

club

TORQUE

NATMEET XV - TOOWOOMBA 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

Autumn 2024
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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.

As at 5th June 2024

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

1127

Liam Abdallah	Ian de Plater	Mark Horsfield	Scott Morrissey	Steve Selby
Sebastian Adams	Adam Dettmar	Naomi Horsfield	Ben Morton	Debbie Sheppard
Philip Alexander	Cath Dickey	Sam Hou	Jill Muir	John Shute
Ben Allen	Graham Dickey	Camilla Hubbard	David Mur	Sam Silvestro
Jasper Allen	Beti Dimovski	Friend Hudson	Peter Murphy	Brian Simpson
Jonathan Andry	Emilco Dimovski	Trevor Hugh	John Neasey	Graeme Snooks
Wayne Bahr	Zan Dimovski	Nichola Hutteman	Sylvia Nguyen	Robert Stafford
Cath Baker	Ford Doubleday	Rod Jones	Tung Nguyen	Alexander Stevens
Jemma Belsito	Linda Doubleday	Judith Kelly	David Nightingale	Nathanael Stevens
Phil Betts	Daniel Drummond	Peter Kelly	Jo-anne Nightingale	Andrew Sturdy
Michele Blackburn	Angus Elliott	Nathan Kendal	John Oliver	Keyi Sun
Michael Bleach	Paul Elliott	Grant Kennewell	Christos Pana	James Taurins
James Burge	Colin Faulkner	Jacqueline Killmeir	Darron Parker	Lucia Temperini
Christopher Burrell	Jenny Faulkner	Andrew Klopers	Jennifer Parker	Bradley Tkac
Leah Campbell	Harry Flambouras	Kristina Kovacic	Matthew Patane	Joshua Tkac
Peter Campbell	Hellen Flambouras	Dean Lane	David Phillips	Penny Tracey
Kristin Chew	Richard Fricker	Danielle Lazaris	Jason Phillips	Ben Tran
David Clark	Gavin Ger	Nectarios Lazaris	Sara Pillington	Marcus Vaccaro
Gary Clark	Matt Gezgin	Elizabeth Leahey	Manarth Prasad	Hannah van Ham
Brendan Clarke	Seth Gilmore	Michael Leahey	Shaun Presgrave	Veronica Vaughan
Raj Condamoor	Kay Godfrey	Samuel Lee	David Raddatz	Edward Vieusseux
Shravan Condamoor	Mark Godfrey	Peter Leipnik	Simone Raddatz	Joshua Vlaski
Vivian Consalvi	Adelynn Goh	Steven Xiu Wen Lem	Vaidehi Rajagopalan	Daniel Waive
Andrew Cook	Jeff Grey	Lachlan Lentini	Sylvia Rea	John Warren
David Costello	Levi Guerreiro	Sarah Lien	Ian Redman	Julie Warren
Margaret Cowan-Lunn	Laelle Hamid	Ewen Marjoribanks	Tracy Redman	Graeme Welsh
Peter Cowan-Lunn	Leonie Hansen	Mike Masters	Jayden Rigby	Victoria Welsh
Arthur Crage	Pete Hansen	Alan McCulloch	Anne Robinson	Ron Williamson
Benjamin Crawford	Mark Harlow	Gail McCulloch	Drew Rodwell	Andrew Wright
Gavin DaCosta	Mark Hartland	Branden Milillo	Steven Ruggeri	Ian Wright
Martin Davies	Russell Hazlewood	Peter Millgate	Huon Saul	Joseph Zahra
David De Luca	Chris Henwood	Jennifer Missen	Mark Schofield	Tianchu Zhao
Robert Delfino	Slade Hodge	Damien Morrissey	Pauline Schofield	
	Gai-Louise Holden	Laurel Morrissey	Kerrie Sebbens	

THERE WERE 134 NEW MEMBERS FROM AUGUST 5 2023 TO JUNE 5 2024

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.
It rarely takes more than a few minutes and then you are good to go for another year.

club TORQUE

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From the Editor

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Club Torque, your all things MX-5 mag.

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Senia Gaunson, I am recently retired and grandma to four gorgeous girls. My husband Bob and I live within throwing distance

of Lake Illawarra in Lake Heights, the beautiful Illawarra region, having escaped the hustle and bustle of Sydney seven years ago.

I took this job on Thursday 23rd May 2024, looking at my desk calendar with a Benjamin Franklin quote: **"They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety"**. I'm sure Ben wasn't talking about publishing a magazine, but I decided to give up a "little temporary safety and perhaps sanity" to have a go at something totally outside my comfort zone. Hopefully I can make it interesting for you, I'm definitely stretching the "poetic liberty" here.

Autumn is my favourite time of year, so I was really keen to get an Autumn edition out for you, there were so many fabulous events, some of you enjoyed many of them, but there are lots of you we've never met, hopefully this will give you a taste of what's available

and the desire to join.

Our key feature in this issue is **Natmeet 2024** held in Toowoomba, with an introduction to Natmeet 2026, which will be held in our beautiful Hunter Valley.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles and photos, editorials and Tech Talk. Speaking of **Tech Talk**, this is a new inclusion a number of you have asked for and hopefully you'll find useful. If you have some expertise or even something you've stumbled on that could be useful to someone else, please email me your story at:

publications@nsw.mx5.au.

My aim is to again produce four magazine editions a year, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. If you have a short report you would like included, anything from 200 to 350 words plus a couple of photos will give you half a page. If you have a big feature, give me some warning so I can leave plenty of space for you.

Please be patient while I learn how to drive this technology, hopefully it'll get better with practice and don't be afraid to give me your feedback and suggestions and most of all, keep sending me content.

Regards

Senia Gaunson





President's Report

Chris isn't on the committee now, she is still heavily involved in many things in the background, and is making an enormous contribution in a number of different areas. Elaine and David Gazzard have stepped in as Hunter Convenors, and have also agreed to chair the committee for organising our 2026 Natmeet event in the Hunter – very busy. Thanks a lot guys – much appreciated.

On the Mid-North Coast, Rosemary Black and Ken Bailey have taken on the convenors role, just when we looked like we would lose the chapter.

In RPM, we welcome Sandra Duric as the new convenor.

Earlier this year we (hopefully temporarily) lost Joe Kovacic as Vice-President, with Bryan Shedden looking after the role in the interim. We hope to see Joe back in the role soon – hopefully by the time that you read this.

Ian Mash has taken over the Governance Officer role with the retirement of Gordon Stevens.

Recently, Phil Donnelley made the decision to step down as club secretary. Welcome to Cathy Combes as our new Secretary.

As you can see, a few things have happened over the last several months.

Looking forward, David Lawler will be stepping down as the Motorsport Secretary at the AGM this year. David was gracious enough to take the role back when I stepped into the President's role, but it was always an interim measure. Now it's time for someone else to step up. As many people know, motorsport is a big part of what the club does. Whilst we certainly do have a considerable team of volunteers actively contributing in motorsport, the Motorsport Secretary is a key role that we have to fill if we are to continue to have a motorsport

program. If you think you may be interested in the role or part of the role, please let David know.

Speaking of motorsport, we have been through a rough patch over the last year or more. We can only hope that cost of living pressures ease off so that more of our members can get back on the track and enjoy their MX-5s in the way they should be. We eagerly await the re-opening of One Raceway (Wakefield Park), although that seems to have been delayed as we don't have the date we thought we had in August. *(see page 42 for update photos).*

A little earlier this year, a sizable group of club members made the drive up to Toowoomba for Natmeet 2024, organised by the Queensland MX-5 Club, including myself. What a fantastic event – no wonder some club members go to every one. We certainly learned a lot about the ins and outs of putting on an event like this – knowledge that will be invaluable to our organising committee for the 2026 event. This issue of Club Torque contains a full report on Natmeet 2024.

As I mentioned above, Elaine and David Gazzard are chairing our Natmeet 2026 committee who are already hard at work on organisation. We have the dates and the venue locked in, so now its full-steam ahead!

The club's membership is growing after a number of years of being somewhat static – we now have the most members we have ever had - well over 1100 members. With cost of living pressure hopefully easing, I'm very positive about the future.

Ian Combes



Committee

President Ian Combes	president@nsw.mx5.au 0433 159 726
Vice President Bryan Shedden	vicepres@nsw.mx5.au 0422 340 010
Treasurer Helen Green	treasurer@nsw.mx5.au 0434 960 800
Secretary Catherine Combes	secretary@nsw.mx5.au 0411 320 840
Membership Secretary Bryan Shedden	membership@nsw.mx5.au 0422 340 010
Motorsport Secretary David Lawler	competition@nsw.mx5.au 0403 070 644
Club Captain John Purcell	captain@nsw.mx5.au
Publications Officer Senia Gaunson	publications@nsw.mx5.au 0403 158 708
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Governance Officer Ian Marsh	governance@nsw.mx5.au
Sydney Convenors Steve and Maree Eccleston	sydney@nsw.mx5.au 0412 902 020
Canberra Convenors Rod & Maryanne Nicholas	canberra@nsw.mx5.au 0419 436 296
Hunter Convenors Elaine & David Gazzard	hunter@nsw.mx5.au
Illawarra Convenors Senia Gaunson Ann Hicks	illawarra@nsw.mx5.au 0403 158 708 0407 225 061
RPM Convenor Sandra Duric	rpm@mx5.com.au 0424 493 738
Mid North Coast Convenors Rosy Black & Ken Bailey	midnorthcoast@nsw.mx5.au 0407 193 364
South Coast Convenors Geoff & Rose Smith	southcoast@nsw.mx5.au 0418 631 598

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

IT Administrator Geoff Smith	mx5admin@nsw.mx5.au
Breakfast Club Coordinators Jason Brown Brett Hardey	breakfast@mx5.com.au 0425 855 267
Membership Assistants Pam & Jeff Rowe	0419 405 877
Motorsport Event Secretary Barry Luttrell Gaynor Lawler Maria Martin	eventsec@nsw.mx5.au
Motorsport Assistant Jason Atkins	msportassist@mx5.com.au
MX-5 Cup Paul Nudd	mx5cup@mx5.com.au
HCCRS Scheme Administrator Louis Serret	historicmx5@gmail.com 0466 058 639
Club Historian Elaine Caldwell	

Committee Report

There is a Zoom Committee Meeting gazetted and held the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

General members are welcome to attend by contacting the Secretary for an invitation to be sent to them.

Social runs are an important part of what the club does – our various chapters collectively organise a considerable number of these events.

Every month, Social runs (especially Convoy runs), are a very visible and public part of the Club's activities. The run is organised and documented, with safety and enjoyment of our members being a priority. On these runs we are sharing the roads with members of the general public and representing the Club. For all these reasons, the club takes the conduct of these runs very seriously.

With this in mind, we have recently updated the **Code of Conduct** for our Waypoint and Convoy runs to ensure that our members understand what is expected of them when they join a club run. If you have an interest in Club social runs, you need to familiarise yourself with these codes of conduct.

<https://nsw.mx5.com.au/events/important-information>



CONTACT US

Email: secretary@nsw.mx5.au
Snail Mail: The Secretary MX-5 Club of NSW
18 Remly Street
ROSELANDS NSW 2196

Cover Photo

Bryan and Ann Hicks' NC and Wes and Lena Hill's ND RF on the way to Natmeet Toowoomba, Glen Innes April 2024

South Coast – 26th March 2024

KANGAROO VALLEY NOT SO MYSTERY RUN

Report: Karen Olde | Photos: Anda Clayton and Rose Smith



Tuesday 26th March, after meeting up at 9am at United Petroleum at Tomerong, welcoming new members Vaidehi and John, fifteen of us, with tops down to enjoy the blue skies, headed off in convoy on our Kangaroo Valley “Not So Mystery Run”.

After highway motoring through Nowra, we turned off onto Moss Vale Road where we meandered along the twisty, windy road to the tune of lyre birds, bell birds and others, plus the annoying roadworks, to our first stop at the Cambewarra Mountain lookout and cafe for morning tea. Tony from SC and Ron from Illawarra joined us here. We were their first customers of the day and we were all ready for a coffee & cake. Although it was a little misty, the view to the coast was breathtaking.

With thirst and hunger quenched, the convoy travelled along Tourist Rd & Berry Mt Rd, which is always a fun drive, through the township of Kangaroo Valley and on to Tallowa Dam. This stretch was a testament to the skill of all of our 10 MX5 drivers (and navigators !!!) who dodged all of the potholes, ducks, lyre birds & goanna's along the way. No mishaps!!

The dam was so huge, with a school group exploring the waterway in their kayaks. A couple of members are considering going back with kayaks and tents for an overnight exploration of the river. The dam has a fish lift (who knew!) and it was very interesting to discover how this was used to assist fish with their migration.

Then it was back down the dodgy road, avoiding more wildlife, and on to Kangaroo Valley for a delicious lunch and great company at the Friendly Inn Hotel.

