# AU lini Car C



IN THIS MOTHS ISSUE: Largest car badge record attempt. Arguably, the largest collection of Minis in the world. New Mini gossip. Upcoming EVENTS. \* \* \* \* \* \* AGM NOTICE \* \* \* \* \* \*

# **Mini Car Club of Auckland**

Volume XII

Issue 3

June/July 2004

President:	Warwick Robinson	(09) 479-1825	(021) 186 5520	President@minis-auckland.org.nz
Vice President:	Micheal Wigmore	(09) 483-8336		
Secretary:	Cathrine Ashton	(09) 232-1233		
Club Captain:	Gary Ashton	(09) 232-1233		Club-Captain@minis-auckland.org.nz
Treasurer:	Linda Biffen			Treasurer@minis-auckland.org.nz
Webmaster:	Lee Norman	(09) 302-2686	(021) 898-050	Web@minis-auckland.org.nz
Editor:	Frits schouten	(09) 235-7859	(021) 963-894	Editor@minis-auckland.org.nz
Committee:	Chris McMurray	(09) 279-3052		
	Chris Roper	(09) 817-4080	(025) 959-971	croper@value.net.nz
	George Brown	(09) 535-8228		jigs@ihug.co.nz
	lan Ferguson	(09) 446-0663	(021) 446-164	
	Kevin Patrick	(09) 620-7474	(025) 210-6233	
	Les Gubb	(09) 298-5201	(025) 294-8293	marion_gubb@koppersarch.co.nz
	Susan Russell	(09) 817-5816		

Club Website: www.minis-auckland-org.nz

**Clubrooms** Northern Sports Car Club

Mt Richmond Domain Great South Road Otahuhu Ph. 276-0880 Address correspondence to: Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc P.O. Box 72-970 Papakura Auckland New Zealand

This magazine is the official Newsletter of the Mini Car Club of Auckland. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Mini Car Club of Auckland, the Executive or Editor. Nor will de Club be held responsible for any information or advice in the Mini Car Club Magazine.

The Mini Car Club of Auckland is an affiliate member of MotorSport New Zealand

Don't forget to touch base with our web site at: http://www.minis-auckland.org.nz Lots of goodies, the Club's points list, the mag in full colour!!

# **President's** Report

Warwick Robinson

At the April club night we had 3 De Joux's on display. Peter Hartshorne's standard DeJoux, Warwick's fast road/track car and Steve Clare's full racecar. Each owner spent a small time describing their car and answering questions. It was good to see all 3 side by side and to get an idea of developments that can be carried out.

Steve Clare's car has a Honda 1600cc V Tec engine while the other 2 have

A-Series BMC engines.

Then the original designer/maker of the car, Ferris De Joux spent some time describing the cars he has built and developed.

An extremely interesting night. Ours thanks must go to Peter Hartshorne, Ferris De Joux and Steve Clare.

On Anzac Day we had our Annual run to Cooks Landing restaurant in Te Kauwhata – a well-supported event that took the owners a bit by surprise and service was a little slow. On the May club night, Bruce Carter, from the Super Mini Challenge group, brought his beautiful racing red Mini along. Bruce spent some time describing his Mini – then opened the floor to questions. All had a good night.

With membership now around 120 members, we are getting between 50 to 60 each club night and 30+ to most events. Our club is really booming at the moment, so thanks to you all for your support.

El Presidento Warwick Robinson

3

# **Club Captain's Report**

**Gary Ashton** 

The Club is very healthy at the moment. We have 135 members with about 170 Minis. This is the largest the Club has ever been! and it's great to see so many people attending Club nights and events.

The annual Night Trial held on 15 May was brilliant!! We had 12 cars compete which is the largest number so far for this event. Starting from the bloodstocks in Karaka, the route went into Papakura and then up Ponga Road, onto Jones Road, West Road then Twilight Road into Clevedon. From Clevedon the route went into Hunua and then to the back of Maramarua before turning around and heading west to finish in Pukekohe for dinner.

There is nothing quite like blasting along dark deserted country roads. You have to keep your wits about you though, climbing uphill on a sweeping left hander, as you reach the crest the road ducks right, or as you blast along the straight, an indicated 35kph right hander approaches, on turning the right hander the road narrows to half the width because of a washout. All good fun.

