

MINIATURE AUTO

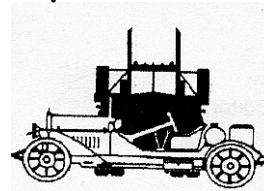
Issue 231

New Zealand

39th Year of publication



A publication for and by collectors and builders of model vehicles



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

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ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MA NOW!!

FROM THE PRESIDENTS—1

Greetings to all Members.....

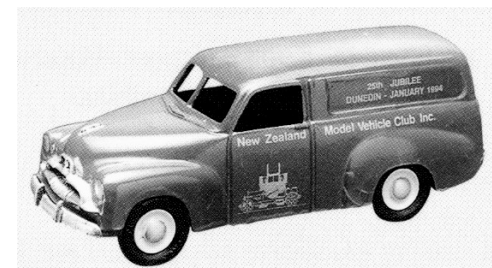
Well doesn't time just fly by when you're having so much fun? Perhaps maybe *fun* isn't the proper word, but in the short space of a few months my beloved and I have sold our house, bought another one, packed up our lives into cardboard boxes, shifted it all and unpacked everything again. I guess we've all done it but as you all know, we who have a certain affliction would maybe prefer to bury our heads in the sand rather than to pack up all our precious babies into their boxes and relocate them. You see, after a month, only now am I finally able to really focus on unpacking multiple cartons of models and setting them into cabinets again. A daunting task in anybody's language, but I guess that's the price we pay to enable us to find solace in a rewarding and unique hobby!

By the time you read this, the AGM will be well & truly over and with a few changes to boot. Congratulations to Howard Brockie on his ascension to the Presidents chair, so be sure to check out the report elsewhere in this issue. Thanks to all who attended the AGM, especially to John Henderson who travelled from Christchurch to attend.

As for me, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their support over the last few years. It has been enjoyable and I only hope I haven't bored anyone with my persistent requests for material for this great little magazine, but as you know a lot of little bits makes a lot of material for Ron. But, you definitely haven't heard the last from me, as I promise to furnish Ron with the odd article from time to time as I have done in the past.

Yours in Modelling

Shayne Spicer



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FROM THE PRESIDENTS - 2

At the end of the recent National AGM held in Dunedin Shayne Spicer came up to me and said Ron Ford requires something from the President for Miniature Auto. Do you want to do it or do you want me to. Took me about 2 seconds to say you do it as I'm not too good at that sort of thing and I like the majority of our members have tended to shy away from writing articles for Miniature Auto thinking others won't be interested in what I have to say or that others will already know that but I guess I don't really have that option any more.

So let me start by thanking Shayne for all his efforts over the last few years.

I have always been impressed by his positive outlook on all matters concerning the club and hobby. Hard shoes to fill and I hope I don't let you down but on behalf of all members thank you Shayne.

The other person that we all need to thank is Ron Ford for his never ending efforts in what I think is the most important and yet thankless job in the club. As editor it is Ron who I think keeps the club together rather than fragmenting into small separate groups throughout the country and yet very few of you (myself included) help him out. I believe Ron almost gave it away this year so please show him how much we need him by pledging your support and putting pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard. If I can do it any one can.

Well I'm sure you will be bored with me by now so on to the more interesting parts of the magazine and our wonderful hobby.

Cheers

Howard



EDITORIAL

Well the AGM is over for another year. Thanks to all those who attended to support the Club and congratulations to all the National Executive for their work in the past and in the future. It's hard to believe that it was the 39th AGM as it seems like 'yesterday' that Eric was stirring up support for the formation of a club. Obviously things have changed over the years and interest in the hobby has waxed and waned with more waning than waxing! It can't be 'other attractions' such as electronic games, etc., that has caused the downturn. There are still cars on the road, planes in the air and trains on the track (just) and people who are interested in such things would want models of them, so where are they? Are models too expensive now? Where are the 'bread and butter' cheap model/toys like Matchbox 1~75? Retailers would say that there is no demand and so stop stocking them and so people give up because they can't see them on the shelf. Yes I know Matchbox 1~75s are around along with their cousins; Hot Wheels (don't know why they bother with two ranges as they are all mixed and matched anyhow. Besides, do they still stick to 1~75 in numbering?). Anyhow there are very few models of 'real' on-the-street like dad and/or mum have got subjects. Personally, I think it all started to go awry when (cover your eyes Maurice!) they left realism behind and started to produce weird and 'wonderful' hot rods and custom cars. What do you think?

