

# POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 1 Issue 10

October 1999

## Update on Powerline Products and Production

### Austrac Locomotives.

The new locomotives were displayed at the Liverpool (Sydney) Exhibition over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. October 1999.

It caused a great deal of interest and no one picked the two errors that there was in the paint job. Currently Hong Kong is correcting these minor errors.

The favourable comments on the decorations and the standard of the painting ensure a very interested modelling reaction to this production run. Advanced orders are coming in fast and the model is expected to sell out very soon.

### 48/830 Class Locomotives.

The first decoration samples arrived in time for Liverpool. Just in time. They arrived as we were setting up the Exhibition Stand.

The standard of the decoration was excellent. Crisp clear lettering and sharp paint definition. Slight colour problems with the main colours (blue for the 48 and green for the 830) but nothing that is hard to get right. For a first decoration run the contractors very nearly got it completely right.

Visitors to the Powerline Stand were impressed with these bodies and allowing for the slight colour problems gave the decoration job the top marks. Advanced orders for these locomotives are also coming in very quickly.

### 81 Class Locomotive.

At long last we have the light guides right. If you have been reading the Update this year, you will have read about all our problems. They were getting to be a stale story.

But after getting a new die made, a couple of false starts, a change in materials and much correspondence we have now got a satisfactory result.

In the middle of October we expect to receive the production sample of the 81 Class locomotive. It should be complete with:

- ◆ New wheels- we made a new wheel and assembly die
- ◆ New traction tyres- the contractors made a new die.
- ◆ New Light guides- end of a long running saga.
- ◆ Completely new PC Board.
- ◆ New wiring set up for the power bogies.

Provided all is correct, then the 81 Class goes into production followed by G & BL Class locomotives.

### Where are we up to now?

Well we will have 6 locomotive/colour schemes in production at the same time. This should give modellers and the general buying public some choice at long last.

The great question at Liverpool was '*what next?*'. '*Like what you are you going to do next year.*' This was followed up with '*when are you going to make the Explorer?*'

The simple answer is '*Mums the word*' all will be revealed through the Update. Rest assured you will be the first to know. We will announce future production of 48 class as soon as the '99 run is received in Australia.

Same for the 'big loco' production. But we did give a few clues at Liverpool. We had 81 Class NR & BL SteelLink colour schemes. Nothing official at this stage. But we had to see what they might look like on our body

shells. Reaction to these was also very favourable.

### **RP-25 Wheels**

These will be available after the release of the Big Locomotives, 81/BL/G, redone and blackened. These wheels adhere closely to the NMRA RP-25 and will be in a blackened format for those who desire fine scale wheels for their locomotives. These are designed to fit both the Big Locomotives, 81/BL/G, and the 48/830 Class Locomotives.

### **SM/1 mechanism vs the SM/2 mechanism**

Many people at exhibitions across Australia would have seen the Powerline stand with a display of our mechanisms from start through to prototypes to production models. All current mechanisms used by Powerline are Australian researched, designed, and owned.

The SM/1 released in 1997 featured constant directional lighting, scale speed and smoother running. It used a PCB with a bank of six diodes and some new wiring practices. It was an Australian first and one of the first in the world to have not only direction constant lighting but also directional marker lights. Also a feature of this mechanism was a new bogie design, a new lighting design and a reduction in use of wire.

The SM/1 was a leader in design and theory. The pre-production models performed well but in mass production errors become apparent. The diode bank zapped around 2 volts from the motor and lighting, wires broke and the lighting medium did not conduct the reduced lighting very well. The model in general performed well but the odd lemon appeared and some tuning need to be done.

The SM/2 is the result of some modifications and fine-tuning made to the SM/2. With innovation, research and design performed by Powerline staff, family and friends in Australia. The PCB now features improved technology using 2 diodes and voltage regulators providing full voltage to the motors and constant lighting from 3 volts and over. Wiring was redesigned and re routed to combat breaking. New wheel and traction tyre tools have been made for improved

running. The light guide tool has been re-manufactured to improve the light guides and to use material better suited for transmitting light. The result we believe is better running, brighter light and a top scale speed, as tested by the Fleishmann tachowagon, of around 140 Km/h.

