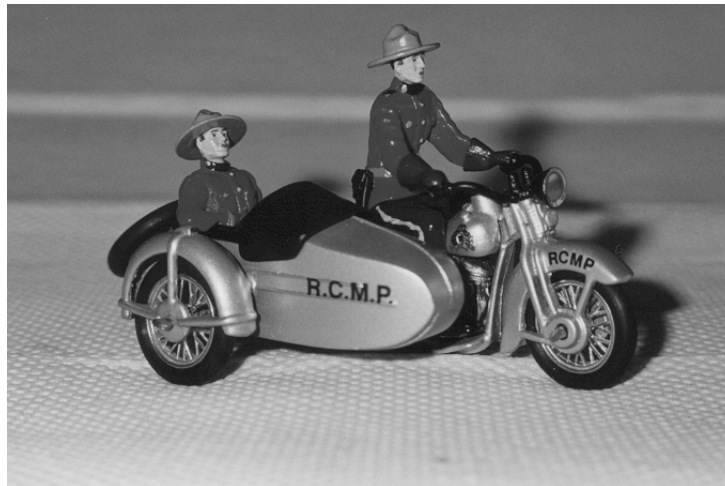
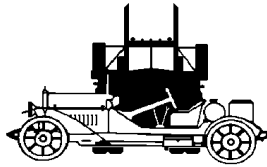


Miniature Auto



AUTOCRAFT C54MP Harley Combination 1/32
R.C.M.P. ©F. Graham Gough

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

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Magazine articles and related correspondence to the Editor.
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DEADLINE
For MA 186 is
To the Editor
16 MAY 2000

*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 for them by the **Club** and/or the **Executive***

EDITORIAL

Hi Again.

It seems like no time at all since I finished the last MA, which it is due to it being so late. Sorry about that. Hopefully this issue should reach you much closer to the start of the month. One guarantee for this issue though is NO POLITICS. That doesn't mean no AGM though.

One aspect of the AGM competitions that caught my eye in Alexandra was the number of the dreaded (For my argument) military models entered. But what really brought me up short was the uniformly high standard of these models. While most of the models entered in the Kitset classes were of a good standard, the level of detailing and the quality of the weathering on the military models was of a standard I have rarely seen in automotive modelling (Outside the pages of SAE anyway). Well Done guys.

Got caught out recently after winning a bid for 13 NASCAR models on the internet. Failing to do my homework properly I didn't fully check the cars I was bidding on. The result is that I have been caught out with the old sales standby of a couple of small changes and different packaging.

The five Dale Earnhardt cars are no problem as they represent 5 different colour schemes over a 4 year period. (None of the the standard Black #3 Goodwrench) However the five Jeff Gordon cars are 1 Superman paint scheme and 4 minor variations on the standard Du Pont scheme.

To Think I used to scoff at the MOY collectors that were 'sucked in' by the multiple variations on a Model TT theme.

Lee

(Working out what to keep and whether to destroy the blister packs)

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Here I am again – like the bad penny....

Firstly, I would like to thank Bryan Hessey for all the sterling and tireless work he has done over the years of his Presidency. Especially so with his efforts at getting the Marlborough Branch up and running. It begs the question as to how many other enclaves are just waiting to be tapped. Publicity is obviously the answer. What happened to our idea of a web site?

Some may wonder what was meant by 'getting back to basics' I wrote about in my election blurb. What was meant was to go back to the mission statement (as it is now called in business speak) of the Club – the promotion of the hobby of collecting and construction of model vehicles (cars). No, we are not a debating society, so why is so much effort put into this side of things. Surely after 30 plus years of existence, the Constitution should be cut and dried. From comment I have received and observations over the years, the Constitution has caused more trouble (and loss of membership) than it is worth. We now have more clauses in it than we have members.

Hobbies are for relaxation!

Enough of the lecture. What can we look forward to in 2000? The field of ready-made models has never been so comprehensive – and expensive! You certainly have to be careful in the direction you choose for your collecting, because even the richest collector would be pretty stretched to cover everything that is available. Although I don't build models; I am sure the same dilemma confronts those members who do. Kit builders please update us through the pages of MA. Let Lee's only problem be what to leave out because of full space!

Happy modelling to all,

Ron

~~BRANCH REPORTS~~

OTAGO BRANCH

February

Our Club Night speaker was one of our early Club members. Norman Masters (membership # 12) spoke on his particular interest, that of Race Cars. His talk was very interesting and Norman's knowledge of Race Cars is high. He has had a long association with motorsport both as a spectator and also many years as a participant.