I guess you are tired of me nagging about making a contribution to MA. Therefore, here are some suggestions for topics you may be able to enlarge upon; some of which are 'fashionable' and others obscure.

- ◆ Motorbikes – Classic, Racing, Street, Choppers, etc.
- ◆ Farm Vehicles – tractors, harvesters, special use trailers, etc
- ◆ Small scale models – 1/72, 1/76, 1/87 (very popular in Europe)
- ◆ Large scale models – 1/18 and larger
- ◆ Single make collections – Volkswagen, Ford, Chevrolet, Holden
- ◆ Sports and racing cars
- ◆ Collection insurance
- ◆ Maintenance of your collection
- ◆ Display ideas
- ◆ Model reviews
- ◆ White metal and or resin models
- ◆ Film and TV models
- ◆ Circus models
- ◆ Trucking
- ◆ Construction – earth moving, cranes, etc.
- ◆ Buying and selling on the internet
- ◆ Many more???

More ideas next issue....

Happy modelling,

BRANCH NEWS

OTAGO BRANCH:

Model Expo 2008.

This was held in April. There was very little time to organise the event but thanks to the Otago Branch Executive and some members of the Branch; the event turned out very successful.

Door takings were down on last year but were still satisfactory considering the time frame we had to work in. Because of this, we did not have time to book space in the Star Weekender and I am sure this had a bearing on the door takings.

Entries into the Model Car Festival 2008 were on a par with last year and we had some new entries in this year's competitions.

Main themes for the display were **V8 Supercars**, **Military Vehicles** and **American Cars**. We had a great display of American Cars and V8 Supercars but unfortunately very few Military Vehicles.

All in all, it was a great display and well worth the effort that was put in by the members who participated.

Eric Brockie

SOUTHLAND BRANCH:

Our meeting was held in Gore on the 16th April with a wave of apologies and consequently; a small turnout.

The results of the motorbike raffle (thanks to the Ashley for his effort in selling all the remainder tickets) was; 1st, Marilyn Calvert and 2nd Ferg McDonald. Both these winners had relatively low numbered tickets indicating they were bought early in the raffle, perhaps at the Matura Works.

Competition results:

Kits (any sports orientated);

1st	Don Proud'jomme "Snake" dragster	Fred
2nd	1940 Ford	Alan

Readybuilt Large (any personalised vehicle);

1st	Team Kiwi Holden Commodore	Ashley
2nd	Munster Koach hot rod	Barry

Readybuilt Small (any competition related vehicle);

1st	1/43 Team Kiwi Holden Commodore	Ashley
2nd	Subaru Imprezza	Fred
3rd	1/72 Minis	

John Macgregor

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LETTER

How many Members bothered to read the message from the Editor in the last issue of Miniature Auto? If you didn't, I suggest you go and read it now.

Ron did not return his nomination form for the position of Editor for the 2008/2009 Financial Year and if you read Ron's editorial in the last magazine, you would have seen why. The Editor receives information from only one or two Members and this makes a very difficult job for the Editor to produce a balanced newsletter if he has no information to print.

At the AGM, there were no further nominations from the floor for the Editorial position, so Ron was again elected to the post. I have spoken to Ron since the AGM and he has told me he has nothing to print at that stage.

