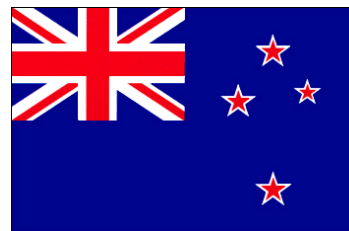


Issue 85

Autumn 2009



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

AGM & WELLINGTON WEEKEND

We had a disappointing attendance for the AGM Weekend but everyone who did not come was the looser as it was a truly memorable weekend. Undoubtedly one of the best we have had since the Patea days. Notable was not a single member from the South Island.

Firstly, my commiserations to Harland & Marlene Johnson. They were coming here from the US right up until the week before when Marlene's illness prevented their travel. Get well soon Marlene and we will see you both another time.

Friday night was a barbecue at David & Rosie Smith's. We got to meet Graham & Marie Ramsay from Brisbane, who are new members from Australia. They both thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and were then spending another couple of weeks see more of NZ. Suitable ooo's and ahhh's emanated from various members whilst viewing David's collection. Bottles changed hands.



Saturday we generally did our own thing, with the Auckland contingent (Erica, Colin & Peter) going to Martinborough Fair and visiting the antique shops in the Wairarapa. They all found a few bottles.

Saturday night we went to Ken Chin's house. Ken had spit roasted a lamb and was treating us all – and treat he did. The lamb was superb as (being a doctor) Ken had injected the carcass all over with a marinade. There were more ooo's and ahhh's whilst viewing Kens

collection. More bottles changed hands.

The picture above shows Erica Mulder, Gary Carvey and Ken Chin. To the right we have Graham & Marie Ramsay and Colin Ryder. Both photos taken in Ken's bottle room.

On Sunday morning we were due to visit Ian Butcher and Gary Carvey in Kapiti to view their collections, before heading into Wellington for our lunchtime barbecue. We made these visits fairly quick (but there were still ooo's and ahhh's) as Gary had found a collection for us to buy. The story is worth repeating.



A couple bought a house and it had a bar in it with mini cabinets and over 2000 bottles. When they took possession the minis were still there and the previous owner did not want them. The house is a large one on 5 levels and the new owners had decided to turn the bottom two into a rental apartment. They called in a real estate agent that they know to give them some advice on how best to do the conversion to maximise the rental. When they showed him the bar they told him the story and asked if he had any ideas as to how to get rid of the bottles. The real estate agent was Gary's son-in-law!

Hundreds of bottles changed hands at \$3 per straight and \$5 per figural. All members who went were well and truly happy.

We all arrived late at Colin & Dianne Ryder's for the barbecue but hey, we all got bottles so nobody cared. There were more bottles for sale at the barbecue as Rex Moir brought along some of his late mother's bottles and, again, a few dozen changed hands. The AGM ended up being late but we were all in a very happy mood – which probably explains why Colin was able to press gang the whole committee to stand again.

The membership fee has changed but the good news is that it hasn't gone up. Current fees as follows:

NZ Membership:	NZ\$20 with miNiZ on paper or NZ\$15 if emailed
Overseas Membership:	US\$23 with miNiZ on paper or US\$10 if emailed

Overseas members may pay by Paypal but there is a 5% supplement (US\$1.15) if you want the paper copy of miNiZ (there is no supplement on the emailed edition).

We are encouraging members to take miNiZ by email as much as possible as we lose money on every paper copy. We have reduced the overseas membership from US\$15 to encourage overseas electronic membership. This costs us very little to administer and, of course, we have no printing or postage costs.

David Smith

AUSTRIA: A STRUCTURED VODKA FOR IT'S BETTER QUALITY

Professor Valery Sorokin is a very enduring man - in a Moscow institute he searched for the answer on a question which nobody on Earth had been able to answer previously. He worked hard for more than ten years in searching the technical literature on how to structure a water-alcohol solution. With other words - for making the Russian national drink qualitatively better and sensorially worthier.

