

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

The Official Newsletter for Powerline Direct and all the latest news concerning Powerline Models Pty Ltd
www.powerline.com.au

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48 Class in 2004.

In 2004 Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be producing another re-run of 48 Class locomotive. The 48 Class is currently still available in mark one version as P235B Freight Corp, 4806 & 4862, and as P239 Austrac, 4814 & 4836. In 2004 four paint liveries will be produced, three of them mark 3 versions and the fourth possibly a mark 1.

Plans are currently for P230B NSW Tuscan, P232A NSW Candy and P233A Red Terror with P234Y Silverton being a possibility, but possibly as a mark 1. samples to date indicate these will be our best liveried locomotives to date in the history of Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

RTR N Scale X Class

The rumours are true, Powerline Models Pty Ltd is dabbling in N scale.

By the time you read this Update the first models of the N Scale X Class could already be in the stores. The initial release will be the Freight Australia X Class locomotives and this is expected to occur late June 2004.

These locomotives feature a one-piece resin body that was planned, designed and manufactured right here in Australia. The mechanism is a top quality Atlas N scale SD9 mechanism with skew wound 5 pole motor and twin flywheels, which drives on all wheels. The couplers used are Micro Trains® MAGNE-MATIC® quality couplers. The roof and handrails are brass.

The model is expected to retail for \$245-\$250 ready to run. These will be available at all Powerline Retailers across Australia and should be ordered promptly as they are being produced in runs and there is a delay between production runs. The initial production run will be 100 units in Freight Australia with a view to run more if demand, orders, requires this.

Please note that since these are being hand finished each model will vary. It has been proposed that any differences within the Class and versions be modelled. So although we are releasing the one model we will be releasing different locomotive numbers and possibly mild differences in finish like handrails, horns and livery.

Depending on the success of this initial run, other liveries may be considered for production. The possible choices include Victorian Railways, V/Line, V/Line Freight and

Freight Victoria. If these prove successful we will look at other locomotive classes and N scale productions.

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd New addition to the range.

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd as of May 2004 is now the exclusive wholesaler and distributor of Rail Motor Models products, kits. The current range is as follows and some items are in very low supply:

RM-B	VHBY	Briquette Wagon
RM-C	VHCX	Cement Wagon
RM-D	VHDY/X	Dolomite Wagon
RM-P	VHFF/X	Phosphate Wagon
RM-Q	VHQF	Quarry Wagon
RM-R	VHRX	Rulite Wagon
RM-S	VHSF	Sand Wagon
RM-SA	VHFF	Soda Ash Wagon

All come as kits with decals but no bogies. Associated Distributors Pty Ltd will supply all kits to good hobby shops across Australia including Powerline Retailers. All these kits are of Victorian Proto-type and compliment the range of products available from Powerline Models Pty Ltd.

Stores interested in supply should contact Associated Distributors Pty Ltd and hobbyists and modellers interested in these models should contact their local hobby store.

ON Special Rippon Lea and Grosvenor Cottage

Associated Distributors Pty Ltd has also procured the last of the Rippon Lea and Grosvenor Cottage kits by Brain Carey Models. Due to the special price the last stock of these kits were purchases at they will be available in stores at prices close to half of what they previously were. Stocks are limited and once sold out, then that is all folks as there are no more.

Rippon Lea is an HO kit of the famous Mansion in the Melbourne Suburb of Rippon Lea. This a large kit with a lot of detail and once finished looks grand. This will now retail in stores at \$27.00 which is less then half of what it used to sell for.

(Note Rippon Lea has been used successfully in parts as its four side are quite different and allow for excellent cut aways)

Grosvenor is an HO kit of an actual house in Grosvenor Street East St Kilda. This is a fine little house and a great little kit to start out on. As a retail price of \$11.95 it too is a steal.

Both kits are fine quality art board kits that are well printed with detail and look surprisingly realistic when finished. These kits are no expected to last long, as supplies are limited.

Also available from Associated Distributors Pty Ltd via your local hobby store.