Mini Fun day at Taupo was awesome. Sitting in the passenger's seat next to Don McVeigh, the Mini 7 Champion for the second year running. We are at the pit exit waiting for the flag to fall. We are off! The front wheels scramble for grip, second gear, around the double apex left hander and onto the main straight. Into third, weaving down the straight to warm the tyres, into fourth still weaving, back into third for the left hander, back on the gas, then back to second for the hairpin. Floor it, avoiding the puddle at the pit entry, into third, then go right then into fourth then left and right, hit the brakes and into third for the double apex and left hander again!! Man that was fast! and this was just the warm up. We only pulled 6500 on the warm up lap, the other five or six laps we were pulling 7500. What a great weekend.

We also have some great events coming up. I have just finished the events listing for the year and the calendar is full. The North Shore follow the leader run sounds like a great trip, we will finish at Warwick's house for afternoon tea.. It is also Warwick's birthday on this day. What is it 21 again Warwick? The Italian Job is always great fun so maybe give that a go. If you have never done karting, give it a go in July, the adrenalin rush is awesome!!

Do not forget the upcoming AGM in August, this is your chance to say how the club is run and maybe to join the committee to help run the club. It is your Club, you have the right to help run it!

The Nationals are coming up fast. They are held in October on Labour Weekend. This year they are in Hamilton. With the club being so close to this event the committee would like to see a large turn out. Over 50 cars would be awesome.

If you want us to run an event, please let me know. I would particularly like to know what you would like at Club nights. Are there any guest speakers you would like? Do you want practical demonstrations on anything? This is your Club, please tell us what you want!!

Regards Gary

# **Editor** Ramblings

Life has been very hectic for me. You see, I forced myself into a holiday of about six weeks to Europe. So what, you could say. Have you seen a lot of Minis over there. Ummm, yes and no. The Mini as we know it is disappearing very fast. But the ones you see are in pristine condition.

I managed to meet Anne Krijger from The Hague in his Panel Van Mini. What a nice guy he was. I rang him at work in Rotterdam and he straight away suggested that he would go home to pick up his Mini and come to the Motel where I stayed about 50km South of Rotterdam to show it off. Well that was really nice. He got stuck in traffic and I had to wait in the pub over a beer or two. Or was it three. Can't remember. I didn't had to wait outside and look if he was coming or not. I could hear him from miles away. There was unmistakably a Mini coming down the road.

It was black which suited it very well, being a panelvan this noisy. We talked about Minis and then talked a bit more about Minis and that all over a beer or two.... And before you ask, Anne was on the Cola. He didn't wanted to get in trouble.

We talked a bit about work and so. He is a Java developer and since I'm in the software business it was yet another reason to have a chat. Midnight arrived pretty quickly and Anne had to go home. He had a job to go to next morning. Something I just couldn't imagine. Must have been the holiday or had it something to do with the beer.

Well, he got in his car and disappeared into the dark to The Hague and I think I had another beer before I finally crashed out.



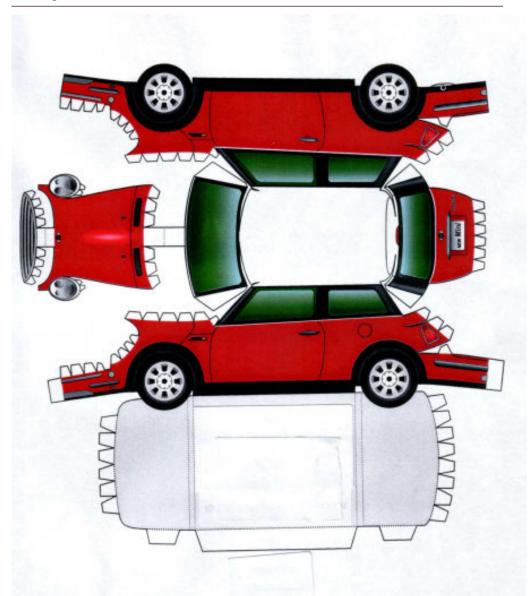
Scotland was a bit thin on the number of Minis. I saw just the one in eight days. Plenty of BMW-Minis though. I saw more Minis in Singapore in three days than in say Scotland. And then to think about the way they control the number of cars in Singapore. There is some sort of a voucher system. The government has limited the number of cars that can ever be registered and driving in Singapore. The only way to get a voucher is through public auction and you know what that does to the price. That goes sky high and they are only valid for ten years! Now imagine you are driving a Mini and the voucher expires. A new voucher can set you back \$50,000 and if the demand is high at the time that can go up to \$100,000!!!! I think we are very well off here in New Zealand. Driving a Mini here is very affordable compared to Singapore.

