

# Mini Car Club of Auckland

Incorporated



June 2007

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# Mini Car Club of Auckland

Volume XV

Issue 3

June 2007

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## Sub Committees:

**Car shows:** Ross Hammonds, Kevin Patrick, George Brown

**Trials:** Michael Wigmore, Chris Roper

**Club nights:** Warwick Robinson, Ross Galloway, Rick Vine

Honourary MINI Liaison Officer:

Mark.Steel@TeamMINI.co.nz

## Clubrooms

Northern Sports Car Club  
Mt Richmond Domain  
Great South Road  
Otahuhu  
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**P.O. Box 72-970**  
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**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 the 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:

<http://www.minis-auckland.org.nz>

Lots of goodies, the Club's points list,  
and the mag in full colour!!

Deadline for the next issue:

**15 July 2007**

# President Report

Warwick Robinson

---

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May and Mini Fun Day at Taupo at Taupo track, was a huge success. We met at 1pm at BP Southern Motorway and 7 Minis convoyed to Taupo via Highway 27. Afternoon tea is a compulsory stop at the “Alley Cat” café at Tirau. From Tirau to Taupo was drizzly rain and we all hoped it would pass for Saturday.

Checked into Motels and drinks were at 6.30pm @ Suncourt then next door to Cobb & Co for dinner, a good night out.

Saturday, cloudy, cool but no rain. Breakfast @ Burberrys on the lake front then to the track a 0800 for scrutineering and registration.

As the day went on it really warmed up and by lunch time it turned out really hot.

A terrific turnout from our club. About 40 people and 25 cars – the biggest I have ever seen. A full day of racing took place with many driver/car swaps.

It was also good to see Angus Fogg take out his ex-1100 racing car and taking people for rides. He was there all day.

Racing finished around 4pm.

Back to the Motel for shower & spa and back to Suncourt Bar for prize giving. Steve from Wynn’s brought plenty of products along and those that had spins or did silly things during the day were duly rewarded.

Then to Cobb & Co for dinner again, they had trouble finding seating for 30 of us.

Sunday Mothers Day and the mums were given a carnation each @ Burberrys, then convey to Auckland.

An absolutely super weekend.

We still need to hear from members for the positions for President – Club Captain – Secretary & Treasurer before the next club night. Please support your club in this.

**EL PRESIDENTO  
WARWICK**

# Club Captain Report

Gary Ashton

**M**any of the roads in the Franklin District are receiving attention at the moment. I have seen road work crews all over the district widening and straightening roads. This may appear to be a good thing as it should make the roads safer. Yeah right!! These works are not in high crash areas and the roads are coping with the volume of traffic very well!! The widening and straightening work is only going to increase speeds so any future accidents will be much worse. I suppose that I should not complain as the works are being carried out on the more major routes and they are leaving my favourite Mini roads alone. Whatever the case, drive to the conditions.

**I**n June our club night is on Tuesday 5 and our guest speaker is from Autoglym, so come along and find out more about their products. As I will be helping run Targa Rotorua, Daniel Barrock is organising our annual Go Kart Challenge to be held on Sunday June 10. The venue is Extreme Indoor Karts in East Tamaki, meeting at 1.45pm and the cost will be about \$30 per person.

**N**ext up is the Northern Sports Car Clubs 6 Hour Endurance Race at Pukekohe on Saturday June 16. Grab a ticket at our June club night then come along and enjoy the action. A week later is the clubs annual Night Trial starting from the Karaka Bloodstocks at 6.30pm on Saturday June 23. The trial uses some of Franklin's great roads and finishes for dinner. You might like to bring your night vision glasses and instructions will be available in brail if you think it will help.

**I**nto July and the Morris Minor Club are joining us for our club night on Tuesday 3. Engine guru Lynn Rogers is opening his workshop for us on Saturday July 7. Lynn intends to show us how engines are machined, built up and the dyno tested. We will probably go to a café for lunch afterwards.

**C**ome and join us on Black Friday if you want something different. Dinner is at the Autobahn at 6.30pm followed by a non competitive trial to Spookers Haunted Attractions in the old Kingseat Mental Hospital. Prices at Spookers start at \$17 per person, strictly R16, more detail can be found at [www.spookers.co.nz](http://www.spookers.co.nz)

**L**ast event for July is the Italian Job fun trial around the central city. Meet in the Auckland Domain at 1.00pm and bring a pen, clipboard and navigator. This is a great event, the number of small, narrow, twisty, steep and interesting roads in the city is quite incredible.

