

# POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 9

September 1999

## Update on Powerline Products and Production

### 48/830 Class locomotives

We must mention a couple of points about the production of these locomotives. The first is that they will be the Mk 1 variety. Next they will all be made with out buffer beams. This is correct for the 830 class all green and the Austrac and with the 48 class blue locomotives, nearly all the buffer beams had been removed prior to them being painted blue.

This will of course be the first time the 48/830 locomotives have been produced without buffer beams. It incurred Powerline Models extra cost to have new parts made for our dies to allow us to make locomotives with and without the buffer beams. The real problem that occurred was of the way it was done; we had to make extra parts for the die. But we have it now and we will be able to produce both variations in the future.

Where are we up to. The contractors in Hong Kong have completed all the die work, it has been approved, and the alterations to the mechanism have been completed and approved. They are now making the masks and all the other parts needed to do the decorations. This we hope to have available for checking in mid September.

Stop Press: Just as we are going to print this Update, we have received a fax advising that the 48 Class Austrac decoration is being sent by air to us from Hong Kong.

### 81/BL/G Class Locomotives

The long running saga of the light guides is still with us. We have had to make/rework the light guide moulds if we wanted to use the best material for the light guides. End result, more expense but a better job. The final result of these new moulds should be available towards the end of August.

As at writing this Update we have a new lot of light guides to test. And guess what, yes you are right, they have made them out of the wrong material again.

### AL Class Kits

Last Powerline Update (August 1999) we advised them being ready by 7 August. They were and are ready, packed with instructions and decals and if

your local shop has ordered them, available to purchase. They are available direct from us if you are unable to get them from your local shop. But try your local hobby shop first please.

### Exhibitions

Powerline Models P/L attends a large number of exhibitions each year. We attend the major ones in the capital cities of Melbourne (Camberwell), Sydney ( Liverpool), Brisbane, Adelaide and Newcastle.

We also attend a number of suburban and country exhibitions each year. Recently these have included Springwood (Blue Mountains behind Sydney), Corio (Geelong), Morwell (La Trobe Valley), Warrnambool, Shepparton, Stawell, Croydon, Sunshine, South Oakleigh, Glen Waverley, Ballarat, Bendigo, Hobsons Bay, and the list goes on and on.

At these exhibitions you can see Powerline product and in most cases the retailer in attendance will have Powerline stock. Your support of these exhibitions is welcomed and at most exhibitions there will be a Powerline representative in attendance.

For those wishing to stay up to date with news and products, attending exhibitions is the best way. The reason for this is you can speak to representatives first hand and you never know what supprises may be displayed.

### CL Class Locomotive.

Made by Associated Distributors P/L from:

- ◆ Powerline Mechanical Parts.
- ◆ Locally produced body and decoration.

The start of the first run of these models has been distributed. They are a heavy locomotive with the steel plate instead of the PC Board. A number of points need to be made about these locomotives.

- They are hand made. Mostly in Australia.
- The painting/ decoration is done on a unit by unit bases. No mass production here.
- Each unit is unique.
- Couplings can be changed. They are supplied with Kadees but the Powerline #5 box

standard coupling will fit into the Kadee box. (P1007A)

- Wheels are changeable. All three types of Powerline wheels will fit this unit.
- Care needs to be taken over the weight of this unit.
- The model is geared down to run at scale speeds.
- The mechanism is the single power unit. It can be noisy until a lot of running in is done.
- It would not take much to put in an extra power unit.
- Whilst the casting of the body is strong, it must be remembered that it is only cast and rough handling can damage it.
- Because each unit is unique, you may need to adjust the height of the couplings.
- Care must be taken with the screws that hold the body to the chasses. It is easy to over tighten and strip the thread out of the casting. (Just as easy to make a new thread though with a little bit of filler.)
- Bodies when screwed onto the chassis may not be level. Small adjustment to the casting/body joins can fix this.
- But the most important thing is: these are not mass produced models. They are each unique, separate models that are hand made. Every locomotive is different. They run differently, they look different, they are each truly unique.

Those people intending to purchase a model should place an order with their local dealer now or through Powerline Direct as soon as possible. These are a hand made model with a limited production run and a waiting list. It is first in first served with only those models ordered being supplied.

### **Future production.**

Whilst we are having problems getting current production up and going, we are not waiting for things to happen. We are setting in place the new runs for 2000.

The decorations for 81/G/BI class locomotives for future runs are being done right now and for the 48 class we have nearly finished the next 3 production run decorations. Times are going to be busy in the year 2000.

Once we have this years production run going and dates for delivery in place we will release next years production runs.

### **Small Problem:**

We have advised that we were going to put the Fletner vent on this run of 48 class locomotives. We believed that we had a vent suitable. Not so. The vent that was proposed does not measure up

to standard and we are going to make our own vent to the correct dimensions. We believe this will not cause a hold up with production but it will add to the final finish of the model.

