

club

TORQUE

FEATURING PRESIDENT'S PICNIC 2024

Spring 2024

Print Post Publication: I00006993



THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF NSW

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A warm welcome to the MX-5 Club of NSW.

New members are encouraged to contact their Chapter Convenors for local events and to visit our website - nsw.mx5.com.au for the full range of social, technical and sporting events.

Current Membership at 16th November 2024

1142

Members who joined
12th August to 12th November '24

Dino Angelini
Lesley Brook
Roger Brook
Dem Callisto
Pas Callisto
Ivan Cave
Riley Crabbe
Harrison Deal
Shan Deng
Solomon Elfar
Helen Harding
Phillip Harding
Ian Hill
Vicki Hill
Bianca Hull
Jaiden Hull
Suzanne Hurst
Simon Kendrick
Isabella Kloppers
Salomon Kloppers
Ivan Krstic
Stephen Lee
Jane Lewis
Samantha Patane
Cherie Perceval
James Popovic
Scott Pritchard
Jayden Psaroulis
Sunita Satsia
Nick Sifniotis
Blaze Smith
Charles Toal
Royden Toal
John Turner
Tina Turner
John Ullo
Nicolle Ullo
Gary Wallace
Nicole Wallace
Max Whalan
Dean Yates
Josh Zwar

Service Awards Presented at 2024 AGM

SILVER SERVICE AWARDS

Jean Cook

Joined March 1992
Committee member 1995-1996
Club Captain 1996-1998
NatMeet Liaison 1998-1999
President 1999-2002
Vice President 2005-2006
President 2006-2008
Life Membership awarded 2001
10 years total service

Michael Hicks

Joined January 2000
Competition Secretary 2001-2013
Treasurer 2002-03
Life Membership awarded 2005
12½ years total service

Michael Soulos

Joined July 2004
Club Captain 2012-2023
11 years total service

Ken & Maggie Liston

Joined April 2005
Membership Secretary 2007-2021
14 years total service

Bryan Shedden

Joined February 2009
Publications Officer 2010-2012
President 2012-2016
Membership Database Secretary 2016-2021
Website Coordinator 2016-2019
NatMeet 2020 Chairperson 2017-2018
Membership Secretary 2021-2024 (continuing)
Vice President 2024
Life Membership awarded 2015
14 years total service

SILVER SERVICE AWARD

Keith Monaghan

Joined April 2007
Membership Database Secretary 2011-2016
President 2016-2021
Life Membership awarded 2021
10½ years total service

BRONZE SERVICE AWARDS

Stephen Carter

Joined December 1998

Phil Roberts

Joined May 1999

Pam & Ray Estreich

Joined February 2005

Glenn Thomas

Joined March 2008

Julie Sando

Joined June 2010

Ian Combes

Joined February 2011

David Lawler

Joined May 2011

Wesley Hill

Joined February 2013

Christine Cameron

Joined May 2016

Bryan Hicks

Joined July 2016

Membership Renewals - if you are having any difficulties logging into the Membership portal to process your renewal, please contact Bryan Shedden on 0422 340 010 and he will happily assist in resolving any issues.

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From the Editor's desk

Welcome to your Spring edition of Club Torque, what an exciting spring we've had!

Soft, sun-drenched days, roof down, wind in your hair, smile on your face. Well the smile was definitely on my face "*driving Miss Maycee*" to her formal in November.

This spring we were part of many and varied events, including our annual pilgrimage to the historic Ebenezer Church for the President's Picnic. Built in 1809, it's the oldest surviving church in Australia and its expansive grounds are perfect to showcase hundreds of shiny convertible cars. (Full story and photos from Page 20)

Spring is also the time we spread our wings, come out of hibernation and head off to places like Lightning Ridge in hope of finding that shining black opal glinting in a mound of rubble discarded by the miners to experience another life style so far from our own. (See that story from Page 8)

During September / October all the Chapters have their Annual Meetings where volunteers are invited to take on roles from Convenors, to Run Co-Ordinators to Regalia Officers and many in between. It's also when we get to vote in all the Committee at the Club's Annual General Meeting.



You can meet some new faces (and some not so new) P 5.

In this edition, I'll introduce you to some members whose passion for MX-5s doesn't stop at one. Some have owned several all at once and may be on the lookout for more, while there are a couple of our members who are up to Number 11! Do you know anyone who can top that? Story on Pages 11-12.

Our Women Behind the Wheel battled the Friday traffic, along some motorways, from all directions for lunch at the beautiful Bells of Killcare, you can see that story on Page 13.

We love all your stories and photos, this month we have some great Motorsport tales! So please keep them coming. Email them to publications@nsw.mx5.au. If you're really keen to see it, drop me a note and I'll do my best if space and content allows.

I stepped down as Illawarra Co-Convenor in October and whole heartedly welcome Zan and Phil who joined the Club less than a year ago but we already feel like we've known them for ever. They bring so much enthusiasm and organisational ability and will be a huge asset to the Chapter.

That brings me to my desk. **Thank you to all of you who write to me** or stop me at an event to tell me you're enjoying the magazine. I look forward to ALL your comments, the good, the bad and the ugly, it makes the job worthwhile. Thank you for reading! **And thank you SO much for proof reading for me yet again Chris Cameron, don't know what I'd do without you!**

This month's Cover is an art work by Cassandra Chapman for the Careflight Raffle, of "*Ebenezer Church with Neo Green NA*", the amazing car that took out the Historic and People's Choice awards at the President's Picnic.

Senia Gaunson





President's Report

Senia and all your helpers! Even the coffee van was an improvement.

Celebrating 35 years of MX-5, it was wonderful to see all the Heritage and Classic NAs on display.

Our charity raffle, raised \$2438 for Careflight. This amazing effort would not be possible without our Sponsors and generous donations by many others. We thank you and Careflight thanks you!

At time of writing, the 2024 motorsport year has concluded.

At the end of September, the club held our first night-time track day at Sydney Motorsport Park. Unfortunately, the weather didn't quite cooperate, with some light drizzle during the event.

In October, the club came away with a 1st and a 2nd in the Alfa Club 10 hour Regularity Relay at the Winton circuit. Congratulations to Panorama Mountain Men and Just Regular Guys.

Just after that was the third and final Club motorkhana for the year, with everyone having a ball.

Lastly but not least was the Interstate Challenge at the tight little circuit at the Logic TAFE campus at Wodonga. Everyone who attended had a great time, many enjoying a new experience. Although the NSW Club needed to hand over the trophy unfortunately to the Victorian/ Tasmanian Club, we did take out fastest time of the day, thanks to Ian Spinks – amazing.

Once again this year, we will be holding a motorsport presentation dinner at the Benzin Café in Dural. With the success of the event last year, it seemed like a great idea to

hold the event again this year.

At the end of October, the Club held its AGM, and what a great night that was. The food was fantastic and plenty of it. Many thanks to Bryan Shedden for organising the day. It is a great social event and a great chance to catch up with members.

This year, the club introduced service awards for long-serving committee members. The value of having that experience on the committee shouldn't be underestimated.

I'd also like to welcome the new committee members who were confirmed at the AGM – the Club has a great committee, and the members of the Club can rest assured that the club is in good hands. (Full story on pages 6 and 7).

Ian Combes



It seems like yesterday we received the Winter 2024 edition of Club Torque – here we are with the Spring edition already! It is immensely satisfying to see so many great articles and photos contributed by members of the Club. The breadth and depth of activities undertaken across the club is amazing.

Many thanks again to our superstar Publications Officer – Senia Gaunson for the hard work in bringing this issue to fruition.

This time of the year is a perfect opportunity for top-down motoring in an MX-5, and what better time and place than the President's Picnic! What a great event this year! Absolutely perfect weather and a brilliant roll up.

After many years in the capable hands of Michael Soulos, this year was the first event organised by our new Club Captain, John Purcell, who introduced a few new innovations, with great support from Senia Gaunson, together with a great group of volunteers, who worked tirelessly on the day. Cars were directed for best displays, games kept members entertained, raffle ticket sellers wondered around the grounds. The event could not have run as smoothly without this amazing contribution. Well done John,

Cover Photo

Kevin and Jenny Chappell's Award Winning 1990, Neo Green NA at Ebenezer Church September 2024
Artwork by Cassandra Chapman donated for CareFlight Raffle, won by Jenny Chappell

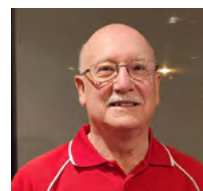
Committee

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Vice President Jeff Rowe	vicepres@nsw.mx5.au 0419 405 877
Treasurer Helen Green	treasurer@nsw.mx5.au 0434 960 800
Secretary Wayne Luxford	secretary@nsw.mx5.au 0412 960 953
Membership Secretary Bryan Sheddén	membership@nsw.mx5.au 0422 340 010
Motorsport Secretary Vacant	motorsport@nsw.mx5.au
Club Captain John Purcell	captain@nsw.mx5.au
Publications Officer Senia Gaunson	publications@nsw.mx5.au 0403 158 708
Regalia Officer Fiona Sheddén	regalia@nsw.mx5.au 0417 581 552
Governance Officer Ian Marsh	governance@nsw.mx5.au
General Committee Member Phil Donnelley	0419 253 014
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Hunter Convenors Elaine & David Gazzard	hunter@nsw.mx5.au 0414 431 817
Illawarra Convenors Zan Dimovski and Phil Betts	illawarra@nsw.mx5.au 0412 871 891
Mid North Coast Convenors Rosy Black & Ken Bailey	midnorthcoast@nsw.mx5.au 0407 193 364
RPM Convenor Sandra Duric	rpm@nsw.mx5.au 0424 493 738
South Coast Convenors Geoff & Rose Smith	southcoast@nsw.mx5.au 0418 631 598
Sydney Convenors Steve and Maree Eccleston	sydney@nsw.mx5.au 0412 902 020
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Motorsport Assistant Jason Atkins	msportassist@mx5.com.au
MX-5 Cup Paul Nudd	mx5cup@mx5.com.au
HCCRS Scheme Administrator Louis Serret	historic.mx5nsw@gmail.com 0466 058 639
Club Historian Elaine Caldwell	

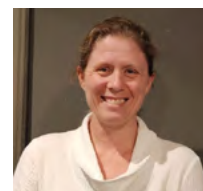
2024 - 2025 COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT - Ian Combes



VICE PRESIDENT - Jeff Rowe



TREASURER - Helen Green



SECRETARY - Wayne Luxford



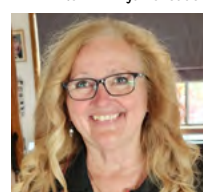
MEMBERSHIP - Bryan Sheddén



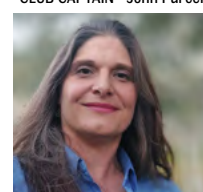
CLUB CAPTAIN - John Purcell



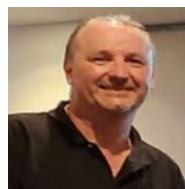
MOTORSPORT - Is this YOU?



PUBLICATIONS - Senia Gaunson



REGALIA - Fiona Sheddén



GOVERNANCE - Ian Marsh

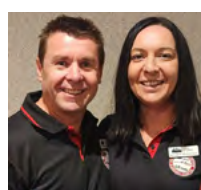


GEN COMM. - Phil Donnelley

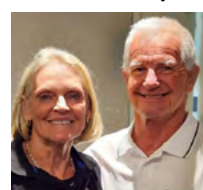
CONVENORS



RPM - Sandra



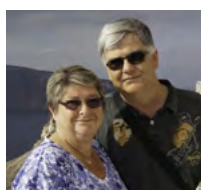
ILLAWARRA - Zan & Phil



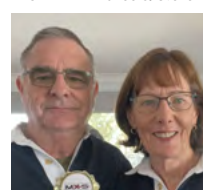
SYDNEY - Maree & Steve



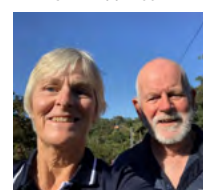
CANBERRA - John



HUNTER - Elaine & David



SOUTH COAST - Rose & Geoff



MID NTH COAST - Rosy & Ken



CONTACT US

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 18 Remly Street
 ROSELANDS NSW 2196

2024 Annual General Meeting

Report by Ian Combes - Club President | Photos: Rob Wilkins

The 2024 AGM of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW was held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club on Friday 25 October. Many thanks to our interim Vice-President Bryan Shedden for organising the venue and lining up such a tasty selection of finger food for us. I don't remember the food being so good or so plentiful last year – we were still going at the end of the meeting!

