

club **TORQUE**

*Canberra Chapter is
30!*



Brass Monkey heads to Huskisson



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 4th August 2026
1200



Members who joined 20th May to 4th August 2026

Emma Anderson	Phil Curran	Wyatt J-Z Moos
Lea Angelina Andry	Mitchell Davis	Tanya Parkin
Ali Awada	Steve Dawkins	Behzad Pierzad
Nakhil Bandari	Claire Dimovski	Jackson Pollock
Manpreet Banga	Diane Dimovski	Jordon Pollock
Leisa Benjamin	Lube Dimovski	Sean Pyper
Scotty Benjamin	Stephen Doorey	Adrian Sancataldo
Greg Bergan	Fletcher Gibson	Eddie So
Paulina Bergan	David Gordon	Malika Teng
Suzanne Bournes	Mary-Lou Green	Michael Trinder
Elizabeth Brooke	Andrew Hingston	Vivienne Van Dissel
Robert Brooke	Michael Holman	Christon Vongprachanh
Todd Cleminson	Simon Kendrick	Martyn Voormeulen
Yeong Costello	Emma Kendrick King	Alan Walsh
Jonathan Cowdroy	Andrew Longworth	Carlie Weedon
Monica Cram	Shane McCarthy	Jason Weedon
	Jonathan Moore	

The Committee recently agreed to stop mailing out confirmation letters for membership renewals. This means you will no longer receive a replacement windscreen sticker each year. We felt it was wasteful and postage costs have been climbing steeply. A receipt and confirmation is automatically sent by email with each membership renewal. You can also track your payments via the "MyHistory" tab on your Member Portal. If you need a replacement windscreen sticker, please email membership@nsw.mx5.au and we'll post it to you.

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

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From the Editor

Temperature in single digits, clear skies, top down, heated seats, winter's the time to chase the **Brass Monkey**. This exciting, annual event is well supported and our main fund raiser for

CareFlight. Have you chased the Brass Monkey yet?

July was a busy month with many Christmas in July celebrations, but the main celebration this July was **Canberra Chapter's 30th Anniversary**. This was held on the 18th of July at the Yowani Country Club. Read all about it's humble beginnings to the present in this edition from Page 20. **Happy Anniversary Canberra!**

Did you know your membership entitles you to some fabulous inclusions, (this magazine for one, printed in full colour, something most other car clubs charge extra for, we offer as part of your membership). Our major get together for the year is the President's Picnic held in September. A day to showcase your car and mingle with Club members from every corner of the

State while enjoying a delicious lunch, all included for members. Subsidised Christmas parties and Chapter events. Our membership fees are supplemented by our Sponsors and Advertisers. They're all in the magazine and on our website, get to know them and if you need something they can offer, consider supporting them, after all, they support us!

At our **AGM to be held in October** you have the opportunity to put your hand up and be part of the driving force of this Club. Do you have skills the Club could use? Why not become a Chapter Convenor or Co-ordinator? Join a Committee and have a say in the running of your Chapter and YOUR Club.

Finally, the Club offers a multitude of Social Runs / Events as well as Motorsport days. Your membership is your entry to ALL the events on the Calendar. Keep checking the website, it can change daily, there is bound to be something you'll enjoy. It's your Club, come for a drive?

And last but not never least - thank you Chris for proof-reading yet again, you are most appreciated.

Senia Jaunson



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Club Torque: Winter 2026 3



President's Report

by Ian Combes

Welcome to the 2026 Winter edition of Club Torque! We had a relatively warm lead into Winter this year. Recent weeks have more than made up for it though.

John for the effort he has put into the role and for being such a valued member of the Club's committee – thank you John, and congratulations to the Canberra chapter for the 30 th anniversary!

Having some insight into how other MX-5 Clubs operate around the country, I have formed the view that the chapter structure that we have in our club is one of our strengths – and it started in Canberra. It allows us to have a local focus, but still be part of the one club. We shouldn't lose sight of that.

Recently I had the pleasure of driving down to Canberra for the Canberra Chapter's 30th anniversary lunch. Thank you very much to the Canberra Chapter and especially to John Chapuis for the warm welcome – it was great being there. It is a touch ironic that the Canberra chapter was formed in the middle of Winter. Not sure who forms a group of enthusiasts for an open-top sports car in Canberra in winter, but then again – it was a glorious sunny day outside for the lunch, so what would I know?

