

MINIATURE AUTO

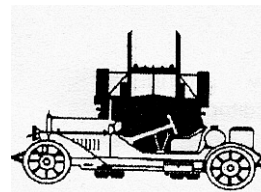
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A publication for and by collectors and builders of model vehicles

37th Year of publication



DeAgostini 1/43 Subaru Impreza, New Zealand Rally 2003. From their part-work on the Rally Car



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

CLUB DIRECTORY

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

President: **Shayne Spicer**, 171 Surrey Street, St. Clair, Dunedin 9012
Phone (03) 456 1186
e-mail sandaspicer@clear.net.nz

Vice President: **Howard Brockie**, 77 Hocken Street, Kenmure, Dunedin 9011
Phone (03) 453 4013

Secretary: **Eric Brockie**, PO Box 1356, Dunedin 9054
Phone (03) 488 1048

Treasurer: **Robin Austin**, 57 Arnott Street, Alexandra, Central Otago 9320
Phone (03) 448 9276
e-mail austinrk@paradise.net.nz

Editor: **Ron Ford**, 52 Hillside Drive, Upper Hutt 5018
Phone/fax (04) 971 9808
e-mail editor@nzmvc.in-newzealand.com

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Wellington: **Ian Cousins**, PO Box 12-057, Thorndon, Wellington 6144
Phone (04) 934 5172

Marlborough: **Kevin Cook**, 186 Scott Street, Blenheim
Phone (03) 577 6818

Canterbury
Otago: **Carville Stewart**, PO Box 42 Sefton 7445
Shayne Spicer, 171 Surrey Street, St. Clair, Dunedin
Phone (03) 456 1186 9012

Southland: **Roger Larsen**, 75 Dart Street, Invercargill
Phone (03) 217 7028 9810

Please address all correspondence to the **Secretary**
Change of address to the **Secretary**

MA contributions to:

The Editor, or Ian Cousins
52 Hillside Drive, PO Box 12-057,
Upper Hutt 5018 Thorndon, Wellington 6144
editor@nzmvc.in-newzealand.com nzmvcwgt@nzmvc.in-newzealand.com

Club Website: www.nzmvc.in-newzealand.com

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DEADLINE FOR MA 224 - 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2006

EDITORIAL

There are two apologies to make. First to **John Macgregor** for overlooking his piece on the CMC Maserati Birdcage. It is now published in this edition of *Miniature Auto*. Secondly to **Warren Tyson** in respect of the non arrival of some material he has sent for *MA*. Seems as if it is floating around in cyber-space. Obviously, I can't tell if I have not received a contribution unless the sender (as in this case) asks why it was not published. Under the Constitution; if the Editor deems the item is unsuitable, it simply isn't a case of ignoring it, but informing the contributor of the fact. Usual grounds for rejection is if the item infringes on the Copyright Law (you can't just cut and paste from a Web site for instance) or it contains personal attacks on other Members.

Most e-mail programs have a facility to request a receipt, so it is advisable to use it. Also keep a copy in your Sent Box so it can be resent if there are problems. Have a good antivirus checker on your PC as a virus (etc.) can cause automatic rejection at the receiving end.

Enough of that! Did you see 'Our Eric' on TV? He was featured on "Going, Going, Gone" episode that had the sale of Coca Cola ephemera. It was interesting that the Lincoln Micro Models International Coca Cola trucks was prominently featured and it went for a reasonable price (but not to Eric) for a mint item. You may think that \$105 was a heck of a lot for an old Micro, but some are now fetching four figure sums across the Tasman for the original series.

I thought I had got into a time warp in K-Mart the other day when I saw some Matchbox Super Kings in original style packaging. On closer inspection, they were revamps of former Yesteryear 1/43 Muscle Cars. The finish was the same except they are now fitted with the dreaded plastic 70s style plastic low friction wheels. Who is nostalgic for that? The price of \$23 is half that of the Yesteryear version, so good wheels cost an extra \$23? Talking of Yesteryears, Mattel have apparently killed the range off just on it's 50th anniversary. Nice! End of another era.

Happy collectioneering and constructing,

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Members

I was cruising around some of my favourite Model Car websites the other day (like you do), where I usually pop into the sites' Forum or Chat page. One particular thread I picked up on, found the contributors bemoaning the fact they were becoming frustrated at the lack of new Model releases from their favourite manufacturers, and moaning about the lack of specific cars that the manufacturers should be producing, and that it just wasn't fair that the paying, dedicated Model Collector shouldn't be able to just fill up gaps in their collections as and when they wanted (nice to have the money!).

