



# MINI TORQUE

## Club Captain's Preamble

BY STEVE BROADBENT

What a busy start to the 60th year of the Mini! We've had some amazing events already, all well attended with some new routes and exploration. January saw the Dawn Breaker run take us to Ardmore to see behind the scenes of the fabulous 'made in New Zealand' Warbirds restoration hangers. Caffeine and Classics both at year end and in January had Minis filling out the usual spots. Brits & Euro saw us drenched in sunshine along with over 1000 over vehicles.

Its also great to see so many club members looking fashionable in their 60th year T-Shirts, don't forget to order yours if you haven't already got your hands on one.

Further afield I see there is a big resurgence in Classic Mini reinvention with the David Brown Automotive Remastered 25 special edition Monte Carlo cars costing a whopping NZ\$200,000. Check out Schmee150's review on YouTube or [davidbrownautomotive.com](http://davidbrownautomotive.com) for more details.

As we look towards the year ahead the 60th year celebrations also encompass 55 years of the famous Monte Carlo win in 1964, and we are marking the occasions with an exclusive club circuit track hire at Hampton Downs on April 28th, it's a bargain price of \$100 to get your car on the track in a friendly competition free environment. If you've got a WOF and restricted driving license or better then register and come along.

Its also 50 years since the classic original Italian job movie and we are planning an early morning run around Auckland followed by a lunch in Italian fashion. All these events and others are highlighted in the newsletter, but always check the website for the latest details.

Its great to see so many members getting out in their cars and having fun whilst bringing a smile to those passing by, 'everyone loves a Mini'.

– Steve



# Past events

## Dawnbreaker Run and Ardmore visit

20 Jan 2019

BY KEVIN TAYLOR

Another early start for the Dawnbreaker Run (Trial) - 2019 edition organised by Murray & Shirley Grant - a great turn out for the event including a Metro full of Mini Waikato members who had an even earlier start than the rest of us. As the sun came up we headed off following the instructions and looking for the answers to the questions. Minis going in all directions, some of them must be lost but is it them or us ? We knew where the finish line was, the Ardmore Flying Club Cafe who had been warned we were coming early for breakfast. And they did put on a great breakfast & coffee while we compared notes

about the run and watched the small planes coming and going in front of the Cafe. There were a couple of late finishers, funnily enough both convertibles so I guessed that they may have been delayed by the rain that fell as we headed towards Ardmore although they had set off with their roofs up. I was thinking that we may have to enact the Murie Lateness Exclusion Rule which states "all entrants must finish on the same day as the first car to finish the run" (or words to that affect) Alan & Shelagh are known to leave no stone unturned to get the correct answers to all questions no matter how long it takes but in this case it turns out they were playing Good Samaritan in assisting another club member who was experiencing overheating problems in his convertible. Apparently the over heating was caused by the lack of a radiator cap which had been removed in pre run checks and not replaced - it was not lost just resting at home. So the Muries assisted in the purchase of a new radiator cap from Repco and the Crayford was on it's way. To

save embarrassment I agreed to not reveal the owners name.

Murray announced the Placings for the Trial and awarded a few prizes :

1st Place : Adam & Jessica Jenkin

2nd Place : Michael & Helen Van Druten

= 3rd Place : Alan & Shelagh Murie - and the Good Samaritan Award

= 3rd place : Kev & Nick Taylor

Best dressed : Night Attire / PJ's / Onesees :

Mark Turley & Mirta Salina

Long Distance Award : Ben Taylor & Family

from Minis Waikato in Ben's MG Metro Turbo

Hard Luck Overheating Trophy : shall remain

nameless and thankful that no damage was

done to the engine of the beautiful Crayford Mini.



After breakfast Keith Hargraves had arranged for us to view the newly restored De Havilland Mosquito Bomber at Avspecs hanger which was just along the road from the Cafe. We were very lucky to get to see the Mosquito as it had just completed its test flights and was due to be dismantled and shipped off to its owner in Texas. We were met by Chris the guy in charge of the restoration and he gave us a good rundown on all aspects of the restoration and then let us get



up close and personal with plane - very interesting in that these planes are made out of wood/plywood in WW2. Just a pity he wouldn't let us start the engines as the sound of the 2 Merlin engines would have been unbelievable.