The Canberra Chapter has the distinction of being the first chapter formed in the Club, and in fact formed a bit of a blueprint for the chapter structure we have now. This predates my time in the club but back then there was the one group which was 'the club'. Obviously NSW and the ACT form a pretty big area, so getting a group together to go for a drive was a bit more difficult than it is now.

The Canberra Chapter has quite a history, which is well worth a read if you get a chance. Earlier this year Bryan Shedden put together a great news article that goes into detail about the history of the chapter, it has been reproduced in this edition of the magazine. The second ever Natmeet for example was in Canberra in 1996. Coffee and Lies started in Canberra. Even before it was a chapter, there was a local group organised by a young lad named Louis Serret who wondered why Sydney should have all the fun, and suggested that they meet for coffee, and maybe go for a drive. Knowing Louis, I can well imagine that – that desire for a great drive is still burning brightly! Haven't changed a bit since 2016, Louis, but I digress.

This year, John Chapuis steps down as convenor, and has done a fantastic job for the chapter, following on from the great work by the previous convenors Rod and Maryanne Nicholas. I'd just like to publicly thank

We had some other great social events over the winter, most particularly the Brass Monkey run, which again raised an impressive amount for our Club Charity – Careflight. Many thanks to Michael Soulos and John Purcell.

Motorsport

We have had two CSCA Supersprint rounds since the last issue of Club Torque, most recently the TSOA round at One Raceway. This one was a challenge as they ran the circuit in both directions for half a day each. Re-focussing the mind from one to the other was certainly a challenge! Great day though.

We have had two more Club motorkhana rounds – both were very well supported even though they were close together. It was very encouraging to see so many new people participating. Let's hope that they stay engaged. Both were cold days on the skidpan though.

At the end of June, there was the 10 th anniversary NSWRRRC Regularity event at Sydney Motorsport Park – for this time only over 10 hours. The Saturday section ran until about 9:30 pm under lights which made for a tiring weekend with an early Sunday start. Funnily enough, that last Saturday session was the most fun, for me at least. Not sure why...

The MX-5 Club really excelled at this event with all five teams in the top ten. Congratulations to Panorama Mountain Men for another win, even though the wet sessions really played havoc with nominated times.

Keep driving and be safe!

Ian Combes

Cover Photo - Canberra Chapter 30 years ago from MX-5 Club archives

2025-2026 COMMITTEE



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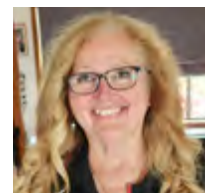
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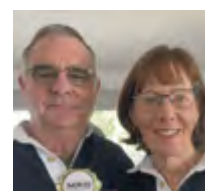
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RPM - Ian



SOUTH COAST - Rose & Geoff



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Brass Monkey 2026



Brass Monkey 5th July 2026

Photos: Jason Brown and Rob Wilkins

Words: Senia Gaunson

Brass Monkey as we know it was started by the Austin Healey Club in 1992. An early morning, top down, beany and heaters on, crazy, winter fun run that Michael Soulos has organised on behalf of the MX-5 Club since 2013. Sadly this will be Michael's final run as organiser. We hope to see the new Club Captain, or other keen volunteers, take up the mantle and continue this fine, popular and very worthwhile, tradition.

This year's Brass Monkey had various starting points, the main one being



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Eastern Creek. From the west they met up at Frank Partridge VC Rest Area in Menangle, Illawarra at the Nungarry Rest Area, Dunmore, Canberra from McDonalds, Lyneham and South Coast from Mark Radium Rest Area in Berry.

Seventy eight members in numerous cars coming from far and wide eventually converged for a delicious hot breakfast at Club Jervis Bay in Huskisson.

This is our major fundraiser for CareFlight, raising thousands of dollars over the years with a percentage of the entry fee going to CareFlight. This along with raffles, games and hat-passing on the day, meant we made a donation of over \$1,300 this year alone. Over the years we've chased the Brass Monkey to Mudgee, Bathurst, Goulburn, Singleton and other fun destinations, so if you'd like to take it on, the destination is only limited by your imagination.





