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Mini Car Club of Auckland Magazine

Featuring MINI news



Jan/Feb 2009

MINI BOOK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN NZ

A book capturing 50 years of Mini motoring in New Zealand has just been written by one of NZ's most celebrated and accomplished Motoring journalists, Donn Anderson.

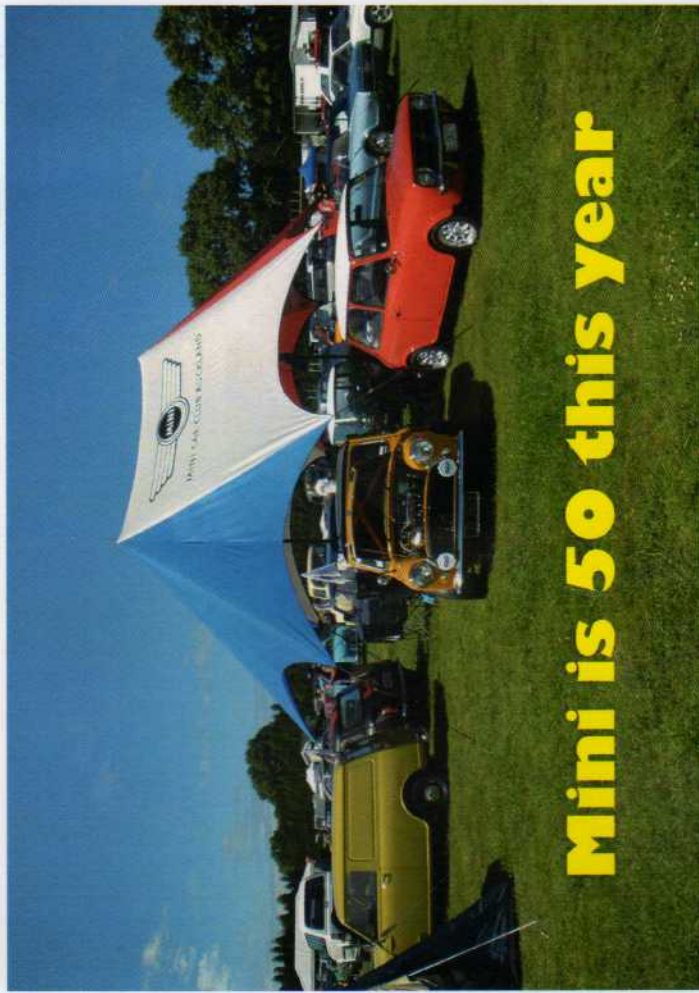
At the April Club night meeting, Donn Anderson will be the guest speaker to talk about the book and his Mini exploits over 50 years in various roles. Club members will be able to obtain signed autographed copies of the book at a discount price through MINI NZ on the night.

The book titled *MINI DOWN UNDER - 50 years of the Mini in New Zealand*, is a superb 197 page account of Mini motoring in NZ, covering all facets including racing, lifestyles, assembly, and drivers including F1 driver Bruce McLaren.

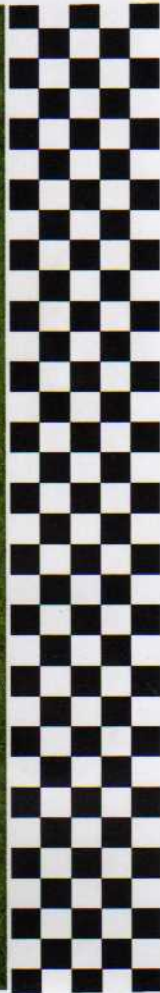
Donn Anderson, has been a Motoring writer for over 50 years. He was the editor of one of NZ's first motoring publications "Motorman" magazine, and the now defunct *NZ Car Magazine*. Donn's brother, Rodger Anderson, was a NZ Saloon car Championship winner in a Mini Cooper S in the mid-1960s.

This book makes compulsory reading for all Mini owners and enthusiasts, and a must for home libraries.

Further details and enquiries can be directed to Club member Greg Wenzlick or to MINI NZ Marketing Executive Michael Grieve (09 573 6999).



Mini is 50 this year



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Trials:	Michael Wigmore, Gavin Agnew	
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Address correspondence to: Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc P.O. Box 72-970 Papakura 2244 Auckland New Zealand		

Committee Meets every 3rd Tuesday in the month.

