

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

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2002

Welcome to issue two of the Powerline Update for 2002. This being the April-May-June Issue. This issue is running a little behind as we held back publication pending an announcement of various plans and production runs. These plans and production runs include the completion of the G Class and BL Class production runs, the release of some new train sets and the release of a ready to run basic OCX/OCY flat car. On top of these is the release of the white metal Victorian T Class kits from Associated Distributors.

All this information and much more is presented inside this issue of the Powerline Update. There are still even more projects in the wings, which will be announced in due time.

The L201, L202 and L203.

The L201 Australian National, L202 V/Line and L203 NSW candy F3A locomotives have proved themselves to be attractive, durable and reliable. Feedback has all been positive with many new people starting in the hobby who are going strong and expanding.

As noted in the previous Update some modellers are now using the F3A for scratch building, kitbashing and repowering where a Bo-Bo truck is required. On30 was the first surprise and now it is Victorian T class locomotives in HO scale that are receiving this mechanism. Many are now using this mechanism where previously they may have used an Athearn F-unit. A set of bogies and a can motor for around \$50 is pretty cheap.

They may not be accurate and they may not be true to Australia but they are good for children, young modellers, beginners in the hobby, and for modellers looking for a good mechanism for scratch building, kitbashing and repowering purposes.

Powerline on On30?

Yes it has become apparent that Powerline mechanisms are now being adapted to On30. We have mentioned the F3A mechanism but the self-powered 81/G/BL Class bogies is the latest target. This is used by many HO Australian modellers to create 0-6-0 shunters, to repower older locomotives and to provide a mechanism for kits and scratch built locomotives but on On30 they are also being used to make narrow gauge shunters. To self-power an 81/G/BL bogie only requires the fitting of another contact strip and RP-25 wheels, and then it is like a spud.

Victorian & NSW train sets available.

As mentioned previously the sets range has changed and 4 new sets have been introduced. Two being Victorian,

one freight and one passenger, and the other two being NSW, again one freight and one passenger.

All sets feature an 18" radius circle of Atlas HO code 100 Nickel Silver track, a transformer/controller and all wires.

In the Victorian sets there is the LV001 Victorian Freight Set and LV002 Victorian Passenger set. Both feature locomotive L202 an F3A in V/Line livery. The freight set comes with three freight wagons and the passenger set comes with three V/Line tangerine coaches. These are the best value for money Victorian train set in the world today.

In the NSW sets it is the same story LN001 NSW Freight set and LN002 NSW Passenger Set. Both sets feature locomotive L203 an F3A in NSW Candy livery. The freight set has 3 freight wagons and the passenger set has three NSW candy coaches. Again no other NSW set produced anywhere in the world currently competes in terms of value for money and quality.

All sets are assembled and packaged right here in Australia and no set that retails for \$250 or less comes close for quality and value for money.

When looking to buy a train set for anyone insist on quality and value for money; insist on an Australian train set. There is only one name POWERLINE. All sets with the LinkLine and Freightline name are part of the Powerline family.

Another V.R Train set

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has just released another Victorian train set under the Linkline banner. The new set designated the LVR001 is to be called the Dimboola Express and is a very limited run. The train set features a Lima S Class in Victorian Railways blue and yellow with three Powerline S Type coaches. The coaches, also in VR blue and yellow, will be a 1st class, a 2nd class and Diner coach. The Diner coaches available will be the Mitta Mitta.

These sets will have the usual quality items like Atlas nickel silver code 100 track, all packed and finished in Australia. The run of these sets will be limited and they are expected to retail for \$265.00 each

Another container wagon?

Yes, the OCX/OCY flat container wagon will be available ready to run from Powerline Models Pty Ltd and its retailer network later this year. This particular wagon carries three 20-foot containers and will be available over time in various configurations.

Production, assembling and packing will all be done in Australia in small runs.

Expected release is in about 90 days or early October 2002 at this point in time but if all goes well it could be much earlier.

This will not be a super detailed model but it will be one which beginners and those not into kits will like and one that modellers will be easily able to super detail. The wagons come with our standard P1104E bogie with NEM coupler and can be converted to knuckle couplers, Kadees, very easily and quickly by a direct swap of couplers in the bogie, see EZ coupler NEM conversion or Kadee No 17-19. Or they can be body mounted using Kadee No 5 if desired.

