

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



WITH A NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



### EDITORIAL

Much has happened over the past few months since the 185t newsletter.

The set of seven miniatures commissioned by the club as part of New Zealand's 1990 celebrations has been dispatched to members. Thanks to those members of the Committee who got together at Ian and June Butcher's place and combined a "Pot Luck" dinner with a working bee to prepare the miniatures for shipment.

They will cost \$NZ 17.50 for the first set, post paid, and \$NZ 21 per set plus postage for any further sets. They can be obtained from our supplies officer, Dianne Opie, whose address is given in the article later in this issue.

The very impressive miniatures from Alp also arrived from Italy and sent to those who ordered them. The Committee is exploring the possibility of Alp making a set of miniature bottles of New Zealand beers. We'll keep you posted on this.

This issue features a thirteen page long list of miniature bottle shops around the world from the very well travelled Thomas Nagalin of Garden Grove, California. Members may remember that Judy Homewood suggested this article in the last issue of the Newsletter. Thank you very much for sending me the list, Thomas I'm sure members will find it very useful. Thomas will also be visiting New Zealand soon and will be going to our AGM in Fatea. Take it from me, he will have a great time!

Could other members send me the addresses of their sources of miniatures so we can add them to this list? I intend to publish a revised list in 1991.

in the meantime, I hope that all members enjoyed a Merry Christmas and wish everbody good collecting in the New Year.

### COVER\_\_\_BOTTLES

These bottles were commissioned by the Club as part of Kew Zealand's 1990 celebrations.

1990 is the 150th year of the date of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi by the chiefs of many of the indigenous Maori tribes and the British Crown. By this treaty New Zealand officially became a British colony and it is from that year that New Zealand regards itself as a nation.

One bottle commemorates the Treaty itself.

The second bottle is for Akaroa. This is the only French settlement in New Zealand and is a very picturesque village in the South Island not far from Christchurch. The French had intended to make the harbour on which Akaroa is sited into a French Pacific port and perhaps to found a benal colony there. Unfortunately for them the Treaty of Waitangi had been signed some 6 months before the first settlers arrived in August 1840 and British sovereignty declared. The village still retains a distinctly French flavour.

The next bottle depicts Wellington, the capital of New Zealand since 1865, the home of the Port Nicholson Bottle Club and probably New Zealand's most beautiful city. It is widely known as "the Windy City" and as the world's most unpolluted city - claims which are not entirely unrelated. The city lies on one of the world's greatest natural harbours - Port Nicholson - and several earthquake faultlines. The city is named after the duke of Wellington who beat Napoleon at Waterloo.

The city of Wanganui is on the mouth of a major river of the same name. The settlement was originally called Petro after Lord Petro, one of the directors of the New Zealand Company. This was changed to its present name in 1854 after a public petition. Wanganui was one of the most important and prosperous early settlements in New Zealand for both Maoris and, later, Europeans.

Johnsonville is a suburb of Wellington; about 10 kilometres north of the central city. It was originally a village and then a town in its own right before being absorbed into the city proper.

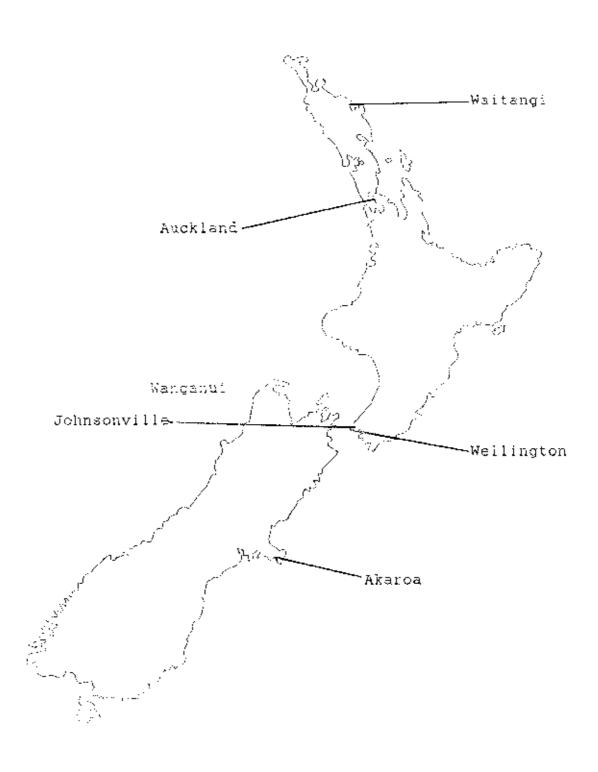
1990 is also the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) in 1915. The Corps was formed in Egypt just before the landing on Gallipoli in World War One. The day on which the Corps landed on Turkish held Gallipoli is observed as a public holiday in New Zealand. ANZAC is still used to describe any combined Australian and New Zealand endeavour.