Once again, we offered a video option (Google Meet now) for our members who could not attend in person. We are getting better at this each time we do it.

We had 60 members attend the AGM in person,



and another 15 via Google Meet, with 40 apologies.

I have attended a few AGMs now, and I think that this was a great night – seemed more enjoyable

even than last year.

John Purcell presented his first report as Club Captain, and like everything John does – it was very thorough and informative. The Presidents Picnic (covered in John's report in detail) was most excellent.

David Lawler presented his last report as Motorsport Secretary. The attendance graph in David's report told a sorry story – the number of people participating in Motorsport has dropped alarmingly from a fairly stable low 400s to only 148 in 2024. Even with a greatly reduced number of track days, this unfortunately translated into another financial loss for Motorsport in FY2024. Knowing that this was unfolding, David has been having discussions with the Combined Sports Cars Association (CSCA) about the MX-5 Club of NSW becoming involved. With the new One Raceway seemingly priced out of our reach for club track days, we will have to combine with other clubs to hold events there, and also at Sydney Motorsport Park.



This year we had audited financial accounts to present to the AGM. Many thanks to our Treasurer Helen Green for the great

accounts that she produced. The Club remains in a strong financial position, even if that position did slip last financial year. Much of this was due to one-off expenses, but motorsport did post another (smaller) loss again in FY2024. All the reports from the AGM can be viewed on our website.

The final formal part of the evening was to elect the Committee for 2024. I am the only office-bearer we didn't need to re-elect. Welcome to Jeff Rowe as our new Vice-President and Wayne Luxford as our new Secretary, while Helen Green was re-elected as Treasurer. We had a number of interim appointments during the year and all were confirmed as elected – Senia Gaunson as Publications Officer, Ian Mash as Governance Officer. We also welcome Phil Donnelley back to the Committee as our General Committee Member. The Committee members who were not due for election and are continuing for another year were Bryan Shedden (Membership Secretary), John Purcell (Club Captain), and Fiona Shedden (Regalia Officer).

The Club has an almost full Committee of motivated and talented people. Best of all, the dynamics and culture in your Club's Committee is exceptionally healthy and positive. It is a pleasure to serve on this Committee. The one outstanding vacancy is Motorsport Secretary, which is a significant gap, especially at this time of year when we are planning the calendar for next year. By the time you read this, we may have a new Motorsport Secretary though.

Once the election of the Committee members was confirmed by the members attending, we moved onto the awards presentation.

Awards Presentation

Membership Tenure Awards were granted to a record 147 members this year. We had 73 members who qualified for 5-year badges, 34 for 10-year badges, 26 for 15-year badges, 5 for 20 year badges, 5 for 25-year badges and 4 for 30 year badges, many of whom received their badge in person at the meeting. One highlight of the night was a video

2024 Annual General Meeting



Graham Fletcher, Christine Cameron, and Jenny Luttrell. Earning an MXV award is no easy feat, so many congratulations!

from our 30 year member in the UK - Russell Wheatley. The full list of tenure awards can be found on our website.

Another five members qualified for the MXV Award in 2024 – Senia Gaunson, Ian Combes,



Service Awards were presented for the first time to recognise the long-term contribution of members to the management of the Club through their service on the Committee. Our Silver Award recipients for at least 10 years service were Michael Hicks, Michael Soulos, Ken & Maggie Liston, Keith Monaghan, and Bryan Shedden. Our Bronze Award recipients for at least 5 years service were Stephen

Carter, Phil Roberts, Jean Cook, Pam & Ray Estreich, Glenn Thomas, Julie Sando, Ian Combes, David Lawler, Wesley Hill, Christine Cameron, and Bryan Hicks. Thank you all for your dedicated service to the Club.

With the President's Award this year, I have to say the two members I picked out were both very worthy recipients. Senia Gaunson did great work as Co-Convenor of Illawarra Chapter, but

just as importantly has absolutely set the world on fire as the Publication Officer this year – spectacular.



In a similar view, what Rod Nicholas has done in the Canberra Chapter in the last few years is also fantastic – not only being the Convenor, but also organising many events. Additionally, Rod made a great contribution to the Committee, most notably in spearheading the development of a comprehensive Chapter Convenors Guide. Well done guys!





Sydney 27th August to 1st September 2024

LIGHTNING RIDGE

Words: Brigid McCarthy, Jean Cook, Tony Heathwood, Robyn Blood, John Cassidy and Senia Gaunson

Foreword:

A trip to Lightning was a “Sharon Queen of the Desert” Cassidy, brainchild some twelve months in the planning and execution.

For some of us, Lightning Ridge was a distant memory some 40 odd years ago, BC (before children), with working limbs and no grey hair. For others, who had never been there, it was a foreign land to be explored.

While the drive was not what we love in an MX-5 (mostly highways and flat), the places were definitely worth a visit, and the fields of yellow too good to miss a photo op.

Not much had changed in the 40 odd years since we were there last, maybe a few newer houses but very little else. The toothless miners, grey beards, beer in hand, looking all of 90 (but in reality probably 50), dreaming of “the big strike”, they were all there. Sadly the “Great Goat Race” that we enjoyed last time was a thing of the past, but gladly the 4 flat tires we experienced in the 1972 Cortina on our last trip was also a thing of the past, the ND behaved like a trooper and not an incident was to be had.

Our sincere thanks go to Sharon for all the planning, excellent leading each day (she even tried to warn us of road kill on her and John’s way home after we’d all gone our separate ways). Finding places that could feed us, as well as a comfy bed and pillow to put our weary heads on at the conclusion of each day. Anyone that’s organised a trip to small country towns with 17 people, knows it’s not always easy! And to John, you were a great “Tonto” to Sharon’s “Lone Ranger”, providing us with some spirited, within speed limits, driving and not managing to lose a single traveller on this great adventure, thank you and well done!

We asked a few people to give us their impression of “One Day on the Road”.

Senia Gaunson

Day 1 - Brigid McCarthy

Nine cars and 3 generations of MX-5s, in multiple colours, gathered at Mt. Colah for the start of our amazing outback adventure. With 15 club members, from various chapters (Sydney, Illawarra and RPM), there were warm greetings and introductions. It had been an early start for some, with 4.30am alarms for Senia and Bob, Tony and Jen. Robyn and Barry chose the canny option, and stayed overnight nearby.

Highway running allowed us to cover a nice distance before our 1st morning tea stop, in the new Hunter region suburb of Huntlee (near Branxton). Cold drinks were procured from Coles, and “fivesies” supplies from Liquorland.

From the Hunter, we headed out to the Golden Highway, onto Edderton and Denman Roads, and back onto the New England to Murrurundi for lunch. These were really good B roads, providing great, varied scenery.



The ravaged landscape of open cut coal mining, is interspersed with some of the best horse country in the world, including Emirates Park and Coolmore Park.

Jean and David started their adventure with a run up the Putty Road, meeting us in Murrurundi for lunch, in Jean’s ‘honorary’ MX-5.

Lunch was enjoyed at the ‘Take a Break Cafe’ in Murrurundi. A long table outside, under a shaded pergola, was perfect to enjoy some local soft drink, fresh made sandwiches and rolls, and the best country made hamburger.

From there it was onwards to the staggeringly vast plains of Breeza. Pasture improved paddocks and lucerne crops gave way to immense horizons of flowering canola. You could smell the sweet tang as we drove through. The photo opportunity on the Kamilaroi Highway, with the yellow canola fields, was too good to miss. Carefully executed turns and angled parking, yielded a few laughs and head shakes from the locals, and a blast of the air horn, from the passing freight train. A possible cover photo for a future Club Torque edition? We’ll see.....

Our final day 1 touring highlight, on the outskirts of Gunnedah, was a visit to one of the painted silos, featuring Dorothea Mackellar’s iconic Australian poem. From there, it was just minutes to our day 1 destination, with our group split across 2 hotels.

Once all were settled, we reconvened for ‘5’esies’ outside Bob and Senia’s room, with BYO beverage. Nibbles, cheese and biscuits provided by our day’s hosts.

With everyone nicely relaxed, it was a comfortable wander through town, to the Courthouse Hotel Bistro. This local pub was packed on a Tuesday night, and when the meals arrived, we understood why. Generous, well cooked and tasty meals all round. Steaks, lamb, schnitzels all receiving a thumbs up rating. Well-watered and fed at the end of Day 1, the group retired for a well-earned rest, looking forward to our Day 2 adventure.

Day 2 - Jean Cook

The day was bright and sunny again, lucky us! We took a small detour to visit the CSIRO Australian Telescope



Sydney 27th August to 1st September 2024

A SPRINGTIME ADVENTURE

Photos: Rob Wilkins, Tony Heathwood, Senia Gaunson, Lester Langford



Compact Array. It was really interesting, with the added bonus of an old racing car in the parking lot. After a short break there we drove on to morning tea at the Wee Waa Arts and Cultural Centre, where some art purchases couldn't be resisted by some (where will they put them in the MX-5?). Then on to Barren Junction for lunch.

The afternoon drive took us to Walgett where we stopped to view the Jimmy Little painted water tower.

After our arrival in Lightning Ridge, we decided that we would have our "fivesies" out at the Sunset viewpoint, Nettleton's Lookout. Brigid was our Day 2 fivesies host and she spread out a magnificent array of goodies to share while we enjoyed a glass of red and a magnificent sunset! It was warm, and we spread ourselves out and witnessed a spectacular sunset overlooking miles and miles of plains! It was obviously a well known and popular viewpoint, as there were many others there, a variety of grey nomads and families with children. After that we all went to the Lightning Ridge bowling club for dinner!

Day 3 Thursday - Tony Heathwood

Today was an exploration day with a coach Tour of township and opal fields in the close vicinity of the Ridge. Our driver was Pauline who was very knowledgeable but would not answer Sharon's questions.

We visited the now derelict and closed open cut opal mine close to town. The mining department requires each mining site to be "restored" once mining is completed. This mine was left unrestored to give visitors an insight into the size of some of these "digs", with layers of different sandstone and finally the opal layer, often far below.

Our next stop was a walk in opal mine that showed the workings and underground construction of a now unused mine. It was amazing to see the close quarters the miners work in when digging.

We stopped at Amigos (Vittorio Stefanato) Castle that was an unfinished and unique stone constructed residence that has a tower and some features of a real castle. Stefano is currently residing in a secure facility at His Majesty's pleasure for at least 13 years following conviction for murdering a 39yo woman at the Ridge in 2020.

Our next stop was a trip to a Bottle House full of really old stuff where we had a go at fossicking for opal, without much success. Morning tea at the Red Rattler train was excellent with yummy scones, jam and cream. Following "fivesies" with nibbles and drinks at the motel, dinner was at Bruno's that was very much an outback version of an Italian restaurant and the service matched that of Basil at Fawley Towers. A good day was had by all.

Day 4 - Robyn Blood

Warm start to the day with the temperature to reach 35 degrees. Pick up time was 9.00am for our day tour with "OUTBACK OPAL TOURS" with our guide Nat. Two Pubs and a Club in the Scrub.

After travelling for 90 minutes we arrived at Mundaroo Station where we passed the outdoor film set of OPAL HUNTERS. Morning tea was at Sheep Yard Inn on Grawin Station. Scones with jam and cream which everyone agreed best yet. Then 30 minutes fossicking where nearly everyone found a stone or two.

Next stop Glengarry Hilton for lunch. Not bad for a club in the scrub. The beer was cold on such a hot day. Quick visit to Sweenies Arts and Crafts where everything sold was made by the miners.

Next was the War Memorial built by the Community - miners and locals. A great tribute to those who served. From here we went to our second pub, PUBINTHESCRUB. Built by locals selling tickets where one ticket equals one beer. No licence. When enough money was earned a licence was bought.

On our way back we spotted Bustards, (looks like an emu but with short legs), Boar goats and lastly a statue called Stanley the Emu, made with car parts, where Lightning Ridge got it's name. In 1870 a shepherd, his dog and 600 sheep were struck by lightning and killed.

