

Mini Car Club of Auckland

Incorporated



IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE:

Mini Nationals 2003, New Mini Gossip!, Events notification
And much more....

Joe Tuff's top Mini during the 2003 Mini Nationals

December 2003

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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.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mini Nationals – Palmerston North– 2003

15 members and supporters of our club went to the Mini Nationals at Palmerston North. We convoyed down Friday and returned Monday.

The weather was generally very good on the way down with light showers entering Palmerston North.

Scrutineering was done Friday afternoon on our arrival at Palmerston North.

Saturday morning was windy and a little cold for the Show'n'Shine held at Railway Land, centre of town.

Joe Tuff's Clubman won the 'Peoples Choice'. He also won another 10 points in the Show'n'Shine.

Saturday afternoon we proceeded to the Manawatu Car Club, clubrooms at Manfeild for a 2-½ hr 160 km fun navigational trial through the Rangitikei gorge area. Part of this trial also used the same course used for the Targa run.

This was a great event with Paul Leahy and Ian Ferguson winning the 'Most Confused.' They completed the trial sheets in a 'Coffee Bar' at Feilding. Their answers to many of their questions were hilarious.

Andrew and Lyn Carter were placed 10th in the Trial. Trial finishing at the clubrooms for a BBQ.

Up early Sunday morning for Gymkhana and Sprints at Manfeild. There were 4 different Gymkhana courses and the Sprints were 2 laps of the back half of Mansfield track.

Andrew Carter came 1st in the Sprints in his class as did Tony Maulder in his BMW Mini Cooper S. Warwick came 2nd in his class and Joe Tuffs was placed 3rd in his class. Andrew Carter got a 5th in the Gymkhana.

John Turner couldn't stop grinning all day and came 5th in his class ("Boy those tyres came close")

Back to the Hotel for a quick scrub up and off to the Dinner and Prize giving. In the Club points we ended up 5th with 107 points, divided by 12 members = 8.916. 1st place went to Central Districts Classic Car Club with 2 members with 57 points.

All in all a really great weekend.

Next years Nationals at Labour weekend will be run by Hamilton Mini Cooper Enthusiasts Club. Plan to be there in 2004.

El Presidente

Warwick Robinson

TEXT MESSAGE conversation.

<<<<NEWFLASH -Warwick got stopped & fined on way 2 Palmerston Nth!

>>>>Well, what do you know...

<<<<I told him @ mtg Tues that limit towing was 80.

>>>>What can I say.....bugger.....

<<<<Plonker springs 2 mind :-)



Mini Gnomes





What Are you doing Warwick??

Thanks Lee for this, somewhat bizar, photo taken during our outing at the Centennial Racetrack in Taupo. What was he thinking, I'd like to know. Where are his hands? No, no, better don't go there. A picture says more than a thousand words. (ed)



That's better, Warwick during the Mini Nationals.

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT

It doesn't seem like two months since the last mag. Just goes to show what a great time we have been having. The car maintenance day was a great success with everybody learning something, various cars having work done on them and one lucky member winning \$300.00 worth of prizes. Thanks to Landscape Cars and Wynn's for the enjoyable day.

Labour weekend saw the Nationals in Palmerston North, the 40th birthday of Pukekohe Racetrack and the start of Dunlop Targa. The first two events saw 23 cars from our Club involved. What a great showing! There were also five members involved in the Targa.

There are lots of great events coming up in the last month of the year and the beginning of next year. They include Economy Runs, car shows, track days, dawn breaker runs and the annual camping weekend. Other trips that are being planned but are not on the calendar yet include the McLaren's workshop and the war birds.

I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas and we will see you all soon.

GARY ASHTON



Some are really lucky having a head like this.



All at Pukekohe.



Lee's Mini in a promotional at Pukekohe.



A group of us met at the usual BP Service Centre at 7am on Friday 24th October for the run down to Palmerston North. The weather looked good for the run, and so we departed. Apart from a stop at Tirau, we had a good run down to Taupo for an early brunch. The volcanoes looked really magnificent at the other end of the Lake.



Mt Ruapehu

After refuelling, we carried on south and cruised up onto the Desert Road. Hello! What's this! In the distance we see this blue flashing light doing a sudden 'U' turn. As we got closer, we see our revered President having a little "chat" to a uniformed member of the Constabulary. Apparently, he was going a little "fast" doing 93ks on the Desert Road towing the Mini on a trailer. The cop wanted a 'Word' but I believe Warwick had more than just a few "words" with the cop. So much so, that the cop, his ears still singing (or stinging) from the barrage, was only too pleased and relieved to get back into his Patrol car and beat a hasty retreat. We had already passed a cop with another trailer pulled over near Atiamuri, and on the way home, another cop had this poor hapless pensioner pulled over north of Tirau for pulling his caravan just a tad too quick. Funny thing, though, Paul Leahy and Ian Ferguson passed the cop and Warwick in Paul's White Mini going a lot quicker than the allowed limit and were still accelerating when they passed me! I believe they were well past Waouru before I came off the Desert Road.