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:
31st March 2009

Presidents Report

The Mini Nationals at Hamilton over Labour weekend went off very well. 12 Minis conveyed on Friday afternoon to Wintec for scrutineering and paperwork.

The whole weekend was held at Wintec and turned out to be a good venue.

Saturday for Gymkhana and Autocross was held under showers, this did not have any effect on the events at all, if anything it made it more exciting.

I had worked night shift prior to the Nationals, so having only 5 hrs sleep in the week prior consequently my navigational skills on the Autocross was not 100%. "Must get more sleep before next Nationals".

Sunday was Show-n-Shine in the morning and Navigational Trial in the afternoon.

They held the Elite class in Wintec sheds a good idea due to showers.

Unfortunately the showers spoilt our Club Display for the Show-n-Shine which was to have been under our tent on the grass, but were instead, held on the asphalt.

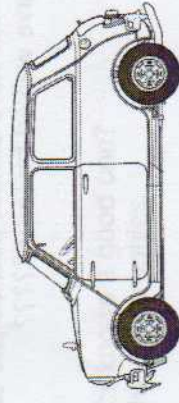
Navigation Trial Sunday afternoon was great, a good selection of central Waikato views, which was followed by a dinner in the evening at the Te Rapa Racing Club.

Overall a good event our thanks to Brent Middlemiss and team. Results in last month's mag.

Club Show-n-Shine at Motat 1st February saw a great turnout of 38 cars. Everyone had a good time. The whole event has got a lot better with a good selection of different cars. All paddock areas were virtually full.

All for now.

Warwick
El Presidente.



Captains Log

I hope everyone has been relaxing and charging the bodies battery over the Christmas /New Year Period.

2009 is going to a busy year for MINI enthusiasts world wide and MCCoA has members doing all sorts of activities this year. Some are doing a Mini car fun run from Kaitaia to Invercargill over Easter weekend retracing the infamous movie "Goodbye Pork Pie" route. Other members will be heading to Nelson in August for week long 50th celebrations of the Mini while the really lucky ones are planning trips to England flying the NZ flag at Mini celebrations over there. Not to mention the activities on our normal events calendar.

A quick run over events from the end of last year

November 16th - Mini Waikato invited the Auckland club and the Rotorua Minis to participate in an Autocross at Te Kowhai. Six Minis from Auckland made the hop, skip & jump (Rattle and bump) over the Bombay's down the Waikato Expressway. A great day had by all, the weather couldn't have been better. Congrates to Gavin Bowring for his first Autocross and improving each run. Big thanks to Minis Waikato.

November 23rd - Waiuku Classic Car display at Massey Park was a little disappointing with the lack of car clubs and cars on display and the wind that got stronger as the day progressed meant the planned planes and Parachutes were cancelled. There were still good attendances from the hearty club members that did turn up. Not a bad turn out for a show that was on /off/on again. The organizers say things will be much better next year.

November 30th - MCCoA annual Economy run. I was unable to make this one, but talking to the club members that did, I missed another excellent run that had the Gary factor. Congratulations to every one that took part especially Andrew Carter (must have almost pushed the car??) some competitors said they could have walked faster!!!!????



Eco run results:

1st	Andrew Carter	30.84km/ltr
2nd	Gavin & Chanel Bowring	22.79km/ltr
3rd	Rex & Susan Coubray	19.06km/ltr
4th	Mark Thompson & Luke Martin	17.51km/ltr
5th	Mathew Oliver & Tyson Moore	17.29km/ltr
6th	Alan & Shelagh Murie	17.01km/ltr
7th	Vic & Joy Hayes	16.66km/ltr
8th	Peter & Cherry Chadwick	16.49km/ltr
9th	Gavin Agnew	12.40km/ltr
10th	Peter & Kevin Hartshorne	12.31km/ltr
11th	Nathan & Imogen (Z Club)	6.3km/ltr
12th	Simon & Marion Lodge	1.23km/ltr (speedo broke)

Another great day was had by all. Thanks Gary and Catharine

December club night (Christmas BBQ) was a great success, good to see a large number of club members there enjoying themselves. Thanks Tom for bringing your electric Mini excellent talking point. The raffle raised \$325.00 for the club, congratulations to a new member (signed up that night) for winning the major prize.

