

MINIATURE AUTO

Issue 243

New Zealand

43rd year of publication

Oxford Diecast's new King
George V Daimler 1:43



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

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ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MA NOW!!

EDITORIAL

It has been a long time 'between drinks' for which I apologise. I am supposed to be semi-retired but I seem to be busier than ever and when I am not busy, I don't seem to have the energy to tackle the editing of *Miniature Auto*. Anyone want a job?

I really appreciate those Members who have taken the time to write something for *Miniature Auto*. Keep up the good work. I also apologise for some missing items as I use a different computer for e-mails etc. and it is amazing how soon things 'get buried', so if you have sent something and it has not appeared in *Miniature Auto*, let me know.

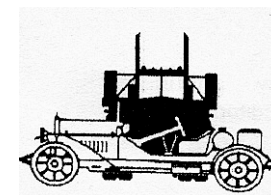
Recently there was a big toy auction in Auckland—a single collector's estate lot. The vendors did not set any reserves for a sure sale. All the items were diecast by various makers, with most being mint and boxed. A total of \$108,000 was achieved at hammer fall (remember there are expenses to come out of that) but in world standards, the prices realised were pretty low. Highlights include 4 figure prices for some mint boxed Australian Micro Models. However, the point to make is that there was apparently no firm plan as to what should happen to the collection in these circumstances.

I talked to a model shop owner (they are getting few and far between!) and he reckoned that 1:43 scale was 'dead' for models. This is an impression that has been coming from a company in the UK, but other hand, other makers are moving in to 1:43 such as Green Light and Pocketbond. A well known UK retailer has modified their Web site to cater for the 'most popular section—1:43 cars and vans' so I wonder what the research quality of that maker is.

Another thing the shop keeper said was that there is a resurgence in plastic kit interest. I am not surprised as the price of ready made diecasts (like the 1:72 aircraft) seems to be skyrocketing. A good comparison of 'money saving' is the Sunstar versus Revell 1:24 AEC Routemaster bus with the plastic kit being a third the price of the diecast one—and then there is the fun of building it!

Happy modelling all.

Ron



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BRANCH NEWS

OTAGO:

February Meeting (Report by Eric Brockie):

As usual, the completions were for the latest model you got for Christmas (should you be so lucky).

I was still in Alexandra at this stage so members only received a one page hand written notice for the month. I came down from Alexandra for the Club night and picked up Evan Blanch on the way through. After the meeting, several members went to Burger King for a meal and the Evan and I returned to Alexandra, arriving back at 2am on the Thursday morning (*Now, that's dedication! - Ed.*).

Competition results for the night were;

DIECAST:

1st	Evan Blanch	Solar powered model car
2nd	Kevin Horne	1959 Cadillac
3rd	Marcus Moni	1955 Chevy Tow Truck

KITSET:

1st	Shane Arthur	Chevrolet El Camino
2nd	Shane Arthur	1959 Dodge
3rd	Shane Arthur	Thunderbird NASCAR

MEMBERS' CHOICE:

Evan Blanch'	Solar powered model car
Winner of the Lucky Door prize;	Kevin Horne

The Solar powered 'model car'. I am not convinced that it looks like a model car. However, it did have 4 wheels and a solar power unit on the roof! I was fortunate enough to see this model in Alexandra where Evan put it down outside in the sun and in only a few seconds, the model took off at quite a speed.

SOUTHLAND:

Branch News March 2012.

Now that March has arrived all members' thoughts should turn to the Branch AGM.

We had to to have a quick change of venue for our February meeting due to Mrs MacGregor taking ill and we wish her all the best. Many thanks to Paul Thompson for stepping up at short notice and hosting the meeting and thanks to Mrs Thompson for the supper.

We did things a bit backwards this time, we started by going and viewing the collection first and made use of the daylight and had the meeting afterwards. Our February Branch meeting had five members turn up (P Thompson, R Robertson, O Dickson, D Peipi and F Hawkes), as well as an ex-member, Alan Graves. Apologies were received from J MacGregor, G Robertson, B McCorkindale and G Peterson.

Competition Results: [Your Favourite Model]

Kitsets:	1st Owen Dickson	1940 Buick - Modified
Diecast Large:	1st Alan Graves	2007 Holden
	2nd P Thompson	Ford Model T
	3rd Fred Hawkes	1957 Mercedes 300SL
Diecast Small:	1st R Robertson	Yorkshire Steam Wagon
	2nd Alan Graves	Mk 5b Spitfire
	3rd David Peipi	Rolls Royce Fire Engine

Fred Hawkes.