### **The Austracs 48 Class**

As you may all be aware this model is running late having being slotted in for delivery in the first half of 1999. Well the finished and painted samples have arrived at last and they look good. The modified pilot has come up well and the out line looks excellent.

Those attending the S.A convention on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1999 will be the first outside Powerline to see this model.

Final production and delivery of this model is yet to be advised but when it does hit the shops it will not last long. We suggest all who want this model order now to avoid disappointment because it is one of our best yet in the 48 Class range.

### **Other Locomotives**

Following the Austracs 48 Class will be the Freight Corp 48 Class and A.N 830 Class locomotives. The Freight Corp locomotive will be a mark 1 48 Class as first done. The A.N 830 Class Locomotive will be the green roof version. Both will be produced without the buffers like the Austracs locomotive. These too will be produced in smaller quantities and are expected to sell out quickly.

### **V/Line Pass Corp and WCR Coaches.**

These two coach liveries have been very successful capturing broad appeal from Queensland to South Australia and selling well. We suggest anyone considering acquiring one or any of these do so soon as they are selling fast and Powerline itself is running low on stock. The V/Line Passenger Corporation coaches are P475 in our range and come in 3 numbers (BS214 BS216 BS217). Only the BS is available in this range. In the West Coast Railways livery there is the P495 which is the BS coach and comes in two numbers (BS206 and BS212), and the BRS P496 which comes only in the one number (BRS229).

### **Powerline Gondolas**

Following the success of the P676A Yellow gondola, Powerline is about to release and re-release a number of other gondolas. These include the blue and the Indian Red version which have been missing for so long. Expected delivery is December 1999/ January 2000.

## **The Web site**

For those with Internet service, Powerline has a web site at [www.powerline.com.au](http://www.powerline.com.au), which is currently being upgraded. Our email address can be found at this site or you can email us at [platform@powerline.com.au](mailto:platform@powerline.com.au)

The upgrade has been a long time coming but when finished will offer a few surprises as well as many items of interest.

Whilst on the topic of the Internet and Email, Powerline Direct would like to apologise to all those people sending e-mails and having to wait days for a response. At present Powerline Direct has been having difficulties accessing its ISP and staying on line long enough to answer e-mails. The ISP concerned has been contacted and the reason for the problems has been given as an unexpected over demand which had not been catered for. We will endeavour to answer all e-mails as we get them as soon as possible and if problems persist a new ISP will be sought.

## **Future liveries**

As many will be aware Railways in Australia are experiencing a time of great change with new names such as Freight Victoria, Freight Corp, Austracs, Great Northern, Northern River and West Coast Railways becoming well known. These are providing new liveries and colour schemes to railways in Australia along with many older railways like Silverton brightening up the scene. They are also utilising existing motive power.

The result is the ability to release existing locomotives in new liveries and rail names. Examples of such could be the NRC 81 Class, the Steel link BL Class, the Freight Victoria G Class (rumour has it G543 is or has been painted in the new colours at Ballarat) or coaches in green and yellow. Our first move into this are the Austrac and Freight Corps 48 Classes.

## **THE BL GM Demonstrator**

One of the most asked questions at exhibitions concerns the BL GM Demo model, which Powerline proposed many years ago. To answer the questions in short, yes Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be producing this locomotive. The delays in production have revolved around getting things right, like the light guides.

Expected delivery for this model is mid 2000 at this point in time. These will be produced in a limited run and orders are being taken now, as demand has been strong. We expect production to be sold out before delivery. If you already have

an order please have it checked and confirmed by your dealer.

## **Update delay**

We apologise for the delay in getting this issue of the Powerline Update to you. At present Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been quite busy preparing for new models, attending exhibitions (Newcastle) and recovering from a computer crash on the 1/9/99.

## **Spare parts listing**

Due to the size of this issue and the limited room available we regret that the spare parts listing has been set back. We would expect this to be in our next issue.

## **Exhibitions for 1999**

Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be attending the following exhibitions and conventions.

<b>S.A Modellers</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Hahndorf</b>
<b>AMRA NSW</b>	<b>1-4th Oct</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>
<b>Sunbury</b>	<b>28-29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Sunbury</b>
<b>BigBoysToys</b>	<b>6-7 Nov</b>	<b>Melb</b>
<b>Waverley</b>	<b>20-21 Nov</b>	<b>World vision centre</b>

So support your hobby and catch up with whats new and attend a model railway exhibition near you.

## **This months Tech tip on the rear page**

Mr R. Haynes has kindly made available the tech tip for this month. This shows you how to fit the newer bogie to the earlier 81/BI/G Class locomotives. As well as telling you how to improve the adhesion of the 48/830 Class locomotives.

## **Powerline update**

The update is published monthly as a source of information, news and tech tips for those interested in Australian railways and Powerline product. At present this newsletter is available free of charge posted or emailed to you each month.

For those wanting to subscribe please forward your details, or a subscription sheet available at most exhibitions, to

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