

Miniature Auto

Issue 262

New Zealand

48th year of publication!



Farewell Cadbury Dunedin. See page 13

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

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ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MA NOW!!

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EDITORIAL

I have been going over old copies of the Club newsletter (both before and after its 'naming', Miniature Auto) to see if there was anything historical or noteworthy to reproduce. Unfortunately, most would be classed as 'chit chat', but there have been a few gems that may reappear later in MA. Of course there were a great number of contributors as the Club has had a goodly number of members in the past (where are they now?). One thing that I noted was the prevalence of paid advertisements—a good way to augment the Club funds. I can see there is a problem in that most of the advertisers are history themselves.

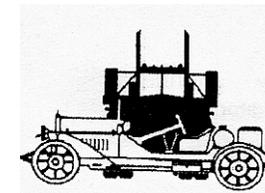
As to the subscription rate over the years, it seems to have kept pace with general inflation except for recent years. Using the Reserve Bank's calculator of inflation; the Club should be charging \$50 p.a. using the General tab.

I was surprised on a recent visit to the 'Red Shed' that they were selling Hot-wheels for \$1 each!

It has often been bemoaned that children are not interested in our collecting (and constructing) hobby, but over the last few Toy Fairs that I had a table at, there were many children and young adults buying collectable items. Maybe it was my cheap prices but it is worthwhile as an encouragement to them, even though they may not be interested in joining any club (which I always mention).

Thanks to Carville, Ian, Eric and Evan for helping fill this issue.

Ron



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AGM SOCIAL REPORT

The 48th National Annual General Meeting (AGM) and associated activities have now concluded. A great weekend of activities were held in association with the weekend of the AGM. It was great to have members attend from Wellington, Christchurch and Invercargill.

Saturday's weather was atrocious while we were at Taiaroa Heads with gale force winds, hail and freezing temperatures. However the afternoon improved a little and Sunday was a reasonable day. With the fire going at the venue, Otago Underwater Club (OUC), the rooms were quite pleasant.

On the Saturday morning, members arrived with their models. It was great to see 119 models entered into the competitions – the highest number for many years.

We left the OUC at 10am and headed off to the windswept Otago Peninsula for a guided tour of the Disappearing Gun at Taiaroa Heads. It was a worthwhile visit and we were fortunate to have a guide who had good knowledge of military defenses of New Zealand of the time.

Our next visit was to view the extensive collection of Fulton Finch. Then it was on to a newly set up collection of over 400 Tonka Toys and finally to see another collection of 5,000 Matchbox Toys.

At the end of the day, we all (Members, families and partners) at the Parcels Restaurant which is in the former Dunedin Chief Post Office that is now the five star plus Distinction Hotel. The restaurant is situated in what used to be the parcels

department of the former Post Office; hence the name.

Most Members had an enjoyable meal, but the service was poor due to the lack of staff in the kitchen.

The Sunday was, of course, the day for the Annual General Meeting. There was a great turn-out of Members attending.

Members realized that we had to take some action over the Club subscription rate and that some sweeping changes had to be made to both the Club subscription and rebate to the Branches.

The Club subscription for the 2017-2018 financial year has risen to \$60:00 with a rebate of \$10 to the Branch that the members is associated with. The Otago Branch was hoping for a \$70 fee with a rebate of \$20 to the Branch, but this did not get passed.

With the subscription increase to \$60, this should be of some help to the National Body to build up some reserves. The \$10 rebate for the Branches will go some way to help out with the Otago Branch finances.

All in all, apart from the weather on Saturday, it was a weekend full of activities and as far as we are aware, was enjoyed by all who participated.

Eric Brockie

BRANCH NEWS

Otago Branch.

By Eric Brockie

May meeting:

We had to do a hurried change around from the planned programme. We were going to the Fire Brigade Restoration Society to see what their members were doing with the restoration of Dunedin's former fire appliances. Even though we had our date confirmed, I received a phone call stating that it was not a good idea to do a visit in the evening in the winter. Therefore the evening was cancelled.

Our next option was to visit the Central Police Station; however, we never heard back from them, so at short notice a visit was arranged to visit the Central Fire Station. It turned out to be a great visit and we were shown over three appliances in the station and told about each one in detail. I think that most members were surprised at how much gear each appliance had on board. We were invited to get into the back seat of one appliance and I think Graeme O'Brien was in before the fireman had even finished telling us we could get in.

