

Miniature Auto

ma255

New Zealand

47th year of publication!



Land-Rover 101 3 ton military
vehicle 1:43 scale ready-made.



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

Here we are past the mid-point of the year. How time flies!

Thanks must go to Ian Cousins and Paul Alcock for their contributions this issue. It would be great to get more contributions to MA from other Members who have other slants on model vehicles. How about tractors and agricultural models? There seems to be a resurgence of interest in this area. What has happened to all the Matchbox Toys collectors? Are they still collecting new releases? What about Yesteryears? Recently I read a comment that there was a watershed in the 1980s that hastened the decline in that part of the collecting hobby. Sure the moving to China for manufacture did not help but I think the main problem was switching to mail-order only. There is nothing like a physical inspection of the items before purchase and there was a high degree of 'out of sight, out of mind' for the general public.

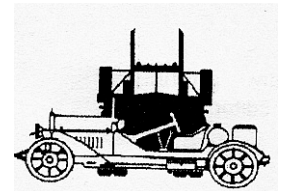
Even today where most purchases are on line (mail order in another form), how often have you been disappointed with a purchase whether brand new or obsolete because you could not fully judge the item before purchase?

While on the subject of remote buying, the Government is instigating charging GST on overseas purchases. There is a technical problem for them as not every overseas seller is going to be able or willing to collect to 15% tax and pass it on to our tax department.

It was good to see the segment from the This Town TV series featuring the Model Garage in Waimate. How about a feature for MA on this establishment? Can anyone help?

In the meantime—Happy Modelling to all!

Ron



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BRANCH NEWS

SOUTHLAND Report by Fred Hawkes:

Southland Branch Newsletter for *May* 2015.

Brrr, winter appears to have arrived and the heaters are all cranked up to keep us warm.

Welcome aboard to Malcolm and Noeline Shaw and Sam Findlay of Winton. We hope you have an enjoyable time with us.

Our April meeting was held at the home of Alan Graves in Gore, where we had quite a good night discussing models and the upcoming AGM and Competitions.

Competition Results ["A vehicle with the name of an animal, bird, fish or insect (real or mythical)" for diecast classes and "Silver or Aluminium" for kitset classes]:

Kitsets:	1st	Fred Hawkes	1998 Mercedes SLK
	2nd	Sam Findlay	4 wheel ATV Motorcycle
Diecast Large:	1st	Sam Findlay	Ford Mustang Cobra
	2nd	David Peipi	Pontiac Firebird
	3rd	Alan Graves	Holden Commodore
Diecast Small:	1st	Alan Graves	Hellcat Fighter (Aircraft)
	2nd	Sam Findlay	Caterpillar D4
	3rd	Fred Hawkes	Tiger Moth (Aircraft)

Southland Branch Newsletter for July 2015.

Our *June* meeting was held at the home of Malcolm and Noeline Shaw in their nice, cosy living room in Makarewa, instead of in the museum. One of the things discussed was the monthly competitions and a slight change has been made to the rules. The new ruling states: 'Members may enter 2 models per class per member present.' *[I think Fred means each member present may enter two models in each class - someone as obtuse as my self might interpret the new rule as being each member can enter two models per class, limit to be dependent on the number of members present at the meeting - e.g 4 members present then each member is allowed 8 models per class!... but not everyone is as bloody minded as I am. Ian]*

Competition Results ["Anything Goes" for all classes]:

Kitsets:	NO ENTRIES		
Diecast Large:	1st	Sam Findlay	1960 Chevrolet Impala
	2nd	David Peipi	1956 Chevrolet Bel Air
	3rd	Malcolm Shaw	Caterpillar Tractor
Diecast Small:	1st	Sam Findlay	Claas Combine Harvester
	2nd	Malcolm Shaw	1932 Confederate Car
	3rd=	David Peipi	Indian Chief Motorcycle
	3rd=	Noeline Shaw	Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible

Here we are at August already, it seems only the other day when I was sorting out Christmas presents and that was last year and will shortly have to start again. I have my shopping list sorted out, now all I have to do is find and purchase the items.