T-Class series 2 white metal Kit
T-Class series 3 white metal Kit
T Class side frames
T Class steps and fuel tank sides
AL Class Resin Body Kits
CL, Bull dog, Flush glaze window sets
VR Decals to suit the T Class
Wiper and mirror brass etchings
(to suit most locomotives.)
Weighing Scales for Station Platforms
(Brass etchings in N & HO)

Powerline Direct will accept orders for Associated Distributors Pty Ltd product if you cannot get it elsewhere.

BL and G Class

Demand for these locomotives saw Powerline Models Pty Ltd sell out relatively quickly, as did most stores. Due to this demand, a delay in the 48 Class production and an available production slot, Powerline Models Pty Ltd was able to get a small number of addition G and BL Classes run. Unfortunately due to damage to some of the artwork plates this will be the last time some of these liveries are produced, we did manage to salvage a few. This production run is not to meet orders but was a production run based on available capacity. Only single motored units have been produced and all are based of what was produced in mid 2003, no new numbers. Shops are being invited to place their orders now on a first in first served and supplied basis. Locomotives to be available are:

P216 V/Line G-Class Mk 1 G511 and G513
P218 NR BL-Class BL27 & BL29

The ability to supply these was a fluke and a lucky break but damage to artwork means this is absolutely the last chance to get some of these liveries as I can not see Powerline Models Pty Ltd re-doing the artwork, as efforts are better applied to new and more exciting projects. Orders accepted now at your local Powerline Retailer.

The 48 Class Run

The production run of the next 48 Class is expected soon and delivery is likely in two parts about a month apart and the first batch is expected in July/August 2004. The first lot of sample have been and have gone and proved to be pretty good. A few changes were needed but nothing that stands out. Final production and delivery will be known when the final samples arrive and are reviewed. So far they are looking very good and could prove to be our best yet. Although production numbers have been increase, we do not expect these locomotives to last long and strongly recommend you order, and get an order confirmation, from

your local Powerline Retailer today. Those unable to get to a Powerline Retailer can order from Powerline Direct via the Internet or email.

P230B NSW Tuscan Mk 3 4897 & 48116.

This was not a livery we originally planned to do but requests and pressure from our retailers and customers encouraged us to move ahead and do this one as well. Intended as a special we have improved the finish, the lining, the NSW Crest and the builder's plate. We are also moving to have the handrails all painted ad the buffers finished properly. This turned out to be a bigger job then we first expected but we believe the finish is well worth the effort. Only a small number of these are being made and if demand out strips supply they will be allotted based on Candy and Red Terror purchases. Powerline Direct along with all Powerline Retailers are accepting orders for these locomotives now. We expect these to be our best 48 class Tuscan locomotives yet. We would like to add here that the locomotive livery, lettering, lining and fonts were match from photographs. So that the locomotives are correct to the photos and information we have.

P232A NSW Candy Mk 3 4894, 4895 & 48102

This was one of our pre-planned liveries. A lot of cross checking of photographs, paint batches used and period paints went into getting this livery as close to correct as we could in the time we allowed ourselves and the facilities we had to paint match. The end result was most satisfactory. I have been informed that the red used on the candy and the red terror are the same and that the red terror was just a simplified and rushed candy. This may infact be very true but we found in checking various photographs, paint batches and listings of the time that the red even across the candy locomotives varied. In comparing candy and red terror locomotives in the same photographs there were differences. Then again even when we compared red terror 48 to red terror 48 we found differences. So we settled on the colour that best suited our Candy 48 class and looked best next to our Red Terror 48 Class. Some may disagree with the results but we have the photos, slide film and the paint batches to back up our decision. The end result we think will please many.

P233A NSW Red Terror Mk 3 48102 & 48107.

This is another planned livery and as per the candy the colours have been matched and cross-checked so that our Red Terror matches photographs we have and looks good next to other red terror and candy painted 48 Class locomotives. Again we think the result is most pleasing and we still have an issue with buffers to correct before these are ready for production.

P234Y Silverton Mk 1 48s35 & 48s37.

