

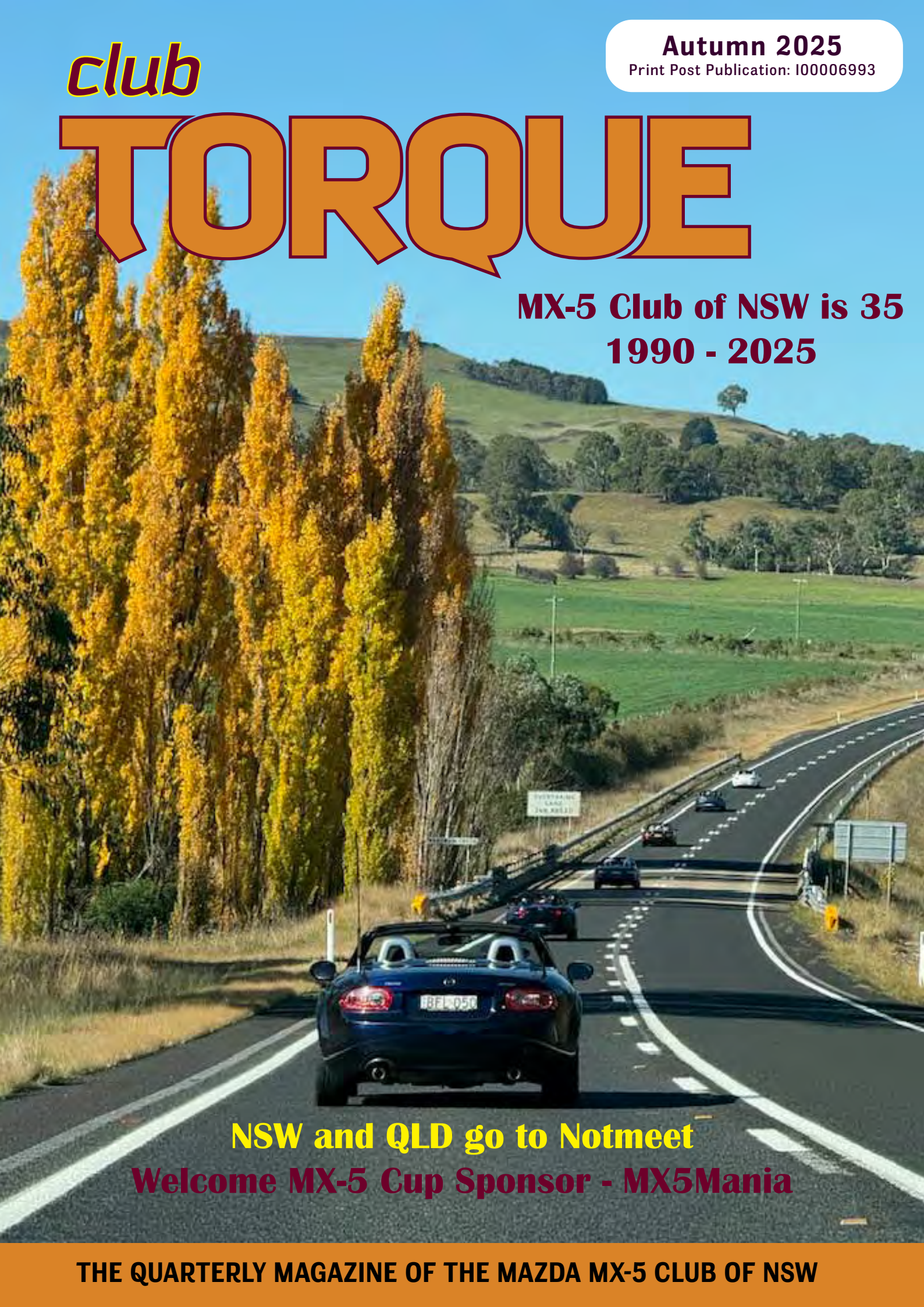
club

Autumn 2025

Print Post Publication: I00006993

TORQUE

**MX-5 Club of NSW is 35
1990 - 2025**



NSW and QLD go to Notmeet
Welcome MX-5 Cup Sponsor - MX5Mania

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

Membership Report - by Bryan Shedden

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

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

Current Membership at 12th May 2025

1125



Members who joined 14th February 2025 to 12th May 2025

Antoine Biger

Liz Boyd

Darren Cai

Thomas Campbell

William Donaldson

Libby Grey

Neil Halls

Adam Hughes

Martin Hymann

Bill Lambert

Elaine Leong

Noel Lewis

David Marshall

Michael Masutti

Needa Milin

Derek Mock

Paul Nhu Doan

Ben Oldfield

Roehl Oringo

Magdalene Phillips

Leon Phun

Mark Robinson

Pete Sallows

Robert Scrymgour

Denise Sims

Gregory Sims

Leonie Stow

Jeff Swan

Alex Thomas

Laurie Walker

Emma Wood

Jonathan Wood

Motorsport - Christopher Andry

The first quarter of 2025 has been full of achievements and firsts in MX-5 Motorsport, whether it was facing a cold and rainy Pheasant Wood circuit for the first time, withstanding the blistering heat at South Circuit in March or finally roaring through One Raceway (previously Wakefield) once again. There's been great support and success from our members and it's been fantastic to see the accomplishments so far!

Seeing the amount of time and dedication the committee and volunteers put into the club truly amazes me, we're very lucky to have incredible people who help make this club run.

Christopher Andry



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.

Cover Road to Notmeet 2025	01	South Coast Minnamurra Hike	18
Membership Report	02	RPM Milk Factory Run.....	19
Motorsport Secretary in Brief.....	02	Canberra Snowy Mountains	20-21
Editor's Note and Contents.....	03	South Coast "Blokes Run"	22
President's Report	04	South Coast Twilight to Swordfish	23
2025 Committee.....	05	Sydney to Patonga	24
NATMEET 2026 Countdown	06	Hunter Mystery Sunset	25
International Women's Day WBTW	07-09	Sydney goes Zig Zagging.....	26-27
Hunter Valley to Mountains	10	Motorsport.....	28-33
Hunter Morpeth to Gundy.....	11	MX5 MANIA Sponsors MX-5 Cup.....	34-35
Member's Discount Directory.....	12	Breakfast Club Autumn Runs.....	36-37
Canberra Lerida Winery	13	Mid Nth Coast to VC Military Museum	38
South Coast goes to Exeter.....	14	Notmeet XIV	39-41
Hunter Twilight to Port Stephens.....	15	Sydney's Mostly Dry Pizza Run	42
Illawarra Berrima Cars n Coffee	16	Tech Talk	43
Illawarra Zooms to Bargo.....	17	Sponsors	44



From the Editor - Senia Gaunson

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of your Club Torque, a little late in delivery due to the Celebration of the Club's 35th Anniversary.

Autumn is a great time of year, it also marks my

second year of publishing Club Torque, having taken it on in Autumn 2024, hopefully you've all enjoyed the journey with me, just as I enjoy reading all about your MX-5 journeys. Many exciting events have happened since then, and lots more in the pipeline for 2025, including the **MX-5 Club of NSW 35th anniversary** celebration, which will be happening as you read this!

Notmeet, a biennial event, held in between Natmeet years and organised by our former editor, Stephen Carter, took place in Glen Innes this year. They covered some amazing country towns and supported and enhanced the local economy. You can find the full

story on Pages 39 - 41, along with the great Club Torque Cover photo by Wendy Mulholland.

Motorsport is alive and vibrant in our Club. We had the opportunity to visit the new OneRaceway in Goulburn recently to watch R2 of the MX-5 Cup, along with other marques racing. I can tell you this is a fabulous day, and if you haven't tried it yet, DO IT, as a spectator or a participant, or both.

I am always on the lookout for member stories and photos, be they travel stories here or OS, preferably in an MX-5. Who is our youngest member? Who is our oldest member? If you have a story that needs to be told, why not email it to me, there are MOTY points up for grabs.

Finally, thank you once again Chris Cameron for doing a final check of the magazine, you are the Club's grammar and spelling bee champ!

All the best

Senia Gaunson



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President's Report

by Ian Combes

Here we are in Autumn. I hope everyone got out in their MX-5 over Summer – it wasn't a stinking hot summer, so it was a good time to get out and about, that's for sure.

Ok, there were exceptions –the first Club track day of the year at Eastern Creek was 38°C – not a good time to be getting around in a 3 layer race suit in race car with no aircon!

This year, the Club turns 35, so we are having a celebration at Gledswood Homestead and Winery on the 21st June. We missed out on the 30th anniversary because of you know what, so we're determined that this event is something to remember. John Purcell, with great support from an enthusiastic committee, has the planning for the event well and truly under control. For this year, this 35th anniversary lunch will take the place of the President's Picnic, so will be subsidised by the Club. This

event filled up fast, so hope you got your entries in! Looks like a great venue.

As I alluded to above, the 2025 motorsport season has well and truly kicked off. The first CSCA supersprint that the Club has been to in a long while (we were a member of CSCA a long while ago), on the 15 March was a great event (though hot) with the MX-5 Club making up a large slab of the entries. Despite 100 entries, it ran well. Round 2 is not until the 1st of June, but it is at the new OneRaceway circuit, and trust me it's a great circuit.

We have now had two rounds of the MX-5 Cup championship, and by the time you read this, there will have been a third. The second round was actually at One Raceway (early April) with 34 MX-5s lining up on the grid. What a sight. Even better when you are in the middle of it! Even with that many cars, it was a very clean and fun weekend for everyone. Take it from me – if you get a chance to drive this circuit – take it!

This event also marked the first MX-5 Cup event with MX5 Mania as the series sponsor. Great to have MX5 Mania supporting this series!

In the middle of April was the 6 Hour Regularity Relay run by the

NSWRRC. This event always attracts a number of teams from the club and this was no exception. The Panorama Mountain Men showed their class by taking out the event once again. Well done guys!

The next event at time of writing will be the Club's NSW Supersprint round at One Raceway, which by the time you read this will have been run and won. Should be a fantastic event.

The hard-working Natmeet 2026 committee have just been through the expression of interest process for our event next year. We had a strong response to this, so that bodes well for the event next year. Planning continues of course. By the time you read this, we won't be that far from opening entries for the event, which will be on us before we know it. Make sure that you block out these dates – this event will not be something to miss, that's for sure!

At the time of writing Notmeet has just been run, so hopefully you will see a good report on that.

I hope everyone is enjoying the Indian Summer we seem to be having – Winter will soon be with us.

Keep driving!

Ian Combes



Cover Photo by Wendy Mulholland - "The Road to Notmeet 2025"

COMMITTEE

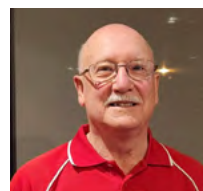
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Club Historian Elaine Caldwell	



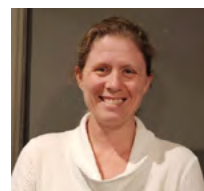
2025 COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT - Ian Combes



VICE PRESIDENT - Jeff Rowe



TREASURER - Helen Green



SECRETARY - Wayne Luxford



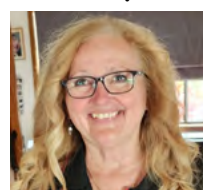
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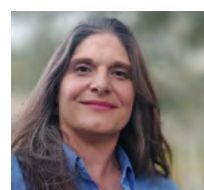
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MOTORSPORT - Chris Andry



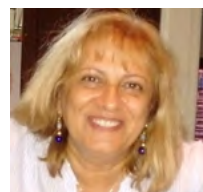
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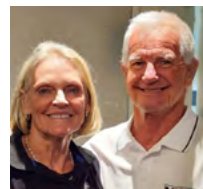


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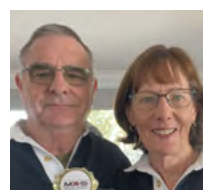
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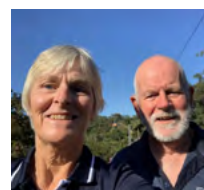
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HUNTER - Elaine & David



SOUTH COAST - Rose & Geoff



MID NTH COAST - Rosy & Ken



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COUNTDOWN TO NATMEET 2026!