An Editor's job is to print a newsletter with information gathered from whatever source, but is **VITAL TO GET INPUT FROM MEMBERS AS WELL!**

Members may say that the newsletter is only for the DIECAST COLLECTOR, so if you are one of those and you are a KIT BUILDER, do not complain about it – put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) and write an article about your latest kit and for that matter, any kit you have built. I know that we have some great kit builders in the Club and I am sure that you could write a piece just as well as I can or anyone else in the Club. If you feel that you can't write the article, contact a member of your Branch to see if they can help.

To the Delegates; could I suggest that you contact some of your members and get an article or give them some help in writing an article for MA. For instance, I have this month phoned two members and put the pressure on them and they will write so I hope there will be two new contributors this issue.

I urge all Members to think very seriously about this situation before we have no MA or no Editor. The newsletter is the focal point for information to the Members so I urge all Delegates to write an article for the next newsletter and show Members of your branch what can be done.

Articles can be written on topics such as;

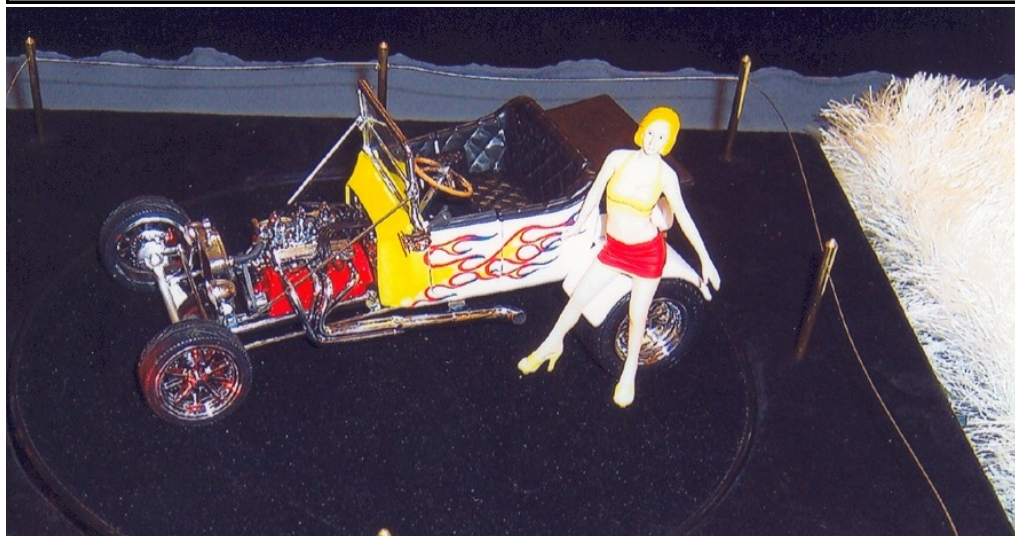
- ◆ Describe details of a kitset you have built recently or in the past
- ◆ A review of a diecast model or models that you have recently acquired
- ◆ Alterations you have made to a kitset or diecast model
- ◆ How you constructed one of your dioramas
- ◆ What made you start collecting or building models
- ◆ Why do you collect or build the type of model you prefer

Put your thinking cap on because I know you will be able to come up with something and I know that other members would like to read about it.

Eric Brockie.

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PHOTO PAGE—39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 2008 MODEL CAR FESTIVAL



Model Car Festival Road Show Diorama—owner Paul Ormond ^



Model Car Festival 1/18 and larger—owned by Bevan Wilson ^



^39th AGM Competitions Stu McEacher (left) and Shayne Spice (right) admire the entries



