

Issue 65

Winter 2003



# MINIIZ

**THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB**



*Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club*



# EDITORIAL



The majority of this newsletter was written by me as I have had nothing from anyone else other than an article from Jim Crawford and some bottles for New New Zealand from Erica Mulder and Frank Wynn. I MUST have some articles from other members if miNiZ is to continue as I cannot keep coming up with ideas for articles on my own. This is your newsletter and, as usual, I exhort, implore, urge, encourage you (and anything else you can think of short of physical violence – and that may become an option soon!!!) to get some articles into me. As much as possible I would like them electronically (email or on disk) but ALL contributions are welcome. If you believe that you are useless at writing articles, and few people are in reality, send me the facts and pictures and I will happily put it together.

Whilst on the subject of participation, I have to say that there is a lack of it generally in the club at the moment. Recent meetings have either been very poorly attended or cancelled. Our major problem is the lack of members now in the Wellington region. We have recently had a publicity drive with more than 50 cards having been put on notice boards and up in bottle stores. We have had a nil response. Auckland and Christchurch members have also put quite a number of these cards up but we have had a nil response in those areas also. Any ideas would be very welcome.

Later in miNiZ you will see the MMBC Show jug. The club has only a few of these for sale so if you want one get in touch with me (not Pam) quickly.

We ran a competition in the last miNiZ asking for the countries that eight Coke bottles represented. Frankly it was not difficult to attempt this. My thanks to Jan Noda and Frank Wynn, the only two members who bothered to have a go. Both of you got it right by the way so if you want to get in touch with me I will sort a prize out of 2 Cokes each. We used to get 16 or 20 members having a go at the competitions so just two members participating is a real disappointment.

On a brighter note I would like to recommend Wanganui East Wines, Beers and Spirits if you are passing through Wanganui. It is one of the best, if not the best, place in the country to buy minis. They have also recently bought a heap of surplus stock from the club. Erica Mulder is also to be thanked for disposing of yet more surplus stock to two Auckland outlets.

*Wanganui East  
Wines, Beers & Spirits*

129 Duncan Street  
Wanganui

Phone (06) 343-9551  
Fax (06) 343-9524  
Mobile (025) 226-9549

*Your Hosts:  
Bob & Eleanor*



Finally, if you are wondering why the Mazatan Tequila bottle is above it is because it is a new New Zealand bottle. The picture arrived from Erica after I had already finished the New New Zealand article. It has a very nice blue label and is bottled at 50ml, 37%.

*David Smith* EDITOR

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## Cover and New New Zealand

I've got heaps of new bottles for you again. If this keeps up I'm going to need to extend the house – again!

On the cover and on the right there are 7 new bottles from Mamaku Blue Winery. We have previously featured a round version of the Blueberry Liqueur. The cover shows the same label on a square bottle and they tell me that they have also used a triangular bottle for this product only. Completely new are Gooseberry Liqueur, Cranberry Liqueur, Feijoa Liqueur (all shown on the cover in square bottles), Kiwi Gold Liqueur and Passionfruit Liqueur (shown at right, together with the round Feijoa). All 6 are produced in both round and square versions.



Sombbrero Juice de la Mexcalii is the only Southern Grain mini this time that is not a private bottling. It is 50ml, 22.5%. It is not Tequila but is made from it.



Next we have the first of 27 bottles from Southern Grain Distillers. Most of them are private bottlings. Property World comes in Bourbon, Whisky and Gin. It appears that Clelands Construction only likes Rum. Trade Card has been made in Rum, Bourbon and Whisky.







Shown on the last page and on the left are a set of 6 from The Bowl and Jack, which I assume is a pub.



There is no doubt that the bottles for the Railway Tavern, Wamangaroa are made for a pub. This, and the set for Blenheim Working Men's Club, each comprise 5 bottles; French Brandy, Jamaican Rum, London Gin, Vodka and Bourbon.



Above are two plastic bottles from Redwood Cellars of Nelson. They are Butterscotch Cream and O'Connell's Cream. Both are bottled at 14%, 50ml.





Black Heart is another variation of a very familiar bottle. Pity that it is plastic.

