

**Inside:**

**WAIKATO MOTORKHANA • DAWNBREAKER 09**

# MINI

**Mini Car Club of Auckland**



**May 2009**

# THIS SPACE SELLS

Exclusive opportunity to get your brand, product or service in front of Mini club members while supporting one of NZ's most popular car magazines.

Advertising support will assist us to continue to improve the look and feel of Mini Car Club of Auckland's magazine, extending appeal to the growing number of converts to MINI.

Whether you are into tyres, car audio, oil, parts or polish, support for support is assured.

For more information call Ian Ferguson on: 021 446 164 or email: [editor@minis-auckland.org.nz](mailto:editor@minis-auckland.org.nz)

## Club Contacts

Club Patron:	Les Gubb	
President:	Warwick Robinson	09-479 1825 <a href="mailto:President@minis-auckland.org.nz">President@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
Vice:	Micheal Wigmore	09-813 3991
Club Captain:	Murray Grant	027-488 1960 <a href="mailto:Club-Captain@minis-auckland.org.nz">Club-Captain@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
Secretary:	Catherine Ashton	09-232 1233 <a href="mailto:Secretary@minis-auckland.org.nz">Secretary@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
Treasurer:	Rex Coubray	09-273 1301 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@minis-auckland.org.nz">Treasurer@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
WebMonkey:	Gavin Agnew	09-298 0046 <a href="mailto:Web@minis-auckland.org.nz">Web@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
Editor:	Ian Ferguson	021-446 164 <a href="mailto:Editor@minis-auckland.org.nz">Editor@minis-auckland.org.nz</a>
Committee:	Kevin Patrick	09-620 7474
	Ross Galloway	021-226 6158 <a href="mailto:roscoe@actrix.gen.nz">roscoe@actrix.gen.nz</a>
	Lee Norman	021-898 050 <a href="mailto:minibitz@paradise.net.nz">minibitz@paradise.net.nz</a>
	Mike Bates	09-238 8187 <a href="mailto:fisher52@ps.gen.nz">fisher52@ps.gen.nz</a>

### Sub Committees;

Car shows:	Kevin Patrick
Trials:	Michael Wigmore, Gavin Agnew
Club nights:	Warwick Robinson, Ross Galloway
Honourary MINI Liaison Officer:	Mark.Steel@TeamMINI.co.nz

## Clubrooms

### Northern Sports Car Club

Mt Richmond Domain  
Great South Road  
Otahuhu  
Ph. 276-0880

Meets 7.30pm 1st Tuesday each month  
Committee Meets every 3rd Tuesday in the month.

### Address correspondence to:

Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc  
P.O. Box 72-970  
Papakura 2244  
Auckland  
New Zealand

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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 May 2009**

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.



# MCCoA

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday 5 May	<b>Club Night</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Sunday 10 May	<b>Collection Cruise</b> A full day follow the leader run to view prized private car/ memorabilia collections with a stop for a BBQ lunch. Meet 8.30am in car park in Motions Rd (just past zoo entrance) cost approx \$4.00. Contact Gary 021621230
Saturday 23 May	<b>Taupo Fun Day</b>
Tuesday 2 June	<b>Club Night</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Saturday 20 June	<b>Night Trial</b> Meet BP Service Centre, Southern Motorway between Papakura and Drury – 5.15pm for 5.30pm start. Bring torch, clipboard, pen, and maybe map. Contact Gary Ashton 021621230
Sunday 5 July	<b>Go Carts Formula E</b> 1pm #36 Ascot Rd Airport Oaks Mangere cost \$50.00 (Ladies only race as well.)
Tuesday 7 July	<b>Club Night</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Tuesday 4 August	<b>Club Night</b> AGM & Club prize giving Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Sunday 23 August	<b>Waikato Minis 50th Birthday Run</b> Detail as they come to hand
23-30 August	<b>Mini 50th Anniversary, Nelson NZ</b> More info <a href="http://www.mini50th.co.nz">www.mini50th.co.nz</a>



Tuesday 1 September	<b>Club Night</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Sunday 6 September	<b>Convoy run to celebrate mini 50th</b> Details as come to hand.
Saturday & Sunday 19-20 September	<b>Speed Show</b> Details as they come to hand.
Tuesday 6 October	<b>Club Night – Swap Meet</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm (Bring along Minis and mini bits you don't need/want or \$\$\$ to buy) Good chance to dispose of or purchase parts for you Minis
23-25 October	<b>15th Mini Nationals - Kapiti</b> Friday Scrutineering Saturday Show n Shine, Navi Trial, BBQ Sunday Motokana, Autocross, Economy Run, Prize giving Weekend cost \$50 excluding Sunday Dinner, every entry will be in a draw for return airfares for two to Brisbane. Contact: <a href="mailto:kapiticoastminis@xtra.co.nz">kapiticoastminis@xtra.co.nz</a> Graham Strang 04 2982501 ,021869868 or John Trewavas 06 3541993, 0211029551
Sunday 25 October	<b>Waiuku concourse Massey Park</b> Details as they come to hand
Tuesday 3 November	<b>Club Night</b> Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Tuesday 1 December	<b>Club Night</b> Christmas BBQ, bring shared plate Salad or Dessert. Last meeting for the year Northern Sportscar Clubrooms 7.30pm
Sunday 6 December	<b>Economy Trial</b> Meet BP Service Centre, Southern Motorway between Papakura and Drury – 1pm for 1.15pm start. Bring clipboard, pen, map and navigator. Contact Gary Ashton 021621230



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again a fantastic start to the year.

At Concourse de Elegance the club did very well.

1. Meguiars prize of \$1000 for Best Cars in Club Display.

2. 2nd place in the Teams event.

This is an absolutely fantastic result. Chris Manning's Green Mini and George's Cooper S are effectively the 2nd Best pair of cars in NZ. It is a credit to Simon at Minibitz for the rebuilding of Chris Manning's car.

3. We also achieved 3rd place in the Gymkhana.

Our Club is extremely successful compared with other Car clubs. But we do one thing not so well. We do not publicise our achievements and so if there is anybody in the Club that is good at writing and photography, please get some articles

out to various magazines and the press. Please just advise Committee Members.

After several meetings with Mark Steel at Team McMillan Mini, he has offered the following deal:-

If any Club member refers a customer to Team McMillan Mini and it ends up in the sale of a new or used BMW Mini the Mini club will be credited with \$500.