More Containers

As previously mentioned Powerline Models Pty Ltd has been seeking to increase its Australian made and produced content of its range. The gondolas and the new train sets were just the beginning with the OCX/OCY and new liveried containers following close behind.

The start of this will be 20-foot containers produced in new liveries in small runs. The aim being to produce many new containers and new liveries but in short runs. The up side will be the variety of liveries and colours available over time but the down side will be that with short runs some liveries may not last long. By the end of 2002 Powerline Models Pty Ltd expects to be producing 2-3 new containers each month.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd with the assistance of friends and sub contractors now has the means to produce almost any artwork for its containers and we hope this is only the beginning as other projects are explored.

The SM/2 Mechanism

Well the doubters have fallen silent as this mechanism has proven itself beyond a doubt. You do not need a can motor and flywheels to make a good mechanism and in fact a can motor and flywheels is the easy way out. We can say that quite easily when we look at our L series locomotive the F3A, which features a can motor, metal chassis, metal wheels, all wheel drive and all wheel pick up. Sure it's a good mechanism and durable but not as smooth or refined as the SM/2 mechanism.

As if that was not enough this mechanism has also been adapted to suit many circumstances. With the purchase of options like RP-25 wheels and extra power pick ups the power bogies can be made autonomous in that they will run by themselves like a spud. The bogies have been used for V.R W Class and other locomotive applications as well as in On30. I have seen old Powerline mechanisms converted to the newer SM/2 as well as S, B and C Class locomotives fitted with a modified SM/2 mechanism. This mechanism lends itself to many applications and modifications. For those who have a bias or discrimination against anything but a can motor, hey presto you can fit a can motor quite easily to an SM/2 mechanism.

Powerline power bogies for the 81 and G/BL Classes are now available as are complete ready to run dual motored mechanisms fully assembled and ready to go in BL or 81 Class.

The BL & G Class issue.

One of the most asked questions recently concerns the release of the BL & G class locomotives with the SM/2 mechanism. Well under the 81 Class the SM/2 mechanism has proved itself to be a smooth, reliable and durable runner that has surprised many as it out performs our competitors, top speed is not a consideration. So with the proven SM/2 mechanism in the 81 Class attention has turned to the BL & G class locomotives.

It is planned to produce the previous livery batch, ie V/Line G Class mark one and the National Rail early livery BL Class, with the proven SM/2 mechanism. Yes we can produce them and yes it is planned but other projects and plans have over shadowed actual production.

Well to put it simply there appears to be a lot of talk, a lot of demand and many people who say they want to buy one. This production run would be of a limited production to satisfy demand.

The proposal is quite simple, Powerline Direct will accept orders for BL & G Class locomotives from individuals who would like to purchase, obtain, a locomotive or locomotives. For an order to be accepted there must be a paid deposit in advance which is refundable only if production is not announced or fails to go ahead. For those who order in advance the price will be set as follows:

P216	G1 V/Line single motor	\$185.00
	Numbers available G511 & G513	
P217	G1 V/Line dual motor	\$205.00
	Only G512 available	
P218	BL Nat Rail single motor	\$185.00
	BL27 & BL29 available	

Note each number will only be produced in a limited number so it will be first in first served and once the quota for one number is filled those who missed out will be given the opportunity to change their order or have it refunded. Postage is included in the price to anywhere in Australia. Postage to anywhere outside Australia is extra.

This offer is open till the 31st August 2002, and if the numbers are enough Powerline Models Pty Ltd has agreed to go into production, if insufficient orders are received then all monies will be refunded.

Orders will be accepted by e-mail, fax or mail. Payments by credit card, cheque or Money Order will only be accepted with \$95.00 being required for a single motor and \$105.00 being required for a dual motor as deposit up front.

Once the production run is announced all deposits will be non-refundable. From the time production is announced payments towards locomotives will be accepted. Once produced locomotives will not be

delivered until the full balance has been paid. If full payment has not been made within one month of the locomotive being available in Australia, all monies will be forfeited unless an agreement has been made with Powerline Direct.

When ordering please state your name, address, contact phone number and e-mail address. For an order to be accepted the required deposit must be enclosed or all credit card details given. Credit card details required are the type of card, we accept only Visa-Master-Bank card, the card number, the name / title on the card and the expiry date.