Many thanks to Rose and Geoff for organising such a great run on a beautiful Autumn day.



24th March 2024

MOTORSPORT

Report: David Lawler | Photos: Rob Wilkins

The 1st Round of 2024 Track Day Sprint and Regularity Championships was run at Pheasant Wood Circuit near Marulan on Sunday 24th March.

After a few last minute withdrawals, the 38 drivers were greeted by a glorious day and a circuit in good condition.

For many years the club track days have hosted a supersprint competition, with cars in 5 classes competing for sprint championship points. In 2024 we have added a separate regularity championship, and this event saw the first regularity competition with 5 drivers participating.

Drivers in a regularity event score points based on how accurately they can drive to lap the circuit in a time as close as possible to a target time that they have previously nominated. Drivers competing in a regularity don't have to push their cars to the limit, like they would in a sprint.

Over the day the sprint drivers had the opportunity to compete in 6 runs, while the regularity drivers had a practice session and 4 regularity “trials”.

From my point of view it was a good day with plenty of good driving and enjoyment.

A special thank you to the 7 club members whose work as officials made the event possible.

Ian Fenn, Glenn Thomas and Matt Tarrant as flaggies, Jean Cook as our steward, Joe Kovacic managing the grid, and Gerardo Martin diligently working as our scrutineer to help make the event as safe as possible for everyone involved. Gaynor Lawler was the event admin and she did the majority of the work required to organise the event.



Class	Car	Driver	Make & Model	Time	Benchmark	Score	Points
Standard	68	Bryan Shedden	Mazda MX-5 2006	63.315	62.5	98.71%	25
	168	Alex Shedden	Mazda MX-5 2006	64.061	62.5	97.56%	22
Clubman	24	Sean Byers	Mazda MX-5 2010	63.531	62.2	97.90%	25
	555	Ian Mash	Mazda MX-5 1993	66.866	62.9	94.07%	22
Super	34	Gerardo Martin	Mazda MX-5 1999	62.063	61.3	98.77%	25
	52	Phillip Reid	Mazda MX-5 2006	67.656	60.3	89.13%	22
Modified	112	Malcolm Steel	Mazda MX-5 1998	62.120	60.0	96.59%	25
	37	Reece Lyndon	Mazda MX-5 2011	63.893	60.0	93.91%	22
Open	53	Jamie Martin	Mazda MX-5 1989	58.537	55.9	95.50%	25
	62	Ian Spinks	Mazda MX-5 2016	58.661	55.9	95.29%	22
Non-MX-5	54	Andrew Digney	Hyundai i20n 2021	61.377			25
	66	Stewart Grigg	VW Golf R 2012	64.308			22

Illawarra – 28th April 2024

CARS AND COFFEE IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Report and Photos: Senia Gaunson



Cars and Coffee in the Southern Highlands is held on the last Sunday of each month in Berrima. Winter in Berrima gets very cold, so this was our last chance to get down there before the chill set in.

We headed off early Sunday morning, led by Peter and Lesley Willing, long time members, leading their first MX-5 run in their beautifully restored Blue NA.

We arrived around 8am with the town already abuzz, not much parking left, but oh, so many amazing cars. There were old Daimlers, new Mustangs and even a horse and carriage for those that preferred to be ferried around.

Shmokin' Cafe provided some very good coffee and breakfast and it was great to have a catch up and chat with new and old friends. It was great to welcome Benjamin Crawford, Julie and John Warren, all new members, as well as Joe and Kris Kovacic, old time friends we hadn't seen for a while. It was also the last time we saw Shane Richardson who popped in for a quick look. Shane passed away on Saturday the 18th of May following heart surgery complications, he'll be sadly missed.



Interesting mix of cars for this event: 5 x NDs, 1 x NC, 2 x NBs, 1 x Abarth and 3 x NA's (although the Bob Jane Special is really a Eunox).

Thanks to Peter and Lesley for a great run and a fun, motoring morning.



Canberra – 1st March 2024

STEVE'S LOOONG WEEKEND AT LAKES ENTRANCE

Report: Steve and Cecelia Wakeling | Photos: Rod Nicholas, Steve & Cecelia Wakeling, Mike Lawless and Jo Blackburn



Sometimes, a change is needed. Four years in a row we had organised a 4-day run to Bermagui and it was time to mix things up. So we decided on Lakes Entrance in NE Victoria, a six-hour drive from Canberra. A reccy run last year showed it would be a great destination.

We booked everything for March 2024, expecting 10 cars, 20 people. But we underestimated! By run date we had 17 cars and 32 people!

Friday 1 March saw us drive from Canberra through Nimmitabel, Bombala then to Cann River for lunch, where two cars joined our run. We then headed south to Lakes Entrance and met up with our 17th car. It was a beautiful day for a drive with reasonably good roads and light traffic.

We invaded the busy Central Hotel for an excellent dinner, although the small serving of small flathead tails was surprising. Conversely, the lamb back strap must have come from a very big lamb!

Saturday morning was free, meeting for lunch at the Sodafish floating restaurant. We were seated on an upper open balcony with excellent food, service and lake views.

After lunch we boarded the 'Thunderbird' for a 2.5 hour cruise around the Gippsland Lakes, marshes and lagoons. It was \$54 well spent as we saw many seals

and dolphins plus had a tour of the very expensive canal 'holiday' homes at Paynesville. Running aground on a sand bar was unplanned but reverse gear soon had us on our way again.

Our planned Sunday visit to Paynesville and a ferry ride to Raymond Island for koala spotting meant an earlier, 9am start to beat another car club to Paynesville. But a conversation with a local during our reccy run turned our 17 cars into 60! So our group split up, with some attending Lakes Entrance's old wooden boat festival and others doing a koala walk.

Sunday lunch was in a private room with a balcony at the Metung Hotel, overlooking the marina where some impressive boats and cruisers were moored. The hotel and food were both excellent, but make sure to book!

Mother Nature put paid to our plans for a take-away dinner under the lake shore trees. Instead, we struggled against the wind to the RSL for Chinese.

Monday morning saw departures for home with all commenting that they had an excellent time, having never been to Lake Entrance before. The roads from Canberra to Lakes Entrance and around Paynesville and Metung are a delight in an MX5, except for Paul's vicious pothole (gps location available)

There's so much we didn't get to see that we will definitely be back next year.



Hunter – 18th March 2024

ROB'S 5 DAY SOUTH COAST ADVENTURE

Report: Barry Luttrell and various others | Photos: David Gazzard and various others



Day 1

Rob's South coast adventure started with us all meeting up at Mooney Mooney Rest area, setting off through Sydney, with lunch at Tees and Greens Cafe in Wilton. We visited The Australian Motorlife Museum and all agreed it was one of the best exhibitions of historical vehicles and old world memorabilia we have been to. From there we headed to Kiama, some visiting the blow hole before checking into our Motel, fabulous first day to start our trip.

Day 2

We started moving out of Kiama to Saddleback Rd, someone staying behind to look for the missing water bottle. Hoping that is our only drama for the day. A cooler morning driving the curving, banking, hilly roads perfect for MX-5's. We stop at Saddleback Mountain Lookout. With the water bottle found, we were altogether again. Lots of photos and Wow what a view we could see all the way back north to Wollongong and south to the lovely sparkling beaches of the south coast. The dramatic scenery on the hills covered with mist were eerie and pleasant all at the same time. On to Fountaindale Rd then on to Jamberoo Rd up to Robertson, a favourite of the Illawarra Chapter. We felt like **Hunter** in the mist. Very green and lush, a perfect place to have Galloway cattle, if you are not sure what they are, they have a brown head and behind and a white strip right down the middle. Have to admit it was my first Galloway. We got two really good bursts going up the mountain till members of the public thought they could drive on our road lol.... Down into Kangaroo valley with a tanker, we crossed the Hamilton Bridge to have morning tea at Fitzroy falls picnic grounds and a walk to the falls to stretch our legs. While wondering around Liz found a leech hitch hiking on her leg. Thanks to the trusty National Park service removing the leech and saving the day. The back road to Berry was full of amazing corners and tropical canopy which was thick and cool. Berry, a well know country town was delightful. Pies at the bakery still very tasty, the shops are lovely but pricey. Our next comfort stop was at Ulladulla down by the dock, the water lapping on the

small beach was relaxing and calming to begin the final leg of the day to Batemans Bay. No issues on the great roads to Batemans Bay. Zorba's Motel what can I say. The most wonderful view from all the rooms and so central to everywhere, what a pick. We had drinks and nibbles on the lawn in front of our rooms, perfect end to the wonderful day.

Day 3

We woke on Wednesday morning and from our motel balcony overlooking beautiful Batemans Bay, the day was looking rather overcast. Our spirit was not dampened as we all headed down to the jetty at 11am to board the boat for our 3-hour lunch cruise up the Clyde River. For lunch we were served locally caught Grenadier fish, chips and salad. It was enjoyed by all!

We continued our cruise up the river listening to the Captain's informative commentary whilst viewing oyster lease after oyster lease. We missed you Chris as I believe it would have been great bird watching/spotting for the enthusiast. All we managed to spot on the river bank were shorn sheep!!

We continued up the river to the historic town of Nelligen, established in 1854, disembarking for a wander around and to stretch the legs. This historic town was a popular stopover as miners passed through on their way to the goldfields. Back in time steam boats bought supplies down from Sydney and delivered to Batemans Bay and then up the river to Nelligen. The cargo for the return trip to Sydney was fresh produce and wool.



After returning at 2.30 pm we had free time! We met up again at 5pm for socializing and of course, drinks and nibbles before heading out for dinner. A great day out in Batemans Bay.

Day 4

Walk in the park returning for 8.45 and 9.00am leave from Batemans Bay and up the Kings Hwy to Braidwood. Compared to the Princes Hwy the Kings Hwy is a great drive consisting of 60km of smooth running surface through scenic undulating terrain and up the ranges to the Southern Highlands. It is also the main route between Canberra and the South Coast and obviously benefits from having adequate maintenance \$. A few trucks were encountered and also some road works as expected. (and cattle crossings) The forest areas are showing signs of recovery after the fires that decimated the South Coast.

Braidwood is a trendy little town with a number of boutiques and coffee shops. About 20 minutes here for checking out the shops and getting coffee and something to eat.

Leaving Braidwood we travelled through to Goulburn checking out rebuild progress as we passed the old Wakefield motor racing track and then for an early lunch, and refueling if required, at Goulburn.

Regrouping on the outskirts of Goulburn (one car had left early to travel to Lithgow) we then travelled to Taralga and then on to Oberon via the backroads. This was an easy run with little traffic and great scenery and a few twisty sections just for fun, together with some rough surfaces and more roadworks. Roadside trees were just changing to their Autumn colours adding to the scenery. Unfortunately there was significant road kill along this section especially wombats.

Afternoon comfort stop, coffee and ice creams in the main street of Oberon then on to Lithgow. This section of road had significant roadworks on the ranges. Spectacular views across the Blue Mountains and western plains.

Arrived at Lithgow via the city center to our motel for dinner, bed and breakfast. We dined together tonight, as this was the last evening of the tour. Elaine recognised Rob's effort as the trip organiser and leader and also John's assistance with run sheets etc.

We need to mention that David left his shirt behind at Batemans Bay after he was asking if "the person" had checked the fridge, the room, the bathroom etc!! so hard to get good help.

And so ends another day on the road.

Day 5

Following a very ample breakfast provided by the Lithgow Workers Club we met in the carpark for a 9am departure. As pre-arranged, Jenny, Barry and Bill left the run so 10 cars continued. The morning was crisp but the weather was beautiful for our last day's run. Rob led us on nice curvy roads to Mudgee where we had a half hour

morning tea break.

Some Points of Interest along the way:

Leaving Lithgow we passed the Mt Piper Power Station which David informed us was the main source of power for NSW outside Hunter valley Power Stations.

Passing the turnoff to Glen Davis Rob said they had a large Shale Mine and the oil ran machinery during WW1. It sits on the Capertee river.

Lake Windemere near Mudgee is a popular Recreational area. It also operates in conjunction with Burrendong Dam and is used for agriculture and household needs in the Cudgegong and Macquarie Valleys and well as providing flood mitigation and environmental flows.

Craigmore Winery is the original winery in Mudgee which now has as many wineries as the Hunter Valley.

From Mudgee we came across major roadworks caused by a landslip. Following on we had a really good run down the mountain through hairpin turns down through the Goulburn National Park. Two young Emus were enjoying a stroll along the side of the road. We stopped at the Bylong Showground for a group photo taken by David and his drone. The Bylong is such a good road for the MX5 providing plenty of fun driving through to Denman. At Denman, following a cool refreshment and food for some, we said our farewells and went home our separate ways.