Secondly if any member buys a new or second-hand Mini from Team McMillan, the Club will also be credited with \$500.

Contact Mark Steele at:

mark.steele@TeamMINI.com or phone 09-524-3300.

All for now.

Warwick  
EI Presidento

## Cover Image: Whenuapai Air Show 2009



The Mini club had a good turnout at the Whenuapai Airbase where one of our cheeky members asked:

"can we have a photo with your USAF C7?" After a short time the reply came back that we could drive our Minis onto the runway for a photo shoot. The crowd parted and we made our way to the tarmac!

## Note to self



Welcome to another evolution in the Mini Car Club of Auckland magazine.

The difference is in how we now put the mag together, although its still very much the club mag.

From this issue, layout and print supply is to take place at GEON Highbrook, thanks in part to club member Kevin Smith and his team.

Kevin came to our rescue when he realised that the editor was drowning in the production of the club mag as it had to always take a back seat to paid employment. Thank you Kev.

In 2002 all new MINI burst on the scene with many a Doubting Thomas proclaiming it either a sin compared to the classic Mini or a joke as the classic Mini died away from lack of development.

Here we are well into 2009 and new MINI has been ever so tastefully updated and even more exciting than ever. And still selling well.

Having bought into the new era MINI, our silver Clubman with a black top, we enjoy nothing more than selling people on the best car we have ever owned and maybe even driven.

This is not a replacement to my long time lover, but an effective day-to-day driver that fills the role and my joy in driving, also.

Now that there are more than several modern Minis in the club or driven by club

members, the reality is the club takes on a new dynamic.

The heart is still in the right place but the head is thinking about practicality and the fact that our classics are just that and ever so precious.

Maybe precious should read precocious as I recall my recent road trip in 66 Mini to Ruapehu, with a major stop in Taumaranui at the BP, a brown geyser and steam pouring from behind the engine.

With 29,000kms now on the new Clubby, my only complaint is the endless amount of brake dust that coats the sculptured alloys.

No geysers though.

As a further development to the magazine, we would like to hear from any interested parties that may like to advertise to Mini owners, old and new.

The inside front cover, inside back cover and back cover lend themselves to 4 colour A5 size adverts.

Not a lot of money is involved but the quality of the mag will continue to improve and welcome the new generation Mini owner.

Deadline for the next mag, May/June is the 31st May and I look forward to reading emails from any club member who can string some words together.

Mini happy returns - Ian Ferguson





# CAPTAINS LOG

## The year MINI turns 50

Well what did I say in my last report "it's going to be busy this year" well it has to date!

Good to see club members getting out there and enjoying themselves and supporting the events. A lot of work goes into organizing the events and BIG thanks must go out to those people that put the time into the club activities.

Let's have a quick run down over the past events.

### Sunday 18th January Kumeu swap meet and classic car show

Woke up to a wet drizzly Sunday morning, thinking to myself should I stay home and catch up on stuff I had put a side for later. Rex and I had already been to Kumeu the day before to go through the swap meet bargains. While we were hunting, we bumped into Ralph Taylor from Waikato minis hunting for that bargain mini part (not much to be had this time) Well I decided to go and have a better look at the classic cars on display. Arriving at Burger King Westgate there were 8 other minis braving the weather to convoy to the show. As the morning progressed the weather cleared and a couple of other minis joined the display. The day turned out to be a very hot and enjoyable with heaps to see and do.

### Sunday 25th January Dawn Breaker

Another early start. But at least it was fine and we would have a cooked breakfast at the end of the run. Thirteen minis, owners and others that managed to get out of bed. Left the start in Green bay. Traveling over roads in west Auckland stopping to find answers to the questions on the sheet.

We arrived at our destination which was Crystal Mountain. I think we were second car to arrive. After watching car after car arrive at the finish we realised there was one missing. Rex and Susan little yellow van had vanished (another competitor following them said that they had missed a turn) we waited ten to fifteen minutes before ringing them. They had u turned and weren't far away as Rex described it we took the scenic route and blamed Susan. She blamed him.

Thanks to Chris and Christine Roper for another enjoyable run and Breakfast which left the rest of the day free to go to Pukekohe and watch the historic racing.

### Sunday 1st February Galaxy of Cars

This show doubles as MCCoA show n shine as well. What a turn out 40 cars on our Display. The whole show was larger this year with more cars on display and more stall holders at the swap meet, just more to take in over all.

Congratulations to the winners of the clubs show n shine.

#### Best BMW MINI

1st Kevin Taylor  
2nd George Brown

#### Best Original

1st Kevin Taylor  
2nd Jan Bates  
3rd Phil Walters

#### Modified

1st Simon Lodge  
2nd Lesley Robinson  
3rd Marion lodge

#### Best Custom

1st Warwick Robinson

#### Restored

1st Chris Manning  
2nd Paul Marshall  
3rd Tony Maulder

#### Overall in Show

Mike Bates

Big thank to the judges and the entire club members that took part.

## Sunday 8 February Ellerslie Intermarque Concours

Firstly thanks must go to the club members that turned out for the working bees to get the display ready for the show, the club members that erected the display on the day. Robin Greenland for transporting the fixture to and from Ellerslie. Thanks to the club members that took part in the Motokana.

What a great display we had a slice of birthday cake with burning candle celebrating mini 50th and a Day With Your Classic.

MCCoA won best polished display winning a major prize.

The team's event saw George Gray and Chris Manning collecting second place in the Concours close behind the winning Porsche team. Well done guys

Last but not least thanks Mike & Jan Bate for the big effort (lunches, back yard, garage and hours) you put into this display well done.

## Weekend of 21st-22nd February Cooks Beach

Some of us brave soles drove down Friday night in the rain and wind. Hoping to leave Auckland around 3pm but with one car losing a wiper arm, some one losing a wallet and another blowing fuses leaving the car with no lights and wipers.

I was starting to think maybe we should be conveying Saturday morning with the rest. When we finally arrived at Cooks beach we were greeted by Les Gubb "ill put a cuppa on" but I think most of the party wanted something stronger.

We woke on Saturday with a much improved weather, sun breaking through the clouds. After breakfast we meet up with MCCoA members Dave & Leighton Howarth and Wendy O'Conner who live on the Coromandel.

