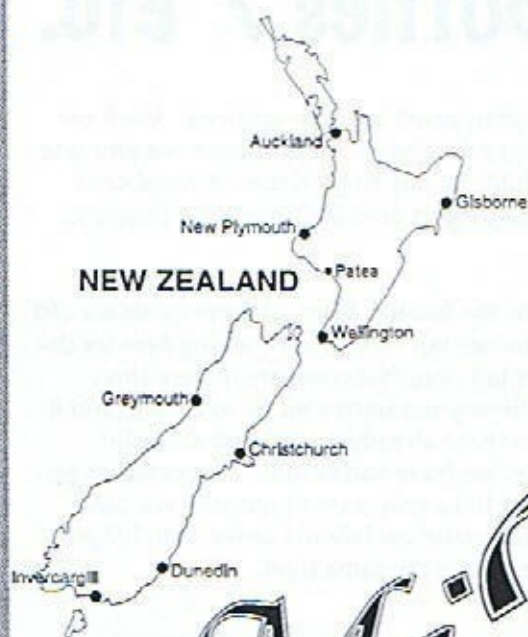


Summer 1998
ISSUE 43



MiNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Editorial / Cover Bottles / Etc.

This edition brings you the most bottles we have ever had on offer, apart from the auctions. We have done a deal with the owner of a factory in Argentina that makes micro-minis. The cheque we sent was for almost US\$3,000 so you can see that we are putting the club's money to good use. A number of Wellington / Christchurch members pre-ordered and paid so helping us fund the order - my thanks to them.

The minis are shown on the next three pages and a price list on the fourth. Many of these minis are old stock, dating from 1969 - 1980. Some we have had on offer before but most we are seeing here for the first time. All are available from Supplies Officer, Pam Fowler but note that some are in very short supply. We ordered 30 of each, where we knew they had definitely not been sold by us before, and 6 of each of the remainder from the list we were sent, other than those already on the club stock list. Many of these latter ones have proved to be different from ones we have had before. I expected to get 45 in total to add to my collection but in fact got 64. Where we have only a small quantity we can almost certainly get more. Ten bottles (not shown) are on 'back-order' and should arrive March/April and we can order further quantities of any we run out of to be sent at the same time.



Above you will see four Havill's Meads. These are actually older bottles that Havill's have done another short run of especially for those of us with a permanent order. Note that the 'Scott's Base' is different from the one on our stock list (#82). All these bottles are in fact the originals. Note the change in design of the plain mead bottles also.

The cover shows five new New Zealand bottles, three of which are available from the club. The first is Pepe Lopez Tequila, bottles by New Zealand Wines and Spirits. It is a clear plastic bottle, 50ml, 37.2%. I have to confess to keep missing this one as it is identical, apart from the bottlers name at the bottom, from the imported version. Next is Barros Vintage Character Port. This is in a green glass bottle and comes at 20.5%, 7cl. It was imported by Montana Wines and as the printing is directly onto the bottle I assume it was made overseas. The next three are made by Prenzel in Marlborough and are on our stock list, Nos. 283/4/5. The Sambuca is the same label as on the Black Sambuca and similar to the others we have seen previously. The Kirsch, which has a red and black label, and Pear William, which has a turquoise and black label, are the first two with a slightly re-designed label. All are 50ml plastic bottles. The Sambuca is 33% and the other two 40%.

We have missed the deadline for getting another 'free' anniversary bottle made but will attempt to bring you something during the year. Suggestions are welcome.

David Smith



Top:	169	89	170				
Middle:	171	172	173	174	175	176	177
Bottom:	178	179	180	181	88	182	183



Top:	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
Bottom:	191	192	193	194	195	196	197



198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207
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208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216



217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225



226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235



236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245



246 247 248 249 250



251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259



260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269



270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280

Price list of new minis. Note that we still have supplies of many of Nos. 1-168 on the Stock List. A complete list is available from Pam Fowler. Orders should be placed with Supplies Officer, Pam Fowler, RD2, Patea, Taranaki, New Zealand. We only have a small supply of some of the bottles & cans on this list but can get more if the demand is there. Your order for any we run out of will be held and we expect to be able to supply these in April. Note that these, as with most micro-minis, mainly contain water but are true to label.