From Rob

Thanks to all the Members who participated in the 5 day adventure. Thanks to David and Elaine, John and Chris who performed Tail End duties, a most important role in any convoy run and a Great big thanks to John Purcell for the help in assembling the daily Run sheets and timing spread sheet, to which I made changes as the run progressed. Without the help of these people the run wouldn't have been as successful, so again thanks.

Rob



Breakfast Club – 19th May 2024 OTO RUN (OUT THROUGH OBERON)

Report: Jason Brown | Photos: Jason Brown and Brett Hardey



We couldn't have asked for better weather as eight Breakfast Club regulars left McDonalds Blaxland bound for Oberon on a chilly May morning.

After an uneventful run across the Blue Mountains we turned left just after the Lolly Bug on the always fun Cox's River Road, which apart from one or two extreme pothole clusters was in pretty good shape since our last visit around three years ago.

After a brief stop in Oberon we headed out through Shooters Hill before enjoying the long sweeping curves of Abercrombie Road to Taralga where we found another one of those little gems that can be found in these smaller country towns, The Grand Ettie Café.

After studying the menu most of us went with the Ettie Spaghetti which featured an absolute mound of spaghetti which is made right on site. Unfortunately this venue is shutting down in June as the owners are retiring and leaving the area. After enjoying breakfast, we said our goodbyes and headed off to Goulburn before making our separate ways home.



Hunter – 15th May 2024 BEROWRA WATERS CAFE JAUNT

Report: Denise Birrell | Photos: Wendy Mulholland, Rob Wilkins

We all gathered in McDonald's car park, Morisset, leaving we headed down through Yarramalong Valley, always such a pretty drive, especially this time of year with the trees displaying a beautiful show of colour for Autumn.

Merging onto the M1, for a short distance we turned onto Old Pacific Hwy, heading towards Brooklyn leading to Berowra Waters Road. Reaching the Ferry we waited a short time before loading, headed to our lunch destination, Water Vista Cafe.

After an enjoyable lunch we headed back via Wisemans ferry doing the full loop.

A thoroughly enjoyable day had by all, blessed with fabulous weather.

Thank you John and Chris, was a terrific run, one I'm sure many would not hesitate to saying yes to again.



RPM – 1st March 2024 RUN TO WISEMANS FERRY INN

Report: Chris Wyatt



Windsor's popular Macca's in McGrath's Hill was the starting point for nine cars of all vintages to run up the well-known Hawkesbury roads heading for the historic village of Wisemans Ferry. Out along the Putty Road and Bull Ridge Road to Sackville Ferry. The ferry master saw us coming but reopened the gate anyway so all of us could board and head as a group along the winding Sackville Ferry Road. Turning into Wisemans Ferry Road and up through Maroota and past the old Stonehouse Café, we wound down the hill towards the ferry stopping just short at the old Wisemans Ferry Inn.

The old building has a long history around the times of Solomon Wiseman whose history is worth a Google. The building might be old but it has been sympathetically modified to make use of the great views over the river. Arriving on a Tuesday allowed us to partake of the "Lunchtime Specials" which surprises us every time we go there with great variety, quality and huge serves. The staff were fun and helpful.

This lunch was made all the more special with so many from Sydney chapter including the ever-present Rob Wilko. This always makes discussion so varied and fun and we talked long into the afternoon before heading off in many different directions to home.

Thanks to Jacqui and Ron for another great run.



Mid North Coast – 12th March 2024 MAZDAS ON THE GRASS

Report: Judith Hansen | Photos: Gillian and Graham Fletcher

Our March Brunch in the Bonny Hills Beach Café at spectacular Rainbow Beach was enjoyed by twenty MX5 members. The parking problem was solved by driving the cars onto the grass where they made an impressive display.

Inside the café, there was impressive news. Four new members! From Nambucca, we welcomed Gail and Alan, long time friends of Chris and Mick, and Vicki and Graeme. Stephen came from Grafton, John and Susan from Tuncurry and it was good to catch up with Valerie. Cath and Graham from South West Rocks offered to sample their local eating places for a future run. Bon appetit! The Port contingent was Rosy and Ken, Sheila, Judith and John and Oli, no joking! Gillian and Graham from RMP joined us again and the photos are courtesy of Gillian.

So, if variety is the spice of life, it looks like we are ready for a hot time in the Mid North Coast Chapter in 2024.

Judith Hansen



Sydney and Illawarra – 20th April 2024

ANZAC DAY EXPERIENCE – A VIETNAM VET’S STORY

Report: Steve and Maree Eccleston | Photos: various



On the 20th April, the Sydney Chapter joined Illawarra members for a ceremony to mark the coming observance of Anzac Day. The event was very respectfully organised by Tony Cox, from the Illawarra Chapter and a Vietnam Veteran himself, to recount and observe the life of Private Ian Thompson of Thirlmere who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968. The Thompson family were also present for the ceremony which graphically brought home the sense of loss felt by all families of servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The service was also attended by club members, Graham Fletcher, Phil Donnelly and Gary Keyvan who either served themselves or in Gary's case had a family member who also served. Our group was then invited to a beautiful morning tea at the Thirlmere RSL, which was generously provided by the Thompson family and other members of the RSL.

Tony then had also arranged a visit to a military vehicle museum at Bowral run by Vietnam Vets and volunteers followed by a lunch in an adjoining café run by a Vietnamese family.

Thank you Tony for your service and organising such a very thoughtful day of Remembrance.

Lest We Forget

Illawarra and Sydney – 20th April 2024

ANZAC DAY EXPERIENCE – A VIETNAM VET’S STORY

Story: Tony Cox | Photos: various



On 20th April, Illawarra and Sydney Chapters, Thirlmere residents and veterans gathered at Thirlmere cemetery in memorial of Pte Ian James Thomson, a Vietnam soldier Killed in Action, 19 October 1968. Also attending was Graham Fletcher, Phil Donnelly and Gary Keyvan who served themselves or had family members who served.

The surviving Thomson family members were present which graphically brought home the sense of loss and despair still obvious today. Ian's parents are buried beside him.

Names listed in museums, memorials and cenotaphs are people who paid the ultimate sacrifice; however, we don't always have the opportunity to know the person, the family nor the tragedy that their death had on their loved ones.

Picton, Thirlmere-Bargo RSL sub-Branch honoured the occasion with morning tea, giving time for chapter members to view the museum and experience fellowship with Ian's family.

Later, members gathered in Bowral at the Nui Dat museum and experienced a Vietnamese lunch in the adjoining "Hub" café run by the museum family.

786038 - Ian James Thomson, born Albury, 19 December 1945 to Ted and Nancy Thomson. Eldest of siblings Wendy, Eddie, Harry and Nancy who were raised on a farm at Thirlmere in Wollondilly Shire.

Ian attended Tahmoor Primary School and Picton High and his trade choice was fitting and machining/toolmaker. An active Citizen Military Forces member, he deferred his National Service starting date to complete his trade.

Nicknamed "Thommo" and "Stretch", Ian was a generous young man with concern and empathy for all, and a larrikin. He enjoyed life and his friends.

Ian Thomson was posted to South Vietnam and experienced the worst of the 1968 Tet Offensive and the mini Tet in May and June.

After a brief contact on the 19 October, Ian's platoon confronted a well equipped company-sized professional enemy force.

Ian manned the M-60 machine-gun with mate, L/Cpl Paul Van Rijsewijk, went to ground and responded with decisive accurate covering fire. Their effective machine gun fire attracted a concentrated enemy response raining down shrapnel and splinters, seriously wounding both men multiple times. Despite this, both men indicated that they were both still in the fight. With bravery and determination, they continued firing on the enemy until a volley of RPG's landed close, incapacitating both soldiers. Rescued and wounds treated they were evacuated to a safer area. Paul died soon afterwards and Ian, badly wounded, died shortly thereafter.



Ian Thomson and Paul Van Rijsewijk, held their position under heavy fire despite being severely wounded. They undoubtedly saved the platoon from being over-run by a superior enemy force and had saved many of their mates' lives.

Ian Thomson's was 22 years old when he was killed in action and had only 12 days remaining on his tour of duty.





Illawarra – 15th to 17th May 2024 PEDRO'S RUN TO THE BORDER

Report: Jeff Rowe and Jan Gibson | Photos: Ann Hicks and Senia Gaunson



Mark, on a wild Goose chase down into downtown Albion Park during 'School Zone' time and with limited opportunities to make a right hand turn. The CB Radios went into melt down and the phone carriers made a few extra dollars with all the calls going back and forth. Who's in front, where are you, where's Tail End Charlie. It was all sorted with a new meeting place being arranged in Jamberoo. We're all together lets 'try again'. Hella was so apologetic for the confusion which no one really cared about, it just made for funny conversation later.

Did Pedro take us across the border into Mexico? 'Not Quite'.

Day 1 of our 3-day adventure

All eyes were on the weather for some days leading up to the start of 'Pedro's Run'. The clear morning was a perfect start to the day and looking good for roof down driving.

We assembled at the Bean Roasted Espresso Bar, Calderwood, after some grabbed a coffee, it was time for a run briefing from Mark and Hella. Wait, where's Jan and Garry? We can't start without them. Technically they weren't late for the Leaving Time just for the Meeting Time. Jan blamed Garry saying, 'look, he didn't even have time to put his shoes and socks on, he has his thongs on'. Garry countered with his watch being set to the wrong time.

Now that we were all assembled, 6 MX-5's, 2 Abarths and 1 Isuzu Ute, Mark started the briefing. We were all given run instructions, some opting for digital others the old-fashioned, printed run notes. All questions answered we were set to leave for the run to our first planned stop.

The fourth instruction on our run notes was to turn Right into Church Street, Albion Park. Easy for those of us with the printed run notes with a Right-Hand turn at 1.8 km clearly marked. But wait! good old Google Maps had other ideas. It took our Run Leader, sorry



Now with us all together we headed along one of our favourite local roads running between Jamberoo and Kiama. From Kiama we headed South where it was a leisurely drive down through the farmland country along the highway to Nowra. Through the Traffic Signals and Roundabouts of Nowra we continued heading South towards Milton for our first planned stop and Morning Tea. The Heritage Bakery was chosen for this stop and the coffee was good. I must say the Vanilla Slices that some, who shall remain unnamed, had looked very yummy as did all the goodies in the bakery display cases.

With everyone feeling fed and comfortable our group set off again for the further reaches of the South Coast. Travelling through the towns of Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma, which is where our Motel stay is, we continued on to Central Tilba for lunch. The route of the A1 Princes Highway has remained the same for many years and runs along beside many lakes and inlets which are very picturesque. It's a nice

road to cruise down. Seeing the cars in a convoy line in front or behind looks great and adds to the fun of the day.

Lunch was at the Dromedary Hotel in Central Tilba. A lovely quaint village with lots of little shops including an ice creamery where Hella hoped to get a Ginger flavored ice-cream. Lunch was enjoyed by all and being a country pub, no one left hungry. Ian and Franchesca's order was so big they could have shared one meal as could have Jan and Garry. Jan had so much she was trying to give half of what was served to Jeff who was having a small lunch and saving himself for dinner. Sadly there was no ginger ice-cream for Hella.

Lunch over we all headed back to Narooma and the 'Top of the Town Motel'. It wasn't long before the tables and chairs came out to form a circle and wine, biscuits, dip and cheese of many varieties were being shared by all. Senia even showed us a new way of opening a large chip bag to use like a bowl.

At around 6 O'clock we all wandered a short distance down the road to Lynch's Hotel for dinner. Again, a country hotel with happy smiling staff and generous meals. Garry, having steak, ordered first and got his dinner last. He was more than happy and said it was worth the wait.

Mark and Hella were getting us up early for an 8.30 am start, so back to the hotel early we went.

Day 2

We awoke to beautiful clear blue skies, not a cloud to be seen.

We assembled in the carpark at 8:15 for a briefing on the day's run. A quick head check we realised someone was missing. No, not Garry and Jan but Jeff and Pam. Everybody shout "Wake up Jeff!" yes they had slept in. After Mark's run down of the day's itinerary we made our way to our cars, roof down, engines running ready for our 8:30 departure. Our fearless leader slowly inched forward towards the exit and tooted the horn which had the last of the ladies scurrying to their respective vehicles not to be left behind.

Winding our way along beautiful country roads, lined with tall trees and native brush, speckled sunshine making its way through the canopy, warm on your back, and listening to the call of the bower birds we made our way to Tathra.



Driving through the main street we headed towards Tathra Wharf Café for Morning tea. The charm of the interior of the cafe with it's eclectic furnishing more than made up for not being able to sit outside, as was the decadent array of freshly homemade biscuits, cakes and muffins, tea, coffee and iced chocolate. What to have? The selection seemed endless. Decisions made and ordered, we eagerly waited for our morning tea to be served and every order came garnished with a slice of watermelon and a nasturtium flower. A few in our group had never tasted nasturtium before and were encouraged to try while others decided these flowers were best left in the garden.

