

The below report was published in the Club Lines Journal in Apr-20

Report - Swap Meet Sunday 1st March 2020

The 1st of March saw the annual swapmeet in Sydney for the third time at the Hornsby hall. I and fellow Committee members Pete and Rod caught up with some of the interstate attendees the night before and it really felt like a good day was ahead. We got to talk about the typical swapmeet day and how these first time attendees were looking forward to the event. Phil and Des had driven from Albury and were as excited about the social aspect as much as the buying and swapping. One aspect mentioned was meeting people face to face who they only knew on Facebook, good to hear!

Tony and Linda had flown up from Melbourne and were representing the Slot Car Magazine to write an article on the event. Having had some email exchange and brief conversations with Tony in the preceding weeks, they knew how appreciative Pete and I were of their big effort to attend. It was also great to be able to relax the night before and talk about the hobby, the Club and the swapmeet that is now an annual thing for so many people.

So to the morning of Swapmeet day, the nerves mixed with excitement and expectation are there as always despite been doing this for a number of years now. The additional aspects this year were the extreme weather, bushfires and some flooding, and the unknown of using Facebook to promote the event and inform slot car enthusiasts. We really hoped to see those who said "interested" and "going" on Facebook actually attending but would they?

The day begins early and the committee and a couple of key regular volunteers (more on the thank you's later) were fantastic, improving aspects of their so the trestle table setup, bringing in Eddie's mini Slot Shop and setting up the mobile track all went smoothly.

Eddie and Maria with part of their impressive event version of The Slot Shop!



On the right are Ian and Peter, who had travelled up from Melbourne, with their shared seller table. This was before the doors opened and a few other sellers were looking at items or socialising before things got busy. In the middle of the hall and you can see in the background part of the Slot Shop Mobile Track that got used heavily.



Trading amongst sellers before the doors open is one of the benefits of buying a seller trestle table and helpful to the event to kick start some cars and money moving around the room.

There is always a strong mix of members as sellers at the swapmeet and it helps the socialising as typically lots of people know each other and have the connection to the Club to make new friendships if next to a seller you don't know well. I'm not exactly sure when we commenced handing out member cards to members but it was a thorough and impressive effort led by Andrew with 70 cards given out to the 55 members in attendance on the day. We only missed three or four of you on the day which is a good effort! (random reminder, your membership card(s) are in the envelope with this Club Lines journal if you did not receive it at the swapmeet).

During all this pre-doors open activity I was sadly still getting setup but did take a minute to check out the queue outside and it was notable but not the biggest I had seen. Those nerves started to come back a touch....

I also took a few minutes to say welcome to some of the sellers I hadn't had a chance to speak to and take a few photos of them and their swapmeet table. Personally I was in the far corner to the member stand which does make it hard to see what happens but I heard and saw afterwards we signed up 10 members during the day, which totalled 20 when include the secondary family members. Super effort and great to welcome so many people to the Club at the swapment.

At 10am the doors opened and the combined queue split into members and public and started to flow into the hall. It wasn't the biggest group to start with but it was steady and kept up the pace with new people arriving and others staying to chat, walk, look, buy, repeat.

It was impressive that the crowd was continuous and it seemed helped with a few sellers suffering from bringing too much stuff so rummaging through boxes occurred on multiple occasions to restock trestles which rewarded those doing a few laps of the hall.

Personally this is how I ended up with five super Fly Racing cars, although I'm still not completely sure how I ended up with the another 35 cars!!!

The event to me seemed to be steady busy for a surprisingly long time, it was only about 1pm I was able to leave my table to see some of the other sellers and buy some cars but there were still buyers in the hall browsing and looking for a bargain or a particular car so I unfortunately didn't get a proper look at what was left on every seller's table.

Below is Rob's seller table taken before the doors opened. I only know this as I bought four V8 Supercars he had but now I realise I missed the JTCC Supras. Oh well, unlike the member auction, you can't have a crack at everything at the swapmeet no matter how quick and stealthy you are!



On the right are Member's Rob and Chris, regular sellers at the swap meet looking very relaxed and organised before the doors opened. These few photos help show the varied offering of slot cars, accessories, parts and track available at the swapmeet. There is always good stuff you don't see as someone snaps it up before you even arrive at that seller's trestle table. Hope you got something special!



By the end of the day the statistics we keep of members and non-members attending through multiple sources indicated about 140 people were at the swapmeet which was about 10 down on the prior year but still a good result. Everyone I've had a chance to chat to has indicated whether a seller, buyer or a bit of both, they were happy, which is what we want to hear.

As the end of the day approached the final bargains were had and the sellers did their packup and then a number of members helped with the clean up before about 20 of us ventured next door to the RSL for a social drink to share stories of another top day.

We look forward to the next event at Hall as the Hall Administrator is again extremely happy with how the Club conducted ourselves on the day and the hall condition when locked it up. Thank you to all for this.

The final section of this article is to say thanks to a number of people:

- Jason for the Facebook setup, promotion activity and ideas on marketing and capturing attendee information.
- Rodney C and Johnny for entry and front door management and super effort to capturing attendee information.
- Rod H for being Mr Membership and also Mr PA with the system setup as well as announcements.
- Andrew for raffle and member card handout and club car sales with Roger.
- The team of Steve, Brendan and Hugo for running the mobile track that is so kindly donated by Slot Shop and now a fixture at the swapmeet.
- Mark D for leading the trestle table setup and helping me during the day.
- Pete for doing all the seller activity and sharing the responsibility of making the event happen.
- Roger for donations and club merchandise sales with Andrew.
- Nick D for chef duties helping keep sellers and buyers fuelled up!
- Eddie and the Slot Shop for donating the Mobile Track for the day that provided so much enjoyment and action for many people, particularly kids.

On right are Roger and Mark who happily helped pose for a great photo even though I was interrupting them doing setup.

To end the article would like to say a big thank you for all who attended and do hope you really enjoyed the event. Please tell your slot car mates now in preparation for next year and share any thoughts via email to me.

Cheers Dominic