Our July meeting was held at the home of David Peipi in Invercargill and a good time was had by all.

Competition Results [N & P for all classes]:

Kitsets:	1st	Sam Findlay	Porsche
	2nd	David Peipi	Porsche
	3rd	Sam Findlay	Pontiac Firebird
Diecast Large:	1st	Graham Paterson	Ford Patrol Car
	2nd	Sam Findlay	Peterbilt Truck
	3rd	Sam Findlay	Nissan Skyline
Diecast Small:	1st	Sam Findlay	Nissan Skyline
	2nd	Fred Hawkes	Packard Ambulance
	3rd	David Peipi	Porsche Cayenne

Otago report by Eric Brockie:

June Club Night.

The date the meeting was to have been held was bitterly cold so that since only four members turned up, it was decided to cancel the meeting.

Model Expo 2015:

While this years' show was a great display, the numbers of public were well down of last year. Factors included ; we did not have our advertising signs out around town, our first week was also the week of Cadbury's Chocolate Carnival, our first week was also the second week of the school holidays and a photograph in the Otago Daily Times on the first Friday of the show said that Saturday was the last day instead of the correct following Saturday. Added to all this, it probably the coldest two weeks in Dunedin over the period of the show.

Models on display this year included the entries into Model Car Festival 2015 plus 36 four wheel drives, 93 convertibles, 62 Land-Rovers, 68 military vehicles, 119 Chevrolets, 13 model pedal cars, 26 caravans, 16 buses, 43 Cadbury model vehicles including Cadbury memorabilia, 85 articulated trucks, 14 'Hertz' vehicles and 76 pick-ups/utes.

Overall, a great display and one members who supplied models for display should be proud of.

Thanks go to two members not on the Branch Executive for the 'man power' they supplied in either setting up, being on duty when the show was open and with helping with the pack-up after the show. Special thanks to **Marcos Moni** and **Howard Brockie**.

NEWSY BITS!

White metal model made in New Zealand are a bit of a rarity, especially in the automotive side of things. I am not familiar with the sports racing scene so it was a bit of a surprise to come across a 1:43 scale McRae GM1 finished model at a recent swapmeet. Not only is it a New Zealand model, it is of a New Zealand made car as well. The real car was originally marketed as Leda LT27 and was a collaboration between Graham McRae, a driver/constructor and Len Terry, a F1 designer.



To celebrate the car and its Kiwi constructor, Steve Bullôt has created a 1:43 scale model of the McRae GM1 and is available as a limited-edition hand-built model for \$120 each. Contact Steve at Tohora Enterprises, tahora.ent@gmail.com

The 15th edition of Ramsay's "British Diecast Model Toys Catalogue" is out.



Whether values of diecast toys are important to you or you need a good reference, then this book is for you. There are 354 pages in this edition with many illustrations (but not all entries are illustrated of course). John Ramsay no longer compiles the catalogue. It is edited by Mike Ennis and Rob Burman.

It must be quite a task compiling such a tome, so it is not surprising that there appears to be a lot of 'cut-and-paste' going on which means any errors get perpetuated.

I don't use the book for values as they are usually way out—nor do I agree with the rule of thumb about the various conditions—mint and boxed to a wreck. I have noted that in general, there are several versions of mint and boxed prices; commercial dealers (way above), auction prices (below) and selling price to market (well below).

Buy the book through www.bookdepository.co.uk at £24.95 postage is free!

CARVILLE'S CAPERS

It has been a cold winter. A few years ago (!) when I cycled to secondary school I remember my ears and fingers going numb every morning, as we would have a frost every morning. Then a southerly change originating in the Antarctic would arrive and last for three days before the frosts came back. The winter in Christchurch has been like that this year. So it was rather nice to take a break in Sydney recently. Although their winter has also been cooler this year, the temperature ranged from 18 to 21 degrees for the week I was there. I managed a trip to the Blue Mountains, where two antique centres are located. I had found Dinky Toys there in the past, and found more this time. A few came back to New Zealand with me. I visited Model Cars Too in Sydney, a shop that stocks many current model car ranges, and again, some of their stock came back to New Zealand. The last time I had visited Geoff Sherriffs Mini Cars shop was when they were located in Parramatta. I found them now located near the Marayong train station well beyond Parramatta. An astonishing full shop with some treasures hidden on the bursting shelves; temptation could not be resisted. I took only a cabin bag to Australia. Alas it was necessary to have checked luggage on the return journey. While searching for models occupied several days, I also experienced some great walking around the city, particularly around North Head on the Manly Peninsula. The views of the city and the harbour on a clear mild day were absolutely magic.