All details must be sent to

Powerline Direct
P.O Box 2100
North Brighton 3186

Faxed to Powerline Direct at 03 9596 3917

Or emailed to ian@powerline.com.au

Remember for an order to be accepted it must include all your details, the required deposit and it must be sent by one of the means provided above. This is will be a very limited production run.

Powerline Product Report

P601	Westrail Hopper	out of stock
P602	Frt Rail Hopper	out of stock
P612	BHP open Hopper	out of stock
P604	V/Line Hopper	now out of stock
P495	WCR coach	now out of stock
P422	BSR Tuscan	now out of stock
P423	MHO Tuscan	now out of stock
P1238	48 adaptor	now out of stock
P1238Y	48 adaptor	now out of stock
P620U	NFFX Flat	now out of stock
P1003t	X2F	now out of stock
P1007A	Draft box coup	Temp out of stock
P671	V/Line Gond	Temp out of stock
P1104E	Frt Bogie	Temp out of stock
P438S	VRS SOP	Down to last box
P237A	AN 830	Down to last box
P463	MHO yellow	Down to last box
P464	3801 Ltd Coach	Down to last box
P1206	Traction Tyres	Back in stock
P1007E	NEM Coupler	Back in stock
P1102	2AN Bogie	Back in stock
P1103	2BC Bogie	Back in stock
P1006	Corridor	Back in stock
P1500	RP25 Black	Back in stock
P415A	VR red BS	Back in stock
P416A	VR red AS	Back in stock
TP-A	Track Pack A	Back in stock
TP-B	Track Pack B	Back in stock
TP-C	Track Pack C	Back in stock
P622A	TNT Cont	Back in stock
P682	K&S Cont	Back in stock
P684	FCL Cont	Back in stock
P603	AN Hopper	Back in stock

Motors are not all the same.

As many of you will be aware Powerline now sells its new motor designated the mark 3 and catalogue number P1232A. This motor is made and produced in Japan for Powerline. Sold under various labels, there is a motor available that looks identical to our mark three, which is made in China. Apart from appearance the two are worlds apart as Powerline's motor is by far superior, more reliable, smoother and has a better life.

This cheaper motor was brought to our attention recently by individuals who purchased them recently and found them to fail rather quickly. One motor lasted about 5 minutes before it failed. These motors are sold to run carnival based items, side shows and rides marketed by companies like IHC. They are not made to re-power or to add power to Powerline locomotives.

The moral of the story is stick with genuine parts, on the up side our motors are now being purchased by people who want a quality, and reliable, motor to power their carnival rides and side shows. After one gentleman replaced 3 of the Chinese made motors in a row, he tried ours and I have been informed it has out lasted the previous three and is still running well. Remember that to keep your Powerline locomotives running and performing as they were designed to, only use genuine parts.

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd release the V.R T.

Associated Distributors have re-released the V.R T-Class white metal kit in series 2 and series 3. This is the white metal kit by Newport Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Works in the early 1980s. This white metal kit is designed to be fitted to an Athern SW1500 chassis. Associated Models Pty Ltd note that the kit is not an exact replica scale HO model of the T-class due to the fitting to the Athern SW1500 chassis but it is very close. This kit comes as a fairly honest and simple model but can be super detailed to a modellers needs.

As well as releasing the VR T-Class series 2 and 3 kits, Associated Distributors Pty Ltd has also released some parts packs. These parts are available in the locomotive kit but are being sold separately for scratch builders and kitbashers. The first pack is the side frame pack that contains 4 white metal T Class side frames. The second pack contains 4 sets of steps, 2 pilots (cowcatchers) and 2 fuel tank sides and all in white metal.

The 2 locomotive kits and the 2 parts packs are available now and have been produced as a small run. Kits can be ordered from most hobby stores or obtained through Powerline Direct. Train World Pty Ltd in East Brighton Victoria has a good supply available off the shelf.

Although requiring some preparation in terms of cleaning up and filing, the locomotive kit is relatively simple to assemble. This is not a complicated kit and the hardest part would be the preparation, what medium to use to adhere the kit and how much super detailing you may want to do. The kit sells in stores for about \$60.00 each and the packs of parts for around \$10 each. All items are available now in stores.

Powerline Direct is accepting orders now.