Coming back home the other day I found my Mini out of WOF. No problem I thought. Do it this morning straight away. It FAILED on rust. A hole in the passenger side sill. Who would, as a single user with no passengers ever, look to the other side of the car? I don't. There is never a need to go all the way to the other side of the car. And the A panel need fixing as well. It's close enough to the door hinges to be a failable item. Not to mention the rust in the door, also close enough to the hinges to be a failable item, the rust that is.

Looks like I got some work sorted out for myself. It's time to claim the Migwelder back from the kids and get it back in my garage.

What was it, twenty eight days is the period you get to fix it, isn't it? Ah well, better make some space in the garage and start doing something about it in stead of typing my ramblings. Happy Miniing. Frits.

# Paper MINI



*This is on of those nice things to do. Just cut it out, glue it on a piece of cardboard and build your own BMW-Mini. This is definitely the cheapest way to get one.* 

# **MINI** Web

I got a note from Lee Norman about the Estate with an Elf front:

The car is being built by an acquaintance of mine John Hodge who lives in the UK.

John has a habit of making strange minis. He had built a couple of limos, one of which was a stretched elf. He has also built a minisprint which is how I got to know him.

He has his own site http://www.minijohn.com/

### http://www.miniswaikato.co.nz

We all know where the Mini nationals are held this year. Get your entry forms from this web site and all the info you need.

## http://www.burlen.co.uk

The current manufacturer of SU/stromberg carbs. If you need anything for your carbs use their parts link and all will be revealed.

## http://www.winsu.co.uk

You thought you knew everthing about SU needles? Here is a site where you can check your knowledge about SU needles.SU Carburettor Needle Finder Software can be downloaded for free (free for 10 trial sessions)

## http://www3.telus.net/DonsMiniSite/

A personal collection of technical info and links.

## http://www.spagweb.com/v8mini/

The Roughest V8Mini Deathtrap In The World.See 'Doris', a v8 mini project plus links to other v8 minis.

http://www.dsnclassics.co.uk Mini (& Minor) parts supplier.

## http://www.cbel.com/austin\_cars/

Lost of links to many more Mini sites. Appears to be from Dutch origin.

## http://www.minispace.co.uk

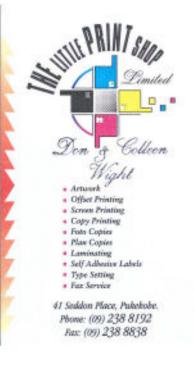
A personal website with loads of links and information. The fonts used are a bit on the small side. Do I need some glasses?

#### http://www.markoos.net/

Totally mad Mini with Honda engine. The ultimate modifications.

## http://www.comp.glam.ac.uk/pages/staff/ djcunlif/minis/minilinks.htm

The Mini WWW Directory (unfortunately many links missing but still some worthwhile)



# **MINI** Collection.

On my recent overseas jaunt I was fortunate and lucky enough to visit what would have to be, arguably, the largest and best collection of Minis in the world. The collection of over 50 pristine cars is part of a private Mini museum owned by Tom Turkington at Ballywalter, on the picturesque east coast of Northern Ireland.



I say fortunate as we had not planned to visit that part of the country as time was limited. But my daughter Meagan who had joined Gayle and I for the week long drive around Ireland was keen to visit west Belfast, the part where all the trouble has been over the years. As we were running ahead of schedule we were able to fit it in and as we were only a short distance from Ballywater we thought we would try and find the much talked about Mini museum.

