

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

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2002

Welcome to our third issue of the Powerline Update for 2002. It would appear that production and product are starting to fire up at Powerline Models as new releases are announced, productions done and some lines and products start to sell out.

Many retailers have been caught unaware by eagle eyed Update readers. It would appear that retailers often fail to read the Update or pay attentions to newsletters.

I must apologise for the delay in getting this Update out but with some items selling out, new items fully subscribed and plans for other productions we felt a need to hang back so we could get the latest news out to you. As usual minor delays have grown to significant delays and production issues have arisen resulting in more delays and smaller production runs. The push is there but it is taking longer then we had anticipated.

New Colour Brochure

Those of you that went to the South Australian convention at Hahndorf in September or to the AMRA Model Railway Exhibition at Liverpool would have seen a new 4 page colour brochure for Powerline products. This colour brochure has colour pictures of virtually everything available from Powerline Models Pty Ltd as well as some yet un-released items, over 60 colour photos.

This is the first colour brochure or catalogue to be produced by Powerline Models Pty Ltd since 1995 when the last catalogue was produced that year in time for Liverpool.

Created and produced by Caroline Comport and printed by John and his great team, only a small number have been printed. Copies may be viewed at your local hobby store or if you send a self-addressed envelope with a 45 cent stamp to:

Powerline Models Pty Ltd
Colour brochure request
P.O Box 2100
North Brighton 3187

. a copy will be sent out to you within days. You must send a request for the colour brochure and a self addressed envelope with stamp to receive a copy. A retail list from Powerline Direct is also available upon request as well.

The New Flat cars.

This new release announced by Powerline Model Pty Ltd has been very well received. The first production run the

P700 series of 63/66-Foot Flat cars in Indian Red was almost sold out before the end of August. This first production run is not planned to be released until early November 2002 and is sold out. The second production run the P701 series that is the green 63/66-Foot Flat car is planned to be released in late November or early December 2002. An announcement and request for orders has already gone out to the shops and current indications are that this second production run too may be sold out well before actual release.

Future variations and liveries for the 66-Foot Flat car are planned with a third colour planned for 2003. These flat cars will prove very popular with modern era and current era modellers as container and intermodal freight operations move to dominate railway operations.

Those modellers out there who wish to purchase an Indian Red, P700 series, flat car will need to insure they have one reserved at their local hobby shop. The entire production run by Powerline Models Pty Ltd has sold out and only those shops that ordered stock before 30th September 2002 will have stock. So the recommendation is if you want one get down to your local hobby shop and get one and it is too late for shops to place further orders.

The Green flat cars have been announced and orders are currently being accepted and once again we expect this production run to sell out before delivery. Again I recommend those wishing to purchase any of the P701 series to reserve their order at their local hobby shop straight away and insure your local hobby shop has them on order and that they have been back ordered. Orders for these close with the release of the P700 series Indian red. So again the recommendation is get in quick or you will miss out.

The P700 series in Indian Red consists of:

P700	Indian red flat car
P700AP	Indian red flat car With Allied Pickford containers
P700CSR	Indian red flat car With CSR containers
P700KS	Indian red flat car With K&S containers
P700FCL	Indian red flat car With FCL containers
P700TF	Indian red flat car With TrackFast containers
P700TNT	Indian red flat car With TNT containers

The P701 series in green consists of:

P701 Green flat car

P701AP	Green flat car With Allied Pickford containers
P701CSR	Green flat car With CSR containers
P701KS	Green flat car With K&S containers
P701FCL	Green flat car With FCL containers
P701TF	Green flat car With TrackFast containers
P701TNT	Green flat car With TNT containers

Future production runs will be announced as details come to hand. All productions will be small production runs virtually made to meet orders.

It must also be note here that the production of these new flat cars; painting, assembly and packaging, is all done in Melbourne.

G Class and BL Class release

The announcement of a small production run of G Class and BL Class locomotives saw orders in the first week accounting for nearly all the shipment. As I write this column it has become apparent that too few have been produced and that even those orders placed before 31st August 2002 may not be met.

