

THE POWERLINE UPDATE

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

Published Quarterly

Vol 9 Issue 4

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

2007

Welcome to issue number 4 for 2007. This is the last issue for 2007 so we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. 2007 has proved to be an interesting year and 2008 is shaping up with much more on the horizon. The statement that we have never had it so good has been used over and over but it does ring true. Yet the success and continuation of this depends on you the hobbyists and modellers as you vote with the spending of your hard earned dollars.

Around the world the biggest single issue and subject in our hobby has been the DCC debate and the issue of compatibility and compliance. This has been a major issue on Internet forums and groups, in various magazines including Model Rail and Model Railroad News as well as a hot topic within the Industry.

As for Powerline Models Pty Ltd, there is a lot sitting on our plate in terms of production re-runs, new productions and new projects. Most have not been announced due to delays, set backs and the uncertainty of when production will take place. The issues and delays of the T-Class, Wheat Hopper (new samples with Kadees fitted have just arrived for review) and the Cement Hopper are fresh in our minds and it is now preferred to hold off on announcements until production is in place. Then again many customers would like to know what is planned, as would our competition, so they can plan ahead and consider purchases. New production in India has had its issues and Brian intends going to India to assist in getting the project back on track and all sorted out.

www.powerline.com.au

The new web site has been a long time in arriving and is the third variation of the Powerline website. The first being in 1997/98, the second being in 2000/2001 and now in 2007 the third version, hopefully. This is aimed at being easier to access, easier to read, easier to update and keep current, easier to navigate and less memory hungry. The most important part for us is that we will be able to update information more easily and more regularly. It is not a comprehensive web site but it will have the latest stock listed, current stock photographs and most of the information from previous sites. This includes a news section, a price list and a catalogue or stock listing as well as information, previous Powerline Updates, specials and Powerline Retailer listing. We were all expecting to have it up by now but time, content and timing has been an issue for me that have caused some delays. Sorry but I am only human and only have so much time for work, hobby, friends, family and sleep.

The Email addresses for contacting Powerline Direct are:

info.powerline@powerline.com.au

sales.powerline@powerline.com.au

repairs.powerline@powerline.com.au

N-Scale X-Class is back

In November 2007 a production run of blue and gold Victorian Railways X-Class locomotives in N-Scale were completed and sent out to stores who ordered them on the Monday 26th November 2007. These ready to run locomotives feature a resin body, brass handrails, brass horns, Atlas SD-9 mechanisms and Micro-Train couplers. A further run of VR blue and gold X-Class locomotives along with some Freight Australia green and yellow X-Class locomotives is expected in late December 2007 or early Jan 2008. Numbers are limited as these are produced, assembled and hand finished right here in Australia.

The Powerline T Class Locomotives.

The first production run of the T Class was:

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

The 2nd production run is to be

PT2-1	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T360
PT2-1	VR T Class	(Late livery)	Series 2	High Cab (T3)	T358
PT3-1	VR T Class	(Early livery)	Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	T403
PT3-2	V/Line T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T386
PT3-4	West Coast Railways T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T369
PT3-7	G.N T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T373
PT3-10	York Peninsula Rwy T Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T4)	T387
PH1-6	Freight Australia H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H1
PH2-2	V/Line H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H2
PH3-1	VR H Class		Series 3	Low Nose (T5)	H3

This production run will also feature some improvements over the 1st production run which will include a change to the packaging and more memory capacity on the DCC decoder. Orders will be accepted but no release date or final pricing has yet been announced but is expected in 2008. Please note some locomotives number in the first production run have sold out at the warehouse, for example T357, and once shops sell out there will be no more.

VQCY/VQCX

These models have proved rather popular with the first two small production runs selling out quickly. A subsequent and much larger production run has arrived and these flat cars are currently available and in stock. Your local model and hobby store can supply or accept 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 yesterday.

VFTX

A new production batch of PR003FA VFTX yellow log wagons arrived along with Freight Australia green (PR001BFA) and VR red (PR002BVR) versions. The VFTX is expected to be sold out by the time this publication is released.

D Wagon

These NSW 4-wheeler little wagons, FR001, feature much detailing, and fiddley bits, 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, FR003, and the NSW BWH wheat hopper, FR004, 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. Each production run has sold out as they have come in, stock of the current production run is still available as we go to press.

E-Flat car

The NSW E-Flat car has been released. Catalogue number FR005.

BEY wagon

The NSW BEY wagon has been released. Catalogue number FR006.

Kadee number 148 is recommended for the D-wagon, VQCY, VQCX, VFTX, BD, BCH, BWH, BEY and E Flat car. The fitting of Kadee No.5 may require some filing to the coupler box.

