

# Mini Car Club of Auckland

Incorporated



Club Magazine

MotorSport  
New Zealand

May 2001

## Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc.

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The Deadline for the next issue is: **15 July 2001**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Don't forget the 5<sup>th</sup> June Clubnight is at 'CARCOLOURS'

Address - 226 Archers Road

GLENFIELD

@ 7.30pm

(Info on preparing and painting your car)

The Minisport weekend run by the Hamilton Cooper Enthusiasts Club has been put back from Queens Birthday weekend to 20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July.





Hopefully Matt Fenton from "Motorsport Lifestyle" will be at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Clubnight to talk about the new Mini.

There are heaps of events over the next 2 months (so many, we have to miss out on some), so check Club Events at the back of this magazine for current and future events.

We have put a programme together up to November so that you and other clubs can plan the rest of your year.

Happy motoring.

**EL PRESIDENTO**  
**Warwick Robinson**

 <p><b>MINI AUTO PARTS Ltd</b> Bob Pearce - Proprietor</p> <p>For all your New and Secondhand Mini parts, give us a call. We specialize in Mini's - All servicing and repairs available.</p> <table border="0"><tr><td><b>Used</b></td><td><b>New</b></td></tr><tr><td>- Body panels</td><td>- Carpet sets</td></tr><tr><td>- Motors and Gearboxes</td><td>- Extractors</td></tr><tr><td>- Mags</td><td>- Gaskets &amp; Seals</td></tr><tr><td>- Tyres</td><td>- Brake parts</td></tr><tr><td>- Upholstery</td><td>- Parts ex. U.K.</td></tr></table> <p>30 Ashfield Street, Glenfield, Auckland Tel/Fax 09 4422268 Cash paid for Mini's to dismantle</p> 	<b>Used</b>	<b>New</b>	- Body panels	- Carpet sets	- Motors and Gearboxes	- Extractors	- Mags	- Gaskets & Seals	- Tyres	- Brake parts	- Upholstery	- Parts ex. U.K.	<p>FRANKLIN'S BATTERY SPECIALIST AND AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICIAN</p> <p><b>GRAHAM CRISPE</b></p> <p><b>AUTO ELECTRICAL LTD</b></p> <p>3 STADIUM DR, PUKEKOHE PH.09 238-9195, FAX 238-0727 YES! WE WORK ON MINIS!</p>  
<b>Used</b>	<b>New</b>												
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## Our Pork Pie trip – by Lisa Strang

We started our mammoth trip on Saturday 7 April. Leaving Kapiti around noon we leisurely headed north. Graham in the convertible, Bill in his new yellow moke and myself in a Honda wagon. We were sponsored RTs for the vehicles, and Christie put them to the test, flat out for the first hour of the journey.

Just north of Foxton, Graham pulls to the side of the road in a shuddering halt. One of his wheel studs sheared away, and the others were all loose. Looks like someone had tampered with the car. Lucky no damage was done. He arranged with Mike Stebbing to pick one up and bring it up to Auckland. At about that time we had a call from Lisa of MOWOG who had broken down north of Bulls. This didn't look good – 2 cars broken down only a stone's throw from home. She had a faulty thermostat, had it fixed and was on her way again.

The rest of the trip through to Taupo was uneventful – the minis did feel the cold on the Desert Rd (or was it perhaps a bad batch of fuel).

That night we all enjoyed a soak in the hot pools.

Sunday 8 April - After running a few errands, then meeting up with Lisa, convinced her to run out to Wairaki, then if she wasn't happy with her car she could decide whether to carry on or not. It was running fine so we headed north in convoy – 3 Minis, 1 Honda. After all the usual stops – food, toilets, gas we arrived in South Auckland and made a detour to meet up with Frits who was joining us for the whole journey. A quick hello then we parted our ways again. We had to be on the North Shore for a family meal. Frit was joining us the next morning.

Monday 9 April – A few more errands to run, then we were off, destination Kaitaia. We met up with Mike and wife Pat in Warkworth, and they joined us through to Kawakawa. (They were staying in Paihia and would join us the next morning in Kaitaia). At this stage we had 5 Minis, 1 Honda.