Dingo Sanctuary and Ironworks
19th May 2026

Story and Photos by Rose Smith

Neck of the Woods Café provided a delightful new meeting point for today's run. With excellent coffee, tempting cakes and a relaxed atmosphere, it proved to be the perfect place to gather before heading up to the Highlands. However, as departure time ticked closer, we noticed a couple of empty spaces in the lineup. Rose stepped outside to ring our missing members, only to discover a hilarious classic of confusion: one was still tucked up in bed, while the other was already cruising down a completely different highway! After some quick-thinking adjustments, the missing duo managed a spectacular recovery, meeting up with us just in time for the main event.

Fortune certainly favoured us throughout the day's drive to the Dingo Sanctuary at Bargo. The rain stayed away, the fog mostly lingered below us, and considerate drivers pulled over to allow our convoy a clear run through the winding roads of Kangaroo Valley and over Barrengarry Mountain. Kerry and Lesley briefly became separated from the group, prompting a regrouping stop in Kangaroo Valley where, naturally, the truck we had worked so hard to avoid overtook us once again. Fortunately, the driver soon pulled aside, giving us uninterrupted access to the scenic country roads for the remainder of the journey.

Arriving at the Dingo Sanctuary brought an unexpected challenge as we encountered a rough dirt entrance road complete with deep potholes filled with water — definitely "4WD territory." With Geoff carefully leading the way, the convoy zig-zagged through the obstacles and every car emerged unscathed.

Although we had anticipated crisp Highlands weather, we were surprised by the warmth as we stepped from our cars. Most fleeces remained behind, replaced instead with rain jackets and umbrellas as a precaution



for our walk through "Dingo Country." A knowledgeable volunteer guide escorted us around the Sanctuary, sharing fascinating stories and information about each dingo along the way.

The highlight of the visit soon arrived — the eagerly awaited "Up Close and Personal" experience. Escorted into a small enclosure, we met two dingoes brought out on leads by their handlers. Pinchi, the female, was somewhat reluctant to stay and clearly had other ideas, while Rangì, the male, proved far more sociable and thoroughly enjoyed the attention, particularly when treats were involved. The encounter was a memorable experience for everyone, with one interesting fact standing out: dingoes lack the distinctive "dog smell" familiar to domestic pets, an advantage that helps them hunt effectively in the wild.

Despite threatening skies throughout the morning, the weather held off beautifully until we were preparing to leave, and even then only a light sprinkle fell.

Rather than taking the direct motorway route, the group opted for a more scenic drive to lunch at Mittagong RSL. The countryside was particularly beautiful, still displaying pockets of rich autumn colour. The RSL itself impressed everyone with its spacious layout, extensive menu and generous, high-quality meals. The carpeted dining area also made conversation easy and comfortable — a welcome change from noisier venues. Unfortunately, we discovered the tempting cake and dessert display only after finishing our mains, leaving everyone wishing we had spotted it sooner.

With the weather beginning to deteriorate, the decision was made to skip the planned visit to Fitz Roy Iron Works and instead make our way home.

A wonderful day of scenic driving, wildlife encounters, good food and great company — thank you to everyone who joined the run.



Wollongong Botanic Gardens - 2nd July 2026 **Story and Photos by Rose Smith and Lesley Brook**

With clear skies, warm sunshine and barely a breath of wind, we were on our way, tops down.

Of course, no great drive is complete without a little adventure. Our carefully planned route received its first modification when someone (no names mentioned!) sailed straight past the Bolong Road turn-off. Rather than performing an impromptu U-turn worthy of a rally stage, Rose & Geoff continued north and spent the time saved with an extra stop at Saddleback Mountain Lookout.

As it turned out, the "wrong turn" was one of the highlights of the day. Jamberoo reminded us why we own MX-5s. Quiet roads, sweeping bends and hardly any traffic, driving bliss. Some members may have quietly suggested that the 60 km/h speed signs were being a little... conservative for such enjoyable roads. Naturally, everyone remained perfectly law-abiding.

