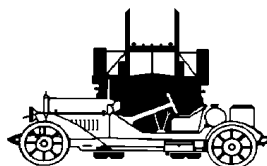


# *Miniature Auto*



What would you pay for this? See page 19

Miniature Auto is the bi-monthly newsletter of  
The New Zealand Model Vehicle Club (Inc)

A publication for and by collectors and builders of model road vehicles

*December 2000 Issue 189*

## **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b>	Ron Ford 52 Hillside Dr Upper Hutt Ph (04) 971 9808 Fax (04) 526 2908 Email fordrdkr@paradise.net.nz
<b><u>VICE PRESIDENT</u></b>	Graeme Robertson 121 Grant Rd Otatara RD 9 Invercargill Ph (03) 213 1354 Fax (03) 213 1454
<b><u>SECRETARY</u></b>	Eric Brockie P O Box 1356 Dunedin Ph (03) 488 1048
<b><u>TREASURER</u></b>	Stan Beavon P O Box 9264 Christchurch Ph (03) 338 9619 Fax (03) 338 9612
<b><u>EDITOR</u></b>	Lee Tracey 27B Weka St Frankton Hamilton Ph (07) 847 7614 Email leetra@ihug.co.nz

## **REGIONAL DELEGATES**

<b><u>WELLINGTON</u></b>	Ian Cousins. P O Box 12-057 Thorndon Wellington Ph (04) 934 5172
<b><u>MARLBOROUGH</u></b>	Warren Piesse. 19 Hutcheson St Blenheim Ph (03) 578 3683
<b><u>CANTERBURY</u></b>	Peter Haack. 77 Moffat St Christchurch 4 Ph (03) 349 6164
<b><u>OTAGO</u></b>	Graham Patterson. 103 Musselburgh Rise, Musselburgh Dunedin. Ph (03) 455 0600
<b><u>SOUTHLAND</u></b>	Stephen Kelly. 208 Lamond St Invercargill. Ph. (025) 239 0047

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary.  
Magazine articles and related correspondence to the Editor.  
Change of address to the Secretary.

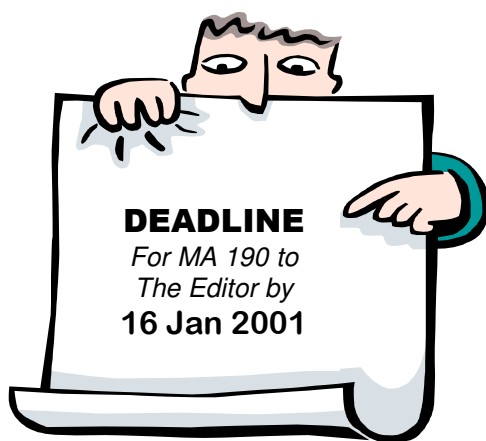
# ~~CONTENTS~~

Editorial	Page 4
President	5
Book Review	6
Branch Reports	7
Some Thoughts	10
Competition	13
Breaking Up	14
Model Scrutineer – Cobra	15
Matchbox Musings	17
British Car Corner	18
Photos	19
Model Scrutineer – Corvette	20
Model Mart	21
That's News? That's News!	22



*Contributions to*

**The Editor  
27B Weka St  
Frankton  
Hamilton**



*The views and opinions expressed in Miniature Auto are not necessarily those held by the **NEW ZEALAND MODEL VEHICLE CLUB (Inc)** and the **Executive**, and no responsibility can be accepted for them by the **Club** and/or the **Executive***

# EDITORIAL

You will find further in this issue an article by Ian Cousins, part of which wonders at the loss to NZ collectors and would be collectors due to the sale of large collections overseas. This led me to wonder what do you do with your collection? How is it displayed? Do you actively show it to visitors, or are your 'toys' stuck away in the corner? What do you do when children visit? Do you display your models publicly? In other words do you share your hobby or is it a private thing?

Ian bemoans the lack of opportunity for new collectors to see the bigger collections in NZ, and he has a point. Where do they see these collections or part thereof? Otago Branch are very active in holding displays to the public, but what about the other Branches? These displays don't have to take the form of the long displays that Otago seem to favour. Most branches have swapmeets organised within their areas. Has anyone ever approached the organisers to do a display for said swapmeets? After all if done properly (ie Themed, adequate size, something unusual perhaps) this could be used as a draw in the meet advertising, with benefits to the swapmeet organiser, our club and even the collector (warm fuzzies and maybe leads for more models).

Similarly does your model shop (or Internet Cafe) have a 'Gallery' showcase that you, either as an individual or, as a Branch can put a display in? Again think themes and times eg; Feb/Mar F1 (Oz GP), May/Jun Le Mans, Aug/Sep Rally. These displays don't have to be huge and if done in consultation with the shop owner could be used as the centrepiece to a sales promotion.

Talking to older members of the club it seems that a lot of the 'fun' in the hobby was in 'The Hunt'. With much of this no longer necessary maybe a look at the other side of the hobby is in order. After all we all like to talk about our models so what better way than by introducing a new face to the hobby?

Much of the talk since I have been in the hobby is about how it is aging, and club numbers are static etc. We cannot expect new collectors/modellers to come to us. They have to be made aware that the hobby exists. And that means seeing the models (and the Club).