A farewell and short break in Kawakawa and we hit the road again, arriving in Kaitaia at the lodge we were staying at, with Bill Robson and a three course meal waiting for us. (Bills (Mr Leadfoot) first conversation with us was – WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?). We ate our lovely meal, had a briefing and all went to bed.

Tuesday 10 April – We all met at the Shell Service Station in Kaitaia, all decked out in our Pork Pie 2001 attire, Graham, Lisa, Benj & Christie Strang, Bill Pyne, Bill Robson (B1, B2), Frits Schouten, Lisa Marshall, Mike and Pat Stebbing. 6 minis, 1 Honda.

Now the key words for this trip started right at the beginning – RUNNING LATE. We were held up by 1 ½ hours by TV3 filming a re-enactment of Goodbye Pork Pie – Bill in his yellow Pork π mini, Graham jumping into it yelling ‘go you bastard’, then pulling out of the service station at great speed having not paid for the petrol. They did this several times, to get it right, one time Graham jumped in and the seat collapsed as Bill pulled off.

This holdup gave a few of us a good opportunity to get out and start rattling the buckets. It was a wonderful start to our fundraising run.

Onward to Whangarei about 10.30am. Things went smoothly, although I did not feel comfortable with a Police Car on my tail for much of the trip.

We arrived in Whangarei around 12.30, parked up in the mall, rattled buckets had lunch and were off again. Lisa was still having problems with her heating system, and Mike was having an electrical problem.

The closer to Auckland we got, the more minis we picked up along the way, having 18 driving up Queen St, and parking in Aotea Square.

We were lucky enough to meet Kelly Johnson, who played Les Morris – Blondini in the movie. He is a very nice man, who now lives in Whangarei and is a lawyer.

After some more collecting we were invited to the Domain for a BBQ, hosted by Auckland Mini Club before meeting up with Benj’s ex teacher for dinner. A successful day with a collection of well over \$800. Sadly we lost Lisa, she decided to take her car back to Wellington, and Mike, had to fly to the UK to see his unwell mother. Pat joined us for the trip down to Southwards Car Museum.



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Wednesday 11 April – An early start to get through Auckland's rush hour traffic enabled us to depart from Motorsport Lifestyles at 8.45. We left with 14 minis, circled the bus station (as in the movie) and headed out to Manakau City Centre for a spot of collecting. Then on to Pokeno, to visit the service station that was in the movie. An unfortunate accident had one of the cars detour to a panelbeater for a couple of hours. The rest of us rallied around in Hamilton, dealt with the press, had a bite to eat and ventured off again. In Te Awamutu there was yet again another newspaper reporter waiting, and a chance to do some more collecting. Some of the Auckland group left us here. Next stop was the Waitomo glowworm caves, where we had a chance to refresh ourselves and see some of the sights. We stopped at BJ's Cafe (north of Taumaranui) to show the owner the minis, and she invited us all to stop for a meal. We were just settling into our motel at National Park when the Wheelers arrived from Lower Hutt. They joined us for a bite to eat, counted the day's takings then we all retired for the evening. Just over \$800 again for the day.

Thursday 12 April – All were welcome in our unit for breakfast, then it was off to the service station for everyone to fill up. We had 7 minis, 1 Honda. First stop was the Horopito Auto Wreckers, and more reporters. We had a wander around, and then were able to drive through the yard. This is an incredible place, and if you ever get the chance it is well worth poking around for a while. Next stop Wanganui, and through the Para Paras. The minis lost me (I couldn't corner quite as well as them). Lunch, collecting, reporters and

we were back on track again. Also the addition of some of the Kapiti Coast members, between Wanganui and Bulls, and Otaki. We stopped at Southwards Car Museum but just ran out of time, we were hoping to look through the workshops. We had arranged to kidnap Cuddly Duddly (radio station 2XX's mascot) but when we arrived the police had nabbed him first. After finally catching up with him, there was a police chase (sirens & lights) through Coastlands carpark, when Graham and Bill fled their cars on foot. A nice member of the public decided to help the police out and tried to tackle Graham. After all this excitement we headed for Wellington Railway Station. A total of 13 minis. A very successful hour spent collecting, and then it was around to Fishermans Table for a relaxing dinner. Total for the day - \$1,100.