A big thanks must go out to everyone that helped make it a very enjoyable night, especially the group of ladies that spent a lot of time in the kitchen.

December 7th. Thunder in the park

Saw a good turn out of Minis on the club display. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the different classes of racing from Minis to big V8s that couldn't stay on the track even on the warm up lap. The lunch time entertainment was tyre blowing with so much smoke and large engined cars (not a Mini in site) a really great day, thanks to the Clarks for towing the club trailer so we could have a BBQ for lunch.

As I write this I am on holiday! Here comes a rum, what? light up the BBQ.

Like I said at the beginning of the report. This year is going to be busy. Have a look at the events calendar in this magazine or on the clubs web site mark the dates down and get out and show the world your MINI

THE MINI IS 50

Happy New Year
Regards Murray

P.S. Is anyone in the club a cabinet maker or knows a good one? We need a quote for a cabinet to display the club trophies.

Note to self

Well I suppose I could blame the lateness of the club mag on the recession as most media are beating it up with the usual gusto one can expect from journalists and their editors.

Fact is, my way of making a crust has grown from lucky to have 3 days a week of work to needing, and I quote '8 days a week'.

There was a huge gulf in stories and pics over the holiday period and then when came time to layout the pages the majority of images were not large enough in information size to use in printing.

To have a reasonable size and quality to digitally print much less than 1 mega byte is going to be fussy or distorted. But, there is an alternative in our website as the smaller images are easy to load up and read provided you have the technology.

These days it takes 2 full days to edit and layout the magazine prior to printing and posting. This leads to the question whether the website is the key to club communication with an occasional mail out.

Reality is the majority of members have Internet access in the course of the week and the other side of the coin is the cost of time and club member's fees that produce the magazine that we are used to.

Each printed issue costs about \$400 in actual cost to members, if every copy is read cover to cover then its purposeful. If it is read selectively then the answer is save the cost of print and post, read on a 'eco friendly' website and print off what you need. It's not for me to say, only to suggest that a shift will happen and it is when rather than if.

On a said note I found that my favourite supplier of Tyres, WOFs and a good chat, Landscape Cars has closed.

To fill this void I will be calling in on Paul Marshall at Richardson Motors 60 Richardson Rd Mt Albert Auckland Phone 09-846 5899.

Club member Paul has recently put a restored Aussie Clubman GT on the road and deserves a medal for his efforts. I saw the car before and he's done a great job.

Don't think you will get a WOF by just talking about his GT though. Paul knows his stuff. Ed.

'Goodbye Pork Pie'

Rally set to raise funds for Starship Hospital

Hands up if you remember the much loved Kiwi movie 'Goodbye Pork Pie'? Not a lot of plot, just two typical Kiwi blokes and a hot blonde, travelling the length of the country in their yellow Mini and breaking the law.

Well, with the movie in mind two other Kiwi blokes thought it would great to repeat the run - this time for a good cause.

Other Mini enthusiasts are all revved up to follow them. Why? Well, ask Mini owner Rod Dixon.

Rod Dixon: "Ten years ago my brother in law and I bought a mini for \$100 and a bottle of Baileys. And we stripped it rebuilt it and did the Italian Job."

Based on the 1969 movie the 'Italian Job', the Rally for Kids Charity runs from England to Italy - but at a much slower pace.

Dixon wanted to do a similar charity run in New Zealand, 'Goodbye Pork Pie' style.

Murray Hemsley and his 1979 Clubman GT are showing a little wear and tear, but he didn't falter when Dixon suggested they raise money for Starship Children's Hospital by travelling the route taken by the gang in 'Goodbye Pork Pie'.

This time around the police might be an escort for the 27 Minis entered so far, rather than being the hounding pursuers featured in the film.

The organisers are expecting other Mini lovers to join the convoy along the way.

It will take determination and possibly a cushion to last the 2900 kilometre / five day trip.

This year it is the 50th anniversary of the Mini - a car close to Kiwi hearts. In two weeks Donn Anderson's book about the car in this country will hit the shops.

Kiwis always loved the front wheel drive Mini, and it was even assembled here.

Donn Anderson: "As a mass market car it set a new trend and also in terms of the amount of space inside the car. Another aspect was that it was such a hoot to drive and people couldn't believe how quickly they went round corners."

