

Trainorama September Newsletter, 2011

Hi all and welcome to the September 2011 Newsletter! It is hoped that everyone is coping okay in these changing economic times. I know that it has been a while since the last newsletter. In the interim, Trainorama has been sorting out matters occurring in China in regards to liaison with contractor factories. The hampering process of shifting Trainorama's tooling is nearing completion. Only when the transfer of tooling (with the last two container loads still to go) is implemented (expected to be complete as this newsletter goes to press), will work resume on these held-up projects, namely the GM, 48, and 830 Class HO locomotive models.

Regretfully, Trainorama's production schedule has been temporarily stymied (for the moment only), until the transfer of all of the tooling has been completed. Another major issue that has to be dealt with is a recent unforeseen problem in regards to the sourcing of a replacement motor manufacturer. This matter is in hand. However, the adoption of a new differing 'standard' replacement motor has necessitated for modifications to the completed chassis toolings for the GM, 48 and 830 Class models. This unfortunately adds further but unavoidable delays (with no motor the loco cannot run). More on the motor situation is explained later in this newsletter.

In the interim, Trainorama appreciates your patience and understanding. We realise that it's been a testing wait for these particular committed-to projects, with a number of pesky delays requiring everyone's tolerance over a lengthy period of time. Trainorama is certainly not happy about having to suffer delays, which unfortunately, have been of an unforeseen nature, and dare it be said, have been beyond the management's efforts to totally minimise. Despite this, we can assure everyone that quality will not be compromised.

There will be more information later as to the positive progress in hand. In the meantime, there are a number of other projects underway, which should please many. At Toms Hobbies, the NSW BCW cattle wagon from Columbia Models that was recently announced will be coming soon (more details are available on the Toms Hobbies website).

Currently In Stock

NSW 42 CLASS:

The 42 Class Premier Model has sold well. Stocks of some numbers are now running low. *These are currently on special, priced at \$220.00 each.* The different variants available are:

- As-Delivered Special Maroon, with single marker lights, red lining, and without both the nose grab irons and hostler side window: 4206. Era: mid 1950s to early 1960s.
- In-Service Tuscan Red, with single marker lights, red lining, black under-gear, nose grab irons and hostler side window: 4201 and 4203. Era: late 1960s to early 1980s.
- In-Service Indian Red Austerity, with L7 logos, single marker lights, nose grab irons and hostler side window: 4204 and 4205. Era: late 1960s to early 1980s.



NSW BCH, BWH & Family Hoppers:

Stocks of the following highly detailed and accurate wagon packs are now getting low.

- NSW FWH Wheat Wagon Packs 2, 3, 4 & 5: \$145.00/pack.
- NSW FRH Fertiliser Wagon Pack: \$159.00/pack (1 with AFL logos).
- NSW N*** Fertiliser Wagon Pack: \$159.00/pack (all with AFL logos).
- NSWGR BCH Coal Wagon Pack 8 (4 BCH Wagons): \$145.00/pack.
- NSWGR BCH Coal Wagon Pack 9 (3 BCH Wagons, 1 GHG Guards Van):

Contact Info:

Shop:
1001 Victoria Road,
West Ryde NSW 2114
Australia
Phone:
02 9809 6948 / 02 9809 0530
Fax:
02 9809 0650
Email:
info@tomshobbies.com.au
Website:
www.tomshobbies.com.au

\$165.00/pack.

- NSW NHDF Coal Wagon Packs 1 & 2: \$145.00/pack.
- Freight Australia VHBF Wheat Wagon Pack: \$120.00/pack.

The Freight Australia VHBF Wheat Wagons are currently on special, while stocks last! There is unlikely to be a rerun of these variants for some time, so look to pick up a pack of these excellent wagons soon!



