



MINI TORQUE

Past events

Wild Wheels at MOTAT for Fathers Day

02 Sept. 2018

BY DERYCK FREELAND



In spite of the 4 Seasons there was a great turnout (1300 visitors) for “Wild Wheels” at MOTAT on Sunday 2nd September. MCCOA’s 9 classic Minis, each a credit to the owner, created considerable interest, comments, and thanks from the general public.

We had the day to look around MOTAT and many took advantage of the free tram ride to the Aviation section. We were also given a free glass of wine/beer to keep the warm/cold at bay and listen to the band while devouring the Father’s Day burger & chips from the food truck, or coffee and snacks from the other eateries around the museum.



Our location was a great spot in the front of the Transport Pavilion, which has now been updated and reflects some of the history of the local motor industry. Exhibits varied from Hilary’s Antarctic Ferguson tractor, to the Giltrap/J. Reid Formula A car (reputed to be worth \$1.5m in its present state), together with videos etc., kept us busy and sheltered from the weather at times.



At the end of the day the weather improved for a dry trip home.



Awhitu Lighthouse run

16 Sept. 2018

BY RICHARD UNDERWOOD



A great event was arranged by Gary Ashton on Sunday 16 September and we were spoilt by the beautiful weather – fine blue skies.

Round one (our previous attempt at the run) was disappointing due to a storm, which meant that the roads were closed to the Lighthouse.

This time, we met up at the Lions club in Waiuku at 10 am. Yours truly showed up first, and I was concerned about the turnout, thinking I was running late.

However, we had a good number of members and cars.

We set off in a convoy around 10.30 am and drove through picturesque country roads that were made for Minis, because of their windiness, narrowness, and smoothness. NZ Speed from Sky TV followed us and filmed our event, which will be aired on a Wednesday night in the near future.

Our first stop was Karioitahi Beach where people were riding their dirt bikes, off-roading and horse riding on the black sand. We parked up for about 20 minutes and Sky TV started their interviews with Mini club members about their cars, and how they got involved with Minis. Sky loved our cars and what we do. Many club members appreciated being in the spotlight.



As we set off in convoy for the second time heading to Awhitu Lighthouse I could see from other club members' smiles on their faces that they were enjoying the driving. On the way we had some slight hiccups which were two flat tyres and one chipped windscreen. What I loved about that is when it happened, everyone pulled over to support the unfortunate members. Meanwhile, as tyres were being changed, to my surprise, the video man interviewed me on Minis in general which I was quite willing to do. Once the cars were fixed, they were back on the road again.



At last, after driving for a long period, we ended up at our location, Awhitu Lighthouse. We all parked up together in a circle which created a lot of attention from the lighthouse visitors. Whilst we proceeded to visit the lighthouse and look at the views of Manukau Heads, Sky TV continued obtaining coverage of our cars. The day wrapped up with a welcome picnic.



Personally I want to thank Gary Ashton for his organisation and for creating an enjoyable event for all the Mini club members that attended. I hope similar navigational trials reoccur in the future.

Piha Run

07 Oct. 2018

BY STEPHEN BROADBENT



The inaugural Piha run took advantage of the daylight saving clock change and allowed everyone a Sunday sleep in for the 1pm start.



Meeting at the Northwest shopping Centre from 12.45 we expected maybe 5 or so cars, so it was a surprise to all



to have 17 cars assemble on the roof top car park. Two new members Steff and Alasdair brought along a lovely 1275GT and a mk1 Cooper. Greetings done and the first assembly point mapped into GPS's and iPhones, Ray brought a new twist by offering to take the lead with Jo as co-pilot. What a lead it was,

lovely flowing twisty roads, ideal for Minis, saw us pull on the side of the Piha road with everyone still in group. The drive over to Piha was done in sunshine and the spiral down to the parking location at North Piha led to many photo opportunities, waves and smiles from those out enjoying their Sunday. Bringing up the rear in the only BMW Mini in the group gave me a chance to see people with Cell Phones videoing us, smiling and waving.



Picnic time at the overcast North Piha surf club gave us time to chat and take some photos before heading back to Piha for much needed coffee and food. Again, pictures and smiles galore as we pulled into the Piha Store. Ray again offered some spirited driving along the Karekare road back to the Arataki Visitors Centre. Only one member needing a Piha rescue as a large bump in the road collected an exhaust. Fortunately a stop by at some local friends provided a fix.

