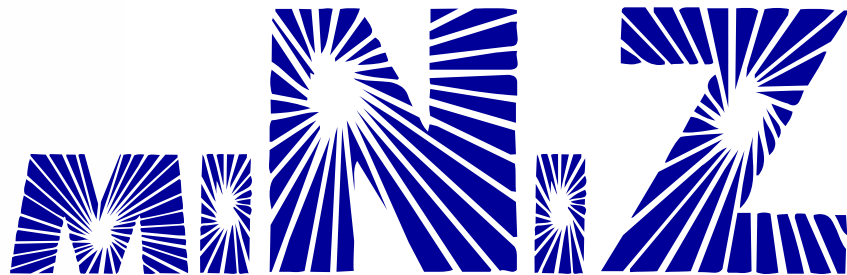
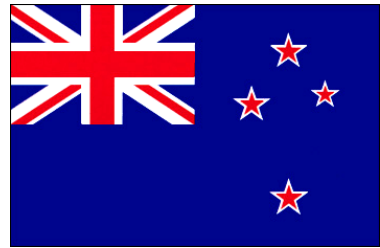


Issue 111

Summer 2016



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - www.minisnz.com

NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Our cover this month are four bottles from the Cook Islands, a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand. Most Cook Islanders are also New Zealand citizens, so we almost, sort of, in a way, have NZ bottles on the cover.

There was an article in the Dominion Post newspaper showing the miniatures and the owner of Koteka, who was in NZ looking for a local distributor. I looked up him and the, very small, distillery on-line. I emailed him and he sent photos of his minis. Koteka is one of only two distilleries in The Cooks and the only one to make 'straight' bottles. The other makes the well known ceramic Tiki statues.

Now for some real NZ bottles – if you are feeling rich that is. A new distillery, Kiwi Spirit, is making a range of spirits and bottling two of them in miniature (100ml). The Waitui Manuka Honey Malt Whisky is \$25 per bottle, the Te Kiwi Silver Cloud 100% Blue Agave Spirit is \$70. They have to be kidding! \$70 for a mock Tequila?!? These are two NZ Miniatures I will not be buying. Just a thought, Wai in Maori is water and Tui is a bird and well known brewery – I feel a Tui Moment coming on.....



Sticking with NZ 'bottles' I have found three more shots. These are from Independent Liquor and are updated labels from ones shown previously.



The jewel encrusted Cognac Henri IV decanter is from Maison Dudognon. It is a 5cl mini at 41%. It is claimed to be (I don't doubt it!) the "World's Most

Expensive Cognac Mini." (or ANY mini!) Featuring 18kt Gold, Sapphires & Rubies. Designed by Fernando Altamirano, the CEO of Maison Dudognon, with only one made. It was for sale in

December 2015 at €289,000 - yes, 289 and 3 zeros! Rosie asked what I wanted for Christmas but refused to buy it for me. If she was not going to buy what I asked for why ask?

Erica Mulder has found a number of bottles currently being sold with NZ Importer's labels on them.



Online whisky specialist Master of Malt has launched a 'pick-and-mix' advent calendar, which can be chosen from its 4,000-strong collection of spirits.



The new Drinks by the Dram advent calendar allows shoppers to build their own calendar of 24 x 30cl drams from across its extensive drammed spirits range, which currently comprises 3773 products. Each 3cl dram, which is bottled in-house, labeled and wax-sealed, varies in price from £3.04 for a Glen's Vodka to £395.95 for a 58-year old Glenfiddich 1953.

A sidebar allows shoppers to keep track of the contents – and more importantly the total cost – as they build their personalized collection.

The company launched its pre-filled Whisky advent calendars four years ago and has extended the range and broadened it to other spirits this year, to comprises 16 different versions. This includes bourbon, ginvent, whisky, premium whisky, rum, vodka, the botanical ginvent, tequila, cognac, Armagnac, absinthe, mescal, and naga chilli (£99.95 – £249.95). The most expensive of the pre-filled calendars is the old & rare whisky advent calendar, which will set you back a eye-watering £999.95.

The roll-out of the pick and mix version follows the relaunch of the Master of Malt website earlier this month, which made it fully responsive and more easily navigable, and allowed the company to build in the extra capabilities.