Old Mechanism, New wheels

There are a large number of people who have 81/BL/G Class locomotives with the pre 1994 mechanism. Many of these locomotives have become highly collectable and treasured. The problems with this old mechanism are that no parts are being produced to maintain them. The traction tyres back then are no where as good as those of today and do tend to create wobbles and the axles/wheels do wear out over time or begin to wobble when miss used.

Some parts like pick ups and motors are still available but traction tyres and wheels have changed, as has the way the newer locomotives are geared. Yet all is not lost as the new traction tyres can be used and the newer wheel sets can be modified to fit under the older mechanism. Thus you can preserve and maintain those older locomotives and even fit RP-25 wheels to them. The modification can be as simple as forcing the gear on the axle towards the insulated wheel. To make a better mesh for the gears removal of the insulated wheel is required and the inside surface area filed smooth, flat, so that the gear seat hard up to the wheel. Then all you need do is regauge the wheels.

Fitting of the new traction tyred wheels is fine but fitment of the new RP-25 blackened wheels really adds to the look. Also with the fitting of the RP-25 wheels you can also add a power pick up, as per our modification to the new power bogies, which can make the power bogie self-sufficient. This means a power bogie could run in its own right as it has all wheel pick up.

More on DCC.

A few questions have been raised about the DCC compatibility of Powerline product. Well the only consideration is locomotives, and with the set up of the 48 Class electrically being practical, the only consideration is the 81/G/BL Class Locomotives. The SM/1 circuit board as designed in 1995 for these locomotives was made to be NEM 362 compatible, which is the same 8 pin standard as adopted by the NMRA. The SM/1 circuit board has the 8 pin slot in place and the common return for the lights and motors can be isolated simply by removing the two wire and solder bridges. There should be no further modification required and the 8-pin plug should be installed from below.

To date I am currently aware of 6 Powerline locomotives with the SM/1 mechanism that have been successfully converted to DCC. From all concerned the response has been positive and the results satisfactory.

Used, deleted and Collectable Powerline

There is a growing market place for old, no longer produced, deleted and collectable items, which were or have been produced by Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Items like Bicentennial 81 Classes, Candy 81 Classes, Candy 48 Classes, Red Terror 48 Classes, Tuscan & Russet coaches and even Tuscan 48 Class locomotives have become highly sort after and collected. In fact few of the above are rarely seen on shop shelves and if they are they do not last a week.

Often we get asked for prices for what one should pay or what they are worth, so a listing has been placed on our web site as a guide. It has also been noted that some used and second hand locomotives and rolling stock have been spotted at prices higher than what those items are still available at NEW. So it is buyer beware

When buying a Limited Edition locomotive always insure it is complete, is in its correct box and comes with a certificate. No Limited Edition item is worth good money without a box and certificate and it has become policy that without a certificate ownership and authenticity could be called into question.

Note the NQR bodies and locomotives we have been selling, ie 830 Mustard Pots- 48 Silverton red-48 Silverton yellow-48 125 years service-48165 Bicentennial, are all from the original limited runs and not extra to the limited run. These were withheld from sale due to minor faults or errors in the paint finish. These are sold as just bodies or as ready to run locomotives with the new Y2K mechanism. They do not come with certificates or boxes.

Exhibitions

Bendigo

Since 1977 the Bendigo Model Railroaders have been holding their annual exhibition over the Easter long weekend. Although it has been moved to various locations due to circumstances beyond their control, they have always maintained a standard of which they can be pleased. This years exhibition at the BriT college is no exception with exhibitors coming from Adelaide, NSW and all over Victoria. The only negative remark heard during and after the Bendigo exhibition concerned the split up of the exhibition between rooms, buildings.

Hobsons Bay

Hobsons Bay annual exhibition is widely acknowledged as the exhibition that show cases the Australian outline and supports Australian modelling. Being solely an Australian exhibition helps but the quality and diversity seen at Hobsons Bay to many is an inspiration. Sure it does not cater to everyone's taste but it is Australian. The general concencious on this years exhibition was that it was good but not as good as some previous years exhibitions. This seems to be a common stumbling area for many exhibitions who set high standards year after year and who need to maintain or better those bench marks with new and unseen displays. None the less Hobsons Bay is a must visit for all Australian modellers due to its content and the new products and innovations that get seen and released there.