He then let us into the next door hangar where there was a fully operational 2 seater Spitfire plus various other planes. And then we headed across the other side of the airfield where we met Stu at the Pioneer Aero hangar. They were well advanced in the restoration of a Bell P-39 AirCobra fighter - unusual in that the engine was in the back behind the pilot (think Ferrari/VW/Hillman Imp ! ) and yes the propellor is still in the front so there is a drive shaft running from the engine under the pilots seat to the propellor. I believe that this AirCobra was flying by the end of February.

Thanks to Murray & Keith for organising a brilliant event for us to enjoy.



## Leadfoot Festival, Hahei

02 Feb 2019

BY KEVIN TAYLOR

What a great event this is, we can see from the entry list that there will be 2 Minis competing this year so it would be rude not to be there to support them in 2019 - Mini's 60th Birthday.

Club Captain Steve & I were committed to go - any other Mini club members interested ? We meet at Clevedon for lunch before heading off on the Miranda coast road. The trip to



Leadfoot is part of the enjoyment of the weekend and I enjoyed following Steve & his dad in the white 911 on the nice flowing roads to Miranda and then over the Kopu Hikuaui to Tairua where we were staying for the night. Steve's wife Rachael and the rest of the family followed at a more leisurely pace. My brother Ralph joined us at Tairua in his Rover Cooper S with his son Kelvin & Son in Law Snowy following in Snowy's Series 1 RX7. Saturday morning we meet Steve and headed off in convoy over the Tairua hill to Whenuakite which was the meeting place noted on the club website. We were meet there by new MCCoA member Ben Yordon and his wife & 2 sons in their 1975 Mini 1000 and then headed to Rod Millen's Leadfoot Ranch at Hahei where the hill climb runs up the drive to his house overlooking the Pacific. The first runs of the day were already underway when we arrived and parked in the "Classic & Cool Cars Car Park".

There was an amazing variety of cars competing - some unique & expensive cars, too many to describe, some ultra competitive, some there for the joy of taking part. And then there were the drifters. Total entry was 112 cars/bikes/sidecars/quads.



Stand out car for me was the Mk11 BDA Masport Escort rally car - a genuine Ford Works Escort as driven by Ari Vatanen & Hannu Mikkola & Bjorn Waldegard amongst others. Was the JD number plate for Jim Donald ? They say it is the most original Works Escort in the world and it had just undergone a full restoration. Well known racer Andy Booth was driving the Escort with the owner in the passenger seat, the sound of the BDA in the forest at the top of the hill brought back great memories of following the international rallies in the 70's & 80's.

The Orange Mini Cooper S also sounded great going up the hill, not quite enough HP to match the Escort. We had meet the owner/driver Bevan Wright at the Wellington Mini Nationals last year and stopped into the pits to say hi during the day. He was hoping to crack a 60sec run (his best was 60.99sec) We had previously meet Bevan at the Nelson Nationals where he had broken the Coopers crankshaft on the hillclimb there - so he would have been very happy to complete Leadfoot in one piece before heading off home to the Wairarapa.

The other Mini competing was a Minibusa driven by Steve Midgley. This Mini has a Suzuki Hayabusa 1300 motorcycle engine in the boot and goes like the clappers, doesn't sound much like a Mini as screams up the hill. His best time was 55.55sec. After 2 days of competition the top 10 shoot out was won by Alister McCrae (again) in the ex Possum WRC WRX (47.99sec) from Sloan Cox in his Evo 8 hillclimb special (48.67sec). Rod Millen's





best time was 48.91 sec so he still has great speed (& knows every inch of his driveway).

And then there were the drifters - it may not be my thing but these guys put on a great show although we couldn't see much because of the tyre smoke. They were all on the road at the same time for their last run and that was impressive, how the guys following could see where they were going is anyone's guess.

