

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

SCALEXTRIC IN AUSTRALIA

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 (G3378) released by Scalextric in 2013.