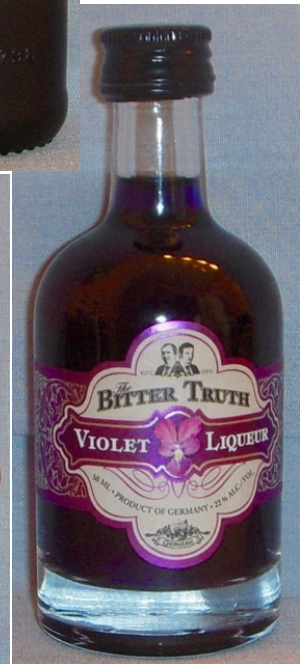
Yes, I know we are too late for Advent. The reason I brought you this is the 3773 available from Drinks by the Dram in a 30ml miniature. Note they vary from NZ\$6.75 to NZ\$880 each! How much would the full set be I wonder? Would you get a discount?

I forgot to mention above that Seva sent me the link to Kiwi Spirit Distillery – we don't even know what is in our own back yard at times!

David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES

The Old Forge distillery is in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, which is a dry city. There are actually 11 different types in all (see more in Jim Crawford's article). Highland Park is only sold as part of a set with a large 12yo Highland Park bottle.



The Bitter Truth is a new liqueur from Germany. The Mocambo is a Mexican rum, the 79 pesos equals US \$5. Also new from Mexico are the set of three Tres Ochos (Three Eights) Tequilas.



The Cooperstown Baseball bottles were made for the Baseball Hall of Fame: vodka, bourbon and whiskey.

As always, more in the next miNiZ.



David Spaid

MALTA MALTA

Malta is a small archipelago in the central Mediterranean between Sicily and the North African coast, the main islands being Malta & Gozo. It is a nation known for historic sites related to a succession of rulers including the Romans, Moors, Knights of St. John, French and British. It has numerous fortresses, megalithic temples and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a subterranean complex of halls and burial chambers dating to 3600 B.C.

The Maltese flag has the George Cross on it, Britain's highest civilian award for gallantry. This was awarded to the people of Malta in 1942 for steadfastly resisting a massive German & Italian onslaught, probably the most concentrated of WWII. The islands never gave up and was never occupied by Axis forces. If you don't know the story it is well worth looking up on-line.

There do not appear to be many bottles from Malta, I have so far only found 62 for Miniature Bottle Library, although I am sure there will be more. I have spent quite some time tracking down which bottles were made by which company but this is incomplete as there are still 4 bottles in 'other' that I do not know who made. Confusingly, two of the main producers have similar names, Master Wine and Master Group. Master group also own Master Cellars and a winery but they do not, as far as I can ascertain, own Master Wine. It's about time we saw some bottles.



The first two bottles are two I do not know who made. They are both Knights of Malta Bajtra liqueur and feature the Maltese Cross. Bajtra is a liqueur made from Prickly Pear cactus. Another knight bottle is the Tamakari liqueur from S. Sadson & Co.

John Borg & Son bottled whisky of dubious origin, although the tartan on the label is designed to make you think it is Scotch.



Next we have a number of liqueurs from Master Group, all under their Zeppi's liqueur brand. The bottle on the right is the only one of this shape we know about but I am sure there must be more. On the next page we have one 'standard' bottle and 3 tall ones. The Anisette liqueur, with the larger capping, is the most modern bottle. MBL has photos of 11 bottles from this company.

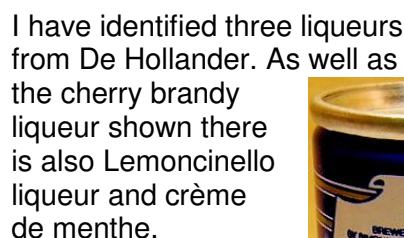




I cannot tell you anything about Ambrosia but they do make a nice range of liqueurs. We know of 12 varieties of these. Also shown are a Vodka and Lascar Rum.