Like the Tuscan 48 Class this was a much thought about livery that was not planned from the out set but decided

upon for something different. To get these locomotives right a crew from Powerline Models Pty Ltd visited Parkes roundhouse to photograph the locomotives. We took a lot of photographs and measurements. On top of this Silverton provided us with the artwork, plans and colour designations that along with the photographs has enabled us to make this a very attractive locomotive. Again we have moved to make this a livery to remember and since it is being made in such a small run it may soon become a collectable. The initially samples of this locomotive were very good and very attractive.

Proposed range change

It has been proposed to release existing models in variations or with decals and or details to allow modellers to create their own variations. It is nothing drastic but in the near future you may well see undecorated Powerline coaches with decals for you to apply so you can chose the number and type of coach you have. Colour schemes and liveries are being reviewed now for release in July or August 2004. This is a move away from the really RTR models that Powerline saw as its core business as it would appear most of our customers would prefer to individualise many of the items we produce.

Special 3 pack Carriages

Only 3 of coach packet are left at the time we went to print. This features first and second-class, FS and BS, NSW Passenger carriages in a mid to dark brown with yellow lining and lettering. These represent the dark Indian red as applied in NSW in approx 1967. These carriages are only available in the 3 packs as stated there are 3 left as I type this article. The price for these packs is \$165.00 each and once sold out that is it. Orders are being accepted now until sold out. Orders must be via the Internet or email.

Out of stock.

The following items are no longer in stock and not available at present from Powerline Models Pty Ltd:

P216, P217, P216FA, P217FA, P218, P219, P237A, P438S, P420, P421, P422, P423, P464, P485, P486, P604, P622A, P682, P684 and P1003t.

The only place to get these now is from stores who still have stock or via a second hand dealer. With some items Powerline Direct may be of assistance and should be contacted only via email, allow a few days for a reply. There are plans to re-produce some of the above listed items at this point in time, but when this will occur and in what format has yet to be decided.

A Powerline catalogue

The new colour brochure is still under construction. We do plan to have the colour brochure available soon and when ready we will ship out to those with orders still being held and will invite other interested parties to order when available. Please do not send any more orders for these just yet.

The brochure is expected to be full colour with pictures and descriptions for all product likely to still be available in stores as of now.

Email orders

An Up date.

Security on our on line order service from the Powerline web site, www.powerline.com.au, was set up to protect individuals details and their credit card numbers. This was done using a secure server with encryption and breaking the order up into parts so that on the unlikely chance that someone did hack the system they never got enough detail to act on. This has proved so secure even we have had problems and issues getting all the details and matching them. The other issue is that some orders were incorrectly filled out and thus when we get them they are blank. Please ensure you fill in all fields and items out fully and correctly when ordering. There must be a full address, email address and/or phone number so if all else fails we do have a way of contacting you. For all credit transactions we require the type of credit card, the full number, name on the credit card and the expiry date. At the end of May 2004 the ordering system was up dated and cleaned up and is now working very well and all security is in place. We hope from now on not to encounter any delays, bland forms or get orders some time after they were actually filled in. We have moved to clean up the system, extract all over due orders where possible and bring the system right up to date. We still have two locomotives outstanding but these are not the fault of the email system. Turn around is expected to be within the week now, stocks and postage permitting. Should you have any concerns about your order please email ian@powerline.com.au

BODIES

48 Class bodies in various liveries are still available at \$70.00 each. These bodies are in good condition but are listed as NQR (Not Quite Right) due to the fact that they have minor livery errors or are missing windows, horns or handrail. They are sold as is as bodies for kit bashing, modifying or parts. They fit the Powerline mark one or mark three chassis and are available to order now over the Internet or via email. Generally we will supply whatever body we can and liveries will be potluck but the liveries available are the 125-year green, Bi Centennial and the old Silverton yellow. Ready to run versions with new mechanisms are listed on the web site price listing.

P423 Tuscan MHO

Powerline Direct has a very limited number of these still available at \$55.00 plus postage. These will sell fast and will not last much longer. Orders via email or the Internet please. There is no short-term plan to re-run these.

P1238Y 48 Class adaptor

A small number of these surfaced during a clean up at Powerline Direct. Price is \$7.70 per pair and orders via email or Internet only please. Powerline Models Pty Ltd is having these reproduced along side the 48 Class production run, so the adaptors will possibly be readily available and in

stores some time after August 2004. We do not recommend the use of non-genuine adaptors as comment and complaints have been many and once you have done so your warranty is invalid and if it needs fixing a minimum charge of \$10 applies. So \$7.70 for the genuine item is cheap and it comes with instructions and it fits properly.