**U**ppermost in our minds for August is the clubs A.G.M. and prize giving. For various reasons a number of committee members are standing down this year, so your club needs your help. If you are enthusiastic ( or sarcastic ), committed ( or should be ) and have a willingness to get the job done, put your hand up, **your club needs you!** Also, if you received a trophy at last years prize giving, could you please return it on or prior to the July club night. Subs for the coming year are also due at the beginning of July. To make our Treasurers job easier, please **do not pay your subs early!!**

**B**efore I go, remember the weekend trip to Rotorua on August 17 – 19 to celebrate the Minis 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Speaking of celebrations, Saturday October ^ is the clubs 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Details are elsewhere in the mag. And of course the Mini National are Labour Weekend in Wellington, if you are thinking of going you better start looking at accommodation now.

Well I think that's all for me,

Hang on a minute, I have an idea.....

Gary Ashton



TM

# Editor Ramblings

Frits Schouten

It's that time of the month again. Illness of me and the Mini have kept me a bit out of sight for the last few months. On top of that I had to go to Australia for work. What a bummer, isn't it. I ended up in Yeppoon for a conference and a visit to the Gladstone power station. Bit of a trip to get there. From Auckland to Rockhampton is an eight hour trip, if you're lucky. Anyway, enough about myself. The Mini is getting sicker by the day. I'm not really sure what's wrong with it but some were suggesting some serious piston slap. It's a bit strange, when you can't place the noises that are coming from the engine. When I start the Mini dead cold in the morning, the engine runs absolutely sweet and quiet for the first 15-20 seconds, but then the rattle sets in. And boy, is it a rattle alright. It is absolutely synchronous with the engine revs. A tick per revolution. There is more to the story. When the engine warms up the tick is significantly reduced to barely noticeable. Also, above the 2.8k revs, it's completely gone. Oh, and the engine blowby is very noticeable. I might look at an engine rebuild, but I'm not looking forward to that since I'm in the process of building a sub-frame to host a Suzuki engine which will eventually end up in the Mini. I suppose the engine is not going to fail completely, just because a piston might have a bit more space to move around.

Nevertheless, I did do the Cooks Landing trip that was organised by Gary but not in a Mini. I ended up being the passenger in a Subaru Impreza Sti. In the past I've had numerous complaints that the suspension of the Mini was rock hard and one was bouncing around in the car as if there was no tomorrow. Well, I can tell you that the Mini drives a lot nicer and softer than the Subaru Impreza Sti. It was a super nice offer to do the Mini run in the Subaru and I'm not complaining about that at all. The Subaru had a very nice time on the road too, according to the driver, which happened to be the girlfriend of my son Thomas.

And then there was Cooks Landing. You know, the food is outstanding, when you eventually get it. It took over an hour to get the first drinks on our table. It was almost funny to see other people arriving, getting served the drinks and the food and disappearing again, while we were still waiting for our first drinks. Anyway, we got what we ordered after good two hours as we were served as about the last customers for the day. We must have said something wrong or so. Like I said before, the trip was fab, the food was outstanding but the service could do with a spruce up. Thanks Gary, for a well organised run over the backroads of Hunua, Maramarua and Te Kauwhata.

# PART OF A PROBLEM

by Greg Wenzlick

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I recently visited my local Repco store for some car care products. While waiting for service, I overheard a parts assistant talking with another customer about old mini parts. The young parts assistant recommended the customer visit Team McMillan BMW who sell new MINI. They probably did this because it has been 16 years since old Mini was made in NZ, and the assistant was 2 years old at the time, and couldn't distinguish between old and new.

The problem is that most parts catalogues have Mini listed under varying car makes; Leyland, Austin, Morris, etc. Repco do stock some parts for our cars but anything than a wheel bearing, spark plug, dist points, becomes a nightmare for the staff.

Fortunately, I was able to advise the customer that parts are readily available from various NZ sources and also on the internet. The Repco assistant was not amused and gave me a somewhat dirty look – how dare someone undermine their expert knowledge.

In my quest for small miscellaneous parts I was given a company to contact based in Nelson.

BASIS is the place where all dedicated **vehicle enthusiasts and restorers** will find bike parts, car parts and even the truck parts you need to keep your Vintage or Classic vehicles in classic condition. They have a product range of over 6,000 parts, mainly rubber, including boot seals, door seals and window seals, also rubber bushes, engine and gearbox mounts, gaskets, grommets, pedal pads. The number of parts increases daily. BASIS is an agent or distributor for all the best classic component suppliers, including Spectrum Rubber, **Autoglym**, **Penrite Oils** and **Teng Tools**.

