

Welcome to the December 2009 Newsletter from Trainorama and the last newsletter for the year! The arrival of the S class has been a massive relief, with effort now able to be cascaded onto other future projects, meaning a busy 2010 with many expected arrivals throughout the year.

[Current Stock Situation](#)

* Trainorama S Class

With enhancement modifications being worth the wait, the S Class is now here (just in time for Christmas!!), and ready for purchase. From the very beginning, Trainorama knew it was going to produce the premier HO Scale Australian model locomotive, and here it is: one of the best plastic Australian HO Scale locomotives produced to date. Comments by individuals who have seen the models in the flesh, especially some respected Victorian experts, have been so positive that they could not resist their excitement in deducing that the S class was the Australian premier model locomotive. But news for them is that the 42, 48, 830 and GM classes will be even better.

Back on topic, the Trainorama S Class consists of the following features:

- * Five Pole Skew Wound Motor
- * Diecast Metal Chassis
- * All 12 Wheel Pick-Up and Powered
- * Twin Fly Wheels
- * Directional Headlights and Marker Lights (front only) which can be turned on/off using a 'metal wand'
- * DCC and Sound Ready
- * Cab Interior and Crew
- * Minimum operating radius 18"
- * See-through Metal Etch Grilles
- * Metal Handrails and Mirrors (where applicable)
- * Prototypical Scale Sized Metal Knuckle Coupler
- * Separately Applied Detail Parts (amounting to over 120)
- * RP25 Profile Blackened Metal Wheels
- * Each model true to prototype
- * Separately Applied Raised Metal-etch number plates and name plates

As most will understand, it's not financially viable to produce every single variation to the class. However the believed to be 12 most popular running numbers have been chosen as representative of changes from when first out-shopped until the present time.

Available running numbers which include changes to bogies and nose door where applicable are:

1. S300 in VR Blue and Gold, with cast bogies, nose door and fuel tank valance.
Named 'Matthew Flinders' (English explorer and navigator of Australia).
2. S301 in VR Blue and Gold, with cast bogies, nose door and fuel tank valance.
Named 'Sir Thomas Mitchell' (Scottish explorer of South East Australia).
3. S303 in VR Blue and Gold, with cast bogies.
Named 'C J Latrobe' (First Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria).
4. S306 in VR Blue and Gold, with cast bogies. – **Limited Stock**
Named 'John Batman' (Founder of Victoria, one of the first settlers in Melbourne).
5. S311 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies.
Named 'Sir Ferdinand von Mueller' (German botanist, physician and geographer).
6. S312 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies, nose door and fuel tank valance.
Named 'Peter Lalor' (Leader of the Eureka Stockade & State Victorian MP).
7. S313 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies, nose door and fuel tank valance.
Named 'Alfred Deakin' (Australian Prime Minister).
8. S315 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies.
Named 'Sir Charles Gavan Duffy' (Victorian Premier).
9. S317 in VR Blue and Gold, with flexicoil bogies. – **Sold out**
Named 'Sir John Monash' (Australian Military Commander in WWI).
10. S309 in V/Line Grey and Orange, with flexicoil bogies and rear view mirrors. – **Sold Out**
Named 'William Lonsdale' (Supervised the founding of Port Phillip).
11. S310 in V/Line Grey and Orange, with cast bogies and rear view mirrors. – **Sold Out**
Named 'George Higinbotham' (Chief Justice of the Victorian Supreme Court).
12. S303 in Freight Australia Green, with cast bogies and rear view mirrors.*

These are certainly a must have in **any** Victorian collection, as the S Class was a mainline unit and operated everywhere around the state, with some even roaming to South Australia and NSW. In multiple lash-ups accompanied with some Trainorama ZLP or VVBP brake vans and Trainorama VLX louvre vans, the S Class will look perfect and right at home. Or of course, they will look good by themselves.

Some attractive pictures of the models have been uploaded onto our website. You can check them out on the 'S Class' page and the Pictures Gallery.

We are happy to say that the S Class preorder price of \$265.00 can be held at \$265.00 instead of the previously advertised \$285.00. That's a saving of \$20!

If there have been any mistakes with your order or if you have still not received yours by the time you have read this newsletter or you wish to alter your order, feel free to phone Trainorama on: (02) 9809 6948 to check or modify your order.

If you have still not fully paid your order, please pay the remaining amount as soon as possible to receive your S Class.

Otherwise, bring your receipt/order to the shop to pick yours up, or to purchase one over the counter.