The locomotives being produced are P217 G512 in V/Line livery with a dual motored SM/2 mechanism and P218 BL27 & BL29 in the original National Rail livery of the mid 1990s both with single motored SM/2 mechanisms.

The original offer put forward by the Powerline Update to its readers has expired and only those that had their orders in before the 31st August 2002 are eligible and may get their locomotives. Unfortunately at this point in time Powerline Direct is unable to supply orders received after 31st August 2002 but with the proposal of another production run orders may be held over pending another production run, if requested.

Due to the higher than expected demand another production run is being planned but has yet to be confirmed. That production run will consist of the following with approx retail prices.

P216	G1 V/Line single motor	\$195.00
	Only G511 available	
P217	G1 V/Line dual motor	\$216.00
	Only G512 available	
P218	BL Nat Rail single motor	\$187.00
	BL27 & BL29 available	

It is highly recommended that anyone wanting one of these models, or wishing to purchase one, should consider placing an order with their local hobby store as soon as possible. Those who do not have access to a local hobby store may place an order through Powerline Direct. Those with an existing order, which does not get met, can

register with their local hobby store or Powerline Direct for the proposed next production run.

Delivery of these locomotives from the 2002 production run is expected before Christmas 2002 and could be available as early as November 2002. That is as long as there is no further delays.

More details on any future production run will be announced when more details come to hand.

Why the big delay and small production runs?

As previously mentioned Powerline Models Pty Ltd has implemented a harder line policy on quality control and quality assurance. This has meant more attention to detail, production and assembly of all Powerline products by Powerline Models Pty Ltd and its sub contactors. This has seen productions slow down and at times almost stall creating delays. Yet as seen with the current SM/2 batch of 81 Class locomotive, that's P206-P207 & P204S, returns under warranty over the past 2 years have seen about 3-5 locomotives in total which is much less then 1 percent of those sold.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has also implemented a policy of smaller production runs so that less stock is held in storage and a greater range can be achieved by having more production runs. Previously Powerline Models Pty Ltd planned a production run for quantities to last 2 to 3 years. That's a long time and a lot of stock tied up in storage as well as tying up funds that could be used for another production run. Many companies in the U.S.A like Atlas only produce products after enough orders have been received and then they only produce enough to meet those orders. This has allowed Atlas to expand their range.

The end result is that production runs are smaller, quality control is better and a bigger range is developed from doing regular small production runs. Small production runs can also shrink dramatically when a production problem or assembly error creeps in, to further reduce the end production result.

G/BL future productions.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has made no official announcements about what it intends to do next. In fact the current policy is not to make any announcements until the model is virtually completed, about to land or is nearly ready to ship. Yet eagled eyed exhibition attendees will have noted some clues on the Powerline displays. On these displays a green G, a grey and white BL and a dark grey and marigold 81 have been spotted along with the Indian red and the Green 66-foot flat cars. Along with a dark Tuscan coloured MHG.

Although I can not add anything else to these sightings, the items spotted in themselves show proto-types of that which is about to come.

G class Mk2

Recently we have received numerous questions and requests for the G Class mark 2, which was last produced in the early 1990s. Once again we have replied that if demand is sufficient then Powerline Models Pty Ltd must look at producing them again. Eagle eyed exhibition attendees once again may have spotted the mark2 G Class that has been under going testing. That's right for over 12 months now a mark 2 G Class has been running on exhibition layouts at exhibitions attended by Powerline Model Pty Ltd.

At this point in time there is no announcement or plans to produce the mark 2 G Class.

LVR001 The Dimboola Express

This train set released by Powerline Models Pty Ltd in July 2002 has, along with many other items, sold out. 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, are a 1st class, a 2nd class and Buffet coach. The Buffet coach available is the Mitta Mitta. There are no plans to do another production of this train set.

Powerline Product Report, September 2002.