Our next stop was Wynyard Quarter, led by Richard and Trent as we set up for an impromptu photoshoot with Auckland as the backdrop. A quick drive around Wynyard and onto Queen street for more photos saw us disperse at about 6pm.

Hats off to all for making this such a fun day out. Everyone agreed that the afternoon run time really worked for this session and plans for the next beach run should be drawn up, so pack your togs, picnics and get those naughty Mini's cleaned ready for the next one.



24th Mini Nationals in Wellington

19-22 Oct. 2018

BY KEVIN TAYLOR



Eight MCCoA Minis set off for Wellington to take part in the 24th Mini Nationals – unfortunately only 7 would make it – sadly Dave Bates' Clubman spent the weekend at Waikouaiti and Dave continued the trip in Sarah's convertible with Mark Turley in TUFMIN in convoy. (Ed: Marcela and Rhys visited the patient on their way through Waikouaiti)

There were a couple of separate convoys spread over several days all heading south. I trailed MINTED and was followed by my daughter Melanie in Viv's BMW Clubman BBEAP with her co driver Mami who flew in from Tokyo especially to attend the event and to take part in the road trip. Mami has a BMW Cooper S in Japan and enjoyed driving in NZ, apart from the roundabouts that she found a bit daunting.





Richard Underwood & Hayley set off earlier in the week and Keith & Jeanette Hargraves stopped off enroute to break up the journey. Alan & Shelagh Murie in their de Joux set off from Tirau and joined with the Tauranga and Waikato convoy that assembled in Taupo on Friday morning.

The Nationals were based at the Trentham Event Centre at the Racecourse so that's where we all headed for registration on Friday afternoon. Registration packs in hand

we then headed for Phil Deane's workshop in Upper Hutt to get MINTED scrutineered for the speed events. No problems there for us but Richard Underwood had to remove his front spoiler so that they could jack his Mini up to check the suspension. We were all surprised that he hadn't managed to rip the spoiler off on the judder bars in the ROW drive to the workshop to save the bother of unbolting it. Unfortunately Richard failed the inspection as his tyres weren't up to WOF standard – but some desperate ringing around Wellington's tyre shops found a couple of new tyres which made him a happy boy. Several other competitors had minor problems but Phil and the MOWOG team did a great job working late into the night repairing a number of Minis so that they could all take part in the speed events.

Then it was back to Trentham for the Presidents Meeting where we discussed where the next couple of Nationals will be held, and some comments about the Show & Shine classes which is often a contentious issue.

2019 : Tauranga; 2020 : Canterbury; 2021 : Hawkes Bay

Saturday morning we left our Petone motel early to head down the motorway into central Wellington to Waitangi Park on the waterfront just alongside Te Papa. The park was already filling up with a great variety of Minis – all arranged in the variety of classes for judging. The Mini clubs had been asked to assist MOWOG in the judging so I volunteered & teamed up with Barry from Canterbury to score the boots & various load areas of utes, Estates, Vans & Mokes. 20 points for an immaculate boot (there were a couple) 12 points for an average well used original tidy



boot & 5 points for a dirty, untidy boot and everything inbetween. Other judges looked at paintwork, interiors, engines & underbody – max possible score 100 points. I don't think anyone scored 100 but there were some amazing Minis on show.



During the morning the rocker cover racing got underway, that looked well supported and some interesting racers

lined up on the 4 lane ramp.

Around midday the Peoples Choice Award was given to the red Mini Van from MOWOG – this van won the show at Hamilton as well and it was a worthy winner.

We now lined up to exit the park to take part in the Navigation trial. It took more than an hour to get all the Minis out of the park and into Wellingtons busy narrow roads. I had my son Nick as navigator in MINTED & Viv, Melanie & Mami were in BBEAP.