*Lee*

## Wanted

Photos of Models produced for NZMVC eg the 25th AGM Micros. Required for the Club website. If you can help please send to either The Editor or Ian Cousins.

# PRESIDENT'S PIECE

This is not so much a President's Report but a Ron's Ramblings – sigh of relief – no lectures!

The Club, as we all know, has been in existence for over 30 years and it is interesting to see what has changed over those years. Well over a thousand people have been members at one time or other, so where are they now? There has been a comment about the ageing of the people interested in model vehicles. This may be so on the surface, but there still seems to be a steady sale of items like Hot Wheels and Matchbox to the children of today. A few weeks ago, I was impressed by a curly headed 4 year old, enthusiastically explaining to his mother the finer points of a car that he saw in the street. At another time, I noticed a seven-year-old 'ticking off' the models he has from a display of Siku in a toyshop. That's another thing, where have all the toyshops gone?

Perhaps it is now too easy to build a collection. All you need is **MONEY!** Going back to the Club's founding; it was quite hard to find models in the shops, and information on them was difficult to locate. Slot cars were the 'thing' at the time and the few magazines that dealt with models were full of highly unprototypical plastic blobs that hurtled around the tracks. All the designing went into the chassis. That is one area that has vastly improved with the current slot cars being excellent models as well.

'Made in China' – what isn't now? Recently I bought a Solido 1/43 Alfa 156. The box says 'Made in France' but the actual model is marked 'Made in China'. What is interesting is the increasing number of models (in the true sense) being made in China and sold by Chinese (usually Hong Kong originated) companies. Thankfully prices are much cheaper than the European/U.S.A versions. However, there seems to be some abuse of the main collecting scales, particularly 1/43 with all sorts of **toys** claiming to be that scale and usually they are not scale models of anything real!

What about the future? Some claim that since the 'baby boomers' (hate that phrase – I never boomed at all!), the main body of collectors at present, are getting older, the interest in model cars will diminish. I think as long as there are motorised vehicles around, there will be a demand for models of them. What is killing off some of the market is the ever increasing price of their wares. I have heard that one major maker will be increasing their prices considerably next year to combat the falling sales – ha – just the thing to kill the market off altogether.

Anyhow, have a great Christmas and all the best for 2001 and maybe see you in Blenheim for the A.G.M

Happy collectioneering and building,

*Ron*

# BOOK REVIEW

## **The Great Book of Dinky Toys**

by Mike and Sue Richardson – New Cavendish Books ISBN 1 872727 83 2.  
Price £40 UK.

Disappointing is the word for this tome. After being touted as having new information since the last book – Dinky Toys & Modelled Miniatures; this new edition seems only a minor revamp on the old. Most of the illustrations are the same and the listing does not seem to have been updated at all. The major change is that most of the text has gone and the catalogue listings are 'knitted' to the illustrations. The other change is the inclusion of many more working drawings.

The book was printed in Thailand so this has lead to quite a few errors in placement and language. This is only to be expected as English is not their language. It seems that the authors attitude is 'If I haven't seen it; it does not exist' or 'If it does not appear on a drawing; it did not happen'. Several collectors have pointed out things that they missed and that is the standard reply. Some items have crept in like the Ford D cab changes, but that only rates a footnote. However, as far as engineering changes, it was a major one.

The book is only going to be appreciated by those who have not got the earlier version. To see how it should have been done, seek out a copy of the French Dinky book.

*Ron Ford*

Vectis Matchbox Magic 5 Lot 114 No 20 Chev Impala  
'Taxi' Orange, yellow, cream interior. Rare grey plastic wheels Nera Mint incl box. £2000



# BRANCH REPORTS

## CANTERBURY

On Sunday 17 September our club was invited to put on a display at the Hoon Hay Club's Arts & Crafts Day. We had plenty of room being on three big tables up on the main stage of the Hoon Hay Club while fellow member Bart put his display down beside the Bar at the end of the stage. Those who attended had a quite entertaining afternoon.

Thanks to those who helped man this display. A lot of youngsters showed plenty of interest and we may have a couple of new members.

*Peter Haack*

## OTAGO

### September

September Club Night we had Alan Race talk about his particular interests and what he has done to produce a model he did not have or perhaps how he has altered one to make it a better model. Alan as members know makes a great job of his models and his talk was very enlightening as to what he has done to some of his models. Members are well aware of Alan's scratch-built Dunedin Combo Tramcar, and it was most interesting to learn of the various pieces used to build this fine model.

Competitions for the night were for any model that was mainly white in colour.

Diecast:     1<sup>st</sup>. Blair Milne (BMW)  
               2<sup>nd</sup>. Howard Brockie (Cadillac)  
               3<sup>rd</sup>. Norman Masters (Mk 2 Jaguar)  
Kitset:       1<sup>st</sup>. Alan Race (Ford Phaeton)  
               2<sup>nd</sup>. Maurice Boyles (Ford Coupe)  
               3<sup>rd</sup>. Eric Ross (Ford Thunderbird)

Members Choice: Blair Milne (BMW)

It must have been an enjoyable night as it was after 11pm before the last members left.

## **Model Vehicle Festival**

Although the entries in the competitions were down this year we had some first class models entered and along with the display models it made for a great display overall. Alexandra seemed to be lacking in numbers present at the annual Blossom festival and this was reflected in the numbers of the public who visited our display this year. The IPMS also had a display during the weekend which probably further split the numbers who may have visited one display but not both.