A quick search under Mini showed a selection of boots, seals, and misc items.

Check out the website for your bits and bobs; <http://www.basisnz.co.nz/index.pasp>



15 March 2007

Micheal Wigmore  
Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc,  
P O Box 72-970  
Papakura  
AUCKLAND

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We would also be pleased to attend a club meeting to briefly discuss the cover and take applications or queries from any of your members.

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Good Afternoon,

Vero CIS is able to provide discounted insurance to Mini Car Club members, however they will have to meet the following criteria.

- the mini needs to be built between 1900 and 1980
- it isn't be your everyday use vehicle
- it is driven less than 3,500 km per year.

As Vero CIS does not provide insurance direct to the public and due to rates being determined on a number of different factors I am unable to provide you with a percentage discount, as this will change from individual to individual. What we would recommend your members do, is ring the following number **0800 505 905** and obtain a quote.

They will need to mention they are a member of a car club, and a quote can be given over the phone, which will enable members to compare this to their current insurance rate. If your committee believes this will add value for your members and would like to promote it, please contact me and we can discuss what is required and if I can be of any assistance.

Kind regards, Kate

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consumer insurance specialists

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No recommendations/endorsements by the club/committee on either insurance companies. Just information you might be interested in.(ED).

No	Name	F/Name	C/Nite	M/Meet	Events	Rallys	Shows	Visits	Econ	Duties	Camp	Runs	Total
261	Patrick	Kevin	8	19	5	1	18			26		1	78
127	Norman	Lee	8	14	11	6	12			25			76
236	Ashton	Gary	8	4	6	11	6	1		34		2	72
	Ashton	Catherine	8	4	6	11	5	1		33		2	70
88	Carter	Andrew		24	12	11			10	1	2		60
12	Robinson	Warwick	6	4	4		12			27			53
121	Schouten	Frits	6	4	5	1				32		1	49
216	Hammonds	Ross	5	9	3		2			28	2		49
334	Agnew	Gavin	8	4	3		11		1	19		2	48
293	Roper	Chris	6	4	4	1	1			26		1	43
307	Hargraves	Keith	6	12	3	9				11			41
	Turner	Maureen	3	4						34			41
189	Crispe	Graham	8	17	5		9		1	1		1	41
153	Wigmore	Michael	8	4					1	26			39
	Robinson	Leslie		14	4		20						38
343	Vine	Rick	7	4						25			36
231	Brown	George	8	4	3	1	2			17		1	36
	Murie	Shelagh	7	4		11	2		5	1	4	1	35
59	Gubb	Les	7	14						11	2		34
27	Mauder	Tony	2	17	3		11						33
	Murie	Alan	3	4		11	2		5	1	4	1	31
283	Ferguson	Ian	1	4			1			24			30
368	Miller	Stephen (John)	8	4	6	1	8	1		1		1	30
259	Turner	John	3	4						22			29
	Galloway	Ross	5	4						16			25
	Crispe	Paul		12	12								24
264	Bates	Mike	7	4	3		2			6	2	2	24
300	Hartshome	Peter	6	2		2	9					2	23
146	Taylor	Kevin	4	4		4	9					1	22

Club points

The Mini Car Club of Auckland invite Club Members and Mini enthusiasts to join us to celebrate our 15<sup>TH</sup> birthday on Saturday 6<sup>TH</sup> October 2007.

A fun filled social day is planned starting with assembly at 12.30 pm prior to departure from the Manukau Velodrome starting 1.00pm and finishing at the Howick Bowling Club for afternoon tea about 3.30 pm before a game of social bowls. Dinner will be served at the Howick Bowling Club from 6.00pm, with presentations from past and present Mini Club members along with special guest, Deputy Mayer of Manukau City, Neil Morrison.

For further information contact Gary Ashton after hours on ( 09 )2321233 or e-mail [gcashton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gcashton@xtra.co.nz)

**MINI CAR CLUB OF AUCKLAND**

**15<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**ENTRY FORM**

Fun run / afternoon tea	_____ Adults	@ \$10	_____
	_____ Child (5-10)	@ \$5	_____
Fun run / afternoon tea / bowls	_____ Adults	@ \$15	_____
	_____ Child (5-10)	@ \$7.50	_____
Fun run / afternoon tea / bowls /dinner	_____ Adults	@ 45	_____
	_____ Child (5-10)	@ \$22.50	_____
Dinner only	_____ Adult	@ \$34	_____
	_____ Child (5-10)	@ \$17	_____
		Total	_____

Please make cheques payable to Mini Club of Auckland and forward to Mini Car Club of Auckland P O Box 72 970 Papakura

To arrive no later than Saturday 15 September 2007.