I know we live in an instant society nowadays, but I wrote into this thread asking – What would happen if everyone finally had their collections complete and never needed to add another Model ever again (an impossibility I know)? What now? The point I made was that – Surely this is what the whole Model Collecting hobby is about – It's the thrill of the chase, the relentless pursuit of that ever elusive model and the immense sense of satisfaction experienced when achieved. It's about the craft of 'cunning' and manipulation needed when sneaking your new purchase into the house before 'she who must be obeyed', sees it and demands an explanation or threatens to 'persuade' you to commence renovating the Laundry!! (sigh). Moreover, I for one certainly couldn't afford to purchase every single Model I desired anyway!

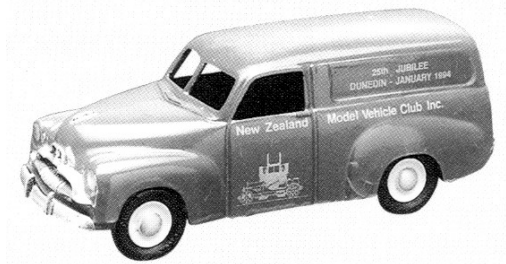
On a totally different tack, I would like to, on behalf of the N.Z.M.V.C., offer condolences to the Brockie family after the recent passing of Mrs. Jessie Brockie, Mother of Eric, Grandmother of Howard, and Great-Grandmother of Edward and Michael (two of our Junior Members). I could tell by the tone of the Funeral, that she was at the hub of a very closely knit family, and that she will be missed greatly by all of them.

A huge thanks to all who are regularly contributing to this Magazine. It goes without saying that it is greatly appreciated and that Ron will always welcome any and everything you can make available to him. But, please don't stop let's keep it happening – Bring it on!!

Finally, I hope you enjoy the 'first peek' at a recently completed diorama. I am aiming to complete an article about it in time for the next issue of **your** Club Magazine

Modeliciously yours

Shayne Spicer



BRANCH NEWS



The JULY MEETING held at my home on the 19th.

Fred Hawkes has compiled a list of everyone's membership time re eligibility for the 25 year badges, which Russell has subsequently established are, in fact, certificates only, not badges at all.

Fred has pointed out that the end of this month is the end of the financial year, and that subs are due from next month.

Russell Corbett presented a couple of the recently arrived turntables, in differing sizes, for everyone to admire. With a choice of model-base and dual speed, the turntables look great and are true value for money. I felt everyone present was impressed, not just the members who had ordered them. With the larger one, the mirror base looks really fine, but the alternative black, material base is equally appealing. This whole turntable package has to be an asset for people wanting a new way to display their models. In the case of the largest size, it still leaves the issue of dust covers unresolved, should you feel you want one. My understanding is that they can be moulded in glass, but in a one-off or two-off basis, the price would be steep. For the smaller sizes, if members go to The Plastic Box in town, there are items for sale there for other purposes which look to me as though they would do perfectly well.

Fred brings up the matter of planning for the Great Little Train Show. It was felt that the flashing, revolving lights which are available now quite cheaply, about \$30, would be an attention-grabber for the public. The date of this show has yet to be finalised.

Russell has a number of disused trophies which he will present to members at the next meeting to decide on their future

The raffle winner of the Renault was Elsie Neilson.

The competitions:

Barry McCorkindale won both large and small scale ready built with his Mustang and GTO Falcon.

Brett Dronsfield won the best Kitset for the evening with his 1932 Old Ford
Owen Dickson's Lancia Stratos was 2nd

John

2006 USA DAY, DUNEDIN a report by Paul Thompson

Giddy Petrol Heads! The day started at Waiholo, at my brother's place. We piled into my sister in laws 2002 Subaru B4 and arrived at Tahuna Park to see some American metal. We didn't have to wait long to start clicking -I tried to count the number of cars on display, hard to do with vehicles coming and going all the while, but by counting the rows and multiplying them out, there seemed to be 600 (plus) cars there to see, a huge turnout. Some real classic Uncle Sam Yank Tanks (Starsky and Hutch's Ford, a 2005 Yellow GT Mustang, a gold Transam with Eagle. There was a rag-top Corvette Stingray in red and a Plymouth T Bird (? *Ed.*) again in red. A late model Corvette in yellow -I just want one! Also a very nice purple T Bucket Hot Rod with a nice chrome V8, and a Dodge 2 door fintail, a 60's model I'd say.

