



# MINI TORQUE

## Past events

### "Women and the Marque" Ellerslie Concours

11 Feb 2018

BY MARGARET PATRICK

We had five "Women and the Marque" with their Minis displayed at Ellerslie along with other invited car clubs at the Intermarque Concours D'Elegance on 11th February.

We thought we had planned for everything, except we didn't pack waders. "Great weather for ducks" as the saying goes. The heavens opened and it rained all day. At one part of the morning we were clustered under our club tent on an island of dry land with a water moat surrounding us. Due to some clever drainage work by Lesley Robinson and Co the water was redirected, and we reclaimed space for ourselves and the many spectators who sheltered from the elements during the heavy downpours.

You never ask a woman her age but when it comes to her Mini, it is a different story. Great conversations were struck up about our cars. Lesley Robinson had her 1978 Mini Rover Cooper Sports Pack Rebuild and her 2015 John Cooper Works BMW Mini Cooper. Margaret Patrick had her 1991 John Cooper Works S, along with Jo Wooding with her 1993 Rover Mini Cooper, and Shirley Grant with her 1995 Mini Estate. We had our car specs printed out on our new club spec sheets and displayed them in our newly revamped display stands.

Thanks KP for the great painting of the stands. I want to thank Kevin Taylor for bringing the club tent, and Murray, KP, Graham Wing and Warrick Robinson for helping erect the tent in somewhat blustery conditions.

Mark Lewis entered his 1966 Austin Cooper S in the Survivors Class and his display was really impressive, providing a photographic history of the car's racing heritage when it lived in the South Island.



The rain didn't put us off, so these MCCoA die-hards stuck it out to the end. We did go home like drowned rats but with a spring in our tails.

PS: Due to our team's ingenuity we didn't need the tractor to remove our cars from the grounds.

PPS: It was great to see an all girls camo dressed team clean up the club display with their Land



Rovers this year.

## Caffeine and Classics, Club Run to Puhoi

25 Feb 2018

BY TONY MAULDER

Over 40 Minis assembled at the Caffeine & Classics car show's 5th Birthday. At the first few shows 5 years ago only 1 Mini showed up!



Fifteen of these Minis left for our Cheesy Tour at 11 am. Four Minis, (ESTATE, DEEDOC, SWORK5 and the low yellow brick), got lost at the 1st few turns and were rounded up by "Ernie" the grey Cooper, and brought back along to our first stop opposite the Z petrol station on East Coast Road, Milford.

Here we met a couple from Alaska in their white BMW Cooper who spotted our tour map

at C&C, and filled up with petrol to join the tour.

The tour route followed East Coast Road to the Dairy Flat airfield, led by three MINIs: Tony and two Warwicks.

We had a stop for photos at the Dairy Flat Caltex station before going through a lovely Mini road to







Downers Yard at Wainui.

This was familiar territory to Andrew's Pork Pie Min Min. Not so for Helen's blue clubman, finding pleasant country so near to town. A couple of other blue Minis were the Muries' DeJoux, and the brilliantly painted Mini of John and his son. Brian and Grant's green Mini was grunting off after the BMWs here. Sarron following along in his green machine. A BIG green harvester slowed the tour down a bit on the way to Millwater and the back of Orewa.

Then we got to the motorway and sped off into the tunnels with Mini tunes played by the "exhausts and horns" band of 15.



All too soon, 12.45pm, we were at the Café at Puhoi Valley Cheese and parked our cars as arranged in the office car park, as the main carpark was jam packed. We were met here by KP and Margaret who got our huge reserved table. Our meals for 17 of us arrived in good time considering how busy the place was.

Just after 2pm we were fed and began our journeys home after a good day of car show, Mini driving and food, and oh, don't forget, ice cream for some.

## Movies in the Park: Pork Pie

03 March 2018

BY TONY MAULDER



Auckland Council are having a series of free movies in the parks around Auckland. On Saturday the 3rd of March it was Pork Pie's (2017) turn at Rosedale Park Albany. As I work nearby I

organised a bit of a Mini show, as there were many Minis from the Southland Mini Club in the film.

This turned out to be a mission and a half with all the Health & Safety regulations now days. I got permission to park a display car by the screen to promote our club, so on the night I set up my BMW MINI and some blurb about the club.