# COROMANDEL – COOKS BEACH Mini TOUR

by Ross & Jan Hammonds

If you missed this well .....! Some members took this opportunity to travel to the Coromandel blowing cobwebs from the carb, to dive in to an event filled Cooks Beach Discovery run, to get to know other club members and to feast on fine food dining at Whitianga. This was an adventure with no breakdowns apart from Daniels' & Jess's water ski effort braving flood waters to fill the floor pan both sides to the door sill. Young at heart and brave adventurers. So what did we do?



*The Minis are looking shiny as ever.*

cream (castle) house, skirting Thames and straight through Tairua to find Cooks Beach in a blaze of sunshine with warm sand and calm waters. Some relief after the storm warnings!! Great sealed roads on the Coromandel for minis and a few sharp turns that can be taken under power leaving other cars struggling with continual brake and accelerator movements. Good fun in the mini.

A group traveled on Friday morning to clear a path set by severe storms and flood waters. You remember the Northland floods late March – well this was the tail end lash out at New Zealand before departing for the Southern Ocean. A group of seasoned and mature travelers found Saturday morning after early coffee a more sensible start time. This group traveled in convoy, passing the ice



*A nice place to stay.*



*You can't beat that view from here.*

words that I didn't know, struggled to communicate with an over competitive driver (not a timed event ??) and eventually was passified with the line "we will enjoy our dinner out tonight darling". I managed to get out of that one with minimal damage ! Whew !!

Question - Did you know that Vice President Michael and Jan Bates standing together at a Mini gathering may be talking about a Wigmore Family reunion ! Yes we discovered the Hei Hei Wigmore family first European settler's connection during this event.

*Don't mention Lees Road – a place of discovery and frustration with cars being miss led by a green mini into mayhem !*

It's like a black hole unsealed road eventually turning into a rabbit track and few cars ever return from there.



*What a relaxed day it was*

Saturday afternoon's discovery run – well planned by Jan and Mike Bates – saw the Mini fleet traveling a concentrated route from Cooks, Cathedral Cove, Hahei and Ferry Landing gathering answers to 6 pages of the "Mini Mayhem" run sheet. Oh boy ! My Best Wife (BW) first time navigating and recording found some new



*Again, such a beautiful view.*



*Someone needs to do the hard work*

We were indeed fortunate. Discovered the Hartshorne family, Mini Club members, at the end of the road traveling from their B&B to discover where the Mini's had got to. Almost a "Livingstone I presume" meeting of cars on the narrow road. Soft drink break at Cathedral Cove with Jan and Mike - the view was breathtaking - gave that chance to catch up before the final helter skelter return to Ferry Landing and the finish line. Winners on the day Alan and Shelagh - locals that shared the Easter egg handout to all. Thanks Jan & Mike for the considerable effort you put into this Fun Run event.

Food dominated Saturday night – unbelievable presentation and selection at the Whitianga Hotel restaurant – with lots of just getting to know you conversation and everyone attending.

Sunday after a morning walk along the beach by some keen Mini owners we tucked into a “giant BBQ meal” organized by Alan and Shelagh Murie – bacon and eggs, hash browns, sausages, tomatoes, toast and tea/coffee. Don’t remember who cooked the toast but this was exceptionally well done ! Can’t move much after this. So when the decision was made to convoy back to Auckland we packed and again thanked our Mini Club Cooks Beach hosts Jan & Mike Bates and Alan & Shelagh Murie on behalf of club members and set off. Green mini, in first place, leading the way of course.

We do look forward to the Cooks Beach team organizing a similar event next year – we will be there in the green mini.

Ross & Jan Hammonds

---



*Mini Truck. Note the double axle and high exhaust.*

# Mini Ads

## SAFFRON HILL PRINT & COPY



Chris & Aileen  
Moxon

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# Mini Web

MCCoA club magazine archive  
<http://simple-pages.homeunix.net/mini/clubmags/index.html>



The Internet Mini Encyclopedia  
<http://www.ime.org.uk/>

The Italian Job Missing Scene  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNs4MIs9Who>

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Contact Kevin, your club man from Landscape Cars on 09 6293523



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## Notice of AGM



# Tuesday 7 August 2007

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

1. Election of officers
2. Members Forum
3. Prize giving

### Notice of Nomination

I,.....nominate.....

for the position of ..... dated.....

