

# 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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Welcome to the next issue of the Powerline Update. Since the last publication a lot has taken place within the hobby of model trains and at Powerline Models Pty Ltd. All the Powerline T Class locomotives have finally arrived, are in stock and have been delivered. New rolling stock for 2007 has arrived, sold out, more new rolling stock has just arrived and we still have more to come.

## The Powerline T Class Locomotives.

The first production run of T Class locomotives has finally all arrived.

The following locomotives are currently in stock:

PT2-1	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T357
PT2-1	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T359
PT2-2	V/Line T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T364
PT2-2	V/Line T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T366
PT2-4	West Coast Railways		Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T363
PT3-1	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T367
PT3-1	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T395
PT3-2	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T375
PT3-2	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T393
PT3-6	Freight Australia T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T388
PT3-6	Freight Australia T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	T400

Due to the delay more locomotives were produced than were actually ordered that has allowed Powerline Models Pty Ltd to have a stock of T Class locomotives available for those that missed out on the advanced orders. These are at full price and are available from all good model and hobby stores across Australia. A second production run will be announced later in 2007.

## VQCY/VQCX

The first new piece of rolling stock for the Victorian modellers to roll out of India was the Freight Australia VQCX Flat car in green. These proved rather popular with the first small production run selling out very quickly. A subsequent and larger production run has since been done and these flat cars are currently available and in stock. Your local model and hobby store can take orders today. PR001FA VQCX Flat Car Freight Australia (green) and PR002VR VQCY Flat Car VR (wagon red) are currently available and should be in stores as you read this.

## VFTX

In early March 2007 these unexpected wagons arrived. Representing a log wagon photographed in the Geelong yard this small production run also sold out quickly. These wagons are all yellow with stakes/up rights (bolsters) for log traffic. A new production batch of PR003FA VFTX yellow log wagons has just arrived along with Freight Australia green (PR001BFA) and VR red (PR002BVR) versions. These will all be available in stores by the time you read this.

## BD Wagon

This was the first NSW wagon to arrive along with the NSW D-Wagon, from Redfern Models. The first production run was small and sold out quite quickly. The wagon comes in two distinct versions, the King post version and the Queen post version. Both versions differed in underneath detail concerning the support bracing. These wagons demonstrated Redfern's desire to bring out accurate and detailed models as they featured fine bogies, details inside, outside and underneath as well as brake gear and spoked wheels. The details were seen as too fine as the bogies popped out the axles when too much weight was applied and the detail parts snagged easily and pulled off. Improvements with this wagon have taken place in follow up production runs and will continue to be improved where required. Stock of the BD in King post and Queen post versions are still available via your local model and hobby store but the warehouse has sold out for now.

## D Wagon

These little NSW 4 wheeler wagons first appeared with the NSW BD wagons some months ago. Initially the first production run sold out quite quickly. Three further production runs have followed with improvements done to each production run. These little wagons also featured much detailing including most of the braking gear, making wheel/axle removal difficult. This wagon is sold in pairs and is available now from all good hobby and model stores.

## **BCH and BWH**

The NSW BCH coal hopper and the NSW BWH wheat hopper were the first new NSW wagons originally planned by Powerline Models Pty Ltd for production by Redfern Models in India. Based on, designed and modelled on the wagons stored at Thirlmere these models represent the BCH and BWH as they were in use, in traffic and in revenue service. Another production run has recently arrived and will be available shortly from all hobby and model shops across Australia.

### **Notes on the new wagons.**

All the listed new wagons from India are not intended to be perfect crisp and shiny looking new wagons. They are not intended to look like freshly delivered new wagons on their first day out of the erection shops but as wagons in use and in traffic. They come without couplers and require Kadee No 148 couplers as well as a little tweaking to finish them off. Tweaking is usually in the coupler fitment and height adjustment and on some wagons there maybe a need to fit a spacing washer between the wagon bolster and the bogies. Some of the BCH and BWH NSW wagons came fitted with 10.5mm wheels instead of 9.6mm wheels; this has now been corrected with the current batch. As a personal touch when fitting the couplers I like to file for a perfect fit and use #2 pan head 3/16<sup>th</sup> screws. As new production runs are done development and improvements will take place and production changes will occur on wagons. Other developments and evolutions that will occur as the production process rolls on may include modification and variations to represent actual changes and modification of rolling stock during their operation on the railways. So do not be quick to judge the models in their appearance. Wagons yet to arrive such as the GJF and JX will benefit from these developments and improvements.

### **GJF**

This Victorian Wheat hopper has yet to be delivered but samples have been on display since AMRA Boxhill Exhibition 2006 and finished pre-production painted and printed tests wagons have been on display at Sandown 2007 and Hobsons Bay 2007. These wagons are expected shortly and will be done in various liveries and variations.

### **JX**

This Victorian Cement wagon will be produced approximately one month after the GJF wheat hopper is delivered. Test samples were on display at the Hobsons Bay Model Railway Exhibition 2007. More details and samples of this wagon will follow shortly.