^ 39th AGM Competitions—some of the entries

WEBSITES OF MODEL VEHICLE INTEREST

Here are some Websites that may be of interest to modellers:

www.modelmasters.co.uk
www.metcalfemodels.com Model railway buildings etc
www.madformodels.ie Tractors models and real
www.dragonmodelsusa.com Kitsets military
www.hwjapan.com Japanese kits and diecasts
www.stevenshobby.com Kits USA
www.greatmodels.com Kits etc USA?
www.notjusttoys.co.nz Lower Hutt model shop
www.devondiecast.com Diecasts UK
www.ewacars.com Diecasts USA
www.tacot.com Continental diecasts
www.jmtoys.net White metal models
www.keithscars.co.uk diecasts
www.firebrigademodels.net Fire models of course
www.F1jc.com Formula 1 models
www.digbysmodels.co.uk Unusual diecast

Keith McLeod

Thanks Keith, I checked out most of them Not Just Toys (and trains) is off the air as it were at present but it should be back. Some have slow loading pages, but seem OK.

One of the latest First Gear 1/50th Ford F-800 articulators. As Evan points out, we need a



load for it!

39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The recent National AGM held in Dunedin attracted I think by memory 13 members from Dunedin and John Henderson who travelled from Christchurch. That may not sound like a great turnout I think the fact that we attracted over 30% of Otago Branch members is a result that many clubs would be proud of especially to an AGM

While I certainly can't say that I have attended all National AGM's I have been to many and yes this would have to be one of the lowest attendances I have ever seen by people from regions outside the hosting branch. So I ask the question why?

Is it the timing? The format of the weekend? The current price of travel or just that everything is running smoothly so no need to worry about attending? Or a mixture of all of the above?

Personally I don't think the timing makes any difference as you will either attend or you won't no matter what time of the year it is held.

As for the format they are all fairly similar and I think seems to work well but maybe you have other ideas. What format would encourage you to attend.

The last few years have seen club affairs run smoothly and there is no doubt you get bigger turnouts when people are upset but give me the smooth running any day.

So that leaves the cost of travel which I think may be one of the big factors and for that I have an idea. What if each Branch was to raise some funds during the year that were raised solely for the purpose of helping their members attend the National AGM. IF for instance \$200 was raised and 4 members attended they would get \$50 each but if only 2 went then they get \$100 each.

Wellington has asked to be considered for next years AGM and certainly deserves it's turn but it will make it harder for most of us so I set the following challenges.

1/ To Wellington set the date as soon as possible so people can keep a lookout for cheap airfares as we all know the earlier we book the cheaper the seat.

2/ For the Branches to raise a minimum of \$200 to be used to help their members attend.

The National AGM is an important part of the Club year and something to be looked forward to. Catching up with members from all over the country and competing against their models in what should be one of the highlights of the competition year makes for a great weekend. I'm sure those who have attended in the past will agree and if you haven't yet been to one then how about making Wellington next May your first of many.

Howard Brockie

KIT MANIA

Model collector and builders have one thing in common – they enjoy models. How they go about putting their collection together is their choice.

Having chosen to build plastic kitset models can give the builder a unique one-of-a-kind model. This is because colour schemes may be selected and applied by the builder and designs are unlimited. It would be very uncommon for two plastic kits to be finished identical, unless that was the way it was planned.

Some kitset builder/collectors like to build box stock models; that is assemble the model as it comes and then paint it the colour shown on the box lid for the model. My preference with plastic kitset models is to modify or alter the model in some way, which will give each model it's individuality and job satisfaction knowing how much thought and imagination, hours and patience one has put into the construction of the model whatever scale it may be.

Plastic kitsets are my first preference. When I started on kitsets and liking Hot Rods and Customs, there were no diecast like that at all; at least not in the larger scales. Matchbox and Hot Wheels and one or two others produced the odd one in smaller scales. American brands such as Pyro and Aurora produced some 1/32 scale Hot Rods but they were not available in New Zealand.

Gradually diecast productions of Hot Rods began to appear in larger scales and now we see multitudes of Hot Rods and Customs adorning the shop shelves. However, each new model is produced in the thousands – all in identical finish. This is where a diecast model collector can become creative and think outside the square. I know of a few model collectors, who, like myself want to add EXTRA DETAIL to a diecast mass produced model. Pull it apart and do what you like to it. Some would say it was sacrilege! Obviously those collectors aren't adventurous?