169.	Double Cola Can	\$4.00	228.	Schlau Pilsen (slope neck) (mic)	\$3.50
170.	Hansa Can	\$4.00	229.	Schlau Pilsen (bulbous N)(mic)	\$3.50
171.	Castle Milk Stout Can	\$4.00	230.	Schlau Cervesa Blanca (bulbousN)	\$3.50
172.	Strough's Light Can	\$4.00	231.	Schlau Cervesa Genuina (sq. Br)	\$3.50
173.	Tecate Can	\$4.00	232.	Austral Especial de Luzo (slope)	\$3.50
174.	Cardenal Can	\$4.00	233.	Schlau Blanca Extra (slope neck)	\$3.50
175.	Carlsberg Can	\$4.00	234.	Austral Especial de Luzo (B.N.)	\$3.50
176.	BBK Pils Can	\$4.00	235.	Palermo (slope neck) (micro)	\$3.50
177.	Pepsi Can	\$4.00	236.	Andes (micro)	\$3.50
178.	Castle Lager Can	\$4.00	237.	Leon De Oro (bulbous neck) (mic)	\$3.50
179.	Strough's Can	\$4.00	238.	Leon De Oro (slope neck) (micro)	\$3.50
180.	Quilmes Can	\$4.00	239.	Schneider Especial (slope neck)	\$3.50
181.	Hamms Can	\$4.00	240.	Schneider Especial (squat) (mic)	\$3.50
182.	DAB Original Can	\$4.00	241.	Schneider Negra (bulbous neck)	\$3.50
183.	Diet Pepsi Can	\$4.00	242.	Schneider Especial (sl. N, Grn)	\$3.50
184.	Cott Cola Can	\$4.00	243.	Schneiderer Blanca (bulbous N)	\$3.50
185.	Wildwood Can	\$4.00	244.	El Aguila (slope neck, green)	\$3.50
186.	50/50 Can	\$4.00	245.	El Aguila (slope neck, brown)	\$3.50
187.	Piels Draught Style Can	\$4.00	246.	Asti Gancia (micro)	\$3.50
188.	Wiedemann Bohemian Special Can	\$4.00	247.	Aguila Dorada (bulbous N)(mic)	\$3.50
189.	Milwaukee 1851 Can	\$4.00	248.	Aguila Dorada (slope neck) (mic)	\$3.50
190.	Olympia Can	\$4.00	249.	Polar (bulbous neck) (micro)	\$3.50
191.	Pabst Genuine Draft Can	\$4.00	250.	El Aguila (bulbous neck) (micro)	\$3.50
192.	American Cream Soda Can	\$4.00	251.	Black Star (micro)	\$3.50
193.	Uptown Can	\$4.00	252.	Corona Extra (micro)	\$3.50
194.	Becks (green) Can	\$4.00	253.	Corona Light (micro)	\$3.50
195.	DAB Traditional Can	\$4.00	254.	Millars Genuine Draft (micro)	\$3.50
196.	Red, White & Blue Can	\$4.00	255.	Moosehead (micro)	\$3.50
197.	Old Milwaukee Can	\$4.00	256.	Carlsberg (micro)	\$3.50
198.	Clearly Canadian W/Cherry (mic)	\$3.50	257.	Chihuahua (micro)	\$3.50
199.	Clearly Canadian G/Apple (mic)	\$3.50	258.	Dos Equis XX (micro)	\$3.50
200.	BH (micro)	\$3.50	259.	Quilmes (micro)	\$3.50
201.	Double Cola (micro)	\$3.50	260.	7 Up (micro)	\$3.50
202.	Fanta (Orange) (micro)	\$3.50	261.	Canada Dry Ginger Ale (micro)	\$3.50
203.	Fanta (Yellow) (micro)	\$3.50	262.	Canada Dry (orange) (micro)	\$3.50
204.	Paso de Los Toros (micro)	\$3.50	263.	Corona (micro)	\$3.50
205.	Cunnington (micro)	\$3.50	264.	Yoo-Hoo (micro)	\$3.50
206.	Anana (micro)	\$3.50	265.	Fres-Cola (micro)	\$3.50
207.	Villavicencio (micro)	\$3.50	266.	Cordoba (micro)	\$3.50
208.	Rio Segundo (squat) (micro)	\$3.50	267.	Fanta (clear) (micro)	\$3.50
209.	Rio Segundo (bulb neck, red L)	\$3.50	268.	Las Mercedes (micro)	\$3.50
210.	Rio Segundo (bulb neck, blue L)	\$3.50	269.	Limonet (micro)	\$3.50
211.	Antarctica (slope neck) (micro)	\$3.50	270.	Asti Gancia Rosato (micro)	\$3.50
212.	Antarctica (bulbous neck) (mic)	\$3.50	271.	Cinzano Vermouth (micro)	\$3.50
213.	Bieckert Llavallo (micro)	\$3.50	272.	GanciaAmericano (micro)	\$3.50
214.	Bieckert Etiqueta Azul (micro)	\$3.50	273.	Cinzano Bitter (micro)	\$3.50
215.	Schneider Blanca (sl.neck)(mic)	\$3.50	274.	Cinzano Oro Americano (micro)	\$3.50
216.	Schneider Negra (sl.neck) (mic)	\$3.50	275.	Martini Roso (micro)	\$3.50
217.	Schlau Cervesa Genuina (sq.Gr)	\$3.50	276.	Martini Bianco (micro)	\$3.50
218.	Schlau Bock (bulbous neck) (mic)	\$3.50	277.	Martini Seco (micro)	\$3.50
219.	Schlau Cervesa Blanca (sl.neck)	\$3.50	278.	Campari (micro)	\$3.50
220.	Palermo Blanca (micro)	\$3.50	279.	Eristow Vodka (micro)	\$3.50
221.	Palermo (bulbous neck)(micro)	\$3.50	280.	Negrita Rhum (micro)	\$3.50
222.	Polar (slope neck)(micro)	\$3.50	281.	Rio Segundo (slope neck, taller, red L)	\$3.50
223.	Austral Blanca Extra (bulbous N)	\$3.50	282.	Rio Segundo (slope neck, taller, blue L)	\$3.50
224.	Austral Negra Extra (bulbous N)	\$3.50	283.	Prenzel Sambucca (clear) (not as 110 or 162)	\$3.50
225.	Austral Negra Extra (slope neck)	\$3.50	284.	Prenzel Pear William (not same as 160)	\$3.50
226.	Schlau Cervesa Negra (micro)	\$3.50	285.	Prenzel Kirsch	\$3.50
227.	Schlau Bock (slope neck) (micro)	\$3.50	-----	Patea W/end T-Shirt (Med. Only)	\$20.00

CZECH JUGS

Now for yet another offer. I ran out of space on the Editorial page so you can see some new jugs from the Czech Republic, together with some other ones you may not have seen. I apologise for the photos not being to my usual standard.

If there is sufficient interest we will do a club order. The jugs cost about NZ\$12 each delivered, provided we don't get hit for customs duty. Both the Diana jugs, shown in front and rear view, hold Czech Whisky. There may be a third one made but I cannot confirm this as the Web site is off-line for a couple of weeks as I write this. Also shown is a new Irish Whisky, Locke's, together with 5 other Irish whiskies, Avoka, Millars, Tyrconnell, Kilbeggan & Dunville's. These are also still available and we will order them for you if sufficient members say they want them. Last time we offered jugs from the Czech republic only one person replied, yet when I took them to the AGM everyone wanted some. This time please let me know or you will loose out.



THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Is the only international magazine devoted to miniature bottle collecting. It is published six times per year. We recommend this publication to our members and arrangements have been made for payment in New Zealand. Cost is as follows:

Mainland USA:	1 year, 3 rd class US\$18	- 1 year, 1 st class US\$22	- 2 years, 3 rd class US\$34
Alaska & Hawaii:	US\$22	Canada:	US\$24
		Europe & Asia:	US\$30

For above payment to: Brisco Publications, P.O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. 90274, USA

New Zealand & Australia: US\$30 per annum - Payment can be c/o: PNMB, P.O. Box 384, Wellington, New Zealand

The miniature bottle collector is also on the Internet at: <http://www.bottlecollecting.com>

Mini Bottles from the USA

The A. Smith Bowman Distillery is located in Fredricksburg, Virginia. It's been around for years, but not many folks have heard of them. In 1996, I first saw a set referred to as "BOWMAN'S Spirits". While I had seen pictures and heard about the existence of these mini bottles, I could not find them on sale anywhere. I eventually came to realize that you could only buy them in the state of Virginia, and in a few select liquor stores in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As seen in the first picture, the set comes in a Green box with only the tops of the bottle sticking through. Colorful labels of each of the mini bottles line the sides of the box.



The middle picture shows the individual bottles. First is *BOWMAN'S* Imported Rum. This has a Blue label, with White & Red print, and trimmed in Gold. Next is *Virginia Gentleman* Bourbon. It has a cream colored label with Red print and a Brown scene. Next is *BOWMAN'S* Blended Scotch Whisky. The label on this mini is also cream with Brown print, and trimmed in Gold & Red. The last mini in the middle picture is *BOWMAN'S* imported Canadian whiskey. The label is Tan, Brown & Gold with White & Red print.