P601	Westrail Hopper	out of stock
P602	Frt Rail Hopper	out of stock
P604	V/Line Cylin Hopper	out of stock
P612	BHP open Hopper	out of stock
P495	WCR coach	out of stock
P496	WCR Snack	out of stock
P422	BSR Tuscan	out of stock
P423	MHO Tuscan	out of stock
P1238	48 adaptor	out of stock
P1238Y	48 adaptor	out of stock
P620U	NFFX Flat	out of stock
P1003t	X2F	out of stock
P237A	AN 830	sold out
P671	V/Line Gond	Temp out of stock
P676A	Yellow Gondola	Temp out of stock
P689NR	Flat Car	Down to last few
P420	Tuscan FS	Down to last few
P438S	VRS SOP	Down to last few
P463	MHO yellow	Down to last box
P464	3801 Ltd Coach	Down to last Few
P1206	Traction Tyres	Back in stock
P1007A	Draft Coupler	Back in stock
P1007E	NEM Coupler	Back in stock
P1102	2AN Bogie	Back in stock
P1103	2BC Bogie	Back in stock
P1104E	Frt 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
P641A	Caltex Tanker	Back in Stock

The following is a current listing of product available from Powerline Direct with retail prices. When ordering it must be remembered that this does not include postage as postage is charged at cost as per Australia Post.

Most, over 90%, of the items listed should be available off the shelf in your local hobby store. All items are at the time of printing are currently available. If your local hobby store does not have an item listed below, except items marked with an asterix, then you can order from them in confidence knowing that the stock is available.

Some items unique to Powerline Direct are NQR items and bodies as listed like the Silverton 48 Class locomotives, coach bodies, gondola and MHG kits, as marked with the asterix (*). These are not available in your local hobby store and can only be ordered from Powerline Direct. All items listed are available from Powerline Direct for those in remote areas or places where the local hobby store does not exist.

Current Powerline Direct, retail price list

(some items unique to Powerline Direct)

RADIO CONTROLLED

Transformer/controller

RC-1	Model Railway Remote Radio	
	Controlled system, 12v 2Amps	199.00
Runs on 240v 50Hz mains as per Aust Standards.		

LOCOMOTIVES

81 Class

P204S	Stealth (8167 & 8175)	225.00
P206	Freight Rail (8108, 8181, 8184)	180.00
P207	Freight Rail (8177) dual motor	200.00

48 Class

P235B	Freight Corp (4806 & 4862)	128.00
P239	AUSTRAC (4814 & 4836)	166.50

*NQR SPECIALS, RARE, Ltd Qty (No warranties)

*48/830 Class Bodies NQR	70.00
*AS/BS VR Coach bodies	30.00
*BRS VR Coach Bodies	30.00
*MHG Kits	20.00
*BDX/NOBX Gondola kit	12.00

NQR Bodies with new Y2K Mechanism

*P231 48 NSW Reverse Liv with Y2k Mech	130.00
*P234 48 NSW 125 Years with Y2K Mech	155.00
*P234R 48 Silverton Red Y2K Mech	150.00
*P234S 48 Silverton Yellow Y2K Mech	150.00
*P238 830 SAR Mustard Pot	130.00
*P219 BL Class NR Dual Motored	210.00

Original Bodies and Mechanisms

*P234B 48165 Bicentennial as is complete	150.00
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*P234RWL Silverton Error (49 produced) 250.00
Limited quantities available. Limited time only.

FREIGHTLINE TRAIN SETS

FB001	Australian National	225.00
FB002	Southern Freight	225.00
FB003	Freight Corp	225.00
FB004	Western Line	222.00
FB005	Australia Wide	222.00
For Australian electrical Standards only		

PASSENGER CARRIAGES

New South Wales

P420	FS Tuscan	44.00
P421	BS Tuscan	44.00
P424B	KB Tuscan	44.00
P440	FS Candy	44.00
P441	BS Candy	44.00
P443	MHO Candy	44.00
P444	KB Candy	44.00

New South Wales Specials

P462	Red Cross	33.00
P463	MHO B/Down Yellow	45.00
P464	"3801 Ltd" FS coach	50.50
P465	MHO BiCentennial	51.00

Victorian

V.R

P434A	Blue Art Deco ABS 1 st /2 nd	44.00
P435A	Blue Art Deco BS 2 nd	44.00
P436A	Blue Art Deco AS 1 st	44.00
P438S	Spirit of Progress VRS Buffet	52.20
P438S in short supply.		