We drove back over the hills to Thames to join with members that convoyed down Saturday morning. Continuing on the run

around the shoreline to Coromandel town ship and too Little Creek Railway and back to Cooks beach. On that run Les Gubb took point and he was off, his new nickname is Lead Foot Les. Also Jan and Ross Hammond had a interesting day due to no brake lights but that's another story (you were a great sport Jan)

That night we all went for dinner at Whitianga, ferry ride and all.

Sunday morning was a shared BBQ breakfast and then a relaxed few hours on the beach. The row of mini in the car park were getting a good look over from the locals

One local told us of a caravan he had parked at his house that was made to be towed behind a mini car. It was a must see for our members, so we all converged on to his property. It turned out that the caravan was built by Bryan Jackson to be towed behind a mini. That caravan now belongs to members of the club Simon & Marion who feel in love with it.

Will be great to see it at future club events

Thanks again Alan, Shelagh, Mike and Jan for opening up your baches for the club over the weekend.

## Sunday 8 March Pukekohe swap meet and car show

A small contingent of club members ventured into the domain of the yank tanks and hot rods and did the club kick butts.

At prize giving the club got an admiral mention about the mini display celebrating mini 50th. Warwick and Lesley (sexy min) won the prize for best paint job of the show and runner up for best car. Just confirms what we all knew that minis can foot it with yank tanks. Well done to all the members that took part.

## Sunday 15th March Aka Aka schools country boy's toys

What a great day it turned out to be, there were 12 minis on display. This show is held every two years and is a credit to the school (they Raised \$10,000.00 for the day)



There was so much to see that you don't see at other shows, vintage speedway car racing, four wheel drive demo, lawn mower races you could drive yourself, (and I did) wood chopping and V8 chainsaw just to name a few. A very enjoyable day.

### Saturday 15 March Whenuapai air show

What can I say another great show. 12-14 minis from MCCoA on display with another display variation of the 50th celebration. Along with other classic cars, aero planes of all shapes and sizes.

What a chance of a life time to have MCCoA minis parked along side a USAF Cargo plane for a photo shoot. Well done Mike for sweet talking the air force officers to let us around the barriers. Check out photo on NZ Herald web site.

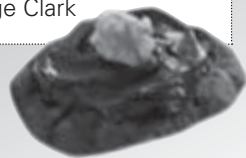
### 22nd March Navigation trial

Another turn out of around a dozen cars, great to see members that we haven't seen on many runs (George and Jude to name a couple) good to get some kms on the car as it traveled around western and north shore streets.

The instructions and question were easy for most competitors and almost every one managed to complete the challenge.

Congratulations to the winners

- 1st Alan & Shelagh Murie
- 2nd Peter & Kevin Hartshorne
- 3rd= Anthony Kite & Karen Preston  
Gavin & Chanel Bowring  
Vic & Joy Hayes  
Jude & George Clark



Butter  
Sugar  
Flour  
Cocoa  
Cornflakes

Use the heater to soften the butter adding the sugar slowly into a headlight bowl, stir in the flour using the dip stick.

Thanks to Mum for making sure everyone completed the challenge.

Well I did say BUSY!!! What's coming up? HEAPS!

Look at the calendar in this mag or the web site.

The shed bash on Sunday 10 May has had a change of name to Collection Cruise to reflect what the day is, we will be looking at Car/ membrolia collection s with a stop for a BBQ lunch more details in event calender and web site.

I would like to invite MCCoA club members to write articles for the magazine. Whether articles on events that the club has attended or of places of interest you visited on holiday, one member suggested an article on her prospective of her husband's hobby (Collecting minis) The club magazine is an important part of any club and it is there for member to contribute to so lets get pen to paper and get those articles to the Editor.

When your article is published 2 points for every article will be added to your club points. Good luck! And get writing.

Bye to next time over and out  
Murray

## Mini Afghans

Use the piston to grind the cornflakes.  
Mix together using the fan blades.  
Spread on drip tray in balls, mount on radiator on left front and close bonnet.  
Do a navigation trail until smoke appears.  
Serve hot with dripping oil 30/40.  
Hand around with a willing distributor.  
Mini Chefs Shirley & Fiona.

# MOTORKHANA



**WOW what a day. The sun is shining bright and the excitement is starting to set in. Today is my first ever attempt at thrashing a Mini around a legitimate track or course.**

We are off to Te Kowhai to join MINIS WAIKATO as invited guests to have a skid around a farm paddock in a Motorkhana.

Murray and I meet at work and load our barely finished toy mini on to the trailer. Don't trust it enough yet to drive it that far. Bit reluctant to start and that OH CRAP feeling is just about to take over then cough, splutter, pop and there's life. Bit of a quick blat around the block and on to the trailer.

9.45 am meet at BP Bombay and travel in convoy to Te Kowhai. On arrival the paddock is bare. We are thinking that Daylight saving hasn't hit the Waikato yet so while no one is watching there is a quick play around the well mown pasture with a few practice handbrake turns and parked in a neat row along the fence we patiently wait for our hosts to arrive.

MCCoA is represented by Gavin Bowring, Kevin Taylor (also Waikato) we will decide which when the results are in! Murray Grant and myself. We also have our cheer

leaders Fiona, Lloyd and Jo Clark. Their Minis are either prepped for something much bigger (Pork pie run) or in bits so the Toyota gets a day out.

First to arrive to represent Waikato is the BBQ then 7 or 8 Minis trickle in to the venue. After a bit of get to know one another and some lunch it's on to the serious stuff. Quick driver briefing and into it.

The first track is a straight row of cones spaced just far enough apart to zigzag a mini in and out of. Then you must stop between the finish line cones. All of this is timed down to the split second. Oh yeah! Your not supposed to kill any of the cones.

We watch the first couple of veterans have a go and then it's our turn. I line up and away. In, out, in, out, handbrake turn at the end and back again. Stomp on the stop peddle and skid to a stop. Not the quickest but no dead cones. I'm happy with that. We all get 2 goes at each track so at the end of the first round all is good all 4 four MCCoA improved their time on the second run as I think did most of the local's.