The Wollongong Botanic Gardens provided a relaxing change of pace. We spent a leisurely ninety minutes wandering through beautifully maintained gardens bursting with winter colour. The standout display was undoubtedly the succulent garden, where an incredible collection of flowering succulents proved that even the spikiest plants know how to put on a spectacular show.

Refreshed and well exercised, it was back into the cars for another memorable drive. The winding roads over Mount Keira and down through Mount Kembla were a first for everyone except Rose and Geoff, and they certainly didn't disappoint. Twisty roads, stunning scenery and a line of colourful MX-5s made for a picture-perfect afternoon.

Lunch at the Mount Kembla Village Hotel was the perfect finale, with Mark and Hella joining us, made the gathering complete. Every meal was delicious, it was declared one of our best club runs. High praise indeed!



Sutton Forest Lunch - 23rd June 2026

Story: Anda Clayton

Photos: Anda Clayton Rose Smith and Lesley Brook

With the arrival of winter, where better to lunch than in front of a cosy fire in an old fashioned pub? The Southern Highlands with just such a place beckoned, as 12 of us set out for the Sutton Forest Inn for lunch.

A glorious sunny and calm winter's day kept the chill out of the air, enabling most of us to travel "tops down". We met and enjoyed a coffee and something sweet at our new favourite "northerly" meeting place, North Nowra's Neck of the Woods cafe. Great coffee, friendly staff, yummy goodies and, even on a Tuesday, very popular with the locals.

We finally made tracks to our next eatery, Sutton Forest Inn, an hour's drive away. Our run was punctuated by several stops due to roadworks. As to be expected, we caught up to a slow truck during our ascent up Cambewarra mountain; however, much to our surprise the driver was unusually courteous and moved over at his first opportunity to allow our convoy safe passage. My faith in truckies has been restored.

Following a mandatory wrong turn and a minor detour via roads less travelled, we finally arrived at our lunch venue. Patiently waiting were 2 more members, our vice president Jeffrey and Pamela. A few of us commented that we'd driven past the pub many times, and had always meant to stop by....one more item crossed off the bucket list!

The pub is olde world inside and out, very pleasant on a winter's day with a log fire burning, and views to the countryside. Lunch was delicious, with the chicken and leek pie a favourite. Topped off with a glass of red....a perfect warming pub lunch on a winter's day.

Yes, life was good today - another pleasant day out with MX5 Club friends, perfect weather, a pretty drive, enjoyable conversation, and delicious hearty pub grub.

Mystery Runs down South



Canberra 9th June 2026

Story: Peter Wilson

Photos: Peter Wilson and Lili Chi

The destination this month was Jackson's Bakery in Harden.

Winter is here and it dropped to minus one degree this morning. However, once the sun was shining the temperature improved and, for Canberra, it was a balmy ten degrees as we departed Daughters at Hall. There were ten members in six cars, all varying shades of red!

The sky was overcast and we eventually hit rain around Murrumbateman and the Hume Hwy, quite heavy at times. We could see a small section of blue sky to the west and by the time we reached Binalong it turned into blue sky. After that comfort stop we navigated our way through some back roads to Harden. Not much traffic on those back roads, I could count oncoming traffic on one hand!

All enjoyed the meals at Jackson's Bakery and most made it to the Marsden Street Café in Boorowa for an afternoon coffee. The highlight of the day was the cows and calves on Barwang Road and sheep on Cunningham Road. Both groups provided some amusement whilst we were stopped to allow their movement.

It was great to be out driving the MX5 in good weather, for most of the day. I arrived home at 3.30pm with a total of 285kms for the return trip to Hall. Thanks to all on the run today.



South Coast 10th June 2026

Story and Photos: Kerry Warner

We met at Hungry Jacks, Bomaderry, the sun shining, the temperature around 15 degrees, heated seats on (well in the ND anyway) and we were away. Three cars, a dark green NA with historical plates, a red NC and a white ND RF.

The first part of the mystery was *"where is Lesley?"* Well nursing a broken arm and the NDs lovely firm ride, it was decided that it was better to save Lesley for another day. A good friend, Dick, stood in for Lesley.

