

Issue 74

Autumn 2006



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Cover and New New Zealand

Our cover this time shows four of eight new bottles from Southern Grain Distillers. These were made for the Jim Beam club in Christchurch and came in two presentation boxes, one with five bottles and the other with three. The other four are shown below.



The Beam Decanters depicted on each mini (8 of a set of 12) were issued for the benefit of The Chicago Opera,

National Academy of Arts, the Australian Opera or the New Zealand Opera. Every purchaser received a gold music box base and paperweight with the purchase of each decanter.

The next photo shows a new version of Wilson's Whisky. This has not been produced for years but the old stock is still being bottled. Coulters Rum does not say it is from NZ but it is. This is not a new bottle but it is one that has not been pictured before. Vin Alto Cassis Liqueur is very tall for a mini but, as you can see, is only 40ml. It is a 'pair' to the Limoncello that has been on sale a year or more.



The first photo on the next page shows another set, this time of six, from Southern Grain Distillers, Portside Tavern. This pub is in Lyttleton, which is Christchurch's port.

The next photo shows bottles that Erica Mulder and Colin Todd picked up on the way home from the AGM. The first two are again from Southern Grain Distillers. I know nothing about Bluff Harbour Water except that it was made for South Port New Zealand, the company that runs the port of Bluff, the most southerly in New Zealand. South Gin is one we have been waiting for. It is from 42 Below, a company that has produced some very nice vodkas in recent years.



The Old Hokonui is a label variation of an old favourite and has been reported by a number of members.

Also found by Erica is this Bellamys set. Southern Grain Distillers have previously made two whiskies and two brandies for Bellamys, the restaurant in Parliament, but the labels on these are totally different and the gin is a first.

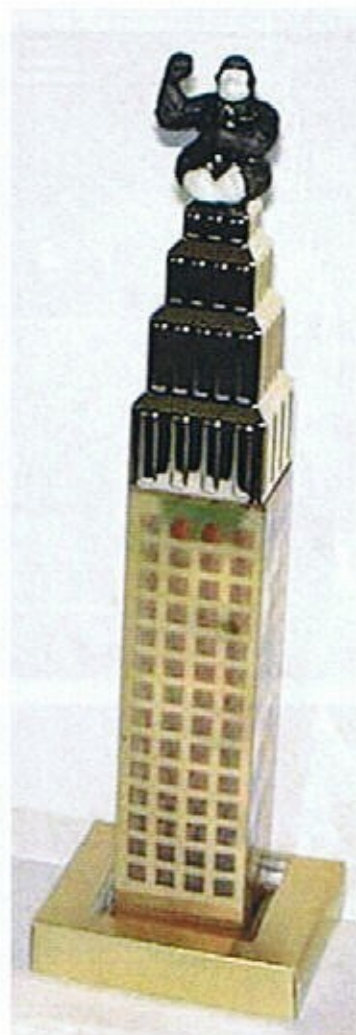
Next we have a set of five new bottles from a new name. The Yankee Bourbon Company of Christchurch made the five bottles on the next page. Unfortunately they are plastic and the labels are inkjet printed – and not very well by today's standards. Another fault is that the clear



and gold Tequila labels are identical. Still, they're bottles....



King Kong is not a New Zealand bottle but does have an obvious New Zealand connection. It is from Japan and contains Nikka Whisky.



The five Absolut Vodkas all have the New Zealand importers name on the label, as does the Dos Gusanos (Two Worms) Mezcal.

Finally we have the Bella Verde Feijoa, which is a home grown bottle from Tauranga. Like the Vin Alto bottle, it too forms a pair with a Limoncello, with a third flavour to be produced soon.



That's it for now. Keep findin 'um and lettin me know!

David Smith

AGM, Beam Club Visit etc.....

The AGM in Christchurch went very well. The new (old?) committee is shown on the back page, as are the meeting dates for 2006. By popular demand the AGM will be in Wellington again next year.