This is fun I am thinking can't wait to have another go. The next track is a 3 leaf clover. We are told that this is easy. All you





have to do is keep the cone on your left. We are told that if you do a 4-leaf clover its bad luck. Unfortunately no one said a 2 leaf clover was bad luck until after I had done one. Still it must have fired me up as my second attempt was right up with the leaders.

Next coarse was 3 garages. You have to drive in to the first one then reverse out of it all the way around in to the next one. Then drive out of that one around in to the next one. Reverse out and around between a couple of cones then stop at the finish going forwards. Sounds easy

NOT!! But wasn't actually that bad. Again all times improve.

Our last challenge for the day is set out over the whole paddock. A bit of slalom and some more zigzag combinations that put us to the test. In all a very enjoyable day.

Unofficial results I believe put MCCoA member Kevin Taylor in 3rd place with myself in 4th. Not bad for a first attempt. Very happy. Thank you to all at MINIS WAIKATO for a great day. Can't wait for the next one.

Rex Coubray  
MCCoA



## Mini Cakes

Hello to all Mini Car Clubs,

All NZ Mini Clubs will be organising 50th birthday celebrations of some type, and we are passing on information on a source of Mini birthday cakes which can be custom made in various colours and textures.

The Mini Car Club of Auckland had a cake made for their 15th birthday celebrations last year. Refer to the attached photo for their example.

This cake was made by ex-German pastry chef, Evald Boss of Titirangi, Auckland. Evald is renown for his delicacies and has made special ckaes for celebrities and corporations.



He made a special America's Cup yacht cake for Dennis Connor some years back.

**If your Club or members wish to get Evald to make a similar cake for events, please contact him direct at: [cakes@cafeboss.co.nz](mailto:cakes@cafeboss.co.nz)**

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Mini, several publishers either have released or are about to release new Mini titles. Details of these, plus a couple of old favourites are below. Until the end of May Techbooks would like to offer your members **15% discount** if they purchase or order any of these titles! IAN BARBER

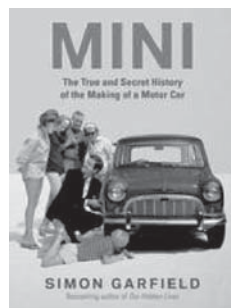
## COMING SOON:



**"Mini – The Definitive History" by Jon Pressnell**  
HB \$120.00 DUE JULY

The fruit of 20 years of research, this is the book on the Mini, produced to celebrate 50 years of the innovative small car and true British motoring icon. Acknowledged Mini expert Jon Pressnell has produced an authoritative, comprehensive and lavishly illustrated history, full of never-before-seen testimony from those involved with the car throughout its 41 years in production. A large format and lively design complete the package, making this the definitive history of the definitive small car.

Covers: The inside story of the Mini's conception, design and development; its innovative configuration, body structure and suspension; testing, launch and market positioning. Mini Mk1, 1959-1967: saloons, Coopers, vans, estates and pick-ups - and the Mini Moke. Mini MkII, 1967-69: a facelift plus revised Cooper and Cooper S models. Mini MkIII and Clubman: the long-nosed cars and the end of the Cooper. The Mini from 1980: 12-inch wheels, the A-plus engine, limited editions galore, and the return of the Cooper in 1990. The Mini in other countries: a separate section dedicated to overseas sales and production, including a detailed look at the many fascinating variants built in countries such as Australia and South Africa. Appendices: Mini sidelines, Mini-based cars, kit cars, full listing of limited editions with features and specifications, production figures.



**"Mini - The True And Secret History Of The Making Of A Motorcar" by Simon Garfield**  
HB \$55.00 DUE JULY

This is the original and compelling story of a remarkable car with a unique heritage. Both the old Mini and the new MINI are symbols of the age that created them. The car that was originally designed for austerity and efficiency soon came to represent individuality and classlessness, features that continue to define the car today. But the modern MINI has travelled far from the model with the leaky floor and sliding windows, and now represents an enviable success story of endurance and reinvention. "MINI - The Making of the World's Most Loved Car" explores the industrial and social changes in the last half-century through the story one car. The book is split into two parts - 1959 and 2009 - telling the history of these two linked worlds 50 years apart. The story will be told by those who made it: designers, engineers, production-line workers, advertisers, sales people, customizers, celebrities, and, drivers. In short, this will be the human story behind a beautiful box of metal and wires.

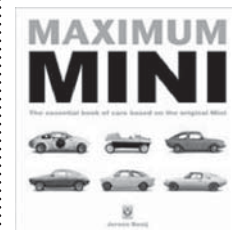
## NEW RELEASES:



**"Mini Down Under – 50 Years Of The Mini In New Zealand" by Donn Anderson**  
PB \$45.00

More versions of the Mini were available in New Zealand than anywhere else, and the launching of the iconic car in February 1960 was a larger-than-life event. In this lively and personal story, the author tracks the Mini's life in New Zealand, the connection between Kiwi racing driver Bruce McLaren and the birth of the Mini Cooper, the heady days of competition success in the Antipodes, the local assembly and marketing of the classic original car and the eventual development into the latest generation Mini for a new century.

## COMING SOON:



**"Maximum Mini – The Definitive Book Of Cars Based On The Original Mini" by Jerone Booi** HB \$90.00

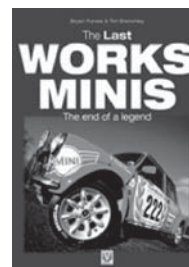
This is the first book to focus solely on the cars derived from the classic Mini. Small GTs, sports cars, roadsters and fun cars: Mini derivatives made the specialist motoring market roar in the sixties, but after that they didn't fade away. The seventies, eighties, and nineties saw new variants on the car that simply wouldn't die – some genius, some crazy, but always out of the ordinary and colorful. From the well known Mini Marcos and Unipower GT that even raced at Le Mans, to the very obscure but at least as exciting Coldwell GT or Sarcon Scarab, almost 60 cars are thoroughly researched, described and photographed. Many of the people originally involved with designing and building them were interviewed, and some cars that were thought to be long gone were found during the researching of this book. Others weren't, but nevertheless made it in as old material came to light. Of the over 500 pictures in this book, most have never been seen in print before. Just like the enthusiasm needed to build the cars described, this book has been written with a true passion.