Add interior detail, suspension and chassis detail and maybe change the paint colour or add aftermarket stripes or patterns. I like to 'weather' diecast models. It's fun – try it.

Happy modelling

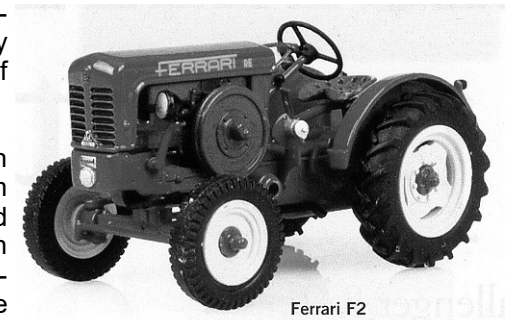
Maurice Boyles.

Adapted from the Otago Branch magazine.

MODEL TRACTORS AND OTHERS

F2 Ferrari (1950) as featured in New Zealand Classic Car March 2008. This is indeed the same **Ferrari Co.**, which produces ride-on lawn mowers (nothing to do with Enzo!). **Ferrari** tractors are alive and probably the only company to survive not being taken over by **SAME** or **LANDINI**. I did not know that this manufacturer went back to 1950 and probably earlier.

The F2 is from the period when Italy was beginning to recover from WW II (e.g. **Vespa**, **Lambrettas** and **Fiat 500s**). Looking at the F2 model, the small silver object is the generator for the lights on the tractor. There are V grooves in the flywheel as a power take-off for a saw-bench – mill – pump, etc. The engine is a single cylinder horizontal diesel 10 or 12 hp at a guess and started from the side with a crank handle. The original tractor is quite small by today's standards and reflects the size of 1950s Italian farms.



Ferrari F2

Photo courtesy New Zealand Classic Car magazine

Ferrari tractors came to New Zealand in small numbers when the kiwi fruit boom started. They were not highly regarded and had a bad reputation for vibration through the steering wheel. Ferrari tractors have made another come-back into the vineyard industry and are a thoroughly modern machine now.

Model tractor collecting doesn't seem to have a very high profile in NZMVC considering that what is available. There have been kits (especially for **John Deere**). Collecting diecast tractors seems to be based mostly on nostalgia. Model for **Caterpillar**, **International Harvester** and **John Deere** are probably the most expensive diecasts one can buy with prices up to \$500 and more!

We should classify finely detailed model tractors as 'scale models' to separate them from those that are reasonable to good look-alikes but don't have the detail of foot controls, gear levers etc., much of the latter was and is aimed at the toy market. Even **Fun Ho!** produced some recognisable tractors, although difficulty in producing wheels and tyres always seemed a problem. This is what disappointed me as a young boy but didn't stop them from the usual bashing in the sand pit! Some of them are now serving a third generation of toy bashers.

From the USA, **ERTL** is (was?) the most prominent scale tractor producer which sold in low volumes due to the price. These were usually only to be found in real tractor agents showrooms. They only produced models of American tractors (and trucks) and intended for the market there.

The same could be said for European produced scale tractors. **Siku** at one time only produced German tractors, but now cover Finland, France and Italy, which includes some obscure makes such as **Hanomag**, **Lanz** and **Renault**. These don't seem to sell well in NZ because they are not easily recognisable. **Bruder** have now joined the market with their large scale road graders, diggers, dump trucks. They are plastic but look good enough to collect as shelf models. The small scale and miniatures may be metal – I don't know.

There is now quite a move to make agricultural and industrial items for the model railway market and some of these are very good.

Historically from England, **Corgi Dinky** and a lesser variety from **Matchbox**; there have been a numbers of tractors, and from **Britains**, of course. These have been a cross-over between toy and scale model markets and are very collectable.