I say lucky, as the museum is only open for a look by appointment only. We called in on spec and could not find any sign of any movement. While making my way back to the car in 8

## John Heselwood

bitterly cold weather a car appeared and the driver stopped to see what I wanted. I explained that I was looking for Tom Turkington, I was from Australia, I don't have an appointment, but was hoping to see his Mini collection. Sorry was the reply, you will have to come back next week as Tom is laid up with a bad back. I explained that I was only here for a couple of hours and that we were flying back to London in the morning.

She must have felt sorry for me standing in the 60knot plus wind with a chill factor of about minus 10 and agreed to go back and talk to her mum, Tom's wife Patricia. She soon returned with her mum who welcomed us to their property. A young lad who works for the family was given the job of showing us around. He knew all about each Mini as one of his jobs was to keep them all dust free.

The collection is housed in a very large barn type shed called the Ballywater Mini centre and when you walk in your jaw drops to the floor. It is like walking back in time 40 years. The shed is full of a remarkable assortment of Mini memorabilia, sales literature, toys and models as well as over 50 cars.



The car that takes pride of place in the collection is the BMC works Mini GRX5D. Over 35 years ago Paddy Hopkirk and Terry Harryman drove this car to victory in the 1967 Circuit of Ireland rally. This car has a notable competi-

tion history. In its first event, the Monte Carlo Rally of 1966 it finished first on the road, with Paddy Hopkirk at the wheel, which made three consecutive wins for Minis on the Monte Carlo Rally, but the lighting fiasco intervened and it was disqualified. In its final event in Canada, the Shell 4000, again it was disqualified! The car in Paddy Hopkirk's hands had led the event for three days before serious overheating problems intervened; the car was fitted with an auxiliary radiator, which brought about its disqualification.

After being sold from the works department it passed through a number of hands until being sold at an auction at Silverstone in August 1997 to Tom.



Another of the cars is 24PK, a red and black 1275 Cooper S. it was built for Sir Peter Moon who drove it in the 1964 RAC Rally. The car was built at the works factory but it could not be called a works Mini because it was driven by a privateer.

Tom competed in rallies in the early 60's and although not seriously, this sporting connection explains why there are quite a few competition Minis in the collection. There are many Morris and Austin Mk1 and Mk2 Cooper and Cooper s variants, but although Tom's preference is for these, he has also collected many others, all of which are significant or have a bit of history.

He has the full set of birthday models, the Mini 25, a cherry red Mini 30, a 35 and a white Mini 40. Sitting in line with these is the third last Mini to come off the production line and it only has 5 miles on the clock.

One Cooper that has real nostalgic value is a surf blue 1965 Austin Cooper S. This car was given to Tom for Christmas 1995 by Patricia, although it was meant to be for his 50th birthday a year earlier. She had tracked down Tom's original Cooper and secretly had the car restored exactly as it was originally.



The story gets better. Tom already had a looka-like of his first Cooper S on display in the collection. It was owned by a mate of his, so Patricia and the girls hatched a plan to swap the cars without Tom knowing. On Christmas Eve that swapped the cars over and waited till the next morning for Tom to make his regular trip to the shed to empty the de-humidifiers. Tom remembers looking at what he thought was his mate's Cooper S and wondered why the wheels had been changed. He looked around to find a line of heads looking at him and Patricia handed him a Christmas wrapped box with a set of keys in it.

He was absolutely thrilled to find that it was his fist ever Cooper S.

# **MINI** Collection.

On Christmas day 1998 Tom returned the surprise when he presented Patricia with a replica of her first Mini Countryman, also in painted surf blue. He had found one in very good condition and had it secretly revamped.

One car that is remarkable is a 1968 Morris Mini Van that Tom obtained in 1997. A lady had bought it new and only drove it for 180 miles and then parked in the garage. She did not drive it again as she could not see out of the back. The car had never even had its first service.



The owner was obsessed with crosswords and used to store all the old newspapers in the garage and over the years the Mini disappeared under the pile. When she died she left her estate to her grandkids. When they cleaned out the garage they found the Minivan under the pile of papers. The van was still like new as the papers had preserved it and kept the moisture out. When Tom bought it all he did to it was wash it and give it a polish. It is in a totally original perfect condition. The tool kit has never been open, the plastic covering is still on the doors and seats and the tyres still have sixties air in them. Another in the collection is a black and white 1999 Rover Cooper that was featured in a martini TV commercial which sits beside a similar car that was used in the Avengers movie and driven by Roger Moore.