Ron has made reference to Atlas Edition Dinky Toy reissues in his recent writings. I have just received word that Atlas are to start a series of Dinky Supertoys. This is not exactly top secret, as an Atlas Leyland Octopus tanker in Esso livery has been available from various eBay traders for some time. The next model appears to be a Guy Warrior Heinz van. I daresay there will be some overlap with the French Dinky trucks already issued as part of the French Dinky series, but it could be a good way to get copies of some rare trucks. Only trouble is that you have to have an English address in order to be a 'subscriber'.

Another manufacturer not based in England produces models well suited to anglophiles. This is the resin

YES!

Your superb
DINKY TOYS
Leyland Octopus
'ESSO' Tanker
replica is...



ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Simply rip up your bill and
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There's no catch, this is how it works:

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- 2 You get to keep your **Dinky Supertoys Leyland Octopus 'ESSO' Tanker** replica and Certificate of Authenticity that you have already received, **ABSOLUTELY FREE** – for good.
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models produced by **Silas Models** of France. Vauxhall Viva HA and FB Victors have recently been produced, and Riley. MG (Mk IV Magnette) and Wolseley versions of the Farina Family are appearing now. A 1952 Jensen Interceptor has also just been released. What wonderful examples of the British motor industry.



Silas Models MG Magnette mk.IV



Silas Models Vauxhall Victor 1961

Carville

OLD HABITS DIE HARD



Hello again from one of those older members that doesn't write anything very often for the magazine. I've titled this article "old habits die hard" because I have thought back to how I got involved with the Club and how our collecting habits become engrained, yes, you all know the disease we suffer from.

Collecting started for me with our beloved "Matchbox Toys" and this was simply because having been given a Märklin Train Set at age 8, I then needed to get some models to go on it. Thus the days of standing outside Woolworth's and Kirkaldies for the latest shipments were born.



My first model was an Excavator (actually a "Major pack") whose tracks have probably perished now. Closely followed by a 3.4 litre Jaguar with a bonnet that opened and another hydraulic excavator.

So over time my tally of models grew over 1000 and they are all stashed away now. I often feel it's a shame I have all these models and yet they are not out on display.

As per a previous article if I can combine the two hobbies now into the railroad stock then that is what happens.

Some members will recall ex Wellington members (now departed to the collecting station in the sky) such as Barry Dennis, Tony Robinson and Clive Wright. From them stemmed some of my other downstream collecting habits particularly Fire Engines. I've not been known to hack a model quite like Clive would have though.



As the Models of Yesteryear developed and they started the Model T Ford different livery craze, I've now inherited this in the form of collecting Märklin refrigerator cars.

They put out at least one new Beer Car each year, but I've got hooked on eBay and have started surfing for wagons that have a steam loco theme or bear some relation to a place I've visited in Europe, so it's not uncommon for one to appear in the letterbox each month.

How about track inspection vehicles theme, one from Brekina and the other Märklin?



Or just simply advertising my favourite brand?



I now work for NZDF so I couldn't go past having these as well. The new MAN trucks



and the old Uni-mogs (being phased out).



For those who didn't capture our story in the "Sunday" supplement here we are with my Ravenna Viaduct (Black Forest) model (still waiting to be completed and painted).



To conclude I recently "acquired" a glass cabinet table style from the old CIT Library in Upper Hutt, so now I have "established" a space for it in our lounge (Sue has to live with that) I will need to decide what to put inside it. There's plenty to choose from.