MODEL SCRUTINEER

Oxford Diecast seem to be moving in a new direction with their 1929 Royal Daimler of King George V and the formerly released Austin Low Loader Taxi and the soon to be released Austin 12/4 of the 1920s. See the front cover for the picture of the model.

The car is cast in three main parts—guards and chassis, body below the waist and body above the waist. The first two are in metal and the top is clear plastic. The details such as the door frames, window frames and roof sections are either painted on or tampo printed, giving a neat effect.

Very few plated parts are used as the original was quite sombre, especially with the black radiator shell. 'Brass' parts include the headlight bezels and door handles, otherwise, it is the St. George mascot on the radiator cap that shines out in chrome.

The wheels are unusual being moulded in 2 layers of clear plastic with the cast in spokes being picked out in black. Don't think it is successful as in some lights, they look like plain disc wheels.

Ferrari Part Work models @ 1:43:



Not a particular model this time but a general review of the current series available at book shops (etc.).

They are all very well detailed with many parts picked out in suitable colours such as the cockpit interior and engine bay on this 360 Spider.

The whole gamut of Ferraris is available from F1, Sports Racing to street cars.

Ron Ford

BRISBANE MODEL SHOPS

One day in late September saw my good wife browsing the web and looking at 'grab-a-seat', when she saw cheap flights to Brisbane for October. As we both have our birthdays in October, she made the suggestion that that could be our presents to each other. When I looked at the dates and saw that it coincided with the Gold Coast 600 V8 Supercar race, then as you can imagine it took very little convincing! Luckily Leanne also enjoys the V8's, so tickets were booked and off we went.

We were only there for 6 days and 3 of those were being spent at the racing, so not a lot of time for model shopping, but we did manage some so a quick breakdown of what we found:

First up was Gateway Models at Wynnum. Hardest part of this one was finding it. We ended up parked right outside before we realised we were there. Located in an old petrol station, that also now sells batteries, there was only a small sign indicating the model sales. Once inside, there were models everywhere, but also lots of dust and dirt. You need to allow plenty of time however, as for the collector, this is the shop to go to with hundreds and hundreds of models of all shapes and sizes and lots of obsolete models to be found.

Next up was Motor Focus at Stones Corner. This was more presentable with far more helpful staff, but the range of models was typical of lots of retailers with nothing out of the ordinary. Lots of V8 and race cars in all scales and a small range of kitsets, but no bargains to be found. Still worth a visit and a couple of great race simulators to fill in time with.

Toyworld is up the top end of the Queen St mall in central Brisbane has a good range of both diecast and kitsets as well as radio control. They seem to also specialise and there is a good selection of film and movie vehicles.

These were the only shops we got to and as I still had the racing to come and no bargains were found, so I decided to save my money as there was bound to be some team clothing to be brought.

So off to the racing and, to my surprise, no clothing appealed this time, but I did nearly buy a replica Peter Brock race suit in presentation box for \$A199. A complete semi-trailer was set up just for Peter Brock merchandise and all this 5 years after he passed away.

The other big surprise was found at a massive marquee set up by Sherriff's Mini Cars from Sydney. Models galore of all shapes and sizes with lots of bargains to be found. A range of 1:18 V8 supercars at \$125 each or 2 for \$200; saw the card come out and the Ingall/Morriss Supercheap VE Commodore and Richards/Skaife Winfield VR Commodore complete with a set of 'Winfield' decals for me to apply were purchased. Paul Dumbrell's Autobarn Commodore in 1:18 was also for sale at \$70 each or 2 for \$100.

This outlet probably had the biggest range of models and bargains of all. Who would ever have thought that I would find the best bargains at an event rather than a shops?

There are other shops over there, but unfortunately time did not permit, so they will have to wait until next time. I'll have to stop complaining next time I see Leanne looking for those cheap flights for us to head off somewhere!

And by the way the racing was great. We had a Flexi stand seat which gave us a range of about 8-9 grandstands to sit in, including one looking straight through the chicane on the beachside straight. Atmosphere is great and standing only 1½ metre from the track in general admission areas really gives the impression of the speed and just how hard they drive these cars.