On the bottom, the first picture is *BOWMAN'S* Virginia Gin with a Green label, trimmed in Gold, with White print. Next is *BOWMAN'S* imported Tequila. This has a very bright Yellow label, with Black & Red print, and trimmed in Red. Next is *BOWMAN'S* Light vodka. It has a White label, with dark Blue print, and trimmed in Silver. Last is *BOWMAN'S* Virginia Vodka. It has a Red label, with White print, and is trimmed in Gold.



To bad these pictures aren't in color because they are all very colorful.

Jim Crawford

The Cellar Fellar

Australian humourist and children's author Morris Gleitsman tackles the challenges of establishing a suburban cellar.

The day red wine first touched my lips I was hooked, even though the the tasting conditions weren't ideal. For a start I was only 4. And I'd been eating ice cream. I didn't get a chance to find out if the red was a cabernet or a shiraz. I asked, but the auntie who was drinking it just gave her hanky another lick and wiped my mouth again.

I didn't care. It left my tastebuds tingling with wonderful berry and spice characters, a superb fruit/acid balance and a delightful touch of middle palate tannin. (Though Auntie Thelma was a big tea drinker, so the tannin could have been from her middle palate.)

After the first taste I was desperate for more. I spent much of my childhood hanging around hopefully with a sticky mouth. But our local bottle shop owners couldn't have had hankies because they just used to hose me down.

In my teens I begged to be included when a bottle of red was uncorked. "Sorry son," the adults would say, "you're not old enough yet," and they'd give me a small glass of white. I always drank it with tomato sauce, but it wasn't the same.

Then, from my eighteenth birthday, I was finally allowed to indulge my passion. Ah, the ecstasy of ripe fruit. The smoky sensuousness of oak. The pert seduction of a plastic tap when the cash was short. My friends viewed my passion with amusement, partly because they were beer drinkers and partly because of the way I dipped my hanky in the glass and sucked it.

I still didn't care. As the years passed I fell in love with every red grape variety and every red wine district. But it wasn't until I was a young parent in my mid-thirties that I finally encountered the most sublime wine drinking experience of all - an aged red.

"What is it?" I asked the friend who'd poured it. "Aged," he said, and pointed to the label. 1977. Ten years old. I struggled with the concept of keeping a bottle of red longer than the drive home from the shop. "Have you got a time machine?" I asked. "No," he said, "a cellar."

In an instant my life was changed forever. Suddenly I knew that I too must have a cellar. What joy, as I went about my cooking and cleaning and adding oak chips to the kids' cordial, to know that a couple of meters below my feet dozens of bottles of red would be slowly and magnificently maturing.

Unfortunately the bloke in the unit under me hated the idea. He wouldn't even let me keep a couple of dozen behind his sofa. So I moved to a house and started excavating. "Dad," yelled the kids, "stop, the walls are subsiding. Our Kurt Cobain poster's got a double chin."

I explained to them that excavating was the only way to have access to a cellar. "No it's not," they said. "Think lateral."

"What," I said, "you mean the bloke next door's cellar?"

"No," they said. "A cellar doesn't have to be underground. It can be any space where the storage conditions are suitable except our room."

They were right. I hugged them both and promised them Grange topping on their ice cream. Then I pulled the hanging racks out of my wardrobe and installed wine racks. OK, my shirts would get a bit crumpled, but it was either that or try and balance bottles on hangers.

I took out my life savings and bought Penfolds, Henschke and Mentelle. (Just some bottles, not the wineries.) After laying them down carefully in the wardrobe, I began my long vigil.

I knew the main enemies of maturation were temperature fluctuation, light and vibration. I got myself a maximum - minimum thermometer and, after a few months of nervous record-keeping, concluded that the temperature variation in my wardrobe wasn't excessive, as long as I kept the door closed and didn't go rummaging for socks immediately after handling frozen food.

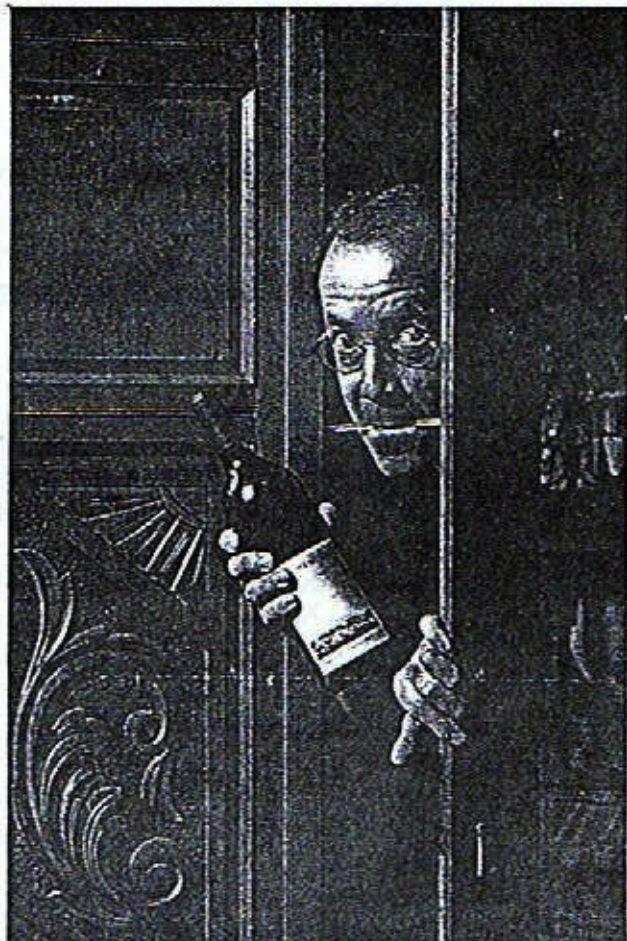
*"Ah, the ecstasy of ripe fruit.
The smoky sensuousness
of oak..."*

Light wasn't a problem as all the lamps in my place were made from old red wine bottles and the sediment tended to keep the glare down.

The killer was vibration. If it wasn't the kids' music shuddering through the house, it was their friends forgetting to slide down the hall on their stomachs. I had to be really strict. For example, I had to completely ban the use of all vibrators in the bedroom, which wasn't a popular edict.

Even that didn't solve the problem. Our place is on an arterial road into the city and, as the years went by and smaller wineries were increasingly swallowed up by conglomerates, the wine trucks rumbling past got bigger and bigger. My wardrobe shook.

