

Java Sugar Mill Blog Part 12
7 August 2017

Wringinanom, Panarukan & Pasir Putih



Around 8 am we went to the back entrance of Wringinanom mill to see the trains of empties going to the fields. We missed the first one but saw three more before 10 am. Here No. 4 is on the second train of empties heading to the lines to the north west. The first train must have headed north from the first junction.



This dragonfly was by the mill boiler water outlet channel near the weighbridge.



This old tree at the weighbridge has a bark that reminds me of rhino, hippo or elephant skin.



Just one flower on the tree amongst lots of fruit that looked similar to carob.



Loco No. 2 heading out with its empties.



No. 3, the last train out, passes the weighbridge.

After a tour of the roads around the lines to the north including the connection with Olean mill, we paid a quick visit to Panarukan port. Since my last visit, the old cast iron pier is no more. It was somewhat unsafe on my previous visit.



We found numerous fishing boats including some squid boats festooned with lights.



This appears to be a squid boat and maybe the elaborate 'crows nest' is used for spotting squid.



From a former age, this wooden mooring post is no longer in regular use.



The boats are wooden so they need a supply of new timber for repairs.



The area once had 700mm sugar mill and 3ft 6in state railway lines but no traces remain. This building was probably the bagged sugar warehouse at the port for Wringinanom mill.



More boats with Mt Ringgit behind.



Large chunks of fish out to dry. If this was a smell-o-vision pdf you could 'enjoy' the strong fishy smell.



In the afternoon, I went to the back of the mill and was lucky to catch No. 7 the last of 3 locos heading to the south lines. In fact, the driver drove past me walking down the road to the line and reversed to offer me a lift. At our destination, he tried to be clever by parking on the disused line to the east at the three-way split. The back wheels derailed on the points.



Attempts to get the loco back on resulted in the front wheels off but the rear wheels back on the rails.



However, after a while all 4 wheels were back on the rails and the driver sensibly decided to go straight back to join loco No. 2 waiting to take out the second cane train.



No. 6 headed out the first train. This was the loco I drove on the branch to the north west last week. Crews change from morning to afternoon shift and they may have other rotations so I didn't recognise this crew.



The train got no further than the flat crossing with the former state railway line. The wheel to the left of my shadow should be on the outside rail. Instead it has moved onto the check rail. The wheel on the next previous wagon off photo to the left had done the same thing. The wheels on the other side must be off the track as well. This was not a simple re-railing task as pushing forward or back would not have solved the problem and so loco No. 6 phoned the mill, detached and went to the road crossing to bring back the jacks which would be delivered from the mill by truck to sort out the problem. I left them to it.



The former state railway line has two signals still in situ either side of the flat crossing with the Wringinanom cane line. This is the one to the west with the foothills of Mt Ringgit in the background.



The rest of the group were due to go to Pasir Putih beach for the sunset at 16:00 so I went out to the main road and joined them. Here was one of many sunset shots.



The glint of the sun is on the outrigger canoe. We parked at the Sido Muncil hotel where I have stayed many times not just with Rob Dickinson on sugar mill steam railway tours (when we could head west to De Maas mill but also east to Wringinanom, Olean and Asembagus) but also with Stephanie and Japanese friends Nobuko and Sunoko back in 1984 when we were heading for Suka Made on the coast south of Jember. There was no sign of beer for sale here or at any other establishment on the beach. How times change, not always for the better!



This is the vivid sunset setting on the Panasonic TZ-80.



And this the romantic sunset setting.



My final shot of the day was a mega-telephoto of the sunset. I think it must be clouds on the horizon visible along with the setting sun.

**John Raby,
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7 August 2017**