Canberra

The 14th Annual Canberra Model Railway Exhibition at the National Hockey Centre in 2002 was a must for anyone able to attend. If you had the opportunity and the ability to go and you failed to, then you missed out on some great layouts like Austrak ACT Chameleon Spring, Argyle, Muddies Flat, Boggy Creek, Black & White, Dingo Gorge and Glen Logan to name a few. There were also numerous trade stands to show case and supply the modelling necessities and requirements. This large exhibition had plenty to show and plenty to see in

Australian as well as English and American outlines. For those from Canberra this exhibition provides the opportunity to show what can be achieved and how to go about it as well as allowing the purchase of many items they may not otherwise see. Save your money and book a date with next years exhibition, and hopefully there will not be the inconsiderate road works next year which blocked the entrance and turned so many away.

Brisbane

What can you say about Brisbane, ask anyone who goes there for the first time and the comment is, "it is so big and there is so much to see". The Brisbane Miniature Train Show fills two RNA sheep pavilions with over 100 displays. The aisle ways are large enough to drive a chev and trailer down but when the exhibition is open during the day it is so full that often it is hard enough just to walk around the show. If exhibitions were judged by size, number of exhibits and the number of people through the door, then surely this is Australia's premier model train show. The venue maybe two big tin sheds with concrete floors but through all the people and displays you do not really notice it. This show has something for everyone with manufacturers, retailers, demonstrations, displays and layouts. Obviously there were some Queensland based layouts, but there were also Victorian, New South Welsh and Australian free lance layouts as well as English, American and European.

Adelaide

This annual exhibition held in the "betting ring" at Grey Hound Park was a well attended exhibition with an excellent range of layouts. Attendance was good, the weather ok and the local clubs made all visitors welcome. Full marks to Rob Burford and his committee for a great exhibition.

One small point to add to this exhibition report was the adventure encountered travelling from Melbourne to Adelaide. Travelling through Victoria to the border was uneventful but from the border we had real dust storms which were worse the travelling though fog. From Border Town to Mt Barker the winds whipped up great clouds of dust. Then on the decent from Mt Lofty came the rain, the best rain for quite some time. The rain lasted for the weekend and made unloading and packing up quite damp. Adelaide also hosts possibly one of the best exhibition functions on the Sunday night. This years was no exception, a great night was had by all.

Ballaarat

This exhibition occurs only once every two years and is run by the Ballarat and Districts Model Railway Club Inc. There were some interesting layouts to look at in various scales, proto types and degrees of completion. Again Australian content was sadly lacking and for the seasoned modeller there were one or two layouts of interest. For the general public, young beginners and new modellers there was much to see with a railroad promotional video, layouts under construction, a TT layout, Dingo Gorge, a G scale shunting layout and a multi tiered layout. The multi tiered layout made up for a lack of scenery or topographic relevance with some great locomotives and rolling stock combinations running one above the other with as many as four trains running and visible at the one time.

Glen Waverley

Held at the World Vision Centre on Vision Drive just off Springvale road, this exhibition is alive with natural light, trade stands and about 19 operating layouts. Layouts of interest include Rob McMurrays PACIFICO, Rod Roberts Glenmore East, Mario Rapinett and his Meyers Creek and Southern, and Powell Town by Colin Konig. A great days outing for all the family.

More 2002 Exhibitions

ESSENDON	Metro Model Railway Group Inc August 3- August 4 2002. Ukranian Community Hall Russell Street Essendon, opposite Essendon Station 10am-6pm Saturday & 10am-5pm Sun
SUNSHINE	Sunshine Model Railway Club Inc August 24- August 25 2002. Braybrook Secondary College Sports Stadium Burke Street, Braybrook 9am-6pm Saturday & 9am- 5pm Sun
NEWCASTLE	Our Town Model Railway Club August 31- September 1 2002. Basketball Stadium Young Road Broadmeadow 9am-6pm Saturday & 9am-5pm Sun
LIVERPOOL	October 5- October 7 2002. AMRA NSW Div Whitlam Leisure Centre Memorial Drive Liverpool 9am-6pm Saturday & Sunday, 9am-5pm Monday
Old Reynella	October 12- October 13 2002. Noarlunga Model Railroaders Inc Reynella Neighbourhood Centre Reynell Raod Old Reynella 9am—5pm Saturday & Sunday
Portland	November 9- November 10 2002. Portland Model Railway Club Inc Cable Tram Depot Cape Nelson Road Portland

Future Exhibitions

Powerline Models Pty Ltd attends many exhibitions each year in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. Should any club or group running an exhibition in any of these states wish to have Powerline Models Pty Ltd attend their exhibition please feel free to contact Ian Comport. The address is:

Ian Comport
Operations Manager
Powerline Models Pty Ltd

We are always looking to attend new and different model railway exhibitions and may be able assist organisers with additional displays, layouts and stalls.