Or - remembering one scene from the silver scene - how easy it was to slot into a railway car.

Donn Anderson: "People could relate to it and of course a lot of New Zealanders grew up with Minis. It was the first car they owned or car they learnt to drive. And they were very much a second family car in the 1960s and 1970s."

And New Zealanders loved to race them.

At a panel beaters in Whangarei there's a Mini piece of history: Bruce McLaren's 1962 Mini Cooper S. Rod Dixon bought it in 1971 and is restoring the car to its former racing glory.

Rod Dixon: "It blew people away. It beat all the v8's simply because he could drive it so fast through the S-curves, hair pin and everybody remembers it. It was that day at Pukekohe in 1963."

It won't be ready in time for the Pork Pie Rally, however Hemsley reckons his restoration project will. There is some concern that his co-driver wife won't be able to fit in all her luggage - a man obviously built this car.

Anyway, they have put two years of planning into this and there is still time to enter with six weeks to go before they set off from Kaitiaki. But don't worry - they are not sticking exactly to the movie script. Instead, the drivers are going to stay in luxury hotels!

Murray Hemsley: "Well when you get to 50-years-old you deserve some of these luxuries. We worked hard to do this you know; we deserve our luxury bits."

2,900 kilometres in a Mini? It should be a bit of a laugh!

From TV3 Campbell Live Thu, 19 Feb 2009 7:30p.m.

Points Table explained

Points	1 st = 10pts
	2 nd = 8pts
	3 rd = 5pts
	4 th = 3pts
	5 th = 1pts

	DEFINITION AND POINT ALLOCATION
CLUB NIGHT:	1Pt 1 st Tuesday of every month (except January NO club night)
MINIMEETS:	1Pt For attending PLUS points table applies for winning cars
	Mini Nationals and Interclub meetings
TRIALS:	1Pt For attending PLUS points table applies 1Pt Organizer Navigation trial, Economy trial, Night trial
SHOWS:	1Pt for attending PLUS points table applies Galaxy of cars -MCCoA show n shine Ellerslie Concours
EVENTS:	1Pt for attending Speed show Waiuku flying50
VISITS:	1Pt for attending 1Pt for organizing
CAMPS:	2Pts for attending 2Pts organizing Any where the club stays over night (except Mini Nationals) eg Cooks beach
RUNS:	1Pt for attending 1Pt for organizer Follow the leader Italian job Dawn breaker
DUTIES:	1Pt Extra help for events provided by club members (committee to allocate) 2Pt For article published in MCCoA magazine No points given for sitting on the committee

Supplied By Murray Grant - Club Captain

A LITTLE SPRINGY THINGY by Greg Wenzlick.

One of the most sensitive areas of our beloved Mini, is the clutch where a small amount of wear can cause extreme frustration.

The basic principle is that of levers, fulcrums, and hydraulic pressures. It is not rocket science but even Albert Einstein would be left scratching his head in anguish.

There have been three types of clutch assemblies fitted to the Mini over its lifetime;

- Early models had a clutch pressure plate that had conventional coil springs, and proved to be unsuitable so in 1964 were superseded.
- From 1964-on the diaphragm pressure plate was introduced.
- Around mid-eighties the more conventional Verto clutch was introduced.

The bane for all Mini owners is that crunching sound when selecting gear particularly in reverse gear on fully synchro type gearboxes.

Over the years I have noticed that many clutch actuating arms have been given a "bend" by owners finding that the lever travel has seen the slave cylinder bottom out on the circlip. This is because the ball on the end of the lever which locates in the release bearing shaft wears off some of the roundness.

In an attempt to get a good pedal and action, you are best advised to do the following;

1. Ensure the master cylinder is in good nick
2. Check the holes on the m/cyl push rod as these can become oval
3. Check the pedal / m/cyl clevis pin and renew if worn
4. Ensure the slave cylinder is in good nick
5. Check the clutch lever ball has no wear – consider renewal of the arm instead of bending. A small amount of wear on the ball can mean inches of travel on the other end.
6. Adjust the return stop and throw-out nuts to specs in the manual.

Having followed my own advice, I have a satisfactory clutch pedal but always looking to make improvements, as non-Mini owners struggle to

drive the Mini smoothly. Alec Issigonis once said, that if you could drive a Mini, you could drive anything well.