Bevan Wilson was kitted up in full fire-fighting uniform and then loaded up with the breathing set. Before he knew it, he had a length of hose thrown over his shoulders to carry as well along with a metal branch pipe. Bevan commented it was quite a weight to have to carry into a building.

Bevan had no sooner taken off all the gear when the alarms at the station sounded. We were fore-warned when we arrived that in such an event we were to move to the back of the station and wait until the appliances had left, and then leave by the side door as the visit had finished at that point.

When the appliances left the station, they

only gave a short burst of siren only. When we looked out, we found the call was to an accident at the intersection right outside the station building.

An interesting point about the appliances was that they all had a hose connected to the exhaust pipes to avoid diesel fumes filling up the station or the firemen's lungs. The hoses are disconnected automatically and slide on an overhead rail as the appliance leave the station.

A very enjoyable evening although we did not manage to view the museum they have at the station.

Southland

By Fred Hawkes

Our April meeting was held at Paul Thompson's home with everyone viewing the collection. By the way, Paul has rejoined and Welcome Aboard Paul, we missed you. It was good to have John Leeuwenburgh with us and we hope he enjoyed himself.

Competition Results :

Kitsets:

- 1st Sam Findlay - Chevy Pickup
- 2nd Fred Hawkes - Stanley Steamer

Diecast Large:

- 1st Malcolm Shaw - Chevy
- 2nd John Leeuwenburgh - Kenworth
- 3rd Sam Findlay - IH Artic. Truck

Diecast Small

- 1st Malcolm Shaw - Garrett Steam Wagon
- 2nd Paul Thompson, - Marshall Tractor
- 3rd David Peipi - Tractor and Trailer

CARVILLE'S CAPERS

Most of us are familiar with the Jensen sports cars made in Britain in the 1940s to 1970s. Dinky made the classic FF (Ferguson Formula), Matrix have made both a 1961 541S and a 1965 C-V8 MkII, Neo have modelled an open SIII Interceptor, while quite recently, Oxford made Mk I, MkII & MkIII versions of the Interceptor, now in a number of colour variations. But did you know that Jensen also made commercial vehicles? It is partly due to a peculiarity in the late 1930s British motoring law that stated that all vehicles weighing over 3 ton unladen must be restricted to a maximum speed of 20 mph.



Jensen Freighter, 1955

In 1938/39 Jensen Motors of West Bromich introduced some lightweight vehicles which made use of light alloys and aluminum. With a Ford petrol engine a lorry which was below 3 ton unladen was produced that could carry a 6 ton load at over 20 mph.

In 1946 a fresh approach was made. The integral construction of the main frame and the superstructure as one unit in light alloys allowed the vehicle to have a platform length of 23 ft. Perkins diesel engines were fitted behind a decorative radiator cut out in the shape of the linguistic abbreviation of Jensen: the lettering "JNSN". It also had the advantage that the entire engine complete with radiator, clutch and gearbox could be

removed in 30 minutes and a new unit fitted in a two hour period



The raising of speed limits and other legislative changes made the light-weight vehicles unnecessary. Production of Jensen Commercial vehicles ceased in 1956/7, though high class car production continued.

Autocult is a relatively new model manufacturer, specialising in 1:43 resin models of some very obscure cars and trucks. They use the words "quirky" and also "pioneering" to describe the choice of vehicles modelled, "resurrecting long since forgotten brands in miniature form". Each is limited to just 333 pieces made.

It is quite a large model, some 21.5 cm long, accurately shaped and well detailed. A criticism may be the amount of chrome – seven vertical strips – on the front. I have not been able to find any pictures of Jensen lorries so adorned.