Three bottles of rum are displayed side-by-side. The leftmost bottle is 'Schooner Black Label Rum' with a red cap and a dark label featuring a ship illustration and the text 'SUPERIOR QUALITY SCHOONER Black Label RUM'. The middle bottle is 'Schooner Light & Dry Rum' with a gold cap and a light-colored label with a ship illustration and the text 'SUPERIOR QUALITY SCHOONER Light & Dry RUM'. The rightmost bottle is 'John Brown Fine Whisky' with a gold cap and a light-colored label featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'JOHN BROWN SPECIAL FINE WHISKY John Brown'.



BREWED AND CANNED
BY BUCHANAN'S PARSONS CREEK LIMITED
NASSAU.

Tisk

LAGER

EXPORT



I hope you have enjoyed your tour of the distilleries of Malta. If you have photos of any Maltese bottles not shown here please email them to me at minizv@gmail.com

%%%%%%%%%%%



- 7 -

87,000 BEER CANS

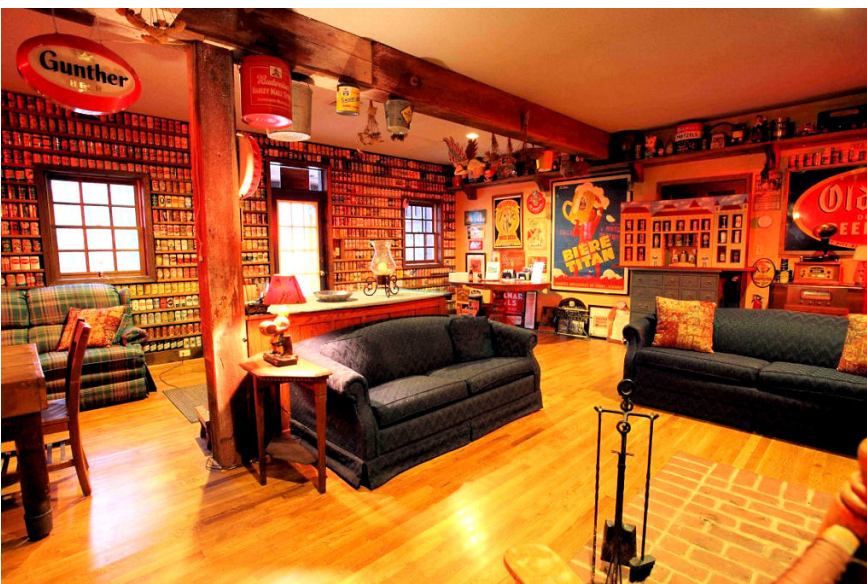


Jeff Lebo began collecting cans in 1975 at the age of just 13 and has since amassed thousands of cans from all over the world. Supposedly they have been valued at UD\$1.6M.

He is now using his collection as a tourist attraction, lining the walls of his Brewhouse Mountain Eco Inn in Pennsylvania with beer cans and beer paraphernalia. Guests get to sleep in the novelty accommodation and fellow beer can enthusiasts can (no pun intended) share in his passion.



"It's sort of an ongoing labour of love, I like being able to preserve social history in a way" he told *The New York Post*. "We're now renting it out as an inn and it is amazing to see the people who have come to stay here who are fascinated by this," said Lebo's wife, Lauri.



While Lebo said he is unlikely to ever sell his collection, he admitted he had cashed in on some of the more valuable cans to pay for a piece of property in Costa Rica. "We are actually converting it into an eco-resort and we're hoping in about three years or so we'll be open for business," said Lebo.

David Smith

DON'T GO DOWN THE MINE DAD

"Don't go down the mine Dad,
 Dreams very often come true
 Daddy, you know it would break my heart
 If anything happened to you
 Just go and tell my dream to your mates
 And as true as the stars that shine
 Something is going to happen today
 Dear Daddy, don't go down the mine!"

I promised you no more poems in miNiZ109 and I kept my word as this is the second verse of a popular song from 1910. A number of variations of this song appeared



over the years, including a VERY bawdy one (I'll leave that to your imagination!).

Above is, of course, one of Dug's Brothels which need no introduction. Much less well known is the miner and cart from Paul Schubert of Germany. This can be found with different bottles in, although the Lautergold bottles are very appropriate. There is another one of these from Paul Schubert with the miner pushing the cart and only one bottle. Finally for the first group we

have the mine entrance, complete with miner, from Cyrus Noble. There is a whole set built around the concept on an old west mine, all containing 50ml of Bourbon.