We all arrived safely in Palmy around mid-afternoon to register for the weekend. Because of the toughening up of the law regarding sporting events, we all had to show our membership cards before we could participate. I believe there were 105 registrations, including some from Christchurch.



Feilding town square

Next morning, we arrived at the Show and Shine which was held on the old Railway land on Main St. The quality of restoration on many of these cars has to be seen to be appreciated. Also, there were quite a number of late model Minis entered. Lawrence Axcell had his “Goodbye Pork Pie” car there which attracted much attention. The car that won the Show and Shine and also the peoples choice was none other than our own Joe Tuffs, from Orewa, in his beautifully restored Clubman. Well done, Joe.

After lunch, we headed over to Feilding where we congregated at the Manawatu Car Clubrooms for the start of the Navigational Rally. It started with a 30-minute walk around Feilding Town Square where we had to identify part photos on our sheets. Then we set out through the countryside around Halcombe, Cheltenham, down highway 54 over the Rangitikei River, out onto SH 1 to just north of Ohingaiti. There, we turned east back over the Rangitikei River (a neat old swing bridge and some good winding roads) up into the high country in the foothills of the Ruahine Ranges past Pemberton. Then, it was down through Kimbolton, Kiwitea and back to Feilding for the evening’s BBQ.

Next day saw us back at the Manfield track at Feilding for the Motorkhana, and the Sprints. I spent the whole day on the stopwatch. It was a great day and our guys did well. To us, though, our pride and joy was in our new Club Tent, which we erected for the day. It is sure going to be an asset for the club at future events.

That night the dinner and prizegiving was held at the Cloverlea Function Centre on Tremaine Av. The function was well organised and also hilarious, especially at auction time. One award that didn’t count for points was the “Most Confused” award specially made for Paul Leahy and Ian Ferguson of the Mini Car Club of Auckland. Apparently, they started the rally, walked the 30 mins around Feilding Square, found a nice little Café, sat down and “ran” the “rally” from the coffee table. One question we had to answer was “Name the 2 Studs?” which was on a fence at a stud farm just out of Halcombe. Ian answered “Us”!

The auction was to sell quite a range of donated goods. We were allowed to view them, but each item was listed in a sealed envelope and that is what we bid for. Our wonderful club President and his wife bid on a couple of envelopes. Warwick’s envelope was opened up! Hey presto!!, he had just bought one of those blow up lifesize dolls that you buy.. er.. when you’re desperate? Well, someone had to buy it. It is now sitting in the passenger seat of the de Jour.

As a club, we did quite well out of the events. Thirteen of us registered with some taking their spouses. We entered 12 cars which is very good for us considering the Pukekohe event was on at the same time. Joe Tuffs won Show and Shine, and the Peoples Choice. He also got a 3rd place in the B2 Sprints, giving him an overall total placing for the weekend of 2nd place. Andrew and Lynn Carter Got a 1st in B1 Sprints as did Tony Maulder in D sprints. (D class was all of the BMW Minis). Warwick collected 2nd in B2 Sprints. Congratulations to these members for their efforts.

We congratulate Minis Manawatu for putting on such a well-run event. We were lucky with the weather, which remained fine most of the time, although that wind can bite at times. Thankyou guys for your hard work.

Les Gubb



Crowded



Joe Tuffs



Crowded again



Whot



Les at the Desert Road



Mini Nationals convoy having a bit of a rest at the Desert Road.

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Colour does not matter as car is in for full respray.

Also wanted to buy:

MK1 or 2 (External hinge) again Drivers side door in rust free, dent free condition. Suitable for Mini Ute Restoration project

Contact:

Dave Kibblewhite, Minis of Wellington Owners Group

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Basic Maintenance Part 3

Anyone with a Mini built between 1973 and 2000 occasionally has a pesky oil leak under the car that comes from that little oil seal where the gear lever rod disappears into the diff housing. It is not a hard seal to replace and is quite cheap to buy.

First off, park your car on level ground, jack it up and support with jack stands. Get a pin punch (drift) and punch out the roll-pin (1) securing the gear change rod collar to the selector shaft in the gearbox. Undo and remove the locknut, washer and bolt from the steady rod. (2,3,4)

(I find if you put the gearlever into reverse gear before starting the job puts the roll-pin in a much better position to get at.)

