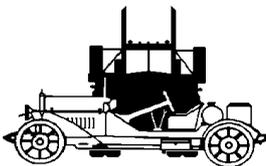


Miniature Auto

A publication for and by collectors and builders of model vehicles



RBA McLaren M7C



December 2003 Issue 207

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

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EDITORIAL

Another year almost gone and nowhere near enough of the new releases I want have been added to the collection. Hope the year has been a good one for all of you and that Santa brings plenty of models to fill you stockings.

One recent release of particular interest to most was the Possum Bourne Subaru from Biante/Autoart. Sales of this model generated close to \$55,000 for the family's Trust Fund. If you don't have yours already you are probably too late as the edition of 3000 is already sold out at the wholesale level.

Thank you to those members who contributed articles to Miniature Auto this year. It certainly made my job easier, and the magazine a better read. An interesting letter in this issue from a member we haven't heard from in a few years with Ben Dillon sharing a few thoughts on the Auckland scene. He has come up with some interesting comments that I can partially agree with from experience. For the last four years 2 friends and I have been travelling up once a month to meetings of Greenlane Gear Graunchers, a Kit builders club held at the Modelair premises. The December meeting will be the last ever meeting of this club after 10 years of existence. In a city of over a million people we have struggled to get more than six to a meeting and only two or three of those to bring along a model each month. MPH (As featured in Petrolhead) has about 10-15 members per meeting (a total for the two clubs of less than 20 per month). Yet as Ben says the model shops are full of people buying both kits and Diecast and, not just the cheap stuff either.

I wonder also how much membership is lost through the rise of the Internet. One of the reasons for kit builders especially to join a club is for access to information to help improve their models, either by better skills or for information on the cars they are modelling. With the Internet I can now access more of this from around the world than ever before. As an example one of my Internet groups features a NZ and two US TamiyaCon winners in its membership, all of whom are more than helpful with any queries.

Ben's final point about the club looking to its strong areas first may be something to think about

Lee

PRESIDENTS PIECE

With only a few weeks left time is running out fast to buy yourself that new model to put under the Christmas tree, or to drop hints to other people that you are hoping to receive models rather than socks from Santa.

If you want to try a new way to add to your collection just try looking at new car showrooms. It forces you to go straight down to the nearest model shop to fork out some money. I did this recently when the new Mazda RX 8 was released. As soon as I saw it I just had to have the model. On the way to the model shop I stopped off to look at the new Nissan Z350. Yes, I had the same want, so I ended up buying models of both cars. Both are produced by Autoart, the quality of which I must say has stepped up to a higher level of detail and finish.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Annual General Meeting next month. Do make the effort to go if you can. It is going to be a great weekend down there in the South and your input in the decision making helps build a healthy club.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hoping Santa leaves you all lots of models,

Stan

JIM BEAM MODELS

MODEL T FORD DELIVERY VAN
By Oxford Diecast Ltd (UK)

1000 worldwide of which 250 are exclusive to 'Hokonui Beamers Club'
Numbered 1-1000 by the makers and
Numbered 1-250 by Hokonui

2 Further model projected and priority Reserved for Model T buyers
\$40 Each includes Post & Packing

Contact Norman Masters
61 Formby St
Outram

Merry Christmas
to All Members
and Their Families
From
The NZMOC Executive



DEAR SIR,

I have been meaning to put pen to paper for quite some time and complete an article for the magazine. Every couple of months the magazine arrives and it reminds me that I should get motivated. But then it gets caught up in all the other mail and finds its way to the bottom of a pile. Originally I was going to do a personal profile, but having already done one a few years ago (might save that for another issue) I then started thinking more about the hobby as a whole and decided to give a perspective on the Auckland model scene.

For a number of years now there has been great debate in the club as to why we cannot attract and keep members in the North Island. Currently I am living in Auckland, and have had the opportunity to peruse the majority of model shops around the North Shore and the Central City. I would have to say that all of the shops I have been to are well stocked, with a varied range of models on offer to cater for almost every possible interest. Whenever I have been to these shops they are always well patronised, with a wide cross section of ages buying and of course just browsing.