The first miner's mule is another of the Cyrus Noble bottles. Following this are the miner and his mule from Kontinental, which contains 50ml of Bourbon. Interestingly, the same bottle is filled with 100ml of Mint Syrup and 50ml of Sherry, although in the latter case the label says 750ml. Ski Country made the Burro (strictly speaking a small donkey, rather than a mule) in 1973. Given the size, I suspect the



Kontinental 'mule' is also a burro.





The 4 coal miners on the last page, and the first on this are all from Old Commonwealth. They each contain 50ml of Bourbon. The last miner is, err....., complicated. He is a Peruvian miner, and even contains Pico, the national drink of Peru, but this is an

Italian bottle from a maker that sounds like they come from Mexico, Hacienda del Abuelo!

Confused? You can bet I was when I catalogued them for Miniature Bottle Library. It took me ages to check the facts as they were shown as Peruvian by the collector who owns these.

We cross the Atlantic for our next bottle, a Cornish Tin Mine from Cornish Mead. Some Cornish Mead bottles are very common, this is not one of them.



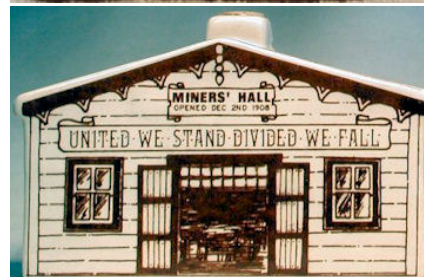
It is a short hop to Germany for the 19th Century miner's lamp. It is from Manfred Picht and contains 100ml of Dur Wüzige Halb Bitter (whatever that is). I think that Harzer Grubenlicht probably is the German name for a miner's lamp but Google Translate will not translate it. There is another of these with the name Wolfgang Picht – Manfred's father I believe.

We come all the way back to New Zealand for the Air New Zealand Miner's Hall. This contains 50ml of either Wilson's New Zealand Whisky or Port Nicholson Scotch. This is one of a set of eleven NZ buildings. The Port Nicholson Scotch bottles were a special run organised by the club

(at the time the Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club). The hall was built during the West Coast gold rush of the 1800's.

If you are mining gold or silver you need to have it assayed (checked for purity as that affects the price to be paid). The Assayer is another bottle from Cyrus Noble.

No article on Miners would be complete without the product of their labours. I cannot find any miniatures of coal or tin, nor a bar of silver, so this Masthead Scotch gold bar from McLech and the gold money sack from Jiugui of China will have to do. The latter contains 50ml of Nu Er Hong Chinese Spirit @ 52%.



David Smith

Click here for all the words of the song (the original clean version)

<http://www.piesandpiers.0catch.com/dontgo.html>

AS SEEN ON EBAY #33

I only have eight bottles to show you this time. I'll start close to home with two from Australia, the first sold on Ebay Australia and the second an Australian bottle sold on Ebay USA. The Johnny Walker Gold Label sold for A\$33.50 after 14 bids. The Hennessy is not Hennessy Cognac or even French brandy as you might expect, it is Australian brandy bottled by Hennessy in Sydney. US\$25 bought it.



Sticking we Ebay USA we have two Casa Vinicola Boccacio 'flicker' ceramics. These date from around 1960 and are one of the few classes of ceramics that have continued to increase in value. US\$75 bought the lady tourist and US\$44 the man leaning on a

lamppost. Our third ceramic should be familiar to all of us. The Waipori Hotel is part of the Air New Zealand Colonial Collection. It was sold, empty, on Trademe for NZ\$109.50

Our final three bottles were all sold on Whisky Auction. There have been a lot of poor prices on this site but these all fetched good money. Burkes 3* Irish Whiskey £105, Mitchell's Shamrock Irish Whiskey £100 & John Begg's White Capsule Scotch Whisky £200



I will have more sales to show you in miNiZ112

Peter Bonkovich

AMERICAN MOONSHINE

While there have been several new mini Moonshine bottles put out in the last few years, in the past 12 months, miniature American Moonshine has definitely made its mark on Liquor Store shelves around the country. It is not surprising that most of the new legitimate Moonshine is made in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. After all, the Mountains in these states have been providing secluded places for the Moonshiners to distill their special recipes for the last few hundred years.