A visit to Rydges, Hunter Valley, venue for 2026 NATMEET - by Senia Gaunson

With NATMEET 2026 just over 12 months away, a few of us thought we'd check out Rydges in the Hunter Valley, the venue for the 2026 NATMEET, and see what all the fuss was about.

We arrived Wednesday lunch time, taking the non-toll route from the Illawarra, which was quite a good choice, with mid-week traffic fairly "light", well by Sydney standards anyway.

Having booked the trip with Luxury Escapes, we were greeted with lots of inclusions, including cocktails or boutique beers on the back deck, which some of our group were already enjoying when we arrived.

Rydges is spread over 100 acres and includes a Golf Course, two swimming pools, including a family water park and spa, as well as an adults only pool, which we enjoyed immensely, although a couple of our group would have liked a water feature or two and tried out the family one as well. There is also a gym and beauty / massage spa.

After a long drive, we decided a casual, alfresco dinner in Lovedale Bar and Grill was the way to go. The choices were fresh, delicious and inexpensive and we got to experience a beautiful Hunter Valley sunset for free.

Our rooms were well appointed and roomy, beds comfortable and I was asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow. Rydges has many room and apartment options, something to suit everyone. We had a 3 bedroom apartment for NATMEET 2024 in Toowoomba, and think we might do the same for Hunter NATMEET 2026.

Thursday morning buffet brekky in the Redsalt Restaurant was amazing, one of the best buffets I've experienced, so many options that we really didn't need lunch and were off exploring and wine tasting. Rydges offers weekend shuttles to their vineyard as well as others in the area, unfortunately Thursdays are not included, so we were mindful not to overdo the wine-tasting (the drivers at least). There are lots of wineries nearby, as well as a Cheese place that actually makes fresh rind cheeses daily and putt putt golf course. I was most surprised to learn that Rydges has their own winery and would be able to provide transport to the vineyard for our group next year.

We enjoyed the alfresco dining at Lovedales so much the night before, and with the glorious weather the Hunter put on for us, we chose the same place for Thursday night's dinner and were treated to some delicious local wines to go with it.

So, do we recommend Rydges for our 2026 NATMEET? We most certainly do and will be booking our accommodation as soon as it is open for 2026, I would suggest you do the same!

Keep an eye out for NATMEET 2026 updates on the website and put May 3rd to 8th 2026 in your diary.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

MX-5 WOMEN BEHIND THE WHEEL



March 8th marks International Women's Day and a number of our Chapters organised varied events for our female members, here are some of their stories.

Illawarra WBTW 8/3/2025 - by Zan Dimovski.

A group of twelve enthusiastic women from Illawarra, South Coast and Sydney, in eight stylish cars gathered at Hungry Jack's in Haywards Bay, ready to embark on a scenic drive to the historic Robertson Hotel for a special high tea, a celebration of International Women's Day. With weather on our side, we cruised along the picturesque route with our tops down, soaking in the fresh air and stunning countryside views.

The Robertson Hotel, perched gracefully atop a hill and surrounded by lush green gardens, felt like a step back in time. Its timeless charm and elegant setting made for the perfect destination. As we stepped inside, we were warmly welcomed by the inviting glow of a cosy fireplace, adding to the intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. The beautifully arranged tables, adorned with delicate china and vintage furnishings, set the stage for an unforgettable experience.

Upon arrival, we indulged in a celebratory glass of bubbly or red wine, complemented by a classic English breakfast tea. We were delighted to be joined by two additional members from RPM, making our gathering even more special. Among us was Anne Fox, who joined her first run in "Max," her stunning green NA, adding to the excitement of the day.

As we settled in, the conversation flowed effortlessly, as it always does when women come together. We savoured an exquisite selection of delicate finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones with jam and cream, and an array of delightful pastries. The laughter, camaraderie, and shared stories made the occasion all the more meaningful.

It was truly a beautiful morning spent celebrating the incredible women in our community, embracing friendship, empowerment, and the simple joys of life.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

MX-5 WOMEN BEHIND THE WHEEL



Women Behind the Wheel – Hunter Style by Chris Cameron

Warnings for Cyclone Alfred loomed large as Saturday 8th March approached, so the day before saw our reccy run not only cover the planned route, but also a very short, weather-safe version as a backup so we wouldn't miss out on our outing. Like carrying an umbrella, having a plan B worked, with a cloudy but dry start at Raymond Terrace for our 14 ladies in 8 cars. Included in our group was first-timer Gloria as well as several friends as welcome guests.

Consensus was for a top-down run, so we headed off on lovely country roads through Osterley, Hinton and Largs – where we had a short regroup and turnaround due to me missing a turn. Having elected to be the only car to drive top-up (electric hard-tops are slower to put up if heavy rain starts & I wasn't convinced we would get to Pokolbin without getting wet), but I bit the bullet & took the opportunity to put mine down too. Then on to Bolwarra and the beautiful windy road through Maitland Vale, Rosebrook and Windermere to rejoin the New England Hwy at Lochinvar. Traffic was almost non-existent and the sun peeked through the cloud from time to time, reminding us why we love our gorgeous little sports cars.

A quick regroup after joining the highway, then we turned off again onto Allendale Road to Lovedale and Pokolbin, passing beautiful wineries, horse studs and outdoor cafes along the way. The roller-coaster called Palmers Lane took us to our morning tea stop at La Casalinga where Grace and her team hosted us for a delicious mini-high tea. The option for a glass of bubbly was taken up by several ladies and many left carrying a piece of Grace's delectable Italian-style millfogie (aka vanilla slice). Meanwhile, a small drama was playing out in the carpark with a warning light coming up on Lilo's car. Wendy made a phone call to Brian who was able to reassure them that the light was not a concern, and they were able to join the group for morning tea. Phew!

After morning tea, four ladies said their goodbyes and headed home, with the rest of the group taking the scenic route through the heart of Pokolbin and into Cessnock, negotiating the heavy traffic all trying to get into Aldi for their Saturday specials! But we were soon back on rural country roads, passing through Kitchener, Abernethy and Kearsley – when the heavens suddenly opened and we admitted defeat, briefly stopping at Elrington to put our roofs up. Then the home run through Richmond Vale and Pelaw Main to our lunch destination at Weston Workers Club. Having eaten a substantial morning tea earlier, many ladies elected for share plates, which was a good call as portion sizes at the club are quite generous.

An hour or so later, having enjoyed the wind-down camaraderie over lunch, we said our goodbye's and headed home, most by the nearby Hunter Expressway. Thank you to all the ladies who came along and made the day great fun. All suggestions welcome for the next one!





4/3/2025 WBTW Canberra Stash and Destash

Words and Photos by Jo Blackburn

"Wake, butterfly—it's late, we've miles to go together."

So started our WBTW run to the Stash and Destash market at Gunning on Sunday 2 March. An early start because as everyone knows if you are going to a market, you go early. There were a couple of butterflies who missed the start completely but for 7 cars and 11 people a quick coffee at Sutton Bakery and then off into a perfect, glorious early Autumn morning that only Canberra and the surrounding areas of NSW can deliver.

The road in pretty good condition following a Cole's delivery truck that did an excellent job of leading the convoy at a pace which suited us all.

The Creative Gunning Stash and Destash market is in its 3rd year. If you sew, knit, spin, patchwork, embroider, read or draw then this should be your yearly restocking event. Excellent wool, material, tools, accessories at prices that made you think you had gone a long way back in time.

And to finish off our shopping morning, CWA scones with a cup of tea. And then another fabulous drive home in a morning that continued to delight. Perfect.



Sydney WBTW Waterfont Lunch 7/3/2025 - By Maree Eccleston. Photos by Libby Kooyman

A small but enthusiastic group of women headed off on our short run from Mt Colah Maccas to the Moonee Moonee Club which overlooked the Hawkesbury River. We were all hoping the rain would hold off as Tropical Cyclone Alfred was heading towards the north coast of NSW and Queensland which was bringing some unsettled weather our way. Fortunately the weather was kind to us even sending some sunshine our way.

Even though this was a planned club run, no one drove their MX5s for various reasons, instead bringing their daily drives! Sandra did drive her NEW Mazda CX30 2.5lt which resulted in a great deal of conversation, backing up our love of Mazda cars.

Lots of laughs and conversation was had with these lovely ladies whilst enjoying our delicious seafood meal which was topped off with a glass of bubbles.

Thank you Honie for organising such an enjoyable event.



On February 1 our day started at the Mt Sugarloaf lookout.

After morning tea our group had an informative presentation by Benita, a member of the heritage group.

Benita talked about the history of Mt Sugarloaf, a sacred site to the Awabakal people who once occupied the lands from the mountain to the coast in Newcastle. The mountain was noted by Captain Cook in 1770 in his journals and much later worked by coal miners due to the large coal deposit underneath the mountain.

A notable date for Mt Sugarloaf was July 18, 1965 when snow fell on the mountain.

We then travelled to the Sugar Valley Library Museum at Cameron Park where we learned more about the history of the local area of its people, mining and many pubs.

Lunch was at the Holmesville Hotel which has lasted the time and still serves to this day.

Thanks to Phill and Mara for a great day, I learned so many things about the area that I never knew!



HUNTER - MOUNTAINS to VALLEYS
Words: David Gazzard | Photos: David Gazzard and Ray Cosier

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Oh, we all had such a great day on Sunday

On the road from Morpeth common to Gundy.
12 MX-5s with 22 members took off in line without a fuss
On that sweltering day of 37 Celsius.

Tops down and sun blazing
Through winding country roads which were amazing.
Green hills and valleys far and wide
No sunburnt country on either side.

A wee stop at Singleton Heights which many were keen to seize
But, oh no, there was no water to the amenities.
Debbie donned her Sherlock Holmes hat,
Found the faucet, turned it on and that was that.

On through mining country and the GPS decided to take us all a
new way
Chris said let's be adventurous, we said ok!
Off to Castle Rock via a road that became a lane,
Then grass grew through the asphalt becoming slightly insane.

Deliverance tunes were playing across the air waves
As the few local residents looked at us all with dismay.
When the signs started stating proceed at your own peril
A mass U-turn was in order as things were turning feral.

Back through the mines to Aberdeen
And then through beautiful horse country - what a magnificent
scene.
Finally at Gundy we came to rest
At the Linga Longa Inn where lunch was the best.

A giant thank you to Christine and John from one and all,
For another awesome run - we had a ball



HUNTER - MORPETH TO GUNDY
Words: Dennis Henderson | Photos: Wendy Mulholland | 16th March 2025



Doesn't everyone like the chance of a Bargain or a Discount?