So obviously from this observation it would be fair to say that there is definitely a wide interest in models and collecting in the Auckland area – so why isn't there an active branch in the region? I have been giving this much thought of late and have come up with a few possibilities.

Auckland itself is really the culmination of four cities that continue to sprawl across the region. One would think with such a large population base, a branch in Auckland would be a formality and have a very strong membership. This in itself however is a problem, with the distances people would need to travel to attend meetings and displays. Quite honestly the last thing anybody wants to do in Auckland after a day's work and then battling the traffic home is to then head out again and drive for maybe half an hour to get to a meeting. You just can't simply rely on what time you may arrive at a selected destination. Conversely even in the cities of the South Island most trips wouldn't be more than fifteen minutes to attend a meeting.

Another possible reason I had originally thought of was that people here just didn't have the same interest in the hobby. They weren't as keen to get stuck in and enjoy the hobby. However after browsing through the model shops fore-mentioned, I now don't believe this is the case. I think it may have more to do with people not being so prepared to give up their own time as readily because it is a very precious commodity here indeed.

Related to that point is the fact that being a larger city there does seem to be always something else going on. Whether it is a car show, bands playing, theatre shows, or one of the regions major sporting teams playing, there is just always something fighting for people's money and time. Please don't think I am belittling other regions by implying Auckland is big and the best because I certainly don't subscribe to that idea. It may just be that the smaller centres have managed to retain some of the community spirit and teamwork that goes into running a successful club of any kind a lot better than it would seem here in Auckland.

I have had experience in approaching other clubs here for another interest of mine - Holdens. Whether it be by email or postal mail the responses are often weeks later, with no real follow up and information about joining, or a sense of feeling welcomed to a club night. Once again it would seem people just don't have the time or passion to put their energy into a club. One other possibility which I suppose would really only apply to the kitset side of things is the climate of Auckland. Model making itself is an activity that is by its nature is a very individual pass time. Most kit builders would agree I am sure they complete most of their kits over the winter months when the weather does not allow time to get outside. Of course in Auckland there is no real winter to speak of (I could wear shorts all year), so people can get out at night for that cappuccino in Ponsonby or a walk around the viaduct over the weekend.

One thing I did notice while visiting the model shops was that most of the purchases were of course ready built models. We have talked about this in the club at length before as well, and I don't think it will change in a hurry. The purchase of ready built models undoubtedly has the advantage of freeing up time to pursue other interests. So it would seem there is a big interest in models in Auckland, but just not the kitset side of things. So is it just a simple matter of time which has been the demise of the club in Auckland, or has the city just become too big to support clubs such as ours? So unfortunately I cannot provide any easy solutions to the membership issue. I would therefore make the suggestion that it may be time the club has to accept it will no longer be strong in the North Island and Auckland in particular, so should concentrate efforts on areas where we can build the club. I am not saying turn away people from areas outside the main clusters of membership, but perhaps push for a realisation of the clubs capabilities and limitations in today's environment.

Ben Dillon

PITS REPORT

RBA McLaren M7C

Members may remember the short lived magazine part work series called Mega Bikes available in NZ shops last year. This series allowed the purchaser to build up a collection of 1:18 scale motorcycles at a rate of 1 per fortnight. As can be expected with a cover price of around \$16 the quality of the models was not at the top end of the scale. They could however be detailed into quite nice models with only a little work by the purchaser.

While rare in NZ these part work magazines are very popular in Europe where they often have a much better class of model, often made by the major model companies, though to a lower level of detail than their standard product. The attraction of these models in Europe is the price which is considerably lower due to the differing tax rates between models and magazines. Probably the biggest player in this market is Altaya who last year had a major series called 100 ans de l'automobile or something similar. Covering a wide range of subject matter this series was notable for a number of subjects that had not been modelled in 1:43 previously, and which were subsequently released by ixo within six months of the magazine release. Another large player in this market is RBA who last year through this year released a series of Formula one models that are often noticeable for their resemblance to Minichamps releases.