P231 48 Class Reverse Livery

This is available as a ready to run locomotive and although technically an NQR, these are in very good order with no visible faults at all. Orders via the Internet or email and the price are on the Internet price listing. Price \$120.00
There are no plans to re-run this livery.

P216FA Freight Australia

Powerline Direct has a very limited number of P216FA Freight Australia G Class mark one available, again orders are via the Internet or email and again the price is on the price listing on the Internet. We do believe that Powerline will produce more of these in the future but can say that due to artwork failure the current G Mk1 V/Line and the Original National Rail BL Class are finished and that whatever Powerline releases in June 2004, that will be all, as the cost of new artwork and plates does not make it worth while. Price \$215.00

40', 45' and 48' Containers

These are readily available now and should be in store and on the shelves at your local Powerline Retailer. These are great for the OCX/OCY style flat cars as well as the BGM RQZY. The 40' containers also fit well into the Powerline/Freightline gondolas. Available now is BN and Hapag Lloyd in 40 foot, K-Line in 45 foot and BN in 48 foot. The price is good and with the range of decal available in stores today, as well as paints, it is very easy to repaint and re decal these containers into different company liveries and colours. Remember intermodal is the biggest growing area in railways today and containers have been around for a long time. Many of the big freight trains we see today are container freight and a container, intermodal; depot should be a part of any post 1970s or modern era railway. If your local Powerline Retailer does not have stock you can always order on line with Powerline Direct.

Track Comments

Quite a number of phone calls and emails have been received regarding track, what to use and what we recommend. The answer is no so straight forward but will give it a go here. In all Powerline sets we use Atlas code 100 Nickel Silver track, this is a top quality track and a top quality product. The other track product we recommend, as a company is Peco code 100 Nickel Silver. This too is a top quality product and we add that beginners and people new to the hobby should always use Insulfrog points. One other note is that the minimum radius on any curve should never be any tighter than 18-inch radius and the broader, bigger; you can make your curves the better off you will be. In

terms of track codes, we do not recommend anything finer than code 100 for starters, beginners, and young people. Codes 83 and less are less forgiving and require more attention and experience in track laying.

There are many brands and many claims by brands but by recommending Atlas and Peco we know the track is good and is quality, and you are paying a good price for a good quality. We only recommend Nickel Silver track and we believe that our sets are the only sets under the \$200 mark that actually have real Nickel Silver track. Another brand worth looking at is also TILLIG, which we have heard some good reports on, including comment on it being correct for NSW.

Paint Matching.

A large number of people have asked about paint colours to match up with Powerline products or to allow for the modification of Powerline products. It has even been suggested that Powerline should do its own range of paints. At present with so many paint products available we see no need for Powerline to enter into the paint game or to add competition to those already there. Should someone disappear from the market and paint availability drop away we may consider it but for now we recommend TLB paints. TLB paints have all the paint any Australian modeller would require and then some.

DCC

The Programming Track

It would seem that a few people are having a problem with the idea of the programming track in DCC. This programming track can be a stand along piece of track, a block section of track or a siding but what is most important is that it must be fully isolated and separate from any other section of track. A programming track is for the programming of one locomotive at a time, no more, and no other locomotive should be in any way associated to or connected to the programming track.

My personal suggestion is a fully insulated, both rails, siding. This siding is wired to a double pole, double throw and centre off switch. The top two prongs of the switch connect to the normal track out put from the DCC command unit, the middle two prongs wire to the track and the bottom two prongs go to the programming connection on the DCC Command unit. So that switch up is normal track running, centre is off and down is for programming. Safe and easy to use.