Out of all this there is a huge volume of add-on equipment that goes with the world of tractors, as in real life. A tractor on its own achieves nothing. An example of add-ons is in the business of building scale model trucks. An \$80 **Kenworth** or **Mack** with low loader kit always looks better with a **Caterpillar** bulldozer on it (for another \$80 of course!) and a log carrier always needs logs. Funnily enough, logs are the cheapest thing a modeller can produce – small branches off a tree or scrap timber make very realistic loads for a truck.

Now back to models tractors; we have to mention China and the tractors coming from **Universal Hobbies** are absolutely fabulous and anyone feeling a bit jaded should have a look at these. The prices for the 1/16 scale may make one choke on their chewing gum, but there are the 1/43s at \$30 which brings us back to the F2 Ferrari which isn't from Enzo!

Evan Blanch.

Great stuff – thanks Evan – a welcome new contributor with a new slant on things. I wonder if the Corgi 1/43 tractors will still appear after the Hornby buyout. More from Evan next issue with discretion of some actual model tractors.

The big news for the diecast world is the Hornby PLC purchase of Corgi. Hopefully, things will settle down as far as ownership of Corgi goes. It is quite ironic in a way that Hornby should take over Corgi – well at least by name as they were arch rivals back in the 50s and 60s. The ownership record of all the major players has more convolutions than an American soap opera. Hornby now own most of the major 'names' in the hobby world at least in the UK. Scalextric, Lima, Rivarossi, Arnold, Jouef, Pocher, Airfix, Humbrol and now, presumably Bassett-Lowke that Corgi owned. Apparently Hornby has sold Meccano to Siku to finance the Corgi deal – more convolutions!

This leads to an interesting situation at present as Hornby's SkaleAuto range is made by Oxford Diecasts, so I assume that arrangement won't last for long as they would be made by the opposition!

The second-half 2008 Corgi Catalogue has been cancelled and I guess it will be a little time before things get sorted out.

It is good to see that Oxford Die-casts are now being imported to New Zealand by South Island Wholesalers. Best of all, the prices are reasonable; being about the same as they are in the UK, using a straight £ to \$NZ conversion. See the listing for the new models expected from Oxford Die-casts.

New Kits by courtesy of Maurice Boyles;

REVELL/MONOGRAM 1/25 scale:

1941 Chevrolet pickup
1948 Ford convertible
Chrysler 300C Hemi SRT8
1991 Pontiac Firebird
1987 Buick Grand National
1955 Chevrolet Pro Sportsman
1994 Chevrolet Impala SS
1967 Corvette Stingray Sport Coupe
1949 Mercury Custom Coupe
1966 Chevrolet El Camino Special Edition
1937 Ford Coupe Street Rod (1/24 scale)
1955 Chevrolet Sportsman Streetburner

REVELL/MONOGRAM other scales:

Plymouth 426 Hemi Cuda 1/6 scale
Ford 427 engine 1/6 scale
Gambler custom chopper 1/12 scale
Fireball custom chopper 1/12 scale.

Oxford Diecast:

1/43 Oxford Automobile Company
(Oxford Die-cast)

Daimler DS420 Limousine
Daimler DS420 Hearse
Jaguar MkVIIM

1/76 Oxford Haulage Company (Oxford Die-cast)

DAF tractor unit
Nooteboom heavy haulage trailer

1/76 range (Oxford Die-cast)

Bedford J2 ambulance
Bedford CA milk float
Bedford TK fire engine
Scammell Scarab – mechanical horse, dustcart, flat bed and box van trailers.

NEW MODEL PHOTOS:



Small Siku St.John's NZ ambulance



Oxford Die-Cast 1/43 Land-Rover Mk.1



Oxford Die-cast 1/43 TX1 Taxi



Toys from The Warehouse! < >



Wanted wanted Wanted wanted Wanted wanted

Kitset News,
Diecast News.
Any Hobby News whatsoever!