At 7pm, before the movie started, I had arranged to meet club members and their cars nearby to convoy into the movie. The site manager was so impressed with the four Minis that turned up, she wanted them all by the big blow up screen also.

After being led to their places by the site manager, with strict H&S procedures, and after phoning her manager to get them on site, the Minis were swamped with interested movie fans. Yeh! The four car loads of club members, their families and bean bags, camp chairs, rugs and all, set up near the screen and tucked into chips, hot chocolate, and popcorn.

An enjoyable evening was had by the Mini group and movie fans, even after a small shower at the start and a bit of a windy time, with the screen blowing about a bit.

Thanks to those who came along and helped promote our Minis. We were thanked by the organisers for adding a bit more to the movie night.

## Awhitu Lighthouse Run

14 April 2018

BY RICHARD UNDERWOOD



Auckland Mini Car Club organised a great event on 14th April, a convoy run to Awhitu Lighthouse. We had a great turnout of 20 cars from Auckland and Minis Waikato.

In the drivers' briefing they loved to rub in about my Mini bumper being knocked off on two different occasions, which was very amusing as we didn't go near tall grass keeping my car together all day!

As we set off from the Bombay BP Service Station, Kevin wanted the fast drivers at the rear so they could catch up, if need be. It was great to have so many cars in one place at one time causing a traffic jam of Minis.

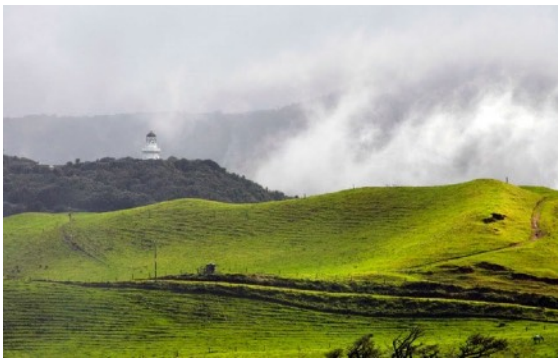
I think everyone that attended agrees with me that the roads were amazing for Minis. The country back roads that are windy are made for Minis. The drivers had the adrenalin to just go for it, as I tried to do the whole time! As we had no navigation instructions, a few of us were left behind and didn't see where the leading group had turned. We in the rear group started looking

at each other and driving round in circles until we regrouped in the next town. Eventually we arrived in Waiuku we had a toilet stop and photos.

All 20 Minis set off again, heading up the coast to Manukau heads. The landscape was picturesque with beautiful clouds over the hills. As 19 of us stopped at an amazing lookout we heard a loud Mini coming up the hill and wondered what happened. Matt Smith, a new Mini Club member, came and parked by us all. His exhaust was no longer under his car because he hit a bump in the road and it became an unexpected passenger! A short drive later we ended up at our final destination, Awhitu Reserve. Matt and I jacked up his car and reattached the exhaust. I have happily handed over the baton of things falling off, as my bumper was still on my car with no issues!



It was great to see everyone relaxing in camping chairs enjoying a nice picnic. The car park was oval shaped and it struck me as perfect for pairs of Minis racing to see who would win (as a younger member I think like that). It was pointed out it would be unsafe and there were cameras there, so I was shut down before I could organise anything.



After the reserve some members went for tea or coffee at Brandon's parents, Anna and Roger's house. Whilst there, they checked out Brandon's ongoing projects. I am pretty sure everyone had a great day, loved being out in their Minis even though it did rain on and off throughout the day. Thanks to Gary Ashton for mapping the route that was fun to drive.

## Ardmore and Rex's Collectibles

BY SARRON BENNETT

After a very big morning at Caffeine and Classics, at approximately 11am a dozen Minis headed South to the Ardmore Café where more club members were waiting. A very delicious lunch and a photo shoot took place at the Warbirds, then we proceeded to Rex Benn's Collectables where we were met by more members.

After an introduction by Rex on how his collection began with a 1929 Austin 7, he gave a brief run down on what to expect in his 2 barns of collectables. In the barns Rex





gave a very informative and humorous rundown on the many and varied items that he has accumulated over many years. The barns are very well laid out, with plenty of space to wander around and view the treasures that abound on the walls, ceilings and shelving.