Norman displayed 30 to 40 race models for the night and his knowledge of the actual car and the models was great. I am sure we all went away knowing more about some racing vehicles than we knew before the meeting.

Competitions for the night were for any race cars and saw a great variety of entries.

Diecast 1st Darren Andrews Dinkum Russell Ingall's VT Commodore
 2nd Colin Walkinshaw Vitesse 1968 Le Mans Corvette
 3rd Graham Gough HRT VT Commodore

Kitsets 1st Bruce Bevin Revell Ford Mustang

Eric Brockie

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH

Not a report but just to let members know that Marlborough Branch hold their meetings in the Alana Place Community Centre on the 1st Thursday of each month. Visiting members are most welcome. Further details available from the branch delegate Warren Piesse.

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

January

The monthly meeting was held at the Plunket Rooms in Kelvin St. At the meeting several payments were approved by the branch membership.

Competition Results

Kitset (Large)	1 st	Rosemary Kelly (1912 Model T vintage)
	2 nd	Paul Connell (unfinished Corvette)
	3 rd	Stephen Kelly (Unfinished Ford Pickup)
Kitsets (Small)	1 st	Owen Dickson (V-Spec Nissan Skyline)
	2 nd	Paul Connell (Plymouth Prowler)
	3 rd	Stephen Kelly (VW Gasser)
Readybuilt (Large)	1 st	Paul Connell (UT Porsche 911)
	2 nd	Paul Thompson (Gold VW)
	3 rd	Barry McCorkindale (Dodge Viper)
Readybuilt (Small)	1 st	Russell Corbett (Veicolo Turbine)
	2 nd	Barry McCorkindale (Vabis Snowmobile)
	3 rd =	Paul Thompson (Brock's Volvo)
	3 rd =	Ken Glass (Vanguards Cobra Daytona)

EDENDALE CRANK UP DISPLAY 29 January

Once again our branch was invited to display at this event. Due to some members being otherwise detained, 4 members and 1 prospective member put on a display of 80 models from the collections of Stephen Kelly, Carolyn Gaskin, Rosemary Kelly, Paul Connell and Allan Graves.

Our stand was a little larger than last year and in a better location. With Toys for Old Boys & Girls beside us we were busy all day. The weather was changing all day which drove the public indoors from time to time. We had one membership enquiry, and a junior at that. I would like to thank all who helped during the day and also the Edendale Vintage Ma-

chinery Club for inviting us to display.

February

The February monthly meeting was held at the usual place on the 16th. At this meeting it was decided to postpone the Hobbies 2000 display until a later date, possibly October or November. Instead we will be holding our annual Branch Competitions in May. Further information will be forthcoming soon.

Competition Results

Kitset (Large)	1 st Paul Connell (White Honda F1 Car)
Kitset (Small)	1 st Owen Dickson (XJ 220 Jaguar) 2 nd Paul Connell (White Toyota Celica) 3 rd Fred Hawkes (White Half track)
Readybuilt (Large)	1 st Barry McCorkindale (XY Falcon GTHO) 2 nd Russell Corbett (White 59 Caddy) 3 rd Paul Connell (41 Willys Coupe)
Readybuilt (Small)	1 st Graeme Robertson (Citroen Xsara) 2 nd = Barry McCorkindale (Foden Steam Wagon) 2 nd = Ken Glass (Wolverhampton Wanderer)

Stephen Kelly

Oxford Diecast C005
c1932 Chev Brewery Truck
1/50 Diecast limited to 10 000
Trade promotional via Oxford
Diecast Club
© F. Graham Gough



BRITISH CAR CORNER

To try and do a complete article on model Austin's would be a very lengthy undertaking, as several model car makers have over the years, offered several Austin's in their range. Austin 7s of the 1920-30s, A30, A40, A50, A60, A105, Devons, Cambridges, Somersets, and most of the Farina style and 1100, and 1800s have all been done at some stage along with the Healey sports and A90 Atlantics. Austin trucks and vans are numerous as well as Minis including a Mini Moke. One of my Model reference books has designated virtually one entire page to Austin Taxis alone, covering the years 1930-1980's. This month I will therefore concentrate on the A50 body style.

Matchbox Austin A50. Being only 61mm in length this 1:75 scale model is one of the early Matchbox models produced. The 1-75 series started in 1953 and the A50 is No 36 in the series. Introduced in 1956 and phased out in 1961 the A50 has a remarkably good casting considering the age and size of the model, and that they were only made as a toy and not intended to be a collectors piece. The doors and side body mouldings are clearly shown as are the boot lid and bonnet including air vents. It has no interior or windows but does have a towbar. The bumpers, grill and headlights are highlighted in silver paint. The one I saw was play-worn and therefore not in mint condition. Available colours were turquoise and light blue with grey wheels.