Yes, FINALLY Hella had her ginger hit, a delicious Ginger muffin as well as the best chai tea infused with a slice of orange. It more than made up for yesterday's missing ginger ice cream.

Now for the walk back uphill to the cars, that should burn off a few of the calories just consumed. On the road again heading towards our lunch stop.

Approximately 1:45 hours later we arrived at the Candelo General store and Café for lunch. A great deal of chatter while waiting for our meals to arrive and once consumed we decided to have a wander down the main street stopping and shopping in the quaint little shops before heading onto our next destination of the day.



The third leg for the day was only a short distance to Cabargo where we stopped, parked and checked out the little speciality shop. Jeff found a telephone box on the main street and decided to make a call. Did you know that all calls to standard fixed lines and standard mobile phones from a Telstra phone box are FREE Australia wide? As this was the last stop on the itinerary, everyone decided to make their way back to Narooma when they were ready. A few decided to check out the marina and the new housing estate along the waterfront, as well as the beaches and camping areas before heading back to the Top of the Town Motel for a rest before meeting in the carpark for nibbles and drinks.

Where's Pedro? I hear you ask. He finally rode into town charmed Senora Hella and whisked her away to dinner at the local Indian restaurant!. The end of another great day.

Canberra – 20th April 2024

WHEELS OF WAMBOIN

Report: Rod Nicholas | Photos: Rod Nicholas, Ed Cory, Rhys Howse, Michael Lawless



Our MX-5s graced the Wamboin Oval to be championed (by us) as the best group in a show of around 400 assorted vehicles.

Wheels of Wamboin 2024 celebrate the 10th Anniversary of this great little car show.

Various parties had been trying to get our cars on display for a few years, and this time we bit the bullet (and swallowed the dust) and organised a short run.

The Wheels of Wamboin is a community run car show, and this event, considered by many as the best yet, attracted about 400 vehicles of all shapes and sizes, from Rotaries to rovers, Fiats to Ferraris, Mustangs and Mercs, to MGs to MX-5s. It was a great day out and another perfect opportunity to show off our cars.

We managed a quick coffee (and cake for some) at the Little Sutton Bakehouse in Sutton before heading off in a convoy off to the Wamboin Oval. Our collection of ten cars (to be joined by one more at the show) featured one of every model, including one of each of the ND variants. Rhys ushered us all out of the Bakehouse carpark in strict order of manufacture, and it was a joyous little line-up that drove the short distance to Wamboin.

Despite arriving reasonably early, we found ourselves in a long line of cars vying for the best spots in the showground, happily just ahead of a contingent of BMWs. Chucking a gold coin donation into the collection tin, we were directed to the next to last exhibition row at the back of the oval. Our marginal concerns that people would be too overwhelmed to walk that far (it was maybe 100 metres!) we were pleased(ish) that a noisy bunch of muscle cars took the last row opposite. We all received plenty of foot traffic.

There was a wide range of cars on display, some stunning muscle, gorgeous early models of all sorts, but it just wasn't show cars. There were vehicles in early stages of restoration, some fully restored to look neglected, and some dead-set weird ones. The Trabant, imported from Hungary by a woman (who didn't bother to tell her

husband) is one of only half a dozen in Oz. The body is made out of compressed cotton and sundry toxic chemicals, and it has a 500cc 2-stroke engine. Michael and Peter were very impressed and encouraged us all to vote it 'best on show'.

The day was warm, the sun was shining, the snag sambos were good, the coffee was good enough, the cars were pretty neat (plenty of variety) and we had lots of visitors who asked plenty about our little treasures. The latest ND, finished in a startlingly gorgeous Aero Grey Metallic (no, sir, it is not the under-coat), was a drawcard although it had some stiff competition from Bob's true Red NA, and Kerry's Pure White NB, Ian's lovely Velocity Red NC and Rhys's Deep Chrystal blue Mica ND.

Special mention must be made of Ian de Plater who attended his first event only two days after joining the Club! Go Ian! Thanks also to Ed Cory, one of our true MX-5 stalwarts, for encouraging us to participate.

I think everyone agreed that it was a worthwhile day out, which we will repeat next year, perhaps getting out of bed at sparrows to get a spot a little closer to the front.



South Coast – 28th May 2024

SCULPTURES BY THE SEA

Report: Karen Olde | Photos: Anda Clayton



Our "meander with Anda and Karen", began at the Heritage Bakery Milton. It was a lovely sunny Tuesday morning, perfect weather for tops down. We were joined there by Leann and then Kim and Fred at Burrill Lake. Our three red Mazdas glistened in the sun as we zoomed south down the highway towards Batemans Bay.

Our first stop was the Soldiers Club for morning tea, Mike and Madhu were already there waiting to meet us on the café balcony. The view over the Bay was amazing. There we enjoyed delicious coffee and cakes (melting moments were the most popular). Ian had missed our start but caught up with us at the club.

After coffee we all decided to walk to the sculptures along the Mara Mia walkway which was very pleasant in the Autumn sunshine, past restaurants and cafes alongside the Bay. We spent about an hour looking at the amazing works of art. There were 43 outdoor pieces scattered along the foreshore and 70 indoor pieces in a marquee.

We then walked a short distance to our lunch venue, the Se7en Café located in the Batemans Bay Lodge. We met up with two more members there, James and Giulia. Lunch was delicious and we all enjoyed great conversations.

All too soon it was time to head home. Those of us who had walked, even had time for a short session of retail therapy on the way back to our cars.



RPM – 28th May 2024

NEW FRIENDS AT MOONEY MOONEY

Report: Chris Wyatt | Photos: Chris & Gillian



The old saying that "there is no such thing as a stranger, only friends we haven't met" could not be more true judging by the new friends on our run to the Mooney Mooney Club. New members Jeff, Peter and Brian, brought along visitors Tulia and David. Even the range of cars from an immaculate NA to a brand-new ND were there to show off.

The club favourite starting point of Windsor McDonalds was as popular as ever as 12 cars made our way up Old Stock Road, Cattai Ridge Road onto Old Northern and though to Galston. The scenery was great as always but seemed even better as we dropped into the gorge and climbed through the hair pin bends rising into Hornsby Heights. Turning left onto the Old Pacific Highway we followed past all the new home construction, Veering left at the old toll gates onto the much-enjoyed winding part of the road past PITS across the freeway and down to the Old Hawkesbury Bridge and stopped to watch them setting up to repaint the rusting structure.

Turning right into the club we managed to park for a group photo before heading into the club and being shown out to our tables on the veranda, with those great views over the river. Conversation was loud and friendly while enjoying the great food. Time flies while you are having fun and before we knew it we were heading home to our responsibilities remembering the great day out.



TOOWOOMBA QLD 2024

The Road to Toowoomba QLD 10th to 11th April 2024

Report: Brigid McCarthy | Photos: various

The Long and Winding Road to NatMeet Sydney Convoy 2024

The early morning of Wednesday April 10th saw many well packed MX-5s, and their passengers, converging on McDonalds Mt Colah. Our starting point was just a few minutes from home for some, whilst others had an earlier start to circumnavigate the city or negotiate peak hour traffic. Large cups of hot coffee were enjoyed, as introductions were made.

Sharon and John, as always, well prepared, passed out run sheets, documentation and briefed our eager convoy. As the peak hour traffic cleared, a beautiful deep blue NC pointed north, trailed by a line of red cars. It was smooth sailing up the M1 motorway and into Raymond Terrace for our first stop. Heatherbrae Pies were sampled and caffeine levels topped up, just as we were about to leave, Ian and Cathy Combes finally caught up with us! Lots of hugs and greetings and we were back on the road.

It wasn't long, until our turnoff onto Bucketts Way, which brought a smile to every face. This is a driver's road and a scenic delight for passengers. It's also seen lots of surface improvement in the last few years, which everyone appreciated. The beauty of Barrington Tops and its quaint general store, provided our lunch stop. Post lunch we continued onto the bushranger's route of Thunderbolts Way, for what should have been an enjoyable, sweeping drive of about 150kms into Walcha. Note the "should have been".....

Thunderbolts Way, between Barrington and Walcha is a wonderful stretch of winding road, that traverses several National Parks, twisting up mountainsides and down through valleys. The debris from one of those mountainsides proved problematic to one of our convoy. This also proved the value of why we travel in convoy. Right on the bend, of one of those sweeping curves, was a large chunk of rock, that had fallen from the steep rockface across the road. A few of us managed some radical manoeuvring but Pina and Paul weren't so lucky. With no mobile coverage, from any of the carriers, our UHF's came into their own. Those ahead in the convoy, pulled up where it was safe and several scenarios for rescue and recovery were discussed over our radios. With the side wall blown out of the tyre, no version of a repair kit was going to



suffice, so a spare was the only option. A request for help and use of a phone, from the closest farm house, was agreed as the best plan. So, with some driver and passenger swaps, plus support cars in place, the plan was enacted, until, just like in the fairytales, a white knight appeared on the horizon.

Louis Serret was on his way to the pre NatMeet raceday, taking the fun road up (of course), and stopped when he saw his friends stranded on the roadside. As Louis was carrying a spare RX8 spacesaver wheel and tyre, compatible with the NC, he was a very welcome sight!

With some of our convoy having continued onto Walcha, we were very happy to hear the news that the NC was back on its 4 feet and underway again, albeit slowly, as per spacesaver speed restrictions. Our final leg into Armidale, along the New England Highway, was blissfully event free, for both groups. After a long and eventful day of driving, with our group staying at a couple of different hotels, some headed to the local pub for dinner, whilst others were busy tracking down replacement tyres. For those of us staying at the Armidale Inn, the offer by the Manager's wife to prepare a Nepalese feast, including fresh momo, was too good to go past. With the local Dan Murphy's found, "fivesies" were enjoyed, before we moved into the motel dining room for an amazing array of fresh, homemade Nepalese goodies.

With a good night's sleep and breakfast enjoyed, we were back on the New England Highway and headed to Tenterfield. An hour's stop gave us some nice time to enjoy visiting the famous Saddlery and Barnaby Joyce's campaign office. Unfortunately, Barnaby wasn't in, or on a nearby footpath, so it was time to head off to Warwick.

TOOWOOMBA QLD 2024

Our stop in Warwick provided the opportunity for a comfort stop, and stretch of road weary legs, before our final hour stint to our Toowoomba destination. We were all very happy to see those city centre signs. With everyone safely delivered to their respective accommodation venues, our MX-5s could finally rest, while their drivers and passengers checked in and freshened up, ahead of the evening's official welcome. And the adventures continued!

A big thank you to Sharon and John Cassidy for organising and leading our run to NatMeet. Well planned, and smooth dealing with the 'unexpected'. It's always good to be part of one of your convoys.



TOOWOOMBA QLD 2024

Natmeet Toowoomba QLD 11th to 16th April 2024

Report: Ian Combes | Photos: various



Normally Natmeet is held every two years. The MX-5 clubs around Australia take it in turn to run the event (except for WA I think – understandable). The NSW Club did plan to run the event in 2020, and organisation was well advanced – then COVID hit us all...we attempted again in 2022, however, the tail of Covid was still wagging, so no success yet again.

So, the 2024 Natmeet in Toowoomba (organised by the Queensland Club) was the first Natmeet since 2018 in South Australia. This was the first Natmeet I'd been to, so it was all very new to me – I can only take it at face value as I haven't any others to compare it to. None the less, the Queensland MX-5 Club did a very impressive job with this event – as many NSW club members are aware, a lot of effort, planning and organising goes into these events. The weather was absolutely fabulous all week for Natmeet – made the whole event really enjoyable.

The Natmeet event was based around two hotels (side by side) in the CBD of Toowoomba. This presented logistical challenges for the organisers (and the attendees).

There was a track day at Morgan Park on Thursday for those who could do that. Sadly, that wasn't an option for me - not allowed to track the NC...

Registration was in The Central Plaza on Thursday afternoon, where we received our welcome packs. That night, there was a welcome event at The Rocks pub next to the hotels, where there were drinks, finger food and welcome speeches, plus lots of networking and getting to know people. Apart from the welcome speech from Chair Henri Van Roden, there was some

history for us on Natmeet, and a lovely speech from our Jean Cook. (Jean did pop up a number of times during the event!). Everyone who goes to Natmeet is there to enjoy themselves, so it really is a great way to meet new people and make new friendships. It was a very enjoyable night.