And so to the subject of this review. One of the releases in the series was a McLaren M7C. A car that has not to my knowl-



edge been previously modelled in 1:43. When these started showing up on ebay I immediately had to have one. After several failed attempts I finally managed to grab one. As can be seen from the accompanying photos the model is of fair quality with well cast parts and a blemish free paint job. The paint is very orange quite close to the GMP M8s. The car is decalced as Bruce McLaren's. I am un-

able to attest to the accuracy of the body shape or markings due to a lack of reference material. The baseplate states this is a 1969 version which is supported by the post Spain 68 wings. There is a single fuel pannier tank on the right side which appears to be a separate casting. The cheapness in production is shown up by the absence of any detail on the dash panel, and the straight through axles. Also notable are the heavily patterned tyres.

A nice model from the early part of the McLaren F1 story. I will be interested to see if one of these comes out from a major model company in the near future.



Lee Tracey



MODELLING WITH MAU-

WOW - Awesome - Cool - Fantastic - Hey Dude - Sleek - Curvy - Hot - Bitchin'-
Wicked - Outta Sight - Nice Paint

Yep, we've heard them all, music to our ears, music to those fantastic plastic kit builders ears, of which I'm one. These expletives aren't often used with such true enthusiasm around the diecast fraternity. A builder whom creates a model of beauty and style knows just how darn good it feels to have produced a model to his/her own satisfaction and also be commended for it.

Only the builder can appreciate the effort and hours put into their individual model, as each plastic kit that is assembled and painted will be 99% different to any other. Of course this only becomes a reality after much experience and practice - but hey, after all that's what it's all about, that's our hobby, our form of relaxation. We wouldn't be doing it otherwise.

Sometimes members can be assumed to be losing interest in the Club such as not entering displays, attending meetings, supporting the Branch etc. well the way I perceive it is the other priorities take over everyday lives, and therefore models and interest in models get shelved for awhile until that time comes around again.

When? One can never tell, but it will and then it's like a tonic, a new lease of energy flows from your fingertips and then look out - do you hear it?.... Wow - Bitchin'- Far Out - Look at That! - "Hey Dad can I have one of those? "Are those for sale?"

Maurice Boyles

CANT TAKE EM WITH YOU

A Grandson was admiring his Grandfathers collection of model cars. "when you get a bit older, I will give you one" said Grandad, to which came the reply "Never mind Grandad, when you go to heaven I can have them all"

ADVERTISING MODELS

I have a pretty extensive collection of advertisements from the National Geographic Magazine from mid 1929 through to 1969 with only about 110 months now missing, but I still keep looking and pick them up from time to time.

I pull the magazines apart and file all the car company adverts in clear files, which has made up a pretty extensive range particularly from the 60s period but also a considerable number from the 30s and 40s.

There have been several adverts for Lionel Trains over the years but I have never seen any dealing with model cars even the likes of the Arcade.

Recently I was given two cartons of old magazines from a second hand dealer to go through and find any that I was missing. After my recent spell in hospital for surgery I was unable to lift anything or drive for 4 weeks so I spent the time pulling apart many of the books to add the advertisements to my records.

One advertisement intrigued me because of the model that was used in the advert. It was from the April 1931 issue of the National Geographic and the advertisement was for Prudential Insurance Company of America.

I hope that it will copy well enough to be printed with this article because it shows a young boy sitting on the floor with a model car. I have studied it with a magnifying glass but have not been able to even have a guess at what it is.

I would say that looking at the size of the boy and the model it would have to be at least 1:18 scale or larger. I would guess that it will be a tinplate because the finish looks to be pretty good and I am sure that it will not be a cast iron model.

Maybe Ron Ford or some of the other collectors who have been around for as long as I have may have seen one or even a photograph in a modelling magazine or book or better still if you have the model I would be quite happy to take it off your hands.

Over the years I have seen many models used in advertising some other products and in particular pedal cars, but of course where have they all gone now?

Eric Brockie



While the advert has not scanned as well I would have wanted here it is above. To the right is a blow up of the boy and car. Ed



FRENCH DINKY

In the last issue of Miniature Auto Ron Ford had an interesting article about a French Dinky Toy 25b. Peugeot D3A van, and his story in relation to trying to sell it for what he hoped would be a good price to purchase other models for his collection.