As usual there were several courses so there were Minis going in all directions – one way roads up to Mt Victoria with a great view over the city and the upside down map of NZ which was one of the questions to be answered. The Thunderbird car club were also in Wellington for the weekend and were parked up at Mt Vic when we got there and we followed them down the hill, those cars are huge and

didn't have much room to manoeuvre on these roads, which made me happy to be in a Mini. Then we were off to Karori and great twisty roads out to the wild west coast at Makara – the 1st check point. Time for a break, stretch the legs, check with others what questions they had got (or missed) – there was a challenge here to choose between throwing quoits or gathering 1kg of rocks from the beach. Closest to 1kg wins, Nick chose the quoits and got a couple on.

We collected the next set of instructions and set off again towards Johnsonville (apparently) and more great roads before

heading to the finish at Petone –

into a factory to select the 2nd challenge – either archery or remote control car motorkhana. I chose archery and hit the target 3 out of 4 shots, don't know how that affected our overall score but it was fun. Back to Trentham now for the 5pm photo shoot, all the Minis lined up by colour as they arrived in front of the multistory



complex which was perfect for taking photos of the assembled Minis. They looked like Dinky toys from the height we were viewing them from, and everyone got great photos.

The bar was open so drinks were had, tales told, friendships renewed, then later pizza was served before the showing of a Bollywood movie. I believe that it was filmed in NZ and featured 3 Minis and the word was that the reviews were not so good, so we headed back to the motel to clean out MINTED and change the wheels to the A032's on front and skinnies on the back for the motorkhana next morning.

Sunday morning was an early start for the speed events which were on closed industrial roads behind the Trentham Army Camp.

There was an alternative scenic tour put on for those not taking part in the speed events, by all reports they had a great time out and about around Wellington.



There were about 50 competitors entered for the Motorkhana & Autocross and there were 2 motorkhana courses set up in the morning to keep things ticking along. Two timed runs on each course, no practice. Both courses involved reversing into garages and the 2nd course also involved placing tennis balls into a bucket mid course, unless you stopped alongside the bucket it was hit or miss if the ball stayed in the bucket. We didn't know if the bonus for balls in the bucket was greater than the time

penalty for slowing down at the bucket – no one seemed to know (or care) most just threw the balls out the window as they went past as fast as they could. After lunch the Autocross course was set up which extended around a 90 degree corner and 180 degree turn back to the start and repeat (2 laps) to finish in the garage without hitting the end wall (Big Cone). One practice run then 2 timed runs, this was so much fun and Nick, Keith, Richard and I were watching each others times to see who would be quickest from MCCoA. I touched the big cone (apparently) so scored a DNF for my first timed run so had to be careful on my next run to get a time recorded. There were some very quick Minis but this year the course was too tight for the BMW MINIs. MOWOG withheld the times on the final run until the Prize Giving.

Everyone had finished their runs by 5pm so it was back to our motels to tidy up for the Prize Giving back at the Trentham Events Centre.

We were treated to a great meal, and then Jess from MOWOG got underway with the Awards – Show & Shine winners for 12 different classes plus Peoples Choice mentioned before.

Some classes had only a couple of entries and others like Class 4 –MKIV Onwards had 37 entries



– Keith Hargraves won 2nd place in this class with his 1994 Rover Mini Cooper. Richard was also entered in this class.

MINTED was entered in Class 11 for Modified Minis with LVV Cert plates where there were 37 entries – Mark & Sarah were also in this class.

No other prizes for MCCoA but I did win a Mini USB stick as a raffle prize.

The speed events and navigational trial were all won by Carl Celeste (MOWOG) and he also won the Overall Nationals prize in his very quick 1975 Morris Mini. He also should have received the prize for the dirtiest Mini at the Show & Shine.

At the end of the Prize Giving the Tauranga club were handed the key to next years event & Tim Sinclair (ex MCCOA now TMOC Treasurer) told us what they had planned for next year, the 25th Mini Nationals & the Mini's 60th Birthday Party – I plan to be there for the beach party at the Mount.

Congratulations to MOWOG for putting on a tremendous event – to Wellington for spoiling us with great weather (it didn't rain) – and to all the Mini enthusiasts who took part in the 24th Mini Nationals.

PS Dave's Clubman made it back from Waiouru safely on the back of a transporter – sounds like it was a leaky inlet manifold gasket that was the problem.

Caffeine and Gasoline

28 Oct. 2018

BY SARRON BENNETT

Simon with his countryman and Sarron with Murphy went to the 1st Caffeine and Gasoline at Hampton Downs.