For those who do not know there is a famous DCC story that I hear repeated over and over again and is an event that had happened to more than one individual. Joe Citizen has a DCC unit and over time has programmed a few locomotives, up graded his system and added to his layout. Or in other cases he is a new beginner. Anyway Joe places his new purchase on the track and proceeds to connect everything up so he can program new addition to run on his railway. So Joe starts programming and is satisfied he had done everything correctly. So it's onto the mainline and back to normal track running we have a railway to operate. First crank of the throttle and away we go, every locomotive on the layout takes off. We have locomotives off the end of sidings, maybe one into a turntable and maybe the off

binge. Not good for rail operations but what Joe forgot is that we have to isolate the programming and that we should only program one locomotive at a time.

What about multi lashing and consists I hear you cry? Consists are set by programming them into the command unit and nominating the locomotives that make up the consist. So a consist could be made up of locomotive 10, 14, 22 and 99. A trap for young players is to remember that you will need to also include the direct of the locomotive. Some people like to run a units back to back, or A-B-B-A lash ups. Remember the wiring of the decoder sets the direction. Also to do consists your command unit needs the current software to do so. Some older DCC units do not allow for it. A consist is not programmed on a program track it is put together in/on the command unit.

DCC RECOMMENDATIONS

This really is a personal choice but for the record Powerline Models Pty Ltd at this point in time only recommends DCC systems by Uhlenbrock, NCE, Lentz and Atlasmaster.

For the beginner and the person who want to run up to a total of 99 locomotives, 5 hand sets and requires no more than 5 functions per locomotive, we recommend the Atlas Master DCC system. This is a good two-digit system that is NMRA compliant and most satisfactory for most people and is easy to set up and use.

For those who want the best then the answer is the Uhlenbrock. Simply put there is no better system and this one, the intellibox, has it all.

In between these two great systems you have the NCE and Lentz systems. Both are good, both are NMRA compliant and both are reliable.

For those wanting remote control DCC NCE has two great systems and we recommend the PRO.

We are yet to further study and operate the Bachmann and Life Like DCC systems but at this point in time we only recommend Atlas master, Lentz, NCE and Uhlenbrock. Please note that Fleischmann has adopted Uhlenbrock as its operating DCC system.

Bottle Brush Pine Trees

The Basic Bottle Brush Pine Tree kit is set to return to the market and onto the shelves in stores. These are hugely popular and enable modellers to produce their own trees cheaply. These will no longer be under the LinkLine banner but will be exclusively wholesaled and distributed by Associated distributors Pty Ltd and packaged under their header. Delivery of the first kits is expected in July 2004 and should be in stores and on shelves by August 2004.

These are the trees that Bruce Ritchie and Murray Johnstone demonstrate on their How To Solutions display.

Worlds Greatest Hobby

Yes this hobby of ours is the Worlds Greatest Hobby and this title is being used in the U.S.A in a promotional campaign. Members of the team at Powerline Models Pty Ltd are a part of this and members of the campaign. We would now like to move a head and create this campaign in

Australia. This would require the co-operation of clubs, distributors, wholesalers and manufacturers who share the common interest, values and drive. It requires people to be positive and to be actively involved in the promotion, marketing, advertising and further growth of the hobby. It is something we all need to consider, as the future of this hobby is not in the hands of just a few; it is in the hands of us all. For more details, comment or thoughts contact ian@powerline.com.au

Warranties and Repairs

Powerline Models Pty Ltd provides a 12 months limited warranty on all it new locomotives which covers aspects of quality and workmanship. Issues like abuse, accidental damage, dropping, trying to repair the model yourself and use of non-genuine parts will invalidate your warranty.

All warranties, repairs and servicing should go through the place of purchase, your Powerline Retailer. They will examine the product for you and advise you of what is best to do and what the out come is most likely to be. From there they will send it to one of two Powerline warranty and repair facilities. Powerline has one in Sydney and one in Melbourne. For speedy service on your warranty you must have lodged your warranty card with all the relevant details. Repairs and service take a minimum of two weeks from the date it is sent to the service facility till the date it is sent back.

All warranties are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Repairs, servicing and fitting of options is another available service with a minimum of \$10.00 plus part. We can do all repairs to Powerline products as well as servicing and maintenance plus fit Kadees, RP-25 wheels and/or modify your locomotive to requirement including an all wheel pick up arrangement.