**"Mini 1959-1999 Essential Buyer's Guide" by Mark Paxton** PB \$40.00

The Mini is without doubt a motoring milestone, and has had many volumes dedicated to its design, history and development, but this is the only book to examine the tricky task of buying one used. Iconic and innovative it may have been, but this quintessentially British car was not without its defects, many of which could turn the Mini experience into an expensive and tiresome disaster. This guide takes the potential purchaser through a short initial examination to weed out the obviously defective, followed by a more comprehensive step-by-step look at the body and mechanical parts, where the clear, jargon-free text accompanied by over 100 photographs sheds light on even the darkest corners of the Mini's construction. A unique points marking system ensures that nothing is overlooked and an accurate final picture of the car's condition can be viewed in relation to the asking price.

## BEST SELLERS:



**"Last Works Mini" by Bryan Purves** HB \$110.00

The Mini, the car of the 20th century and still in motorsport in 1997, 35 years after its 1st event. This book sets out to complete the untold recent history of the mighty 'works Mini' in international motorsport. How the Mini came to be in Monte Carlo and at the famous Nurburgring battling with the giant teams such as Fiat and Citroen. Of how different manufacturers where building 'works' cars on either side of Birmingham but not knowing the other existed. It tells the story of cars developed from 1994 up to the last group A cars of 1997, with fuel injection and six speed sequential gearboxes. The book also covers Rover's plan to go around the world competing in various rounds of the world rally championship. It's all here, copies of Rover internal documents plus many unseen photo's that Rover would not want you to see, if they were still around. With many unseen photo's of the cars development, copies of Rovers internal documents, copy pages from the road books of top rallies, all of this in colour this book truly brings this previously untold story to life.



**"Tuning The A Series Engine 3rd Ed" by David Vizard** HB \$80.00

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# Mini Car Club

## of Auckland

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Model	Year	Colour
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Signature	Date    /    /
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# Cambridge swap meet & Waikato motorcross

It was a beautiful morning to be racing about in a Mini. The sky was blue and it was warm. Summer has finally arrived. Murray and I set off at 0545 am thru Manukau to the Motorway then southward towards Cambridge. BP Papakura is first stop for pick me up coffee and a Bacon & Egg pie. Always good! Mini's always get attention and BP as a place is no exception. Is that your Mini? I hear. Yes. I have got a late model Mini like that in my garage at home.

Are you in the MCCoA I asked. I was but just don't have the time he said. We gave him some encouragement to rejoin and left him to it.

Humming along at 100 Kph on the open road was going great. Down the Bombays past Pokeno and on to the Waikato. Wonderful scenery clear roads on the thought of all the goodies waiting for us at Cambridge. Then we spot a large hole in the fence and both have the same reaction to it. Somebody has run off the road there at some stage. Just as we pass that hole in the fence we notice the top of a head with blond hair sticking up above the bank. There's still someone there. Hard on the brakes we grind to a halt. Reverse back quite a long way as it took a bit of a distance to stop. Get out and quickly go to see if anyone is hurt. There sitting

on the bank just below the road is a young girl who had had a terrifying experience. She had fallen asleep at the wheel and gone thru the fence over a bank and rolled her car in to a deep gully. Fortunately she had escaped with a few bruises and a hell of a fright. Poor girl had been sitting there for an hour and we were the first ones to stop. Cops arrived eventually and we got back on our way.

The next stop was Cambridge swap meet. We get a park right at the gate and guess what! Just on the other side of the gate is another late model Mini almost my Mini's twin.

In we go. There's all sorts of things to look at. Mostly car stuff too. It's so great that the organizers have kept all that home craft crap away from a good automotive swap meet.

We get a few bits'n'pieces to add to the shed. Murray increases his old oil bottle collection and I got a couple of nice Aussie number plates. Good for display.

Load up the car and it's off thru Cambridge to Hamilton. Turn off towards Whatawhata.

Then to Te Kowhai. Keeping an eye out for the Mini's Waikato banner. It will be on the fence at the gate we were told. Zooming along the countryside there it is says Murray. I slam on the picks pull over to the side of the road but we past the entrance. A quick glance in the mirror to see the road is clear by now we are now in the gravel on the shoulder. I give the handbrake a quick pull a all of a sudden we are around and facing back in the right direction accelerating back across the road and down the drive in to a yard

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full of big trucks. Now I know what an ant must feel like walking across the kitchen floor.

Look there they are! A paddock full of mini's. It's a Mini farm!

A dozen or more all different colours and models lining up for a turn on the dirt track.

Good turn out from MCCoA to compete with the stopwatch along with some great cars and people from Minis Waikato. Once again they put on a great event and look forward to more. They have a perfect spot for the Motorcross and the day was a great success.

Many thanks to all who were involved. Murray and I hope to have our car racing around the coarse some time soon. We are working on it.

After the prize giving we all head off in different directions towards home. A small convoy of MCCoA Mini's follow Kevin Taylor along the back roads of the Waikato.

He knows a way with less mister plod. In all it was a great day out and well worth the effort of getting up so early on a Sunday.

Rex Coubray

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# DAWN

# BREAKER 09

## What a great morning.

It was still and clear when we left home to meet up with the others.

We all met up at the usual spot in Green Bay for a 6.00am rendezvous.

Around a dozen minis set off on a trial around West Auckland, finishing for breakfast in Swanson.

Fourteen questions in all had to be answered ranging from "How much for a chin wax" to "What is the Vicar's phone

number". This run has always been lighthearted, not too long and just a fun way to start the day.

The run took in the Whenuapai airforce base where some members mentioned the site of a hot air balloon taking off in the early light. Quite a sight!!

Crystal Mountain were kind enough to open early to accommodate us.

Around 30 of us sat down to breakfast

at 8.00am. We were all very well looked after with good coffee and food. A look around the crystal gift shop was a nice way to finish the outing before heading home. 1st place overall with 14 out of 14 questions right were Kevin (K.P), Lee and Tracey who all shared one car.

Rex and Susan got a special mention for getting slightly "lost" and ended up checking out the Kumeu Show Grounds. Funny that as Rex had only just been

there the weekend before! Their Mini van must like it there. Looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Cheers for now.

Chris and Christine Roper



# WOFs UP WITH YOUR CAR NOW?

Every six months we all have to take our beloved classic cars into someplace to have the required Warrant of Fitness check performed.

Most members keep their cars in pristine condition and travel very little mileages between checks, so you would think that the WOF check would be relatively painless.

