

MINIATURE AUTO

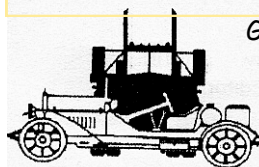
Issue 241

New Zealand

42nd year of publication



Scratch built 1:24 London NS Type Bus
Graham White. Photo by courtesy Model Collector UK



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

CLUB DIRECTORY

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

President: **Howard Brockie**, 11 Brockville Road, Kaikorai Valley, DUNEDIN 9010
Phone (03) 476 2372

Vice President: **Graham Patterson**, 103 Musselburgh Rise, Musselburgh, DUNEDIN 9013
Phone (03) 455 0600

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

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

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: **Tim Babb**, 4 Cashmere Grove, BLENHEIM 7102
Phone (03) 578 2634

Canterbury
Otago: **Carville Stewart**, PO Box 42 SEFTON 7445, North Canterbury
Graham Patterson, 103 Musselburgh Rise, Musselburgh, DUNEDIN
Phone (03) 455 0600

Southland: **Graeme Robertson**, 37 Vyner Road, Otatara RD 9 INVERCARGILL
Phone (03) 213 1354

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		nzmvcwgtn@nzmvc.in-newzealand.com

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

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 by the Club and/or the Executive.

ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MA NOW!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well Xmas is over and long gone and I hope Santa was kind and delivered lots of models. And here we are half way through February already. Only 3 months to go till the AGM in Invercargill. The date is I believe May 21 which will hopefully be confirmed elsewhere in this issue. So plenty of notice for you to start and make plans to attend.

But before that we all have our local branch AGM's which we can attend and I encourage you all to do so. I know you all think but I don't want to go on the committee but I ask why not. Fresh blood and ideas on a committee is always good for any branch and why leave it up to the same few all the time. Like anything in life the more you put into something the more you get out of it so try and you might find you get even more enjoyment out of this great hobby of ours.

Remember also we need nominations for the positions on the National Executive. Branch AGM is a great time to sort out your nominations and have your say.

Well enough of the preaching and pleading so will sign off before I send you all to sleep.
Cheers

Howard

Our Cover:

Former NZMVC member Graham White's London NS type Bus scratch built and featured in the June 2011 issue of Model Collector (UK).

Published with permission of the Editor Model Collector and Graham White.



IN THIS ISSUE:

From the President	3
Otago Tram Layout	7
Modelling with Maurice	10
Boxing Clever?	12
News	14

Branch News	4
Otago Tram Layout photos	8
Carville's Capers	11
Brand Loyalty?	14

BRANCH NEWS

Southland Branch Newsletter for January 2011.

Cor, February already! Where's January gone and more to the point I'm not over Christmas yet!

The last meeting was held at Russell Corbett's with attendance of 7 members. Apologies were received from Bob Robertson.

We say farewell to Roger Larsen who has tendered his resignation. Roger has done a fair bit for our club over the years, both in the background and front line. We will miss him, however knowing Roger he will be keeping in touch.

The National AGM will be held on Saturday 21st May 2011 at the Richmond Grove Church Hall on the corner of Yarrow and Margaret Streets (same place as last AGM in Invercargill). Keep an eye on Miniature Auto and for information from Eric.

Competition Results: [Public Transport Vehicles]

Kitsets:	No Results Provided
Diecast Large:	1st Russell Corbett - O B Bedford
	2nd - No Results Provided
	3rd - No Results Provided
Diecast Small:	1st Graeme Robertson - Bendy Bus
	2nd Russell Corbett - O B Bedford
	3rd Russell Corbett - Corgi Bus

Next Meeting is at Graeme Robertson's on Wednesday 16th February at 8pm. Competitions for that meeting are "Pre 1950 American" for all classes.

Fred Hawkes.

Southland Branch Newsletter for February 2011.

Well 2011 is marching on (sorry about the pun!) and the evenings are closing in. Here I am writing this with the light on when a couple of weeks ago I wouldn't have needed it.

Our thoughts this time go out to the people of Christchurch and surrounds and we hope everyone here is doing their bit to help.

The Branch AGM is on Wednesday 16th March at the Southland Fire Museum at 8pm. Get your heads together and decide who you want in the various offices. I will not be available for Chairman or Newsletter Editor. Competition for the AGM night will be Open Wheel competition Vehicles.

The last meeting was held at Graeme Robertson's with attendance of 6 members. Apologies were received from John MacGregor.