Friday 13 April – Rest day in Wellington. This day was designed with the idea of rewinding, catching up with washing etc, but we ended up having to deal with reporters, do a job, catch up with family – the Easter thing – then Graham and Frits were up until nearly midnight changing TNYTOTs radiator twice, the first ended up leaking worse than the first one.

Saturday 14 April – We left home around 7.30 to get to the ferry terminal by 8.30. We parked up to wait for the ferry to arrive and unload before driving on ourselves. We were joined by the Red Bull girls, in their Mini Cooper, and given supplies to keep us going. Typically, when you are on a schedule, they announced the ferry would be late.

Still, we made the most of it, buckets out, and a chance for a spot of collecting. Once on the ferry, a cooked breakfast was enjoyed, and a rather pleasant crossing. (We were expecting the worst – after the cyclone had passed through). In Picton, we met up with someone who heard about the run through the media, and he joined us through to Blenheim. We picked up a couple of cars on the way, including Brent and Caroline from Christchurch. We spent about an hour at the Omaka Air Show, collecting and enjoying the aircraft putting on displays. Next scheduled stop was Kaikoura for a late afternoon tea, meet the press and some more collecting. We arrived in Christchurch around 7.30 pm, where we met up with the Christchurch Mini Owners Club, at Tuskers Restaurant. An enjoyable meal, music and company was had before retiring to the motel for the evening.



Sunday 15 April – We started off at Cathedral Square, hardly anyone was about, but gave us the chance for photos in front of the Cathedral. Then we went out to Riccarton Racecourse, where the National Hot Rod Show was being held. After a quick collection (and generous donation by CHCH Hot Rod Club) and a look around the cars, we made our way towards the main divide. We stopped on the way through Arthurs Pass for some great photos, and lunch and arrived in Greymouth around 2.30. We farewelled Brent and Caroline and headed south. Just north of Ross we had our first break down. Unfortunately the car had only one towing eye, so we couldn't just A-frame it, and fix it later. Three hours later we were on the move again, this time just to Ross for some dinner. The cold weather and some light rain caused problems for Graham, with a faulty lead shorting against the body. (Not to mention stopping frequently for Benj to be sick, (the fish dinner we think)). I was ready



to dismantle his body kit and hook the A-frame up, when they sorted the problem out. We arrived in Franz Josef about 10.30pm, where we pretty much hit the sack straight away.

Monday 16 April – We all had a good nights sleep, well we did anyway. Turns out Frits and Bill found their caravan only had the double bed made up, and Frits was about 2 feet too long for it anyway. (I didn't ask who slept where, that was information we didn't need to know). They admitted to having a sneaky drink at the bar last night too. We had breakfast and took a run up to the Glacier before leaving and heading south.



A brief stop at Haast and an enjoyable run through to Hawea, where we met up with 3 more minis. We went into Wanaka for some collecting and lunch, leaving there at 2pm. We had a couple of cars drop off on the way to Roxburgh, where we stopped for afternoon tea. Another quick trip through to Milton (I didn't know minis could go that fast, I was doing 120km and couldn't catch them).

Awaiting us at Waihola was the Otago Mini Owners Club, with 19 minis to join us. (23 minis, 1 Honda) We were asked to pass through Green Island to wave to a bunch of old ladies, which wasn't actually true. This was a ploy to meet up with a police escort they had organised into Dunedin City. We were told to stay close together and drive through all the red lights. So with siren going and lights flashing, the police lead us into the city, and we all did as we were told by the nice policeman, we ran all the reds. He circled the Octagon, so we circled the Octagon – imagine a road full of minis, from beginning to

end. After the highlight of our trip so far, we brought ourselves back down to earth and went and checked into our motel – which turned out being across the road from where we were having dinner. We walked across to the Southern Tavern, where the Mini Owners were all waiting, and enjoyed a lovely meal and some great company. We decided to auction off one of the Pork Pie caps to boost our collection for the day. We raised over \$500 today.