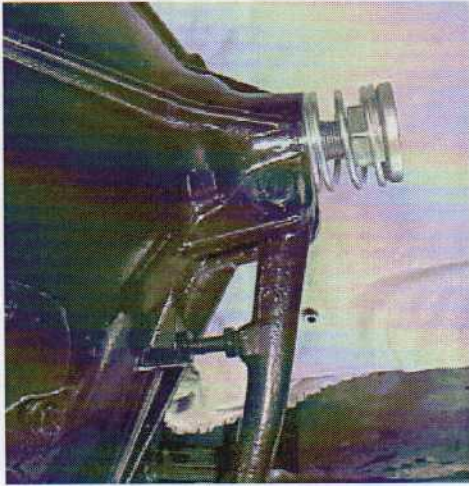
Recently when I was browsing the internet I came across a "little spring thingy" which advised a better clutch action almost like a conventional car. The sceptic in me said this is a scam, but I thought I would give it a trial.



This little coil spring fits onto the release bearing shaft. It allows a positive return of the clutch bearing which stops the bearing running against the diaphragm. It also backs up any slop in the hydraulics, giving a conventional clutch feel to the pedal giving take-up about halfway up the pedal travel. It also gives better/faster gear change selection because of quicker full clutch disengagement.

It is easy to install;

1. Remove the two 15/16" AF lock nuts from the release bearing shaft.
2. Place the spring over the shaft and install the larger nut with the collar the reverse way, which centralises the spring. Wind the nut inwards until the shaft thread is level with the nut collar. There is no need to use the second lock nut as the spring tension stops the collared nut unwinding. [I used the lock nut and applied some loctite just in case].



Note: photo above shows a bent clutch lever with the stop bolt wound out. Not ideal but obviously satisfactory to the owner.

After fitting I noticed a large improvement on gear changes and a more resistant feel to the clutch action, so it does work well.

If any club members are interested, I can obtain more springs from my overseas source.

Contact Greg Wenzlick at: greg.wenzlick@hotmail.com

News item

Mini owners and fans,

Owing to the pending closure of the MSN Groups website, we have moved garages to our new location.

Visit our new website on the below weblink.

Mini Happy miles,

Mini Fan Club. <http://sites.google.com/site/minifanclub/>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

hi everyone

in my spare time i have discovered a large amount of mini enthusiasts on facebook. Facebook is a website where people talk to each other all around the world when and where they want. you are able to put photos and video clips of things you have been up to and all your friends you add to your page can see without wasting time and money ring-ing you and sending you long boring emails.

it doesn't cost anything and is easy to set up a page on there. i have also set up a quick little page about our club on there with some photos from my own collection of some events we have done.

<http://www.facebook.com/friends/?ref=tn#/profile.php?id=1634097587&ref=profile>

it doesn't cost the club anything and is a good way to just let the rest of the mini world know what we have been up to. please take a look and see what you think. in the 5 days it has been up there it has 45 friends now all mini owners from all around the world spain, south africa, england, australia, and many more. there are even a couple of car clubs from the U.K on the list. one small club even sent us a message wishing our club a very merry christmas.

cheers mike wigmore

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

Club preferred suppliers:

BNT Parts - 36 Burleigh St, Mt.Eden - Supply general service parts and materials
Ph.09 379 9394 contact is Roger

Richardson Motors - 60 Richardson Rd, Mt Albert - Service and WOFs.
Ph 09 846 5899 contact is Paul

Minibitz - 50 Keeling Rd, Henderson - Most Mini parts available ex stock with regular shipments from Minispares UK
Ph.09 8370040 contact is Lee

Buzz-a-mechanic - Unit E 92-94 Ellice Rd, Glenfield - All Mini and mechanical repairs
Ph.09 443 6031 or 021 630 584

Preferred products:

Mothers Polish

Wynns range of additives

Members please support these all as they support us.

Frits' fantastic Suzuki 1.3 GTi conversion project:
<http://simple-pages.homeunix.net/mini/Minizuki/>

Roper Reports

Te Kowhai Autocross

Sunday 16th November 2009. Meeting point B.P. Papakura. Destination Tekowhai, just south of Ngaruawahia. Kevin Taylor lead a small number of us to the paddock where Minis Waikato had organised this Autocross. M.C.C.O.A had kindly been invited to join in! Upon entering the paddock it was quite disconcerting to find the mini up past the bumper in LONG GRASS.