The day before I received Miniature Auto I had purchased from a second hand shop a few Meccano magazines so I could get the article about the Dinky Toys out of them, and amongst them was an article about the French Dinky models that were going to be available in retail shops in the UK. The article and advertisement were printed in a Meccano Magazine dated July 1962. The two page advertisement showed the 15 models that were going to be imported into the UK and I hope that Lee will be able to reproduce the photographs here.

The article about the models gives some details about several of them as follows;

884 BROCKWAY MILITARY TRUCK. This is a bridging unit for use with Land Forces. This is a six wheel unit and the real one has a winch at the front, a crew of three and carries two pontoons across which bridging unit may be laid. Each pontoon will carry a weight of 18 tons and can be inflated in 10 minutes. The Dinky Supertoy carries a number of bridging units and two pneumatic boats. Also provided is a picture which when used in conjunction with the toy itself represents the crossing of a river. The miniature pontoons are fitted with a valve which stops the air from escaping. They can be deflated by pushing in the valve with a match stick.

817 AMX 13 TON TANK is another French vehicle which will attract a large number of collectors. The Dinky Toy vehicle is fitted with a realistic track and the turret pivots through 360 degrees.

555 FORD THUNDERBIRD is a convertible with driver and is a faithful reproduction of this fascinating car. Detail includes a neatly detailed driver, steering wheel, dashboard and seating with imitation upholstery. The model which is finished in neat red, with blue interior, has springing and steering.

550 CHRYSLER SARATOGA is finished in a striking shade of lilac with hood outlined in black and with bright red interior. Typically American in design and in its bright colouring it boasts the prominent rear fins of its type and gives a look of

power.

FRENCH DINKY MODELS IN MY COLLECTION.

I only have 12 French Dinky Toys in my collection and they are as follows

537 Renault R16	524 Panhard 24
820 Renault Military Ambulance	547 Panhard PL17
1433 Surtees TS5	552 Chevrolet Corvair
Citroen 2CV	543 BMW 1500
25c Citroen 1200K	540 Opel Kadett
Berliet 34	70 Covered Trailer

I purchased 10 of these models in 1972 and 1973 and paid the sum of \$1.50 each for eight of them, \$2.00 each for two of them but by 1979 when I purchased the other two the price had skyrocketed to double at \$3.50 each. If only we could see to the future when we buy models to know what they would be worth in years to come. In saying that though I think that the serious collector buys a model because he wants to add it to his collection not because of what it is going to be worth.

As Ron said in the last issue of *Miniature Auto* I had better stick to collecting and not investing. (*I guess I had better not tell you of the \$350 US that a MIB No 884 Just sold for at a Vectis US Auction on 29 November* © - Ed)

Eric Brockie



THAT'S NEW? THAT'S NEWS!

SPARK 1:43 Resin Built China

SCYD12 Reynard 01Q LM03 #14
SCRS12 Riley & Scott MK3C LM03 #4
BZ27 Cunningham C2R LM51 #3
BZ25 Cunningham C2R LM51 #4

SCMG10 MG Lola EX257 LM03 #27
Courage LM03 #17, 18
BZ26 Cunningham C2R LM51 #5
BZ14 Jaguar XJR5 LM84 #44

IXO 1:43 Diecast China (Bikes 1:24)

RAM110 Peugeot 206 Tur03 Panizzi
RAM114 Peugeot 206 WRC 1st NZ03
GTM014 Maserati Trofeo Presentation
LMM043 Saleen S7R Konrad #66 LM02
LMM046 Audi R8 #1 1st LM02
LMM050 Audi R8 Champion #6 LM02
LMC054 Toyota TS010 #36 4th LM93
LMC056 Toyota TS010 #38 LM93
CLC033 '67 Lincoln Continental Limo.
CLB011 Honda NSR500 Mamola '84
RAB048 Ducati 998R Bostrom SBC02
RAB053 Suzuki GSX-R 1st LM02
STB010 Ducati 999S
STB018 Ducati 900 Monster
STB021 Bimota SB8R