Howard Brockie

MODEL EXPO 2011 PHOTO

By Howard Brockie



A more comprehensive view of Paul Drummond's diorama featured on the front of
Miniature Auto #242

MORE MODEL EXPO 2011 PHOTOS



GPM 1932 Ford. 1:18 scale by
Paul Drommonf



Above: Various Fun Ho!

Below: A general view.



Biante 1:18 VK Commodore
Howard Brockie



VICTORY MORRIS MINORS

I had thought these models were only available to people who bought a new Morris Minor car, but on seeing an old advertisement (below) from a 1951 issue of "THE MOTOR" as supplied by **Even Blanch**, it would appear that they may have been available for retail sale as well.

I have one of these models in my collection and it was owned by a young chap in Oamaru who had it passed to him by his grandfather. I am not sure now whether his grandfather was Gillies of Gillies Foundry, or whether his grandfather had the model from when he purchased a new Morris Minor.

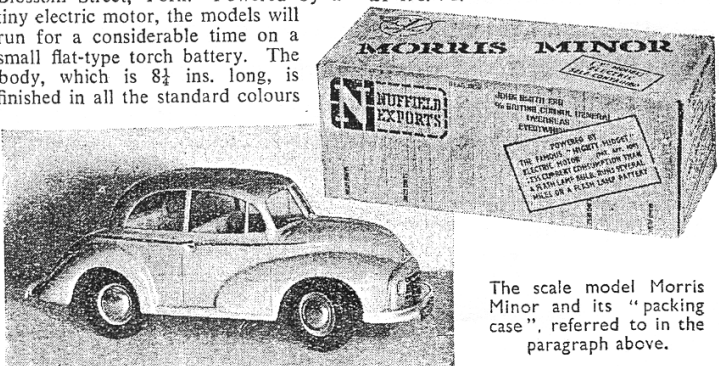
Eric Brockie

**Victory progressed with the Morris Minor styles from the low light shown to the high light and then the 1000. Ed.*

A JUNIOR "MINOR"

ACCURATE scale models of the Morris Minor, 1/18th of full size, which may be of interest to dealers for display purposes, are now in production by Victory Industries (Surrey), Ltd., concessionaires for Great Britain and Northern Ireland being Forsselius, Ltd., Blossom Street, York. Powered by a tiny electric motor, the models will run for a considerable time on a small flat-type torch battery. The body, which is $8\frac{1}{4}$ ins. long, is finished in all the standard colours

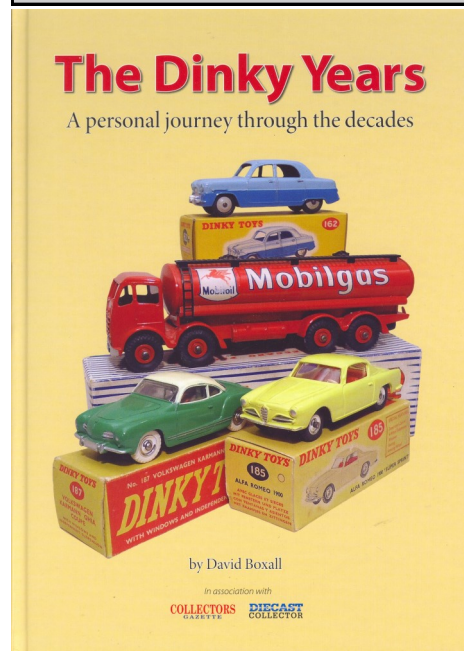
of the full-size model. Further realism is provided by die-cast detachable wheels, press-on wheel discs, Dunlop tyres and steering mechanism based on the Ackerman principle. Each model is packed in a replica of a Nuffield export packing case. The retail price is £1 19s. 9d.



The scale model Morris Minor and its "packing case", referred to in the paragraph above.



BOOK REVIEW



"The Dinky Years"—A personal journey through the decades" by David Boxall. Warners Group publisher. ISBN 978-1-907292-27-9 £16.95UK.

I guess I am a sucker for any publication on Dinky Toys, so when this book became available, I had to locate one. Luckily, it turned up on Trade Me so it saved me the trouble of ordering it from overseas. The main problem with overseas purchases is the postage on books is so high as they usually weigh 'a bit'.

This is part of a series by David Boxall covering Corgi and Matchbox etc. As it says in the subtitle, it is a personal account of his own collecting experience and as such, is not meant to be a reference book.