Be warned that the overwhelming number of preorders has resulted in V/Line S309 and S310, and VR S317 already being sold out, and some other numbers also close to sell out! If you want one, don't delay as disappointment can be depressing.

* S303 in Freight Australia colours will be available in January.

* Trainorama AFL/NPBF/FRH Hoppers

The AFL, NPBF, NPLF, NGSA and FRH wagons are now available, selling in packs of four. There are two different packs, and each with different numbers, and types of logos.

- Pack 1: FRH 29292, FRH 28896, FRH 28735 with AFL Logo, FRH 32112 with Return to Cockle Creek Logo.

- Pack 2: (All with AFL Logos) NPBF 32110, NPLF 29147, NGSa 28875, NPBF 29163.

They come fitted with Prototypical Scale Sized metal knuckle couplers and all the detailing that have been fitted on our BWH wagon range. Subtle variations have been covered with these wagons, with each wagon customised to each particular number. This includes the placement and style of the AFL logo, superphosphate or fertiliser, and returning to Port Kembla, or Cockle Creek. Some versions do not have the AFL logos, as portrayed by the prototype. Photos of each wagon are available for viewing on our website under the 'News' section.

These models are priced at \$159.00 per pack. The reason for the price rise was due to the low value of the Australian Dollar at the time.

Don't hesitate, as this is an extremely limited run and once sold out, it could be years if ever likely to be rerun!

* Trainorama C32 Class

The 32 class steam locomotives have proven to be very popular, with stocks plummeting as we find ourselves in short supply of numerous numbers.

- 3298 in Maroon named Parramatta: **Sold Out**

- 3294 in Pastoral Green: **Very few left**

- 3313 in Gloss Black: **Very few left**

- 3230 in Black: **Sold Out**

- 3390 in Black: Nearing Sell Out

- 3306 in Pastoral Green named Illawarra: **Sold Out**

- 3240 in Apple Green: Limited Stock

- 3229 in Black: **Very few left**

- 3245 in Black: **Sold Out**

- Unnumbered in Black: **Sold Out**

All are priced at \$585.00 each. These steam locomotives are of extremely high excellence, setting a new benchmark for quality and detailing in Australian steam locomotive models, featuring diecast body and tender, 5 pole skew wound motor with flywheel, RP25/88 profile wheels, all driving wheel axles driven, multiple electrical pickups, working headlight, sprung buffers, metal knuckle coupler, cab detail and all other appropriate detailing. Dimensions are predominantly spot on. The 32 class comes packaged coupled locomotive to tender, drastically reducing the chances of breaking the electrical connections, and disregards the necessity to fiddle around with the model in order to connect the two sides. A nice touch to the model is the ability to turn on/off the headlight using a special wand, similar to the 49 class, which is included with the model. Now you can enjoy prototypical running with consist running.

Other items include brass numbers, cab drivers, extra coupler to install on the front, spare screws, and an additional leading bogie for those who run large curves.

A DCC Decoder can be easily installed with the tender having provision for both non-sound and sound decoders (32s are fully DCC and Sound Ready).

An updated additional instructions sheet now comes with every new 32 class locomotive. This instruction sheet can also be downloaded as a PDF file from our website, at www.tomshobbies.com.au, under the 'Locomotives' section.

This multi-purpose passenger/freight steam locomotive goes perfectly on any NSW based layout, as they travelled from Albury in the South, to Glen Innes, Grafton and Brisbane in the North, as well as traversing many NSW Western division branch lines. Don't leave it too late to place your order!

* Trainorama ZLP/VVBP Brake Vans

Released in mid-December 2008 were the Victorian ZLP/VVBP brake vans. One pack has already sold out, with stocks dwindling on other packs:

- ZLP Pack 1: ZLP 59 and ZLP 73 with Single Windows: In Stock

- ZLP Pack 2: ZLP 14 and ZLP 35 with Single Windows: In Stock

- ZLP Pack 3: ZLP 6 and ZLP 8 with Double Windows: In Stock

- ZLP Pack 4: ZLP 42 and ZLP 68 with Double Windows: Limited Stock

- ZLP Pack 5: ZLP 4 and ZLP 7 with Double Windows: **Sold Out**

- VVBP Pack 1: VVBP 19 and VVBP 47 with Single Windows: In Stock

- VVBP Pack 2: VVBP 25 and VVBP 51 with Single Windows: In Stock

- VVBP Pack 3: VVBP 3 and VVBP 7 with Double Windows: In Stock

- VVBP Pack 4: VVBP 2 and VVBP 5 with Double Windows: In Stock

Each pack contains two vans, and all subtle variations have been included, such as the variations with windows. Exquisite detailing has been incorporated, and the model features sliding doors, like our OHG Brake Vans. The guard's door is sprung shut. All associated underfloor detail is fitted. Metal wheels, and brake blocks which are in line with the wheel treads are all part of the bogies.