The seventh bottle commemorates the holding of the CommonWealth games in Auckand this year. It is said to be second only to the Clympic Games as a sporting spectacular.

The labels for the bottles are white with a traditional Macri (New Tealand native) motif border in brown and black. The may of New Tealand is outlined in green to represent the land on which the prosperity of the country depends. The horizonts lines are blue copresenting the real abound us. Although it is

a small country. New Zealand is responsible for a very large area of ocean). The name and dates are in red with the remaining writing in black.

The bottles are available from Club Supplies Officer, Dianne Opis, Sarsed Road, RD2, Patea, Taranaki, New Zesland.



### ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The Club's 10th Anniversary weekend will be held on the farm at Dianne and Ron Opie's at Patea in the beautiful Taranaki countryside. Sneoker, fishing, swimming and pigging out at barbecues are only a few of the activities enjoyed by those attending over the past five years. This is a chance for you to get over the trauma of starting off another year; swap a few bottles and meet members from other places.

Diamne and Ron have more than enough space and plenty of space beds in their ranch style house. Those who enjoy the outdoors experience can also camp on the back lawn.

Date: 23 February (or you can arrive Friday night

if you wish - a number of us are).

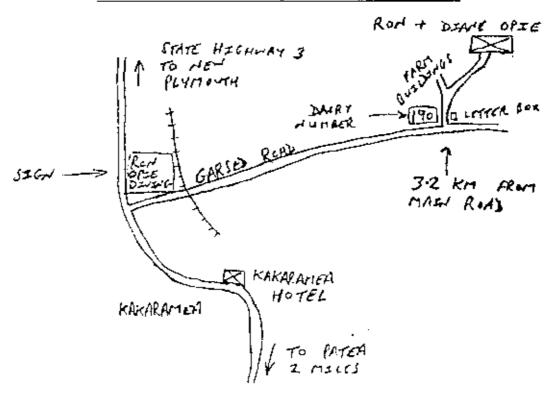
Cost: NIL - (B.Y.O. Food, drink and Swaps)

Children: Welcome

Please let Dianno and Ron know ASAP if you will be attending (Phone 062 24 271) and also whether you require inside accommodation or would prefer to camp.

For those who can't stay the weekend please note that the A.G.M. of the club will be held at 2pm on the Sunday, after a Sarbecue lunch and swep meet - all are invited.

#### DON'T FORGET YOUR SWAPS





#### SPIRIT OF THE WHITE REINDEER

An old Finnish legend tells how, on a winters night, a spell was cast on a young girl which transformed her into a proud, fearsome white reindeer. Many hunters met their fate in battles with the reindeer until the girl's young lover, also tempted by the valuable skin, engaged her in an exhausting battle, unaware that it was her. It was only after blood flowed from his chest, wounded by the antlers, that the reindeer once again became the girl. They melted into one another's arms and lay in the snow to fall into a deep sleep forever. These days a white reindeer is rarely seen in Lapland, but legend has it that if one is fortunate enough to see the sun, the moon end a white reindeer at the same time, the wish they make will be granted. The producers of Finlandia Vodka therefore consider it appropriate that their label ceptures the spirit of the white reindeer.

The traditions and production of Finnish vodka date back to the 16th century when mercenaries, returning from the European wars, brought with them the techniques and knowledge for distilling vodka. Over the following 300 years the skills and expertise required to produce high quality vodka were developed in local home stills. Towards the end of the 19th century, several small distilleries were built, one of which was sited at Rajamaki, where Finlandia Vodka is produced today. One of the main reasons for locating the distillery at Rajamaki was the supply of clear, pure, spring water, to which much of Finlandia's smoothness of character is attributed. The water is derived from a source sixty feet underground where it has filtered through glacial moraine formations left after the Ice Age and has formed a large natural lake. This spring water is so pure that no filtering or treatment is required as, in its natural state, it is perfect for vodka distillation. Finlandia claim that if you can distinguish the difference in water you will appreciate the quality of their vodka.