*Eric Brockie*

## **SOUTHLAND**

### **September**

The monthly meeting was held at our usual venue on the 20<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting it was announced that the Competitions due on the 23<sup>rd</sup> were cancelled due to lack of entries.

#### **Competition Results**

##### **Kitset (Small):**

1<sup>st</sup>. Stephen Kelly (34 Ford Wrecker)

##### **Readybuilt (Small):**

1<sup>st</sup>. Graeme Robertson (Camaro)

2<sup>nd</sup>. Russell Corbett (Kodak Ford Van)

3<sup>rd</sup>. Barry McCorkindale (Liebherr Digger)

##### **Readybuilt (Large)**

1<sup>st</sup>. Roger Larsen (HK Monaro)

2<sup>nd</sup>. Graeme Robertson (Kyosho Skyline)

3<sup>rd</sup>. Russell Corbett (Kodak Ford Van)

### **October**

The monthly meeting was held in two parts on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The first part was the Branch AGM with the second part being our general meeting. The new committee are

Paul Thompson – Chairman

Stephen Kelly – Secretary/Delegate/Editor/Competitions

Fred Hawkes – Treasurer

Owen Dickson – Competitions

Members – Graeme Robertson, Russell Corbett, John MacGregor.



A special vote of thanks must go to Graeme Robertson for doing a sterling job as our Branch Chairman for the past few years. Also to be thanked is his wife, Ngaire, for the work she has done behind the scenes.

Three of the Branch trophies were awarded at this meeting.

Big Mack Trophy:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Stephen Kelly (50 Points)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Owen Dickson (25)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Paul Connell (23)

Challenge Trophy

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Russell Corbett (40)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Graeme Robertson (34)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Paul Thompson (30)

Hawkes Trophy

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Stephen Kelly (61)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Russell Corbett (40)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Paul Connell (35)

At the regular meeting it was decided to revert back to meeting at members homes for the meantime.

Competition Results for the night were:

Kitset (Small)

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Owen Dickson (Nissan Skyline)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stephen Kelly (33 Ford Coupe)

Readybuilt (Small)

- 1<sup>st</sup>. John MacGregor (Maserati-Cooper)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Paul Thompson (McLaren Mercedes)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stephen Kelly (Mercedes 300SL)

Readybuilt (large)

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul Thompson (Mercedes C Class)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stephen Kelly (41 Willys)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fred Hawkes (641/2 Mustang)

SKID SKW020 Peugeot206WRC  
Marcus Gronholm 1st RallyNZ 2000



# SOME THOUGHTS

Musings on the Internet (in no particular order).

One of the disadvantages of the Internet I find is that it is so easy to lurk (I've been known to do it myself when checking out new lists and newsgroups) however you will only get out of a list or newsgroup what you put in... I belong to a number of "lists" and it never fails to amaze me how it is a few regular contributors that keep things going (pretty similar to our Club Mag). I'd be the first to admit that putting together a piece that actually makes sense is not easy.... that's why for most things I just write in "stream of consciousness" mode and bang things down as I think of them. Later I check for obvious spelling mistakes, re-read the "article" and if it seems to flow then off it goes....

Having so said, here's a few jumbled thoughts to ponder over....

Ebay... a wonderful site where you can easily get rid of a few thousand US dollars a year. I've used eBay for some time to collect a variety of items from model cars to Barbie dolls to scale building sets (1/64) to software and hardware. There are few other sites I bother to go to although I have tried out a couple in Australia and the local New Zealand sites, all of which pale into insignificance against eBay. Perhaps Lee can tell us about his experiences on Yahoo!

Now all this is not to say I haven't had problems on eBay.... twice the goods didn't arrive (fortunately both times they were from established sellers who were supposed to insure the parcels but hadn't so they were obliged to resend the items) and twice I have had problems with high bidders not responding to e-mails and not paying for the item (eBay sent both a warning - three warnings and you are black-listed - and I left negative feedback for both of them).... but on the whole I have had a positive experience and had no difficulty in corresponding with sellers and buyers, receiving and sending money (cash, bank cheques, credit card and money transfers) and in receiving the goods I was expecting (that is, they were accurately identified as to the model and the condition was as described). In the main I have found sellers to be very helpful and only too willing to answer questions.

One of the pitfalls of buying from overseas is the various means of packaging employed - I've had single Dinky toys arrive in boxes as large as bread bins, wrapped in bubble wrap and surrounded by a couple of kilos of poly chip (postage US air-

mail parcel rate around US\$19) and others that came in small cardboard double skin "wrappers" (postage US airmail small packet rate US\$3.95)... all arrived in the same perfect condition... but then so did the Budgie Toys wrapped in newspaper and stuffed into a padded bag!! Again this is not to say that the postal services don't occasionally put the packaging to the test.... but I've been lucky so far with only a few creased toy boxes to contend with.