Victorian Brake Vans:

Limited socks of the Victorian ZLP/VVBP Brake Vans remain. These brake vans were extremely common in the Victorian railway system, finding themselves placed in many VR freight or passenger services during the 1960s until the early 1990s. The current packs available are:

- ZLP Pack 1: ZLP 59 and ZLP 73 with Single Windows.
- ZLP Pack 2: ZLP 14 and ZLP 35 with Single Windows.
- ZLP Pack 4: ZLP 42 and ZLP 68 with Double Windows.
- VVBP Pack 1: VVBP 19 and VVBP 47 with Single Windows.
- VVBP Pack 2: VVBP 25 and VVBP 51 with Single Windows.
- VVBP Pack 3: VVBP 3 and VVBP 7 with Double Windows.
- VVBP Pack 4: VVBP 2 and VVBP 5 with Double Windows.

These models are great buying, being currently on special at \$85.00 for a pack of 2.



VR S CLASS:

Only two running numbers are left in the S Class range, and the stocks remaining of each are very, very low:

1. S312 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies and fuel tank valance. Named 'Peter Lalor' (Leader of the Eureka Stockade).
2. S315 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies. Named 'Sir Charles Gavan Duffy' (Victorian Premier). They are priced at \$265.00 each.

NSW 32 Class:

3240 in Apple Green is all that remains in stock. These are currently being sold at the *special price of \$400.00 each!* Surely that is an offer too good to refuse for the best ready-to-run HO model of a NSW steam locomotive that's available today.

NSW 44 Class:

Stocks on the 44 Class are dwindling fast! Many numbers have sold out. The current remaining stocks are:

- Standard Tuscan: 4415 (with SRA logos), 4450 (with red pilots), 4464 (with SRA logos), 4473, 4480 (with silver pilots), 4483 (with silver pilots), and 4494.
- Austerity Tuscan: 4425, and 4468.
- Light Tuscan Red: 4498, and 44100.
- Grey Ghost: 4499.
- NCR: 4488.
- Red and Cream: 4461.
- CFCLA: 4471, and 4477.

These are currently on special, priced at *\$150.00 each!* If this isn't a great buy, then nothing is. There are no faults with these locomotive models whatsoever. Here's the chance to acquire a couple of these iconic NSW diesel electric locos at a bargain price!

NSW 47 Class:

All 47 Class stocks have sold out.



VARIETY PACKS:

All Variety Packs have sold out.

NSW 49 Class:

All 49 Class stocks have sold out.

SA 930 Class:

All single-ended 930s have sold out, while stocks continue to fall on the remaining double-ended 930s in stock. The current road numbers that are still available are:

945 and 955 in SAR with silver roof.

946 in ANR.

948 in SAR

949 and 952 in AN.

They are now on special at *\$150.00 each, only while stocks last!*



Weathered locomotives:

There are a limited number of weathered models available of the 42, 44, 930DE, and S Classes available for those who want their Trainorama locomotives to have the extra elements of panache and flair. Be sure to ring the shop before placing an order since there is only a limited number available. Weathering is done professionally here in Australia. 44s retail at \$270.00 each, while the 930s are priced at \$280.00 each. The weathered VR S Class and NSW 42 Class cost \$290.00 each, and they look very nice!

Structorama:

Spring has arrived, so it's time to get into the groove of kit-building and to freshen up your layout, and that can be easily facilitated by the Structorama kit range! The Structorama range of lineside buildings assist the layout builder with many possibilities in regards to adding some more scale realism to the modelling of scenery.

The latest releases from Structorama include:

1. Farm House in Kit or Built form: \$35.95 in kit form, and \$44.00 in built form (two colours to choose from).
2. Fettle's Hut in Kit or Built form: \$21.95 in kit form, and \$31.95 in built form.
3. Toilets in Kit form only (two versions): \$10.95 each, or \$19.95 for both.