With future demand we may very soon be able to provide a decoder installation service for those wanting their locomotive fitted with DCC decoders. As previously mentioned we only recommend, Atlas Master, NCE, Lentz and Uhlenbrock decoders.

A custom painting and decaling service is also been considered for people who want one off liveries or liveries not available anywhere else including Powerline. This is not quite ready yet but should be available in the very near future with the cost expected to be about \$100.00 plus decals and postage. This is yet to be finalised.

Please note that at this point in time we only supply these services for Powerline and associated products. We will not provide these services for other brands as we back and stand behind our own brand and associated products.

Spare Parts and Accessories.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd sill produces and has in stock a large range of spare parts and accessories to suit Powerline products and some similar product lines. In fact as a manufacturer we keep a pretty good range of parts available including traction tyres, pick ups, replacement couplers, conversion couplers, RP 25 wheels in blackened or Nickel plated, spare and replacement bogies, spare corridors and many other items. These are available at Powerline Retailers or from Powerline Direct via the email or Internet.

If you are unable to do repairs or fitments yourself Powerline also can provide you with this service.

A spares and more listing

P1201A 81 Power bogie W/motor
P1207 81 steps/brk wheel & M/UC
P1209C 1.5 volt light globes
P1210 81 Class coupler (pair)
P1211 Triple fan moulding
P1215 G/BL steps & M/UC
P1216 G/BL exhaust cover
P1217 81 exhaust cover
P1212A BL/G Power bogie W/motor
P1214A Power pick up strips
P1224A 81 Class chassis & mechanism
P1225A G/BL chassis & mechanism
P1402 81 Class horns
P1404 Coupling screw & washer
81/G/BL Kadee ® Adaptors (complete pair)
P1218A-1 P204S Stealth-short
P1218A-2 P204S Stealth-long
P1218A-3 P218/9NR.BL-short
P1218A-4 P218/9 NR. BL-long
P1218A-5 P206/7 81 Frt Rail-short
P1218A-6 P206/7 81 Frt Rail-long
P1218A-7 P216/7 G V/Line-short
P1218A-8 P216/7 G V/Line-long

48/830 Class Locomotive parts & Accessories

P1230 Power bogie with motor
P1232A Motor & worm gear (mk3)
P1233 wheel set, tyred
P1234 Gear Set
P1235 Complete Mk1 mechanism
P1236 Power bogie frame & centre
P1237 Unpwd bogie frame & centre
P1239 Metal hand rails
P1240A Buffers & buffer plates
P1241 Plastic handrails (2)
P1243 Couplers (2)
P1244 Contact strip (2)
P1245 chassis casting Mk1
P1246 Window Insets
P1247 Motor housing
P1248 Horns (2)
P1249A Flettner vent (2)

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

P1206 Traction tyres
P1500 RP-25 Wheels blackened
P1501 RP-25 Wheels Nickel Plated

DECALS

PDN001 Freight Corp logo for 81

.Couplings and Corridors

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

Bogies: Pass & Freight. (packed as pairs)

P1102 2AN (BS/FS)
P1103 2BC (MHO/KB)
P1104E Freight bogie black
P1117 Argentine (Broad gauge)
P1118 Commonwealth black
P1118G Commonwealth grey

Other Coach/freight parts

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

Exhibitions

Box Hill

The 2004 Box Hill Exhibition by the AMRA Victorian Division is possibly the best yet at this location. Two thirds of the hall was packed with a good range of quality layouts and displays, as well as a good mix of trade stands. The exhibition was well set out and looked well planned. Many still feel it has not attained the status of the Camberwell of old but with continued improvement it could well be. Air conditioning, ventilation and the sun were not a big issue this year but still rated a mention. It was also a shame that the exhibition did not fill the whole venue but there is always next year. Those who chose not to attend this year missed a good exhibition

Canberra

I do not envy the new Exhibition manager who stepped into the breach when Bob Hesse retired from the position. For many years Bob, his wife and a group of volunteers got the exhibition to the point of a fine tuned machine. The exhibition was of a high standard and exhibitors were kept happy with good meals, good catering and a comfortable environment. This year was no exception as it proved to be a good exhibition with great displays but appeared down on display numbers and attendances. The new exhibition manager had some big shoes to fill and he did it well. Again another exhibition worth visiting and one that all in Canberra and surrounding areas should put in their calendar.

