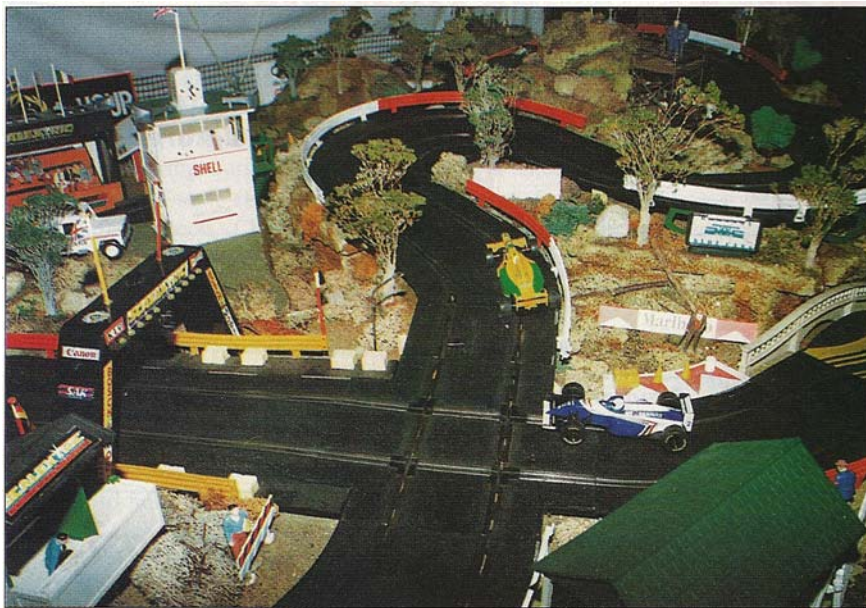


Australian Scalextric Racing & Collecting Club

By Rod Holman

The club was formed in January 1993 and at present has 165 members across Australia. We have an ongoing advertising campaign to find all the "closet" collectors and racers and let them know they are not alone. We are a group of Scalextric enthusiasts involved with the 1:32 scale slot car replicas of road, racing and sports cars from the last 40 years. We also have SCX, Ninco, Pink Kar and MRRC models used in club activities. We do have teenagers in the club but generally their dads are there also and the average age of a member would be about 40. The hobby does need a little bit of disposable cash, so that rules out the younger kids even if we are "playing" with toys. There are many 100-plus car collections within the club.

These "toys" and their restoration,



Above: Two mini Coopers race up the mountain into a tight hairpin bend. A TV camera crew is perched on a scaffold tower to capture the duel. Signage in the background of race sponsors is a nice touch. One sign displays James Hardie 12 Hour race, could this be Bathurst? The camera crew are a collectable item and can bring amounts of \$100 if found.

Left: There is a tremendous effort in detailing a Scalextric track which would not be out of place at a model train exhibition. It should be shown off to encourage others to try their hand at this great family hobby.

Collecting and racing are taken very seriously. The cost of cars, sets and accessories can range in price from \$25 to \$1000s in some rare cases.

Scalextric has released numerous buildings, track dressings and specialist tracks over the years and these are keenly sought to complete a home circuit. Most of our members have their own track of some kind, depending on available room, some extensively landscaped and detailed to recreate a circuit that looks great and complements the types of cars they collect. Two, four and six lane Scalextric tracks are hidden away in members' garages, spare rooms and sheds. We do not operate through any commercial premises so all



1963 GO-KART
Remember this?

club race meets are held in private homes. We have an organised set of race rules and classes and these are used at every club race meet. The causes start from 1960 onwards and include F1, road cars, Le Mans, Minis, Super Cars, four wheel drive, tourers, etc. the most common track layout at present is a four lane, about 20metres long with varying degrees of landscaping. Some tracks have electronic



1963 Aston Martin DB GT.



1969 Matra MS11
Gets a quick check up.
timing through a computer or other device. The largest track within the club is in Melbourne in a garage. Six lanes, 110 feet of "good fun" with a computer lap counting and timing system. This would be the closest setup in size to a commercial Scalextric track but in a private residence. This track was used for our first national meet during the F1



1966 Offenhauser
Front engine speedster.

Grand Prix week in March. The class for the evening was naturally open Formula One with magnets (to help handling) raced over six heats per competitor. Apart from the organised club meets there are always social events happening through the many friendships the club has created. Despite the passion which we have for the hobby, which any modeller can understand, we do laugh a lot and make sure everybody enjoys themselves.

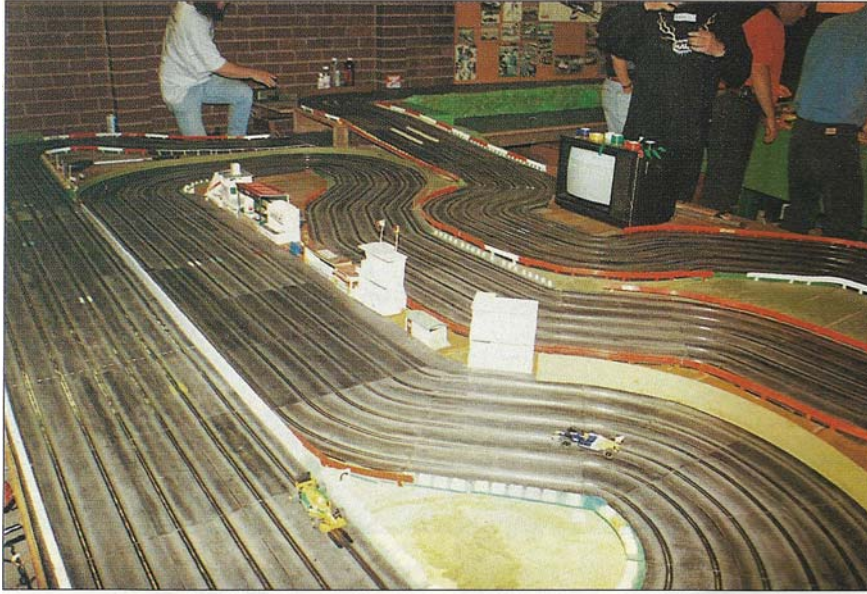


1953 4.5L Ferrari
A tinplate model.

There are no borders between members because we all share a common interest. We have at least one auction per year open to all members and their extra stock. We had a display for the first time at the NRMA Motorfest in NSW this year. The club has appeared on "Sydney Weekender" and "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise". We compile and distribute to all club members a monthly newsletter with



Nicki Lauda's wreck



Member's six-lane track, Aspendale, Melbourne.

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articles on collecting, maintenance, racing, motor sport history, track construction, etc or any contributions from the readers. The newsletter also has a classified section.

The newsletter is the main communicator and binding force of the club despite what State the members live in.

Club membership is based on the calendar year with a first year cost of \$30 which gives you 10 newsletters. A half year deal is available from June onwards. We are sponsored by six retailers in Australia and three from the UK. There is a discount on new purchases available from most of the local sponsors.

The club contact is the membership officer, Andrew Moir, on (047) 35 6201.

The photographs accompanying this article are from club members' private tracks.