Kits available include:

- Corrugated Iron Shed (\$21.95)
- Country House (\$29.95)
- Country Shop with different shop fronts to choose from (\$21.95)
- Kitchen Addition (\$12.95)
- Miner's Cottage (\$32.00)
- Service Station (\$32.95)
- Signal Box (\$15.00)
- Small Shed (\$5.00)
- Small Shop Pattern (\$21.95)

- Utility Shed (\$15.00)
- Village Hall (\$29.95)

These kits are not difficult to build so just about everyone can enjoy building them. They come with all parts and instructions. All that is required to finish them off are glue and paints. And of course some weathering powders and/or paints for that final touch of finesse.

There are a number of ready built structures available too, including the Large Shed (\$36.95), Miner's Cottage (\$42.00), Small Shop (\$36.95), Village Hall (\$39.00), and House (\$44.95).

Items to come from StructOrama soon include the Goods Shed, Driver's Office, and A2 Station.

Consider placing an order today!

Coming Soon

GM Class:

The tooling for the GM Class has been transferred to a new factory. Unfortunately, production has been temporarily slowed, with the holdup being the need to source the supply of replacement motors. Despite the belief that the Chinese can overcome most problems when it comes to model trains, factory changeovers can create a lot of new headaches, with the present case being the provision of 'standard' reliable quality motors.

The motor designed to fit the GM Class models was meant to be made by the previous factory, now exited by TrainOrama. But, in light of the transfer of tooling to a new factory, a new model motor provider (an outside contractor) has needed to be sourced to produce a suitable motor on par with motors previously supplied to Trainorama, which will need to fit the existing tooled chassis.

However, a selected new motor, which will meet with performance specifications, will now require some modifications to (if not partial re-tooling of) the chassis to enable precision fitting. This unfortunately causes more delays, but only for the time being. Although frustrating at the moment, the matter is receiving appropriate urgent attention.

In the meantime, there are some hand-painted sample models of GM22 in SSR, GM6 in CR, GM8 in ANR, and a weathered GM1 in AN colours on display at the West Ryde shop (these units are only examples, with changes to colours and detailing yet to occur).

In re-examining actual GM Class operational movements, there will be a change in cab running numbers offered, with some numbers being necessarily changed to align with actual interstate workings by both the class. The revised cab running number changes will be stated in a future newsletter.

Owing to the motor provision aspect and the need to retool the chassis for motor fitting, the current estimated arrival date is anticipated to be around mid 2012. But every effort is being made to expedite delivery. You may still preorder your GM model if you wish at the old price of \$265.00, or pay a deposit of \$60 which will secure your reservation. Should you be unhappy with the continuing delay and wish to review keeping your existing order, please contact the shop regarding the issue. Your continuing custom certainly matters, but shop staff will



understand. If possible, try not to prejudice your early bird price, as upon delivery, the shelf price could see a \$30.00 increase per unit, or perhaps even more.

Despite the delay, these locomotive models are most certainly coming, and Trainorama thanks its loyal supporters who have already ordered for their trusting patience. Remember that Trainorama delivered on both the S and 42 Classes, for which deliveries were also delayed. Nevertheless, the current wait will definitely be well worth it.

48/830 Class:



This project is being worked in conjunction with the GM Class project. The photos above show some of the tooling engineering test samples received to-date, and are on display at the West Ryde shop. These test samples are indicative of quality. However, there are a few correctional modifications which have yet to be attended to. Similarly, as with the coming GM Class models, 'standard' new motors are in the process of being sourced for the production run. A similar unavoidable delay to this project applies at the moment, as the new manufacturer sets-up for production. New modifications will include some re-working of tooling to accommodate improvements to the bodies where applicable to achieve the required detail variations. Again, as with the coming GM Class models, the existing chassis that is tooled will now need to be modified to facilitate the mounting of newly sourced motors.

Notwithstanding the move to the new factory, the 48 and 830 Class models will come with all of the standard Trainorama features. These include the five pole skew wound motor, twin flywheels, all wheels driven, electrical pick-up on all wheels, diecast metal chassis, metal etch grills, metal handrails, working directional headlights and marker lights, and lit number boards.