The weekend kicked off with a get together on the Friday evening at Robin & Jess Mellish's house. Robin has one of the largest collections in New Zealand and it is always a pleasure to see it again. Jess put on a good spread (as always) and it was good to catch up with members from all over the country.



On Saturday morning we were guests of the Jim Beam Club in their Christchurch museum. This is an extraordinary collection of Beam decanters (as well as a few of

other makes) and I will let a few pictures give you an idea of what it is like. The pictures only show a fraction of the decanters and other Beam items that are on display. Please excuse the quality of the photos. The cabinets are beautifully lit top and bottom but this does not make for good photography.



Saturday afternoon saw us visiting David & Val Fretwell's and Trevor Harvey's house to view their collections (and buy a few bottles). In the evening we went to the Richmond Club and a great time was had by all.

Sunday is Riccarton Market day so we all got up early and hunted for a few bargains. There were unfortunately very few bottles to be had and most of them were junk. We had a very hospitable lunchtime barbecue at Eric & Cheryl Sutton's house, followed by the AGM. As everyone was well oiled by this time most committee members were press ganged into re-standing! We still need a secretary – hint!

I took quite a number of photos at the Fretwell's, Eric's and of bottles brought by Gary Pascoe but we are out of space this issue so they will be in the next miNiZ. I have also recently photographed a number of Ken Chin's favourite Scotches so hopefully they will be shown in the next miNiZ also.

Long standing US member Tony Inzerillo was in Wellington last month with his wife and two close friends. Rosie and myself put on a barbecue which was attended by both friends and other members. It is always good to catch up with overseas members, it's one of the benefits of a club like ours. If you are going to visit NZ you can be sure of a warm welcome in Wellington, Auckland or Christchurch.

David Smith

Chilean Whiskies -- Part I

A recent article in miNiZ prompted me to take a look at the wide variety of recent Chilean whiskies I've collected. All of the bottles are glass, 50 ml, with paper labels. I'm currently aware of seventeen different producers who between them put out over fifty different brand names. The table below shows ten of those producers. The accompanying photos show examples of most of the brand names. Part II of this article will show the remaining producers.



Column 1 shows the short name of the producer and column 2 the brand name (some are only minor variations). The third column shows the alcohol strength, while the fourth column shows the different aging available (zero means no aging shown). To add to the mix, many of the producers have label variations, listed in column 5, for the same product. The standard label is rectangular and is often available in different colors. Some of the brands also have oval, round, or diamond shaped labels. It adds up to a large number of potential permutations, and I am pretty certain that I don't have them all, but column 6 shows the total number of different minis I have for each brand name so far.



Many of the brand names are in English (e.g. Crazy Horse, Hallmark, The Money, Conquering, Sunray, Hunter's Black Seal). Horses and horse racing are popular label themes. Donson Whisky features vintage automobiles. In the Top Whisky line from Embotelladora Chile there are two attractive limited edition series which feature paintings by famous Chilean painters Roger Matta and Claudio Bravo, and one limited edition series that shows paintings of various mounted uniformed officers of German cavalry regiments.



All in all, a rich source of minis to seek out!

Producer	Brand Name	%abv	Aging, yrs	Label variations	Total
Artidi	Beiris Whisky	42	0	3 colors	3
Bacardi	Hallmark Whisky Reserva Especial	40	0,3,6,8	colors	6
Carampangue	Crazy Horse San Agustin Finest Whisky	40	0,2,3,4,6,7,9,12, 14		10
	Crasy Horse San Agustin Finest Whisky	40	0	Misspelled label?	1
	San Agustin Whisky	40	0	Blended, single malt, reservado	4
	Horse Santero Finest Whisky	40	0,5,10		4
Cima	700 Gaiteros Whisky	42	0,4,6,9,14	colors	7
Dicuza	Tarente Tor Dicuza Whisky	40	0	3 colors	3
	Dicuza Whisky	40	0	4 colors	4
El Olivar	McGraw Whisky	40	0,3,4,6,7,9,10,11	colors	10
	De Pirque Whisky	40	0		1
	The Money Whisky	40	0	2 colors	3
Embotelladora Chile	Top Whisky	40	0,5,8,10	Especial, reservado	6
	Top Whisky - Matta Series	40	0	paintings by	13