As there are so many items, phones, machinery, clothing, models galore etc etc, it is very hard to give a summary of the items, but there is something for everyone, male or female and in our 1 1/2 hr visit we were all kept interested.

A very worthy afternoon, and a big thanks to Rex and the organisers from the Mini club.



## Poker Run

19 August 2018

BY ALAN MURIE

We had a disappointing turn out of only 3 vehicles for the Poker Run. We met at the Manukau City greyhound track between 10 and 10.30 for Gary's take on a Poker Run. Gary and Catherine had ordered a warm winter's day, with a glorious blue sky.

Gary's instructions were quite simple; "You have five destinations to go to. You can choose which order and route to do this in, and answer a simple question at each. You will need to get out of your car to answer the questions. Each correct answer will give you a card for your poker hand at the final destination".



Steph and Jason, new members, were the first to leave, saying "this will be quick, I know where the first one is". Second to leave was Steve after taking his time to read all the instructions. We had a brief chat to Gary and Catherine and then we were on our way.

Shelagh and I chose to do the run in this order: Barry Curtis Park near the old church; what is special on the Festival Lawn? This took a while to walk around to find the answer.

Pine Harbour private car museum; what is the driver's name and competition number of the Mini? This took a bit of time to drive to as we followed a procession of classic cars from Ormiston Rd to the Pine Harbour turn off. Gary and Catherine were waiting at the Whitford roundabout to give us a wave.



Brookby School; what is the school motto?  
Answered without getting out of the car.

Clevedon via West Road; on the monument  
who was lost at sea?

Jones Road; what is the geodetic code (trig  
station number)? This was near Hunua.

Then we were off to Kings Plant Barn, Takanini  
via the Hunua Gorge for lunch. The gorge and  
Jones Road were the best Mini roads of the  
day as there was no traffic to follow. We

followed Steph and Jason, who had arrived from a different direction, into the carpark. Steve arrived a little while later, having managed to navigate on his own.

Then we had discussions about the clues and destinations. Steve was unable to find the correct answer at Barry Curtis Park. Steph and Jason couldn't find Jones Road as their GPS only brought up Michael Jones Road. While we ate lunch the cards were dealt out and Steph and Jason were the winners of the poker run with a pair of Kings. We were all winners on the day having enjoyed a nice Sunday morning out.

Thanks to Gary and Catherine for organising another excellent day out.



## Caffeine and Classics

26 August 2018

BY GRANT BOWYER

We had a great turnout at Caffeine and Classics today for the Mini's 59th birthday, despite the overcast conditions and the threat of rain (which didn't eventuate). It's possible some cars were there for the Daffodil Day run instead of the Mini's birthday, but mostly it was all about the Minis.



This was the first C&C since they introduced the "nothing younger than 30 years old" rule, and everyone was interested to see how it would work. The car parks seemed to fill up more slowly, but in the end they were just as full. There were definitely more classics than usual, and a number of cars we hadn't seen before. In all it seemed to go quite smoothly.

Thanks for Tony for getting there early, and for printing out the Mini 59th Birthday display cards!

**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)**

## AGM and Prizegiving

07 August 2018

The Mini Car Club of Auckland had its annual AGM and prizegiving on August 7th. From the size of the turn out and the positive comments we can all be pleased that the club is in great shape. Congratulations to all our prize winners, your enthusiasm and commitment is what makes the club so great:

**Bradley Russell Memorial Award for Club Spirit**  
: Chris Roper

**Aggregate Club Points Award**  
1st Kevin Taylor: 54 points  
2nd Tony Maulder: 41 points  
3rd Richard Underwood: 39 points