My Corgi catalogue shows an Austin Cambridge was produced in their range in 1956. It was offered in 8 colour variations. I have a book showing the picture of this model but it is a dark Black and White photo and unfortunately does not show the car very well. However it is described as being one of Corgi's best models displaying good detail such as bonnet intake, side lamps and bonnet badge.

Dinky No 176 is an Austin A105. This model has a similar body style to the A50, being in 1:43 scale and owing to the A105 being a much larger

car than the A50, it is a larger model, painted grey with a red flash it is rather a drab model. It has no interior but does have windows and number plates. The grill, bumper and headlights are highlighted in silver with red painted tail-lights and plain silver disc wheels. The casting on this model is only average but it does have a nice coat of paint that only seems to show off the flaws in the casting. Introduced in 1958 and deleted from the range in 1963, it is also available in cream with a blue flash.

Another Austin A105 is a Lansdowne model. Made in England by Brooklin Models, it is marketed as a "1958 Austin A105 Westminster Vanden Plas". The one I saw was in a deep maroon colour with a white flash. This model has an extremely detailed interior showing steering wheel, seats, all the dash layout with glass jewel head lights and red coloured tail-lights and amber coloured indicator lenses both front and rear. The overall quality of this model is absolutely superb. The paint finish and the quality of the casting including the flying A on the bonnet is as good as I've seen. The weight of the Lansdowne model is a surprise, it is the heaviest 1:43 scale model I have experienced. Produced in limited runs of only about 500 – 1000 at any one time these are true collectors pieces, available from Australia, landed in NZ prices are about \$140 -\$150 depending on freight and exchange rates.

Russell Corbett



Matchbox No 36 Austin A50



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MODELNET

Somewhere along the line I picked up the URL for "The Toy Tinker" so I thought I'd pop in to the site and take a look.

The site is stated to be a family run operation with members in the UK, US and Holland (Netherlands). Its main emphasis is "Professional toy restorations and repairs to tinplate, diecast, clockwork, battery operated, lead toys, tv related toys carried out at cost." They also have spare parts available for most diecast toys. Pogy from Toy Tinkers advises the group doesn't have a shop - the family members do it all from their homes. They are all involved in the hobby of toy collecting and started by restoring items that would otherwise have been too expensive to collect.

The opening screen is well laid out and has plenty of white space... click on the animated door to get into the site proper. I noted the this second page is not displayed properly on my 800x600 display (possibly due to the way I have my browser set up as I have the task bar running all the time at the bottom of the page in case something needing my attention happens), however there is a very good menu bar on the Left hand side that allows the visitor to choose from a variety of manufacturers or alternatively a range of categories... plenty to choose from here folks although one surprise was that Dinky didn't rate a separate listing under "Manufacturers" (this has been fixed as of 3/10/99). There are Dinky Toys listed under Automobile and other sections.

At this point I should comment that not all links to photographs were active at the time of my visit. Several of the Britains "T" photos (of figures) returned the "404 File not Found Error" (this occurred again on 02/10/99). In addition to this the quality of most of the photos is not great... many are either blurred (or is that my eyesight) or poorly lit.

Now don't get me wrong I KNOW putting good quality pictures on a web site is no easy thing to do. Often a compromise has to be made between good quality and image size but in this case, where we have a small family

web-based business, it is important that the prospective customer has access to good quality images of a reasonable size through which they can assess the condition of the items on offer. A check of the image sizes shows this site is trying to hold the image size at between 20k and 30k. Depending on the software available to them a clear, well lit shot should be possible. For examples take a look at the images at <http://phonenet.virtualave.net/NZMVC/ian.htm>.

These are examples of files ranging from 8k to 26k that give a good indication of the item's condition.

Poggy has responded by advising the group is in the process of improving the quality of the photos on the site and that this should be underway by 5/10/99.

I'm not too well versed in pricing but from what I can tell the pricing on this site is quite reasonable and although the instructions on how to order are minimalist, they are easy to follow - simply copy the relevant details for the item you want to purchase by cutting and pasting and then edit out the details you don't need.

All in all I recommend this site if you are seeking to expand your collection with good models or restored models. And as usual I left the best bit till last.... the place to go is:

[Http://www.toytinker.com](http://www.toytinker.com)

Poggy also advises they welcome any email on ideas for improving the site or just to chat about toys... and we can all do THAT 'till the cows come home can't we folks....