A great weekend, well worth attending for the variety of cars taking part, being able to get right into the pits to look at the cars - one last favourite, a tiny sports car, think miniature Canam car with a 1.5lt V4 2 stroke Johnson outboard motor in the rear with 4 megaphone exhausts sticking way out the back - who knows why but it was extraordinary and lime green !!

## Ellerslie Classic Car Show (Concours)

10 Feb 2019

**BY GRANT BOWYER**

Ellerslie Concourse was pleasantly dry this year, after last year's deluge. Mini Car Club of Auckland managed to hold on to our prime shady spot under the big oak tree, overlooking the racecourse. Setup was completed by 9:30am which left us free to find coffee and wander the show. There seemed to be more exhibitors than usual this year, with the lower field quite full.





The Mini stand was popular as usual, with a constant stream of people coming past to look at the Minis and tell us tales of when they owned a Mini themselves.

## Brits at the Beach

16 Feb 2019

BY JO WOODING



Had a cruisy drive to Whangamata with the Mini people. Awesome to see all the Minis at Brits at the beach. Loving the Mini limo with the perfect mini bar. Great day with great people.





## Caffeine and Classics

27 Feb 2019

Caffeine and classics had a fair turnout, after a brief shower of rain in the morning.



## Brit and Euro Car Show, Pakuranga

03 Mar 2019

BY STEVE BROADBENT

A big crowd at the 5th running of Brits and Euro held at Lloyd Elsmore park on 3rd March. With 1050+ cars in attendance and many more parked up as visitors we had a full day of people showing their love for all things Mini. Grant did a roaring trade in 60th Anniversary T-Shirts in the 'Mini Hub' tent, at one stage we had a kids club enjoying the Italian Job movie snippets. Zak brought along a display of the unique Mini suspension system and Ray's Monte Carlo display brought in the crowds direct from the food area, most brandishing the simply wonderful Yorkshire pudding wraps. The stand had just under 40 Minis arranged from Mk1's through to Mk7's and BMW variety. As our yearly show and shine event members were busy polishing off the early morning start dew ready for eager judging of exterior, interior, documentation and year. Those caught cleaning the exhaust internals clearly had intentions of bringing home the silver! It was also good to see Mini's Waikato attend which must have been a very early start. It's amazing to listen to how many people had a mini as their first car or learnt to drive in a Mini.







CHECK OUT THE SHOW AND SHINE RESULTS LATER IN THE NEWSLETTER.

## March Club Night

BY GRANT BOWYER.

March Club night was "bring your other toy" night, because many Mini owners also have other hobby cars. Jo Wooding said "Awesome night tonight, so cool to see the different cars and to see Debra with her beautiful Nash Rambler called Luann. Nice to meet Tony too with his awesome yank tank (Lincoln Continental). Great to see Richard too" The star of the night was clearly Grant's awesome Mitsubishi L300 van. (And this is what you get when the editor has to write the articles himself.)

05 Mar 2019







## Howick Hop

09 Mar 2019

BY DARREN CLARK

Although not an official club event, a small number of members (Jim Banks, Kyle Apanui, Robbie Apanui and myself) attended the Howick Hop on Saturday 9th March and dodged the on and off rain showers as much as we could.

After a 7.30am meet up at Robbie's, we drove the short distance to the village to be parked up by 8am. As part of the entry, Hop participants received a voucher for a \$15 brunch contribution valid at 3 eateries so a great reward for our participation.

Jim was interviewed by the local radio station DJ about his Mini!

There was a vast array of impressive hot rods and classic cars on display (120 registered). The organisers are hoping to increase the number of registrations and road closures for the 2020 event, due to the overwhelmingly positive response from the classic car and hot rod communities.

The show finished at 2pm and seemed to be enjoyed by all.



If you have an article or photos for the next newsletter, please email them to [editor@minis-auckland.org.nz](mailto:editor@minis-auckland.org.nz)

## Items for Sale

### Mini 60th Anniversary Tee Shirts.

These have been printed and are now available at Club Night or by contacting club captain Stephen on [club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz](mailto:club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz)

**Due to a manufacturing fault a small number of tees have faded where they have been wet with sweat.**

So far it seems to be only Mens Large shirts, but please keep an eye on other sizes.