V/Line (Tangerine)

P455	BS Economy	49.00
P456	BRS Snack bar	49.00
P458S	VRS Buffet	52.20

V/Line Pass Corp (Red/White/ Blue)

P475	BS Economy (3 numbers)	53.40
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COACH PACKS

P161	VR Red AS/BS/BRS	130.35
P162	VR Blue AS/BS/BRS	130.35
P163	V/Line Tang Eco/Eco/BRS	150.70
P182	NSW Candy FS/BS/MHO	130.35
P184	V/Line Pass Corp BS-3 No,	168.20
P185	West Coast Rwy BS/BS/BRS	168.20

SCALE FREIGHT

P504	L550 Lab test car	31.95
P510	BDX Gondola NSW Black	21.25
P511	NOBX Gondola Blue	21.25
P511U	NOBX-PTC Blue Undec	20.65
P512U	NOBX-NSWR Indian Red Undec	20.65

FREIGHTLINE. ECONOMY FREIGHT SERIES

Hoppers

P603	A.N (green)	19.10
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Tank Cars

P641A	Caltex (black)	21.25
P642	Golden Fleece (yellow)	21.25

P651A	Ampol (black)	21.25
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Gondolas

P672	S.A.R (light grey)	21.25
P674	A.N (green)	21.25
P675	B.H.P Steel (blue)	21.25
P676	BDX/NOBX Undec (yellow)	20.40
P678	Nat Rail (dark grey)	21.25

Flat Cars

P689NR	Nat Rail (dark Grey)	12.60
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Container Wagon

P620A	Track Fast- NSWGR	21.25
P622A	TNT	21.30
P681	CSR - V/line	21.25
P682	K and S - NR	21.30
P683	Allied Pickfords-A.N	21.25
P684	FCL- NR	21.30

Flat Cars (arriving soon)

P700	Indian Red Flat car	23.00
P700AP	Indian Red, 2 Allied Pickford cont	29.95
P700CSR	Indian Red, 2 CSR cont	29.95
P700FCL	Indian Red, 2 FCL cont	29.95
P700KS	Indian Red, 2 K&S cont	29.95
P700TF	Indian Red, 2 Track Fast	29.95
P700TNT	Indian Red, 2 TNT containers	29.95

The Indian Red Flats are due November 2002.

P701	Green Flat car	23.00
P701AP	Green, 2 Allied Pickford	29.95
P701CSR	Green, 2 CSR containers	29.95
P701FCL	Green, 2 FCL containers	29.95
P701KS	Green, 2 K&S containers	29.95
P701TF	Green, 2 Track Fast containers	29.95
P701TNT	Green, 2 TNT containers	29.95

The Green 66-Foot Flats are due December 2002.

Other variations and colours to follow.

SPARE PARTS & ACCESSORIES

Couplings and Corridors

P1006	Corridor Connections (2)	4.95
P1007	Compact coupler (4)	4.55
P1007A	Draft Box coupler (4)	4.55
P1007E	NEM Coupler (4)	4.55
P1016	Tubular Corridor Conn (2)	4.45

Bogies: Pass & Freight. (packed as pairs)

P1102	2AN (BS/FS)	12.25
P1103	2BC (MHO/KB)	12.25
P1104E	Freight bogie black	6.70
P1117	Argentine (Broad gauge)	14.60
P1118	Commonwealth black	13.50

Other Coach/freight parts

P1108	Plastic wheels/metal axle	5.20
P1108A	Plastic wheels and axles	5.20
P1109	Metal Wheels/axles	11.35
P1110	Coach window plugs	3.35

LOCOMOTIVE PARTS & ACCESSORIES

81/G/ BL current parts

P1201A	81 Power bogie W/motor	55.70
P1207	81 steps/brk wheel & M/UC	4.55
P1209C	1.5 volt light globes	11.65
P1210	81 Class couplers (pr)	4.45
P1211	Triple fan moulding	20.25

