

Small



Torque

AUSTRALIAN MODEL CAR CLUB INC. NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

As Christmas draws near and we begin writing up our gifts lists, spare a thought for those less fortunate than you (the poor, the sick, the unfortunate, etc), and think about how you might be able to help them. I know it's difficult these days with higher taxes and levels of debt and responsibilities weighing us down, but even a small donation to a charity of your choice will help. The spirit of Christmas is in giving, with receiving being a bonus. To this end I wonder if the club as a whole might be willing to donate some diecast model cars to needy children this Christmas. Worth a discussion at the next meeting I think?

The big race at Bathurst produced an exciting finish, with Craig Lowndes and Jamie Wincup winning back to back races. Fords filled the first three placing, with Greg Murphy holding up Holden's flag for fourth. Although the race is unpredictable right down to the last lap, I have heard murmurings that the whole concept of limiting sedan motor racing to two Marques is not representative of the Australian motoring public's preference when it comes to buying cars. Prior to the V8 Supercars there was the exciting spectacle of all Marques competing against each other in different classes, which truly represented a variety of choice. Will this month's AMCC meeting theme of "Australian Cars" be truly representative I wonder?

In last month's issue I missed two categories in the 2007 Autochamps NNL results and report. They are Cars—Competition/Racing, won by Simon Breust with a Shelby 427 Cobra, and Cars—Modified Diecast, won by Don Williams with a VW Kombi Van. The AMCC website has full results for Autochamps NNL 2007, and photos of the winning models. If you didn't go you missed quite a show, so start planning for next year's event by building models and for assistance time.

Best wishes—Terry O'Neill



Minichamps Maserati Tipo 61—Carroll Shelby

Originally named Tipo 60 and 61, the Maserati "Birdcage" possessed a revolutionary steel tube frame, which consisted of more than 200 filmy liners. This car owned and developed by the Italian car manufacturer based in Modena, dominated the international race scene especially in the USA throughout the 1960s. Among others Stirling Moss was one of the drivers that piloted the Maserati "Birdcage". This is a replica of the Maserati Tipo 61 from the year 1960, with which the legendary Carroll Shelby took part in the Riverside Examiner GP. Minichamps have made it to 1:18 scale.



**A U S T R A L I A N
M O D E L C A R C L U B
I N C. (Established 1972)**

AMCC MEETINGS are held on the third Monday of each month, 7.45 p.m. at the Copland Room, Ashburton Library, 154 High Street, Ashburton, Victoria.
(Melways Map 60 C9).

The AMCC committee occasionally meets earlier at Sergio's Pizza Restaurant across the road, 6.30pm. Members are welcome to join us for a cheap dinner and chat prior to the monthly meeting.

Postal Address: NA
Email:
tone1078@optusnet.com.au
Website:
http://members.optusnet.com.au/~tone1078

AMCC COMMITTEE:

- President:**
Louise McMillan
Vice-President:
John Gray
Secretary:
Terry O'Neill
Treasurer:
John Comber
Committee Members:
Rob Cranston
Paul McLennan
John Templin
George McMaster
Newsletter Editor:
Terry O'Neill

**MEETINGS
DATES FOR
2007**

- January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18 (not at library)
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17

MODEL NEWS



POCHER TO RETURN

Pocher's magnificent 1:8 scale Alfa Romeo 8C2300 coupe "Elegant".



Bburago is back and already making new model cars in 1:18 scale. Above is their 2007 Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione, the latest in a long line of sporting Alfas using an eight-cylinder motor. The car started off in 2004 as a concept design, and has finally made it into production with a 450 bhp V8 under the bonnet. Bburago has also released a 2006 Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder, (below) a 520 bhp supercar powered by a V10 engine and loaded with hi-tech gadgetry.



Earlier this year I sent an Email to Hornby Italia referring to possible future production of the big 1:8 scale Pocher model car kits that were available until 2003, when then parent company Lima went into receivership. Hornby purchased Lima and the Pocher dies and nothing has been heard from them since, until now. Hornby's Roberta Gervasi contacted me to say Pocher production is expected to start again within two years, possibly with the Ferrari and Porsche models being first off the line. The classics will be further away but anything can happen in two years. Good news indeed as many model builders have wondered about Pocher models and what became of them. Below is Pocher's Ferrari Testarossa model.



CLUB & EVENTS CALENDAR 2007

NOTE: If you cannot meet the theme bring along anything else such as new buys or kits.

<p>OCTOBER Sunday 07 Sunday 14 Monday 15</p>	<p>Bathurst 1000, Bathurst, NSW (see Editorial page 1). Eagles Day, Military model competition (aircraft). St. Michael's Parish Hall, High Street, Ashburton. Monthly meeting—Australian made cars & cars sold in Australia</p>
<p>NOVEMBER Saturday 10 Sat/Sun 17/18 Monday 19</p>	<p>BMMC Model comp & Swap Meet. Werribee Scout Hall, College Road Wings 2007, Model aircraft competition & show. Australian National Aviation Museum, Moorabbin Airport. Monthly meeting—Motoring memorabilia; Model of the Year; Annual General Meeting (new committee to be elected).</p>
<p>DECEMBER Monday 17</p>	<p>Monthly meeting—Christmas break-up (bring a plate). Club awards presentations. Theme—anything of interest.</p>

SEPTEMBER MEETING PICTURE GALLERY



The big boys get bigger munching on delicious pizzas from Sergio's.

September's "Italian Night" theme continued its traditional format with models of Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Lancia, and any other models painted red. The night was split into two halves with a break for supper in between, and was a very successful change. Supper was supplied by Sergio's Pizza restaurant across the road, and was quickly demolished (see picture at left). The annual Italian night meeting brings out some interesting models, some of which are rarely seen (like some of our members). Let's hope a few more faces turn up to our next meeting (Australian Cars).