I pleaded with Wolf Blass, but to no avail. Salvation came from an unexpected quarter. I'd bought shares in a company developing instant red



Morris Gleitsman, the closet drinker.

wine in powder form, and when the company folded unexpectedly, I found myself with a pile of worthless share certificates. Imagine my delight when I found that, shredded, they made wonderful vibration-absorbing nests for my precious bottles.

I started my cellar ten years ago. Ten years of loving care and nurturing. Tonight, for the first time, I'm going to open one of the bottles. A beautiful mature Mentelle Cabernet. Just the thought of it brings tears to my eyes. Could someone lend me a hanky?

Morris Gleitsman is a children's author and a sophisticated adult columnist. His favourite drinks are mature cool-climate cabernet and orange cordial. His grown-ups' column appears regularly in the Sydney Morning Herald.

**DID YOU
REMEMBER
TO PLACE
THE CARDS
SUPPLIED
WITH THE
LAST miNiZ?**

ODD SPOT

FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE



A strange phenomenon caused much comment at a barbecue this summer. To keep the cans of beer cool they were placed in a large plastic dustbin that was filled with cold water. Strangely, some cans remained on the bottom of the bin while others floated on the surface of the water. There were more submerged cans than floating cans, but this behaviour was not confined to any particular brand. What could be the reason for this?



This owes a little to the laws of hydrostatics and a lot to consumer laws.

The volume of beer that is printed on the side of a can is a legal minimum, and so beer cans are designed to accommodate a certain amount of extra liquid. The exact amount of extra beer contained in the can depends on the brewer's quality control procedures during can filling. If the beer is accurately metered during filling, then cans need to be only slightly larger than the nominal volume of beer they contain. Where the filling process is less accurate cans must be even larger, cost more to make and transport, and may be filled with more beer for which the brewer cannot charge.

When the can is completely filled with more than the quantity of beer that is printed on the side it has a net density that is more than that of water (beer and aluminium being denser than water). When the can is filled with the minimum quantity of drink marked on the side, the rest of the can is filled with air and carbon dioxide, making the overall density less than when it is full.

Assuming that beer and air have densities of 1010 kilograms per cubic metre and 1 kilogram per cubic metre respectively, and that a nominal 440 millilitre aluminium can has a mass of 30 grams, a few rough calculations (based on the cans in my fridge) would suggest that around 8 per cent extra volume of air on top of the standard 440 millilitres of beer would be enough to make it float. This can be measured by the fill-level of the can: in this case it would be about 9 millimetres from the top.

The fact that there were more submerged than float-ing cans would confirm that brewers do overfill cans to comply with weights and measures regulations.

So, if your thirst needs plenty of quenching, or you just want more beer for your money, you should go for the cans that don't float.

WHAT KIND OF "ANIMAL" ARE YOU?

This edition we start a new series of six articles based on the Chinese Years. Each edition we will feature two years, together with pictures of the animals associated with that year. I have been somewhat 'Liberal' with my animal interpretation, but then so has the web site where much of this information comes from. Notice Micky Mouse for the Year of the Rat!

For those of you who do not know, the Chinese Zodiac classifies people under twelve animal signs, based on the (Chinese) year in which they were born. The Year of the Ox is just drawing to a close (27th January) so it is appropriate to start at the beginning of the cycle with the Years of the Rat and Ox and follow the Zodiac through.

To find out which year you were born in use the following charts:

RAT

1900 1.31 - 1901 2.18: Metal	1912 2.18 - 1913 2.5: Water	1924 2.5 - 1925 1.24: Wood
1936 1.24 - 1937 2.10: Fire	1948 2.10 - 1949 1.28: Earth	1960 1.28 - 1961 2.14: Metal
1972 2.15 - 1973 2.2: Water	1984 2.2 - 1985 2.19: Wood	1996 2.19 - 1997 2.6: Fire

OX

1901 2.19 - 1902 2.7: Metal	1913 2.6 - 1914 1.25: Water	1925 1.25 - 1926 2.12: Wood
1937 2.11 - 1938 1.30: Fire	1949 1.29 - 1950 2.16: Earth	1961 2.15 - 1962 2.4: Metal
1973 2.3 - 1974 1.22: Water	1985 2.20 - 1986 2.8: Wood	1997 2.7 - 1998 1.27: Fire

TIGER

1902 2.8 - 1903 1.28: Water	1914 1.26 - 1915 2.13: Wood	1926 2.13 - 1927 2.1: Fire
1938 1.31 - 1939 2.18: Earth	1950 2.17 - 1951 2.5: Metal	1962 2.5 - 1963 1.24: Water
1974 1.23 - 1975 2.10: Wood	1986 2.9 - 1987 1.28: Fire	1998 1.28 - 1999 2.15: Earth

RABBIT

1903 1.29 - 1904 2.15: Water	1915 2.14 - 1916 2.2: Wood	1927 2.2 - 1928 1.22: Fire
1939 2.19 - 1940 2.7: Earth	1951 2.6 - 1952 1.26: Metal	1963 1.25 - 1964 2.12: Water
1975 2.11 - 1976 1.30: Wood	1987 1.29 - 1988 2.16: Fire	1999 2.16 - 2000 2.4: Earth

DRAGON

1904 2.16 - 1905 2.3: Wood	1916 2.3 - 1917 1.22: Fire	1928 1.23 - 1929 2.9: Earth
1940 2.8 - 1941 1.26: Metal	1952 1.27 - 1953 2.13: Water	1964 2.13 - 1965 2.1: Wood
1976 1.31 - 1977 2.17: Fire	1988 2.17 - 1989 2.5: Earth	

SNAKE

1905 2.4 - 1906 1.24: Wood	1917 1.23 - 1918 2.10: Fire	1929 2.10 - 1930 1.29: Earth
1941 1.27 - 1942 2.14: Metal	1953 2.14 - 1954 2.2: Water	1965 2.2 1966 1.20: Wood
1977 2.18 1978 2.6: Fire	1989 2.6 - 1990 1.26: Earth	

HORSE

1906 1.25 - 1907 2.12: Fire	1918 2.11 - 1919 1.31: Earth	1930 1.30 - 1931 2.16: Metal
1942 2.15 - 1943 2.4: Water	1954 2.3 - 1955 1.23: Wood	1966 1.21 - 1967 2.8: Fire
1978 2.7 - 1979 1.27: Earth	1990 1.27 - 1991 2.14: Metal	

GOAT

1907 2.13 - 1908 2.1: Fire	1919 2.1 - 1920 2.19: Earth	1931 2.17 - 1932 2.5: Metal
1943 2.5 - 1944 1.24: Water	1955 1.24 - 1956 2.11: Wood	1967 2.9 - 1968 1.29: Fire
1979 1.28 - 1980 2.15: Earth	1991 2.15 - 1992 2.3: Metal	