The impulse for this idea was the knowledge that the human tongue feels body relative liquids - in this case water - positively, and, body non-relative liquids - in this case alcohol - negatively. In 2000 prof. Sorokin found a new structure in a vodka in which every alcohol molecule was fully covered by water molecules. His tongue felt this solution like a body relative sialoid liquid.



After prof. Sorokin patented, worldwide, this method under the name 'Oval' he looked for a good locality to produce the new structured vodka. The 'Oval' method looks very simple for somebody to do but really it is an extremely complicated job required rich knowledge of chemical processes and a high technological discipline. Professor Sorokin found this place not in Moscow but, to his surprise, in Vienna.

There were several reasons for sighting the process in Austria and not Russia: firstly there is the water quality in Vienna, which is in the Top-Twenty worldwide, secondly there is the excellent

reputation of Austrian workers for carrying out precise work and, last but not least, there is the position of the Austrian Republic in the middle of Europe with all the advantages for international trade.



Oval Vodka GmbH was set up about four years ago. It has its head office in Vienna and its production in the nearby village of Moosbrunn. From the formation of the company things moved quickly. In February 2006 the production started, initially under the "Oval 42" brand. In September of the same year the light variant "Oval 24" followed. Next year in March came out the rowanberry flavoured variant "Oval 42 Rowan Berry". And finally, in November 2007 the strong variant "Oval 56" completed the production programme.

The new vodka brand OVAL quickly became popular not only in the bars in Austria but in other European countries too. Therefore the German branch company Oval Deutschland GmbH was founded in January 2007. At the end of this same year Oval vodka came out in the U.K. market. And last year it was introduced to the U.S.A.

The high quality of the Oval vodka requires a package of a high quality too. Therefore a special bottle was created. Its triangular, oval faced shape simulates the molecular structure of the Oval vodka. There are also miniature, 50ml, copies of the big bottles which are sold in an attractive gift box (first photo). For the Christmas market last year a luxurious bottle was created in the famous glass works, Swarovski - it was decorated with hundreds of cut glass crystals (second photo). The photos are courtesy of Oval Vodka GmbH.

In the next miNiZ I have an article for you on Matsu Distillery of Taiwan.

Ivan Uhlik

PERUVIAN FIGURES

Peru continues to turn out great bottles. The first I have to show you are actually on the cover. The five Frailes Ebrios (Drunk Brothers) are from Abolengo and contain brandy. They, and most of the other bottles shown here, are currently for sale. Email Fernando Saettone, fernandosaettone@hotmail.com for pricing and availability. All the bottles are hand painted.

The four pirates (there are two views of each) are from Ron Cabo - nice one Ron!



Next we have four ladies. These women have been around for some time but they have had much less colourful clothing previously. They were made by Sotelo.





On the left we have the first Inca emperor, Manco Capac and his wife, Mama Ocllo. Below we have three more Incas, Sinchi Rosa, Lloque Yupanqui and Mayta Capac. These are also from Sotelo.



The three flute players are also from Sotelo.

I know, the next bottle is not a figure but I had to include it somewhere. Like the ladies, Machu Picchu has appeared in several plain colours but this one is hand painted in 'natural' colours. Unsurprisingly, Machu Picchu is from Machu Picchu.

Finally, we have another Sotelo figure. This time of a very familiar figure but not a Peruvian one. Che Guevara was from Argentina but is best known for his support of revolution throughout Latin America.



David Smith

26000 VODKA – A TASTE OF OLD (REALLY OLD!) NEW ZEALAND

26000 Years ago	1405	2006
New Zealand is still one island. Lake Taupo is a mountainous volcano yet to erupt and blow a hole in the north island the size of Singapore. Further south a vast body of glacial water is being trapped deep underground as the ice age retreats.	Someone sobers up long enough to record the first vodka experience at the Sandomierz Court registry in Poland. Na zdrowie! (to your health)	A deep bore disturbs the slumber of a Paleoage glacial lake. Testing proves the water to be 26,000 years old and of exceptional quality. With this we create our vodka. Our water is harvested in batch only amounts, then handcrafted to fashion an exquisite triple distilled grain vodka of exceptional quality. We are proud to share our reverent spirit with you.
Enjoy and let it be part of your body. 26000 Vodka premium NZ vodka.		