Tom and Patricia have always been Mini enthusiasts. Tom has always had at least one Mini since he was old enough to drive. Patricia said that all the family are into Minis and when Tom is looking at buying another car the two girls come along as well. She has two rules when it comes to buying; he is not to buy a green one or one with the registration adding up to 13. An almond green Cooper has been added to the collection, but it has not touched the tarmac in Ireland. It came straight off the ship, on to a truck and into the shed.

After admiring this great collection we were invited to stay for coffee and afternoon tea. Tom dragged himself out of bed to spend an hour with us chatting about his hobby and asking about the Mini scene in Australia. I asked Tom what his favourite car would be. GRX5D is the car he wanted most and to have that connection to the history of the BMC works days makes it up there as his favourite. The other would be the surf blue Cooper S Patricia gave him.

Our stay had to come to an end and we headed off toward Dublin knowing that we were both fortunate and lucky to have just viewed the best Mini collection in the world.

John Heselwood.

# Notice of AGM

# Tuesday. 3<sup>th</sup> August 2004

## At the Northern Sports Car Club, Mt Richmond Domain, Great South Road, Otahuhu

## What's on: -

## 1. Elections

Please consider whether you would be interested in planning the activities of the club. Feel free to approach a committee member if you are curious. The function of magazine editor is up for grabs.

## 2. Membership fees.

There is a proposal on the table to incease the subs from \$30 to \$35 for induviduals an to \$45 for couples.

## 3. Members forum.

All club members are invited to have their say.

4. Prize giving.





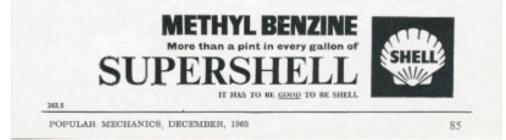


# Mini in a million

A million Minis. But what matters to you is your Mini. Your cheeky little car with the engine facing the wrong way. Your nimble little Mini that nips through traffic like a collie dog through sheep. Your clastic-sided instant-parking, rough-road-levelling Mini that leaves hig high-powered, gas-guzzlers gasping on a twisty road.

Your Mini. Cherish it with Methyl Benzine.

Keep its busy engine cooler, in traffic, or with your foot hard down. Methyl Benzine cools the petrol/air mixture as it enters the combustion chambers. Stops harmful detonation. Maximise your Mini's power with Methyl Benzine. Fill up with Supershell. See how much further a 5½ gallon tankful of Supershell with Methyl Benzine will take you. Recommended for every Mini ever made.



Have a good look at the date and the magazine name it came from.

# MINI Logo.

## MINIS FORM LARGEST CAR BADGE AT RECORD ATTEMPT

At a recent meeting on 12th May 2004, more than 200 MINIs and teams of more than 400 Italian people from around Italy gathered to attempt a Guinness Book of Records event at the Castello di Villafranca, Italy. Around 47 Italian provinces were represented, among them Palermo, Agrigento, Messina, Lecce and Campobasso. On the Saturday morning of 17th April 2004, the teams with their MINIs were brought into the impressive inner court of the Castello di Villafranca. In order to celebrate the day, 196 automobiles circles and lines were formed into the MINI Logo, which was 110 meters wide and took an area of 1000 sq metres. MINI has requested an entry into the Guinness book of the records, since it formed the Automobile logo with their own cars. At present the official permission and registration procedure into the book has been forwarded for consideration.

#### Courtesy of MINI Press



Other Mini-milestones in the Guinness Book of Records are:

#### MOST EXPENSIVE MINI

The Mini Limo, a one-off car commissioned by Rover Group and built by John Cooper Garages (UK), was sold for a record £50,000 in September 1997.

#### TIGHTEST PARALLEL PARKING

On 17 April 1999, Russ Swift of Darlington, County Durham, England, parked a Mini in a space that was only 33 cm (13 inches) longer than the car. This piece of parking prowess was performed at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground, Leicestershire, England.