MONKEY

1908 2.2 - 1909 1.21: Earth	1920 2.20 - 1921 2.7: Metal	1932 2.6 - 1933 1.25: Water
1944 1.25 - 1945 2.12: Wood	1956 2.12 - 1957 1.30: Fire	1968 1.30 - 1969 2.16: Earth
1980 2.16 - 1981 2.4: Metal	1992 2.4 - 1993 1.22: Water	

ROOSTER

1909 1.22 - 1910 2.9: Earth	1921 2.8 - 1922 1.27: Metal	1933 1.26 - 1934 2.13: Water
1945 2.13 - 1946 2.1: Wood	1957 1.31 - 1958 2.17: Fire	1969 2.17 - 1970 2.5: Earth
1981 2.5 - 1982 1.24: Metal	1993 1.23 - 1994 2.9: Water	

DOG

1910 2.10 - 1911 1.29: Metal	1922 1.28 - 1923 2.15: Water	1934 2.14 - 1935 2.3: Wood
1946 2.2 - 1947 1.21: Fire	1958 2.18 - 1959 2.7: Earth	1970 2.6 - 1971 1.26: Metal
1982 1.25 - 1983 2.12: Water	1994 2.10 - 1995 1.30: Wood	

PIG

1911 1.30 - 1912 2.17: Metal	1923 2.16 - 1924 2.4: Water	1935 2.4 - 1936 1.23: Wood
1947 1.22 - 1948 2.9: Fire	1959 2.8 - 1960 1.27: Earth	1971 1.27 - 1972 2.14: Metal
1983 2.13 1984 2.1: Water	1995 1.31 - 1996 2.18: Wood	

The Restless Rat



Rat people are born under the sign of charm and aggressiveness. They are expressive and can be talkative sometimes. They like to go to parties and spend quite sometimes chatting with their friends. Although the Rat can be quiet sometime, it is rare to catch a Rat sitting quietly.

Rat people usually have more acquaintances than real friends and they revere and cherish those close to them. Once you become their real friends, they will treat you as their family. Rats are self-contained and keep problems to themselves. And even though they can be talkative sometimes, they never confide in anyone.

Sometimes mean, narrow-minded and suburban in outlook, Rat people are nevertheless honest. They can always make a success of their lives as long as they manage to master their perpetual discontent and their insistence on living for the present moment.



The Rat is quick-witted. Most rats get more accomplished in 24 hours than the rest of us do in as many days. They are confident and usually have good instinct. Stubborn as they are, they prefer to live by their own rules rather than others. It won't be an easy task to work with Rat people, why? Simple, because they are also 100% perfectionists.

They are very organized and talented, perhaps that is why the Rat makes a good businessman or politician. Unfortunately, as soon as the Rat earns money, he spends it. Maybe that explains why the Rat is so careful when he lends money to others. If you ever borrow money from the Rat, don't be surprised by the high-interests.

The Rat is not romantic, but he is sensual and loving. Rat people could be hard to see through at first glance, because they are also very protective, but even though they are not easy but they are worth it - ask anyone who has a Rat for a lover, parent, child or friend. They are very loyal and devoting to their families.



The Diligent Ox



Ox people are hard-working and persistent, they can stick at a task longer and go at it harder than anybody. They believe in themselves and tend to classify almost everything into two basic categories, bad and good. They hold up their high standards as a model and severely judge those who don't aspire to maintain these same ideals.

Ox people are not social or party animals, they tend to be quiet when in a party. Although appears to be tranquil, in fact, Oxens are ponderous but impulsive when angry. They are capable of fearsome rages, therefore, it is better not to cross an Oxen.

Ox people are observant, they have remarkable memories and are good at reporting on absolutely everything they observe. Go ask an Oxen if he remembers who were at the party 8 months ago, most likely, he will name them one by one to you.

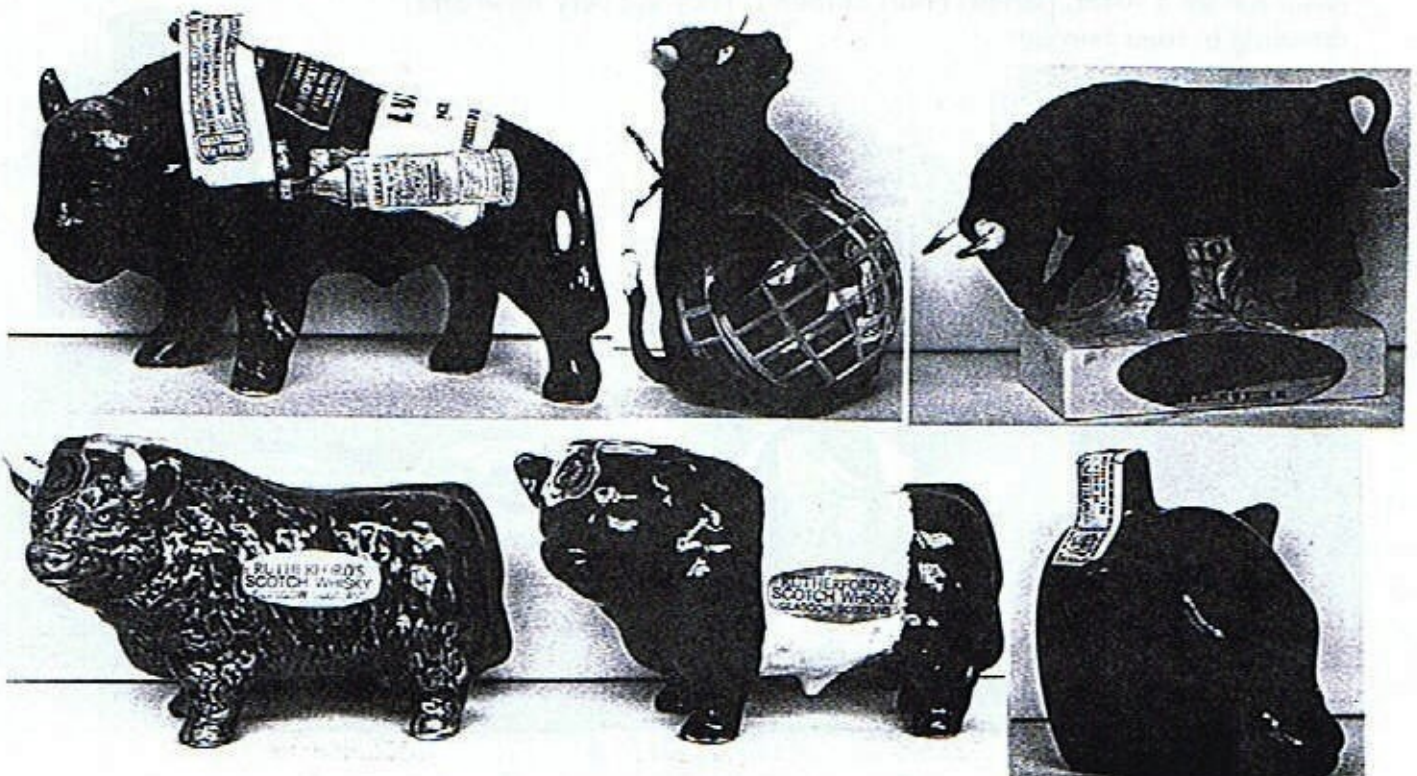


In the home, the Ox is a great guy to have around. In business, the OX can succeed in the arts, a contracting business, or an estate., thanks to their creative nature. And since an Ox is intelligent and good at his hands, he can be a good surgeon as well.