What is it about this that makes taking our cars for a health check so stressful and painful, even more so than taking ourselves off to the Doctor for a cough and feel of the unmentionables?

A few years ago, I started taking my vehicles to a local Eastern Testing station. I figured that the convenience of driving up and waiting while experts checked over my cars using modern equipment, consistent standards and ethics was preferable to Joe Blow Motors who look to reject anything suspect to increase their daily workshop jobs.

I had heard recently that a major European franchise dealer was rejecting cars for weak shock absorbers based on factory standards and not LTSA regulations. Even my sons old 1975 Ford Escort got regular WOFs with original shocks. So it depends on who is doing the checking and how busy the workshop is by all accounts.

Now because I am continually probing and prodding around the cars, I have a pretty good idea if there is anything that needs

attention, and most of the time things are renewed even before they need replacing.

Two WOF checks ago, an inspector with incredibly good hearing rejected me on a noisy rear wheel bearing, and play in a ball joint. I thought this most strange as I know what a noisy wheel bearing sounds like from within the car let alone from outside. So away I went cursing about having to spend a few weekend hours on these perceived defects. I purchased a set of new bearings from our friendly sponsor BNT of Boston Road [a plug here for Roger]. When removed there was absolutely nothing wrong with the old bearings. I took a couple of shims out of the suspect ball joint and returned for the WOF. I showed the inspector the old wheel bearing and told him a few home truths. "Can't comment," he said, "it was obviously noisy when we checked the car".

Last month I returned for the next WOF to be done. This time I got rejected for play in the steering and another ball joint, as well as the Left headlight beam being too low. Bloody strange, as I had not touched the headlights since I bought the car, and had untold WOFs since. So off I went with my tail between my legs cursing and promising to learn a foreign language for better communication skills.

Having had an offer to buy the car subject to obtaining a WOF, I again took a shim out of the other ball joint, and booked the car into PG Hydraulics of East Tamaki [plug for

Peter and his team] to adjust the steering tie rods as I do not have the special tools required [see separate article on steering systems]. This cost me \$100 for a check, adjustment, and shimming of the rack in place – good value I thought.

I returned to the Testing Station armed with the repair receipt and a screwdriver to adjust the headlight beam to their liking. WOF obtained.

In discussion with a work colleague this week, he informed me his neighbour had a similar experience with a Testing Station on the North Shore. Again a car was rejected for a "faulty steering ball joint" and "Dirty headlamp lens." This sounds familiar I thought. Now this guy is an engineer and a very smart cookie. He questioned the Testing Station person about this subject, and was told the following story;

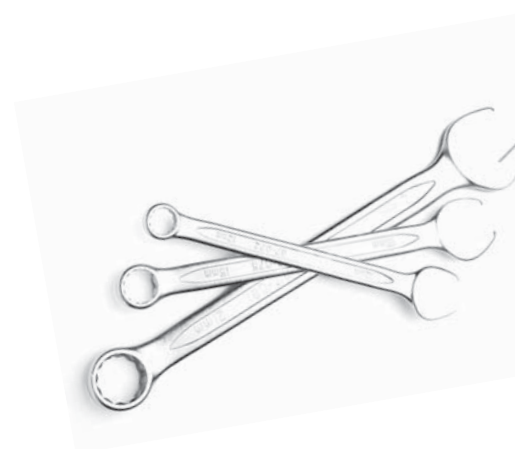
Apparently, the WOF agencies receive LTNZ News Letters, and that March was "suspension month" ! He said that he

thought New Car Dealerships did not get the Letter, as they dealt with newer vehicles and longer warranties, and that LTNZ were targeting the older fleet, which tended to go to the local garage and WOF station, and occasionally the VINZ Stations (which he said are LTNZ franchised?).

The inspector said that LTNZ were trying to enforce a precautionary approach, and it would favour the motor trade rather than the vehicle owner. On further discussion with him, the car owner said it appeared that the approach was 'over precautionary', with the effect of hiking maintenance costs, and it could cause many to disregard maintenance routines and drive illegally without WOF. The inspector said that this was not his problem.

Hmmm... "Defects of the month" schemes, eh? "Speeding ticket quotas"? Sounds like a Governmental conspiracy to me.

Written by Greg Wenzlick



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Email: [motormania@extra.co.nz](mailto:motormania@extra.co.nz)

# CONTINENTAL TYRES

## PROVIDE NEW RUBBER OPTIONS FOR MINI FANS

Mini owners with a desire to improve the look, handling and performance of their vehicle now have a number of different tyre options available, thanks to the introduction of a new range of rubber by Continental.

"Small car enthusiasts are sometimes neglected when it comes to performance enhancements, but Continental now provides a range of attractive new tyres which offer real benefit to Mini drivers," said Craig Wylde, Continental Tyres Brand Manager.

"The new range of tyres means Mini drivers now have the option of choosing the absolute best in tyres for their driving pleasure."

The first of the new tyres is the Continental Pro Contact, a large, 17-inch runflat tyre which fills the Mini's wheel arches to capacity.

The tyre features less rolling resistance which enhances possible gains in fuel economy without sacrificing driver confidence.

The 205/45R17 has a recommended retail price of \$449, including fitting.

Many performance drivers are already familiar with the Continental Sport Contact range, but this is the first time it has been offered in a 17-inch size especially for Mini.

The Continental Sport Contact 3 shares the same dimensions (205/45R17) as its Pro Contact stablemate, but is a performance orientated tyre which offers a sportier feel and delivers outstanding performance when cornering.

The asymmetric tread pattern design delivers improved steering precision,

excellent handling and defined steering response.

During swift and abrupt steering manoeuvres high lateral forces act on the pattern ribs from the outside. The angled sides stabilise the ribs and reduce their deformation under such forces thus resulting in an increased steering precision.

The slightly higher speed rating of the CSC3 (84W compared with 84V of the Continental Pro Contact) makes it excellent for motorists who like to indulge in spirited driving at events such as track days. It has a recommended retail price of \$459, which also includes fitting.

"These new Mini Continental Runflat 17" tyres provide relatively lower unsprung weight, fantastic grip, excellent comfort and reduced noise levels at a competitive price," said Mr Wylde.

"The self supporting run-flat technology utilised in the construction of the tyre means the vehicle is still driveable (for up to 80km) after an air pressure loss such as a puncture event.