MA241 p4

Competition Results: [Pre 1950 American Vehicles]

Kitsets:	No Results Provided
Diecast Large:	1st Graeme Robertson - 1938 Mack Fire Truck
	2nd Russell Corbett - 1941 Packard
	3rd= David Peipi - Chevrolet
	3rd= Barry McCorkindale - Mercury
Diecast Small:	1st Graeme Robertson - Hudson Italia
	2nd Russell Corbett - 1947 Cadillac
	3rd Fred Hawkes - Dodge 6x6 Army Lorry

The raffle for the Datsun 240Z has been drawn and won by Paul Thomnpson - good on you Paul. The next raffle is for a 1932 Ford Roadster Street Rod - \$2 per ticket and drawn as usual once all tickets sold.

Fred Hawkes

Southland Branch Newsletter for March 2011.

The branch AGM was held on Wednesday 16th March 2011 at the Southland Fire Museum. Six members attended and apologies were received from Russell Corbett, Owen Dickson and Barry McCorkindale.

The Officers for the following year are:

Chairman:	Graeme Robertson
Delegate:	Graeme Robertson
Secretary:	John Macgregor
Treasurer:	Fred Hawkes

The Newsletter Editor will continue to be Fred Hawkes and the Competitions & Displays Officer is to be whoever is available or can be coerced.

Trophies were awarded as follows:

Challenge Trophy:	R Corbett
Hawkes Trophy:	R Corbett
Big Mac Trophy (kitset):	Not awarded

Competition Results: [Open Wheeled Competition Vehicles]

Kitsets:	1st Fred Hawkes - Mongoose Dragster
Diecast Large:	1st Graeme Robertson - McLaren
	2nd Paul Thompson - Renault
	3rd Not Issued
Diecast Small:	1st Paul Thompson - F1/2000 Ferrari
	2nd Graeme Robertson - McLaren
	3rd Fred Hawkes - 1961 Ferrari F1

Fred Hawkes

MA241 p5

OTAGO FEBRUARY 2011.

For the first meeting of 2011, we had a great turn out of members with plenty of talking and it was quite late at night before we all departed.

Our Sydney member, Darryn Andrews, was over for a brief one week visit and was able to make time to attend our Club night. Darryn, when living in Dunedin, was a very active member of the Otago Branch Executive for many years.

A large number of models were on display for the competitions, so there was plenty to judge in the monthly competitions which were for V8 Supercars and any Australian made vehicle or articulated trucks.

Results from the competitions were as follows:

Diecast	1 st	Kevin Horne	1948 Diamond T
	2 nd	Graham Patterson	Holden Monaro
	3 rd	Marcus Moni	Ford Mainline Ute
Kitset	1 st	Shane Arthur	Ford tow truck
	2 nd	Shane Arthur	Ford pick-up Blazer
	3 rd	Shane Arthur	Ford delivery van

Shane, for the members who have not met him, is an avid kitset builder. He also sees a lot more fun chopping up a model to produce what he wants as a finished replica. He has, like Maurice Boyles, produced some great models.

It was good to see a great number of kitsets on the table this month because, as most members know, the number of kitsets now in our competitions is much lower as many of our members have moved into diecast models.

Our winner for the members' choice trophy was Graham Patterson with the Holden Monaro. Graham also won the 'lucky door prize' which is the third time in a row that he has won!

The competitions on our Club nights are set out this way. We advise members of the themes for both diecast and kit builders. A member or visitor who has not entered the competitions will judge both classes and the winner of each receive a trophy that they hold until the next meeting. In addition, all members present vote for their favourite model and the one with the highest points gets to hold the Members' Choice trophy until the next Club night.

OTAGO MARCH 2011.

Following the Branch AGM we held the March Club Night and again there was a great variety of models on display and entered into the competitions which was for Sports Car or Convertible model.

Results:

1st	Graham Patterson	Austin Healey
2nd	Shayne Spicer	E-Type Jaguar
3rd	Marcus Moni	Chevrolet Pro Rodz

Kitset	1 st	Shane Arthur	Chevrolet Camaro (Revell)
	2 nd	Joshua Kelly	Chevrolet Camaro (AMT)
	3 rd	Shane Arthur	Dodge (Revell)

We had a good number of kitset entries this month, which is good to see. Shane Arthur, who has re-joined the Club, is a kit builder exclusively and does not collect diecast models. The members' choice for the night went to Marcus Monis's model of a Chevrolet by Pro Rodz and the 'lucky door prize' went to Graeme O'Brien.

