

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

SCALEXTRIC IN AUSTRALIA

Below is the majority of the Cool Wall before the doors opened and voting started.



A.S.R.C.C. WORKING WITH SCALEXTRIC

Dominic Grimes shows the view from down under of the hottest cars in the 2015 Scalextric range

The committee of the Australian Scalextric Racing and Collecting Club (A.S.R.C.C.) wanted to share more on Scalextric down under with SLOT magazine readers. It's almost a year since edition #6 featured the A.S.R.C.C. and racing in Sydney and we have got something a bit different for you to read about, and it also includes some takeaway free downloads available from the club website, www.scalextricaustralia.com.

The Scalextric Cool Wall made its second appearance at the annual club swap meet in Sydney. This is a variation of the "Cool Wall" concept from a leading car show you all know, where everyone gets a vote for their top choices, helping boost interest in the club swapmeet.

People come to buy and swap slot cars but also get the opportunity to get a good look at and have their say on the year ahead from Scalextric. Viewing and voting typically happen after their buying and swapping. The Cool Wall is good, but doesn't compare to getting that car you really want, or just a bargain or two!

To help people to have their vote we have a "Mr Cool Wall", Brendan, the teenage son of committee member Andrew. Also helping at entrance desk is John G who encourages participation and provides everyone with their 1-2-3 voting stickers. In 2014 the "Cool Wall" got a brief mention in SLOT magazine #8. It was our first year and with a tight budget and limited preparation featured 40 pages of the 2014 catalogue, scanned, printed and laminated in A3.

As soon as the 2014 swap meet was behind us the planning for 2015 began. A large amount of pre-work was involved with designing posters that incorporated images from www.scalextric.com, combined with a write up of the car's history including year and country plus driver if a race/rally car.

Due to space constraints with the swapmeet popularity rising, we were limited to about 20 cars rather than all the new releases. We focused on what was "really" new. For example the Parnelli Jones Mustang (C3651) and the Sunoco Camaro #6 (C3650) didn't make it due to being similar to prior year releases. Whilst it

is great they are now DPR, the importance of the PCR cars was a priority with C3625 BMW Z4 GT3 and C3644 McLaren P1. We did fit in the C3664A Aston Martin Goldfinger as a test of interest for existing liveries repackaged.

COOL WALL RESULTS RESULTS: THE TOP 5



1977 ATCC FORD FALCON XB #1 (MOFFAT) & #2 (BOND) C3587A:

With 16% of the votes it was the favourite of the swap meet audience. It is not surprising given the interest and prior requests from Scalextric enthusiasts for a twin pack limited edition release ever since the first XB #9, C3303, was released. If surprised it didn't get up to 20% of the total votes, there may be an impact of the "you're Holden or Ford" which was huge back in the '70s in Australia and still big today. There have also been a few other Moffat XB releases previously.



THE FULL TABLE OF THE VOTING WAS:

Rank	Code	Model	Ltd Ed.	Country	Vote %
1	C3587A	1977 ATCC Ford Falcon XB #1 (Moffat) & #2 (Bond)	Y	Aussie	16%
2	C3586A	1964 ATCC Minis #1 (Foley) & #2 (Manton)	Y	Aussie	13%
3	C3614	Mercury Cougar XR7 1967 Riverside Trans Am Series #41 (Moffat)		Aussie	9%
4	C3664A	James Bond Aston Martin DB5 Goldfinger	Y	UK	9%
5	C3589A	Brabham BT26A #8 (Brabham) & McLaren M7C #6 (McLaren) GP '69	Y	Aussie	7%
6	C3594	Audi R8 LMS Bathurst 12 Hour 2014 #5A Skwirk Online (R Salmon)		Aussie	6%
7	C3625	BMW Z4 GT3 Japanese Super GT300 #0 Goosmile Racing (PCR)		Germ/Jap	6%
8	C3644	McLaren P1 Volcano Yellow Street Livery (PCR)		UK	6%
8	C3645	VW Panelvan Chick Iversen VW-Porsche Work Van		German	6%
10	C3612	Chevrolet Camaro 1970 Brut 33 #1 '75 Silverstone (S Graham)		UK	5%
11	C3613	Ford Mustang Boss 302 1969 Trans Am Series #41 (Ed Hinchcliff)		USA	4%
12	C3655A	Tyrrell F1 003 Spanish Grand Prix 1971 #11 (Stewart)	Y	UK	3%
13	C3611	Chevrolet Camaro 1969 NZ saloon car #2 (Marwood & Riley)		NZ	3%
14 =	C3593A	Mercedes F1 2014 W05 Hybrid #44 (Hamilton)	Y	UK	2%
14 =	C3657A	Team Lotus 72 RoC 1971 Brands Hatch #8 (Trimmer)	Y	UK	2%



The #7 voted C3625 BMW Z4 GT with Pro Chassis Racing (PCR) and the #1 voted, top choice, C3587A Ford Falcon XB twin car limited edition set.



