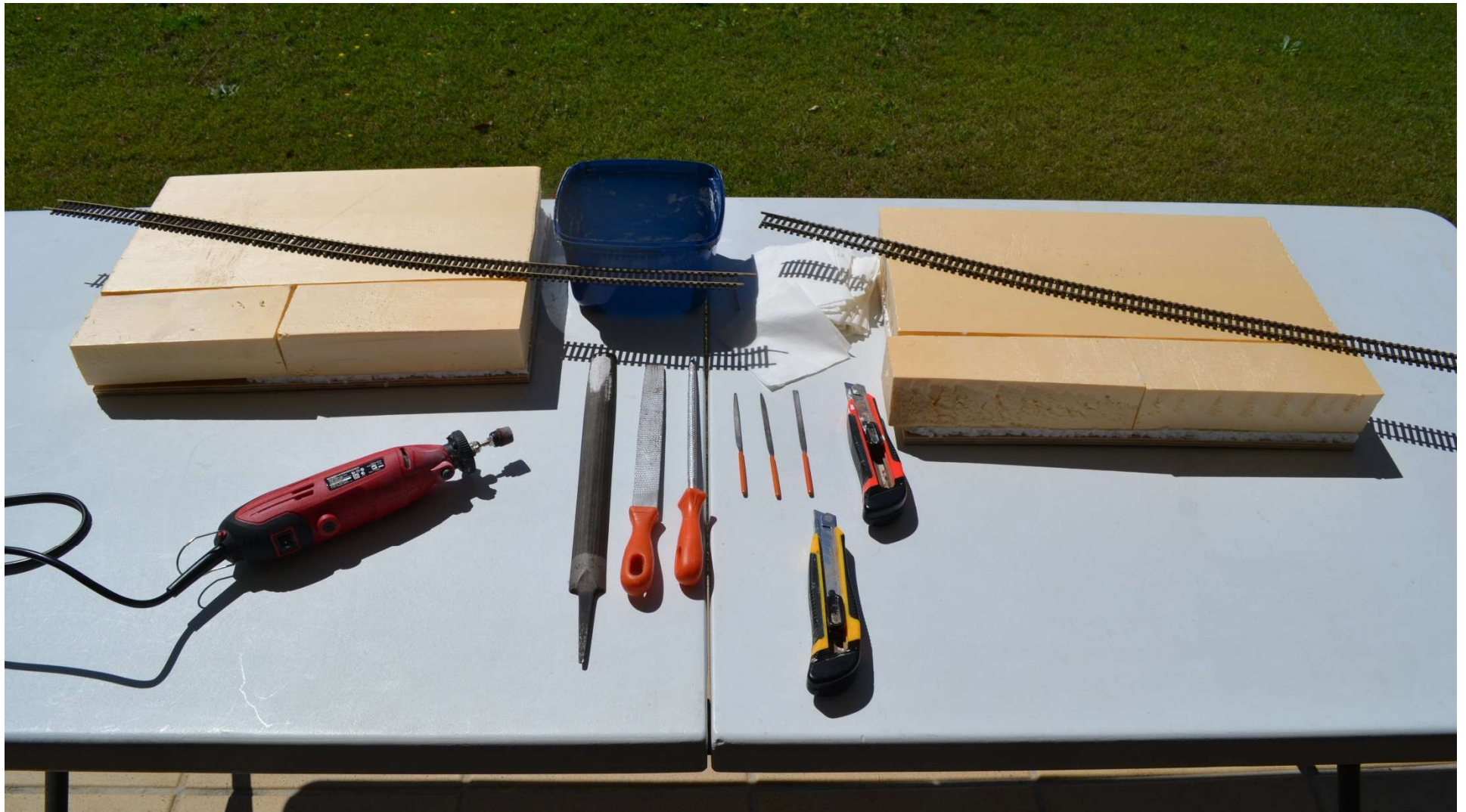


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Then one of my other mates who was into photography was able to retrieve the photos from the SD card.

Don't you just love your mates?

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Many people are content with basic scenery as presented in the above dioramas, but can we go any further and really bring your layout to life?

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What can we do to the Diorama to bring it to life?

What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

The answer is always in front of or around you!