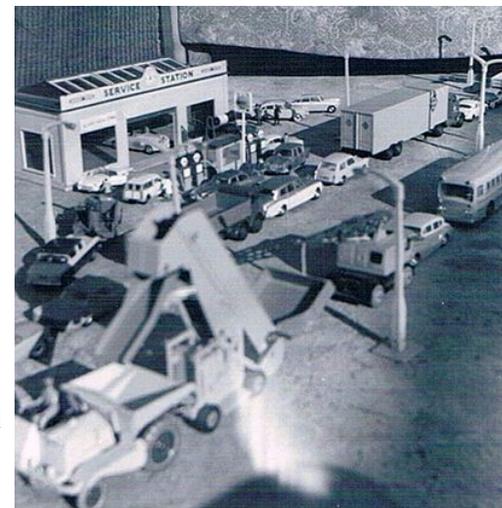
Books on Dinky Toys are not all that uncommon. The latest is part of a series entitled



"Britain's Heritage" and is authored by David Busfield. Whilst it does contain some interesting historical notes, and some very nice pictures of groups of Dinkies, it is not very comprehensive. However, it does not claim to be comprehensive, and with just 64 pages it is unlikely to be able to be so. The majority of the text describes the models in the photographs, with snippets of the history of the range. The whole Dinky range is not photographed, but they are grouped well and with excellent colour reproduction. The author's passion for the models is apparent. One historic photograph, of a Meccano Ltd production line dated 1932 is fascinating. The moving belt contains Dinky animals and figures, and Hornby O gauge petrol tankers being painted by about 25 girls, supervised by a very severe older matronly woman. Of the 30 or so people working on the line there is only one man!

One of the photos in the book shows a scene based on the Dinky Service Station kitset released in 1960, very much like a Meccano Magazine 'Toyman' illustration and is typical of the colourful photographs in the book.

Just for interest, this is Carville's 1962/3 version with vehicles a little later than those chosen for the book illustration. It was taken on the concrete pathway just outside the back door of our house on the corner of Kensington Ave and Westminster Street! My apologies for the poor quality photo.



Book cover and coloured road scene photos courtesy of David Busfield

Black and white rendition, Carville Stewart

Carville

GLAM TOY PRODUCTS

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

Glam Toy Products, sometimes called 'GLAMTOY' are said to originate from the early to late 1950s. They are free-wheeling, of tinsplate construction in general, but some other toys were sourced from other manufacturers of the day, so not everything made by "GTP" was tinsplate.

They were made in the United Kingdom and they are most well known for making a series of 4 cars based on emergency vehicles like Fire, Police and Ambulance cars, all based on similar toys made in the USA.

Glam Toy Products appear to have operated out of SOUTH WALES although they marked their toys "Made In England" usually on the rear above the bumper line. One source reports "Glamtoys Limited. Port Talbot, South Wales. Founded in 1935. Dissolved 1953. Produced small tinsplate vehicles etc. for Woolworths.", so it appears they have been around a lot longer than thought and possibly ceased business earlier than thought. [Kevin Dockerill has confirmed the entry comes from 'British Tin Toys' by Marguerite Fawdry which states "Glamtoys Ltd 1935-1953. Port, South Wales. Manufactured cheap small racing cars, trains, clicking frogs and animals for Woolworths" and is accompanied by an illustration of the frog clickers and what is described as a coronation scene. It is thought the "Port, South Wales" is a typographical error and should read "Port Talbot, South Wales."] GTP made locomotives, service vehicles, garages, boats and planes as well as the cars in various liveries and colours (Ambulance, Fire, Police, Post Office Telephones; two tones, blue, red and green being commonly used) - all the toys I have seen carry a GTP

5xx number on them (including the boats). They appear to have been sold via major retailers such as Woolworth's, during the 1950s.

Models known to me are as follows:

GTP-506 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate 4 door saloon car in Red and Green.



GTP-508 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate Police Car in Blue and Cream. Early(?) versions have a siren/bell mechanism.



GTB-509 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate taxi in Black and Cream.



GTP-510 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate Ambulance in Red and White.

GTP-531 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate taxi in Yellow and Red.

GTP-532 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate ambulance in White and Red.

GTP-552 Bus, free-wheeling, tinsplate Tour Bus - GTP Tours, multi-colour.



GTP-555 Bus, free-wheeling, tinsplate Tour Bus - Starline Coaches, multi-colour.



GTP-563 Van, free-wheeling, tinsplate ice cream van in Yellow and Blue.

GTP-564 Van, free-wheeling, tinsplate mobile shop in Blue.

GTP-566 Van, free-wheeling, tinsplate GTP Circus/Big Top Circus mobile home(?) in Red and Green.

GTP-568 Locomotive, tinsplate locomotive - GTP Express, in Red, Yellow and Green.



GTP-570 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate 4 door in Blue.