RAM113 Citroen Xsara Sainz 1st Turkey
RAC018 Fiat 131 Abarth Rohrl 1st MC80
LMM037 Leader (Panoz) LM02 #22
LMM045 Saleen S7R Vodaphone #68 LM02
LMM049 Audi R8 Audi Japan #5 LM02
LMC047 Renault 4CV Cat. Winner LM50
LMC055 Toyota TS010 #37 LM93
MOC032 '02 Seat Ibiza Tdi
CLB010 Honda RC45 Kocinski SBC Champ 97
RAB046 Ducati 998R Bayliss SBC02
RAB050 Ducati 998R Chili SBC02
STB009 Aprilia RSV Mille R
STB013 MV Agusta 750 F4S
STB020 Buell Firebolt XS9R
STB023 Yamaha XJR 1300

TAMIYA Various Scales Announced at Tokyo Hobby Show

32501 Kubelwagen Type 82 1:48
20056 Williams FW24 It02 Full View 1:20
35269 M1A2 Abrams 120mm MBT 1:35
35270 Armoured Car Sd.Kfz 222 1:35
21002 Bismarck 1:350 Masterwork
21006 T55A Tank Desert Vers. 1:35 M/W
21008 Pz.Kpfw IV Auf. H Early Version 1:35 Masterwork
14095 '03 Team Honda Pons RC211V 1:12
24268 Nissan Skyline R34 Xanavi JGTC 1:24
23204 Ferrari F50 Yell. Coll. Club Spec. 1:12
74522 Spray Works Painting Stand
21005 Williams FW24 Jap02 1:20 M/work
21007 Panther G Type Late 1:35 Masterwork
Masterwork releases appear to be Built versions of existing kits. Tanks all have metal tracks.

REVELL-MONOGRAM Various Plastic Kits USA

1309 Ed Roths Scuz Fink (figure) Dec
2826 '69 Yenko Camaro S/C 1:25 Dec
5521 A-10 Warthog 3 Ver. 1:48 Dec
2845 '03 NASCAR Taurus #38 1:24 Dec
5711 B-29 Superfortress 1:48 Dec
1555 '65 Chev Impala M/Body 1:25 1Q04
7691 Chev SSR Pickup 1:25 1Q04
2825 Stars & Stripes Corvette Sebring71 Dec
6878 AV-8B Harrier 1:48 w/Iraqi Book
2191 '03 NASCAR Monte Carlo #48 1:24 Dec
0061 Green Hornet T Bucket SSP 1:24 Dec
1554 '64 Chev Impala Metal Body 1:25 1Q04
1556 Jaws Monster Truck M/Body 1:25 1Q04
6391 Darrell Waltrip Combo SSP 1:24 1Q04

2616 '32 Ford Hi Boy 1:8 1Q04 USRP\$98 1545 Honda Civic Tuner M/Body1:25 1Q04
1546 Mitsubishi Eclipse Tuner M/Body 1:25 2187 Ford Focus SVT 2n1 1:25 1Q04

LLEDO VANGUARDS 1:43 Diecast UK

VA7402 Triumph Herald Conv. Dk Grn?(1) VA6709 Triumph Spitfire Mk3 Yellow (3)
VA5509 Ford Ford Consul Swift Taxis (2) VA6004 Ford Zephyr 4 Mk3 Grey (6)
VA3406 Ford Capri 109E GT Grn/wh (3) VA00124 Ford Anglia Super (5)
VA6807 Hillman Minx Series3 Blk/Blu(4) VA1308 Austin 7 Mini Boy Racer (1)
VA2514 Mini Cooper Rally Teal (6) VA7102 Morris 1000 Conv. Grey/Red (5)
VA6307 Morris Marina Yellow Cars Wh.(5) VA8502 Wolseley Six Black (2)
VA8903 Austin 1800 Mk2 Maroon (1) VA5602 Austin 1300 Estate Red (6)
VA1002 Morris Minor Traveller Green (3) VA5904 Jaguar XK120 Met Lt Green (3)
VA4905 Jaguar E Type Conv. Blue (2) VA 8402 Jaguar Mk2 Yellow (5)
VA8605 Jaguar XJ6 Series 1 Brown (1) VA8606 Jaguar XJ6 Racing (4)
VA9100 2003 Jaguar XJR New Tool (6) VA9000 Rover SD1 V D Plas New Tool (5)
VA6511 Rover P6 3500 Blue/Black (3) VA7407 Vauxhall Cresta PA Blue/Blue (3)
VA4005 Singer Chamois Black (2) VA7003 Sunbeam Alpine Series 2 Hidden (5)
VA7606 Land Rover Open Tray Hid. T (6) VA8205 Triumph 2500 Met Div. Area Car (2)
VA9001 Rover SD1 Met Police Car (6) VA7605 Land Rover Gendarmerie (4)
VA6616 Ford Transit Met Section Van (5) VA8702 Viva HB Beds & Luton Const. (3)
VA7604 Land Rover Met SETAC Car IJ1005 (original) Italian Job Set 5 Pce (3)