"This is a safety benefit to the driver as they don't need to stop in a potentially dangerous situation on the roadside to change the tyre, and as there is no requirement to carry a spare there is a weight saving advantage which can help deliver fuel economy enhancements."

For those owners who wish to retain a degree of originality in their vehicle, Continental also offers original Mini-Plus size tyres.

Now Mini aficionados looking for modern performance benefits for their prized classic have the option of two sizes of

this outstanding 13-inch Continental Sport Contact performance tyre, both of which feature asymmetrical tread.

The main difference between the two tyres is the height and profile.

The original Mini-Plus size tyre is a 175/50R13 Conti Sport Contact 72V, which has a recommended retail price of \$299 including fitting.

The second option is a wider, lower profile 13-inch tyre (195/45R13) with a higher load level and a recommended retail price of \$319, again including fitting.

"The Original Continental Sport Contact led the charge towards asymmetrical tyre design acceptance," said Mr Wylde.

"Continental Sport Contact's asymmetrical, non-directional tread design and precise response is why it was approved as original equipment by 16 auto manufacturers including Porsche, BMW & Mercedes-Benz."

Continental tyres for Mini are distributed by Tyres4U, New Zealand's largest independent importer and distributor of new tyres.

To find your nearest Continental retailer, contact 0800 888 973.

For more information please contact Ed Finn, Tyres4U Marketing Manager (09) 845 0606; 021 581 001; edfinn@tyres4u.co.nz



Continental Sport Contact 3 (17")



Continental Pro Contact (13")



# JOHN COOPER F1 MINI

## SPECIAL RUMOURED



We are told that to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Cooper Car Company winning the F1 constructors championship in 1959, details of what could, and with any luck will be featured on the strictly limited edition MINI John Cooper F1. We understand that specification is not at this stage set in stone, however there are a number of details that appear agreed upon and a certain number of things on a wish list presented to BMW bosses for consideration.

Plans are still in place for a special unveiling of the MINI John Cooper F1 at MINI United in Silverstone this May, and we believe Mike Cooper is lending his hand to both the development of the limited edition MINI and the unveiling. Rumours suggest that orders could be taken at the MINI 50th celebrations at MINI United, as well

as at MINI dealers, and cars could be with customers for late northern summer or early northern autumn delivery.

The limited edition cars will be at least John Cooper Works specification (perhaps with a slightly more powerful engine spec), including the John Cooper Works aero kit. The MINI will feature unique John Cooper F1 badging both inside and outside of the car, and carry a numbered plaque. As previously reported on theSwitchback.com, production numbers will be extremely limited, suggestions range from 50 to 100 examples, although it would appear that 100 is the more likely figure.

The colour of the car will be no surprise any F1 or Cooper historians. A shade of British Racing Green (non-metallic) with off-white (Pepper White) roof and bonnet stripes, to echo the livery of the Cooper

Works Formula 1 cars. The interior will be a mixture of retro and racing flavour, featuring a range of John Cooper Works accessories as standard. The full range of MINI and John Cooper Works options should also be available for those wishing to further customise their vehicle.

For those a little unfamiliar with the significance and history of the Cooper name, it was in 1959 that the Cooper Car Company and their T51 Cooper-Climax won their first constructor's championship, with drivers Jack Brabham (AUS) and Stirling Moss (GB) claiming first and third place overall in the driver's championship.

The Cooper Car Company are widely credited with changing the face of F1 with their radical rear engine race cars, they were innovators and game changers of their time, with many techniques and technologies laying down the foundation

for the F1 cars of today. Their contribution to rally and Mini history is far better known to MINI fans today, with Works Minis changing Alec Issigonis' car for the people into a racing phenomenon.

The new MINI F1 will not be as radical or feature as many unique engineering features as the last limited edition MINI to be unveiled at a MINI United event, the MINI Cooper S with John Cooper Works GP Tuning Kit, but it will be very limited in number as is sure to appeal to MINI and racing fans alike.

Photo courtesy of Motoring File.

*The opinions expressed in this document, are only that of the writer and do not represent the views or opinions of any other party unless quoted. As this message is sent via public domain, there is no copyright unless referred.*

## Force Ale



Sadly, due to family issues (happily it's a new addition arriving in July), I'm doing what I said I'd never do for over 5 years; ...Selling my Mini.

In the last year alone, took her to Cooks Beach, Cambridge, Hamilton (twice), and on that 3-style rally through the Waikato that went for 320km... and the only things which broke were interior plastic trim.



Details are:

December 1976  
Mini Clubman 1100  
Manual, 102,000km

– Has minor rust in rear valance & LH sill step.

- + Brakes replaced 5 years ago, and serviced again for recent WoF.
- + Shocks replaced 4 years ago.
- + New headlight & indicator switch last year.

Recent VTNZ WoF.

Rego to July.

\$4,500. Includes personalised plates CLUB1E.

**Roy Wilson**  
021-901-376

# Mini Fun Day 09



Once again the Mini Racing Drivers Club invites all Mini Club members to its annual Fun day.

Saturday, 23rd May at the Taupo circuit. (9am to 4pm). Circuit 2, i.e. the new half.

## Please note a change of format

The morning session will be as previous years with approved cars and drivers circulating for several laps at their own pace, developing their skills. (i.e. Competitor Coaching). You may go out many times during the day.

The afternoon session this year will offer "Dual Sprints" for those wishing to match themselves with competition. Eight cars will be on the grid, and released from a standing start in pairs for a five lap challenge. Each pair will be 10 seconds apart.

Competitor coaching sessions will continue to run in between Dual Sprint groups so that all drivers can spread their activity over the whole day.

## Approved Cars

Any Mini constructed to Appendix 2, Schedule A of the NZ Motor Sport manual. (Inclusive of Mini Variants and BMW Mini's). All cars will be scrutineered. Note, a car to WOF standard and with a fire extinguisher will comply.



## Approved Drivers

**Competitor Coaching:** Any member of a MotorSportNZ club.

**Dual Sprints:** Must drive a coaching session and have a minimum of a Restricted Club sport Event, or a Club sport Grade Competition License. The Restricted license will be available on the day for \$20.

## Costs

Competitor Coaching only, \$60. Coaching and Dual Car Circuit Sprints \$65.