The grain used in the distillation of Finlandia grows in the vast, fertile agricultural areas of Finland. It ripens during the long, light, summer days when it absorbs an added richness not found in other countries where the summer days are shorter. It is this perfect raw material, combined with the natural water which distinguishes Finlandia Vodka as a smooth, clean spirit with a unique character.

The famous Finnish glass sculptor Tapio Wirkkala was commissioned by Finlandia to design the distinctive bottle, which has a cracked ice effect. The label, which portrays the two white reindeer, together with the midnight sun insignia, is as much an emblem of Finland as it is of Finlandia Vodka, thus reflecting in its packaging the nature of artistry and design synonymous with Finland and Scandinavia.

Over the last century, the Rajamaki Distillery has been developed extensively and is today regarded as one of the most modern in the world. Generations of tradition, the most modern in the world. Generations of tradition, the highest technology, the finest natural ingredients and continuously stringent quality controls are all key factors which contribute to the smoothness and purity for which Finlandia is famous. Exported to countries the world over, it is enjoyed in cocktails, as an aperitif, and with fruit juices and mixers. A test of the smoothness and unique character of Finlandia is to drink it as the Finns do, served ice-cold, neat and sipped as a vodka schnapps - accompanied by exclamations of "kippis", the Finnish word for "cheers".



### MINIATURE BOTTLE SHOPS AROUND THE WORLD

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### THE "STOCK" MINIS FROM THE C.S.F.R

I assume that collectors in Australasia also know the Italian miniatures from the Stock S.p.A. Trieste. But I don't know if they have heard something about the Stock minis coming from Pilsen in the Czechoslovak Federal Republic. Therefore, I would like to show the MiNZ readers some new, as well as some old. Stock minis from Czechoslovakia.

Today, you will see three bottles; two are brandies and one is a domestic rum. The brandy is entitled "Stock Original Brandy 40%" while the rum is called "Rum Tuzemsky Konzumni 40%". The brandy has two different labels. All three bottles are clear glass miniatures of 50 ml with swelling necks. Each is stopped with a cork under an aluminium capsula.

Their producer is known today as West-Bohemian Distilleries Pilsen, the Liqueur Division Bozkov; but abroad it is known under the export name, Pilsen Original Distillery. The Pilsen miniatures are available in the Western part of Czechoslovakia as Well as in Prague.

In the next issue, I will write about the history of the Bozkov distillery and will show you three older Stock miniatures.





IVAN UHLIK

ROSALUXEMBURG-PLATZ 6

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#### HEARTBURN OVER AQUAVIT

#### THE AQUAVIT QUESTION

Plans to change a 200-year-old tradition in making aquavit have set off an anguished debate in Norway about the future of the golden, herb-flavoured liquor.

The State alcohol monopoly Vinmonopolet wants to break with tradition by buying spirit from abroad, instead of using all homeproduced potato spirit.

Though aquavit is a source of deep national pride, officials at Vinmonopolet say costs must be cut if aquavit is to compete on the world market.

They say Norway's heavily-subsidised farmers charge too much for their potatoes. But farmers say buying abroad will cut their income - and aquavit's flavour.

Flavour is so coveted that some types are even sailed around the world for six months as it is believed a ship's pitching and rolling lend a rich, mellow taste.

"I believe that Norwegian potatoes must be used if one is to make decent aquavit", said Ingvar Hage, deputy managing director of Norway's Potato Industry Association, which represents the country's 5,000 potato farmers.

"Potato spirit, with its very particular character, is an important element in Norwegian aquavit," he said. "I think there

may be a drop in sales if aquavit is based on other alcohol."

Halvor Heuch, Vinmonopolet's production manager, disagrees.

"We wish to maintain the old tradition and follow the criginal recipes," he told Reuters.

"But it does not matter where the alcohol comes from. We "rectify" it, which basically means we take out the impurities and flavouring until we have alcohol which is 96 per cent proof, but completely neutral in flavour".

Aquavit is more than 40 per cent proof, similar to gin and whisky. It is best drunk at room temperature, as a "chaser" with beer, before or after dinner, or with the salted herrings or seafood snacks which are popular here.

Heuch said Vinmonopolet buys between 1.5 and two million litres of potato spirit from the farmers every year to use in various liquors, mainly for aquavit. His buyers pay 16 crowns (about \$NZ 4) a litre - more than twice the price in neighbouring Denmark and four times the cost in Poland.

"Why should we subsidise the farmers?" Heuch said.