Country Cars is the last of the private bottlings this time. It comes in Blended Whisky, London Gin and Jamaican Rum.

Now we have a great set of 7 liqueurs from Deinlein. I have never heard of this company before but their first offering is certainly a very superior one. Some of you might not count these as 'minis' as they are 100ml. I, and most other collectors, have always used this as my upper limit but others stop at 50 or 75ml (the old 2.66 fluid ounce). The



Apricot, Persimmon and Tamarillo are bottled at 25%, the Kiwifruit, Feijoa, and Kiwi Gold are 26% and the Tangelo is 29%.

Our final picture starts with a new Old Hokonui, this one bottled for the Hokonui Moonshine Museum at

Gore. Next is a corrected Aganippsis Ouzo - this one says 50ml not 750ml. The final two bottles are two new plastics from Prenzel, Butterscotch cream and Butterscotch Schnapps.



My thanks once again to Erica Mulder for providing the Southern Grain Distillers bottles and to Frank Wynn for the Old Hokonui. Please feel free to join in as I am sure that the three of us do not find all of the new one.

*David Smith*



# MMBC SHOW FINDS

Having just returned from the Midwest Miniature Bottle Collector's annual show in St. Louis, I thought I would show off a few of the treasures I managed to get at this year's show.



Let me start with a riddle. When is a set of mini liquor bottles not a set of mini liquor bottles? The answer is, when it is the **"LAST CHANCE BAR SET"**. This set was made by the Last Chance distillery in 1971, and was intended to contain last Chance Whiskey. Lionstone was the distributor, but when they went to ship these minis in California, they discovered California had a law against shipping Miniature Liquor Bottles in that state, so these minis were filled with Cologne.

As you can see this set contains 6 separate mini bottles which forms a Bar Scene when placed side by side. There were very few of these minis produced, and due to their very delicate shapes, most have been broken or chipped. This set also includes a frame. These frames were hand made and carved, but only a few frames were made. As you may have guessed, this set is very difficult to find. I was very fortunate to not only find one with a frame, but also one with all 6 pieces in mint condition. Because of these factors this is a very rare set.

Another very unusual find at the show was a mini Maker's Mark Whisky. Now I know you are saying that everyone has a Maker's Mark Whisky in their collection, so why is this one so special? The answer is that this is one of 12 minis which were specially "Dipped" as part of a Distillery Promotion called Christmas in July to get more sales in New York City. In July 2002, Bill Samuels Jr., the President of



Marker's Mark Distillery, spent the better part of the day hand "Dipping" the familiar Red Dipped bottle top with an added Green Dip. People could purchase a bottle of Maker's Mark and have that bottle personally dipped in green wax by Bill Samuels. One enterprising person got a dozen minis and had them dipped. Bill Samuels then wrote "NYC 2002" on the side of the bottles in Green ink. I understand some of these minis were selling on E-Bay for over \$100 (US).

I understand that a number of Port Nicholson Club members are planning to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors show next April 23, 24 & 25, 2004. I guarantee you will have a great time, and see 20,000 to 25,000 mini bottles which are all for sale. Many will be ones you seldom see available for sale. It is just like Christmas! If you are planning on attend this show, I encourage you to make your Hotel Room Reservations early. The Hotel is routinely sold out for the Show weekend, and the





25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show will have a lot of special events. I have already made my reservations. When making your reservations, be sure to identify yourself as an MMBC Show attendee, and you will get the special rate we have negotiated with the hotel.

On the left we have the 2003 Show bottle. As you can see this is a Gold Cock, 6 year old

malt Czech whisky. This is the third year that the show bottle has been a Czech jug. The front shows an old time miner pushing a rail truck loaded with gold. These jugs are available from the Midwest Mini Bottle Club and PNMBBC has a few available for NZ members. Contact David Smith if you want one.

*Jim Crawford*

## Unusual Sprites

We have shown you a number of Coke bottles with foreign writing on them in previous issues. There are quite a number of sets of the 'foreign' Cokes and some are quite common, others harder to get.