				Rogério Matta	
	Top Whisky - Regimental Series	40	0	Regimental paintings	13
	Top Whisky - Bravo Series	40	0	Paintings by Claudio Bravo	10
	Conquering Finest Type Scotch Whisky	40	0,5,8,10,12	Some oval labels, colors	18
	Conquistador Finest Type Scotch Whisky	40	0,5,8,10,12	Some oval labels, colors	27
	Founder Finest Type Scotch Whisky	40	5,8,10,12	3 colors	7
	Fundador Finest Type Scotch Whisky Reserva Especial	40	0,5,8,10,12	colors	7
	Libertador Finest Type Scotch Whisky	40	5,8,10,12	Label colors, shapes	11
Illanes	Donson Whisky Especial	40	0	vintage cars	5
	Illanes Whisky	40	0,3,6,9,12		5
Jose Saplace	Sunray Special Old Green Label Malt	40	6,12,18		3
	Sunray Special Old Scotch Whisky	40	0,5,12	colors	10
Mitjans	Hunter's Black Seal Scotch Type Whisky	40	3,6,9,12,18		5
	Hunter's Old Reserve Whisky	40	0,4,6,9,12,15,18		10
	Hunter's Black Seal Single Barrel Scotch Type Whisky	42	0	1997,1998,1999, 2000,2001	5
	McKenzie's De Luxe Fine Old Whisky	41	3,6,12,15		5
	McKenzie's De Luxe Scotch Type Fine Old Whisky Single Barrel	41	0	1995,1997,1999	3
	Wattson's 1882 Whisky	40	0		1
	Wattson's Finest Whisky	40	0,4,5,6,8,10,12,16	colors	12
	Wattson's Very Old Whisky	42	0		1



Harland Johnson, New Orleans, USA



I have been meaning to share the bottle on the left with you for almost a year now. We were in Adelaide and I picked up this port bottle that had been especially made for the Adelaide Grand Prix in 1994. Sorry that it is not a very good photo but reflective metallic labels like this are very difficult to get a good shot of.



HOFFMAN'S MR LUCKY

Up to this point you have seen all of the Hoffman Original Mr. Lucky Series mini decanters. The next several articles will concentrate on other Mr. Lucky mini decanters that were issued individually, or to members of the Hoffman Collectors Club which started in 1978 and lasted until about 1995. All the decanters shown this time were introduced between 1978 and 1981.



From left to right, the first mini decanter was not really a bottle, but rather a back bar piece. The Mr. Lucky Backbar Set was issued in 1981. This piece was made in both the mini size, and the full size, and has a statue of Mr. Lucky with his arm around a bottle of Mr. Lucky Amaretto Liqueur. There are two unique things about this piece. Firstly there were only 250 minis made, which make this a very difficult piece to find and secondly, this piece is the only one that includes a straight bottle of Hoffman Distillery brand Liquor. This is my second most prized Mr. Lucky piece.

The next mini decanter is a special issue Mr. Baker Anniversary bottle. It was put out in 1978 as an anniversary memento commemorating the birthday of Mr. Lucky. Only 950 of these mini decanters were made, exclusively for Hoffman National Collector Club Members. As you can see in the picture the friendly little chipmunk was there helping to celebrate.

In 1978 the Hoffman National Collector Club issued another special decanter exclusively to it's members. 2500 Mr. Lucky Retired mini decanters were made and they became an immediate hit with the members. The decanter shows an older Mr. Lucky, with his feet up in his rocker, and the chipmunk fast asleep in his lap.

The last mini decanter is Mr. Organ Player from 1979. Some collectors have mistakenly called this a Piano Player, but it definitely is an organ. The designers of this piece liked it so much that they released 750 of these in all. Some collectors think the Mr. Organ Player and the Mr. Lucky Carollers are a set. Although they look as though they should go together they were not designed or released as a set.