Here is a small sampling of what is available today. These products come in mini Mason Jars, and Jugs, as well as the typical straight bottles. A lot of the new moonshine is also available in as many as 10 or 15 different flavors.

My guess is we will start to see a lot more Mini Moonshine brands hit the market as this new craze becomes even more popular in the future. So sit back and take a look!



Jim Crawford

MUSICAL RUM

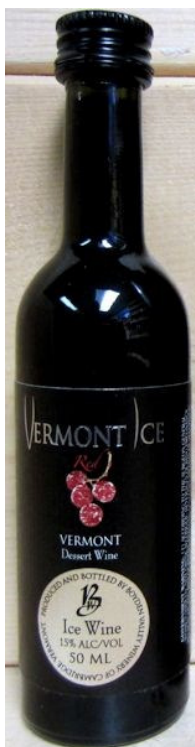




I came across this set of 20 miniature rums from Guyana a few weeks ago. Except that, a bit of detective work later, I discovered they were not from Guyana. The contents are but they were bottled by Just Miniatures in the UK. All are 5cl, 37.5% and all are still available to buy on Just Miniatures web site for £2.99 each. There is also a set of 19 Sportsman Scotches, also £2.99 each.

David Smith

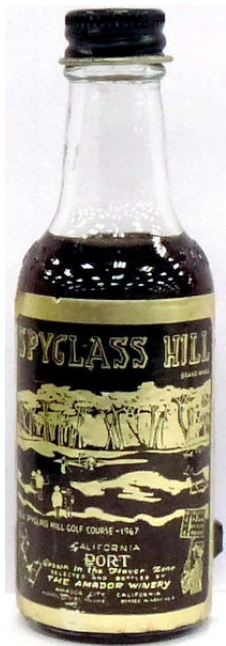
WINES #3 – U S A



As before, a similar article, with different photographs, will again appear in the MMBC newsletter.

It is not too difficult to find wines from the US but, as far as I can ascertain, there are virtually none made in the 2000's. The only US company I can find with modern bottles is Boyden Valley Winery, who make the Vermont Ice Desert Ice Wine. The Red version is our first photo. There are quite a number of wineries from over-the-border in Canada who bottle Ice Wine in miniature so instinct tells me there should be more US wineries doing so. Anyone know of any?

The largest range of US wines that I know of is made by Amador Winery. I have identified 87 so far for Miniature Bottle library and I'm sure there are more. These were made for the tourist trade in the 1970's & 80's. Most of the bottles are of places in California & Nevada, although there is a 'Boston Tea Party' bottle. I have tried to show as many bottle and label variations as I can, although I am sure there will be more. The brown bottle is one of only two I know of.



Probably the best known US winery to mini bottle collectors is Paul Masson, now part of Constellation Brands. The first bottle I have to show you is a 'Special,'



I suspect there are more of these than I know about. Shown is 'Valentine's Greetings, Richard's Lilac Lodge.' Also on MBL are The Little Corporal Restaurant & Lounge and simply 'To My Valentine.' All these appear on Rarity Rare Cream Sherry heart shaped bottles.



Shown are an older Rare Cream Sherry, A Rare Dry Sherry from the same era as the 'specials' and a Rare Tawny Port. Not shown are Rare Flor Sherry & Rare Sauzao Port. Paul Masson have also bottled brandy in these bottles. I have only found one wine, Oro Fino, in a round bottle.



Three Monks was made by House of Old Molineaux, yet another California winery. Shown are Dry Sherry & Port. I also know of a Sherry and a Muscatel.



We cross the continent to bring you bottles from Widmer's Wine Cellars of Naples, New York. These are old bottles but Widmer's are still in business. I suspect the labels are interchangeable between the brown and clear bottles but there is only one green bottle I know of, a Vermouth. Not shown are a Blackberry, Muscatel, Pale Dry Sherry and a Port.

On the left is one of only two miniature 'straights' that we know about from the US' largest winemaker (and one of the largest private companies), Ernst & Julio Gallo (aka. E & J Gallo). The other we know of is a Muscatel but I'm sure there are more out there somewhere.

