

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 8

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Update on Powerline Products and Production.

WHERE ARE WE UP TO.

Production of locomotives is at a stand still. Why? Well every time we think we are nearly there another problem surfaces.

48 Class: We altered the die to take off the buffer beams and have a flush pilot. Very simple, but to allow us to produce the earlier locomotives, holes were left for the buffer beam. When we came to test decorate the locomotives the finish around the filled holes was not satisfactory.

Solution, make new buffer beams. Exactly what we have done. But new tooling will not be available until the end of July. This means a delay of 4 weeks.

81 Class: we are determined to ensure we have the best light guides available. There is only two suitable materials. Both of these materials are causing problems. The solution, we hope, in Australia there is enough know how to do the job correctly. We will have to provide this know how to our contractors in Hong Kong.

Powerline Update

The print run is getting bigger every month for this update. So much so that we have had to split it into two editions.

There will be an UPDATE directed for Retailers and an update for enthusiasts. The reason for the split is that a large number of our retailers just do not have the time to read the whole Update. They just 'file it'. This has become obvious from questions/ requests we are getting over the phone from retailers. We will provide you the enthusiast with all the information and supply the retailers with a shortened version.

Orders – Future Productions

We are now taking orders for the following:

Re-runs of:

81 Class locomotive

BL Class locomotive

G Class Locomotive

81 Class "Stealth" locomotive.

New Runs of

48 Class Austrac

48 Class Blue Freight Corp.

830 Class AN all green.

You can order through your retailer or direct with Powerline. We will supply as per the price list in this issue. Postage is extra.

V/Line Passenger Corporation Coaches.

Those of you who get the Australian Model Railway Magazine will have seen the excellent review of these coaches. The BS coaches are available in 3 different numbers.

Your local dealer should have stocks or you can get them direct from Powerline. We have them at the special price of \$49.95 each plus postage.

The packs of the three coaches is also available. The packs are becoming more of a collectors item and we expect that a large number of them will never be opened. Packing them in shrink-wrap helps to keep them with that 'new' look and encourages collecting of the sets.

Recommended Retail Price Lists.

We have a never-ending stream of requests for the retail price of Powerline products. The short answer is that there is no suggested or recommended retail price.

We have however produced a list that may be of assistance to you. It lists goods currently available and a price that has been culled from a number of retailers. Some shops will have the goods at a higher price and others at a lower price. We at Powerline will supply the goods as per this list except that we do have some V/Line Passenger Corp Coaches and some West Coast Railway coaches available at \$49.95 plus postage.

Next month we will issue a list of the spare parts and other items available.

The TNT containers

TNT is no longer in the container or shipping container business. This part of TNT was sold to TOLL. Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been informed that use of the TNT logo on any containers would be a distortion of what TNT's business is now about. Also use of the TNT logo on containers would send distorted and incorrect signals to the market place. As such Powerline Models Pty Ltd will not be releasing the anticipated new TNT container. Also existing TNT containers made by Powerline Models Pty Ltd are Ctd. Page 4

now collectors items. Powerline Models Pty Ltd however will be releasing a TOLL container in the near future.

The AL

As some may recall, many years ago Powerline produced an AL body in high impact polyurethane. Well this body is about to be released by another business, in a different resin. The Kit comes with the AL body, pilots, sandboxes and AN decals. It is made to fit on the Powerline BL Class Chassis with some minor modifications to the body, removal of lights and pilots. As well as some minor shaving to the body sides to fit the body. Bodies are available from Powerline Direct for \$65 including postage. The kit, we are told, should be available some time in August 1999.

The CL

The much awaited CL Class ready to run is almost here. Available in Commonwealth Railways, ANR and AN liveries this locomotive has already sold well. Advanced orders have outstripped production of this hand made model. This model features a High Impact Polyurethane Australian made body (yes made in Australia) flush glaze windows, hand painted and decaled in Australia, assembled in Australia with a Powerlines Chinese made mechanism. Another modification is the replacement of the PCB with a metal strip, more on this later. You can select the livery as well as the number of the locomotive, Kadee or Euro/Aust type coupler and normal or RP-25 wheels. These too are available from Powerline Direct for \$285 including postage. For those thinking of acquiring one we strongly suggest ordering yours now. These locomotives will be collectors items.

PCB Replacement

With the modification, and hand assembly, of the BL chassis to fit the CL Class we have found that the PCB is not rigid enough. This is due to the fact that we have to shorten and cut the PCB to suit the CL Class body. So a metal strip custom made in Victoria is being produced to replace the PCB. With this under way it was suggested two different strips be made, a short one for the CL and a longer one to suit the 81/BL/G Classes. So for those wishing to modify their Big Locomotive or fit a Powerline Chassis in to another body, these metal options will be available in the near future.

Powerline Jackets and Polo shirts

As mentioned in our June update, Vol 1 issue 6, Powerline Direct for a limited time is taking orders for Powerline Jackets and polo shirts. ALL MADE

IN AUSTRALIA. These are only available from Powerline Direct by ordering direct. Polos in green, blue or white are \$30. The jackets, which are black with red or yellow leather sleeves and edges, and black cuffs, are \$200. All feature the Powerline logo in red and yellow. The same type of jacket sells for a minimum of \$260 and as high as \$400 elsewhere.

Exhibitions

To date in 1999 Powerline Models Pty Ltd has attended over 14 exhibitions across Australia, from Brisbane to Adelaide. In June Powerline attended the Adelaide, La Trobe Valley and Waverley Model Railway exhibitions. In July Powerline attended the Stawell and South Oakleigh Club Railway exhibitions. The best source of ideas, first hand information and seeing product in action can be obtained from attending your local railway exhibition. Support your hobby and have a look at what is happening in it, be a part of or attend your local Railway Exhibition.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd next exhibition is on the 28th and 29th August at the “ Our Town Model Show” in the Basketball Stadium, Young Road, Broadmeadow (Newcastle NSW).

POWERLINE CLUB.

For some years there has been a Powerline Club that has been run by Mr. Roger Jones. This club was started by Roger to supply information to Powerline and Australian modellers.

The club has outgrown its original idea and has now become a general organisation that issues a magazine about both model and prototype Australian railways.

To reflect this change, and to put the whole set up on a proper footing, it has been agreed that the association with Powerline will be dropped, and the concept of a club be replaced with a subscription to the DISPATCH. This more accurately reflects what is the position in reality. In future the magazine will be called “Australian Railway Despatch”

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