**Trials Points Award: (Dawn Breaker & Night Trial)**  
1st Adam & Jesica Jenkin  
2nd Equal - Alan & Shelagh Murie



2nd Equal - Ray & Alison West

**Show n Shine - Classic Mini**

1st Kevin Taylor

2nd Joanne Wooding

3rd Zak Gould

**Show n Shine - Modified**

1st Ian McKenzie

2nd Ryan Murdock

**Show n Shine - Restored**

1st Grant Bowyer/Brian Smith

2nd Warwick Robinson

3rd Jim Banks

**Show n Shine - Custom**

1st Richard Underwood

**Show n Shine - BMW Mini**

1st Viv Taylor

2nd Leslie Robinson

3rd Warwick Mudgway

**Show n Shine - Judges Choice/Ngaire Stephens Memorial Trophy**

Grant Bowyer/Brian Smith

**Motorkhana/Autocross Points Award - Graham Crispe Memorial Trophy**

1st Lee Norman

2nd Kevin Taylor

3rd Chris Atkinson

**Club Model Night**

Best Display: Ray West

Most varied Classic Mini Display: Keith Hargraves

Most varied BMW Mini Display: Brian Smith

**Motorsport Award:**

Kevin Taylor

**Most Improved Car Award:**

Chris Westlake

**Lead Foot Award:**

Warwick Mudgway (Noisy run to the Puhoi cheese factory.)

**Automatically Earned IT Award:**

Kerry Attwood

**Dip Stick Award:**

Richard Underwood (Ripping off bumper at Galaxy of Cars and Brit & Euro Show.)

**Switched ON Award:**

Chris Westlake

**Female Club Member Award/Warwick Robinson Trophy:**

Joanne Wooding

**Certificates of Appreciation**

Aquacut 2000 Ltd – Rex & Murray

Repco Limited – Rob Apanui

MiniBitz – Lee Norman

Customkit Buildings Ltd

## 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 2nd September - Wild Wheels at MOTAT



All Club members welcome so let's make it a big day out for the Club. Free entry for owners of Vehicles on display. Same prime location as 2017. MOTAT has a full program of displays, activities for kids, food and entertainment. Both Classic and new MINIs welcome!

**Meet at 100 Motions Road at 8:00am for departure in convoy at 8:15 am.**

Cars must remain in place until the event is over, expected departure home 4pm

Maybe bring a camp chair and something warm- it was a bit chilly last year.

### Tuesday 4th September - Club Night



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

Tech night – Strip tease 'The Full Monty'. They'll be no chance to leave your hat on as everything will be coming off including the rocker cover!

## Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th September - Richie Rich Interclub Mini Challenge 2018



Mini Car Club Hawkes Bay is having their annual "Richie Rich" Run/Challenge, a fundraiser for Pork Pie 2019, all proceeds to KidsCan. It doesn't seem to appear on their website or Facebook page yet, so for full details download this copy of their flyer.

## Sunday 16th September - Follow-the-leader Run to Awhitu Lighthouse

TAKE 2! This time let's hope there are no storms the day before! Meet at Massey Park, Waiuku at the carpark off Belgium Road at 10am. Pack your picnic lunch & thermos, deck chairs & picnic blankets for an Old School picnic at the lighthouse and enjoy the great views of the Manukau Heads from the top of the lighthouse.

It's a gold coin donation for the lighthouse access. Thanks again to Gary Ashton for organising the run. He'll lead us over some interesting roads and we have invited Minis Waikato to join us for the day.

## Sunday 30th September - 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.

**NOTE:** *Caffeine & Classics has been having a capacity problem, so they're limiting the event to "Classic" cars only, and sadly that means newer BMW MINIs may be refused entry. Not our choice. (Their official guideline is cars 30 years and older, but they've extended that to all classic Minis, presumably because they can't expect their gate volunteers to spot the precise year.)*



## Tuesday 2nd October - Club Night



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

Annual Swap Meet & Mini Movie Night – Part 2

## Sunday 7th October - Daylight Saving Piha Run

Meet at Westgate Shopping Centre for an afternoon 1pm start of the run over to Piha. Approximately 45 minutes drive followed by a coffee stop and some photos en-route and when we stop. Taking the 'long route' back to Auckland for an early evening drive through and around the city. – Route details to follow. Contact Club Captain Steve 021 193 4618 or KevT 021 121 8363 for details.

## Labour Weekend 20th-22nd October - Mini Nationals in Wellington



Time for Mini Nationals again! Hosted by MOWOG at Trentham Gardens Events Centre – make plans to be there & start looking for accommodation now – convoy details to follow. Registration now open..

## Sunday 28th October - 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 6th November - Club Night



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

## 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 6th 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 Mini's in festive attire and lets 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.

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