The table above appears on each bottle of 26000 Vodka and puts into perspective just how old the water used in its production is.

The company website at www.26000vodka.co.nz goes on to say

"Our pool of pristine aqua was naturally created when the last ice age ended and colossal glaciers retreated towards the South Pole. The water became entrapped and spent the next 26,000 years constantly going through a natural purification process.

With water this perfect it would be an insult not to use hand technology to painstakingly create the perfect Vodka."

I'm not a vodka drinker so I can't comment on whether or not it is in fact perfect (*I'm sure the other NZ Vodka success story '42 Below' would disagree*).

But, on to the mini's. There are currently three in the set – From left to right below these are Crystalline, the original 'pure' vodka; Raspberry & Lemon Drop and Lychee. The latter two being infusions.



All three bottles are the same (15.5cm tall, tapering from 3.5 to 3cm) and are according to the producers "each as individual as the full sized bottles" due to being "almost" hand made.

The text on the Crystalline bottle is in black whereas the other two have white text.

When I got them last year they were only available ex the distillery in Nelson but may have been released more widely now.

Errol Brassett

US RAILROAD 'WATCH' BOTTLES

Personal labels received a boost in NZ in the late 1990's, early 2000's with all the bottles issued on behalf of hotels, clubs and businesses by Southern Grain Distillers. The US beat us to it by many decades and, with the exception of the Jim Beam personalised bottles, the best known and indisputably the most highly regarded of the US company label bottles are the Railroad 'Watch' bottles. So called because they resembled the shape of a fob watch. These usually contained Bourbon or US Whiskey.

The pictures I have for you are all from the web site of John Sullivan, 'The Vodka Guy.' <http://minivodkaguy.com> This site is well worth a visit and shows John's extensive collection of vodkas, some of which you will not see anywhere else as John travels regularly on business to Eastern Europe and Russia. There are also many older bottles in other categories.





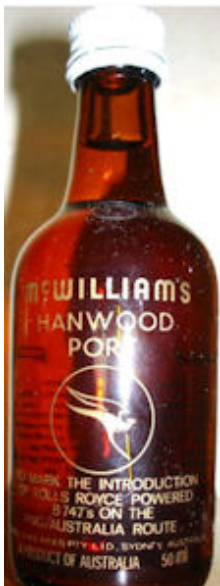
I hope that these have 'spoken for themselves.' There are more railroad bottles to look out for, a few similar airline bottles and a few done for other businesses.

David Smith



MARJ'S COLLECTION – UPDATE

Rex has contacted us to apologise for the delays in getting back to some people who enquired about buying bottles from his late mother's collection. He is dealing with it now so if you have not heard back from him please email again.



When we first advertised the collection for sale there were only 200/300 bottles on the web site. There are now about 1700 and Rex is regularly putting new photos on line. He is also selling some bottles through Trademe and Ebay.

When contacting Rex make him an offer. If it sounds reasonable you will get the bottles. We have given Rex some guidelines but he is sensible enough to be flexible to get the bottles sold.

<http://community.webshots.com/user/RexMoir> moir@paradise.net.nz



IT'S PARTY TIME !



In 1997 the Munson Shaw Company in Cincinnati, Ohio came out with 3 flavors of a new Schnapps called Tattoo. The 3 flavors were **TATTOO BERRY SCHNAPPS**, **TATTOO LEMON SCHNAPPS**, and **TATTOO RED LICORICE SCHNAPPS**. As you can see from the pictures, they are very colorful and quickly became the rage at bars and parties.

I bet you are scratching your head right now wondering why these 3 products were such a big hit at parties. Well let me explain... One person would start off drinking his or her favorite Schnapps flavor. Another person would drink their favorite (hopefully a different flavor from the first person). Then they would kiss each other. What's so great about that you say? After kissing, they would stick out their tongues out to see what color they were. Remember, now, that these schnapps are different colors. Very vivid colors! When you intermix 2 of the colors together, they change. For instance, if you mix a Blue Berry with a Yellow Lemon, you get a bright Green (tongue). I don't know what flavor the Green would be, but by this time who really cares.