My next article will cover 5 more of the special issue Mr. Lucky Mini Decanters.

Jim Crawford

AS SEEN ON EBAY #13



Our first bottle this time was described as an oriental man taming a grey tiger – evidently the seller did not know what a bear was! This bottle is from Isaiah of Japan and stands 127mm (5") tall. It sold for a minimum bid of US\$14.99, as did the next bottle. This is also from Isaiah and depicts a tarantula. This one is a little smaller at 114mm (4.5"). Our final Isaiah failed to sell. This odd mini appears to be a figure of a woman on top of a pillar or flower. It is also about 114mm high.



The lion and tiger were made by Garnier in 1973. They were sold together for US\$26.

The dog is a 'give-away' bottle. There are no markings on it, which suggests it is a Japanese one. It measures 73mm (2.87") tall and 114mm (4.5") long. Sale price was US\$15



We start the next page with a bottle that started at £6 but went sky high in price, £230.90. It doesn't look anything special, just another 5cl Bell's bell, but this one was only given away to staff many years ago and is one of the hardest



of the Bell's bells to get. There were 22 bids.

We might as well have another expensive mini whilst we are in the mood. The USC Trojan (on his horse) was made by Cyrus Noble in 1980. There is another USC Trojan bottle (shown below) that is better known (it was made by Old Commonwealth and lists for US\$13) but I cannot find a mention of this one anywhere. It sold for US\$119.95



I apologise for the quality of the picture to the left, but it is such an unusual mini that I felt I must include it. There is no label on it but it is marked lougo on the bottom. It stands 178mm (7") tall. It sold for a disappointing US\$6.48

We have featured the racehorse Seattle Slew by 4 Aces previously. On the right you will see a real rarity, a 22K gold version. Only 12 of these were made. The seller wanted a minimum of US\$299.99 but the bottle failed to sell.



Reno Air Races was made by Dug's (of brothel fame). It sold (to me) for US\$16.50. It was made in 1993 and features a P51 Mustang fighter from world war two. The story of the P51 is on the back.



These ducks really were a bargain. All 8 sold for a minimum bid of US\$14.99. They were made by Hoffman in 1977 and 1978 and sold in pairs, male and female.



The boxed set of 6 minis was made by Morgan David and depicts the battle of Concord. It sold for a very disappointing US\$31 – US\$5.17 per bottle! This may have been due to the fact that the seller restricted bidders to the US but even so I would have expected at least double what it fetched.



The three whisky decanters are from the same series and all contain 100ml of Scotch. The first two, Gordon Highlander and The Thoroughbred are full and sold for £22 each, the third one, Scottish Leader, is empty and sold for £6.99

Carson City Dug's West Indies Raft decanter was released in 1975. It is not really a mini as it contains half a pint of bourbon but many collectors have this bottles as the size is no bigger than many mini ceramics at 159mm (6.25") tall. It sold for US\$8.99

After three pages of ceramics it is about time we featured some glass bottles.





White Ribbon Scotch whiskey (note the 'e') is 1/10 pint and was distilled and bottled by Lionel Distillers of Chicago, Illinois in the 1930's. The photo does not show it but it is a three sided pinch shaped bottle. Unsurprisingly it went for US\$26.25

Next we have a bottle without a label, but none of the bidders seemed to mind as it is fully embossed. It reads "Huguley Whiskey, 134 Canal St, Boston and probably dates from pre-1900. It sold for US\$23.95



From the very old to the very modern. I wonder if Vox Raspberry Vodka will still be around in 100 years and if so whether it will fetch the equivalent of more than the US\$4.35 that this one sold for?

