

THE AUSTRALIAN SCALEXTRIC RACING & COLLECTING CLUB

20th Anniversary..!

Our Scalextric friends 'down under' in Australia have just celebrated the 20th Anniversary of their active racing and collecting club.

This now provides me with an ideal opportunity of describing the activities and aims of their club. Scalextric in Australia of course is very nearly as old as in the UK; they were enjoying the first tinplate sets not long after it was originally released.

The Australian Scalextric Racing & Collecting Club (A.S.R.C.C.) was formed in 1991 by a small number of dedicated enthusiasts. It has grown from a group of a dozen Sydney people to a club that now includes around 150 members from all over Australia and overseas.

From its beginning, the club has sought to promote and support the hobby of collecting and racing 1:32 scale Scalextric. Club meetings and race events are organised at members' homes or commercial race tracks. Members participate in activities ranging from friendly racing to serious competition and race their cars on some highly detailed model race circuits. The Club produces a monthly magazine 'Club Lines' providing interesting articles, news, monthly racing calendar and free classifieds. The Club also maintains an informative website where Club news and information about sponsors and our hobby is freely available. Our website hosted the world's first Scalextric www quiz.

The Club hosts an Annual Grand Prix and in the past has conducted racing series for Scalextric's Cadillac Northstar, Jaguar XJ220, Novas and of course the Austral V8 Supercars. A Country V8 City Challenge is held between our Sydney members and our Dubbo members (3 hours drive west of

Sydney) using Austral V8s, GT cars, F1 cars, and 'utes' (modified V8s provided by the Dubbo branch).

Interstate members are always welcome at Club events, none more so than the Annual Club Run-in - this year over 400 lots went under the hammer during a very long September night. The Club raises funds for the Westmead Children's Hospital by the sale of donated items and raffles during the Autumn and at weekend hobby events where a member owned trailer mounted mobile track is used to display and promote the hobby, raising money by track hire.

The Club has produced a number of unique items over the years including Club shirts and vests, Club caps, Drink Coolers, and of course the Limited Edition 1:250 cars! C2452 TYR Speed 12 Club Car, commemorating the first 10 years of the Club. This year the Club was very pleased to celebrate 20 years with the production of its second Club Car, the Limited Edition (only 200 cars!) C2425 Audi R8 LMS team Phoenix Racing Australian Club Car, available only to members. This brilliant race car sports the ASRCC Club logo and year 2011 on the roof and is extremely collectable.

The Australian Scalextric Racing and Collecting Club was a forerunner in the hobby's re-emergence in popularity 'down under', and is pleased to continue to foster the hobby and be a nucleus for the Scalextric enthusiasts in Australia.

by Roger Gillham



1. Insulated drink container. Not for drink use included (unless we have used a 'Fovers')
 2. The special certificate supplied with the Australian Club TYR car
 3. C2452 TYR Speed 12, the 2002 limited edition car, celebrating the first 10 years of the ASRCC
 4. The Club magazine cover
 5. The Cadillac Northstar, C2250 used for the 2001 Champions Trophy series
 6. C1255 Audi R8 LMS, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Australian Scalextric Racing and Collecting Club

Book Review

Author and Scalextric fan Dave Chang has released a great new book entitled 'Digital Slot car Racing in 1:32 scale'.

This book continues the story heading into the world of Digital slot racing and is set into two distinct halves. I'm going to look at them as 'Disc 1' and 'Disc 2' - since Dave is also an accomplished musician and record producer. So, in reviewing his 'album' let's look at Disc 1:

Dealing with the principles of Digital. From Getting Started

Intro: A well-known 60's riff gets this one underway with enough background history to put you at ease and settle you for Track 1.

Track 1: Getting Started. Dave covers the basics here with a quick and concise 'get you going'.

Track 2: How... It's not easy to understand the concept of how Digital works but if you want to know what is beneath the plastic then 'How' is essential reading.

Track 3: High-Performance... You may want to go faster than everyone else but you'll need to read this high-energy chapter.

Track 4: Digital Functions. A tale of Ghosts, Fuel, Wireless, Profiles, Lights and Power gives you a detailed view of the play value of the Digital system.

Track 5: Designing Circuits... It's Horses for Courses in many respects but Dave ably describes the art of shape shifting and explains the pit-falls and benefits of different circuits.

Track 6: Racing... It's obvious, isn't it? Start, go fast, finish first! Well, no. The play value of Digital allows many additional strategies to be layered in to the mix. As in the real world, you have to think your race through. All the benefits are clearly explained.

Track 7: Maintenance and Car Set-up. To finish First, first you have to finish. Guidance on all things electrical and mechanical is given here. Ignore it at your peril!

Track 8: Switching... The Scalextric C7042 Advanced Power Base allows push button switching between Digital and Analogue racing. Dave has covered areas which should also be considered and actioned.

Track 9: Other Scales. Scales in the Key of 'D'-igital.

Disc 2: Tracks 10 to 21 are extremely useful and interesting. I won't spoil the surprise but must simply say that it is extremely good reading.

Explaining how Digital works and the benefits it has is quite a difficult story to put across. Dave has achieved this beautifully with a book that is easy to read and understand with excellent illustrations, photographs and technical details. It is the first book I've read that covers all aspects of Digital racing absolutely and thoroughly. Whether the reader is a novice or expert, there is a lot of stuff to be learned from within this tome. In the Top Ten of slot-racing books this has to be number 1 in the chip-parade. I'll give it a 'HIT'.

This is Dave's second book on the subject of slot cars, the first being a general and all-encompassing look at the world of Scalextric racing covering all aspects of the hobby from the basics to tuning in both analogue and Digital worlds of the hobby. Also a very worthwhile read and addition to your pit box.

More at: www.scalextric.com/support/slot-car-books



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