Paul Alcock
Wellington

DIBRO LIMITED

Despite extensive research, I can find very little information on this company anywhere even on the internet which has a few references.

Dickinson Brothers, sometimes called 'Dibro' or "Dibro Ltd" is the current company name for a business established by the Dickinson Brothers (DiBro). The three eldest brothers, Ewart Neville Dickinson, Harry Osmond Dickinson and David Richard Dickinson, started a printing business in Moorfields, Liverpool in 1933. The main activity at that time was the printing of general business stationery and more especially the 'Swan' brand of trading stamps which were sold to small grocers and retail shops in Liverpool and outlying districts. The business was one of the first printers in England to purchase an automated high speed Heidelberg printing press (in 1935).

At the outbreak of World War II the brothers were seconded to various Armed Forces to assist with the war effort. Fortunately, Denis Austin Dickinson, the youngest brother, was able to look after the business for a short time before being called for duty himself. After a heavy bombing raid in 1941 when the Moorfields area was badly damaged, so the business was moved to Cheapside, Liverpool. Not long after this move, there being no member of the family to run the business, it was leased to another notable Liverpool printing business, Samuel Hill & Reader, whose premises in Church Street, Liverpool had been completely destroyed during the May blitz of 1941.

In 1945, the brothers, together with their younger brother John Alexander Dickinson, realised that, due to the post-war shortage of raw materials, a move away from printing and toward making a future in manufacturing was necessary. This move was helped by the fact Ewart Dickinson fortuitously was said to have "an inventive and engineering inclination". The printing business was sold to Elliot Bros & Yeoman Ltd and the proceeds used to purchase a factory at 8/10 Lily Road, Litherland, Liverpool from where they began making simple toys for F. W. Woolworth Ltd. The toys were made from metal and the process involved over 70 metal power presses, spray painting facilities, and a full engineering tool room. In 1953 the company became a limited company, under the name of Dibro Ltd., employing over 200 people in three factories. The company was quick to invest in plastic injection moulding equipment, at the instigation of Denis Dickinson, which started a move away from the traditional metal pressings and allowed a move towards the production of plastic toys, enabling the company to manufacture much safer toys but more importantly, to manufacture products for other companies and industries.



Dibro are known to have reproduced some similar items to those in the Dinky Toys range by Meccano, but in tinplate. Most commonly found is the Austin A40 which appears to be the same size as the Dinky and has a one piece tinplate body with silver painted or unpainted windows, black rubber tyres, a friction drive motor, a silver painted front grille; a one piece tinplate base plate with bumpers at the either end, and "jewelled" headlights. The Austin (and the Hudson Commodore that I also know to have been produced) come in various colours (red, blue, green, cream, maroon and grey are known to me). The models can be differentiated from other similar models of the period by the legend "DIBRO - MADE IN ENGLAND" pressed into the base plate.

In 1959 Thomas Ewart Dickinson joined the company, having previously worked in the metal finishing industry, to set up a vacuum metallising facility to both finish the new plastic toys being manufactured and to provide a service to other plastic product manufacturers. This led to the processing of plastic parts for such companies as Meccano Ltd. (for their Dinky Toy range) in the 1960's and, during the 1970's, to the vacuum metallising of bottle jigger caps for Teacher's Whisky and cosmetic caps for Avon Cosmetics Ltd., Faberge Ltd., and many other brands. By this time the toy industry had changed from the production of simple metal or plastic items, clockwork and friction drive items, toy guns, etc., to more sophisticated toys which were labour intensive and costly to manufacture in the UK and which were now being imported to the UK, at a lower cost than the domestic product, from the Far East (mainly Hong Kong and other "Empire" countries).



Dibro Austin A40 - used with permission from Chris Sweetman, UK

The metal press work and the toy related components of the business have now been completely phased out and today the main activity for Dibro Limited is the manufacture of vacuum coated products.

(Note: I'm currently trying to find out more about Dibro (NZ) Ltd who also made toy pistols in the Hutt Valley. The only listed Company Director is also a Dickinson and I'm thinking the NZ company was set up by a family member who emigrated to New Zealand.)