Faulty shirts will be reprinted and replaced. If your shirt has faded please **email a photo, size, and specify mens or womens** to [club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz](mailto:club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz). Or swap it for a good one at club night. We aim to replace the shirts around mid-April, this should give time for fading to become apparent on shirts we've already sold.



## 25th Anniversary Watch offer.



With the 25th anniversary of the club approaching, the Committee is considering a wrist watch to mark the occasion. Two options are available, both inscribed with the 25th logo. Please note: as the Club is passing these items on at cost the quoted price may vary slightly from those stated below due to exchange rate variations.

### CUSTOM SPORTS METAL WATCH (A290)

- Stainless steel band
- Stainless steel back
- Japan miyota movement made by Citizen
- Wristwatch length: approximately 18.5 cm
- Watch band: approximately 14.5cm
- Watch case: approximately 3.8cm in diameter
- Weighs approximately 66g
- Unisex watch.

**PRICE \$30-00** ( OR IF WE CAN GET 20 ORDERS \$17.50 )



### ROUND PLASTIC SPORTS WATCH (A976 )

- TPU plastic strap, light weight
- The watch casing measures approx. 1 ½ in diameter
- Watch band fits most wrists from approx. 6" to 8 1/2"
- Stainless steel back
- Wristwatch length: approximately 25 cm
- Japanese movement

**PRICE \$30-00** ( OR IF WE CAN GET 20 ORDERS \$15.90 )



If you are interested in purchasing would you kindly e mail [gdwingauck@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gdwingauck@xtra.co.nz) and we will keep you advised of cost, delivery dates etc.

## For Sale by tender (closing 25/4/2019)

### 1973 Morris Mini Station Wagon.



Bought by last owner on 15/6/99 with registration current to 15/6/00. Has been off road since then with a rego exemption and kept under cover until mid January 2019.

Overall condition check by Rawene Service Station on 28/1/19: Front ball joint play, both front brake hoses cracked, surface rust all round vehicle, engine turns over on starting.



Requires carb to be cleaned, fuel tank drained and cleaned and check ignition timing/contact and condenser.

The vehicle is sold as is where is. The buyer will have to bring the vehicle up to driveable state with Rawene Service Station or tow the vehicle as it is not currently road worthy.

The new owner wants a sale, but the highest tender will not necessarily be accepted if it is below market value.

Contact: Robyn Bedford PO Box 40, Rawene 0443; phone 09 405 7881; email [robyn.bedford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robyn.bedford@xtra.co.nz)

## Club Points table, Show and Shine results.

### Top 12 places as at 10 March 2019

Kevin Taylor	49
Adam Jenkin	33
Lee Norman	28
Keith Hargraves	27
Joanne Wooding	24
Alan Murie	22
Raymond West	20
Grant Bowyer	19
Catherine Ashton	18
Gary Ashton	18
Zac Gould	17
Kevin Patrick	17

2019 Show and shine results			
		On the Day	MCCOA Members
Original Mini	1 <sup>st</sup>	328pts Kevin Taylor	328pts Kevin Taylor
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	260pts Keith Hargraves	260pts Keith Hargraves
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	250pts Stephen Broadbent	250pts Stephen Broadbent
Modified Mini	1 <sup>st</sup>	383pts Brendon Powell	321pts Ray West
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	321pts Ray West	315pts Stephen Southon
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	315pts Stephen Southon	292pts Ryan Murdoch
Restored Mini	1 <sup>st</sup>	361pts Grant & Brian	361pts Grant & Brian
	1 <sup>st</sup>	361pts Graham Wing	361pts Graham Wing
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	325pts Roger Quartly	325pts Roger Quartly
Custom Body Mini	1 <sup>st</sup>	324pts Robbie Apanui	324pts Robbie Apanui
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	234pts Nic Apanui	234pts Nic Apanui
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	181pts Alan Murie	181pts Alan Murie
BMW Mini	1 <sup>st</sup>	191pts Tony Maulder	191pts Tony Maulder
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	176pts Rachel Broadbent	176pts Rachel Broadbent
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	133pts Ian Congalton	133pts Ian Congalton