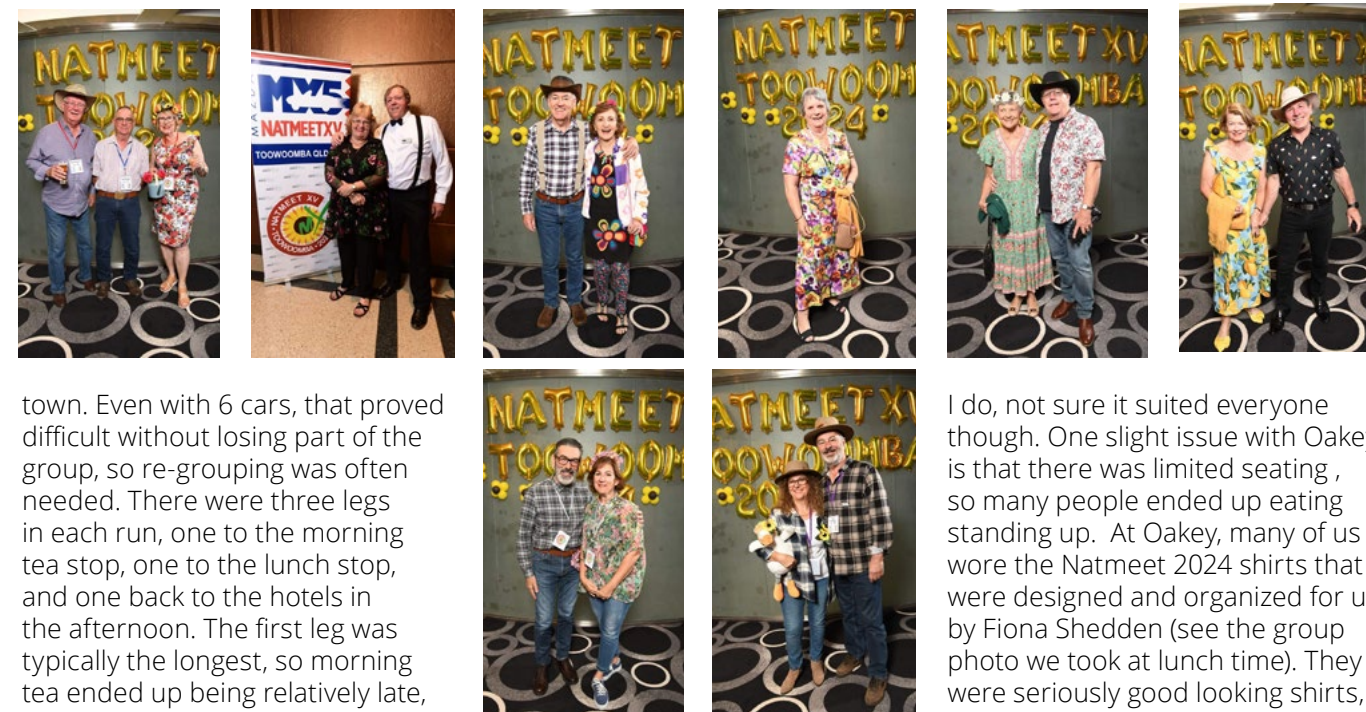
The starting point for the two days on which we had major runs (Friday and Monday) was at the Picnic Point Lookout (no space near the hotels), which was only a 5 minute drive away. A very pleasant place to meet in the morning. The weather was perfect for top-down touring – sunny, but not too hot. Picnic Point is actually a great place to have a walk around, which we did on Sunday morning.

On Thursday night, we studied our run booklets, a high-quality glossy A4 booklet, which contained everything you needed to know. The 80-odd cars were divided into twelve run groups, with approximately 6 cars in each group. Each group has a number, a colour, a name (we were Marigold), a run leader and a tail-end Charlie (both from Queensland). Each group also had a designated radio channel.

There were several runs used, run in clockwise and counter-clockwise directions, so we did come across a group heading in the opposite direction once or twice. Each run had a QR code that took you to a Google map when you scanned it. That was a great idea, and actually proved crucial. The primary navigation was by detailed route directions.

Picnic Point is still within Toowoomba so the first challenge was negotiating the traffic lights (all with speed/red-light cameras we were told) to get out of

TOOWOOMBA QLD 2024



town. Even with 6 cars, that proved difficult without losing part of the group, so re-grouping was often needed. There were three legs in each run, one to the morning tea stop, one to the lunch stop, and one back to the hotels in the afternoon. The first leg was typically the longest, so morning tea ended up being relatively late, with not so big a gap to lunch. The scones and coffee at the café on Friday were great. Monday at a transport museum, not so much. Lunch on Friday and Monday was at two different pubs, which very pleasant. At the Monday lunch stop (Blue Mountain Hotel) there's a large grass area where we lined up all the MX-5s, very impressive.

The roads varied between major highways, country 'A' roads and more winding, 'B' roads, which of course were the most enjoyable! My favourite was the third run on Friday from Esk back to the hotel, a great MX-5 road. One issue that we did have was that only a few run leaders had good local knowledge, so there were a few wrong turns along the way. The QR codes and the Google maps saved us...

Saturday was a mini-run out to the Army air museum at Oakey. Groups were combined into pairs for this run (which guaranteed losing cars at traffic lights). Fortunately,

we caught up with the rest of the group before Google took a holiday as a result of poor mobile reception... When we got to the museum at Oakey, we lined the MX-5's up on either side of the road into the museum, again a great sight.

Morning tea and lunch were both at the museum. Both were catered – food was brought in. Coffee (and smoothies etc) were provided by a mobile coffee van (\$5 provided to each attendee for this). Again, morning tea and lunch were a little close together, the intervening time was spent exploring the Army Air Museum (actually run by the army), which was good. There are a number of museums that we visited over the week (the transport museum I mentioned above on the Monday), this army museum and the Cobb & Co museum (venue for the show and shine on Sunday). Great if you like museums, which

I do, not sure it suited everyone though. One slight issue with Oakey is that there was limited seating, so many people ended up eating standing up. At Oakey, many of us wore the Natmeet 2024 shirts that were designed and organized for us by Fiona Shedden (see the group photo we took at lunch time). They were seriously good looking shirts, many thanks Fiona!

Many people left relatively early to get back to Toowoomba to get their cars ready for the show and shine the next day (that is why the day was intentionally kept short).

Saturday night was the theme dinner at the restaurant at Picnic Point Lookout. Buses (2 that left at different times) picked us up at the hotels and dropped us back afterwards. Everyone had their photo taken on arrival. The theme was fancy dress – "Flowers and the Farm". There was a live band, which I thought was rather good. There were certainly some very creative costumes on the night! How some fitted into an MX-5 I'm not sure. There are many photos on social media so please check them out. The seating was arranged so that you got to meet new friends. The MC (at this and the events) was the chair of the Natmeet planning committee – Henri Van Roden, who kept us amused and entertained



during the night with raffles and quizzes.

Next day on Sunday, we had a more leisurely start (we explored Picnic Point) before heading to the Cobb & Co Museum for the show and shine, there wasn't a concours. The organising committee asked that we use this event to wear the Natmeet shirt, certainly stands out. The event was thrown open to other MX-5s, so I believe that there were 120 MX-5s on display. The Cobb & Co site is quite large, with a big ring road in the middle. The MX-5s were arranged around this ring road in their marquees, so were well spaced out. In an amphitheatre just outside the museum, there were two or three cars on display – a red NA (Henri's 004 I think), Henri's race car and a BBR NC, that sounded pretty throaty! There was a speech by Henri, one from our own Jean Cook on Natmeet history, a talk on racing by Brian Ferrabee, a talk on the BBR NC, and a word from the Whiteline major sponsor. Interestingly, the people's choice awards for the show and shine were presented at lunch rather than at the gala event the next night. All categories were won by Dave Perin from NSW with his superb blue NA and trailer, (see Facebook article for more). Many will know Dave's car from the President's Picnic. Lunch was a buffet set up to one side with plenty of seating in the shade (good setup). I had a good chat there with Lachlan from MX-5 Mania who came up for the event (MX-5 Mania was a sponsor). The Cobb & Co museum was of course very interesting to explore as well, lots to do.

Sunday night (and Friday) were free nights so attendees could explore the local restaurants, or just chill out.

Monday night was the gala dinner, which was a short walk from the hotels to the historic Empire Theatre. Apparently, this was almost demolished after a fire, but instead it was fully restored by craftsman in 1971 in art deco styling. They did a great job, it's an amazing old theatre. Photos were again taken on arrival. The tables were set up on the stage, which was quite large (though not large enough for a dance floor, which disappointed some). Another live band provided the dinner music (two of the same musicians from Saturday night). Again there were a number of speeches, plus some presentations of course. The judged categories from the show and shine were presented. Each state provided judges. Not quite sure who ended up judging from NSW, but thank you! Dave Perin again won the modified NA class. Wesley Hill picked up the prize for modified ND. Congratulations guys!

At this Natmeet there was no Champions trophy. Instead the organisers presented a prize for the best MX-5 Club website, which was judged by an independent expert, with NSW being the winner! As another initiative, each state representative was asked to choose a recipient for a "Spirit of Natmeet" award, some criteria was passed on prior to Natmeet. This was a challenge for me as the NSW representative. In the end I awarded it to four people or couples. John and Sharon Cassidy for leading the run up to Natmeet, Louis Serret for coming to the rescue with a spare type on the run, Senia Gaunson for being such a prolific poster on the Natmeet Facebook page, and most importantly to Fiona Shedden for the great NSW Natmeet shirt that many of us wore at the Oakley army

air museum on the Saturday.

At the tail-end of the evening NSW (as is the tradition for the upcoming Natmeet host state) was asked to do a presentation on plans for the 2026 Natmeet in the Hunter Valley. Many thanks to Elaine and David Gazzard for providing the PowerPoint presentation and some notes. Hopefully my presentation of the 2026 event did it justice. I know that people are looking forward to it.

On the Tuesday morning, a complimentary breakfast was organised for those that wanted it, which was the last chance to catch up with everyone before we all went our separate ways.

In summary, Natmeet 2024 was a huge experience, I can see why people so look forward to attending these events. They are certainly a fantastic way of meeting lots of people with a common interest. Every time you sit down for lunch and morning tea or one of the dinners, you would meet someone new - and everyone was friendly.

The focus is now on Natmeet 2026 in the Hunter. I do not have previous Natmeets to compare it to, but the general consensus is that the Queensland Club did a superb job in general, and set a high bar. I think that NSW learned a lot from the 2024 event that will be valuable for planning for 2026. The immediate challenge is to capture the lessons learned and get the most value from the Natmeet 2024 experience so that the 2026 organising committee (chaired by Elaine and David Gazzard) can build on this. Having Jen and George Boyko attending (on the 2026 organising committee) was great, but we will certainly collate feedback from all NSW attendees.

Ian Combes
President



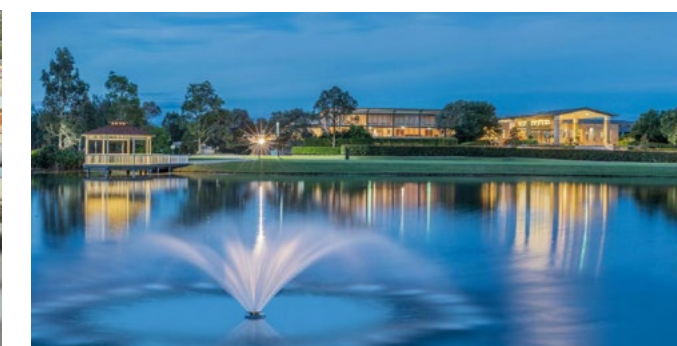
SAVE THE DATE - 3RD TO 8TH MAY 2026 NATMEET XV1 HUNTER VALLEY

NatMeet XVI will be held in the Hunter Valley from the 3rd to 8th of May 2026.

- Meet with fellow enthusiast's socially at the function night's
- Drive many enjoyable winding country roads through the vineyards and surrounding areas of the Hunter Valley.
- Try your skills at the Track Day.
- Show your cars best at Concourse or 'Show N Shine'

Venue and accommodation for the event will be at the Rydges Resort Hunter Valley.

Venue offers 4-star hotel rooms or 1 to 3 bedroom villa apartments. Onsite facilities of parking, food, drink venues, golf course and area for Concourse and Show N Shine.



Hunter – 9th March 2024

HUNTER GOES TO MOTORFEST

Report: Chris Cameron | Photos: David Gazzard and Wendy Mulholland



A beautiful sunny March Saturday morning found 17 members in 11 shiny MX5's lined up at Thornton McDonalds ready and waiting for Hunter's outing to Hawks Nest to check out their annual Motorfest.

This outing was a 'cruiser run' led by Chris and John, aimed at enjoying an easy trip north along some Hunter backroads passing through farmland and forest, with a small excursion through Chisholm which is one of Maitland's new (and surprisingly large) suburbs. Getting into Chisholm proved a little tricky with a few cars missing the entry turn, but a regroup soon had everyone together again. Our route took us through historic Morpeth, then through the small communities of Butterwick, Duns Creek, Martins Creek and Wallarobba – pretty much with the roads to ourselves. The recent rain had certainly made a difference, with green replacing brown all across the farmland.