MAURICE WOOLLEY'S LEGACY

While recently reading one of the on-line forums that I belong to... I came across a posting titled "Does anyone recognize this gentlemen" (sic)... now normally I don't bother with items that are not directly related to my specific interests but my curiosity was piqued and I read the thread (series of on-line posts). Along with that one line question was a photograph - of Maurice Woolley!



Several comments had been posted saying what a lucky chap he was to have such a collection, then someone asked where the photo had come from. This was his reply:

[Ritchie] A collector friend has kept this image for some around 15 years or so. Over the years this friend has become a collector himself. Last night he showed me this image he's just curious who the person in the image is.

From the pic I noted regular wheels models and playsets so I assume he must be a senior matchbox collector and probably members from this forum can recognize

I replied:

[Ian] I'm pretty certain that the gentleman you refer to is Maurice Woolley, formerly of Palmerston North in New Zealand. Maurice sadly passed away recently - his collection went to a nephew about two years ago as Maurice had to move into aged care and didn't have the space. I'll copy the photo down and blow it up to check... Maurice was a friend of mine over the last thirty years and I NEVER SAW HIS COLLECTION as we always met at Swapmeets or on Club Business for the NZMVC.

[Ritchie] G'day Ian,

Many thanks for your reply! So the gentleman was Maurice Woolley from New Zealand. My friend's little curiosity that puzzled him all these years can finally be satisfied. Sorry to learn that Maurice has passed away. My friend was from China. He got the photo from a website but he can't remember which website now as it was so many years ago. Looking at the cabinets from the photo, it looks like they're moveable, may be there're tracks so they can be slide left/right or back/forth? You mentioned that he made these cabinets himself. Did he mentioned that the cabinets are moveable too? I had my higher education in Sydney but I've never been to New Zealand unfortunately. I didn't know Fun Ho produced larger models as the big blue bus. I have a few Fun Ho too. Their colours are the most attractive to me. Apart from selling locally in NZ, I think quite an amount of Fun Ho toys have been exported to Japan back in the good old days. Even now they can still be found in a few local shops as I understand.

So there we have it.... a Chinese man became a collector and all because he came across a photo of Maurice Woolley with his collection! So who can tell me if the cabinets shown were movable - Ron?... Carville?

BTW I'd love to have many of the models I can identify in those cabinets!

Ian Cousins

It is amazing how things link up! Very interesting situation. It is a pity that Ian did not get to see Maurice's collection in situ—a marvellous sight! Plenty of time would be required to see everything and do it justice! Of course, most of the collection is still in tact and it now belongs to Maurice's nephew. I know Maurice took photos of the collection so it could be set up in a similar manner in its new home. I will make enquiries as to whether we can get the photos into MA in the future.

Maurice's cabinets were fixed—normal format. The reason there is a step in the alignment (in the photo) is that it is the section that covers the window!

Studying photos of other people's collection is a 'good game'. Recently I was sent some photos of a collection on the Central Coast, NSW and it blew my mind (not a hard thing to do!) as the person had cabinets full of mint-boxed Dinky Toys. Ed.

SNIPPETS

I have added to the 1:43 models buses featured in MA254. London AEC RT and a Citroen Charabanc. The thing I did not notice before was that the models are made in Bangladesh. A sign of the future?



It is quite common (and expensive) to have tracking for your parcels. Recently, I followed a parcel from the USA and after a few days wondering around the country, it was sent on to Tokyo, then to Sydney, Auckland, Palmerston North then to Upper Hutt.

The model shown on the cover came from one of the Hong Kong/Chinese dealers on eBay were they seem to have an endless supply of part-work models (an other sources. Here is the underside of the Land-Rover 101 on the cover:



Has anyone got one of the new 1:64 scale (approx.) RD1 or Fonterra? Pictures and review, please.

MADE FOR NEW ZEALAND

When I thought about this subject, I intended to discuss the so called 'Code 1' items made by overseas manufacturers not just for the New Zealand market but for the whole world—in other words, a fully catalogued item. Siku are probably the most prolific, but I am not sure whether they are available to the rest of the world. Therefore they will be treated as a separate article for later inclusion in MA. Another reason for treating Siku separately is that most of their models/toys are not based on the real vehicles used in New Zealand. The better ones are the ambulances which are 'near enough' except for being left hand drive.