-Reuter

t is Paris, just before the occupation. Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman are together and in love in a neighbourhood bistro. As Dooley Wilson (better known as Sam) plays "As Time Goes By" on a piano in the background, Bogart looks deep into Bergman's eyes, raises his glass to her and with a totally smitten grin, says, "Here's looking at you, kid."

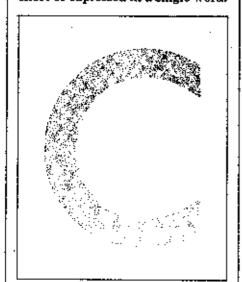
Even the most casual movie fan recalls with fondness the toast from Casablanca. Though not the most lyric of phrases, it does what a toast is supposed to do: It marks a special moment with sentiment and style.

In the great days of toasting, one could not go to a luncheon, a banquet or a wedding without hearing a series of carefully proposed and executed toasts. They were the test of one's ability to come up with an

#### PAUL DICKSON tells of the fine art of toasting

appropriate invitation to sip to the honour of some person, thought or institution. And it really didn't matter most of the time if it was an original toast written for the occasion or a time-tested classic passed down from Elizabethan days, so long as the toast worked to keep the proceedings moving along at a jolly pace.

A toast is a basic form of human expression that can be used for virtually any emotion from love to rage — although raging toasts tend to cross the line into the realm of curses. It can be sentimental, cynical, lyric, comic, defiant, long, short or expressed in a single word.



The names and traditions associated with toasting are many and date back to the ancient world. In the Odyssey, for instance, Ulysses drank to the health of Achilles. In Imperial Rome, the custom was so important that the Senate decreed that all diners must drink to Augustus at every meal. The ancient Greeks, Hebrews, Persians and Egyptians were all toasters, as were the Saxons and other tribes. Even the likes of Attila the Hungot into the act. Attilla, it seems, liked to launch at least three toasts per course during the feasts of many courses that he held.

Literally, thousands of toasts have been written, repeated, passed on and recorded throughout history. It is hard to imagine a situation, event or mood that cannot be covered by a dozen of them. A small sampling of this diversity:

# CHAMPAGNE V

Here's to champagne, the drink divine,

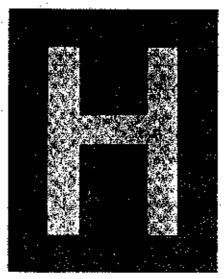
That makes us forget all our troubles;

It's made of a dollar's worth of wine,

And six dollars' worth of bubbles.

#### HOLLXWOOD: \*\*\*

Here's to Hollywood —
A place where people from Iowa
Mistake each other for movie
stars.



### APRIL

We know it is true that we're wicked, That our criminal laws are lax; But here's to punishment for the man Who invented our income tax.

## E. EONGRVIEY ...

Here's that we may live to eat the hen That scratches on our grave.

#### ANNIVERSARY:

Here's to you both A beautiful pair, On the birthday Of your love affair.

#### LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP:

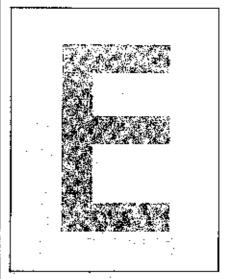
May love draw the curtain and friendship the cork.

# BEERI'S

Who'd care to be a bee and sip Sweet honey from the flower's lip When he might be a fly and steer Head first into a can of beer?

# OYSTERS:

"I was always religiously inclined," Said the oyster as he slid down The minister's throat, "but ne'er Did I dream I'd enter the clergy."



#### Friendship: 🧸 📲 🦠

Here's to beefstake when you're hungry, Whisky when you are dry, Greenbacks when you are busted, And heaven when you die!

#### AFTER-DINNER DRINKS:

I thank you for your welcome which was cordial, And your cordial, which is welcome. And until we meet again May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

The list goes on, including toasts to towns, states, nations, holidays, new homes, new babies, virtually every occupation and all that is drinkable from coffee to cognac. There are a number of toasts which one can address to oneself:

Why not toast ourselves. And praise ourselves: Since we have the best means of knowing all the good in ourselves.

Over the years the simple act of toasting has become embellished and intertwined with other customs. At some point along the way, the gesture of clinking glasses or cups became popular. It has long been believed that this began in the

early days of Christianity as the original intention of the clink was to produce a bell-like noise to scare away the devil. Another explanation for glass clinking is that it brought all five senses into play in order to get the greatest pleasure from a drink. It is tasted, touched, seen, smelled — and with the clink -- heard.