For the most realistic scene, try and mimic nature

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What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

- Scenery Contours
  - Rock Cliffs/Dirt Cuttings
  - Rivers/Creeks
  - Roads/Paths
  - Bridges
  - Animals/Peoples
- Track
  - Weathered
  - Ballasted
  - Detail added, point rodding, signal frame etc.
- Greenery
  - Trees/Shrubs/Grass
  - Fences/Gates

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What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

- Track
  - Weathered
    - Paint
    - Pens
  - Ballasted
    - Colour
    - Texture
    - Simulate Mainline/Branchline
      - Dirt, Sand, Ash
  - Detail Added
    - Painted sleepers – different colours
    - Old and new sleepers lying around

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What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

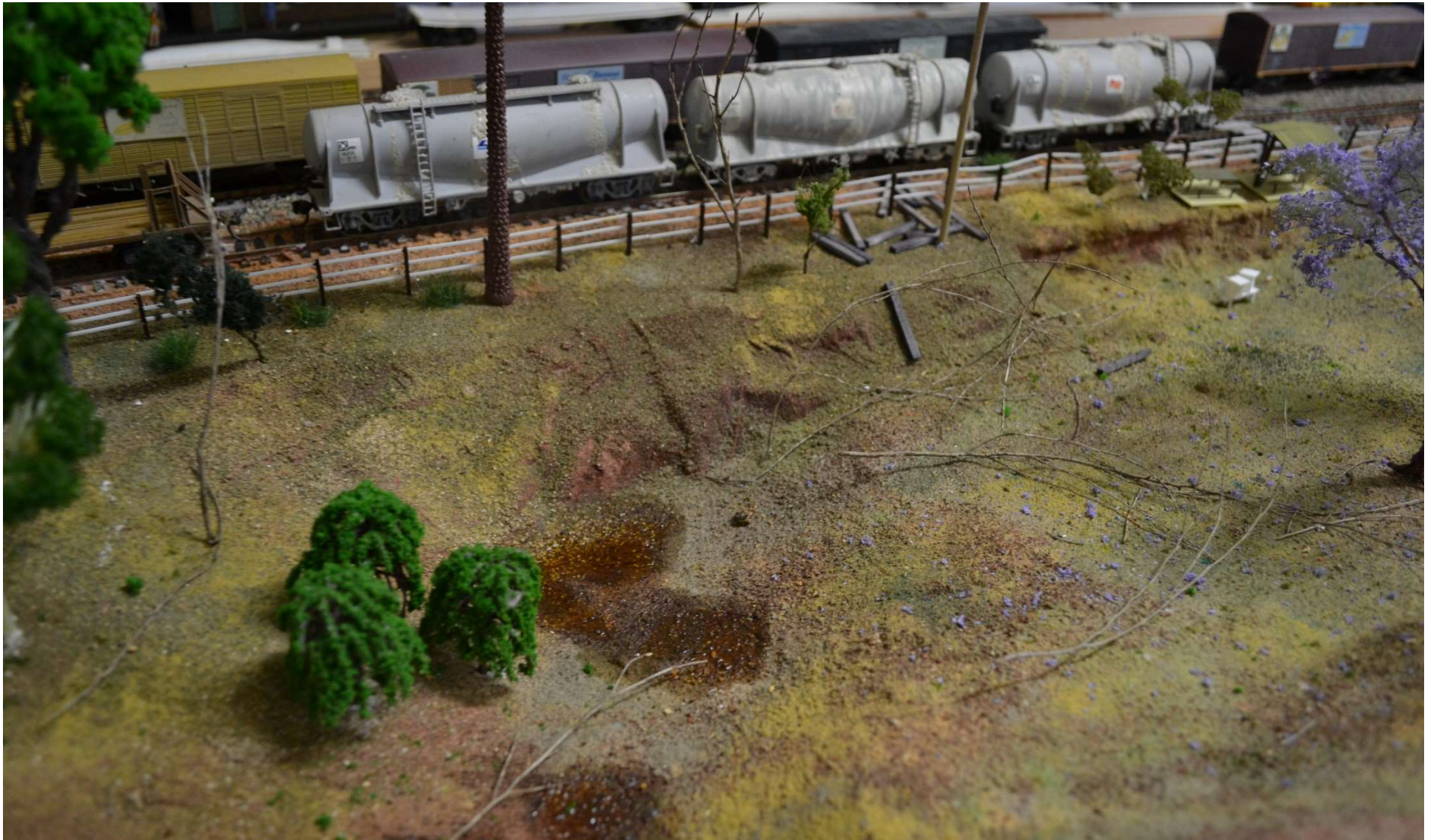
- Scenery Contours
  - Rock Cliffs/Dirt Cuttings
    - Colours
    - Angles of the embankment
    - Rocks
    - Strata in the cliff/cutting
  - Rivers/Creeks
    - Sand/Dirt/Rocks
    - Water in creek, or in water holes