By Jeffrey Rowe - Vice President

You may or may not know that the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW has a **'Members Discounts Directory'**.

It's on the club website and accessible to all members. If you go to the Club Webpage and from the selections across the top select 'Club Zone' a drop down menu will appear. From this menu select 'Members Discounts' and there you have it.

You can select from a number of options:

- * **Automotive Products**
- * **Automotive Services**
- * **Hospitality**
- * **General Products**

Under each of the options you can choose from a number of businesses all offering MX-5 Club Members discounts.

Whether it's a service at a Mazda Dealer, parts, brake components, soft top roof repairs or advice, suspension updates or tuning, clothing, a weekend away or financial advice there are opportunities that each member has access to. There are too many to list here so go on the website and check them out for yourself.

Not all of the businesses will be in your area but with 'On-Line' Shopping options and internet connections they may still be able to meet your requirements with a very competitive price.

Many of these businesses are supporting

us with Club or Chapter Sponsorship or Advertising in our 'Club Torque' Magazine, so if the need arises where you need an item or advice give them a call and let them know you are a Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Member there may be an opportunity for benefits both ways.

By using the listed businesses services we will be helping ourselves and each of the businesses and encouraging them to continue supporting the Mazda MX-5 Club NSW membership through Sponsorship and Advertising.

You can find this on the M-X5 Club website under:

Club Zone - Member Discounts

(example shown below)

General Products

Present your current club membership card when claiming these offers.

Aceit Uniform Specialists



Products: For all your apparel and merchandise requirements.
Offer: By quoting code MX5FORS you will receive 5% off your online purchase. Offer valid until 6 Feb. 2026.
Contact: Website, Email, Dawn Gregory 02 4228 4054
Location: 107 Kenny St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Awards R Us



Products: Trophies / Merchandise / Uniforms - can be custom designed.
Offer: 5% discount to MX-5 Club members only on presentation of a valid membership card.
Contact: Website, Email, Leesa 02 9679 7096
Location: 24 Pittwater Road, Gladesville NSW 2111



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1 Stanthorpe Dr, Kanahooka
02 4261 9111



5% Discount for Members

Words and Photos: Cathy and Simon Trickett
8th February 2025

Our first run as leaders, and the Bureau of Meteorology forecast induced some stress, with heavy rain and large hail expected through the morning and afternoon. However, it turned out to be a less than accurate forecast (thank goodness).

19 members in 12 cars met early at the Two Before Ten cafe at Denman Prospect for coffee etc before heading off under sunny blue skies. The run down to Uriarra Crossing was a relaxed affair with only a small number of lycra clad fauna on the road. These were successfully avoided and once we passed the crossing, we barely saw another soul until Yass.

Mountain Creek Road, whilst not the twistiest of roads, is one of our favourites due to the scenery and the picturesque homestead near a single lane bridge that crosses Ledgers Creek. It feels far removed from suburbia which is only 25 minutes away. The only thing to avoid today was the large volume of tree litter that had fallen on the road following storms earlier in the week. Regrouping at the next intersection, we took a right turn onto Wee Jasper Road. Taemas Bridge is always a highlight, although the low water level of the Murrumbidgee River wasn't what we expected given the rain we've been having. Those amongst us who were looking for twists and turns would have been delighted with the climb out of the valley from Taemas Bridge up to the plateau that would eventually take us to Yass.

We picked up an extra MX5 as we left Yass, and then headed in an orderly fashion along the Barton Highway to Murrumbateman for a 'convenience' stop at the show ground. The popular Murrumbateman markets were on but there was still plenty of parking available. Leaving the show grounds we quickly left the highway to get onto Murrumbateman Road. An easy stretch of road that would eventually lead us to Shingle Hill Way and the Federal Highway. Before arriving at our destination where we able to take in the view of the almost full Lake George with the wind turbines on the far side as a backdrop.

Another three members were waiting to join us as we drove into Lerida Estate Winery. Parking was easy (although the gravel driveway was a bit like the Grand Canyon in places and would have been interesting had it been raining!) and we almost managed to get all our cars parked in one row.

As part of the visit a wine tasting had been

arranged. This encompassed many wines, starting with a Prosecco, through the whites, reds and finishing with a dessert wine. A broad selection of varieties was served to suit all tastes. Lunch was excellent with a selection of meats, cheese, olives, garlic bread and chips. The baked Brie topped with walnuts was a firm favourite. There was plenty of chatting and laughter. Fortunately the other patrons were seated outdoors so they weren't drowned out by the 'loud' MX-5 group!

As to the tour, it was an abridged version as an even larger group had taken over the main production area of the winery. Maybe next time...

After the tour, members departed in their own time, some opting to stay and try the desserts, others to buy some of the wine. We were in the latter group and ended up with some Prosecco to enjoy later at home.

A fun day was had by all and from our perspective, as first time run leaders, the rare feat of avoiding any u-turns, arriving at the venue on time, and without losing anyone along the way, has set a high bar for our future runs!



Words and Photos by Rose Smith
13th February 2025



One good thing that comes with the expansion of the Shoalhaven is it has given us new places to start our runs. The North Nowra Tavern has a large rear carpark which is an ideal meeting place for runs heading up Kangaroo Valley Road. At 9:15am today, the carpark was almost empty, however, it probably wouldn't be quite as easy to park later in the day.

Sixteen of us, in 4 white, 4 red and one blue MX5's, had a dream run to Kangaroo Valley. This was the first run in years where we didn't experience roadworks, trucks, caravans or slow drivers blocking our way. But as the saying goes 'all good things come to an end'. The group became slightly separated as we continued up Barrengarry. The addition of a crazy mustang driver certainly added 'flavour' to the drive. The driver overtook a few MX5's on the inside and others over double lines, some people shouldn't have a license. We were all pleased when he disappeared.

Misty light rain was falling as we arrived at the Robertson Cheese Factory for morning tea, where we were met by two more members who live locally and drive a white MX5. The staff were friendly, and the food and drink choices suited everyone, with scones being a popular choice. We basically had the cafe to ourselves, so it was a very relaxed atmosphere. We probably spent too much time chatting as we missed the opportunity to have a bit of retail therapy. Anda and Rose did quickly peek into the shop as everyone else headed to their cars and a red handbag was almost purchased.

On the short drive from here to Exeter, Google decided to change the run route, so we spent a bit more time on the highway and arrived at Exeter General Store Cafe (also the Post Office) for lunch about 10mins early. The cafe menu had a good variety of food on offer, and it was delicious. Some of us would return just to have another steak. The outdoor area was well shaded with trees and umbrellas and was a pleasant place to have lunch. As usual conversations flowed and were only interrupted by a few large trucks that occasionally rattled through the intersection. This was our first time here and is definitely worth revisiting.

Thanks Bob and Linda for organising a great day out.



SOUTH COAST CRUISE TO EXETER



Words and Photos by Denise Birrell
1st March 2025



A large group gathered at Thornton McDonalds at 3:15 in the afternoon for our twilight run up the Bay for dinner. In total some 28 Hunter chapter members (15 Mazda MX-5s) were there for Lilo's briefing, an excellent turn out. We wove around through Thornton, Beresfield and back across to Raymond Terrace and out through William Town and onto Nelson Bay Rd.

Then it was down through the Bay and out towards Fingal Beach, where we struck quite a few folks off to the food and wine festival at Shoal Bay. So our run leaders wisely decided to head straight out to Fingal Beach for a quick photo opportunity then cruise our way back to the Nelson's Bay Golf Club for dinner.

This proved an excellent venue as the meals were very good, as was the company and to finish off a great night, a nice twilight run home with the top down.

Well, done Lilo & Brian

HUNTER - TWILIGHT RUN

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23rd February 2025

Berrima Cars n Coffee

Words and Photos: Phil Betts



It was an early 6:15 am start as nine MX-5 club members gathered at Hungry Jack's Haywards Bay, ready for another memorable run. The crisp morning air was soon warmed by the sight of a stunning sunrise, making the early rise well worth it.

Five MX-5s lined up, their tops down, engines humming. The sound of chattering teeth mixed with the low rumble of exhausts as we prepared to set off on our journey to Berrima.

It wasn't long before we encountered the twisting roads of Macquarie Pass. With fresh morning air and clear roads ahead, the winding ascent was a perfect way to start the run. Each turn was met with precision as we carved our way up the pass, enjoying the balance and agility of our MX-5s.

We soon passed through Robertson, where a misty fog lined the road, creating an eerie yet beautiful scene. The cool air lingered as we continued towards Moss Vale, where the sun finally began to break through, casting a golden glow over the countryside. The temperature started to rise, making for a perfect top-down cruising experience.

On the approach to Berrima, we found a perfect parking spot where we could line up our MX-5s and display them for everyone to see. We then ordered a long-awaited and well-deserved takeaway coffee before taking to the streets to see the amazing cars on show. While walking around, admiring the variety of vehicles, we met up with five other MX-5 club members who had arranged to meet us there.

Excitement filled the air as we explored a stunning range of cars, from 1950s classics to modern sports cars. There was so much to talk about as we strolled through the impressive display.

At 9:00 am, we all gathered at Schmokin's VIP lounge, where we were greeted with the kind and friendly hospitality of the owners, Martyn and Pauline. We enjoyed a beautiful breakfast while sharing stories and laughs.

The journey to Berrima was a reminder of why we love these drives—great company, stunning roads, and the thrill of open-top motoring. As we arrived at Schmokin' for Cars & Coffee, the sight of fellow enthusiasts made for the perfect end to a fantastic morning run.



ILLAWARRA FEBRUARY ADVENTURES

9th February 2025

Cruising to Hotel Bargo for lunch

Words and Photos: Phil Betts



The sun was shining, the skies were clear, and the excitement was electric as 21 MX-5 club members gathered at Hungry Jacks Haywards Bay. Fourteen roadsters lined up, tops down, engines humming in anticipation of the 103km, 1-hour 45-minute journey ahead.

With a spirited start, the convoy made its way towards Macquarie Pass, where the twisting mountain roads provided the perfect playground for our nimble machines. The crisp morning air rushed past as we climbed higher, the smell of forest filling our cabins.

We soon reached Tourist Road; a beautiful tree-lined stretch bathed in dappled sunlight. Everything was smooth—until two cars briefly went astray at an unexpected turn. A fast response from our tail-end

Charlie (Paul Byers) and a quick regroup over the radios, a bit of laughter, and they were back in formation.

The climb continued along Range Road, where long, open bends invited a gentle push of the throttle. Passing through the outskirts of Bowral, then on through the little town of Hill Top, before cruising onto the flowing open roads toward Thirlmere and Tahmoor.

At last, Hotel Bargo came into view. The group parked their MX-5's and stepped inside, greeted by warm and friendly staff. Over a well-earned lunch, we enjoyed delicious, well-priced meals, beautifully presented and full of flavour. As laughter and stories filled the air, one thing was certain—a great drive, great company, and great food made for another unforgettable MX-5 adventure.



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Words and Photos by Bob Downing and Rose Smith
18th February 2025



Rose had promised us something different for this run and this was achieved. With a starting time of 9:30am everyone was assembled at Hungry Jacks by 9:15am giving plenty of time to purchase coffees. Instead of the usual rainbow assortment of MX5 colours white again prevailed, 4 in fact, accompanied by a lone blue and lone red, later to be joined by another white and a silver car, plus a lone Nissan Patrol which hid itself away from the crowd. Definitely a first, for 5 white cars on a South Coast run.

