



# Hot Cookies & A Hot Mini



**A hotted-up, cookie-covered Mini van has been seen zipping around the streets of Christchurch recently. Here's the full story...**

In February 1983, a New Zealand icon was created with the help of a Mini van. Twenty-one year old Michael Mayell, had an idea which was to grow into a multi-million dollar business. His plan was to bake and sell big chocolate chip cookies with huge chunks of chocolate in them. The result - NZ's iconic company, Cookie Time.

Michael started Cookie Time with little more than youthful enthusiasm and a Mini van. Headquarters was his one bedroom flat in Shrewsbury Street, Christchurch. In a rented bakery he baked cookies overnight, then in the early hours of the morning he would grab a few hours sleep before loading the Mini van up with fresh cookies ready to deliver to local dairies.

Leading up to the 20th anniversary of Cookie Time, Michael began the search for the beloved Mini van he used to own. Although the actual vehicle wasn't tracked down, an identical model - a 1976 factory standard 1000cc Mini Clubman van - was found. The restoration and enhancement work began, and at Cookie Time's 20th birthday party, the new Mini was revealed.

"To me it's been a very personal project," says Michael Mayell "my original Mini van was a big part of Cookie Time's early history. To revive it for our anniversary has been very satisfying."

It's been said that in those early days you could hear Michael arriving with his cookies before you could see him. Michael explains, "the stereo was about the most powerful part of the vehicle! It was a small package with a big sound. That was one thing I definitely wanted to replicate in the new Mini."

And that has been well and truly achieved with the installation of a full Alpine 7874 system, custom designed by Soundworks. The stereo doubles as a P.A. system, with an onboard microphone and roof-rack mountable speakers allowing the Mini to be used for events and parades. The sound system has a dual charging battery system which ensures the P.A. system will never run the battery flat.

From it's original factory specs, the Mini has been totally rebuilt. The 1000cc engine was replaced with a 1275cc engine, which was then bored out further to 1380cc, with a modified cam shaft and two S.U.'s. The body is also unique, with a body kit brought in from Zeemax in the UK. The Zeemax body kit includes a sculptured bonnet and wheel flares, custom wheels (13" rather than the standard 10"), custom dashboard, centre console and steering wheel. The seats are from the latest BMW Mini.

## ***Technical Specs...***

### ***Engine:***

- 1380 cc (1275cc bored out to 1380cc) engine
- modified cam shaft
- modified to run on unleaded petrol
- two S.U's
- stainless steel exhaust

### ***Body:***

- the only one of it's kind in New Zealand
- body kit from Zeemax in the UK, including sculptured bonnet and wheel flares, custom wheels (13" rather than 10"), dashboard, centre console and steering wheel,
- seats from the latest BMW Mini
- cookie graphics over the entire body

### ***Stereo:***

- full Alpine 7874 system, with...
- Alpine 5" type R components in front doors
- Alpine 6 x 9" type R rear speakers
- Alpine 12" type R sub woofer
- Alpine V12 5 channel amplifier (producing around 500W RMS)
- P.A. system interface (& mic)
- roof-rack mounted Alpine 6 x 9" type R rear speakers
- system was custom designed for this Mini
- includes moulded handmade fibreglass door pods
- dual-charging battery system (allows the stereo to run and go completely flat and Mini will still start)