P1215	G/BL steps & M/UC	4.55
P1216	G/BL exhaust cover	2.75
P1217	81 exhaust cover	2.75
P1212A	BL/G Power bogie W/motor	55.70
P1214A	Power pick up strips	6.60
P1224A	81 Class chassis & mechanism	115.00
P1225A	G/BL chassis & mechanism	115.00
P1402	81 Class horns	4.45
P1404	Coupling screw & washer	3.10

Wheels & Tyres to fit 48 Class & 81/G/BL

P1206	Traction tyres	5.10
P1219A	Wheel set w/gears w/tyres	16.70
P1219B	Wheel set, geared	16.70
P1500	RP-25 Wheels blackened	17.20
P1501	RP-25 Wheels Nickel Plated	17.20

48/830 Class Locomotive parts & Accessories

P1230	Power bogie with motor	50.60
P1232A	Motor & worm gear (mk3)	29.20
P1233	wheel set, non tyred	13.40
P1234	Gear Set	13.80
P1235	Complete Mk1 mechanism	81.00
P1236	Power bogie frame & centre	24.20
P1237	Unpwd bogie frame & centre	9.15
P1238Y	Kadee ® adaptor yellow	7.70
P1239	Metal hand rails	8.10
P1240A	Buffers & buffer plates	6.60
P1241	Plastic handrails (2)	5.10
P1243	Couplers (2)	4.45
P1244	Contact strip (2)	6.40
P1245	chassis casting Mk1	20.25
P1245A	chassis casting Mk3	20.25
P1246	Window Insets	8.95
P1247	Motor housing	9.75
P1248	Horns (2)	5.10
P1249A	Flettner vent (2)	5.10

DECALS

PDN001	Freight Corp logo for 81	4.25
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LINKLINE EQUIPMENT & PRODUCT

Locomotive

L201	A.N F3A Bo-Bo Australianised	47.95
L202	V/line F3A	55.45
L203	Candy F3A	60.55

Link Line Train sets

LB000	Basic Set	99.00
LB001	South Australian	135.85
LB002	The Victorian	138.00
LB003	The New South Welshman	138.00
LB004	The West Australian	143.00
LB005	Basic Pass Set	185.95
LB006	Basic Mixed Set	171.70
All LB sets feature L201 Loco, Nickel silver code 100 track and Powerline rolling stock, all top quality .		
LV001	Victorian Freight Set	150.50
LV002	Victorian Pass Set	200.00
As per the LB sets but with the L202 Locomotive and state specific rolling stock		
LN001	NSW Freight Set	157.30
LN002	NSW Pass Set	200.00

As per the LB sets but with the L203 Locomotive and state specific rolling stock

Track packs, expansion packs

TP-A	Track Pack A.	67.30
TP-B	Track Pack B.	49.60
TP-C	Track Pack C.	127.50

Cork

L401	HO Cork (5 x 36") roll	5.75
L403	N Cork (5 x 36") roll	5.30

Controllers & Electrical

L700	Train set Controller, Basic	41.65
L701	Cable- Controller to track	4.80
L702	Push Button switch (4)	7.00
L703	SPDT Toggle switch (2)	6.10
L704	DPDT Toggle switch (2)	7.60
L705	DPDT Centre Off Toggle (2)	8.30
L706	Switch Caps 4ea black & Red	4.00
L707	Switch Caps 5 diff colours	4.90
L710	Wire Red	4.90
L711	Wire Black	4.90
L712	Wire Blue	4.90
L713	Wire White	4.90
L714	Wire Yellow	4.90
L720	Wire Yellow/green	4.90
L721	Wire signal-4 colours	4.95