Another pitfall can be the various methods of payment employed... whatever you do if you live outside the US be careful as banks charge a fortune to cash US postal cheques, US personal cheques and Western Union in New Zealand recently tried to charge me more than the WU money order was worth to cash it!!.... needless to say it is now framed on my wall (it was worth all of US\$11.49 and they wanted the equivalent of US \$12.50 to cash it). This is also true for those in the US who receive payments in these forms from overseas. I have found the best way is credit card, followed by the Thomas Cook Money-gram which takes 7 minutes to arrive at its destination and the fees are lower and the conversion rates used are better than those used by Western Union for its instantaneous "wire money transfer". I've been very careful at sending cash overseas (since you can't insure it and can't send it registered) and only do so to people that I have corresponded with for a long time or who have very good eBay feedback references (and plenty of them).... so far (touch wood) I haven't been stung and the funds have got through OK.

To change tack a little I'll now move on to what its like to be "stranded" in the collecting world's backblocks and have to rely on the likes of eBay to get toys.... its darn frustrating!!! So often we see or hear about new models being released but we can't get them in New Zealand or Australia (although Australia's range is bigger due to the larger market). We have to rely on e-pals and the likes of eBay to get these models and we end up paying top dollar for them (especially when you consider the NZ\$ is currently worth US\$0.40) and then on top of that we have to pay shipping costs and insurance! My biggest frustration comes when I see "Big Lots (or your favourite end-of-line/closeout warehouse) is selling Road Champs at \$1.99".... unfortunately I can't just pop out to the shop and pick up a few and have to rely on e-pals to do that for me.... I have one who keeps promising to send me a list of what's on special, but it hasn't happened since February when he sent me a list and I ordered 30 items, mainly Road Champs Police cars and some Racing Champs stuff as well (US\$56 in postage). Which is certainly better than buying in ones and twos and paying up to US\$9 for postage. Unfortunately NZ doesn't have these types of clearance stores and even the big name stores in Australia (Toys R Us etc) simply don't have the range of goods the US stores have... I was disgusted at the lack of range in Toys R Us in Queensland, Australia when I visited there in March... and I made a special effort to get to the stores too! One other thing I found difficult was finding the

specialist model shops... thanks to Howard Brockie (who had lived on the Gold Coast for some years) I found two or three (and spent a small fortune in each of them!) To be blunt New Zealand just doesn't cut it when it comes to toy/model/hobby shops (especially Wellington where I live) although there are several really good shops I visit when in Auckland and Christchurch, and several good sources of models in Otago and Southland (if you know where to look or who to see!).

On the other hand we in the Antipodes are ideally situated to make the most of the Australian model makers efforts... we are also blessed by being able to purchase (at roughly half the US cost) a variety of old Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox 1-75, Fun Ho! and other brands.... although obviously the more sought after items can often be higher priced than this. And if (like me) you are into Matchbox Yesteryears then these can be obtained by the hundreds (and I do have hundreds of them as I collect variations) often for as little as NZ\$10 to NZ\$20 although again the older series one and two models are priced much higher.... so its a case of swings and roundabouts - what you gain in one area you can lose in another. Sadly I see so many collectors now sending collections amassed over 30+ years overseas to sell... they split them up and send them off to the market that is going to get them the best price and this move is not unique to New Zealand. I find it sad from the point that new collectors coming along don't get the opportunity to view these collections or to buy from them, but in many ways I understand the seller's position as they (in New Zealand at least) have paid top dollar for them in the first place and often had to wait weeks or months for the models to arrive by sea-mail from the other side of the world.

So how about some of the rest of you jumping in about here and tell us of some of your experiences in collecting models... do you have any particular problems in your area of interest... do you have any particular bonuses? What does your collection encompass? How long have you been collecting? anything will do... the rest of us will hopefully climb on the bandwagon with our comments too and Lee's job will be a little easier!

*Jan Cousins*

### **Johnny Lightning**

Do we have any Johnny Lightning collectors in the club? Could you please contact the editor. I have seen several ads for sets from this manufacturer and would like to know more about their quality etc.

# COMPETITION

Our most successful competition yet with 6 entries needing to go into the editorial hat. The entry that was drawn out as the winner was Norman Masters of Otago Branch. Norman should have received his Minichamps Dodge Viper courtesy of Gary and the team at Acorn Models (37 Manchester St Christchurch, Ph 03 374 6000 and 381 Gt North Rd Auckland Ph 09 360 0233)

The answers were

1. Studebaker – Hawk, Lark
2. Ford – Falcon
3. Buick – Skylark
4. Plymouth Barracuda
5. Rambler – Marlin

Some entries had extra names which were not counted provided they had the above names(including at least one of the Studebakers)

For our December contest we are getting in the Christmas spirit and offering not one but two Minichamps F1 models. They are The 1992 McLaren MP4/7 of Gerhard Berger, and the 1996 Jordan of Martin Brundle.

The Questions:

1. Dinky Toys included racing cars in their range from early on. What racing car was No.23J in their range?
2. During the 1970's Corgi released a range of F1 cars in 1/36th scale. They also released one non F1 single seater as part of this series, What was that car?
3. Jack Brabham is the only driver to win a World Championship in a car bearing his name. Who is the only other driver to win a World Championship Grand Prix in a car bearing his name?
4. Tamiya released two different versions of the McLaren M23 in 1/12 scale. Who were the sponsors?
5. Minichamps 430 990022 represents the BAR 01 Supertec of which driver?

A little more effort than last month but then a bigger reward. Entries to The Editor, Miniature Auto, 27B Weka St, Hamilton to be received no later than 10 January 2001. Good Luck

# BREAKING UP

Breaking up is hard to do!