#### HEAVIEST CAR BALANCED ON HEAD

It's death defying, it's daunting, and it's downright dangerous. But England's John Evans balanced a 159.6 kg (352 lb) Mini on his head for 33 seconds at The London Studios, England, on 24 May 1999.

Dangling cars from his head is all in a day's work for professional 'Head Balancer' Evans. He has balanced people, books and beers, but the car is the by far the most deadly trick – a strong wind and it could be the end of the road for John. John is a gigantic guy. He is 2 metres (6ft 1 inch) tall and weighs in at 155.7 kg (343 lb). But it is his 60.9 cm (24 inch) neck that is the only part of his body strong enough to take such immense weights. So the slightest slip, trip, or nudge could send him tumbling to a crushing death, as his arms would not be able to cope with the load. This big fella has broken 25 records in 11 categories and is going for more.

#### LOWEST CAR

The lowest car is a radically modified Austin Mini, named "lowlife" by it's creator, Perry Watkins, of Aylesbury, England. Measuring 60 cm (24 inch) from the ground to roof, with 2.5 cm (1 inch) ground clearance, it was completed in October 1999. Despite it's diminutive size, the project cost \$15,800. It took 18 months to plan and a further three years to build. Based on a 1967 Austin Mini, parts of a further three Mini bodies were welded into the final shell.

#### FASTEST FURNITURE

The Casual Sofa, a motorized sofa built by Ed China and David Davenport, has a top speed of 140 km/h (87 mph). Powered by a Mini 1300 c.c. engine, it is licensed for use on UK roads and is steered by turning a medium pizza pan.

The speedy sofa is operated with a medium pizza pan as a steering wheel, a cola can as the foot brake lever, and a chocolate bar to adjust the gears, with front indicators in flower pots and a speedometer attached to the coffee table. The in-car entertainment includes a working black and white television.

The car sofa started life as a three-wheeler with a Mini 850 c.c. as the rear, with a Reliant front. The car sofa has now been modified with a Mini 1300 c.c. engine and four wheels.

Incredibly, the car – which has a seating capacity for a driver and two passengers – has covered over 25,750 km (16,000 miles) since it was built.

For more details and photos visit the Guinness Book of Reocords website.

# **MINI** Racing.





This is the Rally Mini I'm rebuilding.

I got the shell with a halve cage fitted, for next

to nothing. The back seat was poorly cut out

and needed some strengthening. The boot

floor was rotten, but that was about it. I've

now fitted a full roll-cage, repaired the boot

floor, fitted strengthed sub-frames and gave it

a bit of a paint job. The doors are in and so is

the motor. The only thing I have to do now is

finishing the electrical and Bob is your uncle.

Sad thing is that, due to poor health, I've re-

tired from racing. Once the Mini is finished

it's going to be sold, trailer and all, without a

Not much to tell really.

I built it myself. It's space frame with a fibreglass body. Beam rear axle, standard front sub frame and drum brakes at moment. Running a 1275GT engine bored 20 tho, 286 scater cam, slightly mod head, 45 webber, home made headers and exhaust system. standard gearbox. 4.1 diff locked and thats about it.

What revs it pulls, I have no idea but someone thought I had a rotory in it. The cheek. lol Having a few problems with clutch at moment but I was keeping up with the V8s though. Might have to change diff ratio. a bit of trail and error.

Hope this helps. See you Sat night.

Robin

F



mile on the road. It shouldn't be too hard for someone to make it street legal. In the end it was intended for Rally and the original wire loom is refitted. Frits.

15

# **MINI** Beauty.

## Time and Spillage

Over the holidays, this may have happened to you!

Dad left the fish bait on the back floor of the car and mum spilt the casserole on the floor on the front passenger side.

The neighbour's lovely child was sick on the back seat and couldn't get the electric window down quick enough.

Or did the boys just party up and spill beer and wine? Whatever, this is what not to do in the future.

You would be amazed though, at the number of people who try to clean up spillages of this magnitude by themselves., e.g. the fish.

Mum wets and scrubs the carpet and puts baking sod on it to get rid of the smell. The outcome? We have a marinade of baking soda, wet carpet and fish, and a car of which you can't close the windows because of the smell of fish.