Ox people are stubborn and dogmatic, they believe in their decision and will never regret. They are also very close to their families. Disappointedly, Oxens often find that those who are close to them fail to understand them. Nevertheless, they are patient, and caring and that makes the Oxen the best friend you can ever have.



Oxens are very responsible and loyal. Ox people are seldom jealous, but they will be jealous of their rights; and the fidelity of a husband or a wife is one of their rights. They are very family-oriented, conservative and faithful.



The bottles shown in the photographs are as follows:

The first picture shows the MAB Mouse. The mini is white with a gold trim. These have obviously been sold in NZ many years ago as a lot are in collections and they turn up in the bric-a-brac shops regularly, although almost all are empty and many are missing the stopper.

Speedy Gonzalez is known to all of you who, like me, grew up on Warner Brothers cartoons. It was made in Italy in 1975 by Alpa and contains Crema Cacao. There is a whole series of Warner Brothers characters and you will be seeing a few more as this series progresses.

The Year of the Rat is from Sam Seng in Hong Kong. It is part of a set of 12 Chinese years which was the inspiration for this series of articles. All will eventually be shown. The set is available from the Hong Kong Miniature Bottle Club and is very good value.

In the bottom corner is the Chinese Zodiac.

The next page starts with the Bison (American Buffalo), which is all brown, or would be if it didn't have three labels on it. It was made in 1972 by Luxado and this mini is No. 101 of 792.

The fighting bull is clearly breathing it's last breath and is on the way out of this world. Notice the Picador's swords in the bull's back. This mini is a globe shaped glass bottle with the bull and the longitude and latitude lines in plastic. It was made in Spain and looks to contain white wine, although it does not show the contents on the label.

The standing Bull is from Collectors Art. It also looks a real fighting bull. The bottle contains 86proof Bourbon.

The bottom row starts with a fine looking brown Bull which would have to be an Aberdeen Angus. It is made by Rutherford and contains their Scotch. Note the horns which are stuck onto the pottery.

The black and white belted bull is also by Rutherford. At first glance it looks to be the same but there are subtle differences between the two moulds.



The Bulls head is a Black Angus. It contains Aberdeen Angus Argentinian whisky.

To the left is The Year of the Ox from Sam Seng in Hong Kong.

Last, but very definitely not least, we have the Wyoming Bison (American Buffalo). It is made by Alpha Originals and contains Lewis & Clark Bourbon. The state bird, the Meadow lark, is on the Bison's back. Lewis & Clark made bottles for most US States but unfortunately never finished the series.



David Smith

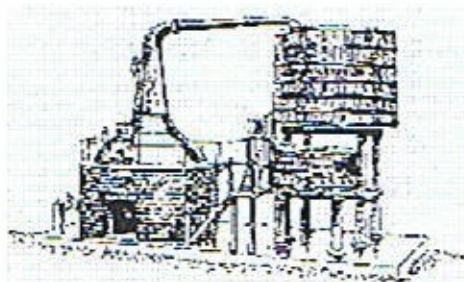


THE STORY OF WHISKY

Many drinks go by the name of whisky, but most of the best come from Scotland. Of the various types of whisky, the very best are the Malts, each of which is unique. Why? Who can say. But every region has its own special character... the distilled experience of generations is matured in the careful choice of casks... and whisky can only ever be bottled upon reaching the right age.

Types of whisky

There are three types of Scotch whisky: **Malt** whisky, **Grain** whisky and **Blended** whisky. **Malt** whisky is produced only from 100% malted barley. **Grain** whisky is produced from a variety of cereals which may, or may not, include a proportion of malted barley. **Blended** whisky is a combination of Malt whisky and Grain whisky, mixed together in the same bottle.



Single Malts

Most of the whiskies covered in this text are **Single Malt** whiskies. These are the products of individual malt whisky distilleries. For example, *Aberlour*, *Edradour*, *Laphroaig* or *Macallan*. However, the actual distillery name does not have to be identified on the label for a whisky to be called a single malt. Single malt may come from different casks of various ages, but they must all be from the same distillery. Not all distillery owners

bottle their single malts under the name of the distillery. For example, the single malt from Macduff distillery is bottled as *Glen Deveron* by its owners.

Vatted Malts

Vatted malts are whiskies from more than one distillery which have been blended together, according to the specifications of the blender, to produce a fine, consistent product with a personality of its own. This whisky may well be given an individual name, such as Sheep Dip or Poit Dhubh. A **vatted malt** may not contain any **grain whisky** otherwise it is **blended whisky**. Some **vatted malts** have been included in a section at the end of this text, as have some **single malts** bottled under "brand names" of independent bottlers.

Pure Malt

All Scotch malt whiskies, whether single or vatted, are **pure malt**. They are produced only from malted barley. If a whisky contains just one millilitre of **grain whisky**, then it is a **blended** whisky.

Grain whisky

Grain whisky is produced from a mash of various cereal grains usually, but not exclusively, made from wheat, maize and barley. Both **malted barley** (barley which has started to germinate and then been

dried to arrest its germination) and **unmalted barley** (barley which remains dormant) are used in the production of **grain whisky**.

Scotch Whisky

All **Scotch** (and **Irish**) whisk(e)y is produced by first grinding the particular cereal grain(s) to a coarse flour and then sweeping this in hot water in a **mash tun**. The resultant liquid, called **wort**, is then cooled to between 22 and 24 degrees centigrade and run back into a **wash back**. Yeast is then added. Once the yeast has been fermented out, a strong ale called **pot ale** remains, which is about 9% alcohol by volume. This **pot ale** is then distilled by heating it in **copper stills**, either in a continuous still, called a **Coffey still**, for **Grain** whisky or twice in the case of **Malt** whisky using a pair of **Pot** stills. Three stills are used for Irish whiskey and the Scottish malts Auchentoshan, Benrinnes and Rosebank, these all being **triple distilled**. Pot stills are usually onion-shaped, with tall, tapering swan necks designed to help the alcohols condense, after which they are collected, cooled and put into casks.