We stopped for morning tea in Clarencetown, with our group enjoying sole occupancy in the park above the river. Then we headed east, rejoining the Pacific Highway at Twelve Mile Creek for a short cruise, then turning off to pass through Tea Gardens and arrive at our destination at Hawks Nest Myall Park. The Motorfest was impressive and very diverse, with cars of all ages, makes and models on display. Each vehicle was accompanied by a proud and enthusiastic owner, very happy to tell you about their pride and joy, and how it came to be in their possession. All good fun!

We then adjourned to the Benchmark on Booner restaurant to compare notes on what took our fancy most from the car display and to chat over a leisurely and enjoyable lunch. The run ended at Hawks Nest, with members making their own way back home.

Thanks to all for coming along and being part of the fun.



CAREFLIGHT CHARITY DONATION

Story and Photos by Bryan Shedden and Joe Kovacic



The charity that the MX-5 Club of NSW supports is CareFlight. We have been supporting CareFlight for over ten years through donations received from members at a wide variety of charity fundraising events.

CareFlight provide a rapid response helicopter service in the greater Sydney region and surrounding areas. The helicopter is capable of being airborne within three minutes of activation, ensuring that patients receive lifesaving treatment fast.

On Monday 22 April 2024, a small group of Committee members were invited to the CareFlight base at Westmead Hospital to meet the crew and inspect the new Airbus H145 helicopter, which commenced service in 2021. The H145 is equipped with the most up-to-date medical equipment including a mobile intensive care unit. The rear clamshell doors allow for faster loading and unloading of patients saving critical minutes, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Ian Combes (President), Joe Kovacic (Vice President) and Bryan Shedden (Membership Secretary and acting Vice President) were delighted to meet Nathan (aircrew), Nicole (paramedic) and Adam (doctor). The crew are on call from 8am to 8pm each day, and often work into the night using night-vision goggles for navigation. They typically receive one call-out per day, but sometimes up to three. We were fortunate that their services were not required during our visit, which gave us a great opportunity to look over the helicopter. It was wonderful to meet the crew and learn about their individual roles, history with CareFlight and how the service operates.

We thanked the crew for the rapid medical care provided to one of our Club members in 2018, when the old Kawasaki BK117-B2 helicopter was dispatched to land on the track at Sydney Motorsport Park after a serious racing incident in the MX-5 Cup.



Finally, Ian presented a donation cheque to Nat (CareFlight Events Manager) for \$2,271 collected from our generous MX-5 Club members. These funds were raised at our Motorsport Presentation Night and Illawarra Christmas Party at the end of 2023, and are additional to the \$735 already donated from last year's President's Picnic. This brings our MX-5 Club donation total amount to \$26,581 in 12 years. As a significant proportion of essential funding for CareFlight services comes from community donations, we know that our support is helping make these lifesaving services possible.

The MX-5 Club of NSW is proud to support CareFlight.

Sydney 17th March 2024 NORAH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

Report: Jonathan Boyd | Photos: Maree Eccleston



After an early morning marked by heavy rain, 12 of us in 8 cars looked hopefully up from the Mt Colah meeting point as the sky slowly brightened and the rain eased off. Heading along the Old Pacific Highway, we carefully navigated the new (reduced) speed limits north for a quick run along Peats Ferry Road before taking the tight and bumpy Dog Trap Road as it wound through beautiful sections of rainforest. Finally we hit the bustling Central Coast and made our way to Norah Head where we were also met by Godwin and Gillian, plus Penny from the Hunter Chapter.

The lighthouse is a spectacular piece of architecture, with a fascinating history. The tour was terrific and the staff were great, letting us have the A1 parking spot!

To finish off, lunch was at the nearby Beach Haus Cafe,



Sydney 31st May 2024 RUN TO "OLD JOHN"

Report: Anne Moffat | Photos: Maree Eccleston

After an early start from Maccas at Mount Colah seven cars made our way up the Old Pacific Highway to visit our oldest and much-loved member of our Club, John Jentsch aka "Old John".

It was overcast and chilly as we travelled on to Saddles for a warming coffee break. The sky teased us now and again with a break in the clouds but unfortunately the sun continued to remain elusive.

John is now a "Reluctant Resident" at the Tarragal House Nursing Home on the Central Coast. He was so very happy to see us all and had a good old chat with everyone telling us how much he missed driving his MX5 and meeting up with everyone at Pie in the Sky and the monthly club dinners, but he did explain he has now become an avid reader again. He also keeps the nurses amused as he has certainly not lost his sense of humour!

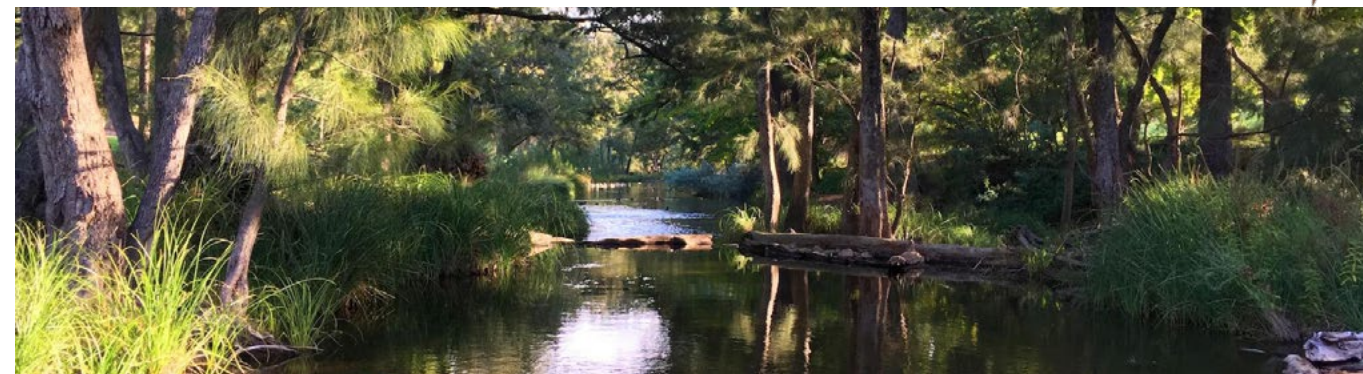
John's son Peter visits his Dad every day. He mentioned he had only seen his Dad smile a few times in the last six months. Once was when he had a dozen Sydney Rock Oysters and the last time he drove his car. Peter helped John outside where all the cars were lined up for a photo shoot. He was genuinely happy to see this and said it brought back happy memories for him and, also us as we miss hearing his stories about the remarkable life he has led. Peter has been very worried about his Dad and sent an email expressing his gratitude to everyone who took the time to visit him. He said it was good to see him laughing and smiling again.

We left telling John we would visit him again soon before heading on to Terrigal for lunch.



Canberra - 25th May 2024 PICNIC BY THE RIVER

Report: Rod Nicholas | Photos: Rod Nicholas, Lili Chi



Canberra had been showing off her best autumn clothes for a week or two, and as Saturday dawned fresh and foggy, later to burn off to a bright, sunny day, I knew we had hit an almost perfect day for a picnic by the Cotter River.

Of course we needed a bit of a drive first. So, we gathered at Daughters at Hall for a little pre-run pick-me-up, and a briefing. By the time we were ready to start there were 21 enthusiastic members, with another couple to meet at the picnic site, Peter & Annemie were securing the best spot on the river for us.

We headed out towards Yass. Our convoy stretched out for almost 2 kilometres down the road, so I took the first opportunity I could after turning towards Yass, to pull over and regroup. I walked down the growing line of MX-5s, as the Tail-End-Charlie strode purposefully up to join me. **'We lost three cars turning into Yass'** he said. **'They missed the turnoff, one after the other.'** **'What, the only turnoff into Yass? The one that's signposted for two kilometres?'** I was astonished, surely this was a first.

No radios, so I quickly got on the mobile. we finally got into contact with the Lost Ones, and waited while they caught us up, dispatching one member of our group to a prominent spot down the road, to flag them down. The wait provided another chance for a chinwag. Some while later we were all back together, a moment's distraction lead to one of the cars driving past the turnoff, and a couple of others decided they must know the way, and the rest is history.

Meanwhile, Peter & Annemie were at the picnic site wondering where we were. I messaged them advising of the delay, but to no avail, there is next to no mobile coverage all that way out in the bush (sarcastic note intended, the Cotter Dam, where we were picnicking is all of 15 km out of the city!).

Back on the roads again, everyone accounted for, we had about an hour ahead of us, through some lovely scenery. We journeyed for a while along the Wee Jasper Road, through the countryside, down the winding stretch into the Murrumbidgee Valley where we crossed the river on the Teamas Bridge. The bridge, the third crossing to the Wee Jasper side of the Burrinjuck Dam (the other two were washed away in floods) is a sturdy steel span construction some 200 metres long, and was opened in

1931, built at a cost just shy of £61,000. The two spots of torn-up bitumen that had previously marred this length of road had been repaired (more or less) and caused us no concern.

Chucking another of the infrequent turns on this run, we headed back towards Canberra along Mountain Creek Road. This is one of my favourite roads and usually allows some highly enjoyable driving. Today's run was hampered a little by more traffic than usual, almost all 4WDs heading towards Wee Jasper and its camping and fishing spots.

By the time we got to the Cotter River for our picnic, Peter & Annemie had eaten their lunch and were ready to pack up and go home! They had turned up super early to beat the rush for the best spots, forgetting that it was a long weekend in Canberra and half the town had gone down the coast. We had the place almost to ourselves.

A short while later, with bellies full, I got out the games. By unanimous choice a tournament of 'Battle Blocks' (a cheap knock-off of Finska) commenced; two teams, involving almost everyone. The rules were sorted (more or less), and the game began! Plenty of laughs, plenty of dodgy throws, no arguments with the referee, and no tantrums! No one got hit in the head by an errant throw. It was a lot of fun.

We had a great day. The run was good fun, and everyone who was on the road got to the end in one piece. The picnic was tasty, the cakes and treats were shared, and the laughs were plentiful. And I have a feeling we will see Battle Blocks again.

Thanks to all for joining us, especially Peter & Annemie for securing our prime location, and Adrian and Annemie for helping us out with the games rules.



Sydney - 19th May 2024

LUNCH AT BURRAWANG PUB WITH ILLAWARRA

Report: Kay Godfrey | Photos: Rob Wilkins, Julie Warren and Senia Gaunson



Sydney meets Illawarra at Bulli for a drive to the Burrawang Village Hotel for lunch.

Wow! What a turnout with 9 cars from the Sydney chapter and 5 from Illawarra, I lost count! The scenery and the weather were both spectacular. We drove in convoy from Sylvania, through the Royal National Park and across Audley Weir, through Stanwell Tops and over the spectacular Seacliff Bridge.

What an eye opener coming out onto the Seacliff Bridge! The Imperial Hotel at Clifton looks like it may be worth a visit sometime in the future (apparently, they have great cocktails!).

Meeting the crew from the Illawarra Chapter at the Bulli beach cafe, we continued on to more beautiful scenery, through the Wingecarribee valley on our way to the Burrawang Village Hotel for lunch. Zan and Phil, Illawarra locals, with great local road knowledge, were asked to lead the convoy from Bulli to Burrawang and took us off the main highway, along lovely country roads, where we enjoyed escarpment and farm views, and over a winding Macquarie Pass. Everything was green, with waterfalls along the way caused by the recent rains, made for a feast of the senses. Burrawang is located 750 metres above sea level, and it was a little chilly, but the autumn sun kept us warm.

For the foodies the food at the pub was delicious and lots of it.

Thanks to Steve and Maree for organising.

PS: Steve kept us on the straight and narrow (this time) no unplanned deviations (with Zan and Phil's help!)



RPM - 4th May 2024

ORANGE IN THE RAIN

Report: Chris Wyatt | Photos: Chris & Jason



Three things in life that Club members like in common are eating, driving our MX-5's and fun with partners and friends. All were thoroughly enjoyed by the crew of eight who braved the rain and travelled from the Rivers Plains and Mountains toward the busy western town of Orange.

Leaving Hartley Village and turning left at Bowenfels we travelled some of our favourite backroads to our morning tea at Maccas in Kelso. Turning left we were onto the Mid-Western Highway down via Blaney to our classic pub lunch at the Royal in Mandurama. Ron then took us via some new back roads (finally putting our tops up) past the working gold mines at Cadia. Orange appeared on the horizon and we worked our way past the old Formula One racing track at Gnool Blax and into the city proper. A bit confused by detours we finally arrived for our wine tasting at Mortimers (yes that Mortimer) where the non-drivers enjoyed a pleasant hour with some gorgeous wines. Returning to town and our motel we had time for a doze to be ready for our bus to dinner at the Ex-Services where we were some of the last to leave.