Proposers signature.....

Seconders name and signature.....

Nominees signature.....

Nominations to be forwarded to the Secretary.

Here is an opportunity for you to make a difference. Become a committee member and have control over the direction our club is going.

Most Executive positions are becoming vacant during this AGM.

Did you know that you can nominate yourself!!!

# Fish and Chips run photos

by Robert Lowen

We had only two problems during the day but lunch and weather was great. a good day of mini motoring was enjoyed by all.



# Taupo Fun Day 2007



Well, someone can't unload a mini (sorry elf) off a trailer very well can they! Now, I'm NOT saying it was Angus as it was already sitting behind the trailer. At great personal risk, your "man on the spot", namely me, managed to get these photos before the "blockage" was removed !!! I was lucky enough to get a ride around Taupo track in this car later in the day. Was a lot of fun!



What a great day we had at the track. The weather on Friday driving down turned to on and off showers with the same overnight. Saturday morning dawned fine with the cloud disappearing during the morning! Ben Clare brought his De Joux down for a run. The motor now, for those of you who had not studied the photo, runs a turbo. According to Bens chief mechanic (his dad) The 1600 Honda Twin-cam V-Tec is now putting out around 350bhp!!!. Top speed down the back of Pukekohe is around 260kph. That's a real handful if you don't know what you are doing. It was the quickest car on the track by far. Watching it coming down the pit straight the noise was always pushing slightly up under power as if it was about to take off. I'm sure if it had wings it would have! Keep up the great development work guys. It's always great seeing it and having a chat with both of you!



*No key?*



*Austin Cooper S*



*On the track*



*Mini Bitz?*



*What do you mean, I can't drive this one?*



*Parked up*

# Clevedon Grasskhana photos

---



*Our corner is getting set up.*



*Meanee plowing the paddock.*



*Amit Sharma going flat tack.*



*And that's the end result. He ran the tyres of the rim.*



*Lee giving it a good crack.*



*Yours truly.*



*Stephen knows how to turn the dirt.*



*Serious competition from our hosts for the day, the Z club.*

# Mini Nationals Labour Weekend 2007 Preliminary Time table



MOWOG is pleased to invite all Mini Clubs and Mini enthusiasts to the Mini Nationals being hosted by MOWOG Inc and held in Lower Hutt City.

Accommodation and Ferry bookings can be arranged thru the Hutt City Visitor Information Centre via their website

[http://www.visithuttcity.com/travel\\_information/visitor\\_information\\_centre/index.htm](http://www.visithuttcity.com/travel_information/visitor_information_centre/index.htm)

Or by phone on 04-560-4715

The schedule below is indicative and may be subject to change

## 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Scrutineering for speed event

## 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Show and Shine  
Amazing Mini Race  
Evening BBQ

## 21<sup>st</sup> October 2007

Speed Event  
Tikki Tour  
Dinner / Prize Giving

## 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007

Breakfast



Club secretaries please advise your Members.

Please note that - Accommodation and Ferry bookings can be a premium at this time of year and we strongly recommend that if you are requiring any of these services to book early.

Please feel free to direct any enquires to Club **President**, Richard Andrews 04-563-5161  
[miniviper@xtra.co.nz](mailto:miniviper@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary**, Bernard Bouchereau 04-528-5155, [kiwiinwgtm@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:kiwiinwgtm@slingshot.co.nz)  
or please visit our website [www.mowog.co.nz](http://www.mowog.co.nz)





## Business Ventures Limited

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Phone: (09) 589 1734 Fax: (09) 589 1736 email: info@bvl.co.nz

10 May 2007

Dear Sirs

### Seat Belts

We know that you love your hot rod and like to have it glistening. We have the seat belts to suit your car. Couple of your sister club members contacted us direct and have already purchased some belts. Our seat belts meet international standards which are recognized by Land Transport New Zealand. All our seat belts are manufactured overseas.

There are various types of seat belts required for your car. We have three point lap & diagonals with retractors as well the static belts. You can choose the retractor belts either in Black or Grey. There is more choice of colour for the three point static lap & diagonal belts. You can have them in Navy Blue, Beige, Brown, Taupe, Burgundy or Light Grey. The length of the static belt is 2.5meters. 300mm & 700 mm adjustable web buckles are available in most of the colours. We have hard wire stalks where the lengths can vary between 115mm-450mm.

We also have the mounting plates of varying sizes which are necessary for you to install the seat belts. In addition we have the universal fitting kits too.