As far as I am aware this is the only set ever made of foreign writing Sprite minis. They are almost impossible to find. I have been trying to get these for several years but the other two times they have

come up on Ebay I have been considerably outbid. I suspect that the set may contain more than these 5 but have never seen others pictured. Based on the Cokes this should probably be a set of 6 or 8.



Shown here are bottles from Thailand, China, Greece, Egypt and USA. They are about 76mm (3") high and empty, but this is because they are fully evaporated.

*David Smith*



# CHINESE BOTTLES

Whilst surfing the web I came across an interesting mini site in Singapore: <http://sanlowalan3minibot.virtualave.net/miniature.html>  
The guy who runs this, Alan Low, sells bottles on Ebay and from his web page. The bottles on the web page are not cheap but they are very unusual. He also displays quite a number of Chinese bottles from his collection. The following pictures are from bottles he has for sale. Some are a bit small but that is the size they were.



Tostoise Sanke Chiew



Centipede Wine

Scorpion Wine

Bamboo Bee Wine

Sea Horse Wine

Pipefish Wine

Lingzi Chiew

Sanpien Jiu

Wu Chia Pi Chiew



David Smith



## AS SEEN ON EBAY #6



The Hoffman Pandas is not one of the better known Hoffman bottles but it is not too rare either. It sold for US\$13.52

The two Rynbende bottles are certainly not common but there are a few sets of these in NZ. The two shown here are in tip-top condition and sold for US\$5.99



Those of you who know me will know that one of my passions is collecting bottles in the shape of buildings as this goes with my business. All of you will be familiar with the KLM series made originally by Rynbende (1-45), then Henkes (1-45) and now Bols (1-84 + a few 'specials'). Rynbende also made the first 10 and sold them in the 1960's. This is the set sold below. These buildings are all still sealed and have the original US importer's tax seal. They sold for US\$160 – which is about double what they sell for singly at the shows.



Yet another bottle from Holland is the Bols lady. This is one of a set of 8 (I think), each dressed in the colourful traditional costume of one of the Dutch provinces. This one has a striped blue skirt and green top. The bidding was spirited and she sold for £19.18 At





about the same time this was for sale I bought another one in the series in a Wellington antique shop for \$30.

Here we have two views of a ceramic book, 'The Minuet.' In Issue 63 we showed another book, 'The Ballet' that was obviously in this series but that did not have a label. As you can see this was made by Clan Tartan. I expected this to go sky high being Scotch and as I was going to be away I did not bother bidding. It sold for only US\$10.50 (as opposed to US\$29.51 for The Ballet).

It's about time we left Holland so next we have a 1936 Plymouth Gin by Coates. As you can see it is in lovely condition. The bottle is clear glass, the cork top still has the lead seal and it is still full. Great for a 67 year old bottle. Bidding was spirited (no pun intended) with 19 bids and it finally went for US\$26



This set of four mini barrels contain Queen's Castle Scotch. There are four colors, green, brown, blue and yellow and each stands 89mm (3.5") high. It sold for US\$33.75



The cat bottle (actually it looks more like a dog than a cat to me) is about 76mm (3") high and is from Cerotosa of Italy. It contains Elisir di San Bernado – whatever that is, and sold for US\$36 – which seems quite high.

The bull dog bottle contains Marischino. The bottom says 1978 Made in Italy for Luxardo, total 800 pieces. It is 80 proof - 6 cl. - 2 fl. Oz and is about 102mm (4") high. It was imported into the US by Metropolitan Liquor Co. Inc. 233





N. Milwaukee St. Milwaukee, Wis. It went for a poor price, US\$9.99

The fish shaped mini vase bottle was made in Italy and contains Piper's Pride Fish Whisky. I don't know about you but I don't fancy fish whisky at all! Maybe it loses something in the translation. It sold for US\$26



To the left we have Corralejo Reposado Tequila from Penjamo, Guanajuato, Mexico – where else? It is as big as a mini gets, 100ml and a beautiful cobalt blue. The label is cream with red and gold writing. A truly stunning bottle. It sold for US\$9.99

The Soccer Boot and leg was made for Real Madrid Football Club – one of the world's top sides. I presume that it was made in Spain. I expected this to be well sort after but it sold with one bid only for a very low US\$7.95. Unfortunately the seller did not say who made it or give us any other information.