### **Other wagons to come**

There are numerous other wagons planned for production in the near future. Some other manufacturers have also announced similar or the same wagons they too intend to produce. Regardless Powerline Models Pty Ltd will press on and produce what it has been planning since 2000. This will include other wagons, hoppers and guards vans as well as passenger carriages and locomotives.

### **MHG.**

The Powerline MHG has been re-released finally. The first two in stock and available now are P504 L550 Lab test car and P509T Tuscan undecorated. These will be followed up with other liveries that will include the Tuscan with silver roof and the black with silver roof. These like the gondolas are produced, assembled and packaged in Australia, even the insert and box is made in Australia.

## **T Class Issues.**

### **Metal hand rails**

The metal handrails were seen to be more reliable, more durable and longer lasting. There was a small compromise in terms of size and fitting but this was not viewed as major and generally feedback agrees with this. The most vulnerable handrails are those on the 4 corners as they stick out from the noses and go along side the steps. These are known to pop out in transit or when roughly handled and can easily be carefully slotted back in. To secure them, there are four basic glues recommend that should be ONLY being applied sparingly to the handrail end tips. Those glues are a Gel type plastic cement like the Testors red and white tube, super glue (Flash medium or thick), PVA or window silicon glue. Do not use MIK, MEK, liquid plastic cement, any expert glue or any glue applied with a metal needle tip as they will not secure or bond. If in doubt send your T Class back to the place of purchase for review and they can then on send the locomotive to Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Please do not use EXPRESS POST or the plastic satchels as we have found this means of post is the cause of many handrail problems, pack carefully in a cardboard box. A suggestion has been to supply handrails separately with the locomotive.

### **V/Line Pilot stripes**

For those interested in this modification, the decals are now available. This will bring the locomotives into line with what has been generally photographed and is seen as the generic application to the V/Line T Class pilots. Those with advanced orders have already had their decals posted out to them, individuals and shops; otherwise the decals will be available in the box with the locomotives. This decal is only available with the V/Line T Class locomotives T364, T366, T375 & T393.

### **DCC decoder.**

The Powerline decoder was designed in 2004. It is not the latest or the greatest decoder but it does give true DC to DCC mode switch ability. It is not silent running and Powerline Models Pty Ltd does not advise the changing of any CV. There have been a few minor firmware/software issues with the decoder that are now being worked on concerning 4 digit addressing, the use of 2-3-4-5-6-7 as the starting digit, there has been a heat issue with motors getting quite warm in DCC operation and an issue concerning running direction of DCC mode running on DC. For those wanting silent running and who want to play with CVs etc Powerline Models Pty Ltd recommends the NCE DA-SR decoder.

DCC system must be less than 16 volts AC at the track and only NMRA compliant systems are recommended.

**PLEASE TAKE CARE WHEN REMOVING AND PLACING YOUR T CLASS FROM/IN THE FOAM PACKING**

## **SANDOWN MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION.**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007 over the Victorian Labour day long weekend Model Railways of Australia ran a model railway exhibition at the Sandown racecourse, Noble Park. This was not an exhibition run by or for Powerline Models Pty Ltd as many tried to claim. In fact Powerline Models Pty Ltd had the smallest display at the rear of the hall. Although not a financial exhibition it was a successful exhibition, all profits being donated to Dandenong Hospital and Walhalla Goldfields Railway.

The exhibition was all under cover with carpet, air conditioning, good lighting, easy access by rail, parking onsite for thousands of cars and the friendly entry fees of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children making it a great family activity.

The aim of this exhibition was to show case the hobby to the public and this it did very well.

A large number of exhibitors, attendees and the public have requested the exhibition take place again next year.

## **Model Railways of Australia**

By now you will be aware of an impending new magazine for model trains in Australia called Model Railways of Australia. This magazine is not just about Australian brands or products but all brands and products in all scales and outlines that are available in Australia. Capturing the world of model railways is the motto and promoting the hobby to all is the aim.

The magazine will be available free from model railway exhibitions, shops and railway clubs. There will be room set aside for club and exhibition listings, that will be free, and a proposed maximum of 25% content for paid adverts from manufacturers, retailers and commercial entities. Proposed articles will include topics such as getting started, comparisons, reviews, new products, DCC, club visits, exhibition reviews, articles on locomotives and rolling stock, layout designs, modelling techniques and write ups on clubs, societies and preservation groups.

The one stipulated guideline is that all products promoted and advertised must be available for ordering, stocking or access by all bona fides retail shops but is not reliant on them actually stocking it and that there will be no prices listed in adverts. The reason for this again is simple, all products promoted must be available to Joe Public from his local retail shop where he can buy or order the product from. Retail shops are the face and the future of the hobby.

The publishing of this new magazine has fallen behind for a number of reasons but we have been assured it will be going ahead.