### We have priced these belts at a discount especially for Classic Car Club members.

The prices are:

3 point Retractor Lap & Diagonal Belt & Buckle	\$109.95+gst
3 point static Lap & Diagonal Belt & Buckle	\$ 69.95+gst
2 point lap Belt & Buckle	\$ 49.95+gst

Please contact us direct with your requirement of type, colour of belt etc. Then you can channel your order through your nearest Auto One or Autostop dealer. If they are unable to process your order please contact us direct.

Yours sincerely

Jaye Widanagama  
Director

**PS. All different belts you require may not be available in same colour. You may have to mix & match.**

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No recommendations/endorsements by the club/committee on the above letter.  
Just information you might be interested in.(ED).

# MINI news.

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## Electric Mini Cooper in 2008

Hybrid Technologies of USA is developing an all-electric Mini Cooper that will be available next year. Frank Ziegler, Hybrid Technologies' Director of Sales and Distribution said that the car will sell for \$59,000. That's more than US\$40,000 over the list price of a gasoline Mini, but an average drive would save about US\$1250 a year on gasoline, based on gas being US\$3 a gallon. The electric Mini will have a range of 160 miles and requires 5 hours to recharge its batteries.

Ziegler says that rather than building small EVs, the company is focused on converting popular cars into all-electric models. "People want cars that don't look like electric cars," according to Ziegler. They are currently selling electric PT Cruisers as taxis in New York City, and an electric Smart car for US\$49,000. Hybrid Technologies uses lithium polymer batteries from Korean company Kokam. Ziegler says the batteries do not have liquid inside and are therefore safer than lithium ion batteries if there is an accident.

Hybrid Technologies' build "real" electric cars, but the high price severely limits the audience since it doesn't make economic sense.

When asked about building plug-in hybrids, Ziegler said the company has no plans. "We don't want to be dependent on gasoline."

reference; <http://www.hybridtechnologies.com/products.php?sec=1&id=9>



Speed: 80+ mph (128+ km/h)

Range: over 120 miles (193+ km)

Charge Time: 6-8 hours with 220-240 V

Cycle Life: 1500+ charges

# NZ MINI Challenge

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An overjoyed Fast Eddie wins the inaugural NZ MINI Challenge

Round Seven: 20-22 Apr 2007 Pukekohe Park Raceway, Pukekohe, New Zealand.

It was a classic story of the Kiwi battler who won his first major New Zealand Motorsport title on a shoestring budget, even the car trailer was borrowed.

“Fast Eddie” Bell from Woodend in North Canterbury is New Zealand’s first MINI Challenge champion after placing second in race one and two today at Pukekohe Park Raceway.

Brent “Bones” Collins takes second place overall in the championship and German international Peter Scharmach was third overall.

“I am absolutely overjoyed and not just for myself, but also my wife and son, my family and my sponsors ESWA Radiant Heating, Independent Fisheries, Global Diesel Parts and Metalman,” said Bell.

“Without their help and support I would never have won my first Tier One Motorsport title, it’s such a great feeling but I am looking forward to a well earned rest.”

Bell joked that the budget had been tight and the pressure on him self to do well had been immense. “Yes, the car trailer was borrowed, that’s not an old wives tale.”

Brent Collins was equally pleased with his performance in the PDL MINI winning race one and taking third place in race two at Pukekohe on Saturday afternoon.

“The MINI Cooper S has just been brilliant thanks to the work by my team mates Jacko, JP and Brownie; it’s finally performing well, just a pity it wasn’t sooner in the season.”

Peter Scharmach was quick to compliment the camaraderie of the MINI Challenge drivers but was far less complimentary about the officials of Motorsport New Zealand.

“The camaraderie of all the drivers and the family spirit has been great, you would not find that in German Motorsport,” said Scharmach. “But what you wouldn’t find in Germany is such overzealous officialdom with such harsh penalties; the rules need to be governed more fairly.”

After an eventful first race this morning, the final race of the 2006/2007 MINI Challenge was almost an uneventful anti climax.

Race two started well with International Motorsport team member Richard Moore on pole position with Gavin Yortt of Motorsport Services in the Squawking Magpie MINI beside him. Bell was on position three along Sharmach in position four behind him was Motorsport Services driver Kevin Cantwell in the Visual Group MINI on position five and Collins on position six.

Moore led the ten lap race from start to finish followed by Bell who held onto second place until the chequered flag.

Peter Scharmach held third position in front of Brent Collins until lap five when “Bones” got the jump on the German competitor finishing third. Scharmach served a drive through penalty finishing the race in 15<sup>th</sup> place.