After leaving Hungry Jack's Geoff led us on a sometimes spirited drive along the freeway to the Kiama turnoff to Jamberoo where we took the roads less travelled across and around Saddleback Mountain to Jamberoo. As many of us hadn't travelled that way before, we saw sights which were spectacular at times, with views up and down the valleys and out to the Ocean (and the occasional countryside odours)

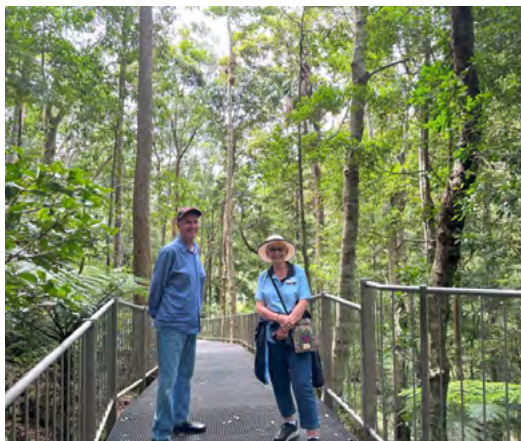
On arrival at the national park, we headed to the furthest parking area and then traversed down the hill via many stairs to the Information Centre where we had morning tea before the most hardy of us took the walk up to the falls. A few of us less mobile individuals stayed back to mind the lunches and spent

an enjoyable hour so chatting about many things, mainly non mx5 related.

The easy walking track was only partially opened, so we all decided to take the longer track up to see the falls. Perhaps Rose should have carried the AED as this walk was all uphill and quite steep in many places. Some found the walk fairly easy, but most of the group were doing some serious huffing and puffing as we trekked up the boardwalk. However, we all agreed it was worth the effort. The track to the falls was magnificent, we were surrounded by large ferns, staghorns, trees and vines and could hear rushing water under us for almost the entire track. Luckily, we also got to see three lyrebirds scratching around in the undergrowth. At the top of the walk, we spent quite a bit of time admiring the falls, which also gave us time to recover for the return walk.

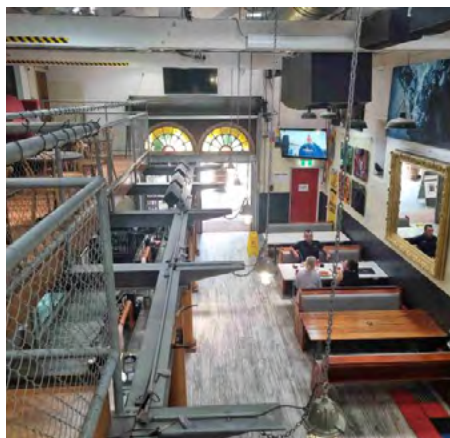
After an enjoyable picnic, and with everyone rested and refreshed it was soon time to say our farewells until the next time that we meet.

Bob and Rose



SOUTH COAST HIKE TO MINNAMURRA FALLS

Words: Chris Wyatt | Photos: Rob Wilkins
27th February 2025



The heat was already starting to build as our group of award winning members fuelled up with coffee and other healthy things. Maccas Windsor is always a great start to a great day. A couple of heroes put their roof down as we turned left and followed Gary Joss into the historic northwest for a fun day out.

Much of Sydney is undergoing development but the run through Pitt Town, Cattai and Wisemans Ferry showcases the old northwest with small villages dotted along the fun winding roads. Even the newer large homes being built seem to fit in with the environment.

A comfort stop on the south side of the ferry, gave us a chance to talk about the weather and the easy run we were having. The queue onto the ferry took some time under the shady trees so we could turn off the engines and enjoy the river breeze. I always find it comforting how many people leaving the ferry will allow us to leave as a group but as usual there was just one getting in front of Brigid and Ron to break the line. Fortunately, they didn't get held up for too long and our radios kept us in touch. Since the heavy rains a couple of years ago the damaged roads are taking some time to repair with a couple of automatic red/green areas and many single lane zones slowing us to enjoy the beautiful river views.

Mangrove General Store was due to be another comfort stop but it was rather crowded so a quick vote and we were back onto Wisemans Ferry, then Bloodtree roads, towards Wyong.

Alison and Cape Roads brought us to our lunch destination right on time. The



Old Wyong Milk Factory is the home to many small businesses including various specialised food outlets, a childcare centre and the ubiquitous gym. The centre of the complex is a pub style dining area with various small and large rooms over multiple levels. The menu is a reasonable size with good sized servings of fresh food. We were allocated a room on the upper level and soon found the heat a bit much so as soon as we ate we headed down to the bar for drinks and coffee. My big find of the day was large cappuccinos for just \$5. Really old world, with service to match.

We found a table and gathered around as some needed to go, leaving a group of us breaking all the rules, talking politics and other naughty things until we were nearly the last ones there. The run home was good for us avoiding tolls but leaving the top up and testing out the A/C.

Another great day out thanks to Gary Joss.

RPM HEADS NORTHWEST TO THE MILK FACTORY

Words: Simon Trickett
Photos: Simon Trickett, Rob Wilkins and Lili Chi
9th to 10th March 2025



Meeting at Calwell shops on a slightly grey Sunday morning, 7 cars (and not a single Soul Red amongst them!), 11 members and 1 ring-in (my dad) took on the Snowy Mountains Extravaganza, a two day 850km jaunt.

Alas for some, there was no caffeine to be had at Calwell shops – unless you count the servo coffee that nobody was tempted to try. So off we drove for the first leg of the journey down to Cooma and then on to Adaminaby. There was a slight drizzle so a detour onto Old Cooma Road was required so people could put up their roofs. Back on the highway it was an uneventful drive until our morning tea stop at Adaminaby.

Whilst taking in the wondrous sight of the 'Big Trout' the group got their much needed caffeine and whatever sweet treat they fancied. For me, it was the sour cherry pie, yum!

By this point the clouds had disappeared and it was warming up nicely, so it was hats on and tops down. Until now the roads had been pleasant but nothing too exciting, however from here to Jindabyne it was all about the roads. Ignoring the GPS, (because I know better!) we didn't take Kings Cross Road past Selwyn Ski Resort, instead we veered to the right to continue on Link Road. It was a good choice, as this stretch of road was devoid of other road users and was full of sweeping bends with good visibility around them, no line markings to be seen however, so driver beware. Going this way we did get to see a group of wild Brumbys grazing near the road, we also saw plenty of evidence of them with many piles of poo on the road!

To give the group the chance to stretch their legs, we took a detour into the town of Cabramurra where we stopped at the lookout. This lookout area was the original location of the town before it was moved in 1974 to its current more sheltered position. The town was home to the Snowy Hydro employees, but now most of them drive in / drive out.

Descending to the Tumut Pond dam we were able to enjoy watching some ducks paddling slowly across the large expanse of water. To me it seems a bit big to be called a pond given the dam is holding back 52,793 megalitres of water. Once back in our little sports cars we headed in the direction of Khancoban. Yet again the roads were superb and the scenery was equally picturesque.

Lunch at the Pickled Parrot Providore provided much needed sustenance after the morning we had had. By this time it had really warmed up, so for some it was tops up and air con on for the next leg.

For those who haven't driven the Alpine Way from Khancoban to Thredbo, it could be compared to the local run from Uriarra Village to the Cotter (6kms of twisty road). Except it is 76km with tighter corners and far more ups and downs, fair comparison? Not really but its as close as I can get. Fours cars headed off first for a more spirited run up the hill whilst I stayed back with the others. This proved to be a good choice given the first group had a run in with a 'Bloody Volvo driver' whereas we had a clear run. This road really does test the driver as its narrow, has numerous blind corners, drop offs with no barriers, rock walls and tree debris on the road. But no pot holes! It is surprising how good the roads are in

CANBERRA SNOWY MOUNTAINS EXTRAVAGANZA



around the Snowy region given the weather they are exposed to. If only our local roads were this good.

The first group were waiting at Dead Horse Gap, so we swung off the road and waited for the final two cars. Given Rhys' need for some apple strudel and ice cream, we quickly got back on the road and headed for the Wildbrumby Distillery. The service was so quick that those who ordered first were getting their requests before the other end of the table had ordered! The Schnappygato proved to be a hit amongst those who ordered it. Given the comments I received, I think a lunch run to Wildbrumby will likely be on the calendar either later this year or in 2026.

From here it was just a short drive to Jindabyne and to our accommodation at Horizon's. Dinner was a casual affair at the Lake Jindabyne Hotel. Lucky for us the EFTPOS was down, so some of us were able to get the first round of drinks for free!

We woke to a rather beautiful dawn and hot breakfast, but by the time we were ready to drive out it had started raining and there were also patches of fog and mist. Not the best conditions, but, taking it easier that the previous day we all made it safely back down the mountain. To assist in regrouping at Khancoban, the kind folks in the local council organised a set of traffic lights that kept us stationary for 12 minutes and allowed those at the rear to catch up. Once we had regrouped we headed for Corryong in Victoria.

Corryong Cafe Brew was chosen by me purely for their Hedgehog slice and it didn't disappoint! Seriously though, the customer service, baked goods, tea and coffee has always been excellent here, well worth a visit if you happen to be passing.

Getting back on the road, it was back into NSW for the drive to Tumut. There was a puncture scare, however this proved to be a false alarm possibly caused by a rock which was driven over and may have upset the sensor. The only other scare we experienced was when



I rounded a corner to find an oncoming semi in the wrong lane, not sure how the MX would have fared had the truck not moved over in time.

As we approached Tumut, Google Maps indicated a car crash, so an alternate route was taken through Tumut. The Oriental Hotel was booked for lunch and again it proved to be a good place to stop. Trout is one of their specialities and those who had it said it was very good. It was here we said our goodbyes and went our separate ways.

For us we had a final interesting drive on Gocup Road before getting to Gundagai and the Hume Highway. Although at this stage I was happy to be able to set the cruise control and just relax for a while and reflect on what was an excellent weekend with a great bunch of people.

Highlights of the 2 days for me? In no particular order: a kamikaze burger, glasses left at the hotel, keys locked in a boot and a 100km u-turn – but what happens on a run, stays on a run so you'll get nothing further from me!





A lovely sunny morning saw a “bunch of blokes” with their MX5 cars arrive at the North Nowra starting point. All fuelled up we set off on our run through the lower parts of Cambewarra and up over the mountain into Kangaroo Valley. Fortunately, the two fire trucks we had followed up and over the mountain turned off in the valley leaving a clear run up Barrengarry.

A run through the highlands was pleasantly interrupted with a coffee stop at Exeter General Store. We have visited this establishment in the past and it is highly recommended for both morning coffee and lunch (and a place to post a letter if needed).

After coffee and suitably rested we headed off for a short stint on the freeway until we reached the Canyonleigh turn off. Following the road towards Canyonleigh we enjoyed reasonable bitumen until we reached the village where we were met by a section of reasonable gravel. This came as a bit of a shock to some of our participants but the road proved to be in reasonable condition, albeit a bit dusty. There were sections of small corrugations and apart from the rather potholed section where it crossed a creek bed, the road improved as we progressed.

Keith Monaghan assumed an additional role as “tail end charlie” and gate closer for the paddock fences we encountered.