GTP-571 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate four door saloon in red.



GTP-574 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate two door saloon in pink and blue.



GTP-576 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate two door saloon in green.

GTP-578 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate taxi, colours unknown.

GTP-584 Garage, operating door, tinsplate Automatic Garage in Orange, Yellow and Blue.

GTP-586 Car, free-wheeling, tinsplate 4 door sedan in Light Green over Dark Green - ARMY STAFF CAR (with Union Jack).

Further information on these toys can be found on www.toysnz.com under the 'Collections' tab... Search on GTP to find the relevant pages.

Ian Cousins

MYSTERIES OF MICRO

Well, not so much ‘mysteries’ but a nice bit of alliteration to catch the eye!

First model to examine is the International ambulance, variously catalogued as GB/20, 4327 and 4348. It is unique in the range because it has two variations to look out for. Only GB/2, the Holden Coupe Utility (FX) is the only casting to have a noted variation. That is, of course, ignoring the wheel hubs and painted detail finish between the Australian and New Zealand ranges.

With the first casting, the detailed baseplate is held to the model via spigots on the body going through slots in the chassis and splayed over – two at the front apron and two at the rear. This method was used in a num-



ber of other Micro Model issues, most notably the Holden FJ Sedan and Standard Vanguard Estate. The grilles on the first



issues were blanked between the bars and frame (that is, not ‘holed through’).



The first variation came along when the bars on the grille were ‘holed through’ to match other Micro such as the International van and Ford V8 Lorry. Usually, the modification is the opposite way with most manufacturers, where hole-throughs are filled in to ease production problems.

and Ford V8 Lorry. Usually, the modification is the opposite way with most manufacturers, where hole-throughs are filled in to ease production problems.

The second variation was the deletion of the front spigots and a mounting stem added under the bonnet that allowed the base to be spun down in the normal construction method. My guess is that the base on the International was quite heavy and the spigots splay was not strong enough; meaning the base might come away from the model during

So the International came with closed grille, open grille and added spigot and examples of each are shown on page 10.

In addition to the casting variations, there are the normal wheel types (basically, dished for Australian and domed for New Zealand, although the Australian one can be found with domed wheels). The tampo printing is also different between the Australian and New Zealand issues. The Aussie one is more detailed with window frame tampo detail and the word ‘AMBULANCE’ under the cast in windows. In addition, there is the obligatory Red Cross logo on the front doors. The NZ ones simply had the Red Cross on the front doors and the windows were painted silver.



The Australian issue has domed wheels (exception to the rules!) with open grille but no sump rivet



Another Australian issue with dished wheels, open grille and sump rivet. Note the fading of the signs due to handling. Note also the detailing on the window tampo.

A military version was available in both Australia and New Zealand. They were painted olive drab all over including the base. There is a Red Cross on the front doors – this time in a white circle to make it stand out. This is more authentic than the civilian version. Windows are not picked out.



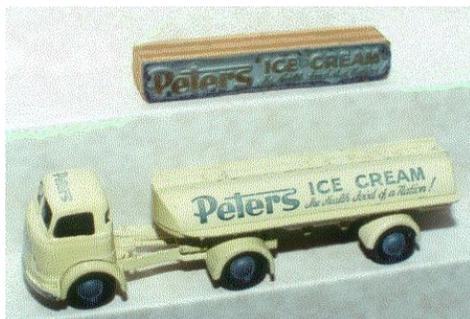
The military version. Olive paint also used on the base—unusual for Micro Models.

As already noted, the windows apart from the front windscreen and front doors are cast solid. This annoyed me even as a child and actually cut them out and made it into a mini bus/people carrier. I don’t know what happened to this example.



The New Zealand version with painted windows and simple Red Cross on the doors.

Was the ambulance authentic? I have not been able to track down an exact replica, but it certainly was of the type used in both Australia and New Zealand in the era. The R.N.Z.A.F had a lookalike but with a one-piece windscreen. Bruce Hoy has a in depth archive in Brisbane and he has supplied some photos of possibilities. The scale of the model is slightly less than 1:43.