Tuesday 17 April – FINAL DAY. We met at the Octagon at 10am, for some more collecting and some press. We got away just after 11am, with 11 minis, 1 Honda. First stop petrol, second stop Balclutha. Collecting and lunch and then off to Gore. More collecting, and some photos by the big trout, then our final jaunt into Invercargill.



We stopped just outside Invercargill, where we removed the bonnet from Pork  $\pi$ , and then I lead the convoy with my lights on and warning lights flashing. Turn left at the cemetery we were told, which I nearly overshot. After turning left we found about 15 minis, 2 police cars and around 100 people waiting for us.

It had been organised, that the police car chase Pork  $\pi$  through the cemetery and back up to the main gates, where we had organised for Bill Robson to be arrested and handcuffed. The policeman even threw Bill against the side of his car! After this all happening, Graham got out 4 bottles of champagne, which we shook up and showered over the bystanders and ourselves. (In true Americas Cup Fashion!). What an amazing feeling to have travelled such a distance in the famous little car – and to get such a reception on arrival. We went to our motel to clean up, then on our way out the door, the motelier supplied us with a fresh batch of scones, which we did a good job of polishing off. We got to the restaurant where dinner had been organised by the Southern Mini Club. Imagine our surprise when we arrived to find several Child Cancer Families having dinner with us. As a spur of the moment thing, we offered all the children rides in the minis. It took us a while to realise that the lines weren't getting smaller – they wanted to go in all the minis. We had mock races down the wide Invercargill streets, and would circle the roundabout two or three times. Seeing the looks on the kids' faces was just unreal – we realised that this was what it was all about, something we will never forget. After a meal and raffle we retired to our motel, with the invitation to anyone to come back for a drink. We celebrated until 1.45am, when our guests decided to hit the road (by taxi). I think I dropped off as soon as my head hit the pillow.



Wednesday 18 April – We woke up feeling quite refreshed, even with the late night. Bill woke me as he drove off with what sounded like no exhaust. He was going to have it repaired. We had breakfast, then counted the day before's takings – just over \$1,100. We were just leaving the motel when the kind owner fronted up with yet another batch of scones. We went for a ride out to Bluff – can't go all that way and not go to Bluff. We drove back to Dunedin- (for me this is where last night started to catch up with me), arriving around 7pm. Denise invited us all around for coffee, and the scones we were given this morning. We decided on a fairly early night.



Thursday 19 April – We met everyone at McDonalds for breakfast – relatives, friends, and mini owners. Then took a trip out to Wakari Hospital to visit a relative who is a very keen mini man. Afterwards we visited Baldwin Street – the steepest street in the world. First Frits blasted up the hill, with cheering from us all at the bottom. Then Graham charged on up – I was sure he was kidding himself, but he made it. Bills grunty Pork  $\pi$  took it on – no problem! George took Denise's GT up – they all made this hill look like a small rise, so when they returned, Bill Pyne gave in, and handed his keys over, to see if little Riley could do it. We all cheered it on, Riley, Riley, and it screamed all the way up. This left only the Honda, so I decided I'd better have a go – it was easy!

We all headed north to Palmerston, where George and Denise and the kids said their farewells, and presented me with flowers and the group with a banner saying 'Goodbye, Pork Pie'. We had lunch in Palmerston then made our way north to Christchurch, stopping at the Moeraki Boulders then in

Timaru to look at a convertible mini. We arrived in Christchurch about 7.30pm, ordered in pizza and hit the sack.

Friday 20 April – After breakfast we stopped at the QEII fun park, for the kids to have a go on the ride on vehicles. We left around 12, and drove north to arrive in Kaikoura for lunch around 2pm. A quick trip through to Picton to catch the 5pm ferry back across the ditch. Another smooth crossing – although a little slower than expected – another engine down!

Three members of our club greeted us as we arrived in Wellington. We arrived back home just after 9pm.

I was very proud of Bill Robson for quitting smoking, his collecting ability and for wearing his tooth, Graham for going the whole way on 3 wheel studs, and being able to prize the phone away from his ear at the end of the day, Frits for his collecting ability and his energy – we think he is an energizer battery in disguise, Bill for travelling 5,000 km, and with only one eye, Benj for his stamina for collecting – even after people swearing at him, and Christie, for being my little helper.