I apologize if I have spelt Mr. Monis's name wrongly as there were two different spellings of 'Marcus' or 'Marcos' in the report. Ed.

Eric Brockie

LESTER HOPKINS'S TRAM LAYOUT

The Otago Branch was lucky enough to be able to visit model builder extraordinaire Lester Hopkins's display . Lester, would in my opinion, is a top modeller and probably on world standards. The trams and cable cars are all scratch built as are all the buildings, the pram, push bike, oil drum, catenary power poles and the tram rails themselves.

Power for the trams comes from the overhead wires (catenary) and is fed down the tram poles to the electric motors that propel them along. The whole system is built to 1:32nd scale.

All buildings are accurately built to this scale, although if the finished product does not look right, Lester will alter it until it does. Almost all of the models of the houses and commercial buildings are modelled on those that exist in the North East Valley suburb of Dunedin which is where Lester spent most of his childhood days.

Lester goes out and takes photographs and measures the buildings accurately before he starts to build any of the models. I have looked at Lester's models many times and I could not find anything that I could say was a fault with the buildings on the layout.

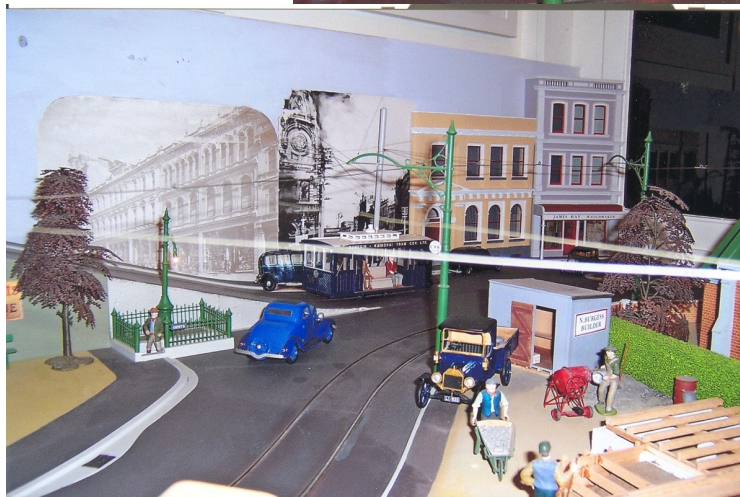
By coincidence, Lester's grandfather and my grandfather worked together as Motorman and Conductor on the Dunedin Tramways.

Eric Brockie

Pictures over page.....>>>>>>>>>>>



Lester Hopkin's
Tram Layout



Otago Branch Visit



MODELLING WITH MAURICE

That day the earth moved – we wish Christchurch a speedy recovery in the coming months. The images we've all seen via TV and newspapers has been incredible. And all too soon, Japan had a much worse fate caused by similar circumstances. The power of nature is truly a force to be respected.

Has anyone seen the amazing scratch built 1:12 scale metal 1932 Ford 'Orange Crate' model by Grahame Barry? It was featured in full colour in the February issue of the NZ Hot Rod magazine. 740 hours of construction – a model worthy of display in any modellers' collection.

There haven't been any modelling tips for a while and although I specialise in plastic kits; many tips could be applied to other models.

One of the most glaring faults on a model is the chrome plated wheels. They can make or break the model's appearance. For 'mag' wheels, a coat of flat grey will enhance the beauty and take away that otherwise 'toy look' found with model chrome. Alternatively, India Ink or thinned flat matt black can be flowed into the crevices of the wheel giving it a deeper look.

Along with the wheels, tyres need some detailing at times as often tyres are quite black with a shiny appearance. Tyre tread can be painted with flat grey or tan and flow it into the tread pattern, then lightly sand the surface,

I have on occasion lightly sanded the side walls for the weathered look. For smooth tyres, a light sanding removes that shiny appearance too. Sanding also helps to disguise those tyres that have a seam around the centre of the two halves. Sanding also improves rubber tyres.

With plastic kits, almost each build-up is a unique item with no other 'look-alikes'. With the few diecast I have in my collection in the larger scales, I like to individualise them to set them apart from all others. Add some paint detail, sand the tyres – it doesn't take much effort!