More on the National Rail and Freight Corp purchase

As previously mentioned the National Rail Consortium, the Lang-Toll or Corrigan-Little, bid purchased National Rail and Freight Corp for over 1 billion dollars. The new name to be Pacific National and the livery to be similar to that of Freight Corp.

What has now been suggested is that Pacific National will be split in to 4 groups of intermodal, wheat, coal and another covering other aspects of the business. This way the profitability of each group can be assessed and development work used where required. What has also been suggested is that non profitable groups maybe sold off and intermodel kept along with other profitable groups. Its purely speculative at this point in time but as previously mentioned we are entering some interesting times.

Growth in railway activities and use is the expected spin off with rail hopefully replacing trucks for interstate and long distance haulage. Growth in infrastructure and new links are also rumoured to be in the pipe line as synergies, joint activities that when joined are far more productive than the activities of those activities individually, see rail use growing and the need for better rail links required. Such expansion includes rail links to dock facilities like Webb Dock.

The Model & Hobby Store Issue.

Amazingly at exhibitions such as Brisbane, people have commented and agreed on the issue of Model and Hobby Shops supporting the hobbies. They agreed that without retailers the hobby would decline and some spoke about how a visit to a Hobby store got them started, whilst other lamented about the woes and problems they had dealing with discounters, mail order businesses and back yarders. The feedback overwhelmingly supported the original article.

On the other hand another seller, a discounter, pointed out that he provided a service, cheaper prices. That people who purchased cheaper products knew that by paying a cheaper price there is a risk and on the whole knows what they are buying. Which is true, you pay a cheaper price you have to realise that there will be pitfalls like no warranties, no returns, no service and no advice. For those not in the know or new to the hobby, this may result in another loss to the hobby. Competition is good but not at the expense of the hobby and its future viability.

It is about time that hobbyist and modellers realised that by supporting a bona fides retailer, a model and hobby store, they are supporting more than just that store. By supporting and purchasing from a retail model and hobby store you are keeping in business a fundamental link in keeping the hobby alive. By supporting a shop that supports the hobby, starts new people in the hobby,

provides advice to those who need it, provides a service to modellers-hobbyists and show cases models, products and what is available for all to see and so that you can inspect, test and try before you buy.

That is why Powerline Models Pty Ltd only supports bona fides retailers who have a shop with regular trading hours and keeps an Internet sight to provide a back up where there are gaps and support where required. If you do not have model and hobby shops, the hobby will eventually decline and die. It is a fact that many accomplished modellers forget..

Be Australian Model Australian Buy Australian

Further to the issue on Model and Hobby stores is the issue of supporting Australian outline and Australian companies. Modelling an overseas outline, buying from an overseas source and supporting overseas companies is sending money overseas, selling Australia short and limiting the growth and expansion of Australian product and Australian companies. In the USA 95% of modellers model American outline, in the UK 90% model English outline and in Europe 97% model European outline. In Australia I think we would be lucky right now if 10% modelled Australian outline with a net result of 90% of sales going overseas. In the USA, UK and Europe combined the sales of Australian outline model trains would be less than the sales of one modest hobby store anywhere in Australia.

In 1988 Powerline Models Pty Ltd produced their first 81 Class. The finish and detail of the body was amongst the best in the world and still is to this day. The Australian models that have been available since 1987 have been as good if not better than those of overseas outline. So the quality, detail and finish of the Australian outline model is not an issue.

The challenge for Australian modellers is to be Australian, model Australian, buy Australian and support those shops that stock Australian outline and support the hobby.

The Challenge to all model railway/railroad/train clubs and associations is to go on a membership drive and attract new and younger members. Clubs need to nurture and foster interest to maintain themselves and the hobby as a whole. It is through the clubs that modelling talent and expertise is nurtured and grows. If this is not passed on and learnt then much can be lost including interest. It is also predominantly the clubs who operate and run the exhibitions that the public sees.