We have not featured many 'Give Away' bottles in these articles but the Glad Hand is

one that went for a bargain price – US\$14.95. It was made in Germany.



I cannot tell you anything about the McManoon 'The White Goose Family' as the seller chose to tell us no more. I have never even heard of the manufacturer before. Given that it is obviously rare the sale price of US\$9.99 was very cheap.



On the next page we have a very nice Delft windmill from Rynbende. It is 146mm (5.75")

high, or 190mm to the top of the sails and contains crème-de-menthe. The sails turn and an unusual feature of this windmill is that the top section is a music box. It plays 'The Sound of Music.' I always thought that that was set in Austria not Holland but I guess Rynbende decided to jump on the bandwagon. Two of these were sold, the first for US\$48.02 and the second, where the seller restricted bidding to US





buyers only, sold for an incredibly low US\$4.99



The Alligator is one of a series of US State bottles made by Alpha (Lewis & Clark) in 1981. Ian Butcher has the whole set except for this one so we must do an article on them at some time. Unfortunately the set was never completed and so all states are not represented. All are

in the shape of the state and have on them the state animal or flower or both. I bided on this for Ian but, being an accountant by background (ie. A natural skinflint – ideal for a treasurer though) he would not let me go higher. It sold for US\$12. I have always liked this set but for some reason most collectors obviously don't. A number were for sale at the same time but most failed to sell and this was the highest price of any. A month earlier 10 different ones sold at between US\$9.99 and US\$16.02

This nice old car (unfortunately the seller does not tell us what model it is) is 127mm (5") high and about the same in length. It is part of a series made by Casa Vinicola Boccaccio of Italy. It contains 2oz. of Red Wine (Vino Rosso). It sold for US\$36.99



The Dutch couple is known to most of us in New Zealand, obviously some have been imported. It was made by Rynbende. Each piece usually sells for \$30 or \$35 in the antique shops here (or far higher in the poney ones). The woman sold for



US\$17.96 and the man for US\$16.96 – about the same as the NZ price. A couple of weeks later a pair sold for US\$134.51

On the right are 8 minis that comprise the first





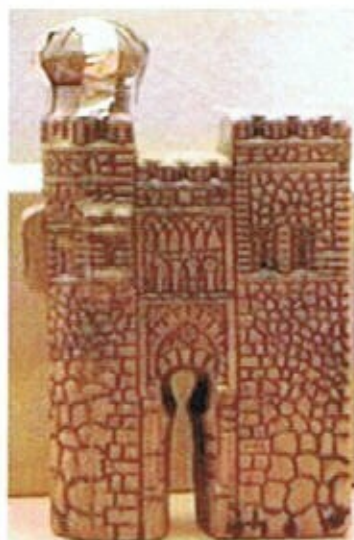
series by Wild Turkey. These are constantly up for sale individually on Ebay and most do not sell. However, bidding was brisk for the full set and they bid to US\$122.50 but this was below the reserve. Second time around they sold for \$127.50



Now we have a number of building bottles, all of which I would have liked to buy but all of which I was outbid on. The first is Casas Musen. This was made by



Destilleries Ortega of Spain. It sold for US\$51.02 The second is a house by Waldemar Behn Eckerförde of Germany. It contains Kartoffelschnaps. It sold for US\$41.02 The tower to the right is Torre Mangana and this was also made in Spain by Destilleries Ortega. It sold for US\$26.58 Next



we have yet another Destilleries Ortega bottle. Unfortunately there is no name on this one. It sold for US\$56.01 The nice bottle with the twin spiked towers was well bid for. It is an Italian bottle from Valenti and, of course, represents a building in Lubeck. It sold for US\$56.01 The little round Roma building is also from Valenti. It sold for SS\$36.03



set sold for US\$186.27

The McCormick mini gunfighters are a great set of 8 bottles. I bought a set off Ebay two or three years ago for US\$120. This Each is about 150mm (6") tall, and they were sold still full and





sealed. Reading from left to right the bottles represent Bat Masterton, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Wild Bill Hickok, Black Bart, Doc Holiday, Jesse James and the only lady? Calamity Jane. We have goodies and baddies here and, although immortalised by Hollywood as semi-fictional characters,

all were real people. The graves of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are on Boot Hill in Deadwood.