Arriving back around 4.30pm for 5sies. Dinner at Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club opposite with everyone back to their rooms by 9.00pm exhausted.



LIGHTNING RIDGE - Sunset at Nettleton's First Shaft Lookout



Lightning Ridge Day 5 - John Cassidy

A magnificent sunrise emerged as we took the plunge (well we slowly slid into) the 40 degree artesian baths. What a way to start the day.

With military precision we were Gulgong bound, via the Castlereagh Highway, but not before one last photo op co-ordinated by Lester and Simone, as we farewell this harsh but magical land.

197km later, at Coonamble, Mink & Me provided us with a private room, some great coffee and some retail therapy, refreshed and nourished, courtesy of Jenny's amazing homemade cookies we were on our way.

John Murray greeted us once again with his pink and grey Galah water tower that dominated the landscape as we headed out of town. The sun shone brightly as we snaked our way south through an ever-changing landscape of canola, salt bush, barley, and wheat, slowing occasionally for herds of cattle that littered the road. With 300km behind us before lunch, Gilgandra was a welcome sight. A hearty pub lunch, a splash and dash at the local servo, and we were headed for Wix country, stopping an hour later to admire the magnificent Dunedoo silo, depicting Australia's greatest ever racehorse and her famous rider, Hugh Bowman who was born only a few hundred meters away.

Gulgong: perhaps the most quintessential town in NSW, John Wayne riding down the Main Street astride his horse, would not look out of place.

Compulsory "fivesies" for all at the Prince of Wales Hotel followed by delicious country fare washed down with superb Mudgee wines. Farewells were said, after new friendships had been forged. Senia gave a wonderful speech for the very organised and efficient, but strict (I should know) Sharon!

So where will "The Queen of the Desert" take us next...



BOYD FAMILY - AN MX-5 OBSESSION?

Words: Honie Boyd and Senia Gaunson | Photos: Honie Boyd and Rob Wilkins



Meet the Boyd family. Are they a family with an MX-5 obsession, with three of them?

Mum, Honie, owns a 1991 Sunburst Yellow NA6. Dad Jonathan's pride and joy is a 2013 Dolphin Grey NC and son, Dante inherited the MX-5 obsession and couldn't wait to get into an NA as soon as he got his L Plates. His is a 1990 Crystal White NA6.

Dad, Jonathan, with whom the MX-5 obsession began innocently enough, spotted a spiffy NC in Newcastle. After five minutes of test driving says, *"I'm going to buy this fun machine!"* And on a whim, he did!

Dante, when he was on L plates declared to all who would listen *"I only want to learn to drive on a manual"*. Many summer evenings were spent cruising over the Harbour Bridge, through the city lights, clocking up the hours for the learner's log book. Dante now has his own 1990, Crystal White NA6, which is currently undergoing modifications at MX-5 Mania. I'd say there's some Motorsport time to be clocked up on this little machine.

Honie with the Yellow Peril! Reliving her youth, 1990s tunes, loves the manual gearbox and rear wheel drive, as well as watching little kids go mad for the pop up lights! Honie was the architect of the Women Behind the Wheel idea which is now into its second year.

The Mazda love affair started much earlier for Honie, in the 1970s with Honie's dad, Craig Bradtke, with a Mazda Rotary workshop. Mum, Jan Kenny, dabbling in rally driving RX3s and RX4s. The influence was always there.

All three vehicles are well supported with servicing and advice at MX-5 Mania.

Is three MX-5s enough, I ask Honie? *"Mmmm, if a*



Mariner Blue came up.... I 'might' be tempted!!", replied Honie with a glint in her eye.





HOW MANY MX-5S HAVE YOU OWNED?

Words: Senia Gaunson | Photos: Paul Byers

"Don't publish this, people will think I'm crazy" - Paul Byers

MX-5 owners are obsessed with their cars, there's no question about that. They love to drive them, show them, preen and shine them and will often add to their collection, be it models or real ones (as in the Boyd family). But there is one family who have owned eleven (yes 11!) MX-5s (so far)! At one stage, with son Sean's, they had four at once.

Paul and Dianne Byers, currently proud owners of an "Aluminium" NC, ventured on their love affair with the MX-5 breed back in 2007 with a White NA and have gone through the colours of the rainbow.

When I asked Paul for photos and details of their collection, he replied *"don't write about that, they'll think I'm crazy!"* I responded *"we know you're crazy, it's what we love about you"*.

Paul is an electrician and quite handy, he and Dianne like to travel, but soon discovered the space limitation in an MX-5, so if he wasn't adding to his 'herd', he'd buy a damaged one, chop it in half and build a trailer from it to go with the car. There was even a burnt out one, fondly named 'Frankenstein'. His trailers have been very popular with a lot of members and are still travelling around the country.

So here goes:

1-White NA, 2-Winning Blue NC soft top, 3-Red NA, 4-Sunlight Silver NB8A, 5-Sunlight Silver NB8B, 6-Galaxy Grey NC1 PHRT, 7-Mica Grey NC2 PHRT BBS, 8-Sunburst Yellow NC2 PHRT, 9-White ND1 1.5L, 10-Sunlight Silver NC1 soft top, 11-Aluminium NC2 PHRT BBS (current)!

Son, Sean took on the love of MX-5s and can be found regularly on the Motorsport circuit.



BELLS AT KILLCARE - WOMEN BEHIND THE WHEEL

Words: Honie Boyd | Photos: Ann Hicks and Senia Gaunson



Women Behind The Wheel - a Sydney Chapter Run

Friday 11th October 2024 - Bells at Killcare

Another successful outing for the mx5 ladies!

They came from the mountains, from the Illawarra, from the Northern Beaches, from the city. They answered Honie's call to get behind the wheel, tops down and join other like minded women for a cruise up to the beautiful Bells at Killcare.

15 zippy convertibles gleaming in the sunshine, winding our way from the Mooney Mooney Bridge (meeting point) up through Woy Woy to Bells Killcare for a beautiful lunch.

The gardens were exquisite - big shady trees to park our little beauties, and perfumed roses in bloom.

We dined in a charming private library room, 19 women chatting around the vintage dining table, sharing stories with new and current friends.

The venue prepared a fabulous home-made pasta ragu with matching wines. Happy tummies, big smiles.

This event was so enjoyable we plan on doing it again next year.

Keep an eye out for a WBTW (Women behind the wheel) event in your area, so far we've headed down south to Kiama, the highlands of Sutton Forest as well as the Hunter. Wonder where the next one will take us?



Hunter 8th September 2024

Hunter Run to Broke

Words: Rob Emmett | Photos: Wendy Mulholland and Rob Wilkins



8:15am on a cool, slightly overcast morning, saw fifteen cars and twenty-seven members assemble in Maitland Park at the swimming center. As usual members in a happy mood greeted each other and chatted amongst one another before assembly was called for the 8.30am departure. Club rules were run through by Lilo and condition of roads en route were reported.

After the usual radio check the group moved off out of the park onto Cessnock Rd for a short distance and then turning right. The next part of the run took us along a couple of roads less used by the general public but used by commercial traffic as they pass through the heavy industrial part of Maitland. Crossing the railway line at the Railway Track Maintenance yard and through the suburb of Telarah then through Farley on the Wollombi Rd passing through another recent subdivision where hundreds of houses have been built and many more under construction. Over the last few years, the Lower Hunter has seen a rapid housing development, where once cattle grazed and other farm endeavours were perused now stand hundreds upon hundreds of houses.

Continuing along the Wollombi Rd then turning right towards the Lovedale area we worked our way in a roundabout way through the valley passing farms and vineyards with their attached wineries to reach the Broke Rd. Once on the Broke Rd it was straight on to our destination the Broke Fair.

On our arrival even though relatively early, parking was at a premium so it was a case of take the first park you could find. Entry to the fairgrounds was by Gold Coin donation and a number of Charity services had tents with displays through the area. Included amongst the displays were the Bush Fire Brigade, Helicopter Rescue, Red Cross, Wires all manned by their volunteers.

Apart from the service tents there were hand crafts, home cooked jams and home baked products, there were two buses on hand for anyone wishing to do a mine tour of the local mine, plenty of takeaway food and coffee vans supplying Eats.

A wood chop competition was being held with Axe men displaying their skills on both standing block and underhand block with wood chips as big as dinner plates

flying in all directions and axes swinging at a rapid rate. In one corner of the fair was a skilled chain saw operator showing his skill of sculpting logs with his chain saw, very clever.

A big part of the fair was the car display the main attraction for most MX-5 members, there were cars of all makes and ages most being representatives of local and Central Coast Car Clubs with some private entries thrown in. What a great morning wandering around the fair and car display chatting with other MX-5 members other visitors and display owners we met during our wander around the grounds.

As an addition to the Posted original run, Brian and Lilo suggested that if members cared to continue on from the fair to lunch, they would make a booking for the group at the Bulga Tavern. Leaving the Fair in two groups we made our way from Broke to Bulga Tavern where the two groups met up. Lunch was served reasonably quickly for those who got in quickly to order, for some it was a bit of a wait as usual the Bulga Tavern gets busy on Sundays so the wait gives plenty of time to discuss the morning's proceedings and other matters.

After lunch we each went our own way home, some leaving straight after eating to try and get home to watch the football, whilst others a bit more relaxed chatted a bit longer.

All in All another great day out with thanks to Lilo and Brian for organizing and leading the run.



Canberra - 14th September 2024

Wee Jasper Wondering

Words: Rod Nicholas | Photos: Lili Chi

The run out to Wee Jasper is one of the best short drives around Canberra. With the countryside looking green and lush, the little village is a beautiful site, and the trip in offers some interesting twisties to excite the drivers (and maybe the navigators too).

Great drives, good food, and bottled goodies for a bonus—all within a round trip of 160 km!

But the road to Wee Jasper demands caution. It is a narrow country lane with uncompromising—and occasionally non-existent—shoulders. Blind corners, steep drop-offs to the valley below, and the occasional pothole (or recently deceased wildlife) threaten to unnerve the inexperienced driver. I have labelled it a 'hard' run, if only because there's nowhere to hide if you get into trouble.

Kicking off from Denman Prospect, our thirteen-car convoy managed the four suburban turns into Uriarra Road with ease, and prepared for the map-challenging of two more turns to our destination. We turned right into Mountain Creek Road, which was surprisingly devoid of traffic (apart from our zoom-zoom of MX-5s), and in great condition. Then a left onto Wee Jasper Road and the first twisties. The uphill track is a bit uneven but otherwise sound, and the convex mirror allow a peek around the corners before entering. Guardrails all but obscure the steep slide back down but also block out much of the gorgeous view into the farmland below.

We meandered through the bush along the ridge for a while and I was delighted to find the dodgy cattle grid just before the descent to the Goodradigbee River in good operating order. That's the start to my favourite part of the trip—approaching a blind left-hander, with the valley opening below, and then a stretch along the ridgetop that is (to me at least) a beautiful sight. Then the descent to the village. The road narrows and drops steeply, the guardrails disappear, the blind corners are adorned with mirrors, and the rock wall to our left is disturbingly close.

But we all arrived safely, and the sun sparkled off the backwaters of the river lazing out front of the Wee Jasper Distillery. We were almost the only guests (for a while) and our host Shannon was well-prepared for our crowd. Within moments, we had tables set, menus distributed, drinks and food ordered, and tastings begun. And oh, what a taste! The pink gin is delish, but my pick is the dry gin, sipped over ice (not too much) and a sliver of lemon peel.

We ate, enjoyed the view and the chat among friends, took photos and wandered around. A few packed-up stumps and wandered home. The rest followed us on trip into Yass for a caffeine top-up. We headed back out along Wee Jasper Road to Yass, a short 55 km to the east. Back up the hill, this time with the drop just a few centimetres to the left, past the Mountain Creek Road turnoff, and we crossed the magnificent Taemas Bridge as it spans the Murrumbidgee River. Another uphill set of twisties followed, with tight bends and a long, steep drop back to the river on the left-hand side; a delight for the driver, albeit somewhat unnerving at times. We took it slowly for change.