FOOTNOTE:
The tooling for the International Ambulance apparently was not included in the lot that Kevin Meates bought from Australia and it appears to be the only one 'missing'. The Humber Super Snipe tooling is owned by Pier Van Netten—well half of the die at least. Of course, the Lincoln 'specials' such as the Massey-

The RNZAF International Ambulance 'after service' Obviously some problem with the motor. A near match for the Micro Models one but a one-piece windscreen

Harris tractor, logging trailer, low loader trailer and Caterpillar Bulldozer also were not included (I wonder what happened to them?).

The term 'tampo print' has been deliberately used. It must be a very early example of the technique. I was lucky enough to 'borrow' one – the "Peter's Ice Cream" tanker. As can be seen, the writing is the correct was around, it is solid and flat with no sign of any inking/paint on it; meaning that the 'ink' must have been applied later in the process.

Finally, here is a 'mint' Australian IH Army Ambulance showing the paint damage due



to 'out gassing' due to Queensland heat!
Ron

Incidentally, while doing a search on The Web, I was surprised to see that Peter's Ice Cream was one available in New Zealand up until the 1950s, so this Peter's Ice Cream tanker could have applied to New Zealand as well.

SWEET AND SOUR!

Many will be upset at the news that Cadburys are pulling out of New Zealand for no better reason than that the American owners can do it. This is not the forum to get into politics, so I won't.

Cadbury had made up some real vintage vehicles to look like the 'models'. I can't think of any other example of a real vehicle made to look like a model. Has anyone got photos of these vehicles? They were toured around New Zealand and they featured in many news items.

The reason for this item is to talk about the promotional models Cadburys New Zealand put out several years ago. These seem exclusive editions for New Zealand and were made by Lledo when they too, were an independent company. Lledo did put out some Cadburys models but they were for worldwide sales and of different design to the NZ ones.

I think there were four items available at the time plus another one later. I am a bit vague on this point as I don't have much interest in this type of model.

Ron

The very unique feature of this series is that



SIKU NEW ZEALAND AMBULANCES

Siku is a long established toy and model vehicle maker based in Germany. They have long been available in New Zealand and are indeed currently available unlike many of the other makes that were formerly readily available here.

The New Zealand agent seems to have been successful in getting many promotional 'lookalike' models for the New Zealand market. Their website www.clubsiku.co.nz shows many of the items but seems to be well out of date (newest entry is for 2015). Anyhow, this article is looking at the ambulances and associated items.

The first NZ promo that I know about is 2228 (NZ), Westpac Trust helicopter used by the Life Flight Trust to raise fund. It is the standard ADAC helicopter from the catalogue but finished in the Westpac colours and scaled 1:55.



I am not an expert on helicopters, but the model looks the part. The rotors fold up and the back doors open – slightly. I am not sure when this was issued but the embellishments are simplified with only the Westpac logo, 'Westpac Trust', 'Air Ambulance' and 'Rescue 1' logo being reproduced.

The next item to appear was a Mercedes-Benz ambulance in 1:50 scale. This is catalogue number 2108. Once again, the model is an approximation of the actual Mercedes ambulance. It has opening front and rear doors. Interior detail is best ignored as it features left-hand-drive and a central stretcher than can be removed (with difficulty!).

The ambulance is painted white with green and yellow stripes and wording plus the St John



logos and their web address. 'St John' over the windscreen plus 'AMBULANCE' in the correct way around on the bonnet. And of course, DIAL 111 on the side.

The next issue of 2108 the same casting but in Wellington Free Ambulance livery of all over yellow with green, white and yellow Battenberg checks along the lower half of the body in the current Wellington Free Ambulance style. The 'green cross' logo is featured on the rear panels as well as above the windscreen.



'WELLINGTON FREE AMBULANCE (in black) and 'YOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE' in green smaller letters is on both sides and above the windscreen plus 'AMBULANCE' in black on the bonnet. A large '439' is on the rear of the roof for aerial recognition.

As there are only two Ambulance Services in New Zealand, the last issue of 2108 has an updated St John livery. The overall colour is now yellow with green Battenberg stripes on the lower half of the body. Side signs have 'ST JOHN AMBULANCE and fleet number (175) in a stripe along the roof edge, the St John cross and lettering in the middle of the panel and 'ASB logo below that. The St John logo is on the front doors. ST JOHN in yellow on the striping above the windscreen and in mirror writing on the bonnet. There is a bold 175 on the rear of the roof for aerial identification.