The writing style is easy to read and there is some detail covered. The colour photos are excellent and very clear with a few prototype

illustrations as well. He seems very keen on dioramas, although to my eyes, they seem a bit rough and ready.

* * * * *

It was a bit of a surprise when I came across this 'Events Calendar' at the Nae Nae swap-meet late last year. Not only does it cover swapmeets but other events such as steam ups, war gaming and so on. Each month a business is featured in the illustration such as Dave's Den in Dannevirke and our own Ian Cousins's Willis Street Village Barber (not only a hair cut but buy a model car as well! Super!!!

Only North Island events are featured, so how about it Mainlanders for 2013? The contact is Steve on 04 970 7653 or sara@pie.co.nz.

Ron



MODELLING WITH EVAN

In response for more material for Miniature Auto; I can offer the following contributions – sort of a Photo Story!

Three Land Rovers:

Far left: Standard Matchbox Dinky Collection DY-9, 1949 Series 1 80". It is finished in yellow with black wings and has a tan canvas cover over the passenger/load area. The front doors carry the period "AA" logo and "Road Service" under the windscreen. The door logo is simply "AA", not "RAA" as I would expect from an English model? The middle Land Rover is simply the same model with the roof removed. The green one on the right is the standard rag top version modified by myself plus detail painted components such as the taillights and number plate on the rear end. Strangely, the models have two spare wheels, which is odd as the rear bulkhead mount was an option to the bonnet mount. The



windscreen could not be lowered with the spare on the bonnet and likewise, the bonnet would not open fully either and it was an almost two man job to lift the bonnet and make sure the hold-open stays are locked. (I have many memories of Land Rover wheels on bonnets and how heavy they are – and very difficult to get off to change a wheel! Ed.). And then one had to get the thing down again – no 'OSH' in those days! The real 'Landies' like these are highly sort after with prices to match. The one thing no longer available is the 600x16 Dunlop "Roadtrac" tyres.

My shelves have 18 Land Rovers of all types and about 40 Jeeps, 4 FJ40 Toyotas; no Nissan Patrols and plenty of 'Yank Tanks' – must count them some day!

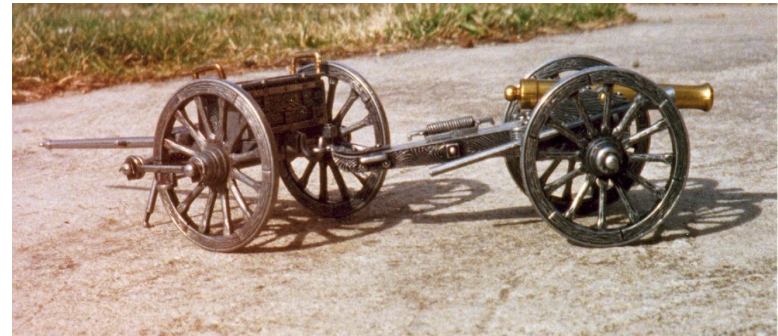


Bobcat 'Skid Steer Loader':

A 'Clover Toy' recently appeared on the market under another name and decorated with flower decals. The real ones, now manufactured by several C.Os are descended from the original "Melroe" in the USA and built in a farm shed as a fork-lift.

Cannon – American Civil War;

This model is Spanish made and bought in Dunedin at a 'going out of business' sale (it took three years!) at half marked price which was half the original marked price which made it \$22 in the end (I didn't argue). Later I found out that there was a Limber and oddly they weren't matched up in the catalogue. Naturally it was a 'had to have' but cost the full \$80. These items tend to sit on shop shelves – no wonder!



Coronation Coach':

This solid silver and about 55mm long. I think these were for the Queen's 25th Anniversary. Every Royalist had to get one at \$70?



Next time Evan will describe his Coca Cola aeroplane.

Evan Blanch

TOOT TOOT!

Read this and rack your brains for I have a few questions to put to fellow modellers:

1. What do the letters O M O R T represent?
2. When and where was Lego invented?
3. When was Meccano invented?
4. What tone do car horns sound in?
5. When were plastic toys first produced?
6. Clockwork toys were invented when?
7. When did army models become popular?
8. When did companies start producing movable action figures?
9. What does the Citroen logo symbolise?
10. When did metal diecast cars begin to be produced?
11. What colour did Henry Ford prefer?
12. How many years has NZMVC (Inc) Miniature Auto been in production?
13. Some early vehicles had radiator temperature gauges not on the dashboard – where?
14. What is a Parandu?