Now move the steady rod rearwards slightly and remove the gear change collar off the shaft. If you have a rubber gaiter, pull that off as well.

Now, using a small hook or a small screwdriver, lever out the old oil seal, making sure you do not damage the housing.

Before fitting the new seal, wrap a little bit of tape (e.g. electrical tape) around the selector shaft and smear with new engine oil before sliding the new seal on. The tape protects the lip of the seal from damage when sliding on.. Tap the seal into place using a deep well (tube) socket either 5/8" or similar size.

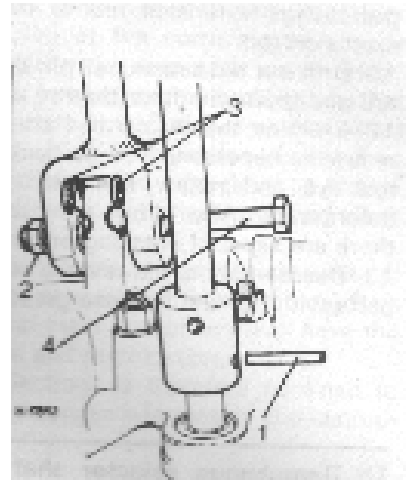
Remove protector tape and refit both rods to their respective places. The roll pin goes in easiest if you use a pair of multi-grip pliers and just tap the last bit in with the pin punch.

Now, let the car down and the job is done.

(Note: It has been known to put 2 seals in as this gives the inside seal better protection. Also, the design was changed somewhat in the mid-1990's where an extra sleeve is inserted. Mini Spares has an adaption of this in a special kit available from them.)

Les Gubb

Rod Change Oil Seal



1 Roll Pin

2 Nylex nut

3 Washers

4 Bolt through steady rod

NEW MINI GOSSIP!

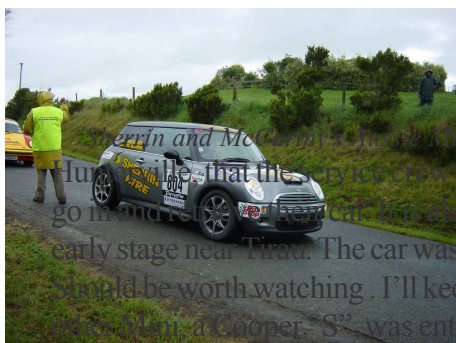
By Les Gubb

It seems we now have 5 New Minis in the club. If you know of any other New Mini owners who would like to join, please encourage them to do so.

If you would like to let us know your thoughts on the new car or anything else about New Mini, let us know. This is your page.

BMW have started showing pictures of the new facelifted version of the Mini which is due to be unveiled at the Geneva motor show in March. Some of the pictures have already appeared in some European motoring magazines. Judging by the photos seen so far, BMW have played it safe and left the outside styling virtually untouched, apart from a new front bumper designed to direct more cooling to the engine. Apparently, there are more aggressive looking side skirts as well.

The retro-style cabin is expected to feature several revisions, including front seats with more lateral support and a better folding mechanism. The dials on the dash are set to make way for chronometer-type gauges apparently similar to those you find in the Lexus IS200. There were 2 New Minis entered in the recent Targa in the Contemporary class. I'm not sure how they went. I do know that on one stage out of Hurlingham that the service crew for Michael Fitzpatrick and Peter Huljich had to go in and re-attach the wheel! It is also the car that was used by the camera crew in an early stage near Traid. The car was followed both by camera car and the Helicopter. Should be worth watching. I'll keep you posted on the availability of the Tape. The new Mini, a Cooper, S³³ was entered by an Australian crew, Michael Sherrin and Phil McCarthy.



As I mentioned before, the Mini Open cabrio has been sighted. It will probably be unveiled at the Geneva show with the upgraded Mini mentioned above. It is due to be released in the Northern spring, early 2004.

All for now, Les



MINI returns to rally roots in Canada.

Whitby Ontario - MINI Canada announced today the MINI Cooper S will return to its rally roots in the 2003 Targa Newfoundland beginning in St. John's Newfoundland on September 13th through to September 20th. The rally will showcase the MINI's dynamic performance and handling capabilities as it competes in both the Targa and Touring classes. Well known Canadian automotive journalists will be behind the wheel of both MINI Cooper S entrants - Jim Kenzie and Gabriel Gelinas will be driving in the Targa Class while Brian Harper and Paul Williams will compete on behalf of MINI Canada in the Touring Class. Beginning September 13th, MINI and rally enthusiasts alike can visit www.mini.ca for online updates and to follow both teams' progress at Targa Newfoundland.