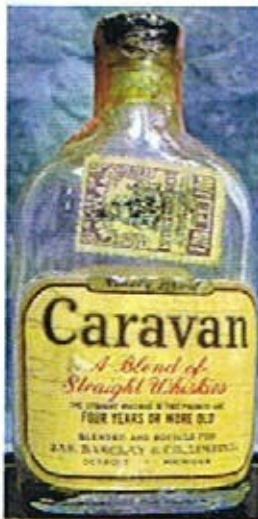
King Arthur Distilled Gin is another 1/10 pint mini and is also from the 1930's or possibly the 1940's. It was bottled and distilled by Jos. E. Seagram & Sons in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. It sold for US\$9.50

Medley USA Bourbon is a German import and in very good condition. I would have expected more than one bid. The lucky buyer paid US\$6.99



Eagle and Glenkinchie were among hundreds of minis put up by the same seller with just a 'Buy it Now' option. Why anyone would do this I cannot imagine as potential buyers cannot get into a bidding war and bid the price up – the whole point of an auction. The 'Buy it Now' option should be much higher than the opening bid to allow someone a 'knockout' first bid. National's Eagle Blended Whiskey dates from 1939 and sold for US\$9.95, Glenkinchie sold for US\$6.95.

We start the next page with another nice old flask. Caravan dates from 1940 and was blended and bottled for Jas. Barclay & Co. Limited, Detroit, Michigan. It sold



for US\$9.95.

Pennypacker is a colourful label in good condition, and has a back label showing a German importer, but it still failed to get a bid at a reasonable minimum asking price of US\$6.99

Trenton Valley was keenly sort after. It is from the 1930's and, as you can see, in great condition. It sold for US\$112.50

Ron Mocambo is a white rum from Mexico. It sold for US\$5.95

Nannerl Williamsbirnen (pear William) Liqueur is from Austria and, as you can see, is in the shape of a violin. There must be dozens of these violin bottles. This one sold for US\$7.49



John Jameson & Son Dublin Whiskey was distilled in 1926 and bottled in 1934. It is a US import by W. A. Taylor and Co., New York. Sale price was US\$13.95

The Mini Bottle Club Ardmore single malt whisky dates, as you can see, from 1987. It sold for £12.50

Three Dagger Finest Old Jamaica Rum bears a US importers label. It sold US\$6.95 – cheap for an early 1940's bottle.

Harrods needs no introduction. This is the only way you can shop Harrods cheaply, US\$5.95

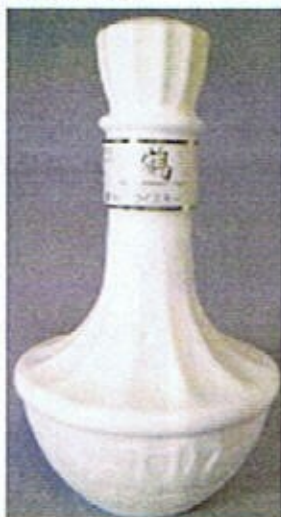
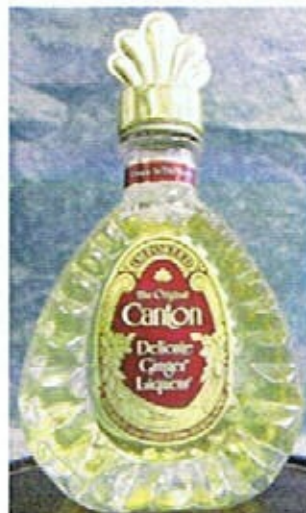
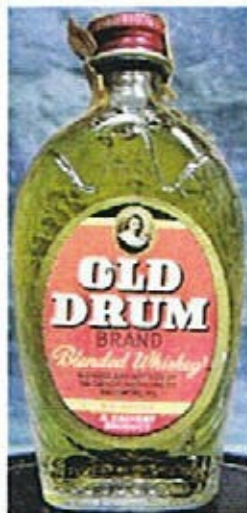


We start the next page with another very old fully embossed bottle. This is a



sample bottle from J. Rieger & Co., Kansas City, Mo. and was distributed around about 1900 – 1910. It sold for US\$25

Old Drum Blended Whiskey is another early 1940's bottle. It was made by Calvert. Sale price was US\$12.95



I am sure that you will agree that The Original Canton Delicate Ginger Liqueur is a lovely bottle. I wonder what it tastes like though? US\$5.95 secured it.