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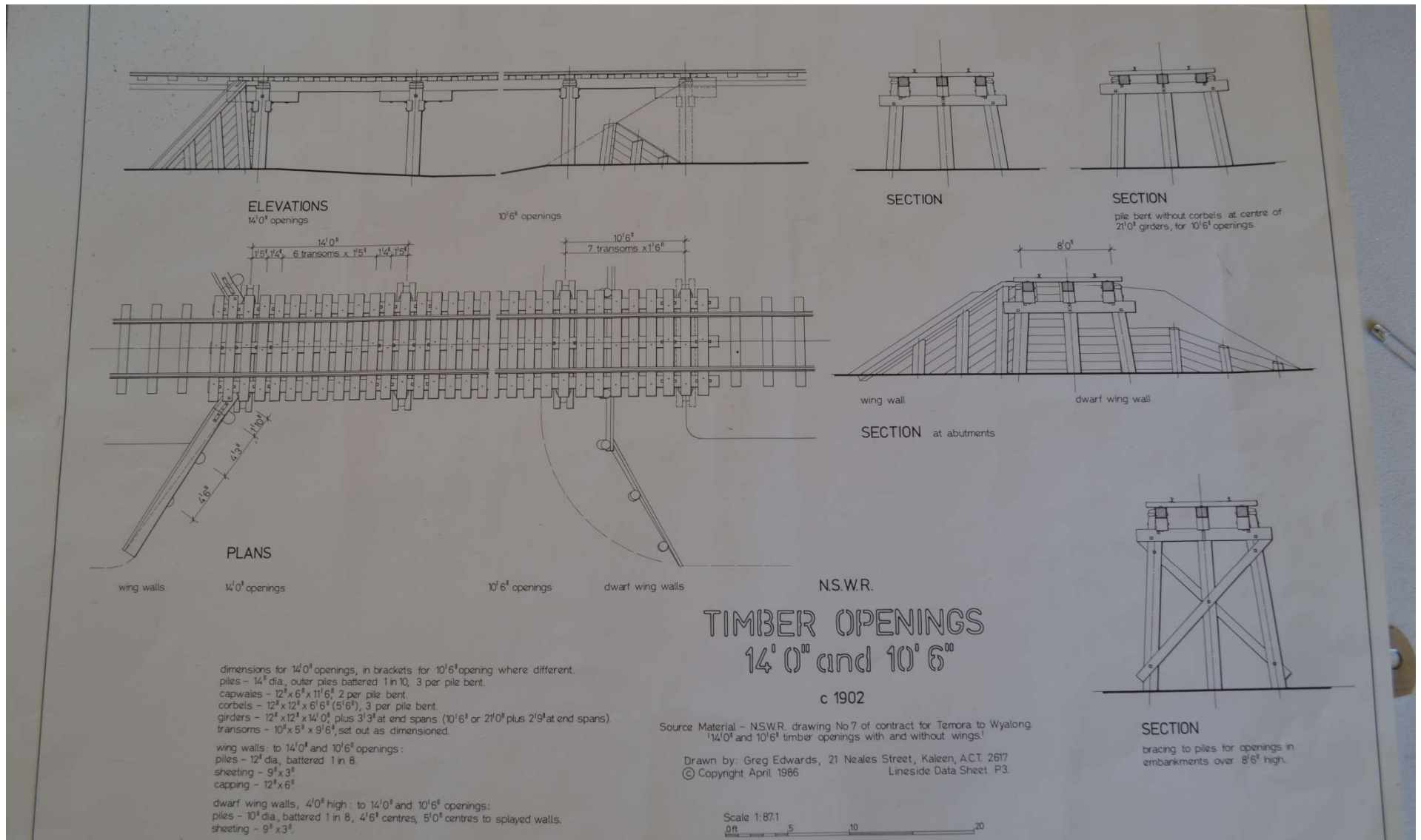
What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