By now, most members will be aware that a reasonable group of Canterbury and Southland members have decided to leave the club and form new clubs. Some have decided to completely break their affiliation with NZMVC, while some have decided to opt for dual membership. Those that have decided to go cite dissatisfaction with certain individuals and/or with the "politics" within the club management.

When discussing the situation with another member of long standing, I was surprised with his response; "its happened before, and it will happen again." On reflection, it is not a bad attitude to take as it is inevitable that, even in a relatively small organisation, there will be a wide variety of opinion and belief that a particular course of action is correct. Our small size means that those with strong opinions come to the

surface quickly, and are not 'lost' in the mass of a larger group. Add to this the passion that many have for their hobby and we may well have a recipe for conflict. I think that my fellow member must be right. However, as the song says, "breaking up is hard to do." When emotion and pride get involved, reason can be hard to find. It does no good to try and assign blame. In many attempts to resolve conflict between teenage boys as part of my former housemastering role at school, it was so common to find that the actual 'truth' lay somewhere between the firmly held views of the opposing parties. Perhaps this has also been the case in the club. So possibly breaking up is the best thing to do. If former friends and acquaintances cannot resolve their real and imaginary conflicts it may be best to start again. If a fresh start means that bitterness can be avoided, or at least reduced, then so be it. You will be pleased to hear that a nucleus of Canterbury members does remain, and that the branch continues to operate. It is only a small group at the moment, and may well remain so for a while yet, but it is viable and will continue to do its best to meet the needs of local members and look towards quiet growth in the future.

## *Carville*

Vectis Auctions Matchbox Magic 5 Lot 637  
M7 Thames Trader Cattle Truck 'Jennings' Light  
Blue cab with Metallic Copper back, Light Blue  
base & rear ramp. Grey plastic wheels. Extremely  
rare. Excellent in Near Mint box £3300



# MODEL SCRUTINEER

Possibly the biggest growth area in modelling over the last 5 years or so is the large scale sector. This sector has grown from an area serviced only by Bburago and Solido with their 'built to a price' 1/18<sup>th</sup> scale offerings to the state today where every manufacturer worth their salt has a large scale range in their inventory, with the quality ranging from the basic but cheap products from Mira or Sun to the exquisite models from companies such as Exoto or Carousel 1.

Revell's entry into this high detail, large scale market sector takes the form of their Creative Masters range of models. At the time of writing the range consists of 5 models in the different scale of 1/20. Being Revell the line-up consists of the rather unadventurous choices of Viper R/T 10, '69 Camaro, 427 Cobra, '67 Corvette and the newly released GT40. Being the Cobra fan I am I quickly snapped up a 427 when it came up on ebay.

First impressions were of the weight and the small size compared to my 1/18<sup>th</sup> examples. Closer examination reveals some very nice touches which if indicative of the whole range show a nice mid range level of detail that puts certain far more highly priced 1/18 model ranges to shame.

The body is, as expected, very crisply cast with no blemishes either in the casting or the paint. I can't confirm with the callipers whether the measurements scale out at exactly 1/20<sup>th</sup>, but to the eye it looks pretty good. The paint is a darkish blue that may be meant to be metallic. Without a paint chip I can't say for certain but it looks a little lighter than I am used to in my cobras. However it is well applied with two very crisp 'GT' stripes running front to rear. The model is described as 'Racing Cobra 427' and has the race number 98. The 'race' numbers are located in front of the doors, on the boot and at the front of the bonnet. All are crisply printed with no register problems, nor any bleed through of the dark paint under the white roundels. There are 'sponsor' logos for Goodyear, Autolite and Koni on the front fenders which are again crisp and well registered, except for the Autolite which appears a little off centre. There is, surprisingly, no cobra emblem or 427 badging (Perhaps an indication of a lack of licence).

The engine is a blue painted lump to which are attached a chrome cold air box, chrome valve covers with 'Cobra 427' markings, black plastic distributor and ignition wiring. In front of the engine is a Black plastic box with a silver painted 'cap' and pipe leading to the radiator, which is rather spoiled by the two tabs and

screws for the hinges that dominate this area. The only other items in the engine bay are three cylinders mounted on the firewall, and the steering column. While writing this article I also discovered a prop under the hood to hold it up, the only place this fits without using more force than I like is between the valve covers and the air-box.

The cockpit is well detailed from the opening doors, with chromed interior handles, to the dash panel which features nice recessed gauges with detailed instruments in them. Minor controls are separate plated pieces. The steering wheel is marred by uneven amounts of flash in the spokes. The centre console features a silver ashtray (?) at the front. At the rear is the well detailed fire extinguisher with the distinctive forward slanted gear lever in front of it. Behind the passenger seat is a large white painted double battery. The drivers seat has the roll bar vertical supports behind it. A 4 point harness is fitted for the driver only. Interestingly the seats are made of a very soft rubbery material. The driver has a rather low aeroscreen to protect him from the wind. Next to this is mounted really awful chrome lump that is meant to be the rear view mirror, however it has a huge sink mark that takes up the entire area where the face should be.

All the other detail pieces on the body are well picked out in chrome. The lights all have the appropriate plastic covers, with the headlights taped for racing. The wheels, which fill the arches really well are Halibrand style with white centres and chrome rims. Dominating the centres are the large brass painted "knock-off" spinners. The tyres are very good with no visible sink marks.