Maurice Boyles

In MA 240, Evan Blanch wrote about odd-ball models and in particular, Hot Wheels 1963 Ford Mustang concept car. Now Mattel have produced another Mustang Concept car from 1963 which has most of the features of the production model.



CARVILLE'S (SHAKY) CAPERS

It is difficult to adequately describe what has happened to my city in the latest earthquake. Although of lesser magnitude on the Richter Scale than last year's, it was so shallow, so close to the city and caused such high ground acceleration that the destruction was very much greater.

The city where I grew up, the city in which I have spent most of my life, and the city that many of you will know has changed for ever. This time my home and collection were spared. Sefton was shaken, there are a few hairline cracks, but we lost no services and no models decided to emulate airplanes. However, I was in my classroom on the third floor of our Science Block having just finished morning lessons when the quake struck. A couple of boys and I very quickly went under the desks. The shaking and the noise, not just the accompanying rumble, but also the noise of apparatus and chemical falling to the floor added to make the experience terrifying.

Our recent experiences have made every Christchurch citizen an expert in estimating the magnitude of an earthquake. I went to the next classroom to check that a colleague was all right, and we agreed that it was an 8. A quick glance around as the building was exited showed gaping holes in concrete block walls. The school was gathered on the front quadrangle where rolls were checked, and it was found that all boys were accounted for and uninjured, despite some having run the gauntlet between buildings from which masonry and bricks had been falling. It was a blessing, as the damage to some building was considerable, and more occurred as the aftershocks rolled in. Bricks and stonework continued to fall as two buildings seemed determined to shake themselves to pieces. Frightened parents began to arrive to collect their sons, and we began to learn about the extent of the damage the city has suffered – "the Cathedral spire is down", "the Provincial Council Chambers are down", "there have been fatalities".

After some time I walked to Upper Riccarton to check on my family, and found them emotionally shaken, but safe and undamaged. Television pictures were beginning to show collapsed buildings in a ruined city. I was able to return to the central city, collected my vehicle and drove to North Canterbury. I collapsed in front of the television and cried.

Carville Stewart

BOXING CLEVER?

Recently I saw an empty Dinky Toy box on eBay for a whopping £1,200 (NZ\$2,600) 'Buy It Now' price. Naturally it did not sell, so the seller has put it up again with a £1,600 price! Well it was virtually mint (the box) 505 first series Foden flat deck with chains, but still it is hard to reconcile as I've always been surprised at what is demanded for a bit of cardboard. 'Evaluators' give a 'value' of 40% to 60% of the mint/boxed price they quote what to box is worth in the 'mint and boxed' price.



When I started collecting; I simply threw the boxes away which I think most buyers would have done in those days. They had no more significance than the wrapping on a bar of chocolate! Still, in a way, that has made the remaining boxes so much rarer, so I am partly responsible for the ridiculous situation as it exists now!

The fact that annoys me is that boxes are very easy to reproduce and although they may not be 100%, they do look the part. The toys/models they contained on the other hand, are quite difficult to reproduce, although Atlas Editions (Mattel/Norev) are making a good job of the 'new' French Dinky Toys (and now English Dinky Toys), but that takes the resources of a multi-national company to achieve. White metal copies are OK but 'give the show away' when handled (much heavier of course).

Not only are the replacement box suppliers making copies of originals (some are atrociously bad, though), they are producing some ‘never was’ boxes with an example shown below: (The recolour #934 Octopus always had a box illustrating the yellow and green version)

Ron



BRAND LOYALTY?

Not long after I started collecting in earnest (over 50 years ago, cripes!), I decided it would be a good idea to keep a list of the models I had in the collection. I decided the best way of listing was by the manufacturer (Dinky Toys, Corgi Toys, Solido, etc.). To this end, I obtained a hard covered exercise book and duly set about the task, using one page per make. Obviously there were problems with this, especially since I had not firmly decided on a route to take collecting-wise. Many cross outs, alterations additions and page overflows meant the record was a mess in no time. Soon I was able to switch to loose-leaf folders and use a typewriter which also wasn't very satisfactory as any changes and redo's meant the whole page had to be redone and since the typewriter was electronic and used expensive printing tapes usually meant it was quite a mess before it was redone. Also as an amateur typist, many misprints occurred – White Out and erasing tapes helped but still very messy.

