



## President's Report

Hi to you all and welcome,

We have just received the latest newsletter from The Otago Mini Club and the details are out for the nationals over Labour weekend in October this year.

The itinerary looks good with an extra day before hand to visit Highlands Motorsport Park.

The nationals are a must do event and being in Dunedin is a lot easier than a 2 day travel to the north island so would be good if The Canterbury Mini Owners Club had a good number of cars in Dunedin.

I'm writing this report after an enjoyable weekend in Hanmer for the motorfest. I only found out about this event 2 weeks beforehand so not a lot of time to plan but we had 6 minis displayed. Maybe next year we could have more.

We have not had a newsletter printed for a wee while but I'm sure the end result will be as good as ever.

I haven't heard about the annual Funday at Mike Pero Motorsport Park with the Mini 7's but will get details to you when we hear.

Until next time

Happy Mini Motoring

Barry Eggelton

### **In this issue:**

*President's Report*

*Chch Classic Car Show*

*West Coast Run*

*Washpen Falls Run*

*New addition to CMOC*

*Johns Countryman update*

*Visual Mini Magic*

*Events*

*CMOC Merchandise*

*CMOC Contact Details*



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# Events & Highlights from the past few months

## Christchurch Classic Car Show 2015

Over the weekend of October 26th & 27th it was once again time for the Christchurch Classic Car Show. This year was sponsored by Upper Classics and once again held back under cover at Pioneer Stadium. As usual the Canterbury Mini club was invited to put on a display. The committee decided the theme was to be "Top of the Line Cars" so my GT and Julian's Cooper were set up in a mock BMC showroom come sales office, including some very nice indoor plants that someone had left for us. Unfortunately the plants were repatriated back to the Rover club display overnight. Nice try anyway!!



Over the course of the weekend there was a steady stream of public through the doors and plenty of positive comments about the Mini's. It seems everyone at some stage has owned a Mini or had a fond memory in a Mini that they were more than happy to share. Also impressed were the judges looking over the cars. Everyone has said how good the GT looked so I decided to enter the Concourse competition and Shock, Horror it actually won first place (Class "F" 1980's Cars) "Maybe Julian you should have entered the Cooper as well". All in all an excellent weekend with loads of great people, spectacular cars of all makes and models, and best of all a big shiny trophy. Many thanks to the club for organising the display and especially Murray, Barry, John, Adrian, Julian, Pauline, Daryl, Brian, Sandy, and Louisa for the setting up and manning of the display over the weekend.

–Stuart Manson



## West Coast Run – Labour Weekend

It was a clear sunny day when \_ minis set off from Robbies in Yaldhurst bound for the West Coast town of Westport over Labour weekend in October. Being my first trip over there, I was looking forward to seeing the sights, smelling the fresh damp coastal air and exploring another part of our beautiful country. We were to be travelling through Arthurs Pass which as most people know is beyond a few ski fields which are high up in the mountains. The Porters Pass is a long uphill climb in any vehicle, let alone a mini,



and as we chugged up the incline, changing down the gears as we reached altitude to gain momentum, we were reminiscent of the Little Red Engine That Could (albeit in a yellow mini)..... *I think I can! I think I can!* (chug chug chug.....)

Nope ..... we couldn't.

With all cars ahead of us (we were leading the group from behind) we were forced to pull over 20m from the top. Then the steam started..... and the mini wouldn't.

Thankful to a passing 4 wheel drive who did a quick u-turn and came back to help us, we were towed to the parking area at the top where we found Pauline & Daryl (mum and dad) had stopped to wait for us, quickly joined by John & Rosalie who had pulled over a bit further down the road then turned back when we didn't catch up to them.



With the bonnet raised and an investigation as to what was causing the mini to not start began, a simple question of 'Have you checked the oil and water?' seemed to hold the answer. Water – present....Oil – not. While Daryl and Pauline headed back towards Sheffield with the hope of locating a garage open over the long weekend to buy oil, thanks to the preparedness of John & Rosalie, Tim & I joined them for an impromptu and much needed latte while taking in the magnificent views.

Oil filled, but not our faith in our ability to not destroy this mini we had borrowed for the trip from Pauline, we decided Daryl would drive it to the next stop on the other side of Arthurs Pass (this was done silently between Tim and I as he gave me the 'I am NOT driving that any further' glance). After meeting up with the rest of the mini's we travelled through to Kumara for lunch. By this stage with the mini seeming to be running smoothly again, and past any precarious mountain ranges, we commandeered the mini back and cruised through to the west coast.



Being my first time on the West coast, and Murray's 877<sup>th</sup>, he led the way, navigating us all through the coastal towns and stopping at points of interest such as the memorial to the Strongman mine explosion of 1967.

After a compulsory stop at Punakaiki to see the Pancake Rocks and the mighty blowhole, which unfortunately wasn't blowing at its best, we reached our destination of Westport approximately 7 ½ hours after leaving Christchurch.

The relaxation started with a couple of wines and laughs at our accommodation before heading out for dinner, a few more drinks and heaps more laughs.

The next morning brought a second day of sunshine to the coast as most of the group decided to head away early to make a journey up to Denniston, the former coal mining town and mountain plateau. Drawing on our extensive history of successful hill climbing experience, that being Porters Pass – 1, Us – 0, Tim and I opted out of this adventure, along with Pauline & Daryl, and settled for brunch in town and a spot of shopping whilst waiting on the rest of the group to return and beginning our journey back to Christchurch.

It was when the group were about 45 minute's late back that we received the call..... the bloody mountain road had beaten another one of the team!!



