

-GEARBOX-



APRIL 2025

HUNTER MODEL AUTO CLUB INC.

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Bill Kenchington on Ph (02) 4945 4830 OR Andrew Vile on (02) 4933 5607 in business hours only.

7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Edgeworth Sport and Rec Club

**** NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 8th APRIL ****

**** TOY FAIR SUNDAY 10th AUGUST 2025 ****

HUNTER MODEL AUTO CLUB INCORPORATED

Minutes of Club Meeting Held at Edgeworth Sport and Rec Club on 11 March 2025

Meeting Opened: 7.30 pm.

Members Present: 23 **Apologies:** 2 **Visitors:** 2

Welcome to Members and Visitors: President Andrew Vile welcomed the Club members and visitor Peter Hill.

Previous Minutes: Moved: David Rosser Seconded: Brian Blyth "That the February Club minutes be accepted".
Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that the Club funds stand at \$1,510.34 plus \$504.00 cash, totalling \$2,014.34.

Moved: Paul Campbell Seconded: Ernie Williams "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted" Carried.

Correspondence:

Outwards:

- i) Members and Others – March 2025 Gearbox.
- ii) Members – March 2025 Model Competition and Meeting Reminders.
- iii) Members – CTCs Magazine for February 2025.
- iv) Members – WAMCC February 2025 Showcase Magazine.
- v) Members – Special Gearbox No.1 in Memory of Late Life Member Brian Fairhurst.
- vi) Members – Seeking nominations for 2025 Toy Fair Charity.
- vii) Edgeworth Sport & Rec Club - Request to hold Toy Fair on either 3 or 10 August 2025 in Club Auditorium.

Inwards:

- i) West Aust Model Collector's Club (WAMCC) – February 2025 "Showcase".
 - ii) Des Barnes (CTCS) – February 2025 Club Magazine.
 - iii) Jason Mitchell (South Hants) – Thankyou and appreciation for March Gearbox.
 - iv) Barry Lloyd (Wessex) – Thanks for the March Gearbox.
 - v) Edgeworth Sport & Rec Club – Approved to hold Toy Fair on 10 August 2025 in Club Auditorium.
- Moved: Scott McCallum Seconded: Ben Wing "That the Correspondence be accepted" Carried.

Matters Arising:

- i) Vintage Day (Nostalgia Festival) - Model display at Kurri Kurri Public School – Sunday 30 March 2025. The following members indicated that they wished to display – Paul, Ben, Trevor, David S, Ernie, Bill K, Mark, Matt V and Andrew V. Thomas the Tank Engine display will be set up on the stage.
Selling will be permitted in the display table area with members to advise their intentions first for confirmation of number and location of available tables.
A Memorial Table to Brian Fairhurst will be available for the sale of any of his models.
Set up is from Saturday (day before) morning from 8.00am and with late set up on the Sunday morning before 9.00 am.
Charity nominations received for voting were:- Riding for the Disabled, Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary, Hunter Animal Rescue, Palliative Care and Canteen. After a somewhat lengthy voting process Hunter Animal Rescue was declared to be the Hunter Toy Fair Charity for 2025.
Scott McCallum has volunteered to manage the raffle prizes. Whilst some model donations have already been received many more donations will be most welcome by Scott.
- ii) Hunter Toy and Hobby Fair for 2025 - The Sub-Committee comprises Scott McC, Paul, David S, Ben, David R and Bill K. The Fair date is now confirmed as Sunday 10 August and is to be held in the Edgeworth Sport and Rec Club Auditorium between 10.00 am and 2.00pm.
- iii) Club Visit to "Show Us Ya Slotz" at Lemon Tree Passage – The proposal for a Sunday in May 2025 is yet to be confirmed.
- iv) Club Visit to "Catalina Plane Restoration Project" at Beresfield – It is proposed that this be on Sunday morning 15 June 2025 followed by lunch at Mortels at Thornton. Details to be confirmed.
- v) Club Visit to "Fighter World" at Williamstown – Dates suggested for confirmation are Sunday 13 or 20 July 2025 (with lunch proposed at the onsite Café).
- vi) Proposed Cruise on the Wangi Queen at Port Stephens – Dates suggested for confirmation are Sunday 14 or 21 September 2025. The cost of the cruise is \$60/head (to be confirmed) and departs Lemon Tree Passage Wharf at 12 noon with a duration of 2 hours. A lunch box meal with dessert is included. Drinks are available at reasonable prices.
- vii) Club Visit to "Sydney Tramway Museum" at Loftus – With our Club diary quickly filling up it was proposed that this visit be looked at for later in the year, say in October.