The road is in surprisingly good condition (about time, he cried!) and we managed to get to our stop in Yass—Kaffeine—in time for a brew. Directly opposite the lovely Yass Liberty Theatre, still in the throws of restoration, we were entertained by impromptu performances by some folkies who were taking part in a festival at the theatre.

And then it was time to set out for home. What a ripper of a day! The weather was spot on, the roads were good, the Distillery brilliant (as always), the tucker filling and delish, and the drive itself was a heap of fun. The best part? The company of course.

A repeat for 2025 is certainly on the cards, maybe with the added attraction of a cave exploration.

Who knows?



Sydney 14th September 2024

Sculptures in the Vineyard

Words: Andy Bottomley | Photos: Rob Wilkins



16 members converged at the counter of our favourite barista at Macca's Mt Colah. General chatter was in the air. Tap-Tap on the table had everyone's attention, Steve gave us a quick description of the run while Maree handed us the correct instructions and a 'what's coming up' this month and to the end of the year. 'All aboard, let's move 'm out'.

9 MXs exited the carpark on to the Pacific Hwy heading over the 'Other Coat Hanger', past Singo's Saddles at Mt White, and the little hamlets of Peats Ridge, Central Mangrove, Kulnara, Bucketty then down into the gorgeous Wollombi Valley and passing The Great Northern Trading Post, in Laguna, a great restaurant which was a staging and trading point from the days of horse & cart.

Oh, yes, the reason for today's jaunt was to admire and discuss the numerous sculptures. Assembling at the local park, we headed to the first Church where brochures of all the sculptures were handed to some of us. The brochures gave the name of the artist with a brief description of their work. These works were displayed in Churches, gardens & curio shops. We split up into small groups visiting all of the venues, then met up at Myrtle & Stone at 12.30 for lunch in their outdoor alcove.

Chatter about the displays was the go whilst awaiting our selected meals and drinks, which arrived rather quickly from their very friendly staff.

If you were unable to attend this weekend you will have to wait till 2026 till it is on again.

A very well organised day by Maree and Steve. Wilko did a great job as well behind the lens.



RPM - 12th September 2024

RPM Run to Tarana

Words and Photos: Rob and Deb Dempsey



A day of sunshine, well at least no rain, was hoped for as we set out for the RPM run to Tarana. The group met up at The Lolly Bug in Hartley, which was a chance for some to see the new building after a fire, started by lightning, destroyed the original building in January 2022.

Coffee, greetings and a few purchases in the shop began the run.

The lovely back roads we normally drive on were not to be enjoyed this time as there were too many pot holes to make this a safe run for our little cars. Instead we took a detour (or as some would say, the long way round) towards Wallerawang and enjoyed the countryside, heading to Sunny Corner and through the State Forest. This was a road travelled before by early MX5 club drivers but was new to many.

The rain threatened but continued hold off for the rest of the drive to Tarana where we enjoyed a lunch at the pub with lots of catching up with other members. A quick coffee and for some a slice of cake from the cafe across the road saw us ready to find our own way home.

We just love a day out with our MX5s!

From Rob Wilko on FB:

Rob and Deb did some good research to make sure our MX-5s took a road less travelled to Tarana. It needed to be one that didn't have too many potholes and lead us to a venue that still had the power on to feed us.

Well done on both accounts.



Hunter and Sydney - 27th October 2024

Bulga Tavern Run

Words and Photos: Maree & Steve Eccleston



A small group of eight from the Sydney chapter set off from Mount Colah for a run to the Bulga tavern near Broke via Wollombi. The group included two potential new members Martyn and Liz who wanted to check out what an MX-5 club run is all about. They have a very tidy 2018 ND with 11,000kms on the clock! I think we have managed to convince them to use the car more often.

The first part of the run to Wollombi got off to a shaky start as we had detour off the Old Pacific Highway onto the M1 until Mt White, due to a bad accident that happened earlier. The rest of the run was uneventful and the Laguna Wollombi Valley at the moment is many shades of green with plenty of water in the creeks, it looks great. A real bonus was the roadworks between Wollombi and Broke are now virtually complete and therefore there were no delays and it was very pleasant run.

Sydney organised this event as a joint run with the Hunter Chapter and we met up with them at the Bulga Tavern together with a lot of senior motor bike riders. Hunter put us to shame in relation to attendance as they mustered up 23 members our only excuse was that it was in their backyard.

It was great to catch up with familiar and some new faces and enjoy a pleasant lunch, the perfect MX-5 weather and the opportunity to plan for some more joint runs in 2025. Also David and Elaine gave us a great run down on what is being planned for Natmeet 2026.



South Coast - 17th September 2024

Meander to Mogo Zoo

Words and Photos: Rose Smith



Having experienced gale force winds for two days, the run to Mogo Zoo (actually Mogo Wildlife Park) was not looking promising. Luckily, the winds eased overnight and the weather for the run was ideal. Blue skies, no wind and not too hot....perfect for a tops down drive. It was an early start for some, who had a 40 minute drive to arrive at the Heritage Bakery by 8:00am. Sufficiently fueled with coffee, the waypoint run set off directly down the Princess Highway to Mogo Zoo. As usual, we encountered roadworks on the way and got held up at our nemesis... a red light. As some members were arriving from the south, Rose was busily texting to change our arrival time. As it turned out, Rose & Geoff were first to arrive at the Zoo, either due to Google maps taking people on a scenic route or again.. roadworks. Mike joined us along the way... pleased we got the time right and we didn't leave you behind this time.

The NRMA had a heavily discounted deal, if you pre purchased tickets, which included a free coffee. So upon entry all of us lined up for a beverage... it was pretty good stuff, particularly the mocha, which Karen tried for the first time. While having our drinks we were entertained by the energetic Emperor, Cotton-top and Golden Lion Tamarins plus Pygmy Marmosets. Today, they didn't stay still for long... exhausting little mammals.

Next to these exhibits was the Red Panda which was actually on the ground (none of us had seen this before) and walking around, which it did for quite a while before climbing up and nestling in for a sleep in the treetops.... which is where you usually see it. Nearby, two koalas were sleeping, but we had a good view of them.

The gorillas captivated all of us, particularly the baby. You can stand and watch these guys for ages. We all decided it would not be fun to come face to face with the adult Silverback... huge.

Most of the giraffes were lining up for hand feeding. Besides a few adults, there was a baby and two young calves, one was named after the queen... Lilibet.

Primate Island consists of a few separate islands with different primates on each and is a great place to live if you are a monkey or a small primate. The monkeys have a

large place to live with heaps of trees and items to play on. Some of us were lucky enough to see them eating bags of popcorn, although the resident ducks were pretty keen to nab some of this from them. They seemed happy to share. Lemurs and Golden Lion tamarins shared a separate Island and they also put on a good show for us.

We saw heaps of other animals and almost all of them were active today. The exception to this were the lions and hyenas who slept most of the time. We did see some of them stretch or stand only to flop over to continue sleeping. It's what cats do best during the day.

We all meandered around the zoo at our own pace. The guys finished earlier than the rest of us and were happy to sit and talk about cars under the glorious purple wisteria outside the cafe. The girls had to rush the last section of the zoo as Geoff was keen to get to The Adelaide Hotel in Moruya for lunch on time. The girls took a lot more time watching animal behaviours, chatting and taking photos. Kim brought her good camera, so we are all keen to see her shots.

Thanks Geoff for organising a great day out. We all had a brilliant day.



Hunter - 28th September 2024

Something to Wine About!

Words: Chris Cameron | Photos: Wendy Mulholland and Denise Birrell



Our weekend trip to Mudgee started on a damp note, with our group of 18 members in 9 MX-5's gathering in the café at Cessnock Information Centre for a hot drink to ward off the cold. Marlene handed everyone a lovely travelling snack containing her delicious home-made biscuits and some snakes for a sugar hit, which was a lovely start to the trip. The hardier souls took a punt on a roof-down start, which lasted until Broke when ominous skies ahead saw everyone stop briefly to put tops up. But we quickly outran the rain and at our comfort stop at Jerry's Plains, most cars reverted to top-down. A lovely drive in light traffic saw us pull in to Merriwa for lunch at the bakery – and a BIG surprise!!! Marlene had organised a HUGE PINK birthday cake for Felicity's 60th birthday, so as well as pies and sausage rolls, we feasted on cake and sang happy birthday to Felicity, accompanied by everyone else in the bakery.

Back on the road, we headed on to Cassilis then south past the Ulan mines, arriving mid-afternoon at Mudgee



and our motel in warm sunshine. After booking in, the usual suspects headed to the local BWS for liquid supplies, returning to find that Marlene and Ray had laid out snacks beside the pool for everyone to enjoy. Around 4 o'clock we packed up and headed round to the town centre for the main event of the weekend – the Mudgee wine and food festival. Armed with our tasting vouchers and wine glasses, everyone spent a happy few hours browsing the market stalls, wine and distilled spirits tasting tents, and a diverse array of different food sellers. Having been to the event before, Ray made a bee-line for tables set up in the main street and secured a spot for our group – which was a great move as it gave us a home base and a spot to stop for a rest and a chat. We were close to the action, being serenaded by various street musicians and entertainers, and stayed until the tasting vouchers ran out and the light began to fade.

After dropping our purchases at the motel, we walked over to Club Mudgee for dinner (or coffee and dessert for those who had already eaten courtesy of street food vendors) and happily whiled away the evening enjoying good food and great company.

After breakfast at one of Mudgee's friendly cafes, we headed off in convoy to the Honey Haven for mead and honey sampling, with most of us walking out carrying a purchase of some kind. We then headed off home, traversing the scenic route along Lue Road to Bylong where we took a short comfort stop. Then on to Denman along The Bylong Valley Way for lunch. These 2 roads are notorious for potholes, but we only encountered a few sections with any of concerning size, which was good to see.

Denman pub always has tasty food and didn't let us down despite being quite busy. Lunch over, we headed back to Newcastle along Bureen Road, the Golden Highway and the Hunter Expressway with people leaving the group along the way to return to their respective homes.

What a fabulous weekend! Huge thanks go to Ray and Marlene for putting it together and leading the runs. And a special mention to our Sydney friends Louis & Laura and Mick & Vivian who joined us for the weekend. We enjoyed your company and hope you'll come on more runs with us in the future.



PRESIDENT'S PICNIC 2024

Words: Senia Gaunson | Photos: Andrew Edgar and Rob Wilkins



September is a buzz of excitement in the MX-5 Club of NSW Community as MX-5 owners right around the state (and ACT) start to preen and shine their car to within an inch of its life. New tyres are fitted, best (Bowden's) cleaning products are invested in, new number plates fitted, car and owner are ready for "The Picnic".

21st September this year had the weather Gods shining on us with clear skies and temperature in the mid 20s. Ebenezer Church and grounds the perfect back-drop to showcase over a hundred beautiful machines with owners, chamois in hand, still preening in readiness for Show n Shine judging.

This Picnic was also the **Celebration of 35 years of MX-5s**. The car that took inspiration from "Kansei engineering - The car must captivate not only the driver's imagination, but also that of the occupants", this little car has been doing that for 35 years! 'Jinba Ittai' has been the philosophy behind the MX-5 since day one. The Japanese term describes the harmony between a mounted archer and his horse. For Mazda, it represents the connection a driver forms with a car that intuitively behaves as the driver intends. Tom Matano and his team started with Bob Hall's dream of a new breed of an affordable sports car built for driving enthusiasts reminiscent of 1960s MGs, Triumphs and Austin-Healeys.

The focus on "Historic" MX-5s, over 30 years old that are eligible for Historic and Classic Car Registrations, brought out 13 entries for judging, as well as another ten for display only, a total of 23 NA's, amazing result considering some of these are now 30 to 35 years old.

Kevin Chappell's 1990, Neo Green NA, with just 19,000kms on the clock, blitzed the competition, taking out not only the "Historic" but "People's Choice" category as well.

This year's Picnic celebrated the friendships of Club members and was reminiscent of family picnics with

Chapter challenge games, that was more of a "girls and guys" challenge. Instead of the egg and spoon race, our contestants carried a spanner with a wheel nut perched on top, racing for the finish line while hoping not to drop the nut and face disqualification by our adjudicator and Game MC, Steve Eccleston with his trusty assistant, Maree.

From Spanners and Nuts to seeing Giant Jenga fall, games were a crowd favourite this year.