A whisky, however produced, may only be legally described as **Scotch** whisky if it has matured in oak cask in Scotland for a minimum of three years. It must also have been bottled at a minimum strength of 40% alcohol by volume. There is no legal requirement for Scotch whisky to be bottled in Scotland. The same legal restrictions also apply to Irish whiskey (note the addition of an "e") in Ireland.

A Guide to the Regions

No two single malt whiskies are alike. Even malts produced by sister distilleries using the same source of water have their own distinct individuality. But, although single malt whiskies cannot be neatly packaged and parcelled, certain whiskies do have shared characteristics which can, broadly defined, help to identify a malt's original provenance. For example, some, but not all, Islay malts share similarities, as do some Speyside whiskies, particularly those in that elastic glen, Glenlivet.

Traditional Regions

The traditional regions are Highland, Lowland, Islay and Campbeltown, although the latter's once numerous distilleries have now dwindled to just two. The Highland region may also be sub-divided into Speyside, Northern Highland, Eastern Highland, Perthshire and Island (not to be confused with Islay) malts.

Islay Malts

Islay malts are the weightiest, most pungent and most heavily peated and are therefore generally the easiest to identify. These malts take their characteristics both from the peat used to dry the barley and their closeness to the sea. These factors give them what is often described as a seaweedy, medicinal taste and a distinct peaty flavour.

Lowland Malts

Lowland malts are dry, when compared with their Highland counterparts, and, although often quite spirity, are light whiskies with generally fewer individual differences than those of other regions.

Northern Highland Malts

Northern Highland malts are sweeter and have more body and character than their Lowland relations. They can have very distinctive and subtle characters, with a rich mellowness and fullness of flavour, but, equally, they can show a dry peatiness or a delicate fragrance.

Speyside Malts

The Speyside malts are the sweetest whiskies. Although they do not have as much body as some

Highland malts, their flavours are richer and more complex with fruity, leafy and honeyed notes and a subtle delicacy of aroma which, once recognised, should be easy to identify.

Eastern Highland Malts

Eastern Highland malts come from the area between the North Sea coast and Speyside. Often full-bodied, they tend to have a dry, fragrant, fruity-sweet flavour, together with a touch of smokiness.

Perthshire Malt

The Perthshire malts, although Highland by definition, come from the area bordering the Lowland region. They tend to be medium-sweet, clean-tasting whiskies which are both light and fruity. Their identity may be best considered as falling somewhere between that of Lowland and Speyside whiskies.

The Island Malts

The Island malts from Skye, Jura, Mull and Orkney are characterised by a peaty, smoky nose and flavour. Some could be said to more closely resemble Islay malts while others are more like Northern Highland whiskies.

Campbeltown

If it is possible to categorise Campbeltown nowadays, then it must fall between the Lowlands and the Highlands in dryness, but shows a distinct smoky character with good body and a salty tang.

Irish Malt Whiskey

Irish malt whiskey is much lighter, smoother and fresher than its Scottish counterpart. This is, in part, due to the fact that it is triple distilled, although there are a couple of Scottish single malts also produced in this way. Irish whiskey also used unpeated barley, unlike most Scotch whisky.

Although it is possible to map out generalised characteristics for single malts, each distillery produces a malt which has its own unique personality. It has its own micro-climate, wild yeasts, source of water and specific malting requirements. All of these factors (and even the shape of the still used) will have an effect on the individual character and flavour of a malt.



Casks

Whisky casks are made of oak, from the genus *Quercus*. The species *Q. cerris*, (French oak), *Q. falcata* (Spanish oak), or *Q. alba* (American white oak), are used. Oak is a natural substance and therefore variations in density, quality and porosity are inherent. To further complicate and confuse the issue, the wood is split by hand and the casks are constructed by hand. Thus each cask is unique in that it is larger or smaller than its neighbours, its staves vary in thickness, and no two pores are of the same size. Its influence on the maturing spirit which it holds is therefore going to be different from that of any of its neighbours.

That is why the recipe for each blended whisky is different. A blender cannot state categorically that the blend for his "Hamish's Choice" Blended Whisky is, for example:

- ☐ 23 casks of Glenardle, 10-year-old
- ☐ 2 casks of Harport, 18-year-old
- ☐ 15 casks of Royal Lochmaben, 7-year-old
- ☐ 13 casks of Leith grain, 5 year-old etc.

because the proportions of each constituent whisky will vary with each blend. When you enjoy a bottle

from a single cask bottling, you are drinking a very finite resource, you are consuming our heritage.

A hogshead will yield roughly 300 bottles (bottled at 40% abv strength) after 10 to 12 years, a butt 500, a barrel 200. The variations in the oak cask mean that the distiller cannot deliberately exactly repeat this magic of creation.

Generally the whisky drunk pre-1900 was young, only the landed gentry being able to afford to mature their spirit. The ageing cask could be new or previously have held wine, or rum, or butter, or herring, or anything which a cask could hold. Until the 1850s, whisky was sold by the distiller in cask and the publican or whisky merchant bottled it as required. From 1916, the government insisted whisky be aged in cask for a minimum of three years. The industry was then obliged to find supplies of casks in which to age their product. At this time, all Sherry imported into the United Kingdom was shipped in cask, to be bottled in the UK by the British merchants. Once emptied, the asks were surplus to the importers' requirements.

Ever keen to save a few pennies, the canny Scots were thus able to pick them up very cheaply. Likewise, because of the strength of the coopers' union in the USA at the time the laws governing Bourbon production were being created by Congress; it was written into American law that a Bourbon barrel could only be used once. When empty, they were worth only their value as firewood. Once again the thrifty Scots stepped in and established another economic source of cask. The situation has now changed in that, since 1983, the Spanish government has decreed that all Sherry must be bottled in Jerez and Sherry butts are now reusable by the Jerezanos. New Sherry case are now a considerable cost to the whisky distiller.

With casks being used as many as four or five times over, the most usual type of cask used for filling Scotch and Irish whisky is what is known as a **Refill** cask. The casks are carefully checked by coopers between each fill to ensure that there will be no leakage of precious spirit. **First fill** Sherry casks are nowadays very rarely used to fill new grain whisky, second, third and fourth refill casks being the usual choice for such whiskies.