Specialty Parts & Out of Date Bits

AL	AL Class body with pilot,S/B & AN Decals	75.00
CL	Bulldog Flush Glaze Windows	4.85
81 & G/BL self power bogies RP25, AWD, AWP.		
67.00		
NQR	NOBX/BDX Gondolas	10.00
Undec	AS/BS Victorian S coaches in	30.00
Undec	BRS Victorian coach body	30.00
Old Trax	Motors for old incorrect Trax 48	10.00
P1212	Old G/BL Power Bogies pre 1997	50.00
Web Site	on CD ROM	15.00
CL Class locomotive, price on availability & Request		
CL Class produced in Commonwealth Railways maroon and silver, ANR maroon and silver and AN green and yellow. Prices between \$320 and \$360. Availability to be announced in Powerline Update.		
Microsoft	Train Simulator	69.95

Notice the trend

Whilst reading the Powerline Update you will have noted some repeating trends. New stock being announced, stock items running out of stock, new items almost sold out and other items simply out of stock.

In line with current Powerline Models Pty Ltd policy production runs are now being reduced and stock holding minimised. Previously Powerline produced enough stock to last a set period thus time between productions was long and stock holdings high. Now the aim is to build the range with less time between production runs and a larger variety of items and liveries produced.

The result is a greater range and more variety available.

When new production runs are announced and orders are taken it is strongly recommended that should you wish to purchase one that you get your order in ASAP. Most new production runs from Powerline Models Pty Ltd are either selling out before they even arrive or selling out shortly after arrival.

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd release the V.R T.

The Associated Distributors release of the V.R T-Class white metal kit in series 2 and series 3 has sold quite well with the first packaged run sold out and the second packaged run available soon. As mentioned in the previous Powerline Update the T Class kit, be it a series 2 or 3, comes with all the parts to make the basic body with side frames, tank sides, steps and pilots to fit an Athern SW1500 or equivalent. A VR Decal sheet, 4 side frames pack and a steps, pilots and fuel tank sides pack are also available separately. The price for the body kit is around \$60.00 each.

The DCC Debate continues

It is amazing the number of emails I receive on a daily basis concerning DCC, Digital Command Control. There are a few people out there who are interested and dabbling in the concept looking for answers.

To put it simply the choice is block or cab control or DCC. With DCC you have to accept that the initial outlay will be a few hundred dollars, close to one thousand, and unless you have locomotives with decoders fitted then add \$40-\$200 per locomotive depending on the type, quality and functions available on the decoder you fit. For a small layout it really is not worth it.

DCC is a very interesting system and will allow you to operate various locomotives in various directions at varying speeds on the same section of track. Yet although many claim it to be realistic, in that each locomotive acts individually on the same section of track, it does not fully cater for the block and signally operations of real railways. Sure there are add on features and controls that can fill that void but what is the added cost?

Do not get me wrong DCC is a good system in concept and general operation but it is not the be all and end all.

There are many systems available and manufacturers and hobby stores are quite willing to sell you their preferred system. First see if you really want to go with DCC, look at the cost and out lay you will require and then go and try out some systems. Remember to check out all functions, modes and operations and how easy or hard they are to use and whether they are indeed functional.

For cost a good budget system is the Atlas system. For mode, function and good operation you can not go past Ulhumbrock and Micrtrino with their Intellibox. This system has been adopted by Fleishmann and other and is basically the Rolls Royce of DCC. So the choice is simple Atlas or Intellibox, or Fleishmann for that matter.

Personally I am sticking with real train operations with my controller and block controls. It is simpler and when something goes wrong easier to fix, yes even I can fix it. DCC still has a little way to go till it really is affordable, functional and easy to install, maintain and operate as well as having a universal standard.

To date I have tested and used over 12 different systems and non have really convinced me to convert. I am interested and I have many books on the subject and have studied these, systems I have used and information on the Internet. I have also fitted and installed various systems for friends and customers. Yet cost, function and ease of use have troubled and concerned me. So I am sticking with the KISS principle and that is Keep It Simple stupid.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd was the first manufacturer in Australia and one of the first in the world to have a DCC compatible locomotive. The 81/G/BL Class locomotives released in 1996/97 came with a PCB with the NEM 362 8 pin adaptor built in, as adopted by the NMRA. To convert to DCC was simply a matter of fitting the decoder to the 8 pin section and cutting two solder bridges that stood out plainly. Although DCC compatible only about 12 people to my knowledge have converted them to DCC. The over whelming response to the DCC question was NO.