Feel free to use Google but not all the answers will be there!

Maurice Boyles

Answers:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | One Man Operated Road Truck |
| 2. | Lego was invented in Denmark in 1949 |
| 3. | Meccano was invented in 1907 |
| 4. | Car horns in tone of F |
| 5. | Plastic toys were produced from 1945 |
| 6. | Clockwork toys were invented in the 1800s |
| 7. | After WW2 army models – 1945 |
| 8. | Movable action figures are from the 1960s |
| 9. | A Boomerang |
| 10. | Metal cars in 1930s* |
| 11. | Black (dried the fastest) |
| 12. | 42 years |
| 13. | Top of radiator |
| 14. | A bus |
- * The first Diecast metal car was made in 1911, but the accepted mass produced market began in the late 1920s to 1930s

THAT'S NEWS? - THAT'S NEWS!

Brooklin 1:43 models 2012:

BRK.137, 1937 Oldsmobile L37 conv.	BRK.179, 1955 Plymouth Belvedere conv.
BRK.180, 1954 Buick 4-door Sedan,	BRK.181, 1952 Cadillac 62 Coupe de Ville,
BRK.182 1955 Packard 400 hardtop,	BRK.183 1955 Chrysler Windsor converti-
ble, BRK.184 1947 Cadillac 62 4-door sedan,	BRK.185 1954 Packard Patrician,
BRK.186 1954 Buick Special station wagon	BRK.187 1939 Nash Ambassador Eight 4-

Lansdowne 1:43 models 2012:

LDM.93 1936 Bentley 4¼ litre FHC	LDM.95 1964 Bristol 408,
LDM.96 1958 Aston Martin DB2-4 conv.	LDM.99 1958 Hillman Husky series I,
LDM.100 1969 Austin A60 Suntop camper	LDM.101 1957 Ford Zephyr Mk.II Farnham Estate,
LDM.102 1948 Aston Martin DB1,	LDM.103 1937 Jensen 3.5S convertible and
LDM.104 1948 Austin 16 Saloon	

Brooklin Buick Collection 1:43 , 2012:

BC023 1934 Buick series 60 4-door convertible Phaeton Model 68-C
 BC024 1934 Buick series 90. 5 passenger Sedan models 97
 BC025 1938 Buick Limited Limousine Models 90-L
 BC026 1936 Buick Special Convertible Coupe Models 46-C

Brooklin 1:43 Community Service Vehicles 2012:

CSV12 1934 Buick Art Model Funeral Coach CSV13 Miller La Salle Art Funeral Coach
 CSV14 1938 Fixible Buick Sterling 'World Fair' Ambulance
 CSV15 1938 Fixible Buick Sterling Ambulance "Friendship Fire Co"
 CSV16 1960 Miller-Meteor Cadillac 'Guardian' Ambulance

Brooklin 1:43 Pontiac Collection (new for 2012):

PC01 1937 Pontiac DeLuxe 6 4-door Touring PC02 1937 Pontiac DeLuxe 6 4-door conv.
 PC03 1937 Pontiac DeLuxe 6 Sport Coupe.

Pocketbond Classix 1:76:

Austin Morris J4 as a van or camper

Pocketbond Classix 1:43:

Austin FX3 Taxi

Bentley S1 Continental Fastback (same as Oxford!)

Greenlight 1:43

2012 Jeep Wrangler

2013 Ford Escape

2013 Ford Fusion (Mondeo)

IXO 1:43:

2011 Range Rover Evoque

2007 Rolls Royce Phantom Drophead Coupe

2011 Jaguar XK R

2011 Jaguar XK R

Minichamps 1:18:

Ford Focus (and 1:43)

1976 Ford Escort Mk.II RS

Land Rover Series 1

Model Icons:

1:18 Jaguar XJ6

1:43 Mitsubishi EVO X UK Police (various)

Schuco 1:12:

AC Cobra

TSM (resin?)1:43:

The Queen's 1967 Rolls Royce State Landauette

Rolls Royce Silver Wraith Japanese Emperor

Land Rover mk.I

Paragon 1:18:

BMW Series 1

BMW M5

RAIL + ROAD SPECIALS

Paul Alcock has sent some photos of new road vehicles associated with Marklin model railways:



Wanted wanted Wanted wanted Wanted wanted

Kitset News,
Diecast News.
Any Hobby News whatsoever!