

# THE POWERLINE UPDATE

The Official Newsletter for Powerline Direct and all the latest news concerning Powerline Models Pty Ltd

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This is the first Powerline update for 2008 and running very late due to lack of time, commitments to exhibitions and other activities, awaiting impending news, a trip to India and the MRA Sandown Model Railway Exhibition, Hobsons Bay Model Railway Exhibition, Bendigo Model Railway Exhibition and the exhibition in Canberra. All this adds up on top of the usual workload to create delays.

## **INDIA 2008**

In late February 2008 Brian and Ian Comport visited India for the first time. This was to be a fact-finding visit to meet and inspect existing manufacturers as well as look into the viability and potential available from Indian production.

Being prepared for the worst India was different, at times confronting and crude, but not quite as bad as was expected. A bit like pre-war rural Australian townships with dirt road edges with a strip of tarmac down the centre, dusty streets, unmaintained buildings and all manner of transportation filling the streets. The only bright things to be seen were the sun or the women in their colourful Sari.

Both facilities we visited showed potential. One had computers connected to CNC machines for tool and master cutting, 2 EDM machines, pad printers, 3 injection moulding devices, milling machines, lathes and a full engineering workshop as well as an assembly area. Another had four levels with a different activity on every level. Planning and design, assembly, injection moulding and tool preparation and master cutting. We watched product being assembled and finished for various other manufacturers as well as some of our own product in production.

The potential is there and the future is looking interesting.

## **MRA Sandown Model Railway Exhibition 2008.**

From Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the second MRA Sandown Model Railway Exhibition was open to the public with 62 displays in an air conditioned, clean, carpeted and a very pleasant environment. With less than 20 commercial displays, 6 very large layouts, a number of smaller layouts and a variety of demonstrations and displays this exhibition was focussed on putting on a good presentation of the hobby to the public as well as try and cater for most modellers.

Set up for the exhibition was on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from 12 Noon onwards and this was a smooth but busy hive of activity.

Those who missed the 2008 MRA Sandown Model Railway Exhibition missed an exhibition that was describe as the best exhibition and the most professional exhibition by many who did visit and spend time at the exhibition.

The aim of the exhibition was to promote the hobby to the public and to make the exhibition an enjoyable one for visitors, attendees and exhibitors. I believe that every one who attended and all involved found the exhibition to be just that, an enjoyable, well run and presentable event.

Unfortunately due to time and space constraints Powerline Models Pty Ltd did not attend this years exhibition but Powerline product could be found on at least 3 commercial stands anyway.

There will be a MRA Sandown Model Railway Exhibition in 2009. All those interested can express their interest at [mra.exhibition@realitybytes.net.au](mailto:mra.exhibition@realitybytes.net.au)

## **N-Scale X-Class.**

The last batch of X Class locomotives assembled in late 2007 has all sold out. The next production run is expected delivered in late April 2008. After this the next planned production run will be the series 3 X Class locomotives with a production and delivery date yet to be set. Availability of the next production run and the future production of the X Class series 3 will be faxed out to retail stores and announced here in the Update.

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.

## **HO V/Line Tangerine Passenger carriages (NQR).**

A number of NQR P455 V/Line passenger carriages have been distributed to retail shops across Australia and are available now. These coaches are NQR (Not Quite Right) due to paint peeling on the roof and/or windows that have popped out and are rattling around inside the carriage. Both are really minor issues that are quite easily fixed by most modellers. Powerline Models Pty Ltd has distributed all its P455NQR stocks and sold out, so all that now remains is in retail stores.

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> production run which will include a change to the packaging, handrail fixing and more memory capacity on the DCC decoder PIK. An official announcement will be made when the production schedule has been set and orders will be invited at that time or later. For now there is no release date and no request for orders.

## 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.

## 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 the have come in, stock will be available again shortly as new production batch has just arrived in Australia and will be available again in stores shortly. New and different liveries, finishes and running numbers are expected in the very near future.

## E-Flat car

The NSW E-Flat car has been released and is currently available. Catalogue number FR005.

## BEY wagon

The NSW BEY wagon has been released and is currently available. Catalogue number FR006.

## BD wagons

The king post and queen post versions of the NSW BD wagon have all sold out and Powerline Models currently has no stock of any of these and no planned production at this time. When they are to be produced again and supply is pending an announcement will be made.

**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.**

## ELX Wagon

Yes Powerline Models has an HO scale ELX wagon. A release and production date is yet to be set. Tool and pre-production samples are on hand and have been on display at various exhibitions. Pictures have been placed in advertising by Powerline Models in the AMRM and Motive Power magazine. This model is coming up quite well and needs a little more work and once we have the details sorted out a production date and release date will be set down.