My favourite truck was a 2006 Dodge in gunmetal grey (hate to have to park it). The cars had come a long way to this show. . Two very nice Barracuda Coupes sat side by side.

But I think the Mustangs were restored and unrestored, and they look cool. A lovely bluey-grey 1958 Chevy 4 door - I nearly took it home.

The weather was a bit showery but it was well worth the trip up. Looking forward to next year's show:

PS Just to tie this report in with the fact that this is a Model club, there were plenty of USA models there for purchase, many different manufacturers, also souvenirs:

DUNEDIN TOY AUCTION Russell Corbett writes:--

On the 15th June, Marie and I travelled to Dunedin to attend a toy auction at Forno's Auctioneers, 417 lots were on offer. A lot of Matchbox were available in both Yesteryear and 1.75, a large selection of railway collectables, large tinplate toys, dolls of all sizes, a few books, and various Matchbox catalogues were available. The first 40 lots were taken up with mainly Yesteryear models and were being offered in groups of 3 - 4 models. They seemed to average out at about \$5 each. Also a few tinplates and jigsaws. The next 20 odd lots were HO train layouts accessories and a few boxed Meccano accessories, a few Yesteryears and all the dolls closed out the first 90 lots. From Lot 92 through to Lot 226 were mainly Matchbox models, a huge variety in these lots with Yesteryear, 1.75 regular wheel and Superfast, boxed collection lots. I managed to purchase a couple of 1st series Yesteryears, one at \$10 and one at \$20, very cheap I thought. In this group a lot of Superfast Matchbox were sold at prices around \$5 each.

The next 20 lots were a mix of small Fun Ho, some re-pro cast iron models, large tinplate, some more Yesteryears.. A lot of Matchbox Dinky were offered in the next 10 lots. Lots 258 - 295 saw a large variety on offer, including clockwork toys, Hornby locos, approx 7 books, more Dinky, Matchbox and several lots of Matchbox catalogues. Lots 297 - 321 were more trains and Lots 323 - 326 some old Fun Hos, of which I was able to purchase a very nice fire-engine in excellent original condition, complete with ladders, etc.

Lots 327 -337 consisted of a large group of HO wagons, up to 10 in each lot, Lots 338 - 404 again a large variation of tinplate toys, Yesteryear, Matchbox Dinky, Special Edition Matchbox, clockwork toys, fire engines, etc. Lots 405 - 417 were older Matchbox and Dinky models. I managed to pick up 2 old Dinky buses, both complete but a bit tatty, 1 at

\$10 and another at \$15, a Matchbox car transporter for \$25, and the last sale of the day was an old Benbros. Vintage car I purchased for \$10.

Anyone wanting more details of anything can get in touch with me as it is difficult to cover all in this report. Remember, all sales are plus 10% buyer's premium plus some GST.

OTAGO:

We did not have a large turnout of members present at the July night but it was enjoyable for those who did attend.

Our guest speaker was Rowan Lock who is the RESCUE ADVISER for the DUNEDIN MARINE SEARCH & RESCUE and it was a very interesting talk he gave about the work that the organisation does. Rowan spoke about the Marine Search and Rescue that it is today and about what it was like many years ago before the organisation was formed

Rowan told about one incident that involved someone getting stranded on Green Island when they had gone out there to collect seagull droppings off the Island.

One of the men's brothers who lived at Taieri Mouth heard about the possibility because smoke had been seen on the Island.. He rode his horse from Taieri Mouth to Green Island to see if it was correct and then rode back to Taieri Mouth. He then got himself to Dunedin to inform the Police who told him it was not their job because it came under the Harbour Master.

He went to the Harbour Masters office to see him and was told he was in Port Chalmers. He then boarded a train to Port Clalmers to find the Harbour Master. The Harbour Master told him he was not prepared to discuss it there but to return to his office in Dunedin and he would talk to him on his return there. Another train trip to Dunedin to speak to the Harbour Master and he was then told it was to late to do anything but would look into it the next day. Eventually the next day the men were rescued from the Island and the situation was eventually cleared up. Oh for rescue helicopters in those days.

Competitions for the night were for any vehicle towing boats or caravans or any vehicle beginning with the letter "S" or "B".

Winners of the competitions were as follows.

DIECAST:

- 1st. Graeme OBrien, V.W. COMBI & CARAVAN
- 2nd. Edward Van Aalst. SHELBY GT 500 K
- 3rd. Shayne Spicer. SKODA RALLY CAR

KITSET:

- 1st. Maurice Boyles. FORD F100, TRAILER & BOAT

It was another great night that was enjoyed by all those who attended.