This funny little parrot bottle is from Southern Sales of Florida and was probably made in the 1930's. It contains Creme de Violet and measures a mere 63mm (2.5") high. It sold for US\$26



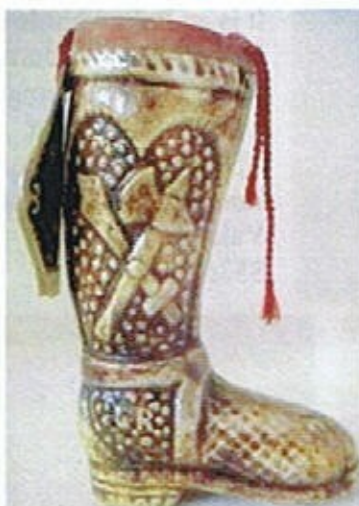
The Rynbende Lighthouse is one of the least known Rynbende bottles. It is a plastic wrapped glass bottle and stands about 178mm (7") high.



It sold for US\$25

The boot was made by Colombari of Italy and contains

Lacrima Christi wine. It stands 127mm (5") high. I can't tell you any more about it, except that it sold for US\$34.18



The house looks like one from KLM or maybe one of the other Dutch 'copies.' It's not. It comes from Germany and was made by a company called Arvo that I have never heard of before. It sold for US\$37

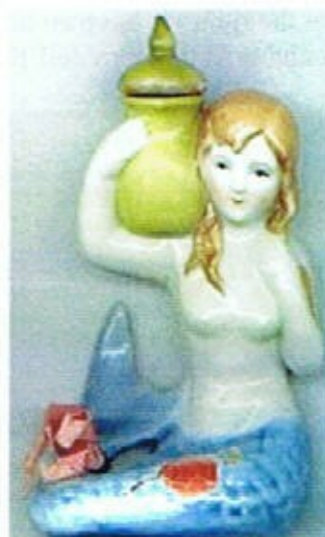






The tower sold for an incredible US\$51 – I pulled out at half this amount. It is called Modpat, was made by Destillerias Ortega and contains wine. The height was not shown.

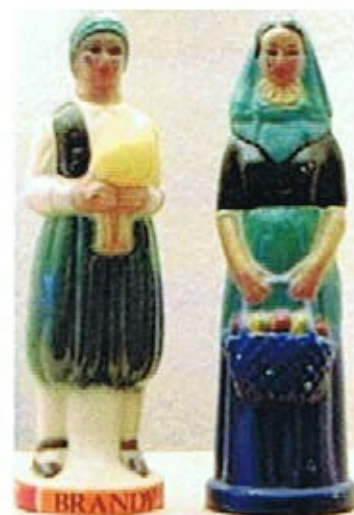
As a complete contrast we have the nice little Cornish Tin Mine bottle on the left. It is 100mm (4") high and is empty but once contained Cornish Mead. It sold for a mere £4



The Mermaid is from Isaiah / MBC and is 140mm (5") high. Bidding restricted to the US only probably accounted for this selling for only US\$11.50



The book is one of the well known Spirit of Scotland series from Rutherford. This is a royal blue book, Vol. III, 95mm (3.75") high. It sold for US\$10.45. A set of 4 sold a few days later for US\$50



The couple on the right come from the Spanish island of Mallorca. Both contain brandy and were made by Santa Maria. The height is not shown but there are a number of other Spanish figurines and all are on the tall side for miniatures. The pair sold for US\$31



It is not often that I show a Ski Country mini as these are so well known. On the left we have both the full size and mini versions of the Fox on the Log. This was the first Ski Country bottle in 1973 and at one time was fetching up to US\$400. Two years ago at the St. Louis show one was on sale for US\$150 and it did sell, although I don't know whether the price was negotiated down a little. This time it sold, after bids by several bidders, for only US\$42.50. Again, the fact that bidding was restricted to the US may have had an effect but overall it just shows that you are in this hobby for the enjoyment, not the money.