- Scenery Contours (continued)
  - Roads/Paths
    - Bitumen/Dirt
    - Road signs
    - Gutters/Drains
    - Cars/Trucks
    - Road kill
  - Bridges
    - Road/Rail
    - Over or under the railway line
    - Abutments
  - Animals/Peoples
    - Cows
    - Sheep
    - People going about their lives

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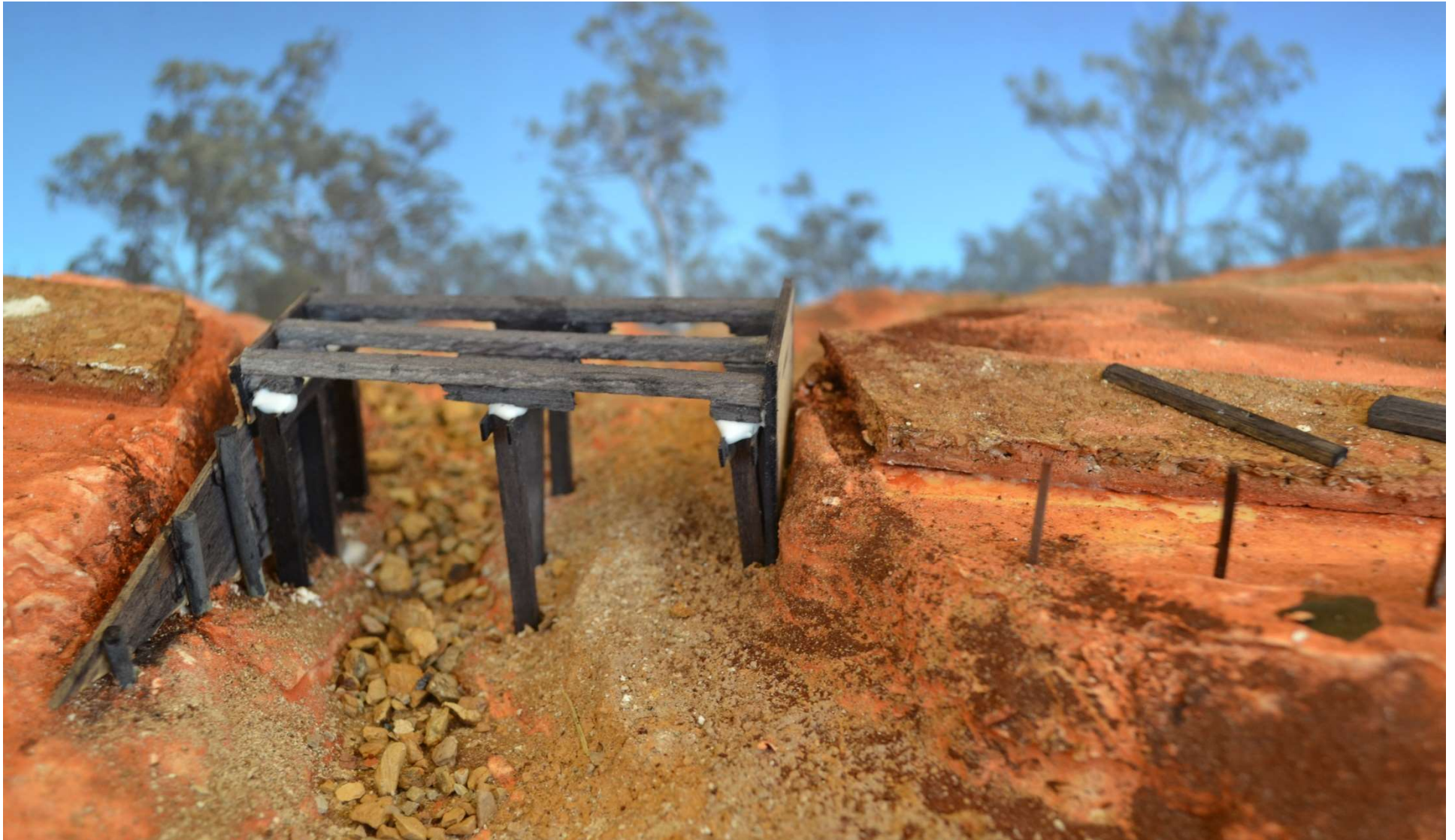
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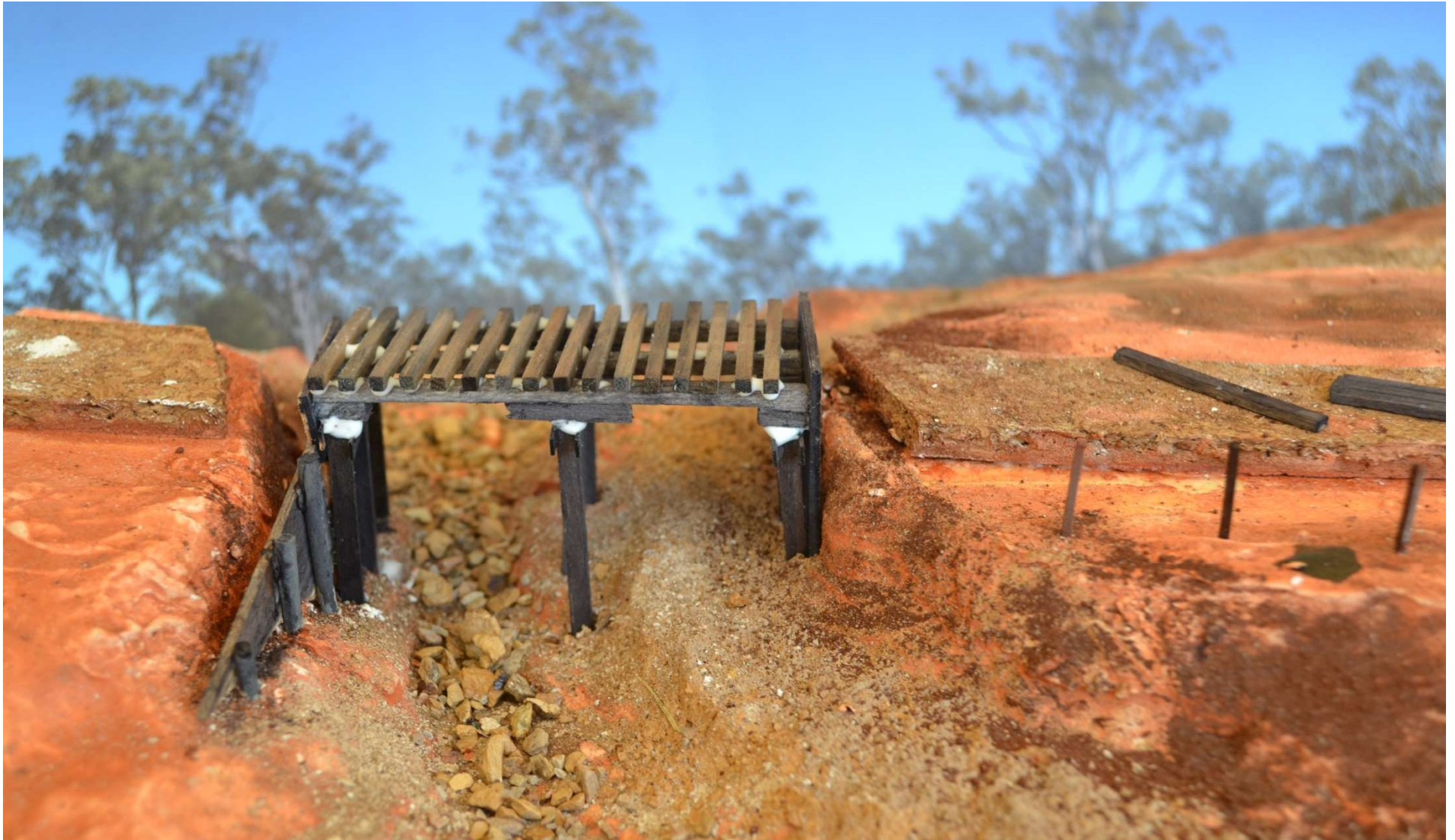
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What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout?