They are priced at \$120.00 per pack. The vans have proved extremely popular, with stocks running low on some packs, with ZLP Pack 5 already sold out! These vans are the icing on the cake for a VR consist. Even better with the recently released S Class. So get your orders in soon!

* Trainorama 49 Class

Dwindling stock of "The Brute" 49 class locomotives are still available, with the exception of 4901 in "Green Frog" livery and 4918 in Candy livery. They come fitted with working headlights and marker lights, which can be turned on/off with a special wand, making prototypical consist running. These premier models are customised to each particular number, with the variations covered, from staff exchangers, to buffers, and to windows. Price is still \$245.00 each. If you are unsure about where to position the wand to turn on/off the headlights and marker lights, feel free to contact Trainorama for details.

* Trainorama 47 Class

Stocks of the 47 class are now reaching sell out, with only the following road numbers left:

- 4701 in Candy

- 4714 in Candy

- 4705 in Tuscan

- 4716 in Tuscan

- 4720 in Tuscan

So advisedly don't leave it too late to place an order! Each 47 is customised to each particular number, to the point where even the black paint around the cab windows is different! Staff exchanger variations are also covered. The prototype still runs around NSW today. These premier world class models are still well priced at \$245.00 each.

* Trainorama 44 Class

Stocks of the 44 class stocks are dwindling. The limited run of the new 44 class (4401 Preserved, 4461 Red and Cream, 4497 IRA Silver, 4458 Blue and Yellow, and 4480 and 4483 Freightrail Blue) are currently available, but are also getting to the point where stock is low. All remain priced at \$245.00 each. Be aware that many of these liveries won't be rerun in future.

* Trainorama 930/930 SE Class

All 930/930SE locomotive stocks have near sold out, similar to its Alco counterparts. Limited stocks remain of the double ended version, while very few are left of the limited run of 930 Single Ended versions, with 930 and 935 in SAR colours, 931 in ANR colours and 934 in AN colours all sold out! A limited number of Unnumbered SAR and AN coloured 930SEs are also available. Again, do not delay! These are priced at \$255.00 each. No future rerun is envisaged.

* Trainorama Weathered/Dummy Models

There are currently a limited number of weathered and dummy models of the 44, 47, 49, 930 and 930 SE classes available. However since there are only a limited number available, be sure to ring the shop to check for availability before placing an order. All dummy models retail at \$150.00 each, while weathered 44s, 47s and 49s retail at \$265.00 each, with the weathered 930 and 930SE classes retail at \$275.00 each.

There are also a limited number of weathered units of the 32 class available, at \$605.00 per unit.

To put it simply, dummy models are locomotives which don't have motors, gears and electronics installed. The only thing remaining is the weight. Externally, they are exactly the same as any motored locomotive.

Weathered models have been done professionally here in Australia, for those who want to purchase an 'in-service' locomotive.

You can request weathering to be done to your Trainorama locomotive or rolling stock item in your next order.

The labour cost is now \$25.00 per loco, and \$15.00 per wagon.

Please contact the shop as regards charges for weathering before submitting your item order.

Presently, there are no weathered or dummy S Class locos.

* Trainorama Coal and Wheat Hoppers (BCH, BWH family)

Packs of these highly detailed, premier wagons (not bashed-up ones) are now running very low, so don't dally if you want one. There are 4 wagons in each pack. These are the remaining wagon packs available:

- BWH Packs 9, 10: \$145.00

- FWH Packs 2, 3, 4, 5: \$145.00

All BCH and FCH Coal Hopper packs have sold out! The BWH is exactly the same as the FWH, except for the code (F instead of B) and the bogies.

The bogies on an FWH are roller bearing, and designed for faster running than the ordinary 2BP bogies used on the BWH wagons.

Also part of the BWH family is the recently released AFL/FRH/NPBF Hoppers, mentioned earlier.

If you insist upon a BWH or FWH wagon looking like real detailed rollingstock as in service on the railways, you can simply change the bogies, damage the paintwork and use two hands and a heat source to bow the wagon like a banana (okay just being sarcastic). Or more realistically, the wagons can be left as they are or have weathering colours or powders applied. All wagons come with genuine Kadee 5 couplers, a one-year warranty against manufacturing defects and come protection-packaged in proper boxes. There are currently no immediate plans for a rerun. So if you miss out, you may be waiting some time for these wagons to be rerun again.