LETTERS

Dear Ron

I read with interest John Macgregor's letter in MA #222 about the increased costs of different aspects of the Model Car manufacturing processes and the effect it must ultimately have on the price we pay as collectors. I happened to be talking with a NZ Importer/Wholesaler of diecast models into N.Z., and he reliably informed me that the special Zinc alloy that makes up the base casting material, had increased from \$US1000.00 to over \$US4000.00 per ton. Now if that isn't a hefty price increase I don't know what is. It would certainly reinforce what John was saying about the prices we pay now!!

Shayne Spicer

Dear Ron,

Well I have always said to myself that I should write an article for the MA and have never got round to it. Lately at Marklin club we have had occasion to reminisce and some of our monthly clinics have been about our life experiences and how we got into the hobby. Perhaps MA could run similar?

On the model front nothing has changed really regarding my collection activities (next to zero purchases over a number of years) but that doesn't mean my interest is gone. A recent trip to Melbourne (with Sue) was not complete without a look upstairs at the diecasts and I did come away with one purchase.

The purchases I'm interested in currently mainly stem around 1/32 scale nowadays for obvious reasons (they can go on our Marklin 1 Gauge modular "Istein" layout). If you haven't seen it then please take time to do so at its next hopeful outing in October (Lower Hutt). The layout also includes some tank kitsets so maybe you should "judge it"? This scale doesn't have a lot on offer when I've looked (and the Chinese seem to do most of it).

Now...my latest "idea" involves a diorama of a "drive in movie theatre". I didn't want to get too carried away but it should be about 1metre square, with a DVD player acting as the screen, with a whole lot of cars parked up on little rises pointing toward it. I am using the one and only view I have of a theatre lot which is in the "Blue Thunder" movie. Once completed I will snapshot it for you. I need to get it done by October so deadlines help make things happen (sometimes).

I'm hoping it will add a new twist to showing those railway DVD's at shows, and be tacked onto our layout somehow. I've also constructed a signal box (scratchbuilt) from a image sourced on the net (sorry that's not a vehicle). I have a growing collection of VW's (from Kirkaldies) with varied livery and also some that turn into robots as well (Warehouse), not to mention some quick snap and screw kitsets (Toyworld). Any advice on others (brands and sources) greatly accepted.

Paul Atcock

KIT CORNER

Several swapmeets back I purchased from Roger Llaird in Gore an IMC kit for a 1946 Ford V8 Coupe and another for a 1935 Lincoln with both kits offering an option for more than one version.

The Lincoln is half built and has remained that way for some time. I decided to paint the fabric top cream a not uncommon colour for that period on high class cars but a true cream does not seem to come in model colours. A sample tin of house paint may solve the problem and get the model finished.

The Ford Coupe was a complete job and it could be done as a 1946, 1947 or 1948 model with convertible option also and also could be modified with slicks and O.H.V. engine and there are a lot of parts left over.

The chosen colour is plum, a true Ford colour in the 1940s and early 50s. I managed to get this in a spray can and most parts were painted while on the sprue but again when wanting to brush small parts and touch-up body joint, etc., but no matching colour in model paints is available so the model remained unfinished for two years.

Peter Woodmancy at Hobbycraft came up with an acrylic match. The model is done in right hand drive which meant cutting up the dash and reversing some pieces. The model was then all glued together again. The bonnet is hinged behind the dash to represent the original car but it does not allow for much opening even with some internal plastic carved away but then again the originals were not much better. Mechanics hated them as they were real head bangers.

The V8 motor is quite well down inside the model and does not show much detail once assembled. The radiator was missing although the kit had never been opened. The doors are hinged very much like the original being pinned inside the internal linings but these broke off as soon as being put into place. Fitting the doors created problems as they should have gone on before the roof panel but this was unclear in the instructions.

The instruction sheet had a mass of detail but needed careful study to sort it all out. The finished model is quite pleasing to the eye if one does not look too close! Most New Zealanders would remember these cars..

I was tempted to do this as a New Zealand Patrol Car but they had a complicated monogram on the door which may have been impossible to copy. The IMC kit had no manufacturing date on it but may have been around for some time before received it. By chance I was in Dunedin's Toyworld when a customer was bemoaning the fact there were no models of the 48 Ford Coupes as he had just bought one of the real things. I told him that I had one so he intends dropping in some time to have a look at it. It hasn't been unusual for me not to complete a kitset for several years.