The Web Page

After a few teething problems, system issues and security being so tight we could not even access parts of our own site, it now appears we have it all sorted out. In September the site was updated with new news, a new price list and the addition of the 2002 Powerline Updates. So as news progresses, products change and Powerline Updates are published, it will all be on the web site. Photos and descriptions will be upgraded as other changes occur.

Note it will be worth keeping an eye on the news and the price list as these will indicate most of the changes, and provide information on what is available and what is coming. We hope that from now on the information on the site will be upgraded regularly.

www.powerline.com.au

Exhibitions

Stawell

This railway exhibition in country Victoria continues to grow and expand. So far I have attended every show since the exhibitions inception and have seen first hand the growth of the exhibition and the expanding area from which people will travel to see it. Visitors and exhibitors from Adelaide, Mt Gambier, Dimboola, Horsham, Hamilton, Portland, Mildura, Melbourne, Albury, Wagga Wagga and Geelong are just some of which I am personally aware. One of the interesting innovations that the organisers of this exhibition have come up with is DRAG Trains. Yes they have two HO and two N Scale DRAG tracks for locomotives to match up and race. Not

exactly what many would expect from model trains and a model train exhibition but its non-conformity has an attraction. The winner this year was the Bondi Tram by Adrian Hoad.

Essendon

This annual railway exhibition is held in a nicely maintained old theatre opposite Essendon Station. Inside the exhibition was well lit and well set out but like some other exhibitions recently, it appears to have a high ratio of commercial stands to layouts. In a small to medium sized venue like this one it becomes quite evident. That aside the quality of layouts and displays was quite high considering that very few of the really big layouts could be accommodated in the venue. Quality does not mean big or a lot.

Sunshine

This exhibition held annually by the Sunshine Model Railway Club at the Braybrook College has always been a must visit for many modellers over the years. Featuring a good mix of exhibits it has always had something for everyone. Victorian Narrow gauge, Victorian seaside, Victorian Western District, NSW country, American mid west British GWR and Thomas the Tank to name a few. Thirteen out of thirty exhibits were commercially based exhibits.

Liverpool

The first thing I noted at Sydneys Premier Model Railway Exhibition was how commercial it all was. A quick check and a count revealed that out of 75 exhibits 28 were operating exhibits of a non-commercial nature. Well over fifty per cent of this exhibition was commercial. Setting all that aside this years Liverpool, as many fondly call it, appeared to have a good mixture of layouts with most scales and proto types covered. One of my favourites is Deloc a fictitious NSW Locomotive depot which in a relatively small area features a large number of locomotives and a great deal of detail. Other layouts of interest include: Sweet Grass-Montana, Snowy River Canyon, Broughton Vale Tramway, Easthaven, Broadford, Funow, Illabo, Dirt, Tall Timbers, Forest Hill, Warratoo, Wilkellton, Alstertal, Moss Vale, Gunning, Quinton and High Splint.

Something special about Liverpool this year. We are all used to seeing models of steam trains running around layouts with an electric motor to power them. If we were true to our models, steam locomotives would run on steam power, diesel locomotives with a diesel motor and electric locomotives with an electric motor

Well at Liverpool this year there was a "real model railway" with real steam locomotives. Fired with methylated spirits, what a sight. Most of the locomotives were operated and controlled by radio control. Gauge 35mm and 45mm, it was pure joy to see the steam locomotives puffing their way around the track pulling a scale load.

What more authentic a model railway can there be and how enjoyable would be to have a layout like this at home. Not that I am suggesting you run it indoors (her 'indoors'

would not like this nor would your insurance company). But I have got my better half to agree to putting a track outside. Plus no ceiling mentioned on costs. Just so long as it runs and does not catch on fire. I am even allowed to run it for 120 feet along one fence line and not the dark side either. Well off to my model shop to get the equipment needed.

(additional material in Italics by proof reader)

More 2002 Exhibitions

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
P.O. Box 2100
North Brighton 3186

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

Exhibitions, the future.