* Other Trainorama Rollingstock

Limited stocks remain of the UL Limestone wagons (pack of 4), which are at \$89.95 per pack, and S Steel trucks (pack of 4) which are at \$54.95 per pack.

[In the pipeline \(or in other words, models that WILL actually arrive, unlike some people's whimsical predictions\):](#)

* Trainorama 42/GM Class

The first factory-painted samples of the 42 are currently available for viewing at the shop, with photos of the models available for viewing on our website under the "News" section, and on the Yahoo internet newsgroup "Aus_Model_Rail".

The 42 class will be customised to each particular number, with different variations being covered, with different Tuscan colours, lining, logos, lettering etc. Please view the website for further details. They will have more than 138 parts. The features for the 42 class will be the same as the S Class where applicable. At this time, the 42 class is in production, suggesting a February 2010 delivery date (thankfully we have been able to convince the factory to get the model out before the Chinese New Year shutdown). The accelerated schedule has certainly sped up the 42 class to ensure it came out in February, but unfortunately it came at the cost of the PHG/MHG, 48/830 and GM projects.

The GM is currently progressing slowly, and due to the number of variations to cover, they are now pushed back to arrive at the same time as the 48/830 class, all being in November 2010. Around 80% of the tooling is complete as regards to the GMs.

The current preorder price is locked in at \$265.00 each. This will remain the price until they arrive on shore, when the final price will be determined. So it's a wise move to place your preorders in now before upcoming price rises.

* Trainorama 48/830 Class:

First samples of these much anticipated models are currently available for viewing at the Trainorama Headquarters at West Ryde. The project is unfortunately behind schedule, as ongoing delays have hindered efforts in regards to the tooling for the model. The 48/830 class will now be released around November 2010, with the Series 3 and 4 versions arriving in early 2011.

Current comments in regards to the first samples have been more than upbeat and optimistic. These models will be customised to each particular number, and work is ongoing at this time to ensure that the models are spot on, with all variations for each model to be covered depending on the locomotive. Most 48 class locomotives differentiated from each other slightly in real life; therefore the current extra work will cover all of these differences. These models will be finished to the Trainorama quality, with many separately applied detail parts, fine paintwork and numbering, and a high quality mechanism – the usual Five Pole Skew Wound motor with twin flywheels, all wheel drive, all wheel pickup, metal chassis and plenty of weight. Metal-etch grills, durable fine metal handrails and handles to scale-size, and scale-sized brake chains will also be fitted. They will be DCC and Sound ready. Headlights, lit number-boards and marker lights will be incorporated, and they will be fitted with metal knuckle couplers. All the right features you asked for, and the Trainorama 48/830 class comes with it (of course!!).

Preorders are now being taken at \$265.00 per unit. The final price of the model when they get to shore is yet to be determined.

The 'best of the best' 48/830 class locomotives will only be available to purchase and own from Trainorama.

* Trainorama PHG/MHG Brake Vans

Tooling and design work is 95% complete on the models, with the project delayed due to some minor tooling changes being required. The first samples are available for viewing at the shop. They will be as good as, or even better, than the ZLP/VVBP vans. These coveted vans will be sold in packs of two like the ZLP/VVBP vans, and will follow the 42 class, likely somewhere around a May 2010 delivery.

Our PHG/MHG Brake Vans will have a quality injection moulded plastic body, with many separately applied detail parts. They will feature the correct bogies with metal wheels to the RP25/110 profile, and will also have full underfloor detailing and metal knuckle couplers. With fine and intricate paintwork, these will be much better than all previous plastic and resin examples. All will have proper packaging and warranty. The final price is yet to be determined. No orders will be taken until they are ready for shipping.

* Trainorama 44 and 49 Class; next runs

The following productions are also coming from Trainorama in 2010:

- 49 Class in Freighttrail Blue, Red Terror and "Candy-Terror" schemes
- 44 Class in Series 1 Candy, Short Reverse and Series 3 Reverse schemes

No orders are being taken for these models at this time. The delivery date and final prices are also yet to be determined. Rest assured, when the news comes through, it will be posted immediately onto the internet.