On the right we have an interesting jug from Italy. It contains Mandarinino dell'Etna. It sold for US\$9.99



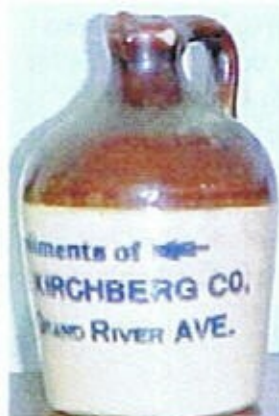
I bought the stunning gold lady bottle in Australia (second hand) about 12 years ago for A\$10 – together with about a dozen others equally as good. It is from Toshi of Italy and contains Crema Cacao. It sold for US\$26

This strange little bottle has a woman on one side and a man on the other. It is from Linfa of Italy and contains Salus wine. It sold for US\$8.99



The Sandeman Man was made by Royal Doulton and contains Dry Sherry. It contains 2.5oz at 19%. It still has the Maryland State Tax Stamp on it which is dated June 2, 1939. There are at least three versions of this, each with a different colour glass, this one being yellow. The bottle is empty but that made no difference as it sold for US\$202 with an unusual number of bids.

The castle bottle is a 'stock' Italian ceramic. By 'stock' I mean that it has been used by a number of different companies. I have this filled with Italian liqueur but this one is filled with Old Store Scotch Malt Whisky from McGown & Cameron Ltd of Scotland. It is 108mm (4.25") high. It sold for US\$15



Finally, we have a cream and brown jug "Compliments of Kirchberg and Co., 259 Grand River Ave." It sold for US\$62.99

*David Smith*



Coke *Coca-Cola* **MICRO COKEs** *Coca-Cola* Coke



One of my passions (I can't tell you about some of the others!) is collecting micro-minis. Among the micro collection I have a collection of almost 600 different micro Coke bottles. Here are a few of the new ones, and one that I missed out on.

The first picture shows the 2001 Christmas bottle. These have been produced by Coke since 1993 and there have also been two sets produced for earlier years, 1931-1936 and 1957-1961. All these bottles match the full size Coke Santa bottles. Next we have Salt Lake City 2002, which was, of course, for the Winter Olympics.



Next we have a very hard to get one, 15 Years Pausing for Refreshment, Badger Spring Paradise May 15-22 2002. The words Coca Cola are written across the state of Wisconsin. This bottle was made for a convention. Finally we have one of a series of 5 made for the Hawaiian Islands, this one for the island of Hawaii itself.

The second picture once again starts of with a Santa bottle, this one for 2002. Next up is another hard to get convention bottle, TCCCC Palm Springs 2002. This also has an outline of California. In the middle is the 2002 Hawaii state bottle, again, complete with an outline of the state, in this case a series



of islands. I can't tell you anything about the Bellingrath garden and Home bottle. Finally we have a bottle made for Hawaii All-Collectors Show 2002, which is also shown on picture three.



Unfortunately this is not written on the bottle but on an attached tag. The bottle simply says Honolulu, the city where the convention was held. Again, this is a difficult one to get as it is one of only 200 made.

The next picture shows a historical set that was made in Italy. There are 6 bottles, a wooden crate and a scroll telling you about each bottle.



Next we have a new Orlando bottle. This style is Coke's latest. This particular bottle is on a keyring. It is common for these bottles to have a keyring or magnet attached.

On the left is the only older bottle being shown in this article. Espana 1982 was made for the Soccer World Cup in Spain. Needless to say, this one was not cheap!

Finally, we have two clocks. These are smaller



than they look as both are true micro size, about 76mm (3"). The one on the far right is gold and the other silver. The silver keeps excellent time but unfortunately I missed out on the gold and so cannot comment on that one. It sold for US\$22

*David Smith*



## OLD SYDNEY TOWN



The bottle on the left is about 50ml but does not say so. It came from Old Sydney Town, which is a tourist park near Gosford, north of Sydney, Australia.

I first came across Old Sydney Town in the 1970's. It was new then and expanding. It is a reconstruction of Sydney Cove as it was in 1810. In the 1970's it was well staffed with strolling whistle playing and singing sailors, tinsmith, potter, blacksmith and many more working tradesmen. Reconstructions of the first landing, flogging escaping convicts and much more was going on all the time.