The challenge to the shops is to stock Australian, have a range of Australian railway product on the shelves, support Australian outline and deal with Australian companies. Support beginners and encourage them to support what is Australian and model Australian outline. Shops that fail to support beginners, new modellers and Australian product are doing the hobby in Australia and themselves a grave dis-service. There is no excuse or reason not to support Australian with Powerline making big waves with its Linkline budget range of train sets which have a quality well above all its competitors.

The market in the USA, which is many times bigger than that in Australia, has recognised this issue and the competition the hobby is under. They have started a campaign "The Worlds Greatest Hobby" which is aimed at the North American market but which Powerline has joined and intends to foster in Australia.

Powerline Update back issues

Back issues of the Powerline Update are available on the Internet at the Powerline web site www.powerline.com.au or from Powerline Direct at P.O. Box 2100 North Brighton 3187. The cost off the Internet site is free for back issues but mailing out of back issues is becoming costly and we request that two 45-cent stamps be sent to cover costs and speed up delivery.

POWERLINE MODELS PTY LTD 15 years plus and still going

From humble beginnings in 1986 to the great spurt of expansion from 1987 to 1992, Powerline Models Pty Ltd is still continuing to provide beginners and modellers with ready to run Australian out line HO scale model trains. From 1987 Powerline Models Pty Ltd set the standard for ready to run HO scale Australian Model trains and still does so to this very day.

Contrary to rumours Powerline Models Pty Ltd is still operating and a full range of listed items is still available. The company has not been sold, it has not closed and Powerline product is still readily available. Obviously we are still doing something right as our competitors stoop to rumour, gossip, poor comment and knocking. The one thing that sets Powerline Models Pty Ltd apart from its competitors is that it is owned, operated, organised and promoted by enthusiasts and hobbyists in the great hobby of trains. Everyone involved in the day today running and operations of Powerline Models Pty Ltd was an enthusiast, hobbyist and modeller first before getting involved.

This publication, along with the Powerline web site, is the official newsletter fro Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

For all retail and customer based sales please write to or request to speak to Powerline Direct. Powerline Direct offer retail sales only to those people who are overseas, do not have access to a local hobby store and/or are unable to purchase products from their local hobby store which Powerline does have available. We are not in anyway competition to existing hobby shops and recommend people visit their local hobby shop for that person to person service that mail, fax, phone and e-mail can never replace. sales@powerline.com.au

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Something different from a young railway enthusiast.

The Mighty 'S' Class

When the S's came steaming
Out of the works
They were so powerful
Other countries went berserk

Where two A2's hauled one long train
One S could haul much more
The S's flashed past in one short flash
Kids ran to see them roar

They were dark black, as black as night,
Fields and meadows quickly passed
The railway men said," Oh why don't we
Streamline them to go more fast."

They streamlined them and painted them blue and gold
Raced the fastest plane men could find
The S went faster then one hundred k's
And kept the plane lagging behind

They pulled a train called the Spirit of Progress
An air conditioned express
The S's became even more famous
And left old engines a mess

But diesels came to run the train
The S's were losing their place
The standard gauge came and took right over
S'S couldn't keep in the race

The last broad gauge Spirit of Progress
The train that had almost flapped
Was hauled by two elderly A2's
'Cause the S's had all been scrapped

-Simon Gray

Powerline retailers.

ACT	
Hobby World	Canberra
New South Wales	
3801 Ltd	Redfern
Albury Hobby Centre	Albury
Asquith Model Rwy	Asquith
Railway House	Moama
All Aboard	Mittagong
Baileys Bicycle Centre	Parkes
Bergs Hobbies	Parramatta
Bowral Toyworld	Bowral
Caravan City	Cowra
Caseys Toy Warehouse	Erina
Casula Hobbies	Liverpool
Denbar Model Rwy	Berry

Forest Miniatures
 Frontline Hobbies
 Hobbies in the Hills
 Hobby Co
 Hunter Valley Model Rwy
 Junee Sports & Toys
 Kempsey Toyworld
 L.B Model Railways
 Leeton Toy & Hobby
 Mals Toy Shop
 Micro Model Hobby land
 New England Hobbies
 North Coast Hobby Centre
 Parkers Toykingdom
 Penrith Toy & Hobby
 Port World of Models
 Platform One
 Punchbowl Hobby Centre
 Railway World
 Toms Discount Hobby W/H
 The Signal Box
 The Railway Hobbies
 Vaggs
 Vic Barnes Cycles & Models
 Woodpecker Model Rwy