## 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.

### 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
- P671 V/Line (red)
- P674 Australian National (green)
- P676A Yellow Undecorated (yellow)

### 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

### Coaches.

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

- |       |   |      |               |
|-------|---|------|---------------|
| P415A | BS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class VR Maroon & Silver | P443 | MHO NSW Candy |
| P416A | AS 1 <sup>st</sup> Class VR Marron & Silver | P444 | KB NSW Candy  |
| P424B | KB Parcels NSW Tuscan                       | P463 | MHO Yellow    |
| P440  | FS NSW Candy                                |      |               |

### 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	Frnt Rail 81 Class 8108
P233A-94	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4894	P206-81	Frnt Rail 81 Class 8181
P233A-95	NSW Red Terror 48 Class Mk3 4895	P206-84	Frnt Rail 81 Class 8184
P234Y-35	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s35	P207-77	Frnt Rail 81 Class 8177
P234Y-37	SILVERTON 48 Class Mk1 48s37		

### LinkLine stainless steel coaches.

The next production run of the Linkline stainless steel coaches has arrived in Australia. These coaches have proved quite popular to the point where this is the third production run in as many years. Again these will be stainless steel/silver in colour with no marking, lettering or decaling. So that modellers and enthusiasts can decal, letter and mark them as they please from the range of decals available, or that should be available.

### Marker lights. How bright should they be?

Personally marker lights that are too visible in daylight or are too bright are incorrect, they are not headlights that are visible during daylight they are marker lights originally intended to mark out a train at night (like trucks do with their yellow and red lights at night). As long as they glow and can be seen in a darker environment to me personally they are ok. That is why many people are happy with jewels or florescent painted marker lights for this exact reason. I am sure there are conflicting views on this topic, so I am sure we will get a few opinions on this one.

### 2008 Colour Catalogue

The printing and release of the small colour catalogue has been delayed but will be available from Powerline Models Pty Ltd shortly in 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. We already have a number of orders/request for the catalogue and further orders will be accepted up to at least the end of May 2008 and all orders up to then will be filled.

### **Repairs.**

All Powerline repairs and warranties must be returned to the place of purchase before being sent onto a Powerline Models repair Centre. No warranty or repair can be sent directly to, or accepted by, a Powerline Repairer without prior authorisation from Powerline Models. 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 every month or two or when spares are available or time permits. Exhibitions, displays, new projects, work commitments, 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. Currently the delay is 6 weeks minimum from the time the product lands at a Powerline Repair facility. Warranties and guarantees take priority over all other repairs and any requested modifications are left to last.

### **DCC**

Powerline Models strongly recommends NMRA DCC compliant and DCC compliant DCC systems for DCC operations, not Digital Systems or non-compliant "DCC" (note they should only be called DCC if they comply to the DCC standards). Recommended systems include Digitrax and NCE.

### **Exhibitions so far in 2008.**

Jan-Warrnambool. A close knit and tight exhibition with a little of something for everyone and a friendly atmosphere.

Jan-West Geelong. The Corio Club exhibition once the major provincial exhibition but has something missing this year.

March-Sandown. The BIGGEST model railway exhibition in Victoria for the past two years and a must visit.

March-Collingwood. The Hobsons Bay exhibition is the AUSTRALIA exhibition and a must visit for all who model Aust.

March-Bendigo. Now down to a once every two-year show, this is a friendly family show that can surprise.

March-Canberra. Consistently a good exhibition over at least the past 6 years and a must visit to all who can attend.

### **Exhibition in mid 2008 where Powerline Models Pty Ltd will be represented:**

Brisbane weekend of the first Monday in May 2008, Melton mid May 2008, Waverley June 2008, Adelaide June 2008, and Stawell July 2008. Ballarat Models Railway Exhibition in June 2008 has been cancelled.

For August 2008 exhibition attendances are yet to be confirmed but I understand Powerline will at least be available at Sunshine-Victoria, Newcastle-NSW, Caulfield-Vic and possibly Hobart-Tas.

### **The Powerline Web site**

Like the Powerline Update, the Powerline web site is owned and operated by Powerline Direct not Powerline Models Pty Ltd. The new web site is complete except for about a dozen or so photographs and once these have been added the site will be up loaded. The new site will be simpler and easier to access, navigate and read. It will not have the cutting edge set up and activities it once had or be as comprehensive but it will be a more user-friendly site.

All correspondence for the Powerline Update and the Powerline Web site will be via [info.powerline@powerline.com.au](mailto:info.powerline@powerline.com.au)

It must be noted that Powerline Direct does not compete with retail outlets and encourages people to visit and buy from their local retailers. Powerline Direct is only intended to be a source of information and a supplier of last resort for hard to get items or for people who do not have a local Powerline retailer or are overseas.

### **Powerline product availability.**

Product by Powerline Models Pty Ltd is available through all bona fides Model, Hobby and Train retail stores across Australia. This includes all registered business in shops in retail, business or shopping zones that are open regular trading hours.

Powerline Models Pty Ltd is not responsible for what retailers stock or have on their shelves and does not set or enforce any retail pricing.

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

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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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