

Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society

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ANGRMS Collection: No 5 (South Johnstone)

- Name: No 5 (South Johnstone)
- Wheel Arrangement: 0-4-2T
- Built By John Fowler & Co., Leeds, England
- Weight: 14 tonnes
- Build #: 22752 (& 1705)
- Horse Power: Year: 1938
- Cylinders: 2 @ 9.5" x 12"
- Drive Wheels: 29"
- B.P.: 180psi

Background

In 1938, the management of the South Johnstone sugar mill ordered another steam locomotive from John Fowler & Co., Leeds. The design was to be similar to one purchased by them in 1929.

The sales staff of John Fowler & Co. were unable to persuade the South Johnstone mill to purchase a diesel or petrol locomotive instead of a steam locomotive. Rather than lose the sale, John Fowler & Co. packed up the plans and patterns for the steam locomotive ordered and sent them across the laneway to the rival firm of Hudswell Clarke & Co. who built the required locomotive instead.

The locomotive was delivered, complete with the works number of Hudswell Clarke (B/n 1705 of 1938). It is interesting to ponder that this locomotive and our MELBOURNE (B/n 1701), would have been assembled on the shop floor at Hudswell Clarke almost side by side. They would have then been separated on delivery to their respective mill owners, and finally have come back together again almost 50 years later.