1964 ATCC MINIS #1 (FOLEY) & #2 (MANTON) C3586A:

With 13% of the votes this twin pack of Aussie minis had strong support and came a solid second in the voting. They are a couple of great looking classic Aussie minis that have clearly caught people's attention, and are a "re-release" of both minis produced briefly in Australia in the early 1960's.



MERCURY COUGAR XR7 '67 TRANS AM SERIES #41 (MOFFAT) C3614:

With 9% of the votes, Allan Moffat's appeal as a driver of Australian-related liveries continues to be supported. Whilst the car didn't race in Australia, it was part of a three car Mercury race team but presented in unique "Aussie" colours. Team cars were painted red and silver, but in deference to Allan's Aussie background, his Cougar was green and gold. It was the top ranked and only standard release in the top 5.



AMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DB5 GOLDFINGER C3664A:

With 9% of the votes and just behind the Moffat Mercury Cougar, the Aston Martin DB5 did well and shows the Bond franchise has still got strong support with quality cars. The Aston was also the top and only non-Australian car in the top 6. At the time of the swap meet we had limited details available beyond the exciting ejector seat and pop up bullet shield. The poster indicated it may differ in colour to the prior C3091A release. This did not eventuate as the C3664A and C3091A are almost identical so the buying interest may not quite reflect the voting.



BRABHAM BT26A #8 & MCLAREN M7C #6 GP '69 C3589A:

With 7% of the total votes the Sir Jack driven BT26A and McLaren driven M7C twin pack came in fifth. Potentially

expecting it to be a bit higher, possibly the Sir Jack appeal was diluted by the McLaren M7C being less desirable to Australians. This twin pack only just came in ahead of another local car, the C3594 Bathurst 12 Hour Audi R8 with Skwirk livery with 6% of the votes.

The further cars on the Cool Wall with minimal votes were the C3667/8 Super Karts #8 & #1; C3631 MGCC BCV8; C3656A Lotus 49; C3609/10 Team Scalextric Racing Truck #8 & #22; C3591A Peugeot 205 T16 and C3635 Escort MK1.

Some notable aspects to the Cool Wall included:

Two car posters, C3657A Lotus 72 & C3656A Lotus 49, spent some time on the floor due to poor application of blue tac (full review and investigation has been undertaken!!) so maybe this influenced their low votes! Possibly, though, it is due to the relative high number of Lotus 49s liveries and the Lotus 72 lesser known driver.

The 7th ranked C3625 BMW Z4 GT3 & 8th ranked C3644 McLaren P1 have the Pro Chassis Ready (PCR) which the posters highlighted. This is likely to have helped their ranking with increased support from the racers looking forward to enhancing a Scalextric car with some hop up items. The BMW Z4 feature of Japanese art on the livery may be why it snuck in ahead of the McLaren P1.

We did not mention likely prices or release dates. Potentially the real buying popularity may differ with standard cars, eg. Moffat Cougar & Skwirk Audi R8 A\$69, the Bond Aston A\$105 and the twin sets A\$159. If there are large numbers released together then it will also be interesting to see what people snap up first, hopefully they are staggered through the year.

Revisiting the C3651 Mustang and C3650 Camaro left out due to re-releases: Potentially they would have got votes given popularity of US Muscle Cars in Australia & are popular liveries. Also the Bond Aston was very well supported with votes so should expect them to be good sellers but it is unlikely they would have made a dent in the top 6 or so.

The very Aussie looking Escort Mk1 C3635 in BP colours of green and yellow only got one vote, a little surprising as it really looks great.

Hope you enjoyed reading about some of what the A.S.R.C.C. does to connect with Aussie slot car enthusiasts and promote the Scalextric brand and new releases. If you want to enjoy this a bit further, please visit the club website, www.scalextricaustralia.com. Included under the tab "Downloads" and "Posters" are free pdf versions of these posters as something all Scalextric enthusiasts worldwide can enjoy. They really look great printed in A4 or A3 format and up on a wall. We are getting picture wallpapers completed as well, for use as backdrops on computers. These are taking a bit longer so that may still be work in progress as you read this.

Cheers from Dominic, John and the Committee The Australian Scalextric Racing & Collecting Club (A.S.R.C.C.)