* Trainorama Variety Packs

Coming in early 2010 will be three new variety packs of wagons and brake vans. They will consist of:

1. 3 NGMA wheat wagons in SRA Red, and 1 NVFF brake van in SRA Red.
2. 2 RU wheat wagons in NSWGR Grey, 1 BWH wheat wagon in NSWGR Grey, and 1 FHG brake van in NSWGR Grey.
3. 2 VLX wagons in VR Red with large 'VR' logo, and 2 VLX wagons in VR Red with small 'VR' logo.

These wagons and brake vans are a rerun of the previous releases from Trainorama, and will be exactly the same as the previous runs. They will all be fitted with prototypical scale sized metal knuckle couplers and metal wheels. The vans and wagons will all have new running numbers so there's no need to fear of number double-ups! Don't forget that our FHG and NVFF brake vans have sliding doors. So don't waste this opportunity to obtain these packs, which will be a limited run. No orders will be taken until they are ready for shipping. Prices for each pack are yet to be announced.

Warranty and Replacements:

Trainorama models are covered by a 12 month warranty 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 model is a result of a factory defect. The instalment of a DCC Decoder will not void the warranty of your model unless it was the decoder which caused motor or light failure.

No warranty and replacements are covered if the locomotive has been damaged as a result of incorrect handling or misuse leading to the breaking of parts. Nor will any replacements be done if the locomotive is returned without all of its contents. This includes the model, receipt, packaging, and spare parts such as the alternative pony truck, coupler, drivers, wand etc. (depending on the model). Any model sent to us which consists of problems done by mishandling or misuse, or does not consist of the contents that the model came with, will immediately be sent back. Importantly 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 send a new model along as soon as possible.

Research and Development Team:

The members of the Research and Development Team are responsible only for the preparation of briefs and follow through of model production for Trainorama. They are not involved in any way with the administrative side of Trainorama, including ordering, purchasing, payments, delivery dates etc. As a consequence we ask that you appreciate their inability to answer questions you may ask of them. Those questions should be directed to Toms Hobbies, either when you next visit the shop, or by phone on (02) 9809 6948.

Website and Photos:

The Toms Hobbies/Trainorama website is continually updated, with news updates frequently posted on the "News" page. Check it all out at: www.tomshobbies.com.au. Please note that ALL photos, notes and articles on the website are property of Toms Hobbies - Trainorama and may not be copied, reused or reproduced in any way without permission from Toms Hobbies - Trainorama. You must ask us for permission first before copying them for use on a newsgroup, or any other website. Saying "Photos credited to Toms Hobbies - Trainorama" is not good enough, unless you have asked for permission. We keep track of these things, so be warned! We don't bite, so feel free to ask us for permission if you wish to reuse the photos. Photos and listings used on the Toms Hobbies Ebay store are not permitted to be copied, reused or reproduced in any way either without permission from Toms Hobbies - Trainorama.

Preorders:

With the arrival of the S Class, the usual bunch of suspects have gone ballistic on the newsgroups claiming that the Toms Hobbies/Trainorama service was rude and disrespectful in regards to the delivery of preorders.

For those on the newsgroups who complained about the model being advertised on Ebay before receiving their preorders, be assured that all preorders were posted out before any advertising was done on Ebay. If you've preordered you shouldn't worry as your order is safe and will arrive before any Ebay purchaser will get theirs.

The entire idea of preorders is that they guarantee you a model, where you can place a deposit down on one and pay at your leisure, or pay an early bird price. When the models arrive, we do our very best to send out preorders as soon as possible. But this is taxing with the sheer amount of locos that need to be packed and sent. But after the orders are packed, the parcels need to be collected by Australia Post, and this may take days. Only once they have been collected, are they on way to their respective new owners. With the S Class, this process took a little less than 3 days. At the same time, the Toms Hobbies shop still needs to run as normal and therefore once the orders are packed and ready to be sent, the locos will then be available for purchase over the counter, or on Ebay. In short, the locos will be available for purchase once all of the fully paid preorders are packed and ready to be picked up by Australia Post. No priority is given as to names or preorder number or preorder date. These all get packed as quickly as possible and despatched as soon as possible. If we were to wait for every single order to be sent out and for each customer to claim that they have received theirs, others who did not preorder and want to purchase one might be waiting weeks to buy one (or maybe even never if the customer never replies). Not the best outcome. If you find the preorder service unsatisfactory, you are free not to preorder in future, but complain ye not if you don't get the model you wanted!

From all of us here at Toms Hobbies/Trainorama, we wish you a very **Happy Christmas** and **New Year!** It will be business as usual in 2010 for Trainorama, and the next newsletter is due with the 42 class, in February.

G.L. Ray.