



## **MINIS MAKE MAJOR CHARGE AT CLIPSAL 500 DEBUT**

2010 is the third year for the MINI Challenge and there's no doubt it will be the best yet. And what better way to launch the year than with a rip around the streets of Adelaide for the Clipsal 500?

The MINI Challenge is a spectacular mix of drivers that come from a wide variety of motor racing backgrounds (V8 Supercars, GT Championship, Formula 3, Production Cars, Off road, Dirt competition) who all share the same desire – to mix it up with other drivers in a fast Racecar on a level playing field.

The MINI John Cooper Works R56 is the weapon of choice. This performance package features a punchy twin scroll turbocharged 1.6l motor that takes you from 0-110kph in a shade over 6.1 seconds. The handling however, and the truck stopping brakes is what every driver who climbs from the car will rave about.

"I can take the MINI a full 60-70 metres into a corner deeper than my Supercar and still nail the apex," says V8 Supercar rising star Jonathan Webb, "it's a stunning car in terms of its performance."

Legendary Aussie Motor Racing veteran Glenn Seton concurs. "The handling is something else, particularly the brakes. I can almost run the car right into the corner before I really have to think about jumping on the brakes. It's great fun to run a car so hard around any circuit and know that it will respond."

Until now, the Clipsal 500 Adelaide was one of the few major events in Australia that hadn't played host to MINI Challenge with the Australian F1 Grand Prix, the Nikon SuperGP, the Bathurst 1000, The Telstra 500 at Homebush, L&H 500 at Philip Island, the Dunlop 400 at Townsville and the Falken Challenge in Tasmania already on the credits list. To say that the MINI's will relish the combination of speed and precision required to run at the Clipsal 500 street circuit is a classic understatement.

With MINI (Australia) committed to MINI Challenge until 2011 and with an increased commitment from V8 Supercars inviting it to continue as an official support category into the future, the future looks bright for Australia's premier one make motor racing category.

National MINI Manager Justin Hocevar recently spoke of the increasing marketability of MINI Challenge on the V8 Supercar calendar. "We have a great relationship with V8 Supercars," Hocevar continued, "and they have been very supportive of our burgeoning Series. We're going forward with confidence that we can continue to grow on many different levels."

With an exciting three-race format and an inverted top 6 sizzle after Race One, the MINI Challenge pledges even competition with no less than six or seven different drivers capable of the round win.

The 2010 MINI Challenge Series will also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MINI in Australia and provide some heart stopping competition around the concrete canyons of The Clipsal 500.

For more information visit [www.minichallenge.com.au](http://www.minichallenge.com.au)

**MINI JOHN COOPER WORKS. Racing is in our Blood.** [www.minichallenge.com.au](http://www.minichallenge.com.au)