The answer? Don't try to scrub the carpet or add some old recipe to remove the smell. The carpet in your vehicle is a thin, commercial carpet with thick, soundproof underfelt which is usually three times as thick as the carpet, and it acts as a great blotter.

Yes, you appear to have cleaned the carpet but what you have actually done is

## **Dave Handyside**

drive the smell down into the underfelt.

What is needed is for you to clean the spillage off with a putty knife and soak the rest up with a sponge. Should you still have a smell, give us a phone call or pay us a visit.

You would be amazed at the number of clean-ups we have had to repair over the years. We have had to strip the car on 90 per cent of these, remove the carpet, throw away the underfelt and replace it with new underfelt.

All of this could have been prevented.

So, remember, think before you clean, or if in doubt, give us a ring. It could save you a lot of money and just as much heartache.

Money Savers

Regards, Car Valet Services.



# New-MINI gossip.

#### MINI pedal car on show

Our super-sleuth spy Hermin, tells us that the first of the MINI Convertible pedal cars has landed and on show in the BMW Group showroom in Mt Wellington Hot orange in colour, this little beauty will appeal to kids big and small as either a ride-in or conversation piece in the lounge.

They didn't have Mini pedal cars when I was a miniminor!



Interested prospective owners should contact the parts department of their nearest MINI dealer (if you can't find one - Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin).

Beep-beep for now, Minnie.



Mini's Mars mission Mini has joined forces with space expl

Mini has joined forces with space exploration teams working on a Mars landing and transportation module. The International Space Commission said in a press release from its Australian office that a special development of the Mini was undergoing testing in Tasmania and New Zealand. "Mini is ideal for exploring distant planets because of its low centre of gravity, go-kart handling and supple suspension, not to mention the special Mars Mission Control Traction System we are jointly developing," commission spokesman Captain F. Gordon said. The Mars Mini will be equipped with anti-radiation paint to reflect harmful rays and an all-new heating system to cope with the planet's extremely low temperatures. On a golf tour in Ireland, Tiger Woods drives his BMW into a petrol station in a remote part of the Irish countryside. The pump attendant, obviously knows nothing about golf, greets him in a typical Irish manner completely unaware of who the golfing pro is. "Top of the mornin' to yer, sir" says the attendant. Tiger nods a quick "hello" and bends forward to pick up the nozzle. As he does so, two tees fall out of his shirt pocket onto the ground.

"What are those?, asks the attendant.

"They're called tees" replies Tiger.

"Well, what on the god's earth are dey for?" inquires the Irishman.

"They're for resting my balls on when I'm driving", says Tiger.

"Fookin Jaysus", says the Irishman, "BMW thinks of everything."

MINI's Forward Thinking Adds More Fun With 2 Speeds in Reverse.

Woodcliff Lake, NJ - April 1, 2004

Hot on the heels of the announcement of the new MINI convertible, MINI has announced the world's first 8-speed gearbox, complete with 2 reverse gears. Research has shown that MINI owners have the highest "FGF" score (Fun Going Forward) on the road and so MINI engineers have developed a 2-speed reverse gear to increase the "FGB" (Fun Going Backward) score to a similar level.

Called Double Back Shifting (or Double B.S.), the new system adds a second reverse gear and thereby allows MINI owners to reverse faster than the competition to speeds of up to 40 mph.

As well as increasing the FGB score, The new system, along with MINI's unique size, gives owners an almost unfair advantage when finding those elusive on-street parking spaces: If the driver overshoots the space, they can simply reverse in double quick time using B.S. to zip neatly into the space.

MINI gearbox engineer, Geary Duckshann said: "We worked hard to add this extra gear into the transmission. We are delighted with the results, the only disadvantage being the new larger box now takes up much of the passenger foot well, but it's a price worth paying."

The system has further advantages. Competitive minded drivers are clearly excited by his news and the SCCA is now looking at a reverse autocross challenge where MINI owners can enjoy B.S. to the max. Pricing has yet to be announced. Rag top Mini

# **MINI** Events

**TUESDAY 8 JUNE-** Clubnight, ten pin bowling at Manukau Tenpin. Meet at 7.00pm, 573 Great South Road, Manukau behind Tower Motor Group. Prices are, under 16 \$5, students (with id) \$6, adults \$7, seniors \$4, per game plus \$1 shoe hire.