# Upcoming Events

*EVENT DETAILS SOMETIMES CHANGE AFTER NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION, BUT ARE ALWAYS UP TO DATE ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE; [MINIS-AUCKLAND.ORG.NZ/CALENDAR.HTML](http://MINIS-AUCKLAND.ORG.NZ/CALENDAR.HTML)*

## Sunday 17th March - Northern Explorer Run



Meet at 10am on the Northwest Shopping Centre rooftop carpark for a 10:15am departure. 177km, about 5 hours. Run leader Steve (ph 021 193 4618)



This is for those that love a good drive! at 177km it's a fairly long run for us, but we are heading out on some fairly uncrowded roads. We'll make it to lovely Matakana for a wood fired pizza (or whatever you fancy) at the Rusty pelican Restaurant, before heading back to Auckland via SH1 and the old Orewa road, where we'll park up at the surf club for goodbyes. It's going to be a scenic drive with lots of photos and stops along the way. Don't forget to post on social media, it's a great way to keep the club members informed about our wonderful club days out.

[Download the full run guide and directions by clicking here.](#)

## Sunday 31st March - Caffeine & Classics



Meet at Smales Farm Business Park, at the corner of Taharoto and Northcote Roads in Takapuna. Stand around, drink coffee, look at shiny cars. Officially the event runs from 10am-Noon, but folks start arriving anytime after 9am. We try to get parking for all the Minis just past the barrier arm, first row on the right.

## Tuesday 2nd April - Club Night



7:30pm at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms. Monthly club night meeting – It's a month of motorsport activities from Hampton Downs track day to the Autocross, but tonight we'll kick it all off with the Mini Race night! It's time to pit your skills against the others in the club, we're bringing back rocker cover racing, Mini Scalextric races, wheel change challenge. You'll be scored on your times and the extra points for bringing your own 'racer'.

Bring some coins for the raffle.

## Sunday 7th April - Akeake Autocross



We might be hooking up with Minis Waikato for an Autocross get together- watch the website ([Minis-Auckland.org.nz](http://Minis-Auckland.org.nz)) for updates.

## Friday 19th April - Pork Pie Run meetup



Show your support for the Pork Pie'ers by meeting with them in Auckland city and convoying together in those Minis. TBC on the location and time but check emails and Facebook for updates.

Head to their website for more details: [https://](https://www.porkpie.co.nz/)

[www.porkpie.co.nz/](https://www.porkpie.co.nz/)

## Sunday 28th April - Caffeine & Gasoline

Like Caffeine and Classics, but at Hampton Downs! Leaving BP Drury at 8.30am. This new event to our club calendar will allow access to both classic and newer BMW-made Minis. And then, later in the day, a very special track day just for us:



### Mini Car Club of Auckland

*Caffeine & Gasoline  
Club Circuit Track Day  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 10am – 5pm*

*Celebrate 60 great years of the Mini with a park and chat meeting followed by some track time with like minded individuals at Hampton Downs*





## All models of Minis welcome from 1959 through to 2019

\$100 entry per driver

### **INCLUDES:**

Track familiarization time  
lap time settings  
4x sessions of 8 laps

No previous track experience necessary, it's a chance to get on the track in your car at your own pace.