Bendigo

Reborn and in a new location, after not happening last year, this exhibition showed that the Bendigo Model railroaders were still able to put on a show. This year's show was all under one roof but in different rooms. La Trobe Valley had there European layout Ken Davies was there with High Splint, the Twin Peaks N scale layout was there, Alan Rice had his two side American N Scale layout, there was a classic Hornby OO set and the Apache Creek layout brought to you by the team that brought you Black and White. Steam and Whistle from South Australia were also in attendance with their well-lit nighttime layout. This layout featured high intensity bright LEDs and some of the new Broadway Limited locomotives you can buy at good hobby stores. Hopefully the Bendigo Model Railroaders can keep up the momentum and again bring us the annual exhibitions that many of us have grown to expect.

Hobsons Bay

This years exhibition, as in each exhibition each year, is an all Australian affair with layouts, displays, commercial stands and trade stands all needing to be Australian based or generally Australian in content. So if you are not patriotic or if you do not have even an ounce of interest in Australian then this is not for you but then again if you are reading this Powerline Update then you do have an interest in Australian and therefore Hobsons Bay is an exhibition for you.

Brisbane.

What can one say about Brisbane except that it is big, it is full and it has got to be Australia's largest model railway exhibition. For size only Newcastle could be a contender

for the title. Taking up three pavilions at The Brisbane RNA, Show grounds, this show had a lot to offer and see as well as live steam train rides for little kids, and big kids. I honestly thought numbers were down this year along with other things but I am happy to say that I have since been proven wrong as the show had very good attendance figures and retailers experienced good sales. There were plenty of displays to see and if you get the chance to visit one interstate exhibition a year and you have not been to Brisbane yet, put it in your 2005 diary as soon as you can.

Exhibitions in 2004

Adelaide

12-14th June 2004.
Queens Birthday Long Weekend
SA Greyhound Racing Auth
Greyhound Park Complex
55 Cardigan Street
Angle Park

Glen Waverley

12-14th June 2004.
Hungarian Community Centre
760 Boronia Road Wantirna
(Formerly at World Vision Centre)

Wangaratta

3-4 July 2004.
Wangaratta High School
Edward Street

Stawell

10-11th July 2004.
SES Drill Hall
Sloane Street
Stawell

South Oakleigh

7-8th August 2004.
South Oakleigh Club
1 Victor Road.

Sunshine

21-22nd August 2004.
Braybrook Secondary College
Sport stadium Burke St

Newcastle

28-29th August 2004.
Newcastle Entertainment Centre
Broadmeadow

Bedford Park

11th September 2004.
Modelling the Railways of SA
Flinders Medical Centre
Flinders Drive
(Formerly at Hahndorf)

Liverpool

2-4th October 2004.
Whitlam Leisure Centre
Memorial Ave Liverpool.

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 to assist organisers with additional displays, layouts and stalls.

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 a stamped self addressed envelope be sent as well as an additional 50 cent stamp cover costs and speed up delivery.

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Articles and comments for submission.

The Powerline Update is accepting original submissions, articles and write-ups from its readers and those with a common interest.

All writings must be on topics concerning either; model trains, Australian model trains, HO scale model trains, Australian Railways, Powerline model trains, model train modifications, model train detailing, model train layouts,

DCC, train and/or railway exhibitions, model train clubs, electrical issues within model trains, and issues of interest within the hobby.

Acceptance and publication of any submission will be solely at the discretion of the Powerline Update. All published submissions will have the author's name recognised. All submissions to be considered for publication must come with a name, address, phone number and contact details.

The Powerline Update will, where possible, check the accuracy or validity of any submission and will not publish any submissions that may be sensitive or questionable. The Powerline Update will also accept no responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, statements made or views and opinions expressed in any submission.

Articles should be at least 80 words and can be anything up to a page. Submissions should be in word or as a hard copy, long articles must be provided in word and as a hard copy.