These coming models can still be pre-ordered at \$265.00 for each unit before the shipment landing date. For the delivery date, arrival is now expected to be around mid 2012. Again, should anyone who has already pre-ordered be overly concerned as to the delay and wishes to review their order, please contact the shop staff regarding the matter. These models are definite for delivery and you will miss out on the benefit of the lower prepaid price should you decide not to retain your existing prepaid order. The likely shelf price after delivery may reach as much as \$295.00 per unit, because of increased China production costs and other cost factor assessments not influenced by the rise in value of the Australian dollar. But Trainorama's pricing will certainly be competitive market-wise.

Further down the track:

There are numerous other models on Trainorama's coming list, which should be arriving throughout 2012, including specific reruns of the 44 and 49 Class locos adorned in new liveries. More news will be released about these items when they are closer to their expected delivery dates.

Should there be sufficient interest, it is also possible that a small rerun of the 47 Class will be considered.

Specifically on the rollingstock front, after having gauged the market, a short rerun of the three letter coded red-coloured MHG brake van is envisaged in the very near future. Trainorama will likely be in the position to be able to announce the probable rerun release date in the next newsletter. Other reruns of previously produced rollingstock are also planned and will be announced in the near future.

Exhibitions:

Trainorama enjoyed participating at the recent AMRA Victoria Caulfield Exhibition in August, and would like to thank the organisers for making TH-T's visit to Victoria a pleasant one. It was good to catch up with many of our Victorian supporters and customers. BBB apologises for not being able to attend, and will make sure to get his blood pressure medication under control so that he will be able to attend next year. He has become another "Blue & Gold" convert since acquiring his latest VR streamlined S-Class and 'Heavy Harry' H220 models. Maybe he intends on moving cross border?

Anyway, Toms Hobbies – Trainorama will be attending the coming AMRA NSW Liverpool Exhibition on this coming Labour Day long weekend in Sydney, for all three days from the 1st to 3rd October.

Additionally, the West Ryde shop will also be open for business on all three days with the following opening hours:

Saturday 1st: 8:30am - 3:30pm.

Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd: 10:00am - 3:00pm.

We hope to see you at either the exhibition or the West Ryde shop. Details on the exhibition are available at this link:

<http://amransw.asn.au/exhibition/index.html>.

Warranty and Replacements:

Trainorama models are covered by a 12 month warranty against manufacturing defects from the date of purchase. If your model suffers from any problems or failures such as a short circuit, please do not attempt to repair it yourself, and send it back to Trainorama immediately. The decision to replace models lie with Trainorama, and replacements will only be done if your problem is a result of a factory defect. The instalment of a DCC or Sound Decoder will not void the warranty of your model unless it was the decoder which caused motor or light failure.

Warranty will be breached and replacements will not be covered should the model be damaged as a result of incorrect handling or misuse leading to the breaking of component parts. Nor will any replacements be provided if the model is returned without all of the contents originally provided at the point of sale. This includes the model, receipt, complete packaging (including the plastic shell), and spare parts such as the alternative pony truck, coupler, drivers, wand etc. (depending on the model). Regretfully (but company policy), any model or models returned to us which convey problems caused by mishandling or misuse, and/or do not come as the full model with the presentation box as originally sold with its included parts (depending on model), will be immediately returned to the sender.

When sending your model, please put on a piece of paper your name, contact details, address and a sentence or two on the problem with your model, and attach it with your model's box. We will process it and respond as soon as possible.

Notwithstanding, Trainorama will try to help at anytime with parts, service or advice should non-warranty repairs be necessary at customer expense. In which case, you will be contacted about such beforehand.

And that is the September 2011 Newsletter, with any further updates or news being posted onto the regularly updated Toms Hobbies – Trainorama website: www.tomshobbies.com.au. You can also follow Toms Hobbies – Trainorama on Facebook, by following the link that is provided on our home page, on the right panel. Feel free to contact the shop by email or phone or owl (for the Harry Potter fans) if you have any enquiries.

G.L.Ray.