Evan Blanch

(First published in the Otego Newsletter)

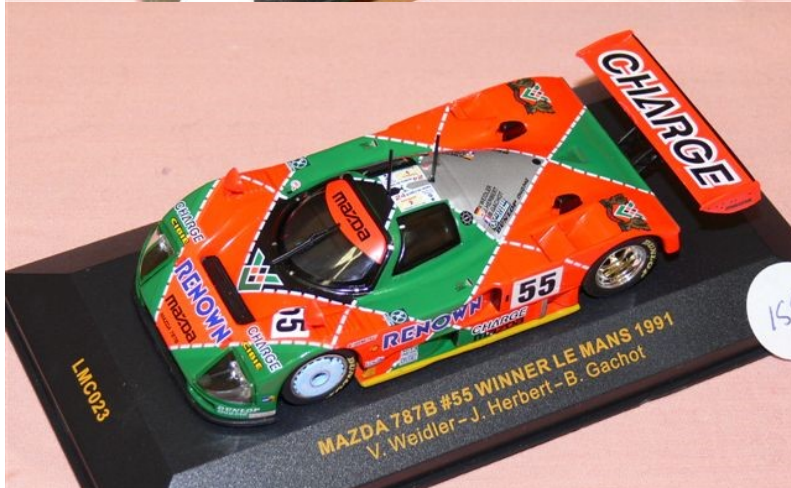


PHOTO MISCELLANY, "SOUTHERN MODELS"

PHOTOS BY OWEN DICKSON



CMC MASERATI BIRDCAGE AND OTHER THOUGHTS

Lee Tracey's Nuremberg Report on the back cover of the March MA is very interesting and the website references helpful. Thanks Lee.

In the 2nd paragraph; he refers to the German CMC 1/18 Maserati Birdcage model sports car as the star of the Toy Fair. I really know nothing of sports cars and racing, but I do know this is a popular car in life and in modelling (the name bugs me for such a lovely looking car - originally a nickname for the lattice-like bodywork construction, the name stuck; it's original title was Type 60). How strange it is that Exoto should bring one out at almost exactly the same time in the same scale. Further, Exoto (to my knowledge) are a firm which likes to get its models right, with prices similar to CMC, and thus they are direct rivals, so take your pick.

I guess with all the diecasts coming out now you are bound to get these duplications, yet I wonder if and how these firms do their market research. Or maybe they do, and the timing is a deliberate marketing ploy?

As already covered by MA at the time, we have had examples of uncanny overlapping of model issues in the past, viz. the McLaren CanAm cars coming out at exactly the same time and in the same scale a few years back (German Minichamps and American GMP), along with quality kits and readybuilts from at least two English makers of the same car and scale yet again. Great for us, I guess, but I find it strange - how do all these firms justify their investments? (If that's not enough, Exoto are also about to bring out MORE 1/18 McLaren CanAms, this year in fact). The market must obviously be out there to support all these, although my understanding is that GMP have since stopped production of theirs, so maybe I'm right.

Getting back to the Maserati Lee wrote about again (as above), this has also just been recently released in kitset and ready built forms in 1/43 by Midlantic in the UK. Midlantic are a class act who love the cars they produce. These are lovely models; it's hard to go past them. Further, there are a couple of US makers you can find also producing this same Sports Car, one in 1/43, the other in 1/87.

In what seems like an oddity to me, a further English private maker, Stephen Barnett, has a 1/43 version available. This is some sort of super, super- detailed and individually produced product which comes with the huge price tag of over £1,700!!!

So for anyone out there wanting a Maserati Birdcage, there are plenty about, I just wonder again how all the makers can justify them?

Just a further couple of comments re the same paragraph of Lee's article. The V 16 engine from the 1936/37 Auto Union grand prix car he speaks of IS available by itself (ie the engine alone) - an unusual move by that company but a good idea. They haven't done it with any other engines, just this one. My guess is that this should retail in NZ at about \$180 cmc-modelcars.de is their updated website, with an English translation.

The Auto Union hill climber Lee mentions is just a variation of their 1936 grand prix car model with dual wheels at the rear (Hill climbing almost rivalled grand prix racing pre-war). It shouldn't really have been in the Toy Fair as a new car, it has been out for some time, but it is a super model, the best CMC have produced in detail and accuracy, until recently at least. I have the standard Grand Prix model here and have shown it to friends who really know their stuff and it has blown them away, they cannot fault it. You pay for that though, it's rather more expensive than the other CMC race cars from that era, over NZ\$400 where their others were around the \$300 mark, depending on your retailer.