On reaching Brayton we turned up Brayton Road, originally the Old Government Road, surveyed in Mitchell's time. It is easy to imagine the old bullock wagons picking their

way between the ridges and across creek crossings as these tracks were the basis of today's roads in the area.

A bit more gravel (and dust) and then we found ourselves on the highway into Goulburn. Finding the Hibernian Hotel (in the main street) proved a challenge for some but eventually we all enjoyed a nice lunch and a couple of “coldies”.

After lunch we set out on the road through Windellama to Nerriga and home. The road is continually being upgraded (annoying when the tractors are present) but in surprisingly good condition. Even the causeway at Nerriga is being attended (finally).

I suppose the Breakfast Club does this sort of thing all the time but it was a new experience for our chapter and I am sure all would agree, a great success. Let's do it again.



SOUTH COAST “BLOKES RUN”

20th March 2025 | Words: Brian Clayton | Photos: Brian Clayton and Geoff Smith



The weather was in the low thirties and the wind was blowing strongly when members left from home for our last Twilight Run for the season, Swordfish Brewers in Sussex Inlet.

For some of us this was a return visit, and it was definitely much busier on a Friday night than it was for our previous midweek lunch. With instructions given on how to find the car park we avoided the confusion Google gave everyone, directing cars to park in the water. Many of us met in the car park and Rose was wondering why Karen didn't get out of the car to join us. A large male kangaroo was grazing near the passenger door and Karen was not keen to enter his space. She was promptly 'rescued' and joined our group.

Our outdoor seating was well placed as we had great views and a gentle breeze kept us cool, while the wind belted past us into people sitting closer to the water. Our seating, for fourteen, was quite snug and the bench seating required everyone to move to allow people out to order or grab another drink. Most of us were happy to stretch our legs.

We arrived 30 mins before the kitchen opened, so we all relaxed while having drinks and catching up with our friends. Many tried some of the locally brewed beverages, with mixed reviews. We had plenty of time to peruse the menu and to change our minds many times before ordering.

Dinner was a hit. Everyone was very happy with their meals. They were large servings, well presented and very tasty. Anne had one

of the best hamburgers she had ever tasted and Rose's chips (her favourite meal) were also up with the best. There were so many in the serve, Bob had to help eat them. Better too much than not enough. Ian's cheesy garlic bread was amazing, and the pizzas also got the thumbs up.

We were keen to leave before it got too dark as we had to travel roads that were littered with wildlife from dusk, especially kangaroos.

Thanks to Geoff for organising this run for us. The Twilight runs were a 'trial first' for our Chapter and were a success with many members attending and having a great time. With daylight saving coming to an end, we have to wait until October for the next Twilight run.



19th February 2025

Words: Steve Eccleston | Photos: Maree Eccleston and Rob Wilkins



SYDNEY PATONGA BOATHOUSE

Bob and Marnie organised a great run today to the Patonga Boathouse Pub on the Central Coast. This is a very pleasant venue located across the road from Patonga Beach with views across Pittwater to Palm Beach. We met at McDonalds Dural and after clear instructions from Bob everyone proceeded off both together and in the same direction always a great way to start. Our run north took in the backroads from Dural passing through Arcadia and Berrilee on our way to the Berowra Ferry, a pleasant twisty run with very little traffic. After the ferry crossing we headed north on the old Pacific Highway for coffee at Saddles, which is a popular place to stop. Unfortunately the staff let out Singos flock of fantastic Macaw parrots for their daily exercise just before we arrived. This was a big disappointment as these birds are really fun to watch and always give you a great welcome when they are just hanging around and often upside down in the aviary. Next time.

The weather was perfect, a very pleasant day to be driving around.

Big thanks to Bob and Marnie for organising the run.



After our dose of caffeine we got back on the road again and onward to Patonga. The boathouse is very popular and was busy as usual but we managed to get two tables side by side so we could all sit together. We noticed that there were some other MX5's parked already parked out the front and to our surprise we met up with some other MX5 club members who had gone over to the dark side for the day and did a run with their Probus mates instead of us!

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Words: David Gazzard | 1st March 2025
Photos: Marlene Cosier, John Purcell and David Gazzard

HUNTER - MYSTERY SUNSET RUN



19 cars and 36 members turned up for the mystery run to see the sunset by the lake as the last day of daylight saving. A collection of MX-5's with members both new and those with many years in the club headed off from the Cameron Park car park.

We could not have asked for better weather as it was both sunny and warm. Tops down we headed off taking a path to avoid major roads. Turning off to go through Holmesville, down Wakefield Road and turn again to go via Awaba to get to the Western side of Lake Macquarie and head towards Morisset and Wyee.

Across the lights at Doyalson and a quick turn up Elizabeth Bay Road to circumnavigate the lake. Here we had to join the Pacific Highway for a short way to come to our target, Cams Wharf.

Camms Wharf had everything we needed to set out our barbecue picnic and watch the sun set over the lake. This is an unusual event as living on the eastern side of Australia the sun would normally set over land but we had come full circle to have Lake Macquarie between us and the western shore.

With two barbecues going at the same time an abundance of food was served and a lot of chatting and rejoicing about our afternoon ride.

Club Tenure awards were given out to members we had not seen for a while:

Congratulations to 15 Years for Mark and Linda Gray

10 Years for David Boyes and Lyn Davis

The evening was completed as the sun set over Lake Macquarie.



SYDNEY'S ZIG ZAGGING ADVENTURE

1st to 2nd March 2025

Words and Photos by Brigid McCarthy

On the first day of March, 13 cars gathered at McDonald's McGraths Hill, in anticipation of a grand weekend of adventuring. It was a great mixed group with Illawarra, Sydney, RPM and Motorsport club members in attendance, and, unusually, NCS winning the day.

With introductions, headcounts, and briefings completed, Vicki and Andy assembled the convoy and our journey began. Under blue sky and sunshine, we were soon rolling past the turf farms on Wilberforce Road before joining the Putty Road, and onwards to Bells Line of Road. A comfort stop at Mount Tomah allowed our convoy to regroup. From there it was a short run into the back of Lithgow, where we formed a colourful line in the Zig Zag Railway carpark.

Lunch and cold drinks were enjoyed in the shade, whilst we awaited the arrival of our steam train. There was much anticipation, as we had been assigned our own carriage, and felt like VIPs with our personal guide for the trip. Elisabeth is one of the many enthusiastic volunteers who are responsible for the recovery and return to operation of the Zig Zag Railway. She has also owned 5 Mazdas and Maree graciously donated her cap as a thank you to Elisabeth and proclaimed her an honorary member.

Our rail journey provided great opportunities to take in the views as we zigged and zagged through tunnels and had the chance to walk around each stop as the locomotive shuffles from one end to the other of the carriages for the trip up and down. The 3 sandstone viaducts were definitely a highlight of the historic and nostalgic ride.

Leaving steam whistles and puffing engines behind, it was just a short drive to our accommodation in Katoomba, allowing time to freshen up before our traditional '5'ies' gathering. This proved a nice way to ease into dinner at the Katoomba RSL. The lamb cutlets on the special's menu were declared a winner as we enjoyed a few refreshments, lots of conversation, and set the world to rights. As the evening wore on, the Club's shuttle bus driver, gently suggested it was home time.

Back at home base and decision time - to simply ease into the night with an extension of '5'sies' activities, or head to the Katoomba Night Walk..... Joe generously offered to take on the role of shuttle driver, which about half the group accepted. The Katoomba Falls Night-Lit Walk is a well-lit, short and accessible walk that allows a unique, night-time viewing experience of outstanding natural features such as Orphan Rock, Witches Leap, Katoomba Falls and Katoomba Cascades. These features are floodlit for viewing from the night walk lookouts.

The return of the night walkers marked bedtime for all, with more adventures scheduled for our Sunday.

After a well-earned rest in our quiet mountain abode, we regrouped for a morning stroll down to the Echo Point Lookout and an unobstructed view of the 3 Sisters.



Everyone agreed that it was a rare privilege to enjoy the view free of fog and ahead of the arrival of the multitude of tourist buses. From here it was a short walk back to the motel, for final packing and checking out. With a reduced convoy confirmed for our final destination, it was here that we said our farewells to Joe and his family. Having Joe's dad and his partner, as part of our touring group, and having them share some of their life story, was a true privilege.

Our final stop was at Sorensons Glasshouse in Leura. This is a lovely glasshouse café and garden, tucked into the outskirts of Leura, away from the weekend crowds. Here we enjoyed a late morning bite and chat, before exchanging goodbyes and heading homeward.

Thank you Vicki and Andy for planning and delivering such a varied and relaxed weekend, filled with great people, conversations, laughter, zig zagging and zoom zooming.



Motorsport - MX-5 CUP - ROUND 1

Words: Paul Nudd | Photo: Rob Wilkins



2025 MX-5 Cup Round 1, held 8th February 2025 - What a fabulous day of MX-5 Cup racing.

20 MX-5s assembled on the dummy grid for the Qualifying Session. Fastest in Qualifying was John Fraser followed by Jaxon Fraser and Sarah Medley. The session was cut short with 8 of us completing 4 laps and another 8 completing 3 laps. 3 did 2 laps and one only 1 lap. The qualifying times were not an accurate representation of the lap times to follow but at least put the fastest car/driver combinations towards the front for the grid for race 1.

18 MX-5s were on the grid for Race 1. 17 of them were officially in the race. Jett Herring was having alternator trouble with the new Herring Racing NC and could not make the grid for Race 1 and was permitted to race from the rear of the grid driving the "Green Eyed Monster" without competing for points. Jett was fastest in Race 1. Fastest official finisher was John Fraser, followed by Robert Giovenco then Stuart McFadyen. The rest of the field in Race 1 were Andy Boydell, Brett Lansley, Jamie Martin, Steven Head, Paul Nudd, Craig Barney, Ian Spinks, Rob Herrick, Martin Lyall, Sam Silvestro, Ian Combes and Christos Pana. Chris Stevens and Jaxon Fraser did not finish Race 1, Sarah Medley and Richard Herring did not start. We had a "Photo Finish" between Craig Barney and Ian Spinks with Craig in front by 0.1399 of a second.

18 MX-5s were on the grid for Race 2. All of them were officially in the race this time. Jett was back in the Herring Racing NC in which he qualified. The first 3 again were John Fraser followed by Robert Giovenco then Stuart McFadyen. For Race 2 the rest of the field were Brett Lansley, Andy Boydell, Jett Herring, Jamie Martin, Steven Head, Sarah Medley, Ian Spinks, Rob Herrick, Craig Barney, Christos Pana, Martin Lyall, Sam Silvestro and Paul Nudd. Richard Herring and Jaxon Fraser did not finish Race 2, Ian Combes and Chris Stevens did not start.

The race finished under safety car so the finishing times were not relevant.

Race 3 is the "Trophy Race". MRA presents trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in race 3. 18 MX-5s again faced the starter. 1st was John Fraser; 2nd was Jett Herring, and 3rd was Stuart McFadyen. Following up were Andy Boydell, Brett Lansley, Jaxon Fraser, Steven Head, Sarah Medley, Ian Spinks, Craig Barney, Paul Nudd, Rob Herrick, Martin Lyall, Sam Silvestro and Chris Stevens. Jamie Martin and Robert Giovenco did not finish Race 3, Richard Herring and Christos Pana did not start. Another "Photo Finish" between Jaxon Fraser and Steven Head with Jaxon in front by 0.2370 of a second.