On the left is a 50ml milk glass bottle of Japanese Whiskey, Tsuru. Which is all I can tell you about it, except that it sold for US\$14.50



The eight bottles above all come from the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. They are Special Courier Whisky, Black Mountain Whisky, Coronation Silver Jubilee Whisky, Royal Supreme Malt Whisky, XXX Bhutan Rum, Snow Line Dry Gin, Rock Bee Brandy and Royal XXX Rum. The seller should not have put all eight in the same lot if he wanted to get the maximum amount for these unusual bottles. They sold for a minimum bid of US\$24.95 whereas another seller sold a Black Mountain Whisky (identical) for £31 – and it was only 4 lots away on the listings!

OOP or Old Oscar Pepper is a nice old American Whiskey flask from 1935. Unsurprisingly for such an old bottle in good condition it sold for US\$37.02



I was going to call it a day with straight bottles but I spotted the Dalwhinnie. This is a fairly modern bottle and, as such, I would not have expected it to sell for more than a few dollars. US\$76.55 is more than a few!

Another that caught my eye, Old Black Swan is a nice old cork cap bottle. After a number of bids it sold for £10.50



Shortly after this edition of miNiZ is finished we are heading off to Europe for two months, including visits to Italy and Greece. Hopefully I will pick up a few nice minis and get to share them with you on my return. The Greek man on the left is therefore a fitting end to this article. I was surprised to see it sell for the minimum asking bid of US\$9.50

David Smith



David Spaid sent me this picture of a little known Goedewaagen palace bottle. It is 1 of 750 of the Koninklijke Marine Het Paleis 1826-2001. The bottle is 250mm (10 inches) long, and, as you can see, looks somewhat like five different houses in a row.



ODD SPOT

Q Alcohol causes dehydration. How does it do this and how much water do you have to drink to compensate for the effect? When drinking a gin and tonic, does the water in the tonic compensate for the effect of the alcohol, or does the fact that it is mixed with gin make it act differently in some way?

A1 The water balance of the body is achieved in the kidneys, more specifically in the distal tubule and collecting ducts of the nephron and is controlled by the hormone vasopressin, otherwise known as antidiuretic hormone or ADH. This hormone allows water to be reabsorbed from the urine into the blood, reducing the volume of urine produced.

Alcohol inhibits the release of ADH from the posterior pituitary gland and therefore water is not reabsorbed from the urine, resulting in an increased urine volume. If this water loss is not subsequently replaced by drinking enough water then you'll experience dehydration.

The diuretic effect of alcohol depends on the amount of alcohol ingested and not the volume in which it is dissolved. Therefore a unit of alcohol (listed by the British government's medical advisers as a pub measure of spirits, a 125-millilitre glass of wine or half a pint of normal strength bitter or lager) should have a standard effect on an average human. But the duration of this effect will be influenced by the rate of ingestion and rate of metabolism of the alcohol, and there will be quantitatively different effects on different people depending on how well their liver is functioning and the rate of consumption.

The degree of dehydration will depend on the fluid lost in the urine and the volume of water ingested. So the greater the fluid intake, the less the dehydration. Drinking tonic with your gin will partly offset the fluid loss caused by the alcohol in the spirit. Drinking alcohol dissolved in large volumes, such as bitter or lager, will have less of a dehydrating effect.

Of course, the hangover many of us have experienced the morning after consuming alcohol is caused partly by dehydration and it can be avoided or at least reduced by drinking a pint of water before retiring to bed.