The #2 voted C3586A 1964 ATCC Minis #1 (Foley) & #2 (Manton) poster. With the Aussie flag highlighting local cars as well as using actual pre-production photos of the cars they got lots of interest. Photos courtesy of Pete Simpson, A.S.R.C.C. member and scribe of "Messages from Margate" in the N.S.C.C. journal. These Minis' also feature on the 2015 A.S.R.C.C. membership card and show the collaboration of clubs at work.



A selection of the Cool Wall posters after voting had started and indicating some car releases more popular than others.

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THE RETURN OF THE SLOT CAR SWAP MEET IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The A.S.R.C.C. hosted swap meet happens annually on the first Sunday in March with the 2015 event the fourth after a 10 year break. The A.S.R.C.C. has always hosted the legendary annual club auction on the last Saturday in August, a fast paced, professionally run auction of about 350 to 400 lots.

The slot car swap meet was brought back to compliment the auction as a more casual event, providing an opportunity for slot car enthusiasts to come together and enjoy socialising whilst buying or swapping slot cars.

The first swap meet was on a Saturday, 10am-3pm, but it has since shifted to Sunday 10-2. As part of testing the water and tight club budgets, we started with an older hall, accessible by public transport and with good car parking.

With the swap meet well received by buyers, sellers and club members, for 2014 we shifted to a more modern and air-conditioned hall in a similar western Sydney location. The swap meet at the new venue went down really well with the notable benefit there were more slot cars, 1,000+, in the hall. The event was busier for longer, buyers were staying longer, buying a bit more but also enjoying chatting with other enthusiasts and taking in the first Cool Wall.

So for the 2015 event, we had a challenge making enough space for the sellers, membership desk as well as the Cool Wall. Most 2014 sellers were back with some new ones, including one travelling from Brisbane and club sponsor, Clive from Scalexworld, coming across from Adelaide (both impressive 1,000km+ journeys). We did have some buyers turn up at 7.30am which was hopefully a good sign of interest, but we had to ask them to head off for some breakfast. We were very happy to have a large crowds when doors opened at 10am, with non-members paying a small entry fee. With the temperature hitting 36 Celsius later in the day we were all very thankful for the air-conditioning.

2015 saw a better variety and more slot car items at assorted prices, there was clearly more buying and swapping happening. The promotion of the 2015 event highlighted the possibility of swapping cars to exchange for something new to your 1:32nd garage without dipping into your pocket. We were pleased to see a number of people bring in cars looking to swap. By the end of the swap meet some of these exchanged cars had found their third owner in the same day! By 1pm the buyer activity had dropped off so the trading amongst sellers picked up as did the interest in the Cool Wall. With the doors closing at 2pm, another enjoyable and successful club swap meet had been run and thoughts would soon shift to 2016!



The hall with the swap meet well underway as viewed from behind the stall on the stage.



One of the well-stocked stalls at the swap meet prior to doors opened. Showing mix of recent releases, collectable long sold out cars and some unboxed keenly priced items.



Older interesting items were available, here we have two Goodwood Chicanes and some 1960s sets.

MEMBER "WISH LIST" FOR FUTURE SCALEXTRIC RELEASES 2015

On the back of the interest in the Cool Wall, the next focus for the club is to "refresh" the 2012 member wish list for future Scalextric releases. It hard to believe almost three years have passed since we asked members to nominate the cars they want Scalextric to make and then vote on them.

The survey was done for two reasons, to help Scalextric clearly see what Aussie Scalextric enthusiasts want to buy as well as help the committee connect with the membership base.

The clear top choice in 2012 was the Sir Jack Brabham driven Brabham BT19 of 1966 that won the driver's championship. The Club were fortunate to have the opportunity to present a leather bound binder summarising the 2012 Wish List to Adrian Norman.

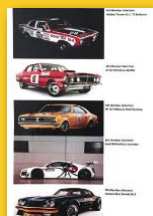
We don't know if the "Wish List" in 2012 helped see the late Sir Jack in his BT26 feature in the 2015 Scalextric range. We like to think it did, so we are doing it again. We are keen to see if the prior choices are still up there or have members' interests shifted.

The focal event is a display at the auction on Saturday 29th August, making use of the next big opportunity to get members together. We'll be using the June, July and August "Club Lines" journals to get member feedback on what they want to see made by Scalextric and then use the Auction and the September journal to do the voting.

If you are interested in contributing have a look at the club website, www.scalextricaustralia.com, for how to join the club. Then get your thinking caps on as we really want to suggest some very marketable new models and re-liveries that will be well received by Scalextric enthusiasts and financially successful for Scalextric.



The cover page of the 2012 Wish List binder as presented to Adrian Norman, Scalextric.



Pictures of the 3rd to 7th most voted selections with majority 1970's Aussie muscle cars. The Audi R8 Red Back (C3378) released by Scalextric in 2013.