Now introduce a third person, who is drinking some Red Licorice Schnapps, and you add in an entirely new level of color schemes. It doesn't take much imagination to visualize a room full of people, all drinking these Schnapps, and sticking out their tongues to see what colors they have in their mouths. It also doesn't take long

for everyone to get to know each other real well.

Anyone care to Party?

Jim Crawford



Yes, most are the 'Real Thing'

This is an article I wrote for the final edition of *Miniature Bottle Collector* but David Spaid put on one side and forgot about it (I've forgiven him!). It is a shame it was not printed as there were no articles on Coca Cola in any issue of MBC but it is an area I have been collecting in for over 20 years. Currently I have over 3500 different microminis, of which over 800 are Coke bottles and cans. All the bottles I have to show you are about 75mm (3 inches) high and most contain about 11ml of Coke syrup. Coke syrup is used as diluted Coke looks too pale in the small bottles.



Coke has been making miniatures for over 50 years but most of them are rather uninteresting minor variations of the standard bottle. The 'modern era' really got underway in the early 1990's with the 'Always' Destination Series. Above, left, we have the prototype 'Always in Branson.' This was one of only 180 made and fetches big money on Ebay. There were about 400 bottles in the series which included all the US states, as well as many countries, towns and cities around the world.

Boston and New Zealand are examples. Following the dropping of the 'Always' logo by Coke in November 1999 a few dozen bottles have been made, similar to the Orlando one, showing the state outline and either city or state name. All the major Hawaiian islands have also been pictured. The final two in the photo are from a number of 'foreign writing' sets, some of which have a dozen or more languages represented. The first is in Arabic and the second has Thai writing but was made in Argentina.

Moving on to our second picture we have a number of specials that were done for

cities, theme parks and various other tourist attractions. Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas can currently be found there, Indianapolis Speedway is one of the rarer ones. The next two are anniversaries, firstly the 100th anniversary of the first Coke bottling company, Meridian, and secondly the 30th anniversary of McDonalds in Canada. McDonalds have put out a number of other bottles in conjunction with Coke and the next bottle was made for the opening of the first Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis. Lastly we have Santa. Coke is famous for it's Santa paintings and this is one of twenty four on mini bottles, two of them on special 'gold' bottles.



The final picture starts off with four sporting bottles. Espana 82 pre-dates all the other bottles here and is the earliest 'picture' label. It was made for the soccer world cup. Cokes have been made for each one since and there was a great series of 18 made when it was held in the USA in 1994. Next we have Superbowl XXX, one of 5 issued between 1993 and 1997. Anyone got a spare 1993? The next bottle with the Olympic rings comes from Ecuador and is dated 1996. The final sporting bottle is from Brazil and was also made for the Olympics, this time the 2004 games. It is one of a set of 12 and shows a triathlete. So far there have been five sets made in plastic, each with a very colourful shrink wrap label but none filled. The couple kissing is from the 'Vibezone' set. Another set of eight was made for the Latin American MTV Music Awards and was given away in Mexico in 2004. Finally, we have the current Diet Coke bottle. This is more often seen attached to a keyring or magnet than on it's own.

There are many, many more that I could have shown you but space precludes it. If you want a list of known Cokes, want to swap or buy any, or to ask any questions, please email me on minidavid@xtra.co.nz – I have 240 different ones to swap or sell.

David Smith

Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola Coca Cola

JUMBO BOTTLE

In the last miniZ I showed you a soccer ball bottle brought back from China last year by Ken Chin. We have a couple more bottles to show you.

The first is the dog in the bottle. It was made in Taiwan by Yuher. I assume that there are more, probably 12, a different animal for each of the Chinese years.

The second bottle is not a mini (it is 600ml) but you have to



admit it is a great bottle and well worth seeing.

Jumbo is the floating restaurant in Aberdeen Harbour in Hong Kong. It dates from the mid-70's but has become an institution.