### Highlights!

Graham Strang – reception on arrival in Invercargill, meeting CC families.

Lisa Strang – a tie, the convoy into Dunedin, the grand finale.

Benjamin Strang – the convoy into Dunedin, with the police car.

Christie Strang - running the red lights, with the police car in Dunedin.

Bill Pyne – Enthusiasm of the collectors, and the generosity of the public.

Bill Robson – the sheer joy on the kids faces, burning around Invercargill.

Frits Schouten – the welcome in Dunedin, the stop in Gore, the dinner with the kids.

Sam (the dog) – the food each day.

### Total Raised

After some late donations, we presented Child Cancer Foundation with a cheque for \$8,025.28.

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## **MAY**

### **26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday: Mini Fun Day, Centennial Park, Taupo**

As you would expect from the name, this is indeed a Fun Day! An opportunity for EVERYONE to have a go on a racetrack. Your car will be required to pass scrutineering. You will also need cotton or flameproof overalls (the club has some available to use) and an approved helmet. Saturday night we will probably have a meal out in Taupo, which is also a lot of fun. Don't miss out on the weekend!!!

## **JUNE**

### **\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE\*\*\***

### **5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Clubnight 7:30pm Car Colors, 226 Archers Road, Glenfield.**

Come and learn about paint finishes, how to prepare your car and keep it looking good.

### **17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: Annual Go-Kart Challenge, Auckland Raceway, 82 The Concourse, Henderson.**

Fancy a shiny trophy for your mantelpiece? Try your hand at racing a smaller vehicle than a Mini against other club members. Guaranteed to produce plenty of laughs and tall stories. This is an event that we need to confirm numbers for, so if you would like to attend please phone Anita on 634 3272 or be at June clubnight (see above).

### **23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday: Night Run, starts 6pm, Outside Karaka Yearling Centre, Hingaia Road (Take Papakura exit and turn right across motorway).**

A fun run with a difference. Join us for an evening of Mini madness ... because everyone knows most things are more fun in the dark!

## **JULY**

### **3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday: Clubnight 7:30pm Northern Sports Car Clubrooms, Mt. Richmond Domain, Otahuhu.**

Guest Speaker: Matt Fenton from Motorsport Lifestyle - the NZ agents for new Mini. Matt will be giving us the lowdown on

the world of new Mini sales, and may even have some news for us on the new version.

**8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: Waitakeres Fun Trial, starts 1pm from the sports ground carpark on Portage Road, New Lynn (between Great North Road and Clark Street).**

Exploring the far reaches of Auckland is more fun with a group of Mini nuts in the worlds greatest small cars! Come and join in the fun.

**22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday: The Italian Job, starts 1pm Outside Mikano restaurant, Quay Street.**

This is the mother of all fun trials, 60km of non-stop driving in the city modelled on the famous Italian Job movie. You'll be sorry if you miss out on this one!

## **AUGUST**

**7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Clubnight 7:30pm Northern Sports Car Clubrooms, Mt. Richmond Domain, Otahuhu.**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Come and have your say on the way your club is run. If you would like to get more involved, please consider running for committee.

**19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: Tulip Rally, starting 1pm Northern Sports Car Clubrooms, Mt. Richmond Domain, Otahuhu.**

Don't worry if you don't know what a Tulip Rally is, this is just a fun trial with a twist. All you need to bring is a Mini (or a substitute), your sense of adventure, and a navigator would help. A surprise has been promised at the finish.

If there are any events that you would like us to run, please let your club committee know. This club is for you - let us know what you want!



**FS:** REAR WINDSCREEN - \$40 ono, SIDE WINDOW (POP OUT TYPE), - \$20 ono, GRILLE - BLACK - CLASSIC SHAPE - \$40 ono, WILD CAT STEERING WHEEL - \$80 ono

Phone: Karen Lee-Johnson 5346096 or 025-813575.

**FS:** Yellow 1979 Morris Mini 1000, only 46000km genuine on the clock, has been regulary serviced, outside mainly good, a few rustspots on the roof need attention.

Phone: Peter Lightbody on (09)4373059

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Clips	service - new & used
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