

Trains, Planes and Automobiles online auction, First Monday of each month, 7pm

It's not only full size muscle cars that are appearing at auction these days.

Diecast models are also bought and sold. Trains, Planes and Automobiles, with shops in the Blue Mountains and at Annandale in Sydney, now holds online auctions of classic toys on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

In the automotive section the older models by Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox have been the most popular so far but their modern equivalents by Bianta, Classic Carlectables and Trax are also starting to appear. This makes sense as there are thousands of serious collectors out there.

There are some bargains to be found.

Best-seller in the August sale among a large selection of Trax models was a rare 1:43 Morris/Fitzgerald Torana L34 in the Ron Hodgson

colours it wore in winning the 1976 Bathurst 1000. This model was released in 1995 in fairly limited numbers. According to the 2012 Trax price guide, the current value is \$210. Someone picked this one up for \$100 after post-sale negotiations.

The September auction included two rare 1:43 Bathurst models by Trax, a Murray Carter 1976 Ford Falcon XC (starting price \$80) and a 1977 John Goss racing Stud Cola Falcon XC, as driven by the father and son Brabham team (starting price \$60).

Keith Mentiplay from Trains, Planes and Automobiles says this new generation of diecast has only recently started to appear at his auctions. Cars in Bathurst trim tend to do best. There are plenty of collectors who want an example of every Bathurst-winning car and this is a good way to fill in some gaps.

The general rule is that models have to be 'mint and boxed' to sell. Ones used for demo

derbies by the kids are not worth much, if anything.

For those living in Sydney many of the cars sold online are available for inspection at the Annandale shop before the auction.

Catalogues and details of how to bid are on the Trains, Planes and Automobiles website at antiquetoys.com.au