ORIGINAL OMNIBUS CO 1:76 Diecast UK

OM40903 Leyland PD2/Orion Ulster (2) OM42409 Plaxton Panarama 1 Lancs. Utd (3)
OM43309 Plaxton Excaliber Oxford (4) OM99146 BMMO D9 & BMMO C5 Midland(3)
OM41009 AEC Q London Trans. (2) OM44701 Dennis Dart Lothian (1)
OM45308 Bova Futura Natl Express (1) OM41107 PD3/E. Lancs Ramsbottom (2)
OM41202 Wright Eclipse Gemini Arriva (4) OM41201 Wright Eclipse Gemini Demo (3)
OM41203 Wright Eclipse W. Midlands (6) OM40810 Bristol Lodekka Open Southdown (4)
OM43706 BUT Trolleybus Glasgow (4) OM42505 E. Lancs Vyking Blackburn (3)
OM42506 E. Lanc Vyking Bus Eireann (6) OM41909 Leyland PD3 Q. Mary Southdown (6)
OM43604 Plaxton Palatine2 Kentish (5) OM44702 Dennis Dart Metroline (5)
OM44008 Blackpool Railcoach Sealife (5) OM44009 B/pool Railcoach Laughing Donkey (6)
OM40304 Burlingham Seagull King Alf (1) OM42504 E. Lancs Lowlander Arriva (1)
OM43103 Leyland Lynx Preston (2) OM45116 MCW Metrobus Mk 2 Lincs (3)

CORGI 1:50 Diecast UK (Land Rovers 1:43)

CC13106 Volvo F88 Fridge Payne (1) CC13211 DAF XF S/Cab C/S Downton (1)
CC12420 Volvo FH Fridge Scotlee (1) CC12809 Scania T Bulk Tip Longthornes(1)
CC13210 DAF XF Tractor Gibbs (3) CC12421 Volvo FH Feldbinder Lomas (2)
CC12012 MAN F2000 C/S Phillips (3) CC12109 Renault Flat Crane & Bricks (2)
CC12510 Atkinson T/liner Bowker (5) CC13107 Volvo F88 Sheet. F/bed Pollock(4)
CC13212 DAF XF S/C C/S Grimes(5) CC12917 Scania T/Line Stock Thomson(3)
CC13401 MAN TGA XXL Stobart NT (4) CC13402 ERF ECT High Entry NT (5)
CC1222 Scania 4 L/Stock Olivers NT(6) CC13403 MAN TGA XXL Thomas(6)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| CC12306 Scammell Wrecker Stobart (2) | CC11901 ERF EC L/Load Bowring(6) |
| CC13304 Morris D/Side Watneys (2) | CC11407 Bedford TK McMullen (3) |
| CC10505 ERF KV F/B Ind Coope (5) | CC13007 Dennis F12 Birham (2) |
| CC7710 L/Rover 110 Lancs. Const. (5) | CC7711 L/Rover RAF Mtn. Rescue (3) |
| CC7712 L/Rover 110 RUC (6) | CC60304 Bedford QLD Army Fire (4) |
| CC12810 Scania T/Line 5 axle King Trailer & Boiler Sandy Kydd (4) | |



Top: Monogram Green Hornet Hot Rod Reissue in their SSP Program Centre Left: VA8502 Wolseley Six Centre Right: VA9001 Metropolitan Police Rover SD1 Bottom: VA1308 Boy Racer Series Austin 7 Mini

ON THE BUSES



Top: OM42409
Plaxton Panorama 1
Lancashire United



Centre: OM42505
East Lancashire
Vyking Blackburn

Bottom: OM44008
Blackpool Railcoach
Sealife