Then along came home computers and that solved the listing problem, although I still needed hard copies which were kept in those self-same loose-leaf folders. Problem solved? More or less but there were still quite a few reprints because of changes

Then another problem arose – take overs and ‘brand buying’. This meant that the neat compartmenting of ‘model makes’ was at an end. Just about all the major brands have been taken over by other companies – usually by Mattel! An instance is Dinky Toys (Meccano) who ran into difficulties in the mid 60s. Tri-Ang stepped in, then when they got into difficulties; it was Airfix’s turn and eventually, just the brand was sold to Universal, the then owner of Matchbox. They did have a few stabs at marketing Dinky, the first with renamed Matchbox Toys and some other Hong Kong diecasts, then came the Dinky Collection which at first went well, but Universal sold out to Tyco who didn’t seem to be interested in either Dinky or Yesteryears and started to mix and match them. Then Mattel took over and now seem to be licensing the Atlas Editions issues. How Norev fits into this, who knows? The same story could be applied to not only metal diecast toys but plastic kits and even real cars makes.

The problem now was that how the models should be categorised. Taking the Dinky Toy instance again, while under Meccano ownership, they would have their own section. When Tri-Ang took over; should any new releases be included as an extension of Spot On? Then Airfix? There isn't any problem with the Universal Matchbox issues as they would have their own category. The new Atlas Editions are they Mattel or Norev? By the way, Norev will be issuing the same models under their CIJ brand ownership. See; the complications go on and on – more complex than the plot of a Soap Opera!



Ron



Or Airfix
Or Universal
Or Tyco?
Or Mattel?

THAT'S NEW? - THAT'S NEWS!

Oxford Diecast

1:76

Armstrong Siddeley Hurricane convertible

Ford Consul mk.I (1970s)

Austin Mini

Renault Dauphine

Wolseley 18/85 Series III

NFS Coventry Climax fire pump trailer

Ford Transit 2000

AEC Matador army

1:43

Bentley Continental S1

1:148

Burlington Sunsaloon bus

Citroen 2CV Charleston

VW Beetle 'Herbie'

1:72 Aircraft

De Havilland Rapide

Specials

Top Gear "Crossing the Channel" Challenge vehicles (3x)

Citroen 2CV Charleston

Volkswagen Golf GTI mk.I

BMW Mini

VW Beetle "Herbie"

Bedford WGL Fire

David Brown tractor 1950

Farm trailer set

Bedford MWD army

King George V Daimler

Plaxton Elite coach

Double deck tram

de Havilland Tiger Moth

Britains 1:32

42651 International 3588 2+2 tractor

42490 International 956XL tractor

42491 Case International 1056XL tractor

43553 Case International 600 4wd Stieger tractor

42552 Case International 600 4wd Stieger Quadtrac tractor

42626 Case International 350 4wd Stieger tractor

42628 New Holland T9.670 tractor

42629 New Holland T9.390 tractor

42650 John Deere 8360R tractor

42702 JCB 3CX Backhoe Loader

42556 JCB TM 310S articulated loader

42701 Kane 16-tonne grain trailer

42700 Kane 16-tonne silage trailer

42732 Land Rover Defender 90 with canopy

42723 Sheep trailer

42722 ATV trailer

42724 General purpose trailer

42715 Cattle feeder set

42704 Aberdeen Angus cattle

42733 Dual purpose building

42734 Livestock building



42706 Bobcat E-35 compact excavator

42707 Land Rover Defender

42709 Cattle trailer

42711 John Deere Gator

42710 John Deere baler

42708 Polaris ATV

IXO 1:43

Ford Sierra Cosworth Gendarmarie Grande-Ducale

Morris Oxford Series III



Ford Granada 1982

Jaguar Mk. II

SEAT Toledo series II

Koenigsegg CC8S

Daimler Double Six 50

Lagonda LG6 Drophead

Voisin C28 Ambassade

Minerva AL sedan

Simca Ariane 8

Mitsubishi Gallant VR4

SEAT Ibiza Cupra

Mercedes 130 (W23)



Maserati Quattroporte Ontario Provincial Police
Bedford TJ coal truck (Atlaya partwork)

It is rumoured that some of the 'new' Corgi Vanguards, especially the Colin McRae memorial releases are actually made by IXO.

**42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NEW ZEALAND MODEL VEHICLE CLUB (INC).**

Saturday 21st May 2011
Richmond Grove Hall
Yarrow Street
Invercargill



All the fun of the AGM competitions!
Come one, come all!!

Wanted wanted Wanted wanted Wanted wanted
Kitset News,
Diecast News.
Any Hobby News whatsoever!