

AUSTRALIA SCALEXTRIC CLUB



Hawkesbury Hobby Show 2013

SCALEXTRIC ON THE UP "DOWN UNDER"

John Corfield and Dominic Grimes tell us about the ASRRC

The release of SLOT magazine is great news for slot car enthusiasts worldwide, particularly those with a preference for 1:32nd scale. In Australia the magazine has been well received, being stocked in some newsagents as well as most slot car outlets. It looks to be a great way to help connect people and clubs worldwide. Our Club is pleased to share how we bring people together to enjoy Scalextric "down under", be it racing, collecting, merchandise or through hosted events.

The club has 125 members at December 2013, which is 25% up on 2012. A good scattering of members outside the main Sydney base, but in a land of long distances there are challenges to do things on a truly national scale (eg. 4,110 kilometres across from Sydney to Perth). In the last two years, 20 international members in the UK & Europe

have joined and it is great to know A.S.R.C.C. cars, monthly journals and other club merchandise are heading to home tracks and collectors around the world.

Formed in 1991 by of a small group of Sydney enthusiasts, the club is run by a small and passionate elected committee with connections back to those that formed the club. As the club is the official Scalextric club in Australia, we carry the Scalextric name with pride and seek to grow in member numbers as well as lift the awareness of Scalextric in Australia.

Whilst we have a heavy Scalextric focus and it is the most popular brand in Australia, the club events such as the annual auction and swap meet welcome slot cars of all brands. With Scalextric almost as old in Australia as it is in the UK, the history is significant and still part of the appeal. Our club racing has a



ASRRC Club Lines journal

majority of Scalextric classes, but also features some Ninco and SCX.

The last time you may have read about the club was in the UK Scalextric Club magazine in 2011, a wonderful piece Roger Gillham

wrote to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary. The club has had many developments in the last few years, continuing with the activities members enjoy and adding extra events and member benefits.

CLUB ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Monthly journal Club Lines, featuring Scalextric car reviews, race night news, Scalextric new release information, event calendar and free members' classifieds.

In Sydney NSW, race meetings are at member's tracks & commercial outlets. Typically an evening of racing features three or four classes selected by the race meeting host, often with an Australian theme.

In July our club attends the Hawkesbury Hobby Show weekend on the outskirts of northern Sydney to raise money for charity as well as provide a slot car experience for people of all ages.



Members voted the Brabham BT19 as the car they most wanted Scalextric to produce

An Annual Slot Car Auction, run for the 23rd consecutive year in 2013, with typically 300 to 400 lots. Variety in slot car items as well as attractive prices are assured, all part of a professional auction. With each item taking about 60 seconds, it can be an endurance event!

City Vs Country Challenge, an annual race meeting with Country comprising slot car enthusiasts from Dubbo, western NSW against a Sydney club contingent.

Club Lines Grand Prix, the annual last event on the calendar. The event mixes a Grand Prix theme with endurance racing to mark the close of the year.

MORE RECENT AND VERY EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE:

Re-introducing our annual slot car swap meeting. In 2012 we brought back a swap meet for the first time since 1999. Run in March it fits nicely with the Auction to provide a buying/selling event for members and non-members every six months.

Starting small in 2012, the 2013 swap meet lifted the bar with over 1,000 slot cars in the hall, a queue of 40 buyers waiting when the doors opened and saw four hours of busy buying, swapping as well as chatting amongst slot car enthusiasts. All buyers and sellers went home happy.

Club Car Experience – official A.S.R.C.C. cars were quite infrequent up until 2011, with just the TVR C2452 in 2002. Since 2011 the club have been very grateful to Scalextric as well as local distributor Southern Model Supplies, with three club cars. These A.S.R.C.C. cars have rejuvenated interest and provided a showcase for the club to attract



The 2014 ASRRC Club Car with special packaging



ASRCC Items on display at the Swindon swap meet 2014

members and provide a very collectable and interesting Australian car. As a premium product, we have aimed each year to lift the significance of the car to members.

For the 2013 A.S.R.C.C. Caterham (C3238), each car has an accompanying signed certificate and a drink cooler with bespoke matching 'Caterham' design. The Caterham has also been recognised with a limited release themed mug available to club members only. We really like club cars in Australia and enhance their collectability wherever possible given they are unique, rare and desirable.

To welcome the release of an A.S.R.C.C. car, since 2011 the club has done a club car promotion involving a story with diorama photos. These are all viewable on the club's website and the sourcing of a suitable transporter is always an interesting experience.



McLaren C3331 ASRRC Club Car

selections from the total list of about 60 cars. For both nominations and voting, member responses were received in the post, by sms/text, email and in person at the club hosted auction. Points were awarded as per the F1 Championship and the top selected car was the Brabham BT19 as raced by Sir Jack. Whilst an iconic Australian racer and car, the model would appeal worldwide and hopefully one day we can race it in Scalextric 1:32nd scale. The final highlight was the opportunity to provide a leather-bound colour presentation of the complete survey, including member contributions, to Adrian knowing it represented input from 35% of the member base who are a key buying group and keen supporters of Scalextric. We hope the survey provides a valuable insight to the market for Scalextric.

Looking forwards into 2014 we are busy planning the swap meet in early March as well as doing member renewals. We are also planning other activity such as further high quality merchandising and how to improve on existing events. Thanks for reading about the A.S.R.C.C. Please visit our website at www.scalextricaustralia.com.

Enjoy your slot cars & 'Cheers' from Australia John, Pete, Andrew, Chris, Rod & Dominic The A.S.R.C.C. Committee ●



Auction 2012, auctioneer Rod & club sponsor Clive of Scalexworld

Other A.S.R.C.C. merchandise includes badges, caps, polo shirts, magnetic photos, and drink coolers.

In 2012 the committee conducted an extremely successful member survey with two aims, to find out what cars Australian Scalextric enthusiasts wanted to buy and also to help the club committee re-engage with members. The survey idea started after a chance email