SUNDAY 13 JUNE-Targa Dash. Road race in Franklin District.

**SUNDAY 20 JUNE-** North Shore follow the leader run. Meet at Stafford Park, Denby Lane, off Stafford Road at 12.30pm. This run will finish with a BBQ at Warwick Robinson's house.

**SUNDAY 20 JUNE-** Tarmac Series Motorkhana at AFFCO Horotiu. Run by the Fiat Club. Entry forms can be found at www.miniswaikato.co.nz a couple of weeks prior to the event.

SUNDAY 27 JUNE- Club shed/workshop open from 1.30pm

**SUNDAY 4 JULY-** The Italian Job. Please note the change of the start of this event. Meet at 12.00pm in the looped car park at the War Memorial Museum, just inside George and Titoki Streets. Navigators should bring a clipboard, highlighter, and a ballpoint of a different colour. Don't worry if you are a solo driver, you will be teamed up with a driver/navigator crew. Briefing at 12.45, first car away at 1.00pm.

**TUESDAY 6 JULY-** Clubnight at Northern Sports Car Club at 7.30pm. Guest speaker from Karting N.Z.

**SUNDAY 18 JULY-** Go kart racing. To be held at Auckland Raceway, The Concourse, Henderson. Racing starts at 1.30pm and will be \$45 per person.

SUNDAY 25 JULY- Club shed/workshop open from 1.30pm.

**SUNDAY 25 JULY-** Tarmac Series Autocross at Bay Park Raceway, in the pit area. Run by the Fiat Club. Entry forms can be found at www.miniswaikato.co.nz a couple of weeks prior to the event.

**TUESDAY 3 AUGUST-**Annual General Meeting. Held at the Northern Sports Car Clubrooms at 7.30pm. This is your chance to have your say on how the club is run. The AGM will be followed by prize giving and supper. Please bring a plate.

**SUNDAY 8 AUGUST-** Tarmac Series Hillclimb held at Sainsbury Road, Pirongia. Run by the Fiat Club. Entry forms can be found at www.miniswaikato.co.nz a couple of weeks prior to the event.

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 14-15 AUGUST-**TePuke weekend trip. A follow the leader run to the Te Puke Auto Barn where we will spend a couple of hours looking around. Then we will

have a navigational trial followed by a BBQ dinner. Follow the leader home on Sunday. Meet at BP service centre at 9.30am on Saturday morning.

**TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER-** Clubnight at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms starting at 7.30pm. Demonstration on skimming disk brakes.

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER- Treasure hunt fun run. More details in the next mag.

**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER-** Tarmac Series Dual Sprints, Centenial Park Raceway, Taupo. Run by the Fiat Club. Entry fors available from www.miniswaikato.co.nz a couple of weeks prior to the event.

**SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER-** Fish and Chip run. Follow the leader run with fish and chips for lunch. Meet at Karaka Bloodstocks, Hingia Road, Papakura at 11.00am

**SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER-** Bent Sprint, Hiwi Road, Tauwhare. Run by the Fiat Club. Entry forms available from www.miniswaikato.co.nz a couple of weeks prior to the event.

**TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER-** Clubnight at northern Sports Car Clubrooms, 7.30pm

**LABOUR WEEKEND 22/23/24 OCTOBER-** Mini Nationals being held by Minis Waikato. Information and entry forms can be obtained at www.miniswaikato.co.nz or follow the link from www.minis-auckland.org.nz or elsewhere in the mag. This is going to be a great event, and with it being so close to Auckland, there is no reason why the club will not be well represented.

TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER- Clubnight at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms at 7.30pm.

**SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER-** Eastern navigational trial. Meet at the Northern Sports Car Club at 1.00pm.

**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER-** Annual Economy run. Starting from the Karaka Bloodstocks, Hingia Road, Papakura. Meet at 1.00pm and bring a present to the value of \$2 as your enterance fee.

**TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER-** This is the last club night for the year. We will have a BBQ as normal. Please bring a plate, salad or desert, meat will be provided by the club. To be held at the Northern Sports Car clubrooms from 7.30 pm.