Behind the top three, there was a battle unfolding between Anthony Pederson in the J A Russell MINI, followed by Motorsport Services team mates Will Selles in the Teng Tools MINI, David Grigor in the Golden Homes MINI and Kevin Cantwell. Unfortunately it was Gary Johnstone’s Transcold MINI that came to grief in the kitty litter forcing the safety car to come out which slowed the ten lap race. Once the race got underway the drivers held their positions for one lap until the chequered flag.

Boyd Norwood retired his Motorsport Services MINI with a flat rear right tyre and sadly Anthony Houston in the G J Gardner MINI did not make the starting grid despite the Motorsport Services team’s best effort to repair his car after the carnage in race one.

Race one saw Brett Collins on pole with Kevin Cantwell alongside him on position two. Behind Collins and Cantwell sat the Championship leader “Fast Eddie” Bell on position three alongside Peter Scharmach. Gavin Yortt in the Squawking Magpie MINI was fifth on the grid with Richard Moore on sixth.

With only 27 championship points separating Bell and Bones, the pressure was on “Fast Eddie” to maintain his composure and drive for maximum points while keeping out of trouble.

Bell also wanted to try and maintain consistent lap times for the start of race two, where the top six fastest cars from qualifying and race one then have start race two in reverse order, with the slowest cars front to rear.

It was a clean start for Bones, Cantwell and Bell with a tense pack of 14 MINI Cooper S cars with John Cooper Works racing kits jostling for position as the cars raced down the infamous Pukekohe back straight towards the hairpin.

Sure enough the red mist descended early as Motorsport Services team driver Will Selles in the Teng Tools MINI collided with the Scutum MINI driven by Richard Moore.

Moore recovered well from the incident working his way back up to third place, while Selles served a drive through penalty for his misdeed. Tony Houston in the G J Gardner MINI and Gavin Dawson in the Scalextric MINI had a coming together and both ended up nudging the wall. Dawson retired and Houston finished the race

in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

Gavin Yortt also had a spectacular off track excursion while trying to get around Shaun Turton at the Sweeper before Castrol corner.

“I just went a bit too far over, ended up on the marbles, braked like a demon and missed the wall by a metre,” said a rueful Yortt who was shaken but not stirred.

Peter Scharmach lived up to expectation by trying to take the inside line on Kevin Cantwell on the infamous Pukekohe Hill, which is the fastest corner of the track. Cantwell was having none of it and held his line and kept his foot on the gas while Sharmach skidded off the track and retired with a damaged rear wheel.

After the race Cantwell declared he was not impressed with the behaviour of the German International.

“It’s completely unacceptable behaviour on the fastest corner of Pukekohe, this is not a stock car race,” said Cantwell. “It had the potential to become a serious accident, but I kept my foot down and held my line. I’m not going to protest because it’s pointless at the end of the season, but I am not amused.”

Collins clearly raced away with the lead to win the 8 lap race followed by Fast Eddie who was maintaining a consistent pace and preserving his tyres and points position.

Richard Moore and International Motorsport team mate Anthony Pedersen in the J A Russell MINI were third and fourth respectively followed by Neil Foster in the Pak N Save MINI and Boyd Norwood in the Motorsport Services MINI in fifth and sixth place.

Motorsport Services team member Jeff Hogg brought the bright blue OptiFlex MINI home in seventh place followed by Pukekohe’s favourite driver Shaun Turton in the bright yellow PW Cars MINI in eighth place.

Ross Hill brought MINI #20 home in ninth place followed by the Squawking Magpie MINI of Gavin Yortt in tenth.

### **MINI Challenge Race One Pukekohe Park Raceway April 21<sup>st</sup> 2007.**

Pos MINI# Driver Hometown Time

- 1) 44 Brent Collins Pukeora 1:09.205
- 2) 69 Eddie Bell Woodend +2.748
- 3) 10 Richard Moore Auckland +8.263

### **MINI Challenge Race Two Pukekohe Park Raceway April 21<sup>st</sup> 2007.**

Pos MINI# Driver Hometown Time

- 1) 10 Richard Moore Auckland 1.09.971
- 2) 69 Eddie Bell Woodend +0.410
- 3) 44 Brent Collins Pukeora +0.828



*MINI Challenge podium: Bell, Collins and Sharmach*



*MINI Challenge Winner Eddie Bell in the ESWA MINI*

This release was prepared by Robert Barry on behalf of MINI Challenge 2006/2007 ([www.mini.co.nz](http://www.mini.co.nz)).