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. Rumours that this possibly includes the Explorer/Endeavour, X, Y & N Class locomotives, VLEX, ELX, GH, GY & WTY wagon as well as the Z, ZLP and CP vans is all **TRUE** but this is not all we have planned.

MHG.

P504 L550 Lab test car and P509T Tuscan undecorated are both now in stock. 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.

Gondola Re-run

The following Gondolas are now available again:

- P510 Black Undecorated
- P511U Blue Undecorated
- P512U Indian Red undecorated
- P671 V/Line (red)
- P674 Australian National (green)
- P676A Yellow Undecorated (yellow)
- P678 National Rail. (grey)

More should follow including P670 VR, P675 BHP and a Pacific National is planned for 2008.

Gondolas with containers

The following Gondolas with containers have been released and are currently available. The containers are 40 footers.

- P671BN V/Line with BN 40 foot container
- P671HL V/Line with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container
- P674BN Australian National with BN 40 foot container
- P674HL Australian National with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container

P678BN National Rail with BN 40 foot container
P678HL National Rail with Hapag Lloyd 40 foot container

Container Wagons

A new range of container wagons was released recently and has sold very well. These all featured the TOLL containers in three different guises. There was the teal, green, container with the large TOLL and the small TOLL (Tasmania) and the white container with the small TOLL. These were released on the green, grey, blue and red flat cars only and in limited numbers. P701 for the green, P702 for the grey, P703 for the blue and P704 for the red flat cars with the following lettering to designate the container; TOLL for the teal container with the large TOLL, WSTOLL for the small TOLL on the white container and GSTOLL for the small TOLL on the teal container. For example P704TOLL is a red flat car with 2 teal containers with the large TOLL logo. These wagons are in stores now and the warehouse has sold out.

Coaches.

These are still some coaches available and in stock now. They include the following

P415A	BS 2 nd Class VR Maroon & Silver	P444	KB NSW Candy
P416A	AS 1 st Class VR Marron & Silver	P462	Red Cross Coach
P424B	KB Parcels NSW Tuscan	P463	MHO Yellow
P440	FS NSW Candy	P465	MHO NSW Bi-Centenary
P443	MHO NSW Candy		

Also still in stock is the Linkline generic stainless steel coach LLF102. Stocks of LLF-101 and LLF-103 are expected in early 2008.

The 48 Class and 81 Class still in stock.

There is still a stock of both the 48 Class and the 81 Class in the warehouse, although some lines are getting low in numbers, especially Tuscans. All are available now and should be in stores.

P230B-97	NSW Tuscan 48 Class Mk3 4897	P239-14	AUSTRAC 48 Class Mk1 4814
P230B-116	NSW Tuscan 48 Class Mk3 48116	P239-36	AUSTRAC 48 Class Mk1 4836
P232A-107	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48107	P204S-67	STEALTH 81 Class 8167
P232A-121	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48121	P204S-75	STEALTH 81 Class 8175
P232A-125	NSW Candy 48 Class Mk3 48125	P206-08	Frt Rail 81 Class 8108
P233A-94	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4894	P206-81	Frt Rail 81 Class 8181
P233A-95	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4895	P206-84	Frt Rail 81 Class 8184
P234Y-35	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s35	P207-77	Frt Rail 81 Class 8177
P234Y-37	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s37		

LinkLine stainless steel coaches.

The Linkline stainless steel coaches have proved quite popular to the point where two out of the three available have sold out and the last one left in stock, LLF-102, will sell out shortly. Such is the popularity of these coaches that another production run has been ordered and new stock should be available in early 2008.

The BIG DCC Question.

Many beginners and modellers alike are considering their options when it comes to the operation of their train set or layout, Digital Command Control (DCC) or standard DC or analogue control?

What those who are doing a little research are now finding out is that right now DCC has some standards issues involving compatibility and compliance where as DC or analogue control, in general, is standard as 0-12 volts DC regardless of brand, manufacture or origin.

There is a global and freely available DCC standard with guidelines available from the NMRA (National Model Railroaders Association) with origins in Europe. The NMRA makes these standards, guidelines and recommended practices freely available as well as providing compliance testing. Many manufacturers have accepted, adopted and utilised the testing facility to ensure their products comply and meet a World recognised standard.

The problem has arisen that some control systems labelled DCC have been produced that appear to be proprietary systems that are not strictly compatible and/or that have not been tested or have found not to comply to the NMRA DCC standards and guidelines. For whatever reason these manufacturers have decided to go their own way, to challenge the NMRA standards and guidelines, and to not comply or be strictly compatible.