Sadly the place has gone backwards – very backwards! I cannot recommend it. Nor can I recommend the Port – it is rough, real rough! Anybody want this bottle?

*David Smith*





FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

**Q** I recently held a barbecue, and to help the party along I filled a plastic dustbin with ice and cans of beer. When the ice melted, the remaining cans were left floating at all angles in the water. By the following morning, however, all were floating vertically - except for those containing widgets, which remained either disorientated or had dived to the bottom of the dustbin. What's going on here?

**A1** It's all to do with gas. The reason the beer cans align vertically overnight and float is because, by the morning, they contain more carbon dioxide in the form of gas.

Whilst the cans are immersed in ice or icy water, the  $\text{CO}_2$  contained in the beer remains dissolved. However, as the ice melts and the beer's temperature rises, the  $\text{CO}_2$  begins to form bubbles as it returns to its gaseous state. As more bubbles form they begin to aggregate and a slight disturbance to a floating can will cause the aggregated bubble to shift preferentially to the higher end of the can rather than sit precariously along an inside edge.

You will probably find that the end at the water's surface is the one without the ring pull. The ring pull end of the can is heavier and more likely to sink.

The reason cans with widgets remain in their original positions is that there is no  $\text{CO}_2$  dissolved in the beer. Instead, the gas in these cans is nitrogen contained inside a tiny device that only releases it when the pressure in the can falls after opening. Any increase in beer temperature will have no effect on the amount of gas already present in the can.

**A2** Some of the floating widget cans may have sunk to the bottom by the following morning because the density of the water had changed. Water has a maximum density at about  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Liquids of high density are better able to support floating objects. That is why people float so easily in the dense Dead Sea. Therefore, the water was able to support some of the cans at low temperatures but by the next morning the water had warmed up and was unable to support the cans because of its lower density.

**A3** Your correspondent's question about floating cans begs another of greater import. Why were there cans of beer left over at all? There's a vanishingly small chance that this phenomenon would have been allowed at an Australian barbecue.



## DATE, TIME & PLACE

July 20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Ken Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Lower Hutt
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Beach, Kapiti
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
September 28 <sup>th</sup> SI	2.00pm	Robin Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch (a number of North Island members regularly make a weekend of this meeting)
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Marj Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> SI	2.00pm	David Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Heathcote, Christchurch
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	David Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay
December		Christmas shindig – TBA
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steuart Goodman's, 21 Horopito Road, Waikanae
February 14/15 <sup>th</sup>	Anytime	AGM and Weekend away at Patea. (AGM after lunch on 15 <sup>th</sup> )

**As we have no secretary, the person who is holding the meeting should phone or email all the local members a week in advance to remind them.**

### FANCY AN OVERSEAS TRIP?

A number of members have expressed a desire to go to one of the US mini bottle shows. We discussed this at the AGM and now have a commitment from 6 members to go to the Mid-West Club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show in St. Louis in April 2004. We are looking at leaving NZ on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, arriving in St. Louis the same day. Friday will be a day to look around St. Louis. The show activities start Friday evening with an auction of bottles, buffet dinner and much more. Saturday and Sunday are the show days. There will be a dinner on the Saturday night. On the Monday we will drive to Kentucky, about a 5 hour drive, and spend a few days visiting distilleries etc. You can then either return to NZ or head off to see other parts of the States. Going as a group will allow us to pool some expenses. Contact David Smith if you are interested. PO Box 384, Wellington [minidavid@xtra.co.nz](mailto:minidavid@xtra.co.nz) Phone: 025 275 7712

In the last miNiZ the above notice accidentally said 2003 instead of 2004. This may be why nobody has contacted me! **If you might like to go please get in touch with me within a week of receiving this.** We need to get our rooms booked soon as otherwise we will not get into the show hotel.

If you have never been to one of these shows you don't know what you are missing. There will be at least 20,000 minis for sale in every category you can name. But most of all you will meet like minded people, collectors from all over the world, and make new friends and swap contacts. Raffles are held every hour and some of the donated prizes are well worth trying to obtain. **An experience not to be missed.**