The course was laid out in a fast circuit with a few hairpins. Two laps from a standing start with a dead stop between the start cones to achieve your time. This was a MANS approved event so helmet and overalls were required. One practice run followed by three timed runs was allowed. The grass soon flattened down although early runs were quiet slippery due to moisture under the grass with spin-outs very easy to do if you were too heavy on the loud pedal! I was well in the hunt for a great result. My down fall was knocking a cone over which cost me a 5 sec penalty. A second course was laid out in the afternoon and we did it all again. My only main problems were temps rising in the engine bay (a lot of revs and not a lot of speed) and an overheated plug causing a misfire. Good thing I had a spare set in my tool box. A big thank you to Minis Waikato and Kevin for leading us down and back. A fun covey. I look forward to the next one!

Pukekohe Track Day

What a great day we had on 7th December at Pukekohe. The weather was fine and really hot!! Just over a dozen or so cars met at Repco Pukekohe. We then proceeded in convoy to support the mini racing. We were right above the start line on the hill with the club tent up for all to see. Many other clubs also attended from classic to old school. We were right next to the 'race minis' pit so was great to be able to mix and mingle with them. I had a sit in Robin and Trent's minis. That brought a real smile to my face. Would have loved to have snuck out for a few laps! The club B.B.Q was thrown on with a few sausages and bread for lunch. A display of drag and drift cars during lunch caused great interest, along with so many burn-outs that I lost count. All in all, a great day out!!

Images can be seen on website.

Thanks Chris more club points heading your way.

Coming Events

TUESDAY 3 MARCH - Club Night - Northern Sports Car Clubrooms 7.30pm
SUNDAY 15 MARCH - Aka Aka Schools Country Boys Toys. Meet REPCO Manukau Rd Pukekohe 7am for 7.10am departure, convoy to Aka Aka school, contact Murray Grant 0274881960

SUNDAY 22 MARCH - Navigation trial - Meet near Burger King Westgate shopping centre end of Northwestern motorway 1pm for 1.15pm start. Bring pen, clipboard, map. Contact Murray Grant 0274881960

TUESDAY 7 APRIL - Club Night - Northern Sports Car Clubrooms 7.30pm

EASTER 2009 9-14 APRIL 2009- Mini Car Fun Run - To celebrate the 50th birthday of the Issigonis designed Mini, Whangarei Mini Owners Group are staging a Mini Car Fun Run that retraces the route taken in the famous NZ movie 'Goodbye Pork Pie'. Starting in Kaitiaki on 9 April '09 and finishing in Invercargill on 14 April '09 the run will hit the open road with a tank full of gas and a group of like minded people intent on a social and scenic driving adventure. A maximum of 50 cars will be allowed, so visit the event website and register your interest today. For more details go to www.minicarfunrun.co.nz.

FRIDAY 10 APRIL- Convoy run to support the PORK PIE fun run as it passes through Auckland detail as they are confirmed

TUESDAY 5 May - Club Night - Northern Sports Car Clubrooms 7.30pm

SUNDAY 10 MAY- Garage/Shed Bash

TUESDAY 2 June - Club Night - Northern Sports Car Clubrooms 7.30pm

SATURDAY 20 JUNE- Night Trial - meet BP service centre southern motorway between Papakura and Drury (time TBA)

SUNDAY 5 JULY- GO KARTS Formula E-36 Ascot Rd Airport Oaks Mangere (time TBA)

TUESDAY 7 JULY - Club Night - Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm

AUGUST 23-30 2009 - Mini 50th Anniversary, NELSON NZ. More info at: www.mini50th.co.nz

OCTOBER 23-25 2009 - 15TH MINI NATIONALS - KAPITI

Friday-Scrutineering, Saturday-Show n Shine, Navi Trial, BBQ

Sunday - Motokana, Autocross, Econmy run, Prize giving

WEEK END cost \$50 excluding Sunday Dinner, every entry will be in a draw for return airfares for two to Brisbane. Contact either Graham Strang 04 2982501 or 021869868 or John Trewavas 06 3541993 or 0211029551 or Email kapiticoastminis@xtra.co.nz