The fastest MX-5 on the day was the Herring Racing "Green Eyed Monster" with Todd recording a lap of 1:41.9944 in the Super TT 1-hour Enduro. Jett managed a 1:45.3259 in the same car. The Fastest MX-5 Cup entered car/driver combination was #369 Sarah Medley in Race 3 with 1:46.1394, just pipping #62 John Fraser with 1:46.1395 in Race 1.

Fastest Naturally Aspirated car/driver combination was Jett Herring recording a lap of 1:46.1537 in Race 3.

Round 2 coming up on Saturday 5th April 2025 at One Raceway (formerly Wakefield Park).

You can find all the results on the Club website.

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Motorsport - MX-5 CLUB TRACK DAYS

Report by Phil Reid



I have competed in almost every MX-5 Club Track Day since I became a member over 10 years ago. I have driven on different tracks including, Sydney Motorsport Park, Pheasant Wood, Wakefield, Winton and Sandown International Motor Raceway with great enjoyment. My preparation

for a Track Day includes list making, list following and list checking (and rechecking). So I have laid out in list form below what is involved for me in preparing for and enjoying a track day.

1. Enter event and make payment. (I always keep an eager eye on the Club's website for upcoming Track Days.)

In the week leading up to the Track Day -

2. Prepare the car by checking the following: brake fluid, brake pads, condition of tyres, engine oil, wheel nuts, fire extinguisher, are there any visible oil leaks and of course, wash the car so it looks its best on the track.

3. Fit race seat and harness.

The day before Track Day -

4. Organise lunch, snacks and drinks.

5. Pack tools, tyre pump, tyre pressure gauge, helmet, a chair and an umbrella, etc..

Morning of Track Day -

6. Get out of bed 2 hours before I'm due at the track.

7. Have an early and quick breakfast.

8. Get dressed in race suit and shoes and check to make sure I have my racing gloves.

After Arriving at the circuit -

9. Remove all loose items from the car including floor mats (if the car were to be turned upside down anything that is likely to move or fall out should be removed, including the spare wheel and jack)

10. Collect car numbers from the tower and affix to the driver and passenger door. Gaffer tape them in place to ensure they stay put.

11. Collect lap timer (Dorian) and secure in place.

12. Scrutineering by the officials is next to check that the car is safe to run in the event.

note - there is an ambulance and medical crew on site in case of an accident.

13. Drivers Brief - the briefing covers safety and etiquette on the track, all drivers must attend.

Time to Race! -

14. Drivers are grouped based on times. Groups can contain 5 - 12 drivers/cars depending on the track.

note - First timers are sent out with an experienced driver and shown the circuit and the best lines. They complete 3 laps with the instructor driving. Then they swap and the owner does 3 laps. Then they are on their own. Throughout the day the new driver can request more tuition.

15. As each group is called up they form up on the dummy grid in order of lap times waiting to be released onto the track. Lap times are provided by each driver prior to the event. Fastest drivers head out first.

16. THIS IS THE BEST PART. It's time to head out onto the track. The official on the dummy grid releases the cars one at a time at intervals of at least 2 seconds apart. Now comes the time to concentrate and focus on driving the best lines, building confidence and skill and possibly improving your lap time (and remember to breathe, we are doing this is for enjoyment!).

17. We fit in a lunch break at a time that is suitable.

18. Once all the racing is over, we return our car numbers and dorian to the tower.

19. It's now time to cool down, have a chat with fellow drivers for a debrief and enjoy the buzz of having had a great day.

20. Time to pack up, making sure not to leave anything behind, and head home.

21. Once home, head to the computer eager to check lap times on-line via the Natsoft website.

I would like to finish by commenting on how well the MX-5 Club of NSW run Track Days. The efficiency and attention to detail are outstanding. I would like to thank everyone involved in organising and running Club Track Days, and those who participate, your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Motorsport - 6 Hour Regularity

Words: Phil Donnelley | Photos: Andrew Edgar



Over the weekend of 12th - 13th April our team, **MomentuMX5**, once again entered the 2025 NSWRRRC 6 Hour Regularity Relay AT SMSP.

Our regular drivers, Craig Franklin, Michael Tarrant, Neil Tribe were joined by a new member, Gregor Lochtie.

We were fortunate to have a great support crew made up of Gai Tarrant, Cathy and Ian Combes, Phil Reid, Graeme Tierney and Greg Unger. This made for an easier event to manage, a big thank you to these Club Members.

This event runs over two days, Saturday is scrutineering and practise sessions to allow drivers to choose their nominated lap times for the 6 hour run on Sunday. As the name implies, it's a team relay, with drivers running on track for a time, one driver from each Team, then changing over to the next Team driver for their run and so on. With a team of four, this means about three, 30 minute sessions of driving for each driver.

Drivers must lap as close as possible to their nominated lap time for maximum points.

With 30 Teams competing, it's very busy on the track, 30 cars at any one time, making it more challenging for drivers to keep to their lap times, it's not about being fast, it's about being consistent.

This year we had a mostly trouble free run, no car issues (all our cars are stock standard), no driver issues, the teamwork was great, timekeeping, pit wall and garage management worked well with very few issues, apart from some timekeeper brain fade occasionally (that was me) losing track of the car on the track, or hitting the wrong button on the stop watch !! Oooops.

All our drivers were quite consistent, scoring good points on their runs. We managed to finish in 9th place out of 30 Teams, so were pleased with the result. Even though we do this for fun and Club friendships, it feels good to do well.

The Club had 5 teams entered with 4 placed in the top 10.

Panorama Mountain Men again claimed 1st place to maintain their record of being #1 on the podium. They are the Masters of Regularity Relays.

Despite the name, the **Panorama Mountain Men** team consisted of four male drivers (Stewart Temesvary, Glenn Thomas, David Lawler and Brendan Thomas) and one female driver (Matilda Mravivic). **Matilda** can boast being the first female driver on the podium of the NSW 6 Hour event.

Barge Racing were 5th, with **Just Regular Guys** 7th and **MomentuMX5** 9th.

Great result for the Club.

MX5s were the largest car class at this event as usual, says a lot about our choice of car !

I really need to single out Craig Franklin, who competed despite suffering from some virus that effected his breathing, he managed two 30 minute runs, scoring as well as he usually does. Amazing effort for the Team.

The new boy, Gregor Lochtie was a surprise package, regularity driving came naturally to him after some tips from the Master, Stewart Temesvary. Gregor was on his nominated time very consistently scoring good points. Well done ! He will be offered a Team Contract i.e. extra food from the catering department.

Our regular, mature age drivers, Neil Tribe and Michael Tarrant were solid as always, scoring consistently. Great job from the 'Oldies'.

These events are complimented by Gai Tarrant, ably assisted by Cathy Combes, providing catering for our Team as well as the Just Regular Guys Team, what an amazing effort of preparation goes into feeding about 20 people over two days from the garage!! Makes for efficient running of the whole event with well fed, contented people!



6 Hour Relay at Mallala Raceway

By Stewart Temesvary

4th May 2025

Three weeks after taking out the NSW 6 Hour regularity relay, Panorama Mountain Men ventured to South Australia to compete in the Peter Hall Memorial 6 Hour Relay on Sunday 4th May at Mallala Raceway.

Despite all four drivers (Sean Byers, David Johnson, Stewart Temesvary and Glenn Thomas) not having previously competed at Mallala, the team started strongly and by the end of the event was almost 24 laps ahead of the second placed team.

The win at Mallala means Panorama Mountain Men are now the first regularity relay team to win all five regularity relays in NSW, Victoria and South Australia:

- NSW 6 Hour at SMSP
- Victorian 6 Hour at Phillip Island
- Sandown 360 at Sandown
- Alfa 10 Hour at Winton
- SA Peter Hall Memorial 6 Hour at Mallala.

The win at Mallala means the team is the current reigning champions at all these events except the Sandown 360.

The team thanked their pit crew, Charlie and Steve for their invaluable support.



MX-5 CSCA R1 Club Track Day

By Christopher Andry

15th March 2025

Round 1 of the MX-5 / CSCA Club Track Day championship, hosted by the Sprite Car Club on Sunday the 15th of March on the South Circuit, saw such an abundance of entrants, event organisers said that they had to put people on a waiting list!

This event had 97 competing entrants with over 45 of those being in MX-5's and club members. With the variety of different makes and models entered in the event the pit area alone was a sight to see.

Overall given the amount of entrants the day was very well run, organisers and volunteers were at the track from 6:30am in the morning to make for a smooth event.

The day was a hot one with the forecast indicating a peak of 36 degrees. Being in the cars on track was like sitting in a sauna, add on the factor of racing through the twists and turns of the technical South Circuit and you'll see that driving on that day was not an easy task.

Despite the heat, a driver who was able to overcome and excel in these conditions was

Jie Ren with a standout score of 100.65% followed by Bryan Shedden with a 99.71%

The fastest times were set at the beginning of the day as track temperatures were cooler allowing for the cars and tires to stay within optimal operating temperatures for longer, as the day went on temperatures continued to rise, competitors slowly trickled out of the venue eventually leading to the decision to call the day early.

The heat was not only felt by the drivers but also the generous volunteers on the day, calling the day early given the heat and declining numbers throughout was an appropriate decision.

We've learnt a lot from our first track day in a while with CSCA, we look forward to our return to Wakefield, now One Raceway in June



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW
Sydney Motorsport Park - Amaroo Circuit
15th March 2025

Class	Cat.	Pl.	Car Driver	Make & Model	Time	Benchmark	Score	Points
1-Standard	1F	1	111 Jie Ren	Mazda MX-5 2005	65.476	65.9	100.65%	25
	1C	2	68 Bryan Shedden	Mazda MX-5 2015	67.896	67.7	99.71%	22
2-Clubman	2E	1	213 Glenn Thomas	Mazda MX-5 2010	66.476	65.6	98.68%	25
	2B	2	134 Gerardo Martin	Mazda MX-5 1999	67.329	65.9	97.88%	22
3-Modified	3K	1	13 Luke Kovacic	Mazda MX-5 2019	63.592	61.4	96.55%	25
	3B	2	4 Jackson Crebert	Mazda MX-5 1998	67.354	64.5	95.76%	22
4-Open	4N	1	26 Brett Lansley	Mazda MX-5 2001	64.023	60.1	93.87%	25
	4N	2	46 Ian Spinks	Mazda MX-5 2016	64.946	60.1	92.54%	22
5-Non-MX-5	5O	1	76 Ralph Thompson	Lotus Exige 2015	62.286			25
	5O	2	389 David Phillips	Toyota GR Yaris 2021	65.770			22



Motorsport - MX-5 CUP - ROUND 2

Words: Ian Combes

2025 MX-5 Cup Round 2 : One Raceway 5/4/2025

This was the 2nd round of the 2025 competition and the very first MX-5 Cup event at the new **One Raceway**. This was the first time that many Cup competitors had run at the massively overhauled circuit, not that you would know that from Qualifying on Saturday! I guess that there is no substitute for talent.

The weather was just gorgeous – sunny but not too warm. A little cooler than the Friday, when a number of competitors got some pre-practice in.