The volunteers at Ebenezer Church provided a delicious, fresh lunch and all our workers and guests were refreshed and ready for judging of their cars in various categories.

Our Raffle spruikers were busy from all angles. At the registration point, where Brigid McCarthy grabbed them in their cars and Pam out of their cars, to the grounds where Eilis and Glenn cruised around and cleaned up the rest. This President's Picnic Raffle was a huge success, raising **\$2,438 for CareFlight**, a huge improvement on \$735 in 2023! In addition to this, we passed the bucket around and raised a further **\$380.70 for Ebenezer Church!**

Well done to everyone that bought tickets, sold tickets and most of all, our very generous donors who gave us some amazing prizes to raffle off! There were in excess of \$5,000 worth of prizes on offer. Congratulations to all our prize winners, too many to mention, here are just a few of the main ones:

Wollongong Mazda \$250 Service voucher - Lesley Warner.
Wollongong Mazda Travel bag and merchandise packs (4) were won by: Lena Hill, Mara Ellerton, Sharon Cassidy and Annette Anderson.

Blue Mountains Mazda \$350 Service voucher - Jeff Grey
Cullenbone Cottage 2 nights - Jenny Chappell
Aceit \$100 voucher - Bryan Hicks
Belconnen Mazda Bag - Hella Underwood
MX5Mania Hamper - Bryan Hicks



Personalised Ebenezer Church Painting by Cass Chapman - Kev and Jenny Chappel
 Personalised Pet Portrait by Denise Birrell - Bob Emmett
 Gift hamper by Zan and Phil - Jennifer Keenahan
 Bowden Car Care Bucket - Barry Luttrell
 Century Car Battery - Jeff Rowe

There were numerous other art and craft items on offer, including a hand made bear called Bert by Christine Cameron (won by Denise Birrell) as well as a pottery-art Sunflower platter made by Cass Chapman (won by Anda Clayton).

We are so grateful to all our contributors in making this such a success in support of our very worthwhile charity, CareFlight.

The standard of the cars competing for the various awards was the highest I can recall, your cars looked absolutely immaculate. You're all winners, unfortunately trophies could only be awarded to one car in each category.

Our 2024 President's Picnic outstanding awards went to:

Best Presented Historic - Kev Chappell
 Best Modified - Mark Pullan
 Best Ladies - Marlene Cosier

Show 'n Shine NA - Julie Sando
 Show 'n Shine NB - Franck Verheyen
 Show 'n Shine NC - Frances Molden
 Show 'n Shine ND - Rod Nicholas (*who assures us, Aero Grey IS a real colour*) proudly displaying the Winter edition of Club Torque with his ND on the cover!

Best in Show (People's Choice) - Kev Chappell

Congratulations to all the worthy recipients!

RAFFLE PRIZES WERE DONATED BY:

Wollongong Mazda	4254 3777
Blue Mountains Mazda	4788 1018
Belconnen Mazda	6213 1313
MX5 Mania	9482 3238
Cullenbone Schoolhouse	0418 289 335
Bowden's Own	1800 351 308
Wollongong Automotive Agency	4225 3061
(Century Yuasa Batteries)	
Aceit	4226 4054
Cassandra Chapman Art	0402 522 933
Pet Portraits by Denise	0402 989 837
Zan Dimovski & Phil Betts	
Christine Cameron	
Hunter Chapter	
Autobarn	
Bob Gaunson	

If there is anyone I have missed, please accept my sincere apologies and many thanks!

Fantastic effort John Purcell and ALL the helpers in making this President's Picnic outstanding.

Thanks for inviting us to your 2024 picnic Mr President, it was a hoot!



PRESIDENT'S PICNIC 2024

PHOTOS: ROB WILKINS, ANDREW EDGAR AND VARIOUS
OTHER BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS





South Coast – 21st September 2024

SOUTH COAST GOES TO PRESIDENT'S PICNIC

Words: Anda Clayton | Photos: Anda Clayton, Rose Smith and Keith Monaghan

This year's President's Picnic was a particularly special event, as this year we also celebrate Mazda MX5's 35th anniversary.

South Coast was well represented, with 11 members in attendance – an impressive number when taking into account the size of our Chapter, the smallest in the Club.

Seven of us, Rose, Geoff, Ian, Chris, Roger, Brian and Anda set out on Friday morning for an overnight stay in Richmond. We met at our now regular meeting place at Hungry Jack's in Bomaderry, keen and ready for our drive north. Our convoy of 2 NCs followed by 2 red NDs was led by organisers and run leaders Geoff and Rose.

Geoff opted to take us via the scenic route, via Picton and Glen's Bakery in The Oaks for lunch. Despite striking some traffic in spots, it is Sydney after all, it was a perfect, sunny tops down day for a drive in our beautiful MX5's.

On arrival at our motel in Richmond, we were pleased to see some of our Canberra Chapter friends who had also chosen to stay at the same lodgings. A social get-together at the motel, then an enjoyable dinner at Barrels & Ashes saw us to bedtime.

Saturday dawned, and it was the day of the main event, the Club's annual President's Picnic held in the historic Ebenezer Church grounds. Ebenezer Church, built in 1809, happens to be the oldest surviving church in Australia and still conducts weekly church services.

With 216 members and guests in attendance and well over 100 cars on show, today was an event not to be missed.

Here we met up with the remainder of our Chapter's attendees Keith, Sue, Kerry and Lesley.



Trophies and awards were given to numerous categories, including Best NA, NB, NC, ND, Best track car, Best Ladies MX5 and People's Choice. Our Convenors Geoff and Rose were honoured to be asked to act as official judges.

A few games of Jenga and a spanner & nut race and catch-ups with numerous members from other Chapters made the day a fun social day.

Lunch prepared and served by church volunteers was, as always, a true feast.

What would a picnic be without a raffle? This year's raffle prizes, donated by sponsors and members were numerous to say the least. Proceeds from the raffle go to Careflight, the Club's nominated charity organisation. "Lady Luck" was on our Chapter's side when the raffle prizes were drawn, with Lesley, Anda and Keith winning prizes, both major and minor.

It may be a long drive, 3.5hrs for some members, for a picnic, but the show of camaraderie and with the opportunity to inspect so many versions of our beautiful MX5's, coupled with a fine sunny day, I feel it was worth it.



Mid North Coast – 20th to 22nd September 2024

MID NORTH COAST PRESIDENT'S PICNIC WEEKEND

Words and Photos: Rosy Black

If you go down to the woods today.....The President's Picnic via Putty Road.

Three MX5s with six North Coast Chapter members, Kev and Jen Chappell, Cath and Graham Dickey and Rosy Black and Ken Bailey met at Mount Thorley around lunch time on Friday 20 September.

From there we enjoyed a few twists and turns along the scenic Putty Road through the national parks and along the creek. A short stop for lunch at the Grey Gum Cafe. A few roadworks held us up a bit but we arrived at the Mercure Hotel at Rouse Hill late afternoon.

That evening we enjoyed dinner at the Fiddler's Restaurant complex though it was a bit noisy next to the playground!

Saturday morning Ken and Rosy were up bright and early to start their volunteering at the Picnic that is held annually at the Ebenezer Church. The church is the oldest Presbyterian church in Australia, built in 1809. It's a beautiful sandstone building and the location is very scenic next to the Hawkesbury River.

Rosy helped out with the registration desk, selling raffle tickets and checking on the tea station, while Ken assisted with the car parking. Most people had arrived by mid-morning and by then the sun was shining and it was great weather for the event. Morning tea was provided and then we enjoyed a BBQ lunch made and served by the local church auxiliary.

Some fun games (such as nut on a spanner, aka egg and spoon race!) were held before lunch.

Many members entered the various car categories, Historic, Show 'Shine, Modified MX5, Track Cars, Ladies' Choice and People's Choice/Best in the Show. We all voted for the People's Choice/Best in the Show and judging followed.

Early afternoon we all gathered near the church to see the presentation of the trophies and awards. Our Chapter did really well with Kev winning the Historic category and the People's Choice/Best in the Show!! He has a beautiful racing green NA that he found hidden away in a barn some years ago. It was the talk of the show! Jen also did very well winning three prizes in the raffle, including a custom painting of the Ebenezer Church, showcasing their award winning car! (see magazine cover).

The Club raised \$2,438 for Careflight through the raffle.

In the evening we celebrated Kev's wins over dinner. On Sunday we enjoyed a cooked breakfast together before heading off to our various destinations. A great weekend was had by all!

Thanks to Kev for organising the run.





Motorsport - 15th September 2024

MX-5 CUP - ROUND 5

Words: Ian Combes | Photos: Rob Wilkins

Well, this was a welcome change from the previous round – a fine day. Sydney seemed to cop a fair bit of wind that day, but we didn't see that so much at SMSP...

This was the last round of the 2024 MX-5 Cup, with 21 cars taking part. It was great to see Paul Nudd make it back for this round, and I have to say, he didn't seem too rusty (unfortunately). Good to see Ian Spinks join the MX-4 Cup for the final round of the year too.

Qualifying was thankfully free of incidents (unlike last time) so we managed the full 15 minutes to get ourselves dialled in and post a representative lap time.

The front row for race 1 was Richard Herrings, Jett Herring and Sarah Medley. The finishing order was almost the same, with John Frazer coming in 3rd with a DNF from Sarah.

The opening lap in race 2 unfortunately saw a bit of un-needed excitement around Corporate Hill before turn 15a, resulting in an incident, although all cars finished the race. The order got a bit juxtaposed this time with Jett Herring coming home first from John Frazer and Richard Herring,

Race 3 saw another permutation at the front with Richard Herring coming out on top from John Frazer and Sarah Medley.

The class results were:

OFI: 1 Richard Herrings 23 points, 2 John Frazer 22 points, 3 Rob Kriletich 16 points.

ONA: 1 Jett Herring 24 points

Class A: 1 Stuart McFadyen 20 points, 2 Brett Lansley 18 points, 3 Ben Cathcart 16 points

Class B: 1 Jie Ren 24 points, 2 Paul Nudd 19 points, 3 Rob Herrick 18 points

Class C: 1 Ian Combes 24 points, 2= Ian Spinks 19 points, 2= Sam Silvestro 19 points

The round 5 winner was Jett Herring winning ONA with 3 Class wins. Second in Round 5 is Jie Ren winning Class B with 3 Class wins., Third in Round 5 is Ian Combes winning Class C with 3 Class wins.

The final pointscore for the year was pretty tight with Jett Herring came out on top with 93 points, just edging out Ian Combes on 92 points, with John Fazer and Jie Ren both on 90 points. That is what you call close!

The full points score is on the club website, with the top 20 summary below:

Competitor		Car #	Total	Deduct Rnd	Season Points	Place
Herring	Jett	79	115	22	93	1
Combes	Ian	171	92	0	92	2
Fraser	John	62	90	0	90	3
Ren	Jie	11	90	0	90	4
Cathcart	Ben	111	94	14	80	5
McFadyen	Stuart	98	68	0	68	6
Kriletich	Rob	72	80	13	67	7
Herring	Tim	78	64	0	64	8
Lansley	Brett	26	59	0	59	9
Marras	Helena	16	55	0	55	10
Barney	Craig	151	53	0	53	11
Medley	Sarah	369	52	0	52	12
Zabetakis	Kiara	88	50	0	50	13
Hou	Sam	54	48	0	48	14
Martin	Jamie	53	46	0	46	15
Cook	Andrew	34	42	0	42	16
Silvestro	Sam	85	41	0	41	17
Nudd	Paul	181	39	0	39	18
Mravivic	Matilda	95	34	0	34	19
Herrick	Rob	25	30	0	30	20

Many thanks to Sash and his team for the generous donation of prizes for our President's Picnic CareFlight Raffle.

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CLUB TRACK NIGHT - ROUND 3

Words: Chris Andry and Ted Sherwood | Photos: Rob Wilkins, Andrew Edgar and Jimmy Shen



Rob Wilkins takes some amazing photos, but it's often difficult to get the story that goes with the photo, so he put the word out for us at the Club's first Track Night for some driver impressions for Club Torque. The good the bad and the sad. Overall it sounds like it was exhilarating for some and not so much fun for others!