The first version of the 1:50 version of the ambulance has a small cousin. It is allegedly 1:87 but it looks much larger than that (catalogue 1597NZ). It has been available for some time singularly or part of various sets. I think it is based on an earlier version of the Mercedes-Benz and is basically a van. The livery is the same as the larger 1st issue.



Like the 1:55 scale helicopter, there is a smaller version (1647) available in the 'Life Flight' (Wespac) and carries a simplified livery. At least it has the correct yellow top and the correct (ZK) HLF registration. No opening parts on this one.



to connect with the fixed wing Air Ambulance run by Life Flight Trust..



One of the sets that includes the small ambulance



The two small ambulances showing the differences—style and size.



The special WFA Life Flight Trust box



Ron

The helicopter also comes with in a set along with a small Mercedes-Benz ambulance that is a different casting to the above mentioned #1597, being a scaled down version of the 1:50 ambulance. In fact, by a quick scan of the current Siku catalogue, the casting is unique! Also unique is the livery; being a combination of the older Wellington Free Ambulance in white (similar to the first St John white one) and Life Flight Trust with a red rear section to the cabin. I have not seen this version of the ambulance nor able to find it in the extensive Life Flight trust photo library. As the rest of the ambulances are in authentic liveries, there is no doubt that the livery is correct. I guess the ambulance is used to ferry patients to and from the airport when it is too windy to land at Wellington Hospital. Also unique is the box with photos and promotional write-ups. The catalogue number is 1850NZ. The set is currently available with the ambulance in a different livery. I have just noted that the ambulance is used to transfer patients to the Life Flight Trust's facility at Wellington Airport

SNIPPETS

At a recent auction by Victis, many New Zealand Tri-ang were being offered. It was not hard to work out that they were from the collection of Maurice Woolley. Most seemed to go for £90, but that does not include commission etc. Full results are: Vectis auction results.

- Lot 1625 Morris van 'Chesdale Cheese' **£130**
- Lot 1626 Morris van 'Minic' **£80**
- Lot 1627 Zephyr Six Mk.1 boxed **£240**
- Lot 1628 Road Roller **£90**
- Lot 1629 Jaguar XK120 **£150**
- Lot 1630 Alfa Romeo Racer **£110**
- Lot 1631 Tip Truck, wide **£140**
- Lot 1632 Tip Truck long **£90**
- Lot 1633 Tip Truck long **£90**
- Lot 1634 Morris J van (plain) **£90**

It was strange that the Jeep was not on offer as I know Maurice had one.

Recently I ordered some items from a retailer in France. I paid for them using a credit card, which I have done before with this trader. However when I received my credit card bill, I found that there were several items listed that were not mine – airline tickets for Viet Air totalling nearly \$1800. After a lot of to and froing, the charges were reversed. This is not the first time it has happened to my account (which I hardly ever use) and I suspect it was with the same retailer.

Okay, this is a danger when you buy on-line and the reason I use a credit card as it is easier to reverse frauds. I was sure their Website is secure, but if there is a breach then all the card details are available including the so called safety features of the, the card verification/security code (CVC, CCV or CSC) is written on the same page as the rest of the data, making it easy for any skullduggery! Not secure at all.

Many of the reproduction Dinky Toys can be bought on-line from sellers in Hong Kong and China. It may seem a bit risky, but I have not had any problems. It seems many other New Zealanders have been buying from this source judging by what is appearing on Trade Me.

What I have noticed is that many of the sellers seem to be the same group as the parcels received all look alike and their websites seem to have the same items for sale—even using the same photos. Another quirk is the rapid rise and fall of the asking prices, so it pays to keep tabs on what is going on!

It is not only reproduction Dinky Toys on offer but many makes such as Base Toys, White Box, DSIM, Minialuxe, Greenlight, Atlas Editions, ACME 1:18 Hot Rods, Tiger Cat 1:32 Construction, iXO (various), UH tractors, etc.

There are even bulk lots to be bought and most have free 2nd class postage.

Ron

MODEL SCRUTINEER

I bought my first 'new' Corgi Classic for many years with CC14301, Ford Transit in JCB colours. This represents a third generation face-lift van. It is scaled to 1:50 which matches most of the commercials in modern Corgi production. It was first announced in the 2007 Corgi catalogue, so it isn't exactly new (10 years ago!) along with a companion CC146021 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van in JCB colours.