## Entry

To minimize documentation delays on the day, entry will be by post or email, closing Saturday 16 May. At Documentation you will present your Club membership, license, log book (race cars), and pay the entry fee.

Entries will be taken on the day but will incur a \$10 late fee.

## How to Enter

Request Entry documents from the Secretary, MRDC. Return mail will include Entry form and Supplementary Regulations.

Request from Kevin Sweeney, Secretary MRDC  
kevin.margaret@extra.co.nz or  
11 Beaumaris Place, Hamilton 3204 or  
07 8466607 or 027 2425398

# MCCOA POINTS TABLE

As of 1-4-09

First Name	Last Name	clubnights	minimeet	Trials	Shows	Events	Visits	Camps	Runs	Duties	totals
Gavin	Bowring	7	2	15	3	6		2	9		44
Kevin	Taylor	5	11		22	1					39
Rex	Coubray	5	2	6	3	5	1	2	9	2	35
George	Gray	6	11		11	3				2	33
Warwick	Robinson	5	1		12	13					31
Simon	Lodge	6	1	1	12	2		2	6		30
Mike	Bates	5	1		12	5		2		3	28
George	Brown	6	1		9	1	1		9		27
Jan	Bates	4	2		10	3		2		3	24
Susan	Coubray	4	1	7		1		2	9		24
Fiona	Clark	4	1	4	2	3		2	6	1	23
Lloyd	Clark	4	1	4	2	3		2	6	1	23
Murray	Grant	7	2		3	5	1	2	1	2	23
Chris	Manning		1		20	1					22
Shelagh	Murie	7	1	12				2			22
Lesley	Robinson	1	9		10	2					22
Lee	Norman	6	1		2	1			11		21
Phillip	Walters	3	9		6	3					21
Andrew	Carter		9	11							20
Kevin	Patrick	4	1		2	2			11		20
Marion	Lodge	3	1	1	6			2	6		19
Alan	Murie	4	1	12				2			19
Keith	Hargraves	5		9		3					17
Gary	Ashton	6		1	2	4			1	2	16
Catherine	Ashton	6		1	2	4			1	1	15
Matthew	Oliver	5		6	2	1			1		15
Peter	Chadwick	6		5		1	1				13
Gavin	Agnew	7	1	1		3					12
Graham	Crispe	7			2	2				1	12
Cherry	Chadwick	5		5			1				11
Peter	Hartshorne	1		10							11
Vic	Hayes	1		7	1	1	1				11
Ross	Galloway	6			2	1				1	10
Andy	Spittal	2	6		1				1		10
Matthew	Clemett	1				2			6		9
Ian	Gillanders	5			1	2				1	9
Brad	Hall	5			2	2					9
Joy	Hayes			7	1		1				9
Tony	Maulder	3			6						9
Stephen	Miller	7				2					9



First Name	Last Name	clubnights	minimeet	Trials	Shows	Events	Visits	Camps	Runs	Duties	Totals
Chris	Roper	1	1		2	2		2	1		9
Shirley	Grant	3	1	1		1		2			8
Les	Gubb	6						2			8
John	Miller	6				2					8
Jeena	Monk	3		4	1						8
leigh	Shaw	5			2	1					8
Mark	Thompson	3	1	4							8
Ant	Kite			6	1						7
Robin	Greenland	1			2	1				2	6
Ross	Hammonds	4						2			6
Andrew	Wilson	6									6
judy	Clark			6							6
George	Clark			6							6
Trent	Dixon	5									5
Ian	Ferguson	1				1				3	5
David	Goryl	4				1					5
Christine	Roper	1			1			2	1		5
Kevin	Smith	1				2				2	5
Michael	Wigmore	4			1						5
Richard	Wilson	5									5
Peter Amies	Amies	4									4
Ross	Cargill	4									4
Luke	Martin			4							4
tom	parker	4									4
Logan	Pronk	4									4
Greg	Wenzlick	4									4
Roy	Wilson	4									4
Roy	Wright	4									4
ANT	Timms			2		2					4
Jim	Banks	2				1					3
Alex	Bird	3									3
Adian	Hill	2			1						3
Keith	Jeffery	3									3
Steve	Landon	3									3
Jon	Revill	3									3
Neil	Scott	3									3
Erina	Warrington	2			1						3
Paul	Crispe	1				1					2
Geoff	Groom	2									2
Theresa	Groom	2									2
tony	marks	2									2
Chris	McMurray	1				1					2
Shane	Thompson	2									2
Teresa	Agnew	1									1
Rachelle	Bragg				1						1
Tracey	Brake		1								1



First Name	Last Name	clubnights	minimeet	Trials	Shows	Events	Visits	Camps	Runs	Duties	Totals
Kevin	Brinsden				1						1
Royce	Brown	1									1
Ian	Ferguson	1				1				3	5
Josh	Hadler	1									1
Jeremy	Hatch	1									1
Paul	Marshall				1						1
Gina	Ray	1									1
Nick	Ray	1									1
Jon	Reeves	1									1
Wendy	Robinson	1									1
Daniel	Sloan	1									1
Chris	Thompson	1									1
Evan	Thompson	1									1
Peter	Watts	1									1
Lesley	Wilson	1									1
Steve	Learmoth					1					1

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

## POINTS EXPLAINED

Definition and point allocation		
Club night	1pt	1st Tuesday of every month (except January No club night)
Minimeets	1pt	For attending PLUS points table applies for winning cars Mini Nationals and Inter club 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





# competition

## DRIVING HOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANTAGE

GEON has chosen a path that is dedicated to the protection and care of the environment on an ongoing and sustainable basis. By making this choice we are committed to reducing our, and our clients', impact on the environment.

### Our aim is to:

- Reduce our environmental footprint through policies, practices, procedures and initiatives that minimise our impact on the planet
- Provide our clients with environmentally friendly options and choices that offer ecological benefits while maintaining a high standard of print

Internally we have a culture of 'Reduce, Recycle and Re-Use' and we regularly monitor and evaluate the environmental competence of all our suppliers, to ensure they share our vision and our clients' environmental aspirations.

### Our approach is:

- Supported by international environmental standards and certifications including FSC and PEFC
- Measured and monitored through management processes, policies and practices, and
- Validated by the environmental options and choices we offer our clients.

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