The new layout is not vastly different from the old Wakefield Park circuit that we all knew and loved, but there are some significant differences. A number of the corners are wider or more 'open'. There is an extra corner after turn 2, and the old turn 10 has been replaced by a much more complex series of corners. The circuit is longer (120m or 130m I think), but not significantly slower in lap time. The compensating factor is much higher corner speed in many places. You can tell the 'gun' drivers – they are the ones who posted lap times that would not have been too shabby on the old layout. Oh, the circuit is much smoother of course, which sure helps. A lot more of the circuit is wide open throttle, especially if you were on slicks. The great news is that the new layout is even better than the original. As anyone who has been there will tell you, the facilities are great too.

For this event, we had 35 entries (what a record!) with 34 facing the starter. That was quite a sight, one which was enjoyed by a number of visitors from the Club on the day. It was great to bump into a number of Club members, many not having been to a Cup day before. What a show they got!

There was some discussion over the lap times for classes for the 'new' circuit. Evidence from other categories indicated that the circuit was 1 second/lap slower than the 'old' lap. In particular the RX8 Cup/Formula RX8 were consistently 1 second slower. Since the RX8s get around corners very much like MX-5s this was the final deciding factor. So, the class lap times were reset to 1 second slower.

Even given the heavy traffic with 34 cars in Qualifying, it was immediately apparent that for MX-5s the new circuit was not slower. The reset resulted in 18 cars in the open classes, 6 in FIO and 12 in NAO. There were just 4 cars in Class C and 5 in Class B. We had several drivers that have been running in Class A at SMP GP Circuit finding themselves in NAO, even some from Class B. That reinforces just how well suited the MX-5 is to the new circuit. The answer to this dilemma (I think) is that one or two heavy braking zones have been removed, so the focus is more on handling than acceleration.

We stuck to the pre-announced class lap times for this event, as promised. However, for Round 5 (the next round at One Raceway), we will revert to the previous class lap times.

To the racing:

Fastest MX-5 Cup lap of the day was recorded by Tim Herring with a lap of 1:04.7750 in Race 2. Tim was also the winner of the Trophy Race – Race 3.

Second in the Trophy Race was Zac Raddatz and third was Jett Herring.

The overall winner on the day was Jie Ren with 24 points from 3 wins in Class A.

Second on the day was Zac Raddatz with 23 points from a second and 2 wins in the Naturally Aspirated Open Class.

Third on the day and in his first MX-5 Cup race meeting was Jayden Psaroulis with 23 points from a second and 2 wins in Class C.

FIO Class winner was Tim Herring with 2 seconds and a win for 22 points.

NAO Class winner was Zac Raddatz with 2 wins and a second for 23 points.

Class A winner was Jie Ren with 3 wins for 24 points.

Class B winner was Sam Silvestro with 2 wins and a third for 22 points.

Class C winner was Jayden Psaroulis with 2 wins and a second for 23 points.

Despite the number of cars on the track and the need to learn new overtaking manoeuvres, the racing was very fair and very clean all day. No incidents at all. It made for a very enjoyable day for all competitors, and all drivers can take a bow for exceptional driving standards. That certainly did not mean that the racing wasn't fierce by the way – it was.

This was also the first MX-5 Cup Round with the support of our new major sponsor MX-5 Mania, and it was great to see the cars with new windscreen banners for the day. Comment from the Sponsor: "Wonderful race meeting! What a great turn out, congratulations to you all."



Motorsport - MX-5 CUP - ROUND 2

Photos: Rob Wilkins and Senia Gaunson





Coffee n Cars 3rd May 2025

Welcome to our MX-5 Cup Sponsor, **MX5 MANIA!**

Words by: Jeff Rowe and Senia Gaunson

There are not too many MX-5 Club members who haven't dealt with **MX5 MANIA**. They've helped us out on a number of occasions with parts and advice but their story is as interesting as Simone and David Raddatz themselves.

David has always been into cars and car racing, so he was forever sourcing parts for himself and mates. Starting **MX5 MANIA** was just a natural progression for him and wife Simone, who initially as a young "stay at home mum" of four, became the person who could source all things MX-5 from home, on the phone.

Simone was an MX-5 fan as far back as an 18 year old in year 12, with posters of the MX-5 NAs on her walls, while other girls had pop star posters on theirs (she had some of those as well she tells me). The love affair with the car became a reality when the young couple were looking to purchase an old BMW and there in front of the dealership was a beautiful MX-5, balloons flying! She looked but didn't dare hope. The BMW didn't stand a chance, David looked at Simone, looked at the MX-5 and said "**what about the MX-5?**" and that was it, Simone's first MX-5!

Her latest MX-5, a glorious white, series 3 NC, came from QLD previously owned by a lovely lady named Elizabeth who loved the car, never took it out in the rain but was struggling to get in and out of it, so it was time to pass it on to someone else to love. Simone named her NC Lizzy, which Elizabeth was delighted with, and Simone hasn't driven it in the rain yet either, much to the amusement of her family!

Getting back to the business, many members of the MX-5 Club of NSW know the name **MX5 MANIA Motorsport**, however, many don't look any further when they see the word "**Motorsport**" in the business logo. They think that this business is only for club members who go racing and not for social club members. Well that could not be further from the truth.

Let me tell you a little about the business **MX5 MANIA**.

This is a family business owned by MX-5 enthusiasts David and Simone Raddatz. They certainly have been involved in the motorsport side of the club with the MX-5 Cup and still are through their son Zac. They have recently become sponsors of the MX-5 Cup Series. As a Major Sponsor of the club, they are also involved with supporting the social events that are organised throughout the year.

David and Simone are long standing members of the club with David being the Motorsport Secretary (1999-2001) and Simone being the Club Captain (1999-2000), among many other roles throughout the years.



In their business David and Simone complement each other, David looks after the mechanical workshop side and Simone after administration and sales. They employ 7 staff which enables them to provide a range of quality products and workmanship.

MX5 MANIA specialises in performance and comfort enhancement of your MX-5. They have Australia's largest range of Mazda MX-5 spare parts, both new and used, as well as accessories and performance upgrades.

Celebrating over 20 years in the MX-5 business, which has grown to their current premises in Dural and On-Line Sales, they have gained the knowledge and experience through working on MX-5s to earn the trust of many members, both racing and social and helped many of us with issues outside of our skill level.

The advertisement features a large, stylized logo for 'MX5 MANIA Motorsport' at the top. Below the logo is a row of five stylized MX-5 cars in red, yellow, orange, grey, and blue. Underneath the cars, the text 'LEADERS IN MX5 PRODUCTS' is written in large, bold, yellow letters, followed by the website 'www.mx5mania.com.au'. At the bottom, there are seven logos for partner brands: Mazda Genuine Parts, dba Disc Brakes Australia, Carbotech Performance Brakes, KÖNIG, YELLOW Speed Racing, HAWK Performance, and LINK Engine Management.

BREAKFAST CLUB AUTUMN RUNS



The Alpine Run - 21st - 23rd March 2025 By Jason Brown

Nine intrepid explorers assembled in Cooma on a Thursday night. Each of us had made our own way there to partake the next day in some of the best driving roads in NSW and Victoria as we embarked on our 3 day – The Alpine Run. After a feed at the nearby Coffey's Hotel we headed back to our rooms to rest up for the long days ahead.

Day 1: The next morning around 6:30am after a hot breakfast we travelled further South to Jindabyne before turning West to take on the Alpine Way. Not even the fog and drizzle can dampen your enthusiasm on this glorious piece of road. After pausing at the Murray 1 Power Station Lookout for a photo op we drove onto Khancoban for morning tea. Whilst there, the fog and rain dissipated and we were gifted perfect weather for the rest of the day.

Shortly, back on the road there was much rejoicing over the radios as we crossed the Murray River into Victoria – a first for me as I'd never been there before.

Travelling along the sweeping and remote Murray Valley Highway we detoured into Tallangatta for lunch and to also stretch our legs and take in some of the local sights in this picturesque country town. The memorial statue for Sandy the Warhorse unveiled back in May of 2023 provided some poignant memories of the first World War. A lot of soldiers and their horses came from the local surrounds and through some heartbreaking circumstances Sandy was the only Australian horse to return home.

Resuming our journey we drove to Mount Beaty before tackling the fantastic Tawonga Gap road, taking us to our home for the next two nights in the town of Bright.

Day 2: Another early morning start with a long drive ahead of us. Today we would be heading into the Victorian High Country. We were blessed with clear skies as we stopped at the Baldy Hollow Lookout. The 1670 metre elevation offered almost 360 degree views as far as the eye could see of this incredible landscape before climbing further up to Mount Hotham and then down into the township of Omeo for lunch.

Continuing our round trip we headed out on the amazing Bogong High Plains Road. I've never been to these areas before so it was interesting to see a vastly



different landscape to what I'm used to.

The rest of the day took us down through Falls Creek and back to Mount Beauty for another late afternoon crack at Tawonga Gap road heading back to Bright for our final night away.

Day 3: There were many miles to cover today as we headed back to Sydney from Bright. We explored further into Victoria whilst making our way North back into NSW for lunch at the Niagara Café in Gundagai. After lunch we said our good byes and made our way back home.

An absolutely amazing 3 days exploring some fantastic roads and sites with exceptional company.

Milko Run - 21st - 13th April 2025 By Jason Brown

The dense early morning fog lifted just as we left Mount Colah McDonalds.

The first highlight of our trip, the always fun descent into Galston Gorge. After that we lead a merry dance though the backroads of Arcadia and Cattai heading for Wisemans Ferry.

Once we disembarked from the ferry, Wisemans Ferry Road, though a little damp from the earlier fog, was pretty much empty as we rolled along taking in the early morning sights and smells of this beautiful piece of road.

After a detour up through Yarramalong we arrived at our destination – The Wyong Milk Factory, our Milko Run complete.

After a quick breakfast including probably the best Banana Milkshake I've ever had, we said our goodbyes and departed for our homes.



BREAKFAST CLUB AUTUMN RUNS

Cobweb Run 23rd February 2025

Story: Brett Hardey | Photo: Derek Henderson

On a crisp, sun-drenched morning, 12 eager MX5s assembled at Heathcote, all revved up and ready to blow out the cobwebs for round 2 of the Breakfast Club season 2025.

There's nothing quite like 12 little engines purring in unison as we prepared to tackle the open road. The excitement was palpable as we made our way through the quiet streets, heading toward Broughton Pass, the first of many scenic twists and turns. The sun danced on our hats, and the air was filled with the intoxicating scent of fresh adventure.

We cruised through Broughton Pass with the kind of ease that only a group of like-minded MX5 lovers can enjoy. But, oh boy, we then took a detour, by mistake, of course and ended up going down Mt Kiera... twice. Yes, twice! Some might call it a mistake, but we like to think of it as an opportunity to double the fun. After all, when the road is this good, who's in a hurry to leave it behind? Twice the mountain, twice the views, twice the fun!

Our Breakfast Club runs are clearly growing, our numbers keep climbing as more people realize just how much fun it is to take the scenic route and enjoy a good meal with even better company. And speaking of breakfast, we ended our run with a breathtaking ride over Saddleback Mountain. If you've never seen a view that makes you want to pull over, take a deep breath, and just stare in awe, then you haven't experienced Saddleback. Trust me, it's one of those views that stays with you long after the car has gone.

Finally, we pulled into Diggies at Kiama, where a delicious breakfast awaited us. Was it worth the extra miles? You bet it was! We shared laughs, swapped stories, and filled our bellies with some of the best food the coast has to offer. It was the perfect end to a perfect drive.