General Business:

Special Club Model in honour of Late Life Member Brian Fairhurst - Much discussion took place on this proposal . A number of ideas including a Perpetual Club Model Competition Trophy are to be further investigated. **Action** - Paul.

Model Competitions:

Results for March:

"Actual" Model Competition: "Muster of Utes" – Any scale and up to five (5) models.

1stBrian Blyth.....Ford and Holden Utes at Village Store.....25 Points

2ndBill Kenchington.....Falcon Utes at Deniliquin.....15 Points

3rdBill Smith.....Ford and Holden Utes.....13 Points

"Virtual" Model Competition: "Vehicle with a Hook" - Any scale and up to five (5) models but ONE PHOTO ONLY.

1st Terry Payne.....Mack "Bulldog Towing"34 Points

2ndBrian Blyth..... Freightliner & Chevrolet P/U.....27 Points

3rdPaul Campbell.....Cat 591 Sideboom Pipe Layer Tractor.....20 Points

Next "Actual" Model Category – April: "Cheapest model that you ever bought" - Any scale up to three (3) models.

Next "Virtual" Model Category - April: "Vehicle with four or more wheels" – Any scale up to three (3) models but ONE PHOTO ONLY.

Meeting Closed: 8.00 pm

Placegetters for the March 2025 Actual model comp.

*** Category -Muster Of Utes ***



Placegetters for the March 2025 Virtual model comp

***** Category - Vehicle with a Hook *****

TOW TRUCK



1st



2nd



3rd

- Marks Thunderbirds – No, not the Fords -



When someone mentions Thunderbird, to most model collectors they think of the iconic Ford car. Or do they? Some of them will go back to the 1960s and remember the phrase F A B Scottie and these people, like me, are remembering International Rescue. With no disrespect to Ford, their Thunderbird automobiles sold a lot less models. This show, with its very wooden puppets and thin plot lines, has in some respect become a cult classic and just about everyone has jumped on the merchandise band wagon.



Thunderbirds was very much of its time. Kids today would find it very clunky, and what would be made of the smoking in the 1960s. No one would even have noticed it back then, after all, kids could buy sweets shaped and coloured as cigarettes and just about everyone smoked.

When it comes to models and toys, there is something for everyone and you will never be able to collect everything. Most of us will remember the diecast models of Thunderbird 2. This was in green to start with and as in the TV show, it did have problems with the landing legs breaking. It was then revamped with slightly larger and stronger legs, but for some reason it was painted in metallic blue. *See next two pics.*



Above - Vintage Dinky Toys Thunderbird T2.

A very popular model was Lady Penelope's twin steer pink Rolls Royce as shown in *the next pic*. This, like a lot of the Thunderbird themed models, comes in die cast to suit all budgets as well as plastic kits. There are even some 1/1 models of this car around the world for those fans with large budgets.



Above - - Lady Penelope's pink Rolls Royce.

The next pic at left is one of the many plastic kits on the market. It is `Thunderbird 1' with its launch pad for those who want to recreate scenes from the show. *The next pic at right* is the `Thunderbird 3' again with its launch pad. Under those two pics is a model of John Tracy.



Thunderbird figures are as diverse as the vehicles. The John Tracy model is clearly meant to be played with. There are also dolls along the lines of Action Man as well as Puppets and ceramic figures. So again, you are spoilt for choice. If this has made you think about collecting Thunderbirds items, be careful as it could get out of control very quickly.



DO YOURSELF A FAVOUR AND CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING SITE RE THUNDERBIRD MODELS – gerryanderson.com

The last pic is Gerry Anderson with son Jamie who was seven at the time. Gerry has passed away and Jamie now runs the company. The Gerry Anderson story makes for a fascinating read. Happy collecting in 2025. **Mark.**

Editor's note: a dvd box set containing all 32 episode (plus bonus features) is still available.

----Corvette "Mako Shark"----

In 1961 General Motors had been working on a successor to the original Corvette. The styling of the C2 Corvette styling had been locked in, and it would ultimately be released in August 1962. So in 1961 they went to work on the XP-755 concept car, as a preview to the second generation Corvette.



They started with the C2 and first removed the windscreen and replaced it with a bubble top. Then they updated the exhaust system so they exited the engine bay at the side and came underneath the door sills. Body work wise the front had a more pronounced snout just like the shark that inspired it. The bonnet had two large vents (gills) and the taillights were now three on each side. The rear deck also had flip up brake flaps. The colour scheme was changed to reflect the colours of a mako shark. That is very dark blue on the top and eventually becoming pale grey, then white near the exhausts and underneath.