The new MINI, introduced to the Canadian automotive market in March of 2002, continues the Mini's rich heritage of racing. A 200 hp MINI Cooper S equipped with a John Cooper Works Tuning Kit will challenge competitors in the Targa class. The addition of the factory approved John Cooper Works Tuning Kit will enable the MINI Cooper S to reach 0-100km in 6.7 seconds, showcasing the breathtaking

performance and handling demanded by MINI drivers.

"MINI Canada is thrilled to be competing in the 2003 Targa Newfoundland. The sporting characteristics, agility, balance and the pure fun of the MINI will be further revealed to rally fans and MINI enthusiasts nation-wide," states Rob Van Shaik, National Manager "MINI, BMW Group Canada. "The MINI has a huge appetite for great roads and "big engine cars" therefore Targa Newfoundland should prove to be a happy hunting ground."

2003 marks the second year of Targa Newfoundland, which is modelled after the world famous Tasmania road rally Targa New Zealand. The rally involves five days of competition on a total of 2,000 kilometres of closed roads. Targa Class is a performance competition for fully prepared street legal vehicles on closed, paved, roads. Vehicles are divided into 4 classes: Historic, Classic, Modern and Pan-American. Touring Class allows any make and model of street legal vehicles to race and is a time, speed, distance style competition involving minimal crew and vehicle preparation.

In Canada, the 115 hp MINI Cooper retails for CA\$25,200, while the 163 hp MINI Cooper S retails for CA\$29,950. To date, over 3,000 MINIs have been delivered to new MINI owners across Canada.

Information courtesy: MINI Press.



Events

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER -Glenbrook Vintage Railway. Meet at Karaka Bloodstocks, Hingaia Road, Papakura at 1.00pm. A great family afternoon.

29-30 NOVEMBER Mini 7 race meeting Pukekohe Park Raceway.

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER - Club Night Christmas BBQ and social night. Northern Sports Car Club 7.30pm. Please bring a plate, salad or desert, partners and families welcome.

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER - Economy run. Meet at BNZ Bank, Great South Road Manukau at 12.30pm. BBQ and games at the finish. Lots of fun for the whole family. Please bring a \$2 gift with you.

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER- Pukekohe Car Club Twilight Sprints at Pukekohe Park Raceway. Documentation and scrutineering from 5.00pm. Contact Keith Hargraves on (09)2388990 for more info.

SATURDAY 10 JANUARY-The Best car show and swap meet organised by Franklin Street Rods. Swap meet, trade shows, exhibitions, track racing. Licence, wof, rego and helmet required for racing. One race \$10, three races \$20. Meet at Repco, Manukau Road, Pukekohe at 7.30am.

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY- Dawn Breaker Run. Meet at Motu Moana, Portage Road, Green Bay at 6.00am. Fun run to Kumeu for breakfast.

WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY- Pukekohe Car Club Twilight Sprints at Pukekohe Park Raceway. Documentation and scrutineering from 5.00pm. Contact Keith Hargraves for more info on (09)2388990.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 17-18 JANUARY- Kumeu Classic Car show

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY-Classic and Historic meeting Pukekohe Park Raceway

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY-Galaxy of Cars and Swapmeet. MOTAT. This is also the clubs show and shine. Meet at 9.00am in Motions Road.

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY-Clubnight.

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY- Pukekohe Car Club Twilight Sprints at Pukekohe Park Raceway. Documentation and scrutineering from 5.00pm. Contact Keith Hargraves on (09)2388990 if you want more info.

SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY- Intermarque Concours d'Elegance. Our club will have a stand at this show. Display cars by invitation only. Please come and have a look and support your club.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 28-29 FEBRUARY- Annual Weekend Camp

TUESDAY 2 MARCH-Clubnight

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH- Pukekohe Car Club Twilight Sprints at Pukekohe Park Raceway. Documentation and scrutineering from 5.00pm. Contact Keith Hargraves for more details on (09)2388990.

SUNDAY 7 MARCH- Mini 7 race meeting Pukekohe Park Raceway

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 13-14 MARCH-Targa Bambina

SUNDAY 21 MARCH-Fun run

SUNDAY 28 MARCH-Karaka Vintage Day

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 27-28 MARCH- Historic Racing Club including Mini 7 Pukekohe Park Raceway.

1-4 APRIL- Rally of New Zealand.

SUNDAY 18 APRIL-Lunch run to Cooks Landing, Te Kauwhata.

SUNDAY 18 APRIL- MG/TACCOC Le Mans at Pukekohe Park Raceway

SATURDAY 1 MAY-Mini Fun Day. Taupo racetrack.

31 APRIL- 2 MAY- V8 Supercars Pukekohe

SUNDAY 9 MAY-TACCOC Autumn Classic Pukekohe Park Raceway

SUNDAY 13 JULY-Targa Dash



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