We set off to meet the rest of the group at the base of the Denniston Road in the small township of Waimangaroa where luck would have it, after freewheeling his way down the winding, gravel, rock covered road with gravity being his only companion as Elizabeth had opted to travel in a running mini with a functional break system, Peter was to pull up within metres of a house who's owner not only had a full machine shop in his garage, but was a car enthusiast himself and on hand to lend any tools necessary in the attempt to diagnose and fix the problem!! Several attempts at repairing

and replacing a troublesome fuse then saw the wounded mini being towed back to Westport to find the local auto electrician. A late lunch for our group, being the best way to pass time, saw us departing mid-afternoon ahead of the others who were sorting the logistics of getting Peter, Elizabeth and their un-running car back to the big city.

I'd like to thank Murray & Dale, John & Rosalie, Peter & Elizabeth, Nathan, Pauline & Daryl and Tim for making my first trip to the West Coast a memorable one.

One thing I have learnt from this trip away is that you can expect alot of stops on the way to your destination & you can expect things to not run smoothly, but you can also expect that the group you're travelling with will always come back for you if you breakdown, they'll always be there to try and help to fix a broken down mini but more importantly you can expect to create some great mini motoring memories!!!

I'll make sure to catch up with Peter & Elizabeth in the next newsletter for an update to see how their mini is doing....

- Lisa



## **Washpen Falls Run – February 14th**

On February 14 the Canterbury Mini Owners Club met at CookieTime just south of Christchurch before setting off for a picnic lunch at Washpen Falls.

They had a fantastic turnout of members on the run and the weather sure didn't let them down by the looks of it!



About one hour's drive from Christchurch, Washpen Falls offers unique outdoor recreational facilities in a breathtaking natural setting in the midst of a working sheep cattle and deer farm.



*Washpen Falls*



*Photo's  
courtesy of  
Nathan Arthur  
(Thanks Nathan!)*



## **A New Addition to the CMOC Family**

This is my 1965 Mk1 Morris Mini Minor powered by an 850cc engine. I picked it up from Dunedin at Waitangi Weekend, & was purchased/ found via a Facebook page.



The previous owner said it had been stored in a Central Otago shed for 19 odd years & was stored in "dirt up to its sub frames." Rust is very minimal, rego is still on hold!

The plan is to work through the cooling & fuel systems, replacing the stuck & gunked up parts, & bring the standard 850cc engine back to life. I plan on getting a WOF for it & getting it legal so I can use it on the shorter local CMOC runs.

- Nathan



## **Hinges needed!! Johns Countryman Restoration Progress**



I have enclosed some before repair photo's and hope that members with rear sliding windows will notice what hidden damage can be found. The rust under the rear doors has been cut out and a special replacement section fabricated. Both A panels inside and out have been replaced, along with the lower front panel. In addition a lot of smaller areas have had to be repaired. I have replaced the front bearings, and bushes, and will strip the rear axles next.

- John Atkinson



John is looking to get hold of some rear door hinges for his Countryman restoration – if anyone can help please get in touch and we can pass your details on to him!!!



## **A Bit of Visual Mini Magic**



Anyone taking part in the recent North Canterbury Classic car Tour may remember passing this art work. On the way home I stopped and snapped this shot, my best ever Mini photo yet. I have already had it enlarged onto a 25 x 19 inch canvas frame and it looks awesome.

-Stuart Manson



Amongst the recent publicity surrounding the death of a true music legend, Mr David Bowie, I came across this stunning mini design and thought I'd share it with you.

Back in 1999, Mini asked three British icons to come up with their own Mini designs for an upcoming exhibition celebrating the brand's 40th anniversary. When asked what inspired him to create this design he said he wanted to create something that could not be distinguished from its surroundings. He also went on to say 'It becomes very hard to see as the viewers own image becomes the immediate interface'

His reply when asked why he thinks the mini design has lasted so long was 'parking'.





## COMING EVENTS

### **Twin Rivers Run – Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Being held this weekend at the A&P Showgrounds – look forward to photo's and update from members who participated in this event

**\*\* Keep checking your emails - Rod will send regular email reminders with confirmed details of events \*\***

For further information on events, go to [www.cantyminiclub.com](http://www.cantyminiclub.com)

### **Mini Nationals 2016 - Labour Weekend– Hosted by OMOC**

Preparation is well underway for an exciting weekend of mini motoring.  
Here's a quick rundown-

#### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – morning**

2x laps of Highlands Motorsport Park - \$50 per car. Controlled laps following a pace car  
The café will be open and it will be \$10 head to explore the motorsport museum  
Head to Dunedin in the afternoon for registration that evening

#### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Show & Shine in the morning followed by Grasskhana/Speed event in the afternoon.  
A run will be organized in the afternoon by those not participating.  
Get together & nibbles in the evening.

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

A day for the navigation & sightseeing run  
Prize giving event at the Otago Golf Club from 6.30pm till late

This is a great opportunity for us to have a substantial turnout of members to travel to Dunedin and support the Otago Mini Club members!

We will be looking into booking group accommodation in Dunedin soon so please contact Rod, Nathan or Barry if you would like to secure accommodation and join in this weekend of mini motoring.

**\*\*\* IN ORDER TO CONTINUE RECEIVING EMAIL UPDATES AND NEWSLETTERS ENSURE YOUR SUBS ARE UP TO DATE \*\*\***



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If you are restoring a Mini or if you find an interesting story let me know! Please forward Mini articles, photos, interesting snippets for use in future newsletters, to the Editor – [lisa.md@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa.md@hotmail.com)

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