Here in lies the question, does the NMRA have the right to set a standard and should individual manufacturers comply to a standard or set of guidelines?

With most beginners and modellers believing that everything marked as DCC to be compatible or to comply to a standard so they all run together, the answer is YES.

An answer of NO to the NMRA or a DCC standard would only result in a reduced acceptance of DCC, people not being able to run locomotives on club, exhibition or individuals layouts and an increased move to stay with DC analogue control.

For DCC to move ahead and to stay relevant within the hobby it needs standards and guidelines and I for one can see no reason why those standards, guidelines and recommended practices cannot be provided by the NMRA. Powerline Models Pty Ltd for one aims to be at least NMRA DCC compatible and recommend on those systems that comply to the NMRA standards such as Digitrax, NCE and EasyDCC.

2008 Colour Catalogue

Early in 2008 a small colour catalogue will be available from Powerline Models Pty Ltd but it will only be a limited print run. Copies should be available from Exhibitions or Powerline Retailers but will not last long. The only way to reliably get a copy will be to send a self-addressed envelope with stamp attached to:

Powerline Models Pty Ltd

Catalogue Request
P.O Box 2100
Brighton 3186

If addressed incorrectly or if a stamped and self addressed envelope is not included, we will not be able to supply you with a catalogue. Requests for the catalogue should be in before Friday 11th Jan 2008 as after that date we cannot be sure of availability.

Repairs.

All Powerline repairs and warranties must be returned to the place of purchase before being sent onto a Powerline repair Centre. No warranty or repair can be sent directly to, or accepted by, a Powerline Repairer without prior authorisation from Powerline. All warranty forms relating to locomotives should have been sent in just after the purchase of the locomotive and should therefore be logged with Powerline before any warranty related locomotive is sent in or considered.

For 48/81/BL/G1/G2 locomotives produced between 1988 and 2006 the Powerline Production Centre in NSW is the place for all warranties and repairs. For the T Class it is the Powerline Repair Centre in Melbourne. For general repairs to rolling stock either is acceptable.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd has very few warranties and repairs. So little in fact that at times we wondered why we had repair facilities at all. Yet there has been a small trickle of locomotives requiring some attention. Therefore repairs are done on a very casual basis about once a month or when spares are available or time permits. Exhibitions, displays, new projects, availability of spares, illness and family additions have interfered with the ability to act on or complete repairs stretching delays out across months. This is not intentional. nor desirable but all repairs will be completed as soon as is possible.

SANDOWN MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION.

On the 8th to the 10th March 2008 over the Victorian Labour day long weekend the Model Railways of Australia will again be running a model railway exhibition at the Sandown racecourse, Noble Park. Invitations have been sent out to interested parties and applications for others interested in attending as a club, layout or display are available at the Model_Railways_of_Australia yahoo group on the Internet or send your request or interest to mra.exhibition@realitybytes.net.au

Applications and requests regarding Layouts, Displays and Club stands are still being accepted.

Clubs are invited to put on a display, no selling or sales, to promote their club, to invite membership and to promote the hobby for free or if a trestle table is required then it will cost the hire of a table. Preservation groups who want to put on a display of a non-commercial nature are also invited to do so for free or the cost of trestle table hire if one is required. On top of this are private, group and club layouts, Commercial and trade stands and DIY displays and exhibits that are also invited to attend. This year all profits will be going to Southern Health/Dandenong Hospital once again. This is a non-profit show to promote the hobby, to promote model trains, to promote model railway clubs and inspire interest whilst donating to a worthy local cause.

Exhibition in the first quarter of 2008 where Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be represented:

Warrnambool-January 2008, Corio-January 2008, MRA Sandown-March 2008, Bendigo-March 2008, Hobsons Bay-March 2008 and Canberra end of March 2008.

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. Address as attention to Ian comport and use the contact details at the bottom of the page.

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 Models Pty Ltd takes no responsibility for statements, opinions or discussions expressed in this Update as the Powerline Update and the Powerline web site are owned and operated by Powerline Direct. 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.

No more than 10% of this publication can be copied or reused without written permission from Powerline Models Pty Ltd and Powerline Direct. The Powerline logo is a registered trademark and cannot be used or reproduced without written permission from Powerline Models Pty Ltd. Those using the Powerline logo without permission or against the wishes of Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be prosecuted.

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
The Editor
P.O. Box 2100
Brighton 3186

E-Mail
info.powerline@powerline.com.au
Fax
(03) 9596-3917