Due to the strict criteria I have set, I find I only have three such model in my collection.

Corgi Classics:
97361 AEC turntable fire escape vehicle 'Dunedin, NZ'
New Zealand Fire Service.

Can anyone verify whether this is an authentic model or just an approximation?



VA06150 Ford Zephyr Six mk.2 'NZ Police.

This one looks authentic but I haven't been able to find a photo of the real one at this stage.



Trux TX15B Ansair Flxible Clipper 'Newmans Coachlines' I know this one is authentic as I remember them on the road. Was in awe of their exotic looks!

The only problem with it is that it is 1:87 scale I think.

Still available from www.topgear.com.au (Trax/Trux models)



TONKA INTERCARS—CATCH UP!

It has been a wee while coming, but here is the final part of the Tonka Inter-car article (see MA 248). Firstly, thanks to Eric Brockie, here is a photo of #107, Ferrari P4.

It is a bit hard to see but the Ferrari is on the base of the original box which is moulded in clear plastic. The model sits on a road printed insert and the top is an enveloping clear box. Later, Intercars came in a hanging window box similar to the Matchbox Yesteryear one.

Next are two similar casting—one being a hot rod version of the first.



#111 Mercedes Benz C111

This is a copy of the Mercury Toys version (I think). The model has opening gull-wing doors and rear engine cover. In addition, the headlights pop up operated by a lever through the base. This is an original paint model—white with a cream interior. 98 mm long



#303 FIAT Balilla,

This is a copy of Mercury Toys (Italy) #70, Fiat Balilla. It features opening doors, boot and a lift-off bonnet. Plated parts are used for the headlights, motor, running gear, radiator surround, and taillight/rear number plate. The radiator is a black plastic insert. The windscreen frame is a separate casting with a small clear plastic glazing unit. Red plastic seats with a black steering wheel and dashboard and folded roof. The wheels are small turned aluminium with equally small tyres. There is a spare wheel in the boot. 82mm long and painted dark green.



#307 Jack Demon Racer.

This is a copy of Mercury Toys #69. The basic casting is the same as #303 Fiat Balilla but without the lift-off bonnet and boot lid. In place of the small motor casting, there is a huge V8 motor casting with flared exhaust pipes. There is no windscreen or folded roof, but a plated roll cage that fits into the mounting holes. The wheels are the standard small size from the Balilla on the front with the mag style wheels from the majority of the other cars in the range. A spare of the large wheel sits in the well of the boot. In addition, there is a rear push-plate. Strangely, the unsuitable standard running gear is mounted on the base. The dragster is painted red with a black set of seats. 86mm long.



Also missed 'the bus' from the last issue on the Commer CX was the Streamlux/Fun Ho! 1½ deck airport coach. There is also was a very similar Tuckerbox version which I don't have. It did not appear in the Lincoln Matchbox range



Check out www.Robertnewson.co.uk for further models

Ron



MODEL MART

WANTED TO BUY:

Fun Ho! Midget diecast models.

- 41 Ford Zephyr Zodiac Mk.IV
- 59 Army Jeep with gun
- 60 Road Grader
- 61 Holden Van (plain)
- 63 Army Jeep
- 64 Army Bulldozer
- 65 Army Road Roller
- 66 Army Road Grader
- 67 Army Ford D articulated low loader
- 68 Army Ford D Dump Truck
- 69 Army Earth Scraper
- 70 Army Tractor Shovel
- 71 Army Bedford TK articulated fuel tanker
- 72 Army Caterpillar front-end loader
- 73



Eric Brockie, PO Box 1356 Dunedin, phone (03) 488 1048

FOR SALE:

Obsolete Dinky Toys:
#480 Bedford CA van
'Kodak' \$45



#955 Commer Fire last issue
100% mint \$80



#514 Guy Slumberland \$80



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