The chassis/baseplate is fairly basic with the large front rear chassis rails screwed over the top of the rest. Overall a nice model which competes well with models in the Ertl, Kyosho range but is found lacking by the newer products such as autoArt.

*Lee Tracey*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all Club Members and Their Families  
From  
The Editor and Members of the Execu-



# MATCHBOX MUSINGS

I've just finished reading the Editorial in the latest MICA mag regarding the re-naming of certain items now produced by Mattel - the proposal is to dump Models of Yesteryear and Dinky in favour of Platinum Collectibles. I often wonder what sort of wallies are running these American conglomerates! To say that "Dinky" means nothing to Americans is so far off beam as to be laughable! Take a look at the number of Americans bidding on the Dinky collectibles on eBay or any other on-line auction. Take a look at the PRICES they are prepared to pay! As for the Yesteryears range.... I can only agree with Mattel's statement here although there are a lot of Americans who know very well what it refers to, but sadly it's meaning has been steadily confused by the plethora of "Yank Tanks" and "American" specific models released by Collectibles over the years (not to mention various sets of this and that).

What we are seeing is the result of the ownership changes us "oldies" have had to put up with over the years... the two worst offenders would have to be Tyco and Mattel who seem hell bent on ignoring the "rest of the world" in favour of the "US" markets. I sadly have to admit I ceased to collect Matchbox as a brand when Tyco took over and I have no intention of ever collecting them again. Even the Collectibles offerings no longer appeal to me, partly because I can get better models cheaper elsewhere and partly because they don't produce models I am interested in. I figure if I am going to spend upwards of \$50 on a toy then I'll get a far better buy in the form of a Mint-Boxed Dinky or Corgi from the pre 80's than any modern model.... and besides I grew up with (and destroyed) those toys. If I want endless re-liveries of Fords and Chevs then I'll buy Road Champs models at a fifth the price of Collectibles models.... and they look every bit as good sitting on the shelf!

Platinums??... sounds as bad as the Hot Wheels Treasure Hunts..... hope they don't end up looking as bad! And as for the new name portraying a sense of scarcity.... collectors are well used to the concept of "limited editions" but the Americans have taken this to new limits with the likes of Johnny Lightning, Road Champs, Racing Champs, et al pumping out millions of variations on the same casting as so called "limited editions" (*and at 10,000 or more not that limited Ed*)..... to coin a phrase.... "Baaah Humbug"!

Well that's that off my chest....

*Jan Cousins*

# BRITISH CAR CORNER

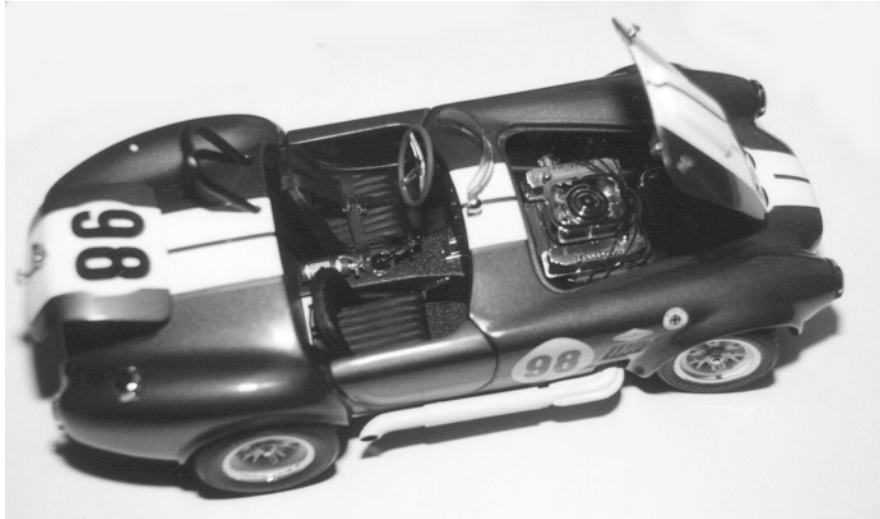
When I was advised that the Wolseley was to feature in this month's High Beam, only one Wolseley came to mind, and that was the small 1/70<sup>th</sup> scale Matchbox model. I have described these small 55mm long models previously and this Wolseley 1500 is of the same good casting considering its size. Released in 1959 at No 57 in the range, it was a pale yellow/green colour, it had various grills in gold and silver, and all had grey wheels. When phased out in 1961 it was a white colour.

After checking about 10 books another Wolseley emerged, this one is a 6/80 model made by a lesser known English manufacturer called Morestone. Morestone started to produce model cars in the early 50's under the trade name of Budgie. A black 6/80 police car is shown as being made from 1955 – 1967, a red 6/80 fire car for the early 60's, and a green 6/80 squad car for the mid 60's. As no scale for these models is given, I am presuming they are of the same small size similar to Matchbox 1-75 range. In the mid 1960's Morestone changed its name to Budgie toys and produced about 60 different models of a larger scale, probably about 1/43. Included was another 6/80 Wolseley police car. This was a copy of the 50's model. All the Morestone/Budgie Toys models have the same appearance of a rather heavy and crude casting, all have the same oversized loudspeaker/siren or whatever they are mounted on the roof. These are now probably sought after collectors models.