Morning arrived and a quick look around town during a brief gap in the rain found us at a very professional eatery called Anything Grows where we enjoyed a filling breakfast. A quick trip up to Mount Conobolas to the lookout gave us a beautiful foggy view of nothing special. Running early, we travelled west enjoying the turning trees on the Cargo Road before returning to town for fuel and yet another coffee and off to Millthorpe. The town is reminiscent of Leura with its bric-a-brac and cafes with the grand Millthorpe Hotel booked for a bang-up lunch.

Each heading home by our own route we reminisced about a great weekend thanks to Ron and Jacqui.



South Coast – 9th May 2024 BUNDANOON AND PELICAN ROCKS

Report: Bob Downing | Photos: Rose Smith



The late withdrawal of Anne and Graeme and Kim and Fred meant that only Geoff, Rose, Ian and Bob met at Tomerong on a dismal showery morning, definitely not tops down. After successfully negotiating the major road works at Jervis Bay road we had an uninterrupted run to Nowra, where the usual traffic hold ups at the numerous traffic islands and lights served to slow down our progress through the city. Once across the bridge and into suburbia our pace quickened along Illaroo road until we came across the “damaged pavement” section; it has been in this state for at least 5 years with no sign of repairs being carried out. Finally the road improves with some great MX5 twisties through Tapitallee and a final steep drop down to the Shoalhaven river at Bundanon.

Waiting for us in the rain was Paul, we ventured up to the cafe where we enjoyed coffee, cakes and discussions about all things MX5 and made plans for the Brass Monkey run. All of a sudden we realised that



time had got away from us and we should by now be making our way to Pelican Rocks, a quick photo stop and we were on our way.

A quick change of route saw us retrace our track back through Nowra and the sometimes disaster of a road through Terara and Jindy Andy to arrive at Pelican Rocks only 5 minutes after our booking. Here we were met by Johnette and Tony Badger and Linda, making a party of 8 for lunch.

As usual the food was superb and again the chatter around the table covered many subjects, all too soon it was time for me to leave, the remainder of the group stayed to chat for even longer.

Bundanon with its Art Museum and Bridge student accommodation is unique in many ways and offers superb views along the Shoalhaven river valley, even on a damp and dismal day. Pelican Rocks never fails to disappoint, always serving up first class food. Another great MX5 day out.

PS I even managed to run top down from Huskisson to Vincentia, maybe 6km, enjoyable nevertheless.



RPM – 10th May 2024 KATOOMBA THE SCENIC WAY

Report: Chris Wyatt | Photos: Gillian and Chris



Katoomba the scenic route.

The MX-5 is known for its acceleration and handling but many of us most enjoy cruising in the fresh country air. It turned out a beautiful day for just that, as we cruised down toward the Nepean River and the new entertainment and food quarter.

Snaking our way under the bridge we briefly turned east and onto the freeway, just to cross the river into Emu Plains. Over the old Highway then left toward the mountains we took the oldest existing road up the eastern face of the foothills The suitably named Old Bathurst Road is really a great hill climb made for the MX-5 but we were cruising, past the waiting highway patrol on the first bend. Staying off the highway we passed multiple historic towns and onto the old highway through the commercial centre of Springwood. Staying on that side took us to one of the oldest towns of Faulconbridge and the Prime Ministers Corridor of Oaks. Back on the Highway and past the tollgates we turned off at Woodford crossing back over at Lawson and all the way through Wentworth falls to Leura. A slightly slow but steady cruise through the golden leaves of Autumn made for an enjoyable morning.

Our final destination, Katoomba RSL was waiting for us to enjoy the usual fine fair. It seems that people from all over Asia have heard about it as well.



South Coast – 23rd April 2024 BURN TO BERRIMA

Report: Rose Smith | Photos: Rose Smith



Burn To Berrima

Five of us enjoyed the ‘Burn to Berrima’ run today.

Rose and Geoff were the only car to leave south of the Nowra Bridge, so they had a solo run up to Cambewarra Mountain Lookout, where they were met by Leann, Paul and Tony.

The view from Cambewarra lookout was spectacular; however, we were all more interested in watching a large wombat grazing near the cafe. Although we had been here many times on previous runs, this was a first for us. The view was spectacular as it was the clearest day, allowing a view both up and down the coastline. It was a mostly clear run from here to Berrima allowing our MX5 drivers to test their skills on the windy backroads, while enjoying the autumn colours and scenery along the way. We took a slightly longer route via Exeter and the old Hume Hwy on our way to Berrima. The ability to hold your breath was tested as we drove past a couple of dairies. This didn't affect our appetites and lunch at the Surveyor General Pub in Berrima was generous and tasty..... another great day out with our MX5 friends.



Mid North Coast – 19th to 21st March 2024

BELT TO GRANITE RUN

Report: Judith Hansen | Photos: Wayne Lang

Belt to Granite Run. March 19-21 2024

Browsing the Browsers.

Pam and Allen, Cath and Graham, Mick and Chris, Cathy and Wayne, Rob and Rhonda, Judith and John, Peter, and John, assembled at the Strawberry Patch at Glen Innes for a run briefing from the leaders, Jen and Kevin.

Then down the road for a surprise museum visit. In a purpose built shed, John and Josie had reassembled their collection of Garaganalia, their word, truly. Everyone, even those who had seen it before, were amazed at the extent of the collection of petrol pumps, original signs, cans, bottles and spark plugs. Everything was sparkling clean, thanks to Josie, who had also prepared a delicious, fresh lunch for us. John was on hand to answer questions and share his knowledge and enjoyment of a lifetime's collecting. What a great beginning to a run!

The Great Central Hotel in Glen Innes provided a good meal that night and the motel breakfast set us up for our adventures on Wednesday.

Crossing the Border.

Tenterfield is a fascinating town with much to see and do. We visited the Henry Parkes Institute, had morning tea and a short tour, learning about the man who had such an obsession for Federation and an interesting life away from campaigning. We all know about the Tenterfield Saddler, who was immortalised in the autobiographical song by Peter Allen and we visited his Saddlery.

Then off to Queensland. We had been driving through amazing countryside, granite boulders of all shapes and sizes. At Wyberba, we had lunch at the Balancing Heart Vineyard. This place had it all, wonderful views, a Highland cow and great share platters and pizzas. There was fun at Egypt, as photos will show. Continuing in a frivolous mood, we found more fun at the wine tasting at Symphony Wines at Ballandean. Not sure it was possible for the wines to live up to their descriptions. This is one description "This wine will take you to a place that isn't human and you will actually meow."

Dinner was at Anna's Restaurant, where the amount of food on the banquet menu was gargantuan. We left the groaning table and walked groaning back to the motel.

Belts and Braces.

After sampling delights from local bakeries, we set off to visit Kent's Saddlery and Factory for a



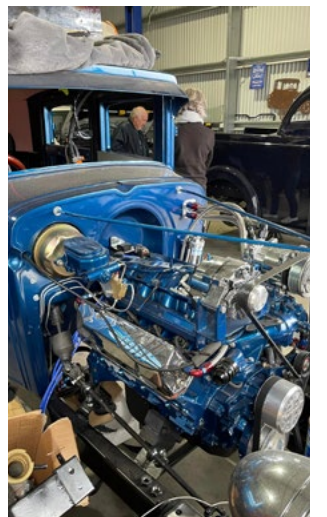
comprehensive tour of the works, meeting young staff members as well as family members. Each employee explained the nature of their work. We were shown the techniques, technology and skills necessary to produce the goods in the shop. Peter belted up and braced himself. Purchases were made by others as well.

Then to Sutton Juice Factory, where all things apple delighted the taste buds and onto Bush Rock Gallery, lovely prints and a beautiful bush garden.

Ballandean Estate is a long term family owned vineyard where we had share plates of local produce and a tasting of two different wines in the iconic Barrel Room Wine Lounge. The large barrels, originally containing beer, arrived from Germany, were used by Penfolds and saved from destruction by a family member.

By now the weather was becoming rather chilly but we had been invited to see a kit Model T Ford in a local workshop. The owner had seen the MX5s in town and wanted to make contact and show us all the projects he was working on. Dinner was at Stanley's Brewhouse.

Our group mixed easily and enjoyed the shared experiences we had on the trip, always aware of the thought and planning that had gone into them. Thanks again Kevin and Jen.



MX-5 CUP ROUND 1

Report: Paul Rudd | Photos: Rob Wilkins

The opening round of the 2024 MX-5 Cup was on the North (Druitt) Circuit at Sydney Motorsport Park. Although we started with 16 entries, we lost 3 before the day due to various car issues, so 13 headed out in qualifying – where we lost another entrant.

In terms of outright placings, first and fastest on the day was 2020 Champion Tim Herring who was first over the line in all 3 races for an outright win as well as winning the Open Forced Induction Class and achieving the maximum 24 point towards his point score. Second place on the day went to Jamie Martin who had 3 class wins in Class, also scoring 24 points. Third place on the day went to Jaxon Fraser who had 3 class wins in Class B, also scoring 24 points.

Class Results:

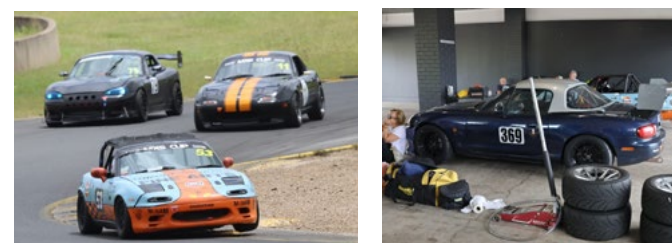
Open FI: First was Tim Herring with 3 wins. Second was Rob Kriletich with a DNF, a third and a second. Third was Sarah Medley with a second and 2 DNFs

Open NA: First was Jett Herring with 2 wins and a second. Second was Jacob Giovenco with 2 seconds and a win.

Class A: First was Jamie Martin with 3 wins. Second was newcomer to the Cup, Sam Hou with 2 thirds and a second. Third was Ben Cathcart with a DNF and 2 seconds.

Class B: First was Jaxon Fraser with 3 wins. Second was Paul Nudd with 2 seconds and a third. Third was another newcomer to the Cup, Seth Gilmore with 2 thirds and a second. Fourth was another newcomer to the Cup - Manarth Prasad with 3 fourth places.

Fabulous close racing through the field through the day.



New Online Shop for Club Regalia

The simple and efficient way to purchase your club regalia

So you have bought the car, joined the Club, gone on the runs as well as the great weekend trips away and attended Club events, now it's time to wear the great Club merchandise.

The range features a variety of clothing items with the MX-5 Club of NSW logo. We also have a number plate covers.

We now have a great new way to order your Club Regalia. Orders can be placed quickly and easily online, with a credit card payment. Please note that a flat fee of \$11 is charged for delivery to your mailing address.

Orders will now be placed with our supplier once per month. Limited stock of some items are available for immediate delivery via your

Chapter Regalia Officer or Convenor.

See more at:

<https://nsw.mx5.com.au/club-zone/regalia>

Website Ordering Example

Motorsport 25th Anniversary Polo Long-sleeve



Premium pre-shrunk long-sleeve polo shirt.

Regular fit, 100% cotton, 200 GSM, UPF 50+

Screen-printed with the club logo on front-left and large 25th Anniversary logo on the rear.

Option S (52cm half-chest)

Add Close

MX-5 CUP ROUND 2

Report: Paul Rudd and Ian Combes

This round of the MX-5 Cup was on the Gardner (GP) circuit at Sydney Motorsport Park, and was part of the Sydney 300 event.

That mean a long day, with the event running well into the night (the feature 300 event started at 7:30 pm). Fortunately (and much to the relief of the organisers), the day was relatively free of major incidents, which meant that it pretty much ran to schedule. As has been a bit common in Sydney this year, it was a cold day, which some of us in carports didn't appreciate that much. Fortunately however, we didn't receive any of the rain that hot some parts of Sydney, so the entire day was dry.

Unfortunately, we had two red flags in qualifying, which meant that some drivers didn't manage to get in a decent lap. The grid was interesting for race 1 as a result.

After several years away from the MX-5 Cup, Matilda Mravicic returned, qualifying 7th out of 21 starters. That made two women in the top 7!

Having been away from the Cup for three year, I was intrigued that I didn't even recognise half the field. 24 registered, but we started with 21- and that was with perhaps 10 MX-5s focused on the 300 race.

Stuart McFadyen qualified on pole, but couldn't hold off Tim Herring and Jett Herring, finishing third. Sadly 2 of our fast women scored DNFs, with Sarah Medley finishing 14th of 24.

Race 2 was again dominated by Herring Racing. Tim Herring who won race 1 had a DNF for 2. Jett Herring won this one from Stuart McFadyen. So that's 1 - 2 for Stuart and 2 - 1 for Jett. Third was Andrew Cook, driving another Herring Racing prepared car. 4th was Aaron Herring who was making a guest appearance from Queensland.