CMC are made under license in China and I wonder if the big price increases Lee refers to indicate that manufacturing costs within China are on the rise? Surely not already? I will try and find out. CMC don't want their prices to go much higher or they will be priced off the plate in NZ (to convert pricetags on the websites from Euros to NZ\$'s, multiply by 2.3 or 2.4 as a rule of thumb. This makes the Maserati Birdcage NZ\$500 or more. I'm history at that price.

John Macgregor



Another deAgostini Rally New Zealand car

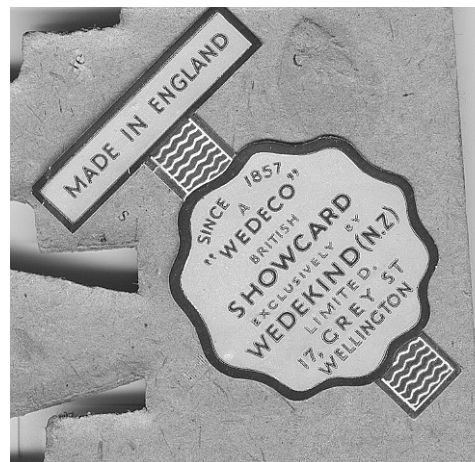
MARKETING MICRO MODELS

When I saw someone selling a Micro Models display stand on Trade Me; it reminded me that I had not written anything about marketing Micro Models.

With the original issues by Lincoln Industries, I don't think there was much shown publicly, although there must have been Trade catalogues. Does anyone know of any? The thing I remember is a wooden stepped stand painted the range colours of maroon and grey. This was usually placed on the counter to show the range off. I did see one such stand in the DIC long after the Micro Models had disappeared from the shops. I was not cheeky enough to try and obtain it then; much to my regret. Some years ago, a pressed cardboard sign featuring the Micro Models logo turned up at a second-hand shop in Petone. I believe some of their stock came from the Porirua rubbish tip! Anyhow, Clyde Wright managed to buy the sign and eventually it ended up in my collection. What is a bit surprising is that it has a label on the back which states that it was made in England for Wedekind NZ Ltd., Wellington. The sign itself is gold lettering with a maroon background to the 'MODELS' section.



All the original Micro Models came with a folded paper 'catalogue' included inside the box. They were simple line drawings of some of the range with their prices, but not their sales number. There were quite a few editions of these catalogues, but none showing the later issues, so the scheme must have been dropped at some stage.



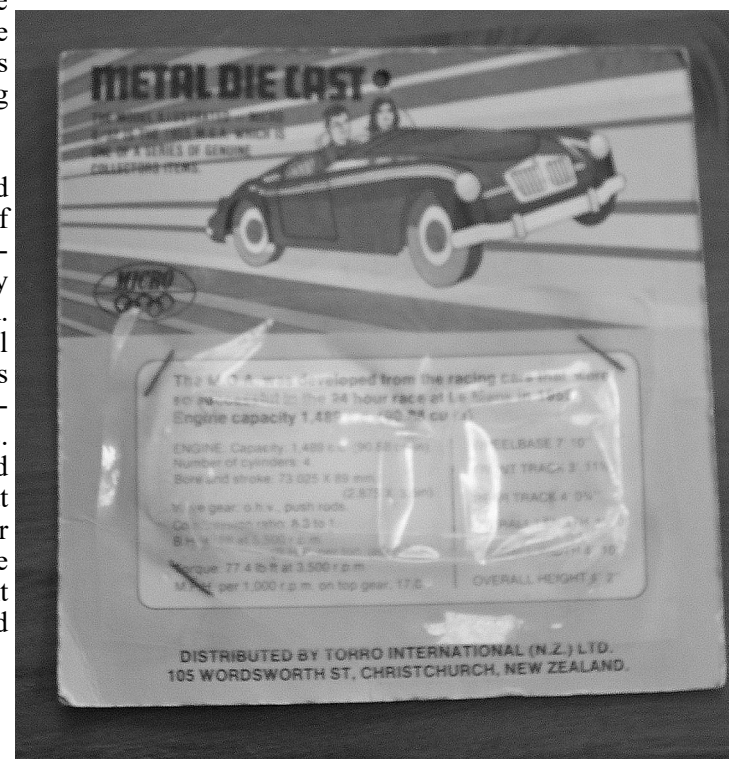
That is all I know about the Lincoln issue marketing.

When the Matai issues came on the market; I doubt if there was any special marketing at all. I recall seeing some being unpacked at a local toy shop (and that is a thing of the past), and they were simply in a cardboard box wrapped in newsprint.

