

POWERLINE UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 1

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Update on Powerline Products and Production.

The 48 Class

There has been a lot advertised, written and said about these locomotives and many people want one answer . **“When are they coming?”**

Two days ago the answer was “ we are not sure but soon”.

Today, 20th. January the answer is that they will be ready to ship by 29th. January. Arrival in Australia will depend on what ship is available, We are hard at organising this at the present time.

Hopefully they should be in Melbourne late in February 2000. Allow us time to pick up, check, package and they should be in the shops before the end of February.

At Camberwell Model Railway Exhibition in Melbourne (March 10-13th.) they will be on display on the Powerline stand and available from the retail shops.

BUT even more. All three locomotives are coming. YES , not one a month or anything like that. All three together in one hit. Now that should blow the budget at little.

Austrac 48 Class (P239)

Freight Corp 48 Class (P235B)

Australian National 830 Class. (P237A).

Now the leading question will be “how much are they going to cost”. Well, we have no idea what shops will charge but we believe that the Suggested Retail Price will be :

- ◆ ***Austrac \$165***
- ◆ ***Freight Corp \$130***
- ◆ ***AN \$140***

Austrac 48 Class (P239)

Looks great and runs well. Yes the samples seen so far have been good, people even raved about previous sample which was not right. The latest sample sitting right in front of me now is a great improvement with its livery corrections, silver/grey bogies, correct lining, Flettner vent and new wheels. The locomotive is one of Powerline's most striking to date and will not last long as current orders are strong. If you want one, order yours now. An almost right sample (no one has picked the two errors) is on display in Powerline stands at attended exhibitions across Australia.

Freight Corp 48 Class (P235B)

Not as striking as the Austrac locomotive but still a good looking locomotive and likely to be the main stay and dominate locomotives on any current period NSW railway layouts. Apart from an error ,the current sample in front of me, which will also be seen at Powerline displays in Exhibitions across Australia, is quite good and been well received by those who have seen it. The blue is good and the finish as good as any model on the Australian market.

Australian National 830 Class

Like the 48 Classes mentioned above, this model has come up very well and to ensure the standard is maintained we have further enhanced this model with a last minute touch up. The responses in Victoria and South Australia to this model have been most pleasing. It looks good and runs well.

Testing of the new locomotives and the Warrnambool Model Railway Exhibition.

Those who attended the Warrnambool Model Railway Exhibition in January were the first outside Powerline staff to see the pre production samples of the A.N 830 and the Freight Corp 48 Classes. These were on display at the Powerline Display and were also to be seen running on Rippon Lea ,An Australia HO Railway. The response from local and interstate visitors was over whelming. The locomotive ran well and looked the part whilst running on Rippon Lea, which was constantly crowded.

This Western Victoria Railway Exhibition is a great place to talk, meet people, see some good exhibits and displays, learn about building your own model railway and experience the enthusiasm and friendliness that make this hobby great.

The Big Locomotives (81/BL/G)

Very much in demand these locomotives are to be produced in 2000 with the improved SM/2 mechanism and some small modifications. These have been delayed as Powerline decided to produce the 48/830 classes first. Featuring improved wheels, traction tyres, PCB, wiring, and light guides these are an improved model from the previous production. These locomotives are expected to start arriving in Australia around June with the Freight Corp 81 Class being the first off the production line.

Since the last production run these locomotives have under gone a lot of testing with examples seen running at Exhibitions across Australia. On Rippon Lea for example a G Class dual motored sample was loaded up with freight wagon nose to tail, that's over 9 metres of wagons, and then ran until it stopped. It lasted for over two hours at Big Boys Toys in Sydney (March 1999) till we thought it was getting too hot and starting to slow down. We did it again to the same locomotive at Sunbury in Victoria and pulled it off after over an hour. Then at Big Boys Toys in Melbourne (November 1999) two single motored NR BLs were loaded up nose to tail with freight

wagons on Rippon Lea and left to run. They ran for about six hours and then for another seven the next day. The only fault found was that they ran dry and needed lubrication.

What is new for 2000?

Due to delays and problems of the past Powerline is only willing to advertise or comment on product which are very close to ready, such as the 48/830 Classes and the current run of big locomotives (81/BL/G) due in 2000. Powerline has a lot of new releases planned but these days plans are not enough.

What is due for release in 2000 is as follows:

P239	Austrac 48 Class	Late Feb 2000
P235B	Freight Corp 48 Class	Late Feb 2000
P237A	A.N 830 Class	Late Feb 2000
P206	Freight Rail 81 Class	approx June 2000
P218	National Rail BL Class	approx July 2000
P216	V/Line G Class	approx Aug 2000
P204S	Stealth 81 Class	approx Aug 2000
P510U	BDX NSW Black Undec	approx Feb 2000
P511	NOBX PTC Blue Undec	approx Feb 2000
PDN-001	Freight Corp Decal	NOW
P1007A	Draft Box Coupler	NOW
P118G	Commonwealth Bogie (grey)	NOW

From ASSOCIATED DISTRIBUTORS

C.R, CL Body	NOW
A.N.R, CL Body	NOW
A.N, CL Body	NOW
Raw AL Body	NOW

1. The CL Class

Demand has out stripped supply as these are a hand made and assembled item and are slow to get made on a part time basis. As such all orders were stopped in October 1999 and all orders accepted before then will be met hopefully before the end of January 2000. Due to the short supply of mechanisms and the current delay Associated Distributors has made CL Bodies available fully painted in C.R, ANR and A.N colours. These are available now until stocks run out.