Photos: MINI Challenge/Euan Cameron



# RFID-Enabled Billboards Talk to Mini Motorists

Mini USA is distributing RFID key fobs to Cooper owners in four U.S. cities, where interactive billboards will read the tags and flash personalized messages to drivers.

By Mary Catherine O'Connor

Jan. 29, 2007—Ever since BMW subsidiary [Mini USA](#) brought the updated, sporty Mini Cooper to U.S. motorists in 2001, the wee car has been turning heads and



*A Mini drives past a billboard using RFID technology during testing in New York.*

generating a fervent fan base. Mini owners often nickname their Minis and detail them with custom paint jobs. Now, as part of a pilot program recently launched by the automaker's USA division, select Mini drivers in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Miami can utilize RFID key fobs to initiate personalized messages on billboards containing LED displays.

"It is something different," says Robert Gehrig, a Chicago-based Mini driver and pilot program participant. "I love the marketing

that Mini uses. I am also a tech geek, so any chance to demonstrate this is always welcomed."

Abridged.ED.

Read further on <http://www.rfidjournal.com/article/articleprint/3005/-1/1/>

# Mini Events

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**TUESDAY 5 JUNE** – Clubnight at the Northern Sports Car Club.  
Guest speaker from Autoglym.

**SUNDAY 10 JUNE**- Annual go karting challenge. To be held at Extreme Indoor Karts, 82b Kerwyn Ave, East Tamaki. Meet at 1.45pm for 2.00pm start. Cost will be approximately \$30 per head.

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY 8-9-10 JUNE**- TARGA Rotorua.

**SATURDAY 16 JUNE**- 6 hour endurance race at Pukekohe Park Raceway run by the Northern Sports Car Club. The Race starts at 2.00pm and finishes at 8.00pm under lights. Tickets will be available at the June club night. We will put up the club tent and have the bbq available to cook your lunch or dinner. Bring your mini, your own food and drink

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE** – Night Trial around Franklin District finishing for dinner. Meet opposite the Karaka Bloodstocks, Hingia Road, Papakura at 6.30pm. Bring a navigator, pen, clipboard and torch.

**TUESDAY 3 JULY**- Club night at the Northern Sports Car club from 7.30pm. Guest speaker from the Morris Minor club.

**SATURDAY 7 JULY**- Technical morning with engine guru Lynn Rogers. Meet at Lynn Rogers Automotive, 114 Vincent Street, Howick at 8.45am for a 9.00am start. We might visit one of Howick's many cafes for lunch afterwards.

**FRIDAY 13 JULY**- Night run to Spookers Haunted attractions. Meet at Autobahn in the service centre between Papakura and Drury on the Southern Motorway at 6.30pm for dinner. We will depart at about 7.30pm for a non competitive trial to Spookers Haunted attractions.

**SUNDAY 22 JULY**- Italian Job navigational trial. A fun trial around the central city. Meet in the Auckland Domain car park adjacent Titoki Street at 1.00pm.

# Mini Events

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**TUESDAY 7 AUGUST** – AGM and prize giving held at the Northern Sportscar Clubrooms from 7.30pm.

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY 17 – 19 AUGUST**- Mini's 48<sup>th</sup> birthday weekend trip to Rotorua. A variety of activities are being planned including luge and gondola rides, visits to the Caterpillar Museum and to Hobbiton. Depart from the BP service centre between the Papakura and Drury off ramps either on Friday night at 6.00pm or Saturday morning at 7.30am. The club will be staying at Top 10 in Rotorua, call 0800223267 or visit [www.rotoruatop10.co.nz/index.htm](http://www.rotoruatop10.co.nz/index.htm) to book accommodation.

**SUNDAY 26 AUGUST**- Follow the leader run starting by the Scout Camp in Connont Street, Greenbay and finishing at Piha for lunch.

**30 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER** –Rally New Zealand

**TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER**- Club night at the Northern Sport scar Clubrooms from 7.30pm. Tonight our guest speaker is Greg Brownson from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

**SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**- Follow the leader run to Monterey Park. Meet at the carpark by the Cricket Pavilion in Victoria Park at 12.45pm for a 1.00pm departure.

Adults \$15, under 14s \$10

**TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER**- Club night

**SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER**- MINI CAR CLUB OF AUCKLANDS 15<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

For more information on upcoming events please check our home page. at <http://www.minis-auckland.org.nz/>



*Look at the concentration. Is that where I want to go?*