- Greenery
  - Trees/shrubs
    - Gum Trees
    - Fruit Trees
    - Weeping Willows along water way
    - Bushes
    - Dead Trees
  - Long Grass (static grasses, weed stalks)
  - Bare patches (scatters, dirts, clays)
  - Fences/gates
    - Different types of fences
    - Different types of gates
    - Rural/Suburban
    - Something/someone sitting on a fence post

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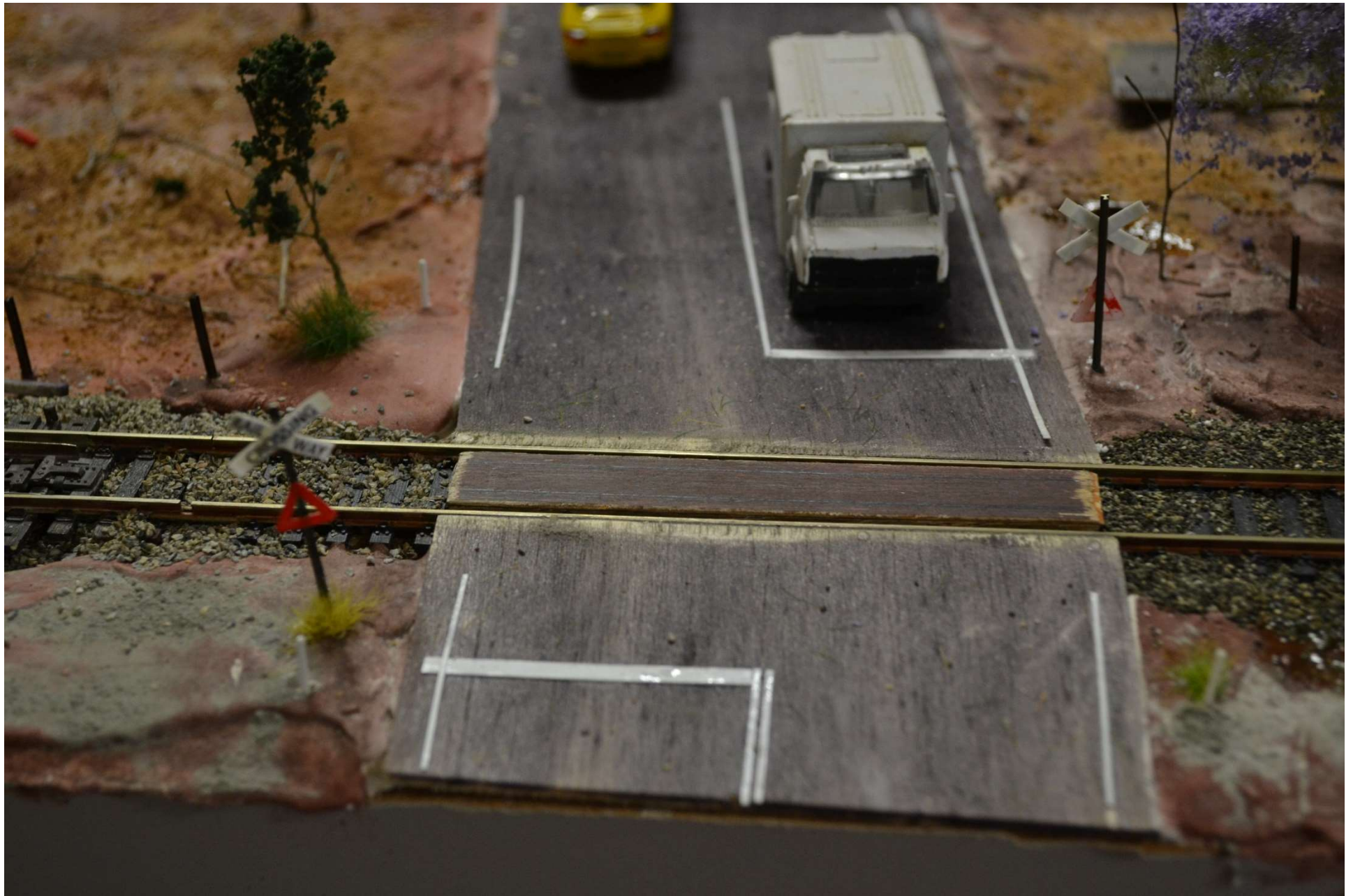
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What do we want to see on a Diorama/Layout? – Super Detailing

- Backboards
- Sheds/Buildings/Factories
- Birds nest in a tree, Birds, Ducks, etc.
- Bee Hives, Termite Mounds
- Junk in the paddock
- Unusual animals in the paddock
  - Snake, wombat, kangaroo, etc.
- Stuff in the back yard (dunny, clothesline – kids swinging on clotheslines, clothes on the clothesline, vegie patches, kids toys, swing sets)
- Cars/Trucks
- Work Tools, Saw horses
- Something moving (animation?)
- Sound