Chris Andry was exhilarated! *"For me personally, I've never been more excited for a club track night. I invited all my mates to come along because I knew that this night would be special.*

The south circuit is known to be a very technical and challenging circuit because of its slalom turns and change in elevation, having the opportunity to race the track in the night brought me so much excitement.

It's always an exciting feeling racing under the lights, they make you feel like a pop star with the spotlight on you.

A week leading up to the event the weather had been very on and off with the rain, on the night we'd only one session where the circuit was dry.

When the rain fell, I was ecstatic. I'd been praying for rain the whole week.

I'd packed a set of wet tyres so my friends were all over the car getting the wheels chopped and changed within 10 minutes to get me out ready for my next session.

I'd never participated in a wet track day, but being able to race a difficult circuit in the night and in the rain is a thrilling experience.

Driving out onto the wet track felt like walking into a toy store as a kid, pure excitement and joy everywhere I looked.

As my younger self would dance around the aisles, the car and I were able to do the same, while a few spins were had, the lessons learned were invaluable.

This track night was by far the best experience I've had racing."

Ted Sherwood wasn't as enthused. *"I like going fast. Well fast for me anyway. By the time I arrived at SMSP I had gone fast round roundabouts, a climb up a hill in Cooma, and on two occasions at the concrete-sided Pheasant Wood. Unfortunately, this was not enough to prepare me for only the*



second track I'd been on. Especially at night. (I've got a few decades on me, and my brother told me later that night vision can decrease before day vision.)

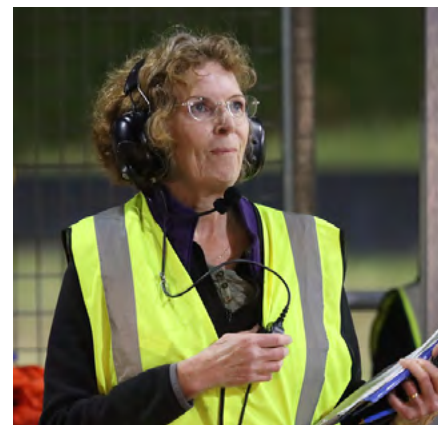
Never mind the rain, a new track under lights with more experienced drivers hunting you from the back, and after only two quick laps with a coach, was not enough for me to be anywhere near comfortable. And on my second lap, the rain. I went to pieces.

The already less than usual visibility because of the night, compounded by the lights shining on the wet surface, with no roof, and never having pushed hard in the rain, and a suspicion that my RE003s weren't ideal, meant I was immediately driving like I had a few. Quelle embarrassment!"

And the sad. Bryan and Alex Shedden, unfortunately didn't have much fun this night. The power steering in the NC decided to clap out after just a couple of laps, so early home time and a "heavy steering drive" for Alex (now he knows how we oldies drove in the 70s and prior).

There was also one "bingle" but fortunately not too much damage and no one was hurt.





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WINTON 10 HOUR REGULARITY

Words: Phil Donnelley and Stewart Temesvary | Photos: Cathy Combes, John Karayannis



From Phil Donnelley - MomentuMX5

Once again, our team 'momentuMX5' made the long drive to Winton Raceway near Benalla in Victoria for this annual Regularity Team Relay event.

This was the 3rd time we have competed there, and it was as enjoyable as always.

The Team consisted of Cathy Combes as Manager, drivers Craig Franklin, Michael Tarrant, Graeme Tierney, Phil Reid and Greg Unger. Phil, Graeme and Michael are all on the wrong side of 70, with Phil Reid and Neil Tribe both 81! Amazing effort to attempt such a tiring event! Pit crew, Phil Donnelley and Gai Tarrant, ably supported by Cathy's friend Kathryn Burton, a first timer here.

Gai Tarrant is our most important team member, doing an excellent job of catering for our team as well as her son's team 'Just Regular Guys' (Matt Tarrant). We shared a garage just for this purpose.

Michael and Greg also made excellent contributions to the food supply, as well as driving, now that's impressive.

It's worth noting that fellow Club members Ian Combes and Neil Tribe volunteered to help two Victorian Teams who were suddenly short of a driver in each team. Interstate rivalry was put aside, temporarily anyway.

Most of us were there for the Friday Test and Tune Day run by Winton Raceway, a good opportunity to get some practise for the weekend 2 day event and set lap times.

This event is run over two days, 4 hours on Saturday afternoon with an official practise session in the morning, and 6 hours Sunday.

It's full on all weekend !

All our drivers were very consistent in practice, setting lap times very close to their nominated lap times for the Event. It was promising on late Saturday morning.

From then on it was all downhill

To summarise, over the next day and a half we had some issues !

Faulty timers, twice, meaning the car had to come in ahead of schedule, causing unnecessary relay change overs, the bonnet popped open on a car while on track needing another unnecessary change over, all costing us laps and time which are needed to gain points.

One car had the bad luck to be constantly caught and overtaken by faster cars on the twisty part of the course which slowed him down so he couldn't get close to his nominated time.

In spite of the issues, we pushed on regardless with all drivers enjoying the Event and the pit crews working non stop to support them.

On Sunday, soon after the 8.30am start, a local power outage shut the track, flag systems and event down.

Apparently it was a scheduled outage, notified to the Track Owners, but not advised to the Alpha Romeo Club running the event ! Really ??

Initially we were told we could not resume until about 1pm, however, someone got hold of a portable generator and we were going again by about 11am.

Apparently, there was a rush to the coffee machine when the power went out, no one likes cold coffee !

We socialised at local pubs and clubs every night, then fell into an exhausted sleep around 9.30pm every night. Back at the track at 7am next day ready to go again.

It's a huge job packing up after this event, however, the teamwork was excellent in this part too, each person doing whatever needed to be done, changing wheels, putting cars on trailers and leaving the garage clean and tidy.

Our Event result was not great, 17th out of 25 Teams, however, we participate for fun and friendship, and even though we were a little (?) disappointed with the result, we soon got over it so we will be back next year for sure.

One good result was Craig finishing individually 24th out of 114 drivers, our MVP, (behind Gai).

Two Club Teams did extremely well, Panorama Mountain Men scored another famous 1st place, which they do often in these types of Events. They are multiple winners here, also at SMSP NSW 6 Hour, Sandown, and Phillip Island. They are always somewhere on the podium.

Our garage neighbours, Just Regular Guys scored a very close 2nd place, their best result ever in this event after finishing 3rd in 2022. They also had a win at Phillip Island in the past.

So great results for the Club again.

We will return in 2025, dates already locked in, can't wait.

The contribution of Cathy as Team Manager was enormous, organising the entries, garages and the myriad of paperwork involved in these large events.

Finally a big thank you to the Alpha Romeo Owners Club, such a massive event to organise and run, they did well as usual.

From Stewart Temesvary - Panorama Mountain Men

The weekend of 12th and 13th October 2024 saw 15 drivers from the MX-5 Club of NSW and their pit crew travel to Winton, Victoria to compete in the 2024 Alfa Club 10 Hour Regularity Relay. The teams were:

Panorama Mountain Men

Drivers: Sean Byers, David Johnson, Stewart Temesvary and Glenn Thomas

Pit Crew: David Lawler, Gaynor Lawler and Paul Byers

Just Regular Guys

Drivers: John Karayannis, Dan Szwaj, Matt Tarrant, Lou Iezzi and Jamie Martin

Pit Crew: Heather Koorey, Gai Tarrant and Andrew Alexander

MomentuMX5

Drivers: Phil Reid, Craig Franklin, Michael Tarrant, Graeme Tierney and Greg Unger

Pit Crew: Cathy Combes, Phil Donnelley and Kathryn Burton

Ian Combes and Neil Tribe were seconded to compete in teams from the MX-5 Club of Victoria and Tasmania.

The 2024 event was in the form of a 10 hour relay, with the first four hours run on Saturday afternoon and the balance of the event run on Sunday.

At the end of competition on Saturday afternoon the Panorama Mountain Men team were in second place with Just Regular Guys in 10th and MomentuMX5 in 17th place.

Sunday morning saw competition resume at 8:30am but shortly after the event was red flagged due to the control

tower losing all power (due to a planned outage by the local electricity authority). With the help of one competitor, who had a generator in the back of his ute, the event resumed a little over an hour later. The officials extended the finish by 1 hour meaning the event was still close to 10 hours of competition.

With no progressive results throughout the day on Sunday it was anyone's guess as to how our teams had finished.

At the presentation ceremony, last year's winners from the Alfa Club took out 3rd place. By process of elimination it was apparent that the top two places were taken by Panorama Mountain Men and Just Regular Guys but it was unclear as to which way round they finished. Eventually it was announced that Just Regular Guys finished second and Panorama Mountain Men had won the event by a very narrow margin.

For the Mountain Men, the win meant they completed a double, winning both the 2024 Victorian relays (Sandown and Winton) and now have 4 wins and 2 seconds in the last 6 starts at the Alfa event at Winton.

For the MX-5 Club of NSW it was a great achievement to have teams taking the top two spots in the event.

The margin between the top two teams ended up being less than 10 seconds after almost 10 hours of competition. For the Just Regular Guys this was a fantastic comeback after being 10th place after 4 hours. It is also their 2nd podium at the Alfa 10hr, after finishing 3rd in 2022.

From an individual driver point of view, out of the 114 drivers competing, John Karayannis was the best performer with Sean Byers in 2nd place, Dan Szwaj 9th, Stewart Temesvary 12th, Matt Tarrant 20th, Craig Franklin 24th and Glenn Thomas 26th.

All the teams had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie at this event.



Hunter - Star Gazing



Day 1 - 11/10/24 A drive to Coonabarabran.

We departed McDonalds Kurri Kurri at 9:30 and headed out to our first stop at Jerrys plains for a brief comfort stop before heading through the Bylong Valley, so green and pretty at present thanks to all the rain and had our morning tea break at the Bylong Valley sports ground. Shady areas were popular for parking spots as the day became quite warm. Then it was off to Coola for nice lunch at the Black Stump Hotel then our last leg to Coonabarabran to the Clock Tower Motel. We relaxed for a bit after unpacking and enjoyed a pre-dinner drink before heading to the local Chinese for a very tasty dinner.

Day 2 - 12/10/24 Milroy Observatory for a Night of



Words: Felicity Harden and Gail King
Photos: Wendy Mulholland

Guided Star Gazing

So our intrepid band assembled at 9:15 pm in the Hotel car park and set off to learn the mysteries of the universe with a very cautious trip out to Milroy Observatory, only to end up in a traffic jam at the observatory as the prior group ran over time and were departing as we arrived. Once we untangled the groups we were led through an interesting talk about various constellations and the distances involved and each of us took a turn viewing various Stars and Nebula through the telescopes. This included seeing Saturn complete with rings and a close up look at the moons surface. We were told about the refurbishing of the large telescope and that it would be hopefully be operating sometime next year.

We then proceeded back to the Motel very cautiously after being informed of wild pigs and wombats, all in all an interesting night.

Day 3 - 13/10/24 Drive to Tamworth

We departed the Clock Tower Motel in Coonabarabran at 8.35am. It was a cooler morning, sunny and cloudy and perfect for driving. Chris spotted birds along the way and gave interesting info. First leg this morning was to Quirindi passing through rural villages of Purlwaugh, past Premer, Spring Ridge (Pauline noted it had a great Pub), Caroonna which had a large Grain Exchange on the hill and onto the Kamilaroi Highway to Quirindi. We had passed cattle and then crops which included Sunflowers, Maize and Oats etc etc. A very fertile area. At Quirindi we went to the "Who'd A Thought It" Lookout and what a view. Spectacular! Half way back down the hill we went to Bob's Shed for morning tea and spent time walking through his truly incredible display of all things Holden and pre and post-war memorabilia. Set out like a street (the hallway) with a general store, tavern, barber, train and bus memorabilia. Well worth the visit, presented brilliantly! Then a drive through town to a look at Silo Art. The next leg was through Castlemountain and Wallabadah to Nundle where the landscape changed to hilly and windy roads and beautiful scenery and then lunch on the deck

**Thanks to Cassandra Chapman
artist for the generous donation
of artworks in our President's
Picnic CareFlight Raffle.**

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Coonabarabran Star Gazing



at the Nundle Hotel. Final leg of the day drove along Chaffey Dam to Tamworth where we checked into the Ibis Styles Motel. The clouds were starting to gather and growing dark but quite a few of us walked to the Tudor Inn for dinner, a pleasant walk after sitting all day. Dinner was a happy affair and HV Chapter member Steve Carter from Tamworth joined us for dinner. It had rained while having dinner but stopped for our walk back to the Motel to rest up for the next day.