Ian Cousins

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~~THATS NEWS? THATS NEW!~~

VITESSE 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

VCC059 Aston Martin DB4GT Zagato LM 61 V98163 Porsche 911 GT3 Yellow
VMC019 Mitsubishi Lancer EVO6 White VMC027 Lotus Elise Sport Yellow
VMC029 Renault Megane Coupe II Cerise VMC036 Renault Megane Cabrio II

SKID 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

SKM037 Mitsubishi Carisma GT Loix MC99 SKM047 SEAT Cordoba Liatti MC 99
SKM050 Mitsubishi Carisma GT Duez MC99 SKM055 Corolla WRC Isik Portugal 99
SKM061 SEAT Cordoba Gronholm Swe 99 SKM070 Carisma GT Gronholm Port 99
SKM116 Citroen Xsara Test Car SKW009 Lancer EVO6 Makinen NZ 99
SKW012 Lancer EVO6 Makinen San Remo 99

QUARTZO 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

QFC040 Cooper Climax T51 Bristow MC60 QFC047 March711 Peterson STP MC71
QFC048 Porsche 804 P Hill US West 62 QLM003 Peugeot 905 LM 91 #5
QLM004 Peugeot 905 LM91 #6 QLM009 Peugeot 905 LM92 1st
QLM010 Peugeot 905 LM92 3rd

ONYX 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

XGT004 BMW V12LMR Test Car XCC011 Porsche 911 GT3 Champ Supercup98
XTC055 Renault Laguna Plato BTCC 99 XTC006 Renault Laguna Boullion BTCC 99
XTC019 Renault Laguna Spence BTCC 99

CITY 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

CTV004 Renault Scenic Taxi Paris 98 CTV005 VW Beetle British Car Hire Berlin 47

VICTORIA 1/43 Diecast Portugal March Releases

RMV001 VW Schwimmwagen Closed Wehrmacht

ERTL 1/18 Diecast USA "Coming Soon"

Millennium (Anodised Bodies)

32237 65 Cobra Blue 32239 67 Mustang GT Yellow
32240 69 Olds 442 Gold 32242 70 Chevelle Orange
32243 36 Deussenberg SSJ Silver

American Muscle

32074 69 Shelby GT 350 32076 56 Ford Sunliner

Mustang Mach 1 3 colours	1960 Ford Starliner 8 colours
American Muscle Customs	
32310 32 Ford rod	32311 34 Ford Rod
32312 49 Mercury	51 Mercury 3 Colours
AMT 1/25 Plastic Kits USA	
30033 58 Edsel	30053 71 Dodge Charger R/T
30083 66 Buick Riviera	30085 70 ½ Baldwin Camaro
AMT 1/24 Diecast Kits USA	
30283 68 AMC Javelin	30284 32 Ford Roadster
30285 64 Pontiac GTO	30286 69 Dodge Charger
30287 39 Chev Coupe	30288 33 Willys
30289 70 Plymouth Barracuda	30290 59 Chev El Camino
AMT 1/64 Diecast Kits USA	
30300 57 Corvette	30301 37 Cord
30302 69 Hurst Oldsmobile	30303 71 'cuda
30304 63 Corvette	30305 51 Impala Custom
30306 49 Chopped Mercury	30308 37 Custom Coupe
30309 78 Pontiac Trans Am	30310 70 Superbird
30311 69 Camaro	31001 69 GTO Judge
EXOTO 1/18 Diecast USA Grand Prix Classics	
GPC97022 Tyrrell 004 Lucky Strike SA73	GPC97023 Tyrrell 003 Cevert Can 71 Wet
EXOTO Racing Legends Corvette Grand Sports	
64 Road America #67 Chassis 005	63 Nassau #80 Chassis 005
63 Nassau #65 Chassis 003	63 Nassau #50 Chassis 004
64 Augusta #14 Chassis 004	
EXOTO First Heat Can Am 1/18 & 1/43 "Soon"	
66 Chaparral 2E	69 McLaren M8B
70 McLaren M8D	73 Porsche 917/30
70 Chaparral 2J	
EAGLES RACE 1/43 Diecast Hong Kong? Corvette Grand Sports	
2001 64 Sebring #2 Coupe	2002 64 Sebring #3 Coupe
2003 63 Nassau #80 Coupe	2004 66 Bridgehampton #12 Roadster
2005 66 Sebring #10 Roadster	2006 64 Road America #67 Coupe

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