Lansdowne show a 1961 Wolseley 6/110 in their 1996 catalogue. As I only have a photocopy to work off, I can't tell the colour of the model, only one appears darker than the other. Also shown is a 6/110 police car. Unfortunately the photocopy is of a poor quality, but the flashing light on the roof can be seen as well as the police sign on the rear of the vehicle. As stated in previous articles these Lansdowne models are of excellent quality.

The only other Wolseley model known to me is the new Dinky model. This 1/43 scale 1961/62 Hornet is an extremely well detailed little model showing exhaust, suspension, and other details under the car. It has a well finished interior with woodgrain dash, separate instrument panel, gear lever and nice tan seats. The exterior of the model is painted deep maroon with cream roof, and has a great finishing touch with glass headlights, with amber indicator lights on the front and red tail lights at the rear. Chrome bumper, grill, side mouldings, door handles, window surrounds, petrol cap and exterior mirrors mounted on the front guards complete a very nice and well proportioned model.

*Russell Corbett*



Revell Creative Masters 1/20 Cobra 427 Racing



Vectis Auctions David Kenney Collection Lot 850  
No 30 Magirus Deutz Crane Lorry. Light Brown, Red Jib  
& Hook, Grey plastic wheels. Mint in Excellent box. Su-  
perb example of this extremely hard to find lorry.

Price Realised £6500

*This is funnily enough a world record price for this model*



Two views from the Pedal Power exhibition hosted by Otago Branch in May.

# MODEL SCRUTINEER

## EAGLE COLLECTIBLES 2002 Corvette Grand Sport

The Corvette Grand Sport was devised by GM to counter the dominance of the Cobra in US road racing. Only 6 were built, each example with its unique collection of bulges, scoops and louvres. It is this uniqueness that has probably dissuaded diecast manufacturers from seriously covering these cars previously, as each chassis would require a separate mould.

The example I have is the Johnson/Morgan Sebring car. The casting is very crisp which is quite an achievement given the number of louvres on the bonnet. The paint is a glossy blemish free mid blue. The tampered decals are well done with great clarity right down to the Corvette flags on the bonnet. Wipers, door handles, gas filler inlets and id lights are separate chromed pieces, while the sill strips and outlets behind the front wheels have been detail painted. The windows all have the chrome surrounds picked out in silver paint.

The interior while difficult to see through its small windows, and with its all black paint scheme looks good with the roll bar, steering wheel, gear lever and seat belt harness all picked out. The baseplate is well detailed with the rudimentary (as per the real thing) suspension, engine, gearbox, exhausts, spare wheel and mount, and main chassis rails all picked out in silver.

The final piece that really makes this model is the wheels. Universal have caught the huge nature of the Firestone racing tyres on their silver wheels really well. Given this is such a major part of the look of the real cars it is pleasing to see the effort has been made to get this, often overlooked, area so right.

All this at under \$35. Watch out Minichamps et al the Chinese have arrived.

*Lee Tracey*



# MODEL MART

## WANTED

Early regular wheels Matchbox 1 – 75 in particular

No 9 – Fire Engine (Any model) No 19 – MGs (Any model)

No 22 – Vauxhall (Any model) No 27 – Cadillac (Green)

No 32 – Jaguar XK140 No 36 – Austin A50

No 36 – Lambretta & Sidecar No 43 – Hillman Minx

No 46 – Morris Minor No 57 – Wolseley

No 59 – Ford Singer Van No 66 – Citroen DS19

No 66 – Harley Davidson No 75 – Ford Thunderbird

Prefer good/mint but will consider others. Please ring/write:

Russell Corbett, 71 Matua Rd, Otatara RD9, Invercargill Ph (03)2131331

## FOR SALE

Winners Circle Dale 1/43 Earnhardt Snr & Jnr Coke cars MONMC \$55 pair

Matchbox Y – 3 1912 Model T Tanker Castrol Mint in slightly worn box \$40

Matchbox Y – 12 Model T ford Pepsi Mint in Near Mint Box \$40

Vitesse V98063 Toyota Corolla WRC Sainz/Moya MC98 \$50

All neg. Post included.

Contact Lee Tracey 27B Weka St Hamilton or leetra@ihug.co.nz

Remember this area is available for all members to list their buy/sell/trade items.

Just send your ad to The Editor 27B Weka St Hamilton before the deadline for inclusion in the next MA.

## CLUB WEBSITE

Ian Cousins has gotten a test website for the club up and running(Walking?) at

<http://phonenet.virtualave.net/NZMVC/clubindex.html>

He is now seeking constructive suggestions for content and also articles, preferably of a New Zealand nature, from members to make this a website that people will want to visit. Ian is currently listed as the contact for all branches as he will require permission to put in the correct delegates (The Privacy Act)Comments/articles can be addressed to Ian either through his PO Box 12-057 Thorndon Wellington or email lyncus@ihug.co.nz

# ~~THATS NEWS?THATS NEW!~~

The List this month includes a lot of models seen at the Radio Control Hobby & Trade Association (RCHTA) show in Chicago. It is by no means comprehensive but includes models that have been wanted for some time by modellers in various parts of the hobby.