We may have taken the scenic route a little longer than planned, but who cares? When you're in an MX5, every twist and turn is an excuse to slow down, enjoy the journey, and appreciate the company you're with.



Exeter General Store 6th April 2025

Story: Jason Brown | Photos: Gillian Fletcher

Back in 2023 I attempted to solo-lead a trip to the Exeter General Store. Unfortunately, when the time came it was closed for renovations so the venue was changed to the Eling Forest Winery. Then because I didn't do a recce for my overly complicated route we faced many road closures along the way including a suburb someone had decided to build without checking with me first.

Jump forward to 2025 and I'm trying again as five cars left Settlers at Mulgoa on a glorious Sunday morning bound for lunch at the Exeter General Store. I kept the route simple as we drove through Silverdale, The Oaks and Picton before crossing the Hume Highway to a combination of Old South Road and Telegraph Road skirting around the towns of Mittagong and Bowral. Long overdue for resurfacing all these roads have been tended to over the last year and are now in great condition.

So I finally got it done as we all safely arrived at the Exeter General Store where I had the absolutely delicious pie of the day which was Rosemary Lamb. It was glorious, like a roast dinner tucked inside a pie.

So with full bellies after catching up with one another we all parted ways and headed for home.





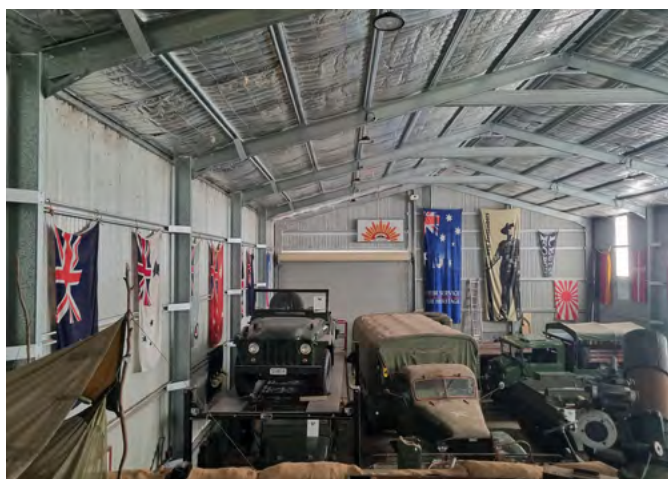
Three MX-5s and one MG met on Saturday 22 February at the 'Donut' Port Macquarie and enjoyed a great run through the Pembroke rural countryside, through Telegraph Point, onto Kempsey and via the scenic Belmore River Right Bank Road that follows the Belmore River to Gladstone.

Gladstone is a lovely village adjacent to the Macleay River where we met other members making a total of twelve MX-5s and one MG (19 members). We all enjoyed morning tea in the garden of the Heritage Hotel. From there we took the road along the left bank of the river and via Stuarts Point Road and onto Macksville.



A short drive took us to Bowraville where we visited the very interesting Frank Partridge VC Military Museum. Frank was a local boy who was decorated for his actions on Bougainville in July 1945, when he attacked two Japanese bunkers despite severe wounds. Partridge was the last and at 20 years of age, the youngest Australian awarded the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. Interestingly Chapter member Robert Partridge is a relative of Frank so he was able to relay some fascinating stories about Frank's life.

From there we walked down to the Bowra Hotel and enjoyed a delicious lunch in the courtyard. We were lucky with the weather, as the rain held off. Lots of fun and some good corners and scenic drives enjoyed by everyone. Welcome to Cody our new member and Rob joined us from the Sydney Chapter.



MID NTH COAST RUN TO VC MILITARY MUSEUM

22nd February 2025 | Words: Rosemary Black | Photos: Rob Wilkins



APRIL 2025
and Ray Cosier

Thirty years ago, the MX-5 Clubs of New South Wales and Queensland met in Coffs Harbour and began a tradition. Every second year, the non-Natmeet year, the clubs would gather, usually at Easter. This event subsequently became known as Notmeet.

The fourteenth running of Notmeet had us return to Glen Innes, which had been our host town on four previous occasions. Other venues have been Coffs Harbour (4), Armidale (3), Port Macquarie (1) and Grafton (1).

Our base for the weekend was the New England Motor Lodge. This 4-star motel is a bit of an oasis in the region, with lovely, renovated rooms and an excellent restaurant. By coincidence the motel had changed hands that week, and the new owner, Andy, proved to be a fabulous host, assisted by his wonderful team.

Both clubs made their way to Glen Innes on Good Friday. NSW was represented by members from Hunter, Sydney, RPM and Illawarra. Members from Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs made up the Queensland contingent. 35 MX-5s in total carrying 61 people.

After our arrival at the motel, the traditional Happy Hour was held in the carpark. Various snacks and drinks emerged as old friends caught up and new ones were made. We then adjourned to the restaurant for a delicious meal, accompanied by more drinks, conversation and laughter.

Saturday morning, following the taking of the group photo, we divided into four groups, each split with NSW and Qld members,

and headed west. Our first stop was in Inverell, the Sapphire City. Members took the opportunity to look at the Visitor Information Centre, which included a display of gemstones found in the region. Some ventured into the CBD or along the beautifully maintained banks of the Macintyre River.

Back in the cars we made a short trip to Copeton Dam, where we had a sightseeing stop adjacent to the main retaining wall. The primary purpose of the dam is to supply irrigation, stock and household needs in the Gwydir Valley, and environmental flows to the Gwydir Wetlands. Copeton Dam's capacity is approximately three times that of Sydney Harbour.

Then we descended towards our lunch stop at Bingara, following the Gwydir River as we passed through luscious farmlands. Bingara is a quiet, historic gold and diamond mining town, surrounded by cypress-covered mountains. After lunch, members took a walk up the main street, taking in historic attractions including The Roxy Theatre, Peter's Milk Bar, Fays Department Store and Bingara Motors.

We commenced our return journey, this time via Delungra. Along the way we stopped at the Myall Creek Memorial. The Myall Creek massacre was the killing of at least 28 unarmed Aboriginal people by eight colonists on 10 June 1838. Seven perpetrators were convicted of murder and hanged.

NOTMEET XIV - 18TH TO 21ST
Words: Stephen Carter | Photos: Wendy Mulholland

As there was no group dinner on Saturday night, members availed themselves of a variety of local eateries.

We awoke on Sunday morning to find that the Easter Bunny had paid a visit and left a variety of Easter Eggs on our windshield wipers. Again, we travelled in four groups, but the members had been rearranged to give the opportunity to interact with different people. The groups travelled initially down the New England Highway before taking a deviation through the village of Ben Lomond, which once was the home of the highest altitude railway station in the Southern Hemisphere.

Upon rejoining the highway, we travelled to Guyra where most groups availed themselves of the emergency comfort stop. Back on the road, we continued to our morning tea venue, The Wing Hing Long Museum. We were served a delightful Devonshire Tea, featuring freshly baked scones with jam and cream. Wing Hing Long was established in Tingha in the late 19th century and operated as a general store through to early 1998. In 1918, Jack Lowe became the owner of the store, and it remained in family ownership until the end. Mavis Pratt, Jack's daughter, took over management and ultimately ownership, and continued in that position until her retirement in 1998.

You could be forgiven for thinking that all roads lead to Inverell, as we visited the city for the third time of the weekend. After lunch at the Sporties Club, some members took the opportunity to do the optional visit to the National Transport Museum. The museum features an extensive collection of cars, trucks, buses, motorbikes, etc.

Sunday night was our final dinner, featuring a trivia quiz and the famous Interstate Turtle Racing Challenge. Queen Col and Sir Dave of Queensland showed that they had been paying attention over the last two days by winning the trivia quiz. Over recent Notmeets Queensland had been dominant in the turtle racing, though 2025 was time for NSW to stage a comeback. Hunter members must have been drinking a lot of champagne, as they fronted with some



thoroughbred turtles. All three places plus best presented turtle all went to the Hunter, with Denise Birrell, Ray Cosier, Lilo Bonus and Brian Mulholland all taking home prizes donated by Lynda & Mark Gray.

Monday morning, we said our goodbyes and headed our MX-5s towards home. Another great Notmeet full of comradery.

Special thanks to the group leaders and tail ends, Stephen Carter, Jen & George Boyko, Peter & Maureen Hilkmann, Tom Wilde & Annette Roberts, Wendy Parsonage & Jean Cook, Pamela & Jeffrey Rowe, Mark & Lynda Gray, Phillip & Mara Ellerton, and John Purcell. John also arranged and lead the NSW runs to and from Glen Innes.



NOTMEET XIV - 18TH TO 21ST APRIL 2025



Pizza Anyone - Sydney's mostly dry run

By Maree and Steve Eccleston - 27th April 2025



We lead today's run as Bob and Marnie were unable to do it due to house renovations.

This morning, the Sydney weather god decided after all that great sunshine over Easter we had, it's time for some rain. Well, we had torrential rain Saturday night and the radar map looked very ugly, so the, "we are not coming texts" started arriving early on Sunday morning. A great start!

Our meeting point was the Benzin Café Dural and by the allotted departure time we had only 8 cars and three of these advised us that, due to the rain, they would not continue on the run. So ten true believers, in five cars departed for the run to Paradise Pizza at Portland with a coffee stop at the Ebenezer Church. This was a big act of faith as the Café sits on the banks of the Hawkesbury River and has been flooded above the roof 3 times since 2020, mmm!

Our run to the Church was very pleasant with no traffic and no rain. Our spirits were further uplifted by the very warm welcome we received from the Church volunteers who were very glad to see our group even though smaller than expected. Here we were joined by 5 hardy mountain folk, Graham Fletcher, Garry Joss, Ron and Bridget from the "rain won't stop us" RPM chapter. After a nice break we continued onto Paradise Pizza. The run was uneventful, no traffic, no rain and no hazards.

The café owners were also very pleased to see us and even though our numbers were significantly down as we were their first customers for the day. We spent a very relaxing few hours sharing great pizzas and stories overlooking the river while the rain stayed away and the afternoon continued to dry out. We also welcomed our new member Jonathan Wood.

While it didn't start well, in the end it was a very enjoyable and mostly a dry run for all those waterproof members who attended.





Tech Talk

Then and now, what our Members are up to, we revisited their restorations.

We ran a story in Club Torque Spring edition on Car restorations our members were undertaking. Here is an update of where a couple of them are up to now.

Phil Belcher's NA Restoration:

On the 22nd of March we visited Phil Belcher to see whether he'd made any progress on his Blue NA and were pleasantly surprised with his progress, along with being well fed and watered by Jennifer who provided us with cakes, pies and other delicacies, along with a glass of wine (or tea and coffee).

The girls chatted while the boys admired the immaculate progress on Phil's NA restoration.



Peter Willing's 1978 Fiat X19

Peter tells us he hasn't made much progress on the Fiat X19 with family priorities taking precedence, we'll follow him up in a few months.

Bob Gaunson's 1958 VW Bug Restoration:

Bob Gaunson on the other hand, has been busy with the VW Bug, spray painting done, now up to the mechanicals.

What do you think about the colour? Love the Original Agave colour, or like me, think it looks like undercoat and wonder what the "real" colour will look like?

Then (October 2024) shown below left



Now (April 2025) shown below right



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