A2 Alcohol inhibits the release of ADH, so for any given water intake we excrete more of that water in the urine. Homer Smith (author of *The Kidney: Structure and function in health and disease*, Oxford University Press) reckoned that 1 millilitre of ethanol inhibited ADH to the extent that we lost an extra 10 millilitres of water in urine. Using this calculation we can roughly calculate that if your gin and tonic consists of 9 per cent gin, your kidneys will be neutral as far as water balance is concerned. But because you still lose water via non-kidney routes you will actually make a net loss. Drink wine, which is generally greater than 9 per cent alcohol by volume, and you are even worse off.

Most beers are about 5 per cent alcohol by volume, so you benefit if that is your tipple, although switching to whisky late in the evening--as many drinkers may be tempted to do--is not a good idea.

Light beer or a gin and tonic made up to less than 2 per cent alcohol will generally provide a net gain of water. Outside on a hot day, however, all bets are off because sweating increases our water loss by a large amount. The tip to drink water to offset such losses, especially before bedtime after a heavy evening, is a good one.

Bottles for Sale

Pam's Mini Bottle Auction

Pam Fowler, our former long time Supplies Officer, recently lost her eldest daughter, Michelle, to cancer. Michelle had two children, 17 month old Kellie and 9 year old Luke, and Pam is selling most of her collection to partially fund the setting up of a trust fund for her grandchildren. (She is keeping a small 'core' and remaining a collector)



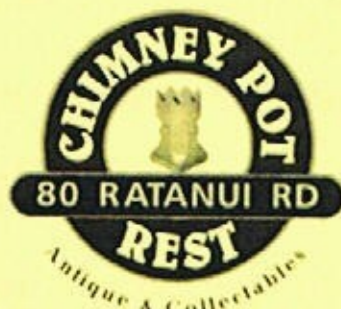
There are almost 800 lots for sale but you must have internet access to participate. Club members who have given us their email address should have received a copy of the bidding spreadsheet, instructions as to how to view

pictures of all the lots on-line and the rules. If you have not received a copy of the bidding spreadsheet please email me at minibottles@xtra.co.nz and I will send you a copy. All lots can be viewed on-line by following these steps:

Go to: <http://community.webshots.com/user/minizv>
Click on: The set of photographs called "Pams Bottles"

Bids are to be received, preferably by email, by Friday 23rd June 2006. Please read the Auction rules and Comments before bidding. In the event of two people bidding the same amount for a lot, the first received bid will win, so don't delay, bid now!

Feel free to view my collection, which is on the same web site – but they are not for sale!
Good Luck
David Smith



Adele & Mall
O'Brien

80 Ratanui Road
Otahanga
Kapiti Coast

Phone: 04 904 1685

chimneypot_rest@paradise.net.nz

The Chimney Pot Rest has recently bought a couple of collections, including that of long time member, Claude Furze. It is well worth a visit if you are in the Wellington Area as they now have over 1500 minis for sale, as well as some larger bottles and bottle display cabinets. I would advise you to phone and check in advance if they are open.

Date, Time and Place

May 1 st	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
May 28 th	2.00 pm (SI)	Trevor Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke Street, Wainoni, Christchurch 7
June 26 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Ken Chin's, 29 Norton Park Ave., Lower Hutt
July 23 rd	2.00pm (SI)	Eric Sutton's, 14C Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch
August 28 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Marj Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui
September 24 th	2.00pm (SI)	David Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Heathcote, Christchurch
November 26 th	2.00pm (SI)	Peter Alty's, 12 Blencathra Pl Westmorland Christchurch
October 16 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu
January 15 th	12.30pm	Barbecue, David Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
February 26 th	Afternoon	AGM. Wellington

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## Committee

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[illegible]

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bottles

**Just a reminder to get your order in for these.** We had 60 sets made and expected them to sell quickly, especially as we have kept the cost to a minimum, but sales have been slow. The club has almost no mark-up when selling to members. As of the AGM Erica had only sold 25 sets, a very disappointingly small amount.

Cost is NZ\$30 (plus postage) for your first boxed set of 5 and NZ\$35 (plus postage) for any subsequent sets you wish to buy for a non-member or to swap with. Place your order with Erica (address above) and she will confirm the postage cost.