Big suggestion. Athearn SD40-2 fit very nicely under these bodies. Little bit of work to get it to connect but otherwise not a bad fit. Runs well. Looks good.

2. The AL Class

These resin bodies have been quite successful with Associated Distributors almost sold out of their second production run.

How is Roger Jones and what is he up to now?

This is a commonly asked question by those who remember Roger and his wife Beverley, the former owners of Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

Roger, his wife, family and friends are busy these days running, operating and maintaining their new venture "The Engine shed" at Vicary's Winery on the Northern Road at Luddenham. Here they have a railway shop, dining area, 'how to courses', a developing display layout and their Thomas the Tank Engine and friends rides for the children.

Thomas and Toby have recently been joined by James on the railway. A second Thomas is on the way so a portable track can be taken to major events or Thomas used for promotional events. Birthday parties, 'how to courses' and Thomas rides being the popular attractions with James being the hot ride.

We wish them all the best and for those near Luddenham, this is your local Powerline stockist.

EXHIBITIONS

Here is a current list of Exhibitions for 2000 so far.

Shepparton Vic	Shepparton Town Hall	Jan22-23
Mooroolbark Vic	St Peter Julian Hall	Jan22-23
Corio Vic	Centenary Hall	Jan28-30
Camberwell Vic	Camberwell Centre	March10-12
Wollongong NSW	BHP Sports stadium	March18-19
Bendigo Vic	BRIT College	April21-24
Hobsons Bay	Albert Park	April21-24
Adelaide	Greyhound Park	June10-12
Ballarat		June10-12

More yet to confirm.

SHOPS

Based on orders/activity in December 1999 and January 2000 this is a list of shops from where Powerline products can be obtained.

New South Wales

All Aboard Braemar Railways	Mittagong
Baileys Bicycle Centre	Parkes

Bergs Hobbies	Parramatta
Casula Hobbies	Liverpool
Dubbo Model Hobbies	Molong
Frontline Hobbies	Newcastle
Hobby Co	Sydney
Hobbies in the Hills	Castle Hill
New England Hobbies	Inverell
New England Hobbies	Armadale
New England Hobbies	Tamworth
Penrith Toy and Hobbies	Penrith
Platform One	Fairy Meadow
Punchbowl Hobby Centre	Bankstown
The Engine Shed	Luddenham
The Signal Box Model Railways	Springwood
Vaggs	Miranda
Viv Barnes Cycles and M Rwy	New Lambton
Woodpecker Model Railways	Pendle Hill
Yennora Hobbies	Yennora

Victoria

Ballarat Model World	Ballarat
Bendigo sports & Hobbies	Bendigo
Branchline	Croydon
Brosters Toy & Hobbies	Wangaratta
Geelong Model Railway Supplies	Geelong
Hawleys His & Hers	Leongatha
Hobbies Plus	Stratford
Martins Model Train Supplies	Doncaster East
Railway House	Moama
PJ's Hobby World	Monee Ponds
Seymour Toyworld	Seymour
Shepparton Toyworld	Shepparton
The Buffer Stop	Preston East
The Railfan shop	Melbourne
Top Gun Models	Ballarat
Victoria Hobby Centre	Melbourne
Werribee	Werribee

South Australia

Junction Models	Clearview
Orient Express	Unley
South Australia Hobby Centre	Adelaide

Queensland

HobbyOne	Mount Gravatt
The Turntable	Zillmere

West Australia

Discount Hobby Supplies	Willetton
Intergrated Elec &Acc	Midland Perth
Perth Hobby Centre	Perth

Note: There are other shops who may have Powerline in stock or may have stocked Powerline, but for the sake of this Update we propose only to list those who have purchased stock recently. We field many phone calls complaining about the lack of Powerline in shops or the inability to get certain product, even from some shops that have been listed in the past as Powerline stockists. Therefore for this update to be up to date we can only list those who have ordered recently and are known to have some stock. In future lists only those shops known to stock a good range of Powerline's recent or existing products will be listed as people find it frustrating going to shops only to find they have small or limited stocks. For those who can not get to a powerline stockist or can not get the products they want please contact Powerline Direct where most current stock is available, at suggested retail prices plus postage. Powerline Direct accepts Cheques, money orders, Visa, Bank and Master card. Address is P.O. Box 2100 North Brighton 3186 or phone 03 9596-8123.