Some more effort was made with the so called Torro issues as the cars were sold in bubble packs on a card header. The card was yellow with green and pink radiating stripes. There is a stylised illustration of an

M.G.A complete with windscreen and figures ~ neither of which were featured on the model! Also there was a Micro logo which was an oval split lengthwise with **MICRO** in Italics in the top half and what appears to be the Olympic five circle logo in the bottom half. No idea what the connection was and it is a wonder they got away with it. Maybe they could have claimed the circles were interlocking tyres?

The model was secured on the bottom half of the card with the bubble by being simply stapled to the card. Under where the model sat were printed details of the real car's technical specifications. The card was printed for the M.G.A, but other cars had their own insert over the standard description. At the bottom of the card was the wording;



‘DISTRIBUTED BY TORRO INTERNATIONAL (NZ) LTD. 105 WORDSWORTH ST. CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND.’ I wonder if any were sold outside New Zealand? The bigger items such as the Commer and Ford trucks were not boxed and sold loose.

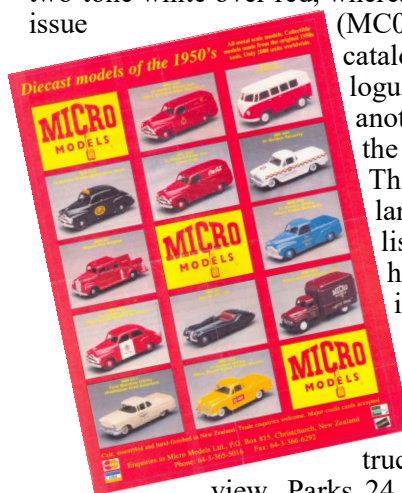
When the latest issues came out; more effort was put into marketing the range. There was a counter display unit similar to the original wooden one. This time it was made in card and folded up to make the stand. A backdrop slotted in behind the last shelf. It carried the Micro Models logo with a map of the world showing where little New Zealand was and line drawings of a VW Beetle and a Holden FJ van. Text “Collectable Diecast models of the 1950s. All metal scale models. Made from the original tools. Strictly Limited Quantities” and “Cast, assembled and hand-finished in New Zealand.” All the printing is maroon on a mottled fawn/



grey background. At the back of the stand, there was a ‘door’ into the area where the boxes could be stored. This display unit was not unique the Micro Models as I saw one used (with different printing) for a completely different product in a shop.

As well as the shop display, there was some advertising in selected magazines. These were several full page colour adverts in the US Collecting Toys magazine for instance

like all publicity material, for instance, MM406 Volkswagen Microbus is shown in two-tone white over red, whereas it only appeared in those colours as a Coca Cola issue (MC002) and there is a Holden FJ van (metal?) with the catalogue number MC503. Likewise with the catalogues (usually A4 colour pages), showed items like another two-tone VW Microbus (black over red) and the QATB FJ without tampo printed rear windows. The first sheet even had the range description in 6 languages on the back (French, German, Italian, English, Spanish and Japanese, so they must have had high hopes!). It is interesting to note that the heading of the text said ‘Micro Models “Memoree Line”



‘ Another sheet featured ‘promotionals’ including MM002 NZMVC 25th Anniversary, Arnott’s Biscuits (which is probably the unidentified one mentioned in MA 222 page 18), Coca Cola bottle truck all in red with a yellow load, Model Auto Re-

view, Parks 24 Hour Towing, Peters Ice Cream, Fernleaf Butter and a Micro Models FJ van (the rest were Internationals). me mock-ups were used and differed from the model actually issued.

As well as the reproduction boxes, there was a further attempt to modernise the product with firstly a vac-formed white plastic base and clear cover big enough to take the model and box beside each other (Solido also used this ploy with their reissue 100 series models). Later a ‘standard’ plastic base with a rigid clear cover was introduced similar to most modern models come with. Under the base is clearly marked Micro Models. There was also supposed to be an outer box with polished rimu base (or was it matai? Ha!) and clear cover.



There was a short lived Micro Models Collector’s Club but I don’t have many details on it.

Is that the end of the Micro saga? Who knows?

RLF

THAT'S NEWS? - THAT'S NEWS!