A morbidly fascinating custom that came from northern Europe a thousand or so years ago was that of drinking mead or ale from the skull of a fallen enemy. The Scots and Scandinavians both practised this primitive form of recycling, and the Highland Scottish skiel (tub) and the Norse skoal (bowl) derive from it. The modern toast, skoal, comes from the old Norse term.

The word toast did not come into play until the 17th Century in England. At that time it was the custom to place a piece of toast or a crouton in a drink. Perhaps it was believed that the morsel would improve the flavour of the drink in the manner of a spice, or perhaps it was a built-in snack, a bit of token nourishment. Whatever the reason it was used, the practice was com-

mon and virtually anything found floating in a drink was referred to as "toast".

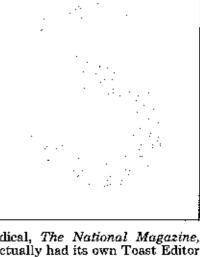
During the 17th Century toasting became immensely popular, especially in the British Isles. This popularity bred excess. The English discovered the Scandinavian custom of not only drinking to ev-

eryone present, but to all of one's absent friends as well.

In the United States, the Revo-

lution, the newness of the nation and the wit of the nation's early leaders provided fertile ground for toasts. After the War of Independence no official dinner or celebration was complete without 13 toasts, one for each state. Washington, Adams and Jefferson were all known for their toasting ability, but none could equal that of Benjamin Franklin. A number of his toasts have been recalled but none more than one he delivered at Versailles when he was the American emissary to France. On this occasion the toasting was led off by the British ambassador who said "George III, who, like the sun in its meridian, spreads a lustre throughout and enlightens the world." The French minister parried with: "The illustrious Louis XVI, who like the moon, sheds his mild and benevolent rays on and influences the globe." Franklin finished the round: "George Washington, commander of the American armies, who, like Joshua of old, commanded the sun and the moon to stand still, and both obeyed."

Yet if ever there was a Golden Age of toasting it came during the period from approximately 1880 to 1920 in the United States. Scores of toast books and pamphlets came on the market, prominent people composed and contributed their own for anthologies, newspapers ran columns of them and one peri-



odical, The National Magazine, actually had its own Toast Editor whose duties included judging the winners of the magazine's monthly toast contest. Occupational toasts became very popular and many clubs and fraternal organizations opened their dinners with a toast to each of the professions represented at the table.

But Prohibition changed all that. For all practical purposes, the books, the formularies and magazine articles that carried the lore and customs of drinking were banned for the duration. Banquets, large open parties, cocktail lounges and hotel bars which bad been hotbeds of toasting and conviviality were replaced by dank speakeasies. where one would slink to have a fast drink of questionable origin.

This is not to say that people no longer toasted, but in many cases the subject was limited to the Volstead Act, anti-saloonists and the quality of bathtub gin. For example:

Here's to Prohibition, The Devil take it! They've stolen our wine. So now we make it.

Diplomats and politicians regularly use toasts to transmit messages at political banquets. And in recent years, heads of state have increasingly been using toasts to make major policy statements. In Washington, DC, a society of bon vivants assembles monthly to honour the memory of an ardent prohibitionist named Cosgrove who left water-dispensing monuments to the absternious spirit. The Cosgrovians' toast: Temperance, I'll drink to that.

The evidence of a revival is still informal but nonetheless compelling. We may be on the eve of a new enlightened era. I'll drink to that.

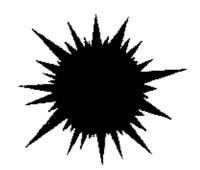
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# Cocktail of the Month

#### DEPTH CHARGE

- Fill a pint glass with BEER.
- Drink the first inch or so.
- Fill a liqueur glass with DRAMBRUIE.
- Lower liqueur glass gingerly into beer.
- Prink beer (carefully).
- Repeat as desired or until you collapse into a gibbering heap.



This cocktail (???) is from the Johnsonville Workingmen's Club and other nefarious places frequented during my mis-spent youth.

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### d. t. p. next meetings

March 17th Bob Ferguson's, 21 Hewitt Way, Ngaio.

-11.30am Wellington ( A lunch time barbecue: BYO Food &

Booze).

April 21st Steuart Goodman's, 23 Anne St., Wadestown.

-2.09pm Wellington.

May 19th Chris & Janne Mathews, 129 Makarini St.,

-2.00pm Paraparaumu

June 15th David & Jackie Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Rd,

-Sat.4.30pm Pukerua Bay. (Pot luck Dinner: BYO Mains or

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