There was a good turn out of cars, especially considering it was the 1st Caffeine and Gasoline event and the weather was rather bleak.

It is run the same as its sister show at Smales Farm, Caffeine and Classics, but without the 35 year minimum age limit.

It is a show that will only grow and get better.



Caffeine and Classics

28 Oct. 2018

BY DARREN CLARK. PHOTOS RICHARD UNDERWOOD, STEVE CLAPHAM

The regular Caffeine and Classics was held at the alternative venue of North West Shopping Centre due to the Auckland marathon clash at Smales Farm. We had the usual attendance of cars, though a few went to the alternative Caffeine and Gasoline at Hampton Downs.

About 12 Minis attended, along with a couple of the local police officers who attended for a looksie. The weather played along for the most part of the morning.



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

Congratulations!



Marcela and Rhys had the perfect wedding, even the Mini was dressed up. Congratulations, you two!

Club Points

BY GRAHAM WING, CLUB SECRETARY

The 10 members with the most points as at 18th October are:

Kevin Taylor	27
Lee Norman	24
Adam Jenkin	17
Catherine Ashton	16
Gary Ashton	16
Joanne Wooding	15
Raymond West	12
Steff Haresnape	11
Kevin Patrick	11
Zac Gould	9

You earn points for planning or attending events, attending club nights, winning motorsport competitions, writing event reports for the newsletter, and more.

Mini parts need a good home

Some Mini parts have been donated to the club. Kevin Taylor picked them up from a gent who has no use for them. He'd prefer them to go to a good home, but they'll end up at the scrap yard if you're not quick.





A-plus Mini 1000 - engine No. 99H791PZ 506013

Another 998 engine and gearbox, 99H791PZ 508818.

One door complete with glass, has a good frame but needs a new skin.

One door not so good but the frame is not totally shot.

Contact Kevin Taylor (rolyat@xtra.co.nz or 021 121 8363)

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

Tuesday 6th November - Club Night



Club Night at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms, 7:30pm as usual.

MINI garage will be there, showing off their latest toy!

Sunday 25th November - Maungaturoto Primary School Car and Bike Show

The annual Maungaturoto Primary School car and bike show with displays and activities from 10am-1:30pm. We need to be parked up by 9am so we'll group up at Smales Farm, Takapuna, Auckland for a 7.30am departure in convoy to the event.



Prizes for the "people's choice car and bike". Live entertainment will feature on the day, along with activities for children (sideshow attractions and face painting) and a variety of food (including spit roast sandwiches, bacon n egg butties and much more) will be available for purchase.

Contact Club Captain Steve 021 193 4618 or KevT 021 121 8363 for details.

Sunday 25th November - 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 4th December - Club Night



Club Night at Northern Sports Car Clubrooms, 7:30pm as usual.

Annual Christmas BBQ, come dressed up in your Christmas best, that includes your Minis!

Friday 14th December - Christmas Lights Run round the Eastern Suburbs



Bringing back the festive joy we enjoyed in 2017 we'll again be taking the Minis around some of the best Christmas lights in Auckland. So dress up, dress up those Minis in festive attire and let's go! Presently we have the Cooper Street Lights – Otara and the Eastern Suburbs. If you know of any more let us know as we may split the run up over several nights..

2019

Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd February - Leadfoot Festival



More details about club participation to follow.

Friday-Sunday 15th-17th February - Brits at the Beach



Whangamata, NZ

More details to follow.

Sunday 3rd March - Brit & Euro



The annual Brits & Euro show takes place at Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga from 10am until 3pm. We always have a great turnout of Minis and all are welcome. Park up needs to be completed by 9am and therefore we will meet at Placemakers Carpark Pakuranga and convoy into the event together. Bring a boot lunch and we'll enjoy together under the tent. The Auckland Brit & Euro Classic Car Show is a FREE fun day out for people of all makes, models and ages.

Labour Weekend 25-27th October. 25th Annual Mini Nationals



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 the host hotel, Hotel Armitage, Tauranga, are open already.

Book early to avoid disappointment! More details at www.tmoc.org.nz

For the latest event reports and calendar updates go to www.minis-auckland.org.nz