One element which has developed in importance in the past 20-25 years is the distiller's awareness of the origins of the cask. So much so that some now have them made to order by Spanish or French coopers and loan them to a Sherry bodega. *Glenmorangie*, for example, preferring Bourbon casks, has even gone to the length of buying an oak forest in the Ozark mountains in Missouri to ensure continuity of supply of a particular quality of oak. The cask has moved a very long way from being a vehicle for transporting whisky or a container of a handy size for sale, and companies are now experimenting with whiskies aged in oak casks that have previously held Port, Brandy and Rum. Sometimes whiskies are filled in one type of cask, e.g. Bourbon, and then "finished" for their last few months or so of maturation in another, e.g. Sherry.

In the next miNiZ

Two articles on Czech bottles. One on the currently available Czech ceramics and one on the history of Kord.

Pictures (hopefully) of 4 new Coke bottles produced for New Zealand cities.

Continuation of Odd Spot and the Chinese Years

LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU PARTICULARLY WISH
miNiZ TO FEATURE - OR BETTER STILL WRITE US AN ARTICLE.

From the Whitby News

People collect all sorts of things for all sorts of reasons; teapots, salt and pepper shakers, stamps, matches, and model cars. Ian Butcher collects bottles. Not your every day bottles, but miniatures, and he has 3000 of them at last count.

The taste of the contents is irrelevant. It's the bottle: the size, shape, label and age that matter more than the liquid within. Always a bit of a self confessed magpie, Ian fell upon miniatures by chance. He'd collected stamps since a young boy, but when he was in his late 30's an elderly relative who was moving house had a collection he was loathe to split. He gave Ian half of his collection which totalled about 80 and watched to see if Ian became interested. He did, and when the old man passed away Ian got the remainder of the collection - the more valuable miniatures he discovered.

Ian, now a consulting agent for AMP, who works from his Whitby home, was at one time working in the car industry which saw him travelling up and down the country. On his travels he'd always stop at bottle stores to see what miniatures were on offer, and often clients would have small miniature collections doing little else but gathering dust. They were as pleased to see the back of them as Ian was to receive them.

He had to learn more about collecting these little bottles and had about 400 when he joined the Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club. Gradually he learned what was good, what was not, and what to look for when he came across them.

The old bottles with lead tops are to be prized as opposed to the screw tops more widely available today. And the most valuable

bottles are generally whiskies, said Ian. A rare old scotch will fetch a good price particularly in the US, he said. Ian however specialises in bourbons. "I drink bourbon (from the big bottles) and the other thing that made me focus on the bourbons was the ceramic bottles." These hold pride of place in one of Ian's many secure floor to ceiling cabinets which house his collection. Some of these don't look like bottles at all. They are ceramic figurines of birds, animals and people. Trying to find the stopper on them can be difficult. He also likes the miniature jugs. A lot of the bourbons he has are no longer available. Bottles are more valuable if they haven't been opened. Some have the seal still intact, but the contents have slowly evaporated.

Ian has all his collection listed on computer. He has tiny tiny beer bottles known as micro minis, bottles that look like little lamps, highly decorated Chinese bottles, bottles shaped like musical instruments, ceramic chess pieces and model towns, gin, vodka, cocktails, brandy, ports, sherry and rum. You name the drink and he's probably got a miniature of it somewhere. He can usually remember how he came by each one and adds he also has a very good security system.

Some collections overseas total 20,000, but he said his collection is a good one by New Zealand standards. Through the Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club contact is made with other collectors around the world, and information is gathered and passed around.

Ian's wife June has no complaints about his unusual hobby, except when they travel they are forced to enter every liquor store they pass just in case there is something special, previously unseen by Ian, inside.

Date, Time & Place of Meetings

SUNDAY at 2.00pm unless otherwise stated

18 th January	BBQ LUNCH	11.30am at the Goodman's Settlement Road, P.O. Box 125, Te Horo
14/15 th February	Patea Weekend & AGM	YOU MUST LET DIANNE OPIE KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING & STOPPING. THE WEEKEND STARTS FRIDAY NIGHT IF YOU WISH TO GET THERE EARLY. AGM IS SUNDAY, 11.30 Phone: 06 273 4271
15 th March	BBQ LUNCH	11.30am at Chin's, 29 Norton Park Ave., Fairfield, Lower Hutt
19 th April	MEETING	Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville.
16 th May	POT LUCK & SWAPMEET	6.30pm (Saturday) at the Butcher's, 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby.
18 th June	MEETING	Brassett's, 13 Peckham Grove, Tawa.

I believe that the South Island members will also be meeting regularly this year but have not had a list of dates. What about some meetings up north? Any volunteers?



Welcome New Members

Terry Buck	27 Junction Road, Paeroa	(07) 862 8987	Fax: 862 8987
John Sullivan	158 Valivia Circle, San Ramon, CA 94583, USA	(510) 806 9410	E-Mail: salesinfo@smartrunk.com



OUR
BELOVED?!?
TREASURER



Ian Butcher with some of his miniatures.

Rattlesnake Blood Aperitif

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In Malaysia, it's all the thing to boost a flagging libido with a dose of fresh rattlesnake blood. A wife will catch a rattlesnake for her husband, or he can go to a special parlor where he lies on the floor while an attendant stands above him and pierces a live, thrashing rattlesnake in the tail. The gentleman then grabs the tail and sucks on it for five minutes. One 63-year-old man reported, in a story in the S.F. Chronicle, "It's well worth it. I feel young again. It's better than any Western aphrodisiac I've tried."

For the more conventional among you



May we introduce?...

BROWN COW

1/2 Totara Cask
1/2 Fresh Milk
Pour over fresh ice cubes, in a fancy glass. Chief "Sitting Bull" was named after the effects of many Brown Cows!

S.Y.C. COFFEE

1 miniature bottle Totara Cask
1 miniature bottle Rum
Pour into big coffee mug and fill with strong, hot coffee. Float spoonful of whipped cream on top.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Mix a glassful of Cherry Noko with juicy red cherries and pour over vanilla ice cream. Your reputation will really blossom when you serve this!

PARADISE

1/2 Apricot Brandy
1/2 Dry Gin
1/2 Orange Juice
Serve with ice and thin slice of orange and cherry. Everyone can now enjoy paradise!

PORT WINES

Tired of tea and coffee? Then try port with a wedge of N.Z. cheese and perhaps with a few slices of fresh apple. Instant little banquet — serves energy!

SHERRIES

So simple to use and yet so profound. Sherry is one of life's gentle blessings. It's helpful for jaded appetites, yet ironically effective for indigestion. Being nature's most antiseptic beverage that one can actually drink and really enjoy, surely makes it a heaven sent medicine! It eases hypertension, renews strength and induces natural sleep. Enjoy sherry anytime... **HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH!**

*Coromandel Peninsula
Stop here and start living
— Sun, Sea, Surf,
Fishing and Fossicking
Come!*

Produced and Bottled by
TOTARA VINEYARDS, SYC LTD.,
Thames, Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand.

New Zealand