To up grade a SM/1 to SM/2 it is simply a matter of replacing the PCB. If you want to do the other modifications you can buy the light guides, change the wheels and follow some easy instructions to re route the wires. The results are noticeable. Parts should be available after the release of the Big locomotives.

### **Powerline Direct**

Due to complaints and questions on where to get Powerline product, due to locality and the inability to get what is available, Powerline Direct was set up. Its purpose was to supply overseas customers, customers in remote areas, customers who do not have a local dealer, and to supply all Powerline products, which some dealers will not carry. Selling Powerline products at full retail price it was not set up to compete with existing hobby shops. We are not discounters.

Powerline's policy is that it prefers people to people contact and the service that only face to face sales can provide. Dealing by mail, fax or e-mail does not lend itself to personal service or contact. So we do encourage people to visit their local hobby shop for the personal touch.

If you don't have a local hobby shop, your local hobby shop does not have the Powerline product you desire or you are not getting the service or advice you require than contact us direct at Powerline Direct. We are only too happy to help answering your questions, and queries. Providing you with the right service, advice and Powerline product.

Powerline Direct  
P.O. Box 2100  
North Brighton  
Vic 3186  
Ph: (03) 9596-8123  
Fax: (03) 9596-3917  
Email: [platform@powerline.com.au](mailto:platform@powerline.com.au)

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## Orders.

We are now taking orders for the delivery of the following locomotives.

1. P239 48 Class Mk 1 Austrac. This will be available in 2 numbers.
2. P235B 48 Class Mk 1 Freight Corp Blue. Available in two numbers
3. P237A 830 Class AN in all green livery. Only one number available.

We suggest you put an order in now with your local Powerline Dealer. We keep a back order system for retailers.

If you do not have a local dealer you can back order direct with Powerline. The prices quoted are:

1. P239 \$165 plus postage
2. P235B \$130 plus postage
3. P237A \$140 plus postage.

Powerline Direct  
P.O Box 2100, North Brighton, Victoria, 3186

Delivery towards the end of this year. We hope to have all three in Australia prior to Christmas.

## Exhibitions

Powerline Models Pty Ltd attends numerous exhibitions across Australia from Brisbane to Adelaide. Exhibitions Powerline will be at in the near future include:

Sunbury 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Oct  
Sunbury Memorial Hall, Barkly St, Sunbury

BigBoys Toys 5<sup>th</sup>-7th Nov  
Melbourne Exhibition Centre

20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Nov World Vision Centre  
Vision Drive, East Burwood

For next year Powerline is already booked in for 10 exhibitions.

## Powerline Jackets

These are still available but for a short time only. Please call (03) 9596-8123

## Powerline 2000 productions

We at Powerline Models Pty Ltd have made a number of presumptions on what we intend to produce in 2000. We have even done artwork for a lot of the production. Once the 1999 locomotives have been completed and delivered we will go straight into the year 2000 production. This will lead to an excellent range of locomotives and liveries on the local market and in your local hobby shop. This we can only see as a benefit to all Australian modellers.

Although we have many ideas in mind, and far too many to actually do, we are giving you our valued customers a say in our future productions.

On the back of this update is a questionnaire for you to fill in and send to us. This can be sent to us via email, [platform@powerline.com.au](mailto:platform@powerline.com.au), Fax (03) 9596-3917, or by mail to Powerline Models Pty Ltd, P.O Box 2100, North Brighton, Victoria 3186.

If you have any further suggestions please feel free to include these in your questionnaire.

This is the first questionnaire sent out by the new Powerline management.

## Powerline Dispatch and Powerline Club

These successful activities set up by Roger and Beverley Jones are organised, operated and run by Hobby Wholesalers Pty Ltd, not by Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

The Powerline name was used with the permission of Powerline Models Pty Ltd so these two activities could continue to provide a service to those interested in Powerline.

Due to changes in direction and the expanding nature of the magazine the Powerline name is being withdrawn.

Hobby Wholesalers can be contacted at:  
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