New kits courtesy of Maurice Boyles:

Revell-Monogram

- 1/8 scale Big T 3 in 1
- 1/24 scale Ferrari Scaglietta
- 1/24 scale 1966 Penski Racing Corvette
- 1/24 scale #17 Matt Kenseth DeWalt Taurus 2005
- 1/24 scale 1986 Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS Streetburner

The Tester Corporation

- 1/9 scale MV Augusta 4 cylinder 500cc motorcycle
- 1/24 scale Mercedes-Benz 230G Paris-Dakar

Italeri

- 1/24 scale U.S truck and 'Baywatch' trailer

Hasegawa

- 1/24 scale Subaru Impreza WRC 2005 Mexico winner

Accurate Miniatures

- 1/24 scale 1963 Corvette Grand Sport 1965 Sebring 12 hours
- 1/24 scale 1963 Corvette Grand Sport 1963 Mecon Racing Team, Nassau

MPC

- 1/25 scale Barris 'T' Buggy
- 1/25 scale Fire Fighter Mustang II Pro Stocker
- 1/25 scale Hurst Hemi under glass
- 1/25 scale Ford GT 90 Snapfast

AMT-ERTL

- 1/25 scale Street Custom Corvette 1976
- 1/25 scale 1961 Ford Ranchero Custom
- 1/25 scale 2004 Pontiac GTO
- 1/25 scale 2005 Ford GT
- 1/25 scale 1968 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28

TOYS BY INSTALMENTS

The dedicated collector will seek items for the collection in all sorts of places. It is amazing where one finds the some of the toys/models. One memory was spotting a Micro Model Humber Super Snipe in a photo in the paper of a crèche set up by a carpet shop, and then doing a deal with some brand new Matchbox Toys as a trade ~ and I didn't even have to buy some carpet. There are many stories like that over the 40 odd years I have been collecting. Mad? Keen? Bit of both I guess.

Since the advent of the Internet, things have become much easier. Indeed, I don't have to leave my computer chair. You can find them, bid on them, win them and pay for them all from the same seat. Lazy or what? Well no, because there is plenty of exercise with my job and work around the house ~ and walking the dog.

Anyhow, the point of this dissertation is that it pays to study the lots carefully and consider all the possibilities. Two recent examples may inspire. I have been looking for spare parts for Dinky Toys. Most of the white metal reproduction parts are badly made or too small (if a mould is cast from an original part; the reproduction is at least 10% smaller). Anyhow, I was able to obtain a back for a Leyland Octopus (#934) along with tin plate farm stake-back for a Leyland Comet. I already had a spare chassis for the Comet, so that completed the toy, but the Octopus back (it was not from a Foden as they were not painted mid green) was on spec. Just recently, I managed to secure an Octopus cab & chassis from Trade Me (the other parts came from the UK), so it has made up a complete model (except for the screw and spare wheel washer). Another Dinky resurrected!

Another on-going search is for parts of the Dinky 33 series mechanical horse. Not the usual sided trailer, but the flat trailer, dust cart, tanker, etc. I spotted a tatty 25 series wagon on eBay but it had a tank on the back, so I put a bid in hoping it was the one that actually goes with the 33f. I did win the Lot at quite a reasonable price and when it arrived, I was happy to see that it was the item I wanted. Just recently, I spotted another bit in a lot of 'junk' ~ well I hoped so as the picture and description was not too clear. Anyhow, the heap of stuff duly arrived and most of it was junk indeed, but also included was the elusive 33f trailer to go with the tank and a fairly good 25g pre-war trailer with thin axles and smooth hubs. Sometimes it takes years to match the correct parts together!

Collectors endeavour to make their collection complete. Most of the time, this is impossible as some items are so rare only the very fortunate or rich can own them, so why not have a reproduction as a gap filler? PP Copy Models have quite a range and the latest I have acquired is the legendary Dinky Vulcan ~ as a KIT! Well that consists of the main casting, 6 wheels, two axles and some decals. I think I can cope with that! The Vulcan has been deliberately given the wrong number (although it was the one initially planned by Meccano) so no fob offs can occur. PP Copy Models can be bought made up, but at a higher price.



Ron Ford

TAILPIECE



The back of the 'new' Matchbox Super Kings 1967 Pontiac GTO. You'll be glad to know that it is a limited edition of 1 of up to 20,500.

THAT'S (MORE) NEWS!

iXO 1/43 readymade diecasts:

CLC066	Dodge Dart
CLC067	ISO Isetta (BMW Under licence?) in white and orange
CLC086	Maserati Merak SS in red
CLC099	Ford Vedette in brown
CLC120	Austin Mini British Pavilion Show Car 1967
FER021	Ferrari Mondial cabriolet 1983 in red
RAM187	Subaru Impreza 2005 WRC Rally New Zealand.

Ford Family: Readymade:

#1 Grandson 1/1 scale fully detailed and working well!