Submissions can be sent as follows:

Powerline Update	E-Mail
The Editor	ian@powerline.com.au
P.O. Box 2100	Fax
East Brighton 3186	(03) 9596-3917

Please note that the Powerline Update does not pay for articles or submissions, especially considering that the Powerline Update is a free publication.

LATE MAIL.

It would appear that some of our mail outs are arriving late. We have been receiving calls and emails stating some Updates are up to a month late. This is disturbing and was hammered home recently when two pieces of email returned to us recently from Australia Post, one from two years ago and the other from close to 18 months ago. One was interestingly a stolen piece of mail that was recovered and the other we cannot explain as other mail to the same gentleman has gone through successfully since. It would seem there is a Black hole at Australia Post that opens and closes taking mail and then releasing it later or elsewhere. Another point in case is an express post Satchel sent to Gosford NSW. It got to West Sydney and for reasons unknown ended up at Belgrave Victoria. Maybe it wanted to see G42 back in steam after nearly 40 years.

The LIMA situation.

This situation has not yet been finalised but it is believe that Hornby still intends to purchase all, if not part, of the LIMA range. Comment from LIMA is inconclusive although they claim still that LIMA is not for sale and will not be moving from Italy. Hornby seems to be optimistic and that the sale will be finalised by the end of 2004. Latest news is that Walthers, who were distributing Riverossi, have lost the Riverossi brand but this is yet to be confirmed. What has not come to light in this situation is the position of the Italian Government, who has put money and time into Lima, and the involvement of some other parties not yet disclosed publicly. Rumours are just rumours so believe nothing till it is official with a reliable spokesperson standing behind it.

Another Closure

Punchbowl Hobbies in Sydney is set to close down at the end of June 2004.

A Milestone

April 1974 marked 30 years since Train World Pty Ltd officially came into being and began trading. The shop was originally at 615 Hawthorn Road East Brighton and moved to its current location in 1980. For its entire history to date Train World Pty ltd has been under the same ownership and control. Over the years Train World has grown to be Australia's largest pure model train store.

G42 back in steam

After nearly 40 years Puffing Billy's Big Brother is back in steam. After an extensive and expensive restoration the Beyer-Garratt 2-6-0 + 0-6-2 G Class of the Victorian railways has returned. For now it runs the lunchtime special and is an impressive sight to see back on the rails and operating.

Pac Nat purchase of Freight Australia

This area has gone a little quite since we were told Rail America had agreed on the sale of freight Australia to Pacific National. It would appear that ACCC intervention or a question of approval is the reason. What ever the case we await an out come because Rail America does intend to sell and buyers would want to settle before the wheat season gets into full swing as a bumper season could raise the price.

Driver Shortage

Believe it or not but on the railway systems across Australia there is currently a driver shortage. Maybe a move to driver only operations, getting rid of the fireman or trainee and the reduced exposure of railways has something to do with it. Whatever the case a driver shortage causing delays or reduction of services is not a good thing.

Answer to the Briannah Questions.

Surprisingly quite a number of people have asked Brian, Ian and Gerry about Briannah, of all things. This is a topic we do not expect to hear questions about at exhibitions. Briannah has been seen visiting exhibitions in Victoria as well as attending exhibitions such as Warrnambool, Bendigo and Stawell. Well Briannah is a train enthusiast having enjoyed rides on various trains, including Puffing Billy, and having her own private model and toy train collection. She has also had a hand in operating a few layouts; with some help thanks Leo, with Beechy, Powelltown and displays by Adrian Hoad featuring as her favourites. Not bad for a two year old little girl. She has become a walking, talking, confident and at times strong willed individual who is quick to pick up on words and actions. TVs, Video machines, CD Players, DVD players, computers, control panels and controllers beware, give her use of a hand throttle and do not expect it back for a while. In answer to the questions, she is doing very well; I just wish she would slow down and maybe not grow up so quick even now. Yet then again maybe a little ally would be useful when debates arise about the model railway at home.

New Addition to the Fold.

Just after mid night, 1232, on the 1st June 2004 at Manly Hospital Lisa Cruickshank, Brian's eldest daughter, gave birth to a daughter. Jade Isabella Cruickshank, 7lb 12.