### **REGISTER NOW & PAY:**

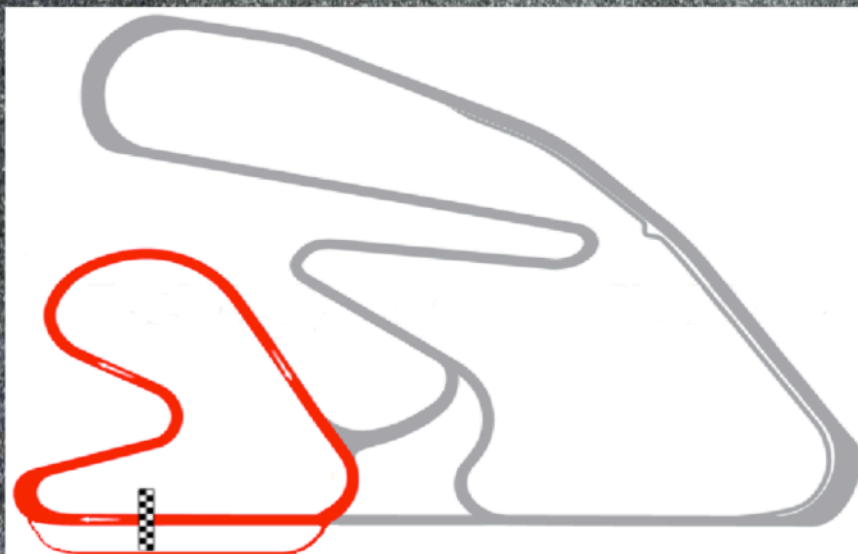
email: [club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz](mailto:club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz)

Direct Credit:

ASB 12-3024-0496171-01

Mini Car Club Auckland Inc.

Please use your LAST NAME, CLUB MEMBER NUMBER (if you have one) and TRACKDAY as a reference



**NOTE:** In the event of not reaching the minimum requirement of 30 drivers the track day will be cancelled and refunds issued. The track day is limited to 40 drivers.

## Tuesday 7th May - Club Night



7:30pm at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms. Monthly club night meeting

Bring some coins for the raffle.

## Sunday 19th May - Poker Run



A really enjoyable run in 2018 followed by a spot of lunch to add up scores and play a bit of poker for prizes! Clues are given as are roads to take, have fun and let's get playing. Bring a map book or your GPS as you'll have to plot your route to the clues.

Camera / smartphone is also an ideal companion to rack up those selfies along the route. Run organised by Gary Ashton.

## Tuesday 4th June - Club Night



7:30pm at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms. Monthly club night meeting

Bring some coins for the raffle.

## Sunday 9th June - Italian Job City Run



Time to celebrate another Mini Institution, the classic 1969 Movie 'The Italian Job' turns 50 on the 5th June so we'll mark the occasion with a follow the leader tour around the city with notes if we get separated. More details to follow as the Central City Road Closures may require some diversions through sewers, across weirs, shopping malls but probably not the alps.



## Saturday 22nd June - Night Trial



Our annual night trial close to the shortest day of the year. Meet at BP Drury at 5.15pm with a clipboard and navigator and have your spot lamps ready to go. More details to follow, event organised by Gary Ashton.

## Tuesday 2nd July - Club Night



7:30pm at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms. Monthly club night meeting

Bring some coins for the raffle.

## Sunday 7th July - Fish & Chip run to Kaiaua



July marks the midpoint of winter, what better way to spend it than out in our Minis. The Auckland Mini Car Club Mid-Winter Meander to Miranda run will take us through some sunning native bush scenery, twisty bits and outstanding coastal roads. We'll finish for a 'fish and chips' lunch at the Kaiaua Fish and Chip shop. For those of you who want to warm up afterwards it's on to the Miranda hot pools. So pack your flask, travel blankets and hot water bottles and let's wake up those sleeping Minis. Event

organised by Steve - Meet at

Barry Curtis Park, Flat Bush at 9.30am. Contact Club Captain Steve [021 193 4618](tel:0211934618) or KevT [021 121 8363](tel:0211218363) for details.

## Labour Weekend 25th-27th October 2019 25th Mini Nationals in Tauranga



Join us in Tauranga for a weekend of fun and competitions to honour the milestone 60th birthday of this iconic brand.

Registration opens early 2019, but accommodation bookings at Hotel Armitage, Tauranga, are open already. Book early to avoid disappointment! [Check their website for details.](#)

For the latest event reports and calendar updates go to  
[www.minis-auckland.org.nz](http://www.minis-auckland.org.nz)