The model is well made and captures the line of the van very well. Of note is the separately cast windscreen frame that includes the finely cast wipers and gives the glazing a flush fitted effect. The frontal treatment is good with glazed headlight clusters and the Ford oval on the grille. The underside is well detailed with a separate exhaust system picked out in silver against the matte black of the base.

The model is well painted in chrome yellow with details such as the door handles included in the tampo printing. The Ford badges have the correct blue background with readable 'Ford' script in silver. 'JCB' signs are also tampo printed in black. They differ from the catalogue illustration with many missing such as the 'Demonstrator' signage. I bought it as it was 'marked down' at the last Toy Fair in Wellington for \$35 (was \$52 which was too dear in 2007!).



When is a Dinky not a Dinky? When it is an iXO! Well I think it is as it is from a part-work series of vans of the world and most of the part-work models are made by iXO. The Transit Mark 1 facelift is based on a real van used by Meccano Limited in the 70s.

This is a well detailed model and compares well with the real van. The picture I've seen (can't find it now), the signs and paint pattern are correct. However, the picture is in black and white and it has been reported that the colours aren't accurate. It does 'look the part'. The only strange thing is that it is shown with 'foreign' number plates – nothing like the English ones of the era. I wonder why Meccano did not do the same trick with their own Dinky Toy Transit van at the time? It makes a nice adjunct to any Dinky Toy collection or other Meccano product as it advertises Meccano, Mogul and Dinky Toys.



Eric sent me a promotional model celebrating 80 years of Tip Top Ice Cream. The model is unbranded and about 1:64 scale. I am not sure what prototype it is based on but it looks like an Isuzu. It has very small road wheels which means it is a town truck. The back doors open.

It has a metal cab and van casting with plastic for other components



A similar van used by Anchor.

The box has a label saying this is a Tip Top Truck Collectable and is #2. Has anyone know how many in the series and what they were?

Now from Evan Blanch, Otago

My wife, Judy, recently visited Scotland and she brought me back a Majorette model of a Police Mustang with signage for the Dubai Police Force. The back of the pack



showed the full range of the Special Edition for the Dubai Police Super Cars:

- Porsche Panamera
- Chevrolet Camaro
- Audi R8
- Mercedes-Benz SLS
- Ford Mustang.

Evan Blanch

Majorette Toys are available in New Zealand again. David Jones Department Store in Wellington have them and I also saw some at Not Just Toys and Trains in Lower Hutt. Ed.

Coming next issue: New Zealand Trade Marks on overseas produced toys:



Recently I found this item in an old overseas model magazine. No prizes for guessing who the 'author' is.

A group of English tourists had spent a long day travelling in the hot parched and dusty Australian hinterland. After an exhausting day they naturally craved a cup of tea. Coming across a small settlement called **Mersey**, they searched for any sort of eating establishment where they could obtain a cuppa. Indeed there was a small corrugated iron diner where, with great expectation, they each ordered a cup of tea. To their surprise, the proprietor asked them what sort of tea they would like. With anticipation filling their dry throats and thoughts of Twinning's Earl Grey exciting their taste buds, they asked what sort of tea he had. His reply puzzled them into silence as he described a series of teas named after indigenous Australian animals, amongst them, dingo tea, emu tea, koala tea, kangaroo tea, etc. After some hesitation the spokesman ordered **koala tea**, justifying his choice to his fellow tourists by saying that koala bears were cute and cuddly little creatures that must be safe. After a few moments their mugs of tea arrived. Ah the joy! Nothing more satisfying! However, after a few moments one of the tourists noticed that fluff balls were floating to the surface in his mug. Trying not to draw attention to this he flicked the fluff out, but than a chorus of exclamation came from the others as the same

complaint beset them. Looking at each other, they decided that they would complain to the proprietor. Being a canny local, the proprietor had noticed what was going on, and was already on his way to calm his customers. In a typically good natured way he greeted them with the statement, 'Sorry, I should have warned you; *The Koala Tea of Mersey is not strained.*' boom. boom!

Something a bit different for your Police collection. It is 1:43 scale.



Another contender for the prototype of the Micro Ambulance (apart from the grille).



Wanted wanted Wanted wanted Wanted wanted

**Kitset News,
Diecast News.
Any Hobby News whatsoever!**