A PASSIONATE KEEPER OF TYROLEAN TRADITIONS

The Tiroler Schnapsbrennerei Rochelt GmbH (Rochelt Tyrolean Fruit Spirit Distillery Ltd) in Fritzens, the Tyrol, isn't any traditional company. It was founded some twenty years ago but it is the company's policy to keep all the hundreds years old regional traditions concerning distilling of fruit spirits, in German fruchtschnaepse.

The tradition number one is to buy fresh fruit. Only chosen signatory fruit farms in various regions of Austria can supply the Rochelt's distillery with their products. The fruits must be fresh, hand harvested and be transported to the distillery as quickly as possible.



Tradition number two are the copper stills. In the Rochelt's distillery there are two distilling places, each with two copper stills: the first one for the primary boil and the second one for the fine distillation. So the Rochelts can distill two different spirits at the same time. At present the Rochelts produce sixteen single fruit spirits and three mixed fruit brands.

The tradition number three is the maturation and the alcohol contents of the distillates.



After the second boil the ready spirits with alcohol contents of seventy percent alcohol will be poured into glass ballons (demijohns) with a capacity of 50 litres. The only 2/3 full ballons, covered only with a flaxen cloth, will be transported onto the loft where the

spirits mature for three and more years. Every bottle loses yearly some two percent alcohol but it is the tribute for a high quality of the Rochelt's fruchtschnaepse. Nevertheless after maturation the spirits must be diluted down to drinking strength with clear especially processed water. In accordance with the Tyrolean traditions the Rochelts keep all their brands at a minimum of 50% by vol.

Tradition number four is the ancient Tyrolean green-blue pliers bottle. It was the model for the original Rochelt's decanters in which this distillery bottled their brands. They have the capacity of 700, 350, 100 and 40 ml. Every bottle is packed for sale in a wooden box with the firm's logo on it. For the miniatures there are also boxes with a capacity of seven bottles.

In Austria the Rochelt's brands are generally sold in special shops, mainly in the vinotheques. But they also are available in some other European countries such as Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Russia and Switzerland.

The single Rochelt's distillate brands are: Basler Kirsche 50% (Basel cherry), Gewuerztraminer 50% (Gewuerztraminer grape), Gravensteiner 50% (Gravenstein apple), Kriecherl 50% (Wild plum), Mirabelle 50% (Mirabelle plum), Muskattraube 50% (Muscatel grape), Orange 60%, Pflaume 50% (Blue plum), Quitte 50% (Quince), Rote Williamsbirne 50% (Red Williams pear), Schwarzer Holunder 52% (Black elderberry), Schwarze Ribisel 52% (Black currant), Wachauer Marille 50% (Wachau apricot), Waldhimbeere 52% (Wild raspberry), Weichsel 50% (Sour cherry) and Wilde Vogelbeere 52% (Wild cranberry).



The Rochelt's mixed distillate brands, all at 50% by vol., are: Der Inntaler (quince, wild raspberry and Williams pear), Das Hollerlandl (black elderberry and Williams pear) and Der Kasteler (plum, wild cranberry and Williams pear).

Contacts:
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Phone: +43 5224 52462
Fax: +43 5224 52462-20

www.rochelt.com mail@rochelt.com

Ivan Uhlik

BALLS TO YOU 2

In the last miNiZ I brought you pictures of all the balls that I could find, other than golf balls. However, Harland Johnson asked "do you have the complete set of the 36 Old St. Andrews Champions?" Harland proceeded to send me the pictures so this article is only on golf balls from Old St. Andrews – all 47 that I now know of!

I will bring you all the other golf balls that I have been able to find in the next miNiZ and, if space permits, I will also include golf carts, clubs etc. We start with the champions and the years they won.