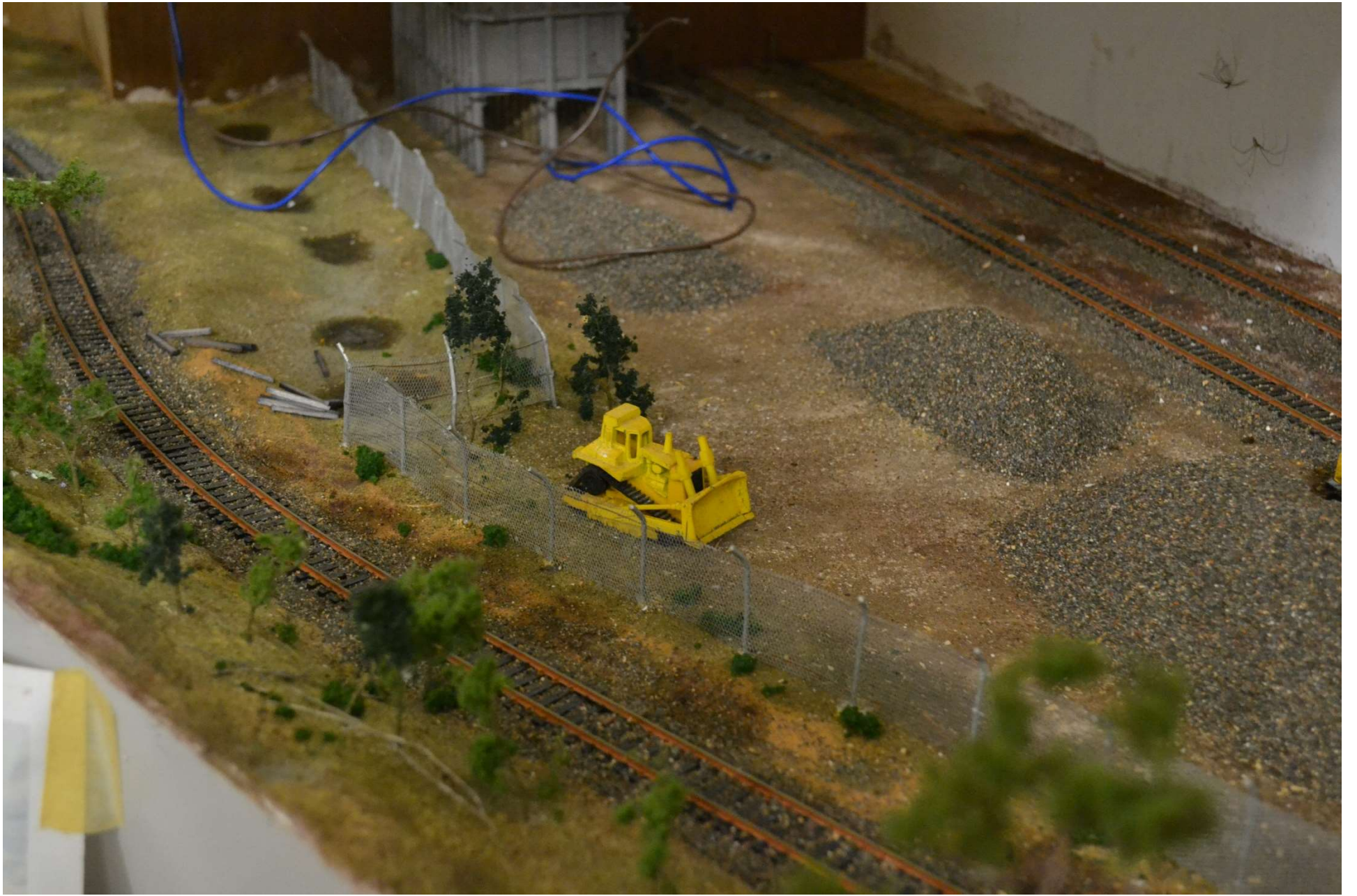




Loop  
Siding

Pull  
Push





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## What I like to do

- Try and have something the no one else has
- Create mini-scenes
- I've given away some of my secrets already here in these notes

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## Conclusion

- There is no set formula for success
- You just Look/Think/Do
- If it doesn't work, think some more and give it another try
- It may take quite some time to perfect techniques
- There is no write or wrong way – “Just your way”
- Give it a go and “Bring it to Life”

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If you want to do some Google searches on some actual scenery gurus search for the following names:-

- Luke Towan
- Chris Nevard (UK)

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Questions?