Sadly, Kiara Zabetakis scored another DNF. Matilda raced home in 14th behind Sarah on 13th so at this point Sarah was our fastest woman.

In race 3, Tim Herring came from the back of the grid through to win the race. There was a epic battle between Jett, Stuart and Aaron for second with Jett taking it from Aaron then Stuart. So Herring Racing cars first 4 again. Sarah came 11th and Matilda 14th.

Jett Herring in the Naturally Aspirated Open Class won the class in all 3 races as well as 1st outright in race 2 when Tim Herring failed to finish and 2nd outright to the turbo'd Tim in races 1 and 3. This giving Jett victory in the MX-5 Cup Round 2 with 24 points. Jett then went on to drive the same car, solo, in the Sydney 300 on the evening of the same day. Second in The Cup was John Fraser who was 1st in Class A in all 3 races Third

in The Cup was Ian Combes who was 1st in Class C with 2 wins and a second.

In the Open Forced Induction class, Andrew Cook finished on 20 points, from Aaron Herring on 19 points, Rob Kriletich on 18 points, and Tim Herring on 16 points.

In the open Naturally Aspirated class, Jett Herring scored 24 points, Stuart McFadyen 21 points, James Burge 17 points and Todd Herring 6 points.

In Class A, John Fraser scored 24 points, Shane Plohl 20 points, Ben Cathcart 19 points, Sarah Medley 14 points and Brett Lansley 10 points.

In Class B, Brad Smith scored 22 points, Jie Ren 22 points, Craig Barney 14 points, Matilda Mravicic 12 points, Richard Barram 12 points and Sam Hou 11 points.

In Class C, Ian Combes scored 23 points and Sam Silvestro 22 points.

Competitor	No.	R1	R2	Overall	Place
Herring Jett	79	23	24	47	1
Herring Tim	78	24	16	40	2
Cathcart Ben	11	14	19	33	3
Kriletich Rob	72	13	18	31	4
Hou Sam	54	19	11	30	5
Fraser John	62	0	24	24	6
Martin Jamie	53	24	0	24	7
Fraser Jaxon	8	24	0	24	8
Combes Ian	171	0	23	23	9
Ren Jie	111	0	22	22	10
Silvestro Sam	85	0	22	22	11
Smith Brad	55	0	22	22	12
Giovenco Jacob	20	22	0	22	13
McFadyen Stuart	98	0	21	21	14
Medley Sarah	369	7	14	21	15
Nudd Paul	181	20	0	20	16
Plohl Shane	666	0	20	20	17
Cook Andrew	34	0	20	20	18
Gilmore Seth	152	19	0	19	19
Herring Aaron	169	0	19	19	20
Burge James	5	0	17	17	21
Prasad Manarth	35	15	0	15	22
Barney Craig	151	0	14	14	23
Mravicic Matilda	95	0	12	12	24
Barram Richard	77	0	12	12	25
Lansley Brett	26	0	10	10	26
Herring Todd	77	0	6	6	27
Zabetakis Kiara	88	0	0	0	28
Herring Brad	121	0	0	0	29
Pana Denis	22	0	0	0	30
Herrick Rob	25	0	0	0	31
Giovenco Robbie	57	0	0	0	32
Boydell Andy	791	0	0	0	33
Head Steven	123	0	0	0	34
Herring Richard	51	0	0	0	35
Macdonald Peter	920	0	0	0	36
ConnollyJohn	69	0	0	0	37

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT

Report: David Lawler

Round 2 of the MX-5 Club of NSW Track Day Sprint and Regularity Championships was run at Sydney Motorsport Park South/Amaroo Circuit on Sunday 7th April.

With 58 entrants bringing 48 MX-5s and 10 other vehicles for this event, it was looking to be a great day. However it started slightly late due to some debris on the track that had to be cleared, and early laps were tentative due to residual water on the track. However, the water soon dispersed, and drivers were free to enjoy the interesting and technical challenge of the South Circuit track.

The event schedule aimed to provide 6 runs of 8 minutes each for the sprint competitors, and a practise session and then 4 runs of 12 minutes each for the regularity competitors. There were 7 competitors in the regularity group including a couple of novice drivers, up from 4 competitors at the previous track day.

From my point of view in the control tower, all the drivers seemed to have a good day, and the behaviour of both the drivers and their cars was so good that no session had to be reg flagged early due to a misadventure by a driver or the failure of a car.

By finishing time, both sprint and regularity drivers had availed themselves of up to 38 competition laps each over the day.

Thank you to the many club members and friends who assisted with running the event as flag marshals. It takes a lot of people to run a track day at the South Circuit, and the club continues to be grateful to everyone who helps to make it possible.

The standout score for a sprint competitor was

99.16% by Chris Andry (#44) in Standard Class, while Michael Tarrant (#47) won the Regularity competition.

A special mention must be made of Luke Kovacic and Jie Ren, who competed in both the club track day on the South Circuit, and the NSW Supersprint on the North Circuit, on the same day. This is even more impressive as both of them drove a different car in the track day to the one they drove in the supersprint. I am in awe of their dedication, skill and stamina!

The track day Results [<https://nsw.mx5.com.au/F07AF6E0-F649-11EE-9DF13A92AD6112FE>] and championship Points Scores [<https://nsw.mx5.com.au/motorsport/club-track-days/point-score>] are now available on the club website.

Thanks to Rob Wilkins for his photos of Chris Andry and Michael Tarrant in action.



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Sydney Motorsport Park Amaroo Circuit 7th April 2024

Class	PL	Car Driver	Make & Model	Time	Benchmark	Score	Points
1-Standard	1	44 Chris Andry	Mazda MX-5 2009	66.461	65.9	99.16%	25
	2	68 Bryan Shedden	Mazda MX-5 2006	67.711	65.9	97.33%	22
2-Clubman	1	13 Luke Kovacic	Mazda MX-5 30AE 2019	66.541	62.6	94.08%	25
	2	23 James Gilray	Mazda MX-5 2006	68.761	64.6	93.95%	22
3-Super Clubman	1	34 Gerardo Martin	Mazda MX-5 1999	67.247	65.3	97.10%	25
	2	52 Phillip Reid	Mazda MX-5 2006	73.589	63.6	86.43%	22
4-Modified	1	28 Paul Bower	Mazda MX-5 2007	65.990	62.3	94.41%	25
	2	15 Kyle Robinson	Mazda MX-5 1998	68.104	63.9	93.83%	22
5-Open	1	88 Denis Pana	Mazda MX-5 1998	63.649	60.1	94.42%	25
	2	18 Mat Fraser	Mazda MX-5 1999	63.865	60.1	94.10%	22
6-Non-MX-5	1	71 Andrew McLaughlin	Sylva J15 2017	65.838			25
	2	134 Kenneth Davis	Ford Falcon 2005	65.988			22
7-Visitor	1	82 Monique Sciberras	Mazda MX-5 1989	69.282			25
	2	38 Damien Liu	Subaru BRZ 2022	69.455			22
8-Regularity	3	51 Anthony Stewart	ATR Clubman 2022	74.267			20
	1	10 Michael Tarrant	Mazda MX-5 1998		203		25
	2	10 Craig Franklin	Mazda MX-5 2001		219		22



AMAROO CIRCUIT 7TH APRIL 2024

Photos: Rob Wilkins and Andrew Edgar



Illawarra - 25th May 2024

CHRISSIE AND JOHN'S PLANTING BEE

Report and Photos: Senia Gaunson



The unique spirit of the MX-5 Illawarra community was shining through on Saturday 25th May. They came from near and far to help out a mate!

Adele joined us for a coffee at Bulli Beach Cafe and brought plant cuttings for the garden, Brigid came all the way from the city and planted a beautiful bromeliad garden around the tree in their previously sad, front garden.

Leann, Lena and Franchesca weeded for hours! Lesley, Peter, Bryan, John, Ian and Wes dug holes and prepared a path to be built soon and planted their new garden. Bob planted lilies and dug out tree stumps (and came back Monday to cut and remove them with a chainsaw). I potted bamboo (I was relieved to hear they were going in pots and not in the garden) for screening. Ann weeded, mowed, whatever had to be done, she did it! Chrissie organised us and fed us (really well). We realised we're not getting any younger and were all sore (but satisfied) by day's break.

Background on why we did this.

Chrissie and John Zarembo moved into their home in Thirroul a few months ago and were struck by the April 6 floods.

Unfortunately their beautiful 2014 MX-5, which they purchased in March 2024, was destroyed by these floods, only four weeks after they got it, having searched for it for over a year! They also lost their Kia. They were fortunate their home was not flooded, but the garden they had worked so hard on, was decimated by the flood waters.

Our mission was to restore beauty where there was devastation. This was a day to wear our gardening clothes and shoes, bring along some gardening implements and get ready to dig. We were planting joy back through their garden.

Mission accomplished! John and Chrissie love their new garden! Now we just need to find them a new car.....



Canberra - 27th March 2024

NOT QUITE EASTER FISH N CHIPS

Report and Photos: Rhys Howse



My first run leading the convoy started off at Mick Sherd Oval, and I managed to arrive early to assert dominance over the empty car park to ensure the group could park together. All club members had arrived well and truly on time which enabled us to embark punctually at 10.15am.

We had a great run through to Braidwood, and were only slightly separated getting to the Clyde - a small ancient camry had decided that it was rapid on the straights, but could not compete with the group through the bends of the Clyde. A few of us at the front put our tops up due to a heavyish bit of rain coming down the Clyde, however that didn't stop Simon from leaving his down (he tells me you just need to drive quicker).

As we passed the Nelligen turn-off we picked up Mr Schiemer (in the best colour the MX-5 is currently produced in - Deep Crystal Blue Mica, no I'm not biased).

We plodded along for the half an hour drive to Burrill Lake to be greeted by a few South Coasties, who had very welcomingly set-up some tablecloths for a very civil fish and chips lunch.

As usual we made the trek across the bridge and enjoyed some fish and chips!

The group bid farewell to Burrill Lake and the group of South Coast members, and headed back to Canberra!



Track Talk – One Raceway Update

Our favourite racetrack won't be ready for Round 3 Club Track Day in August, but it's not too far away! (One Raceway, formerly Wakefield Park). Stay tuned.....



Tech Talk

NA FUEL PUMP BLUES By Bob Gaunson

When the day comes when your car cranks over but won't fire up, it could be your fuel pump has stopped working. Some people can tell you by listening to tell if the pump is OK but I took it out of the tank to test it.

After making some wooden plugs to stop petrol going everywhere, I disconnected the fuel lines. Using an external 12V power source, I tested the pump and only got a clicking sound, instead of a spinning motion. A new pump was needed and required a bit of fitting skills as one section of metal pipe has to be removed. (Taking a few photos before replacing the fuel pump of how it all goes together would be a good idea).

Once the new pump was installed I tried again to start the car, but no luck.

After this, I decided to look at the fuel pump relay. Once the cover was removed with long nose pliers, I found there were only two electronic components, apart from the copper coil. One was a capacitor and the other a resistor. I decided to replace the capacitor as it looked a bit bulged. To my surprise, it was not even soldered in place, just clipped in. After a visit to Jaycar and buying a new one for the exorbitant price of 45c and installing it with the negative wire in the same place, I tried again and this time the car fired up.

This may not be the answer to everyone's "no start" problem as there could be other causes, Youtube may help, search under "Myata NA".

(Disclaimer – this is only one "shade tree" mechanic's record of how I fixed my problem)



CLEANING NA FRONT WHEEL ARCHES By Bob Gaunson

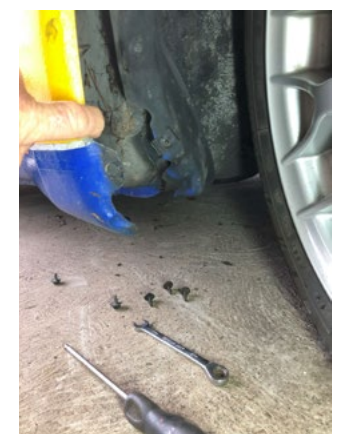
As all NA cars are now getting on in years, it is important to keep a check on rust. An easy job to reduce rust under the front wheel arches is to clear out all the dirt which has accumulated by getting through the plastic underguards.

Start by steering the car to the right to give more access to loosen the screws. Now remove the three small screws that are attaching the plastic underguard with a Phillips head screw driver, a short screw driver is used for the bottom edge of the guard. Along the bottom edge of the guard there are also two small bolts which require a 10mm socket or spanner to remove.

Once these five fasteners are removed, the bottom edge of the guard should be loose enough to pull out 50mm or so and should allow dirt build up to be removed. (Repeat the process on the other side, steering the car to the left to gain access)

If rust is found in this area, fish oil spray will help, or other rust preventative measures. Put a little bit of grease on all fasteners and screw back together.

It is surprising how much dirt is under this guard and washing alone won't remove it.



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