Willie Park Snr. 1860/3/6, 75 - Tom Morris Snr. 1861/2/4/7 - Tom Morris Jnr. 1868/9, 70/72



Tom Kidd 1873 - Bob Martin 1876 & 1885 - Jamie Anderson 1877/8/9



Bob Ferguson 1880/1/2 - John Ball 1890 - Harold Hilton 1892/7



J. H. Taylor 1894/5, 1900/5/13 - Harry Vardon 1896/8/9, 1903/11/14 - James Braid 1901/5/6/8/10



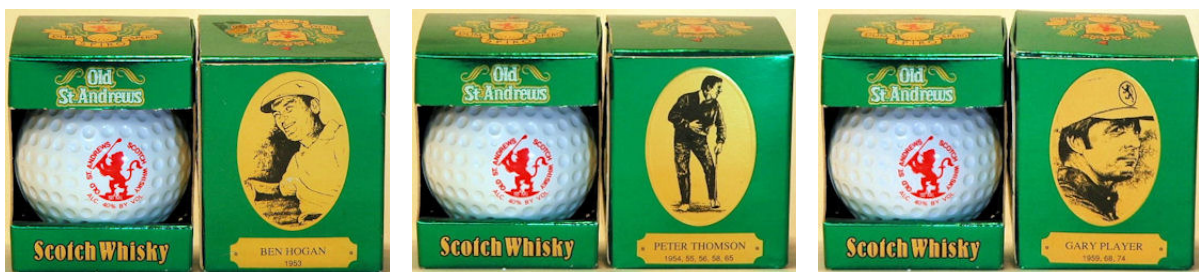
Jock Hutchison 1921 - Walter Hagen 1922/24/28/29 - Bobby Jones 1926/27/30



Tommy Armour 1931 - Gene Sarazen 1932 - Densmore Shute 1933



Henry Cotton 1934/37/48 - Sam Snead 1946 - Bobby Locke 1949/50/52/57



Ben Hogan 1953 - Peter Thomson 1954/55/56/58/65 - Gary Player 1959/68/74



Kel Nagle 1960 - Arnold Palmer 1961/62 - Bob Charles 1963



Tony Lema 1964 - Jack Nicklaus 1966/70/78 - Roberto de Vicenzo 1967



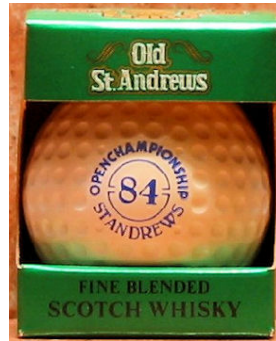
Tony Jacklin 1969 - Lee Trevino 1971/72 - Tom Weiskopf 1973



Tom Watson 1975/77/80/82/83 - Johnny Miller 1976 - Steve Ballesteros 1979/84/88

Hopefully the other golf balls also speak for themselves.





That's it for Old St. Andrews, although I suspect that some of you will know of more –
SEND THE PICS!

David Smith

EXPENSIVE SCOTCH

Whilst on the subject of Scotch, Peter Bonkovich sent me these pictures of some Scotches sold on Ebay that he would have liked – guess why he did not buy them.



The Macallan 10 year old sold for £114. The Blair Athol Highland Malt Scotch Whisky Label Reads: '46 Gay Lussac' around the middle and 'Over Years 8 Old' on the top label. A snip at £180! Finally we have the Fettercairn 875 Pure Highland Malt Whisky. Winning bid: £511 (divorce territory for most of us!)

DATE, TIME & PLACE

All meetings are subject to change. Please check before travelling

Sunday 10th May 2009, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Kan & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: Kenchin@ihug.co.nz

Sunday 21st June 2009, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Beach Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

Sunday 6th September 2009, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 25th October 2008, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 25th January 2009, 12.30pm Barbecue Lunch at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

South Island Meetings As we go to press the South Island meetings have not yet been set.
Contact Eric Sutton for details:
Telephone: 03 383 9686 E-Mail: cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz

AGM 2010 in AUCKLAND - Weekend of 19th – 21st February 2010

***** Programme to be advised *****

The AGM weekends have been very successful. All are BYO food and drink. Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. Please E-Mail: minisnz@gmail.com to let us know you are attending.

If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know.

COMMITTEE

The 2009 committee was elected, unopposed, for 2010. Contact details as follows:

Colin Ryder (President)	20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, 6037 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz	(04) 478 4391
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Eric Sutton (Vice President, Southern)	14C Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch, 8083 Email: cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz	(03) 383 9686
Ian Butcher (Treasurer)	5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Beach, 5032 E-mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz	(04) 904 3157
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