The Mako Shark's job was to travel the auto show circuit and get the public ready for the look of the new Corvette. It debuted at the 1962 International Automobile Show in New York and was successful in building hype for the forthcoming next generation of Corvette. The concept also appeared on screen in the television series 'Route 66', being a fully functional and driveable car.

Like many show cars, it underwent styling and detail changes over time. After the C2 was released it had some massive changes. Firstly it lost the bubble top and went back to a more traditional windscreen like on the just released Corvette. The interior was updated and they added a small chrome bumper at the front for protection.



It would be officially called the Corvette Mako Shark I, after a later version was released. Ultimately the car was powered by a ZL1 427-cubic-inch big-block that came from the C3. Today it resides in the collection of the General Motors Heritage Centre.

In 1965 General Motors produced a concept car XP-830, and called it the Mako Shark II. It was a styling design project for the C3 Corvette, which would be released in 1968. The paint scheme was similar to the original mako shark, with dark blue on top, fading gradually downwards into white at the exhausts.



They manufactured two of them. There was a non-runner (shown previous page) which sported more futuristic details, such as square section side pipes and a squared-off steering wheel. This car debuted at the 1965 New York Auto Show. As you can see body styling is quite similar to the C3 Corvette that was actually released.

They also produced a running version with a 427-cubic-inch V-8 under the hood. The running show-car made its debut at the 1965 Paris Motor Show, with more conventional steering wheel and exhaust. Ultimately it strongly influenced the design of the C3 Corvette. The released C3 had a slightly less pointy nose, no side exhausts and the wheel arch fenders were not as severe.

After the pure show-car made the rounds on the auto show circuit, it was returned to GM where it was dismantled. The running car was restyled to become the 1969 Manta Ray Concept, which can be found at the GM Heritage Centre as well.

The Models

bubble top



Only a couple of manufacturers have released this version. There is 1:18 scale by Timeless Legends. Shown above is the Hallmark version (~1:64), as a Christmas tree decoration.

Mako Shark I



In 1:18 there are releases by UT and Autoart, which is essentially the same company. My picture (previous page) is of the UT Models version. The car looks black, but in fact is a very, very dark blue. Franklin Mint have also done a 1:24 version.



detail shots of the UT model.

Mako Shark II

I couldn't find any diecast versions of this model. The only release is a 1:24 plastic kit. [Dave S.](#)

Released last month by IXO was the 1972 Bolwell Nagari. As far as we know this is the first time this car has been released in diecast.



----TRAX: a quick guide to the numbering system----

When looking at Trax model cars the number on the packets (or the insert) makes it easy to identify each model.

1:43 Diecast [8000/TR]

The original models used numbers in the range from 8001 to 8011 in mainly in the blue/yellow boxes. Some of these releases just had a yellow sticker put on the side of the box over the top of what was already written there.

In 1992 they swapped to a 'TR' numbering system. Essentially all models with an 8000 number received a new TR designation when there was a new variation released. Numbers range from TR1 to TR94.

After the number there is a letter designating the release. For example the Holden FB Sedan number range goes TR20, TR20B, TR20C... TR20I is skipped avoid confusion with number '1'.



Top row is the blue/yellow box showing the sticker over the top of another name, followed by the yellow cardboard box side. Second row shows the insert end when they used grey or black boxes. The final picture is of the card insert they used in the perspex case style.

Gift Sets [TRS]

It's easy when a set has all the same TR model in it, but a little more difficult when you have two different TR numbers in the same set. For example TRS14 LX Torana set has both the TR14 and TR28 cars in it.

Opals [TO]

Numbers range for TO01 to TO10. Have opening doors.

1:24 scale [TRL]

Numbers range from TRL1 to TRL12. There's no insert to help you out, just a little tag.

Trux [TX]

Numbers range from TX1 to TX23.

Select Class [TSS]

Numbers range from TSS1 to TSS44. These are resin models and are produced on a made to order basis. They are models with expected low sales volumes.

Resin [TRR]

Numbers range from TRR1 to TRR180.

Resin Limited Edition [TRLE]

Numbers range from TRLE1 to TRLE8. Normally about 250 of each model are released.

Other Manufacturers

Sometimes Trax released models using casting from other model manufacturers. In that case they had a unique letter code. These are CD (century dragon), TM (top marques), MK (mk miniatures), TT (trax by trax). *Dave S.*