## **Academy** (Korea?) Plastic Kits

1/32 FA 18C Hornet

1/48 Mig 21bis Fishbed L

## **Accurate Miniatures** USA Plastic Kits

Due to the financial drubbing they took with the McLaren kits there are no plans to release any further car kits from this manufacturer. Their NASCAR moulds are apparently complete but the models will not be released.

1/48 B-25C/D Mitchell (av)

1/72 Il -2 Shturmovik

## **AMT/ERTL USA** 1/25 scale Plastic Kits

62 Ford Thunderbird (10/00)

70 Camaro (3/01)

41 Ford Woody (4/01)

71 Dodge Charger Street Machine

49 Oldsmobile Custom

## **Italeri** Italy 1/24 Plastic Kits

Mercedes Wrecker (5/01)

DAF XF95 Super Space Cab (9/01)

Curtainside Trailer (11/01)

## **Lindberg** USA Plastic Kits

67 Olds 442 Trunk Popper Hopper

77Cali Cruiser Dancing Van Hopper

66 Buick Riviera Hopper

Ford T Pick Up Rod

34 Ford Roadster Pick Up

32 Ford street Pick Up

1/16 Model T

## **Revell Monogram** USA 1/24 Plastic Kits

Pro Finish Pontiac GP M&M's #36

Profinish Dodge Intrepid Cheerios #43

BMW Z8

68 Pontiac Firebird

69 Baldwin Motion Camaro

78 Pontiac Firebird 3n1

01 Corvette Z06

41 Mazmanian Willys Gasser

Corvette C-5R LM00

Mustang Muscle Trio

Tom Daniels 'Badman 11" (Metal)

VW Bus

## **Testors** USA Diecast Kits

1/6 Indian Motorcycle

#### Other News

##### **Anson** Hong Kong 1/18 Diecast

30318 Dodge Viper RT/10	30319 Dodge Ram Dually, Dump Truck
30350 Renault Spider	30352 Renault Spider Racing 'kickers'
30353 Renault Spider Racing 'Cobra'	30377 Renault Maxi Megane Belgium
30379 Renault Maxi Megane Austria	30385 2000 BMW X5
30386 BMW 2002	30388 Renault Spider (Aeroscreen)
30389 68 Mercedes 280SL 'Pagoda'	30390 2000 Mercedes C Class

##### **Anson** Hong Kong 1/43 Diecast

80801 Ford F150 Lightning	80802 Ford F350 Supercab
80803 Lincoln Navigator	80804 Ford Expedition
80805 2000 Ford Excursion	80808 BMW X5

##### **AUTOart** Germany 1/43 Diecast

96 Lotus Espirit V8 4 cols (10/00)	94 Land Rover Discovery V8 3 cols (11/00)
80's-90's Mercedes G Wagen SWB	80's-90's Mercedes G Wagen LWB (11/00)
99 Subaru Legacy GTB s/w (12/00)	99 Subaru Legacy B4 3 cols (12/00)
00 Mercedes CLK DTM 6 vers.(10/00)	

##### **AUTOart** Germany 1/18 Diecast

Nissan Skyline GTR R34 3 cols (11/00)	98 Panoz Roadster Street 3 cols (11/00)
78601 Subaru Impreza Type 22B (12/00)	78611 Subaru Impreza WRX type R
00 Lexus IS300 3cols (11/00)	00 Toyota Altezza 3 cols (11/00)
00 Toota MR2 Spyder 3cols (11/00)	Aston Martin DB5 2 cols LHD &RHD
70020 Aston Martin DB5 "Goldfinger"	Jaguar XK 120C road 3 cols
Toyota GT1 TS020 LM98 3vers (tba)	Corvette C-5R Daytona 24hrs 2vers
Corvette C-5R ALMS 2vers (12/00)	

##### **Skid** Portugal 1/43 Diecast

SKM099 Pajero Evo 'Barclays' P-D-C00	SKM117 LandCruiser J. Ickx P-D-C00
SKM119 Hyundai WRC McRae Port00	SKM121 Hyundai WRC Ericsson
Swed00	
SKW019 Ford Focus McRae Acrop00	SKW020 Peugeot 206 Gronholm NZ00

##### **Quartzo** Portugal 1/43 Diecast

QLM027 Jaguar XK120C 1 <sup>st</sup> LM51	QLM040 Jaguar D Type 1 <sup>st</sup> LM56
QWC016 Lotus 72D WC1972	QWC017 Brabham BT52 WC 1983

## **DIE CAST MODELS**

### **AT REALISTIC PRICES**



**AMERICAN MUSCLE, ANSON, AUTOart, Bburago,  
BIANTE Classics CHRONO, Classic CARLECTABLES,  
EAGLES RACE , ERTL, EXOTO Collectibles  
KYOSHO, LIBERTY CLASSICS, Maisto, MIRA,  
MOTOR CITY classics, Revell, ROAD LEGEND, SOLIDO,  
HOT WHEELS, MATTELL, MATCHBOX, UT models....**

#### **ARRIVING**

**FORD MODEL T  
MITSUBISHI EVO 6 LANCER ROAD & RALLY  
SUBARU WRX  
FORD FOCUS**



## **Donnithorne Simms**

**Cnr Montreal and St Asaph Sts Christchurch**  
**Phone (03) 3790 588 Fax(03) 3714 707 PO BOX 140**  
**[www.simms.co.nz](http://www.simms.co.nz)**