Anyone interested in submitting article to the Model Railways of Australia magazine can send them to [modelrailwaysofaustralia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:modelrailwaysofaustralia@yahoo.com.au)

## **HOBSONS BAY MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION**

The Easter 2007 exhibition for the showcase of Australian model railways was held in Collingwood at the Collingwood Secondary College for the first time. The previous venue not being available due to closure. The new venue featured an entry foyer with a hall, basketball court, to the left, and another to the right. The emphasis on Australian Railways was reinforced with a solid selection of Australian layouts, including Broadford and Bolivia, as well as Australian manufacturers and producers of Australian railway product. If you modelled Australian railways then this was the exhibition for you with layouts to inspire and motivate as well as a bounty of product to purchase.

The Powerline showcase attracted a lot of attention in the foyer with the public, modellers and other manufacturers taking numerous photographs.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Narrow Gauge Convention.**

During Easter the 8<sup>th</sup> Narrow Gauge Convention was held at Noble Park, not far from Sandown or the Waverley clubrooms. This was a convention with paid up and registered conventioners and not strictly speaking an exhibition as it is not open to the public. None-the less it had some great displays and layouts as well as clinics, lectures and guest speakers. Guest speakers included Frank Kelly with movie footage of his Australian 4mm Layout and recent overseas rail tour and as well as a discussion on the hobby and its future.

Clinics on various topics such as scenery, DCC, model building, digital photography, manufacturing techniques, animation, casting, making masters, railway history, scaling from photographs and weathering by well known people such as Laurie Green, Grant McAdam, Gerry Hopkins, John Dennis, John de la Lande, Adrian Hoad and others proved very popular.

## **Canberra**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at the National Hockey Centre in Lyneham we had the Canberra Model Railway Expo run by the Canberra Model Railway Club Inc. Again another successful exhibition featuring Murrumbilla, Danville, Chameleon Springs, Duck Creek, Bolivia, Wyburn, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Yard and other layouts as well as a large attendance of retailers and manufacturers. Show casing model railways to the people of Canberra with a large cross section of layouts, products and suppliers, this exhibition was and is a must for model railway enthusiasts in the ACT and surrounding areas.

## **Brisbane**

Over the Queensland Labour Day weekend in May the AMRA Queensland Division has its annual model railway exhibition. Housed at the RNA, Brisbane Show grounds, this exhibition is generally regarded as the biggest in Australia taking up 2-3 sheep pavilions. A long Que of people up the street waiting to get in, aisle ways wide enough to drive the Chevrolet down with trailer attached full of people, a large selection of layouts, a large selection of traders and undercover live steam rides for the children. This year featured a large number of layouts with a northern NSW or Queensland feel that many of the general public would relate to or be familiar with. Two big favourites with families and children were the Thomas and Cars layout and the LEGO train sets. The LEGO train set was huge and always drew big crowds.

### **Other Locomotives and productions.**

Powerline Models Pty Ltd also has plans, drawings and designs to up grade existing product, to produce previously announced product and to produce new product.

Upgrades will take place on the 81, BL, G mark one and G Class mark two locomotives. This will make a good looking locomotive even better with plans for an all new mechanism following on from the developments with the T Class.

A new and improved DL531 is to be produced. The new 48 Class and 830 Class locomotives will feature many improvements, details and developments as seen on the recent T Class locomotives.

The Countrylink Explorer as announced back in 1997 is still on the board. It may have been announced 10 years ago but the plans have been completed and there is a push to go ahead with this project.

Other locomotives and rolling stock are either in the early tooling stage, ready for tooling or are in the final design and planning stages. We do not want to announce too much too soon but you will read it first either on the Powerline Web Site or in the Powerline Update.

### **Powerline Web site.**

The Powerline presence on the web, i.e. the Powerline web site [www.powerline.com.au](http://www.powerline.com.au) , operated and run by Powerline Direct has been an issue for some time now. Cutting Edge for its time some found it slow, heavy on the memory, it required a computer with decent resolution and was best accessed using cable or ADSL. Further more being in Flash presented other issues like access by the general user and the ability to change update and access information by Powerline Direct. The result being an out of date site that lost Emails and orders.

A new web site has been commissioned as well as a new web host. Hopefully this will result in a faster, more user friendly and easily accessed sight that can be better managed and up dated. The URL will remain the same, [www.powerline.com.au](http://www.powerline.com.au) , but the content and the site, as a whole will change. The new look Powerline Web site is expected to be ready before the end of the financial year 2007.

### **Yahoo Groups Model\_Railways\_of\_Australia**

For those interested in a model railway forum, discussion and news group on anything model railways, then the Model\_Railways\_of\_Australia yahoogroup maybe what you are looking for. This group/forum is not run, operated, owned nor controlled by Powerline Models Pty Ltd. In fact the only link between this group and Powerline Models Pty Ltd is Ian Comport who is a member of the group. Ian is there purely by invitation and is able to give information and news concerning Powerline and its product. The only official sources of information from Powerline Models Pty Ltd are the Powerline Direct web site, soon to be updated, and this publication, the Powerline update.

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### **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  
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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.

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Powerline Models Pty Ltd takes no responsibility for statements, opinions or discussions expressed in this Update. Due to changes and the constant movement of stock Powerline offers no guarantee on stock availability.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has no responsibility for the range or level of stock carried by individual retailers and Powerline dealers or the level of service they provide.

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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:

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