Day 4 - 14/10/24 We headed home via NE hwy due to wet weather. Huge thanks to Pauline and Mark for organising and leading their first, successful Club run.



Thanks to Denise Birrell Pet Artist for the generous donation of custom pet drawing for our President's Picnic CareFlight Raffle.

Be amazed at some of Denise's fabulous art on her Insta Page.

https://www.instagram.com/denise_birrell/



South Coast – 27th to 30th September 2024

SOUTH COAST MAYFIELDS GARDENS TOUR

Words: Kerry Warner and Anda Clayton

Photos: Anda Clayton, Kerry Warner and Mark Godfrey



Day One:

A two-car run with Anda and Brian joining Lesley and Kerry at Again & Again in Bomaderry for that obligatory first coffee. Sunshine and clouds interspersed with a few short-lived light showers dictated a roof up run for the sensible ones. Three guesses where Brian and Anda's roof stayed for most of the day. First stop was the Post Office Café in Moss Vale, very welcome on a chilly morning.

Onwards to Crookwell for a bakery lunch break. A short leg stretch and exploration of Crookwell highlighted a number of closed shops. Onwards through Tuena, Trunkey Creek and Millthorpe (and some of the best MX5 roads in New South Wales) to our motel for the night. Kay and Mark from Sydney meet us at the Motel. Dinner was Korean "Let Jacky Feed You" at Mr Lims. A sensational meal with a cheeky Pinot from Philip Shaw or two, went down very nicely.

Day Two:

Today we caught up with RPM Chapter members Ian and Carmel who live out this way and were joining us for the day. We headed off to Canowindra for a coffee and to visit the 'Age of Fishes' Museum.

It was Show Day in Canowindra, and the town was heaving. We scored a rare table at the Perenniale coffee shop in the Garden Centre before heading to the museum. This is one of only two Devonian fish fossil museums in the world and has a remarkable collection of

fish fossils found accidentally when building a road nearby back in 1955. A dig from 1993 revealed over 3,000 fish fossils from over 360 million years ago.

A return trip through Cudal to lunch by Lake Canobolas. We sat in the sun (hats and sunscreen on of course) and had a delightful lunch. Ian and Carmel left us there promising to meet us for dinner. We headed to De Salis Wines where owner Charlie gave us a personalized tour of their wines from the best sparklings to a couple of great reds. Mark, Kay, Lesley and Kerry then went to Borrodell for an afternoon glass of wine with an amazing view.

We all met up at Hotel Canobolas for dinner and an early night.

Day Three

After departing Orange we headed straight to Bathurst, to Mt Panorama, of course! We drove the mandatory slow 60km/hr lap around the circuit. Roadworks interrupted our lap - preparations were under way for the upcoming Bathurst 1000 in mid-October. A photoshoot of our cars and we were on our way to the main event of the day.

Today was the day that some had been waiting for many years. Mayfield Gardens, on the outskirts of Oberon, is a private, cool climate garden, that was inspired by the great gardens of Europe. The 65-hectare garden was acquired by the Hawkins family in 1984 and gradually transformed from bare paddocks to one of the largest privately owned cool climate gardens in the world. There are fountains,

waterfalls, ponds, lakes and of course flowers galore! The gardens are best visited several times at different times of the year. Today we seemed to be between seasons as many flowers were about to bloom or had just bloomed. Some of the more interesting features are the Chicken Hilton, the stumpery and of course the maze. Kerry & Lesley dared to enter the complex maze and we were "amazed" that they managed to locate the exit within minutes!

Back to Millthorpe for our last night's accommodation. Millthorpe is a quaint town with quirky clothing shops, a lampshade shop, a chocolate shop, several wine merchants and a hatted restaurant, Tonic, which unfortunately is closed on Sunday night. We dined at the Millthorpe Hotel, the only eating establishment open on a Sunday night. The meal was a disappointment for some, but the local wine and company was great.

Day Four

Homeward bound today, Anda and Brian drove south, Kay and Mark to the northern end of Sydney and Lesley and Kerry to the Inner West.

A great weekend was had by all!

From Brian, Anda, Kay and Mark – thank you Kerry and Lesley for your hard work in organising a fun 3 days - great drives with wonderful scenery, comfortable accommodation, some (mostly) delicious meals (Mr Lim's was superb), and visits to wineries and drum roll, Mayfield Gardens!



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Canberra - 27th September 2024

The Taralga Lunch Tour

Words: Rod Nicholas | Photos: Rod Nicholas and Simon Trickett

Last year's lunch at Taralga's Argyle Inn was truly terrific, so we've decided to do it all again.

Taralga is a great little town, built on land donated by the son of wool pioneer John Macarthur, cleared and developed by convicts in the mid-1800s. We were dining at the Argyle Inn, and then, maybe, exploring the town a little.

The Argyle Inn is the oldest still trading hotel in Taralga. First built in 1875 in the Victorian tradition, and modified in the later part of the nineteenth century and early 20th century, it has received a significant makeover and now hosts a kitchen producing simple and delicious food. What more could we want after a nice drive? Good weather? Yep, we were rewarded with a bright sunny day.

Today's run was a blockbuster effort. I thought having 14 members along last year was good, but this time around I had 34 registered and 22 cars. On the day, however, I had four members (two cars) drop out—but still 30 members, 20 cars, that's quite a handful.

We had ahead of us a run of, roughly, 150 km each way, through mostly nice country roads, with a bit of highway thrown in because, well, we don't have much choice. There was zero chance of safely keeping that many cars in a convoy, but (as usual) I had provided a Google Maps link for the route and sound route directions, so I was reasonably confident we could satisfactorily waypoint the run. So, I split the group in two, barked a few orders and sent the first group on its way. About ten minutes later, the rest of us set off.

Exiting from Hall, our first turn was onto the Barton Highway from Hall, and I watched in my rear-view mirror as all the cars slipped in nicely. A few kilometres later we made the left into Nanima Road without a hitch and settled down for a trip to Gunning. I reccied this part of the trip the day before, and was more than pleased with the quality of the road. All roadworks had



been completed, with a little bridge over what used to be an awkward dip and culvert crossing, and even Murrumbateman and Gundaroo Roads were in good nick, perhaps the best they have been for some time. I'd failed to warn our intended stop that they were to be invaded, but it didn't seem to matter. By the time my group got to the Merino Café, the first lot were getting their refreshments, and a few of my mob wandered down the street to the Old Hume Café, which evened things up nicely.

For our next leg, we headed to Crookwell, via Grabben Gullen Road, then on to Taralga via the Taralga-Laggan Road. A few spots on the road were lumpy, but overall, it was pretty good. The roads travel through the countryside, up and down a bit, with some good curves for driving enjoyment. The 40 kms from Crookwell into Taralga, through the little township of Laggan, is especially good - the road surface mostly firm and wide, the scenery running past windfarms and through rural properties, and bends to bring a smile to the driver's dial. My group were only a little behind the first lot as we pulled into the main street out front of the Inn.

Once again, lunch at the Argyle Inn was a delight! The Inn is a hidden beauty, not that it's actually hidden (a large building in the main street is hard to hide) but it certainly doesn't get the public attention it deserves. It is an attractive building inside and out, and the meal and service

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Illawarra - 24th September 2024

TAFE Twenty Twenty

By Senia Gaunson



was superb, all at a most reasonable cost. Well worth a visit if you are down this way.

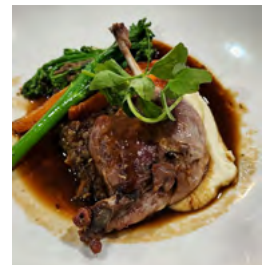
Although I had planned (sort of) a run home, folks started drifting off shortly after lunch. It turned into something of a free-for-all. Some headed back the way we came, others straight down the road to Goulburn and then either a direct route home along the Hume, or another coffee and cake at Roses in Goulburn, or on one of two or three routes back to our fair city (from Goulburn there is the Gurrundah Road or Range Road, or into Breadalbane and the Cullerin Road—each offering an interesting drive).

Whatever route was taken, I am confident that the 30 members who attended the lunch had a really good time on a day just about perfect for touring in an open top sports car with a bunch of good friends. Do we need anything else?

Wollongong TAFE Twenty Twenty Restaurant holds training nights for future chefs, baristas and wait staff, and we got to sample the service and scrumptious food, complete with accompanying wines. Why is it called Twenty Twenty? Because Twenty is the top mark a student can achieve.

On Tuesday 24th of September 17 eager gourmards were treated to a delightful array of dishes from salmon with pear and hand made tortellini entres, followed by a rare steak with broccolini and artichoke hearts or scrumptious duck with baby carrots on cauliflower mash and completed with creme brulee or star anisse chocolate cake.

Does this sound like a gourmet menu? It was. The food was delicious, wine was quite good and the price was definitely right. If you missed this one, I would recommend you give it a go. It was so good, I only took photos of the food, apart from a pair of hands, not a single person (or car) came within camera shot, food was the star!



Thank you for the generous donation of prizes for our President's Picnic CareFlight Raffle.

Zoom Zoom!



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Illawarra - 19th September 2024

Steampunk Victoriana Fair

Words: Bryan Shedden (& ChatGPT) | Photos: Zan Dimovski and Rob Wilkins



On Saturday 19th October, a vibrant group of members joined the Illawarra Chapter for on a spirited drive from Bean Roasted Espresso Bar at Calderwood to the Steampunk Victoriana Fair at Goulburn Historic Waterworks. The convoy featured eight cars, including six MX-5s, a Mustang, and a Mazda3, with a total of 16 club members participating.

The journey began with an exhilarating ascent up Macquarie Pass, where members were greeted by the deafening symphony of cicadas resonating through the lush rainforest canopy. The scenic route then meandered through the picturesque Southern Highlands along the Highland Way, offering stunning views and winding roads that thrilled the drivers.

Upon arrival in Goulburn, we parked and hopped into a minibus, where the enthusiastic driver entertained us with engaging stories about the region's history. At the Steampunk Victoriana Fair, attendees were treated to a dazzling display of creativity, with countless participants donning intricate, futuristic Victoriana-style costumes. The event was alive with vintage activities that captivated both club members and other fairgoers. There was a circus tent, a fashion show, and dogs in tutus with rocket-launchers. The Stonedog Meadery stall attracted quite a few of us for some samples! There were plenty of market stalls selling all sorts of Steampunk paraphernalia, and Fiona couldn't resist buying herself a knitted octopus beanie. Why? Just because!

Lunch options were plentiful, featuring a variety of food trucks offering Greek cuisine, baked potatoes, fish and chips, and classic hamburgers. Despite initial forecasts predicting rain, the day remained dry, allowing everyone to fully enjoy the fair's festivities without interruption.

After the fair, several of us visited One Raceway, just outside Goulburn. The newly upgraded track, opened just two weeks prior, impressed everyone with its state-of-the-art facilities. Members watched as drivers from the Porsche Club sampled the exciting new layout - clockwise today, but it is capable of operating anti-clockwise too. It will be

fantastic to drive the new track, but may prove to be cost prohibitive as entry fees have roughly doubled!

Overall, the day was a resounding success, celebrating both automotive passion and the whimsical charm of the Steampunk aesthetic, leaving participants eagerly anticipating the next MX-5 Club adventure.



Mid North Coast – 16th - 17th October 2024

Coffs Coast and Inland - Mid North Coast Run

Words and Photos: John Ragen



Jetty precinct onto the South Wall, Gallows Beach and then onto Beacon Hill Lookout overlooking the Marina, Jetty and airport. After a photo session with Wayne we continued onto the new National Holden Museum and Bunker Cartoon Gallery. We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful exhibition of Holden cars. Robert & Rhonda then escorted us all to their lovely acreage home at Bonville, where we all declined a game of tennis, but admired the beautiful manicured gardens that they work hard to maintain. Allan & Pam, Greg, Kevin & Jennifer, John & Jennene, Wayne & Cathy, Graham & Cath and Robert & Rhonda drove to Coffs Harbour Yacht Club for a delicious lunch overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean. At 2pm the rally concluded with hugs all round as we said our goodbyes and all headed home after two great days of fun, companionship, adventure, cars and food !!