Victoria

Bacchus Marsh Toykingdom
 Ballarat Model World
 Beewise Toykingdom
 Bendigo Sports & Hobbies
 Branchline
 Brosters Toy & Hobby
 De Grandis
 Emerald Lake Model Rwy
 Fairy Street Newsagency
 Hawleys His & Her Hobbys
 Hobbies Plus
 Kyneton Toyworld
 PJs Hobby World
 Toykingdom Mildura
 Seymour Toyworld
 Shepparton Toyworld
 Stawell Toykingdom
 Tates Toy Warehouse
 The Buffer Stop
 The Pied Piper
 The Train Place
 The Hobbyman
 The Railfan Shop
 ToyKingdom Sale
 Toy Zone
 Traralgon Toykingdom
 Valley Hobbies
 Victoria Hobby Centre
 Village Hobbies
 Werribee Hobbies

Western Australia

Armada Toyworld
 City Models
 Esperence Toyworld
 Discount Hobby Supplies
 Intergrated Elec & Acc
 Mundaring Hobby Centre
 Rockingham Toyworld

Frenchs Forest
 Newcastle
 Castle Hill
 Sydney
 Kurri Kurri
 Junee
 Kempsey
 Ballina
 Leeton
 Taree
 Hornsby
 Armidale
 Lismore
 Orange
 Penrith
 Port Maquarie
 Fairy Meadows
 Bankstown
 Coffs Harbour
 West Ryde
 Blaxland
 Oak Flats
 Miranda
 New Lambton
 Pendle Hill

Bacchus March
 Ballarat
 Mildura
 Bendigo
 Croydon
 Wangaratta
 Warrnambool
 Mt Dandenong
 Warrnambool
 Leongatha
 Stratford
 Keyneton
 Moone Ponds
 Mildura
 Seymour
 Shepparton
 Stawell
 Geelong
 Preston East
 Mornington
 Bendigo
 Dandenong
 Melbourne
 Sale
 Cheltenham
 Traralgon
 Morwell
 Melbourne
 Keilor
 Werribee

Armidale
 Perth
 Esperence
 Willetton
 Midland Perth
 Mundaring
 Rockingham

Stanbridges Hobbies

South Australia

Grahams Corner
 Hallandals Toyworld
 Junction Models
 Model Mania
 Orient Express
 South Aust Hobby Centre
 Steam & Whistle Model Rwy
 Toy Stampede
 Wats On Track

Tasmania

Don River

Queensland

Australian Hobbycraft
 Hobby One
 Horizon Hobbies
 The Train Place
 The Railway Shop
 Toowoomba Trains & toys
 Toyworld Bundaberg
 Vogler & son

Mt Lawley

Daw Park
 Murray Bridge
 Enfield
 Morphett Vale
 Unley
 Adelaide
 Mt Pleasant
 Mt Gambier
 Salisbury East

Don

Oxley
 Mt Gravatt East
 Warner
 Surfers Paradise
 South Brisbane
 Toowoomba
 Bundaberg
 Ipswich

This is by no means the complete listing of Powerline Retailers and Powerline stockists. We strongly recommend that modellers, hobbyists and enthusiasts support those model and hobby retailers who operate stores and support the hobby.

WORLD's GREATEST HOBBY

This American initiative is an industry wide campaign in North America to reinvigorate the hobby of model trains. This campaign fits within the mission and vision of Powerline Models Pty Ltd, Powerline Direct and the Powerline Update.

Although focussed on the North American market we in Australia can learn a lot from this campaign and its material. This includes promotional and sales suggestions and tips, public relations exercises, a video on the hobby hosted by Michael Gross and a building your first model railroad video also narrated by Michael Gross. The videos are in NTSC and are great promotions to play at displays and exhibitions, maybe we should do an Australian version.

For those interested in the Building your first Railroad video which runs for 60 minutes, which is great for one to watch, great for clubs and great for promotions at exhibitions and displays. Powerline Direct will be making them available at \$25.00 each. Remember they are in NTSC format which many modern VCRs today can handle very well.

Booklets and stickers are also available. The recommendation is that we try to form an Australian Chapter. To promote, foster interest in and reinvigorate this great hobby that we all enjoy and can share with others.

Visit www.greatesthobby.com for more information.