At the start of the next page we have four bottles from Gibson Wine Co., 4 of 24 we





know about. I suspect that the first two bottles are the oldest. We only know of two clear bottles and four 'White Pheasant' brown bottles. The other two 'Vel-Crest' bottles are floc covered and come in various colours.

Meier's is another winery well known to mini bottle collectors but mainly for their ceramic jugs etc. MBL has 14 wine minis from Meier's but I suspect there are a lot more than that.

The Vermouth is different to any other bottle we know of. Most bottles are similar to the other three and, again, I suspect that the labels are interchangeable on the round brown and clear bottles.

No article on US wines would be complete without Mogen David Kosher wines. Shown are Pure Blackberry & Concord (an American grape variety). There are more shown on MBL and more we do not have photos of.



I'm almost out of room but have just enough for San Martin Winery. There are not many of these known, only 6 on MBL but I do like the older Duck Pin range of bottles.



Special thanks to Rob Colvin who sent 26,000 photos to MBL – the photos in this article with the wood background are all from him. Got any photos to share? Email me:

minizv@gmail.com

David Smith



GIVE ME A RING



Telephones have changed considerably over the years since Alexander Graham Bell first spoke into his experimental telephone on March 10, 1876. Bell is credited with the invention, and in a way that is OK as he made the telephone a practical device, but there is no doubt that he was building on ideas by other inventors, one or more of which may have transmitted a voice message up to thirty years earlier.



The first two photos show the oldest design made in miniature. The glass phone is from Dor of Argentina, the ceramic one is from Casa Vinicola Boccaccio of Italy, the same design was also made by Todisco.



The French Telephone is a very well known bottle from Famous Firsts. The bottle in the (plastic) telephone was made in France for the Japanese market. This one was made by Dorville but it has also been made by Grangossier in both green and purple. Probably the rarest telephone mini is the brass telephone on a wood box. In the box is a glass jar containing sugared brandy. Yuk! This is another Famous Firsts bottle. There are at least 29 of these wood box & jar minis with different objects or people on them.

The three telephones on the left are all from the same Russian pottery but were filled by three different companies, Ochakovskaya (yellow), Krasnyarsk Distillery (blue), both from Russia and Global Whisky & Spirits (red) of Germany. The phone on the right is another one from Dor. Shown is one with a duck on it but they have also been made with a dog and several flowers. Finally, on the right we have one of two mobile phones from Weisenbach of Germany.



The phone on the right is another one from Dor. Shown is one with a duck on it but they have also been made with a dog and several flowers. Finally, on the right we have one of two mobile phones from Weisenbach of Germany.



David Smith

HAVE YOU GOT THE WITS? #3

I promised to show you more tubes bottled by W.I.T. of Bordeaux in miNiZ110. I ran out of space in 110 so here is the final showing of these great bottles. As before they are a mixture of 4/5/6 & 10cl. I will let them speak for themselves.





These, and many more, can be found on Miniature Bottle Library at <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/themes/tube1.html> You will see that I have included no more than one tube from any company.

David Smith

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## **DATE, TIME & PLACE**

### **Friday 26th - Sunday 28th February 2016 AGM Weekend in Christchurch**

**This weekend will be just after the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most major of the Christchurch earthquakes.** Please, let's have a good turnout – **Christchurch is back.** All but one of our 'out of town' members missed the earthquake by a day or two in 2011. We cannot promise another earthquake but we can promise a good weekend.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, 6.00pm Meet at Robin & Jess Melish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch.  
Most of you have not been here before, same address but a completely new house.  
**PLEASE** this is a **BYO Everything**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>, Daytime To be arranged on Friday evening  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>, Dinner Kaiapoi Working Mens Club. 113 Raven Street, Kaiapoi.  
3 course meal, choice of roasts. \$29 a head. Booked for 5.45 pm  
**This is booked for those we know about – have you let us know that you are coming?**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>, 12.30pm BBQ at Eric and Cheryl Sutton's home, 3c Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch.  
Don't go to Eric's old house, he has moved to a few doors away.  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm Approximate time only depending on when we finish lunch

Email the club at [minisnz@gmail.com](mailto:minisnz@gmail.com)

**Other meeting dates and venues for 2016 will be decided at the AGM**