Many thanks to Rob and Rhonda for organising and leading our group. Great job!

On the 16th October, with overcast weather threatening, seven couples drove from Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Armidale & South West Rocks to Nambucca Heads for a scrumptious morning tea on the Nambucca River at Wharf Street Cafe. Kevin & Jennifer from Armidale stayed the previous night in Nambucca and enjoyed the local hospitality and scenic views of the area. Wayne our photographer snapped several shots of our group and the beautiful Nambucca River. Robert & Rhonda (our leaders) led the way through to Coffs Harbour trying not to lose anyone while avoiding the traffic build up due to the construction of the new Coffs Bypass. We drove the scenic route to Sealy Lookout and then onto Coramba Hotel via Bucca Road & East Bank Road for a lovely lunch. Graham & Cath commented the countryside of Coramba reminded them of Bellbrook where they previously owned a farming property. After enjoying Coramba hospitality John led us to Nana Glen, Glenreagh to Parker Road and Halfway Creek eventually to Woolgoolga Headland where we witnessed many whales breaching in the ocean. That evening the Park Beach Bowling Club put on a wonderful dinner before we walked home in the rain a short distance to our accommodation at the Royal Palms Motor Inn.

Thursday morning we awoke to beautiful sunshine and drove to Coffs Harbour Surf Club for a scrumptious breakfast overlooking the surfing beaches of Coffs. After breakfast in convoy we followed Robert & Rhonda to the



Thank you Cullenbone Cottage for the generous donation of accommodation in our President's Picnic CareFlight Raffle.



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2025 Mazda MX-5 35th Anniversary Model revealed



The story below by Alex Misoyannis was originally published by drive.com.au on 21 October 2024.

The Mazda MX-5 is celebrating its 35th birthday with the third anniversary special edition of this generation, unveiled in Japan and confirmed for Australia. The 35th Anniversary MX-5 does not add any more performance – or sharpen the handling – but rather, it focuses on visual changes to mark the anniversary. An Australian launch for the 35th Anniversary edition has been confirmed by Mazda, though arrival timing, prices and the body styles – soft-top Roadster or folding hard-top RF – it will be offered with are yet to be announced. Production of the new special edition will be limited by time, rather than a cap on the number of cars built.

Details for the Japanese market were announced at a live-streamed Mazda fan festival over the weekend, where these images were sourced (see video below). The 35th Anniversary is finished in Artisan Red Premium – a three-layer paint debuted on the CX-90 seven-seat SUV – with a silver finish on the 16-inch (soft-top) and 17-inch (RF) wheels, which share their design with cheaper models in the range.

The soft-top receives a beige soft-top, while both cars are fitted with numbered 35th Anniversary badges behind the doors.

The beige treatment continues to

the lower dashboard, centre console, carpeting and leather seats, with 35th Anniversary debossing on the headrests, unique branded floor mats, and Artisan Red air vent accents. Customers in Japan can also option an Artisan Red shell for the key fob.

The special edition is otherwise mechanically unchanged, with no mention of performance options from the MX-5 'parts bin' – such as Bilstein dampers, Brembo brakes or additional body bracing, as offered on flagship versions. In Australia, it is expected to mean a 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine in both body styles developing 135kW and 205Nm, matched with a choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmissions. A 1.5-litre engine is the only choice in all Japanese-market MX-5 soft-tops, but the smaller unit was dropped from Australian models nearly three years ago.

Mazda has not announced release timing for the 2025 Mazda MX-5 35th Anniversary, but reports in Japan suggest it will enter production next month ahead of the first deliveries in early 2025. Australian arrivals would therefore likely commence towards the middle of next year – by which point the MX-5 will be in its 36th year of production, having launched locally in late 1989.

The 35th Anniversary MX-5 is the latest in a line of birthday specials for Mazda's long-running roadster.

It celebrated 30 years with Racing Orange paint, black Rays forged wheels, Brembo brakes and Bilstein dampers, while Mazda celebrated 100 years of operation with an MX-5 finished in Snowflake White paint, and a burgundy roof and interior. Both of these editions were based on the current ND-series MX-5, which was unveiled a decade ago – but launched in 2015, opening the door for another anniversary special edition next year. The car's 25th anniversary was celebrated with a 2014 limited edition based on the then-soon-to-be-superseded NC MX-5, adding Soul Red Metallic paint, black highlights, and white leather seats.



Motorkhana on a skid pan 26th October 2024

A New Enthusiast's story - by Zan Dimovski | Photos: Bryan Shedden

Introduction from Bryan Shedden's FB post 27/10/2024

"Yesterday's Motorkhana was truly a family affair. It was amazing to see so many father/son and father/daughter pairings. Well done parents for inspiring your kids to develop an interest in driving."

Zan's Story:

"This morning, we headed to Sydney Motorsport Park, where Phil and Jemma took on the MX-5 Motorkhana event on a skid pan."

For those new to Motorkhana, like us, it's a type of precision driving challenge where you navigate a tight course packed with cones, as quickly as possible. The skid pan adds an extra twist with a slick, wet surface - imagine driving an obstacle course on ice, but on wet concrete!

We brought along Jemma's soon-to-be Mazda 3, the car she's learning to drive in.

Arriving at the track, Phil and Jemma were both excited and a little nervous.

The day was filled with skidding, gliding, and plenty of smiles.

They quickly got the hang of it, and by the end, both were grinning from ear to ear.

I watched from the sidelines, capturing the action, and even hopped into the passenger seat a couple of times. Riding along was way more fun than watching, and I'm definitely signing up for the next one!

There's just something about the controlled chaos of a skid pan that makes you feel like a rally driver, if only for a few laps.

If you haven't tried it, I highly recommend it!

Big thanks to the Motorsport team for organizing such a fantastic event, and to the volunteers who kept things running smoothly."

Ed: If you haven't tried an MX-5 Motorsport Event yet, you don't know what you're missing.

You don't need to be a rally driver to participate, as you can see in these photos, a 12 year old can do it!





Tech Talk

Fitting a screen to an ND cabin air intake

By John Purcell

You may not know but MX-5s don't have a pollen filter on the cabin air intake. In a car that is designed to have the roof down what would be the point! Up until the ND they didn't have a screen to prevent any small leaves and other items being sucked into the blower fan. Unfortunately, if the screen on an ND gets blocked, it requires removal of the lower dash on the passenger's side to gain access to the screen to clean it out.

A great solution is to fit a screen on the open cowl that covers the air inlet located on the passenger side below the windscreen. Here's how I did it -

What you need:

stainless Wire Mesh – 20 deniers, available from TEMU at around \$4 for enough to do 5 cars

very small flat blade screwdriver

phillips screwdriver or 10mm socket

Small pliers

Good tin snips

1. Remove the passenger's side wind-screen cowling

- carefully remove the cowl hole cover to access and remove the screw (fig 1)
- unclip the weatherstrip up to the cowl joint using a screwdriver or pliers (fig 2)
- unclip and separate the windscreen washer hose (Fig 3)
- remove the cowl grill by pulling it toward the engine (Fig 4)
- Unclip and remove the Air Inlet Cowl. (Fig 5)

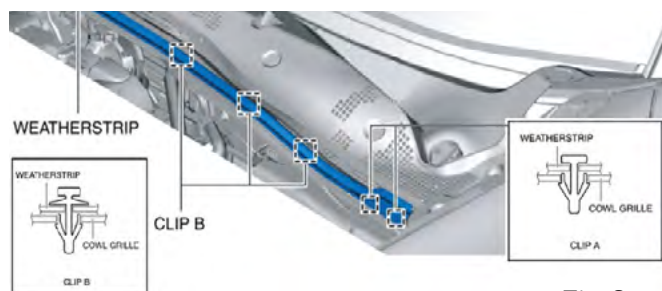


Fig 2

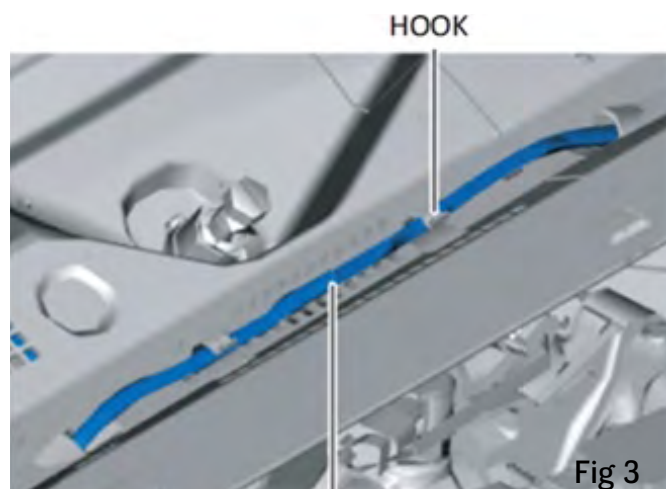


Fig 3

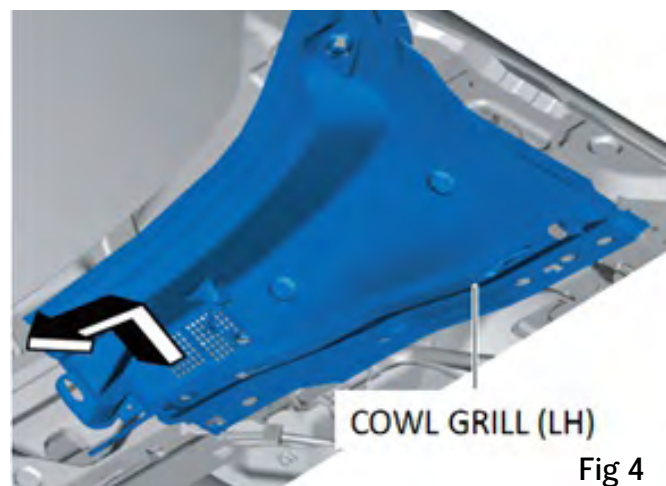


Fig 4



Fig 1

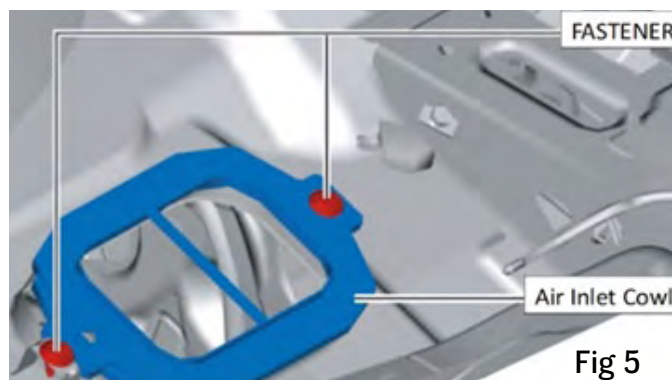


Fig 5

Tech Talk



2. Use the air inlet cowl as a template to mark out the shape and cut the mesh to fit inside the cowl. Once done, use some offcut mesh strands to secure the wire to the centre bar.
3. Before refitting, vacuum any debris from the top of the internal screen. Compressed air is handy to loosen any debris stuck around the edges. Be aware you need to have the recycled air flow OFF to be able to access the internal screen.
4. Reverse the procedure to reassemble making sure that the cowl grill is clipped securely under the windscreen and onto the weather-strip ridge.

I'll shortly be looking at how to do something similar on an NC.

Debris on internal screen



Wire Mesh fitted to Air Inlet



WHAT ARE MEMBERS WORKING ON?

Our members love washing and polishing their MX-5s, however, sometimes they need more challenging projects. I took a peep at a few restorations in progress, we'll keep you updated with how they're going.



Phil Belcher loves NAs, he already has two fully restored ones (there's even a rumour that one of them's for sale). But, *what's Phil building now?* Phil's answer is "*A Blue Car*". Stay tuned.....



Bob Gaunson has been waging war on rust in his 1958 Volkswagen Beetle for the past 3 years. Will he win that battle? (I think not, what about you?)



Peter Willing's new project is a 1978 Fiat X19, acquired October 2024. This little project will keep him occupied for quite some time I would guess.

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