Some of Tony Scull's collection of Ferrari cars, all beautifully built.



Craig Baird's amazing collection of Ferrari kits from the good old days.



John Comber opted for some older Merit kits to display Maserati and Alfa Romeo models.



Lloyd Cowan always provides a variety of models for any theme.

**NOTICE OF AMCC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2007 at 8pm**

The AMCC committee hereby gives notice that an Annual General Meeting will be conducted on **Monday 19th November 2007 from 8pm**, to elect a new committee to organise and run the AMCC and its affairs during 2008.

Venue is the AMCC's normal meeting room inside the Ashburton Library, High Street, Ashburton.

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Please refer to page 2 for a listing of current committee members.



A couple of Polistil models from the Editor's collection.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

September = Italian Night = Pizzas!

Continuing our traditional pizza-nights in September, we again enjoyed a variety of pizzas from local pizza restaurant Sergios. John Woodhouse generously volunteered to do the ordering and pickups for us, thanks John. The pizzas were as scrumptious as always and were washed down with Coke or Solo. The new format of the evening as trialed last month, saw members sitting in rows with display models set up on one side of the room and work-in-progress (WIP) models on the other side.

Terry O'Neill began the meeting before handing over to Paul McLennan, who gave a good account of the recent Autochamps model comp'. Paul also hinted at some changes for next year's event. The new format was well accepted by those present with some of the older members heard to say "This is how we did it twenty years ago at the Light Car Club rooms". Some of the members chose to speak about their models before we adjourned for half an hour to enjoy the pizzas. It was during this break that the members took a few minutes to sign a 'get well' card for John Gray, who is recovering at home after recent surgery.

Models on display included Andy Woodhouse' Vespa motor-scooter, looking big 'n bold in purple, built from a 1:9 scale Italeri kit. Andy also showed a recent F1 Ferrari in 1:24 scale by Revell and a racing Yamaha as ridden by Valentino Rossi built from 1:12 scale Heller kit.

Terry O'Neill proudly showed his '35 Fiat Balilla and '30 Alfa 1750, both in gleaming red and both from Polistil in their slightly unusual scale of 1:16.

Tony Scull showed us a collection Ferraris through the sixties, with 250GTs, GTOs, GTBs, a California spyder and a Daytona, all built in the popular 1:24 scale and mainly from Italeri kits.

Craig Baird was another to show Ferraris with display covering most of the scales from 1:12 thru 1:24 to 1:43 and 1:60 (approx').

Paul McLennan was another to show a Ferrari, this was an Enzo, he built from a recent Tamiya kit in 1:24 scale. Paul also

showed his trophy winning custom 'Chopper' based on a 1:12 scale Revell kit and loaded with extra lathe turned aluminium parts. Paul also showed his unfinished (W-I-P) '49 Mercury, a new release from Revell in 1:25 scale. This kit features a lowered or 'chopped' roofline and other custom features.

Other W-I-P models seen on the table were a '69 Mustang and Sunbeam Tiger, both in 1:24 scale and in primer; maybe we'll see them in colour next month.

Lloyd Cowan's display included Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Maseratis and the three Minis from the film *The Italian Job*. One of Lloyd's favourite pieces is his 1:43 scale F1 Ferrari signed by Michael Schumacher; Lloyd has several F1 models signed by the drivers but explained that Schumacher is so popular he was very lucky to get the autograph.

Graeme Longmore brought along some of his Bugatti models in 1:43 scale and the magnificent Bugatti Royale Coupe' Napoleon from Franklin Mint in 1:24 scale. Other Italian cars Graeme showed were an early Fiat and a Lamborghini Diablo. Graeme Signorini also showed Lamborghini with his Countach in 1:24 scale from Franklin Mint.

John Templin showed his recently finished 1950 Thames panel van in 1:24 scale, john converted the little van back to a 'street driven' van from the outright dragster base of the kit.

going tram-driving training. I wonder if the Distraction Test will be applied to future applicants? What say you Adrian? — J.C.

QUEENSLAND MODEL COMPETITION

During my holiday in Queensland I was fortunate enough to pick up some awards at the above competition. They were silver & bronze (2nd & 3rd) in 'out of box' and silver in modified / enhanced — J.C.



BRABHAM BMW - NELSON PIQUET

Minichamps has announced a 1:18 scale diecast model of Nelson Piquet's 1983 F1 Championship winning car, the Brabham BMW BT52. It has complete engine detail and the upper panel can be removed for inspection purposes. Piquet was the first F1 driver to win a Championship in a turbo engine car. The BT52 had an amazing power output of between 700 and 900 bhp in race or qualifying set-up respectively. Piquet won the 1983 title from Alain Prost by just two championship points.



OTHER REPORTS

CRASH BLAMED ON SEX

This heading in the Herald Sun recently covered a report on a tram driver charged with careless driving.

Heading for the Camberwell depot at 1.30 am the 53 year old driver checked his mirrors and was shocked to see a teenage couple having sex in his otherwise empty tram. The shock caused the driver to crash into a stationary car at an intersection. The defence barrister claimed "even people with above average concentration would have been distracted", the magistrate struck out the careless driving charge.

I thought this article may be of interest to some of our members, especially as our very own Adrian Huntley is currently under

FANGIO ON YOUTUBE

If you have broadband Internet you have got to see this amazing ABC TV footage of Juan Fangio and Jack Brabham racing together at the 1978 Golden Anniversary (50th) Australian Grand Prix held at Sandown Racecourse. Fangio is driving the 1955 Mercedes W196 and Brabham is driving his 1967 Repco-Brabham, and they are really having a "go". Link is www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fbc5U6wTFUw

This was real history in the making.