Over the past two decades the benchmark for model railway exhibitions has continued to rise and rise. Quantity, Quality, content, size, variety, mix and timing are all essential elements which have made the job of exhibition manager and co-ordinator very daunting. Added to this has been the growing concern regarding public liability insurance, availability of venues and costs. Putting together an exhibition today is getting harder and more costly.

The question now being asked is where are we heading with our exhibitions, what do we want to achieve and are we getting too commercial?

Admittedly with rising costs and the need to make some form of profit means at times more money has to come from somewhere. The simple answer has been either more commercial stands or a higher cost to have a commercial stand. Then there is the debate that the paying public does not pay to see commercial stands but to view displays and layouts. Yet the price of entry for the public is also an issue, as this will dictate attendance figures as well. So a balance has to be struck whilst also considering what exhibitions are for.

Firstly model railway exhibitions exist for a number of reasons, these reasons include

To promote the hobby of model trains.
To foster interest in the hobby of model trains
To attract people to the hobby of model trains.
To show how great the hobby of model trains is.
To show what can be done in the hobby of model trains.
To show case model train layouts.
To promote model train clubs.
To promote what is available in the hobby of model trains.

You could say that clubs and exhibitions exist to educate, promote, market and foster interest in model trains whilst also allowing interested and like minded people to meet and come together in a friendly environment.

In the U.S.A the need to build and promote the hobby has been recognised and like minded manufacturers and associations got together to create a campaign called “The World’s Greatest Hobby”. Those involved include individuals like actor Michael Gross, Kalmbach, Atlas and Kato. In Australia the Ballarat and District Model Railway Club Inc, Powerline Models Pty Ltd, Train World Pty Ltd, The Long Beach Model Railway Club and a few individuals to our knowledge have joined in on this campaign.

So where are model trains and model railway exhibitions in Australia heading for and are we on the right track?

TAX

EXHIBITIONS & CLUBS

It is very interesting to note that a number of organisers of exhibitions fail to realise that the Australian Tax Office has a great interest in exhibitions of all types, especially Model Railway Exhibitions.

Why?

It is very simple; the profits from an exhibition are taxable. Yes even when run and operated by a club. Oh! But our club has a tax exemption. But what is the exemption for?

All non-member income over \$416.00 per annum is taxable currently at 30 cents in every dollar, or 30%.

Who is liable to account for this?

Your Public Officer and if you are not incorporated, then the organisers are personally liable and the tax for them could be much higher.

INTERESTING!!

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

P.O Box 2100

North Brighton 3186

Phone (03) 9596-8123

Fax (03) 9596-3917

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Family Note

It was surprising to hear and to learn that quite a few people have asked about little Briannah, pronounced Brianna, and has actually taken an interest in hearing about the new addition to the family of Ian and Caroline Comport. Briannah is now 7 months old and is developing very quickly and becoming a bit of a character, with a cheeky grin. Currently she has become a quality tester with everything and anything she can lay a hand being sucked on, slobbered over, shaken and tossed. She has been to a few model railway exhibitions and takes a keen interest on getting her hands on anything that moves, she also likes to feel the texture of scenery. She has also spent many hours at home staring at her fathers train collection; the most popular item appears to be a candy 81 Class. I am quite positive that over the coming years Briannah will come to know the many exhibitions Ian goes to each year very well and that the many people who frequent model railway exhibitions from Brisbane to Melbourne will get to meet her. Oh and yes she does have some of her own trains too.

On a Sad Note.

As we were finalising this late issue of the Powerline Update news from the television told of a railway accident at Benalla involving a steam train and a Truck. The Steam locomotive in question was K 183 that was pulling a specially chartered train of West Coast Railways carriages for a wedding. K183 collided with a B double truck which for some reason was across or crossing the tracks. The result one steam locomotive derailed and on its side, crews members crushed under the tender and many shaken and distressed passengers. Our condolences go out to the families and friends involved, many like us in the community of train enthusiast knew at least one of those involved in an accident that should not have happened.