Next was the run up dead-end Broughton Vale Road. The road follows a babbling brook up the valley, over a causeway (water up to the rims!!) and negotiating a few potholes. Back to Berry to get onto the Princess Highway and we headed to Kiama (with a little side trip on the old highway at the Maze, anything to avoid sitting on a highway!)

We took the exit to Kiama, then up to Saddleback, a beautiful drive through tree lined laneways, along Jamberoo Mountain Road, an entertaining drive, except when there are roadworks. A coffee stop at Moonacres Kitchen at Robinson hit the spot, with coffees and pastries, we sat and listened to Keith tell of his adventures of how to stay on the track at the racetrack.

On the move again, finally to Burradoo Park Farm. A walk around the farm and we found the piglets as promised. Only they've grown since last seen. We checked out the Three Blue Ducks restaurant opening next week and headed to the Farmhouse for lunch. Hamburgers and Salad were great but the Scotch Eggs were the talk of the table.

With clouds building up in the east, it was time to head home, but we will definitely be back.



A New Start to a New Finish - Wombarra 27th May 2026

Words: Jeffrey Rowe

Photos: Ann Hicks

This turned out to be one of those runs that you are really happy you organized.

It had rained the day before and as many of you know I don't like to take my car out in the rain. I'd had the car for about five years before having to use the windscreen wipers in anger. Anyway, as luck would have it, the weather on the day of this run was a perfect Autumn Day. Sunny with a light breeze and great top-down weather.

Our morning tea and starting point was Passionate Palate in Kanahooka. I was concerned about how crowded it may be as there was another group booked in there that morning. What about finding a park? This is always an issue on any day. I shouldn't have worried, the service from the staff was great and everyone found a park.

The drive turned out to be great along the old roads and through the National Park with the sun shining through the trees drying the road with steam lifting up. Everything looked clean and green after the rain.

We stopped at the Bald Hill Lookout. The view was spectacular as always. I counted twelve cargo ships waiting off the Port Kembla Harbour and another car carrier arriving. To top off the view, we sighted whales just off the coast heading north for the winter. A bonus.

Wombarra Bowling Club, our lunch venue, despite its dated decor was welcoming and our meals were, I'm happy to say, enjoyable.

What really made this a really happy and enjoyable day was the members that joined us. Many are regulars at events with the Illawarra Chapter, others have not joined for some time due to other commitments. We all know what it's like, you can't do everything.

Catching up with friends we haven't seen for some time over a meal and wine, beer or coffee certainly passes the time. With all the chatter that went on it seemed that everyone had a lot to share and talk about.



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Illawarra Winter Fun

Illawarra Winter Fun



Phil's Restorations - 6th June 2026
Photos: Ann Hicks

It was NA restorations, multiple birthdays and electric car conversions when we visited Phil and Jennifer for Phil's Annual Restoration catch up. Happy Birthday Chrissie and two Phils!

We look forward to progress photos of the NA Phil. Jennifer, thank you, once again you spoilt us with delicious nibbles and drinks.





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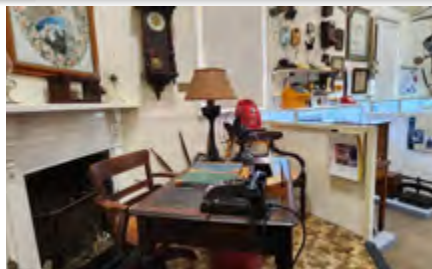
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Camden Heritage Museum - 11th June 2026

Story: Chrissie Zaremba | Photos: Senia Gaunson

On Thursday, 11 June 2026 a small but eager bunch of people met at Figtree McDonald's.

The weather was fine so we were able to have our tops down in our MX5's. We made our way to Mount Keira Road driving uphill and down dales. Everywhere was lush and green due to all the recent rain. A short drive on the motorway then onto Douglas Park Drive crossing over the Nepean River causeway and through the gorge situated between the Nepean River Causeway and Blades Bridge. Luckily nobody got wet. The drips from the overhang were minimal that day!!

Meandering through Douglas Park we took some back roads winding our way to old Razorback Road. From there it was a lazy drive into Camden town centre. Parking was easily available close to the museum.

Camden museum has recently had a refurbishment. It is a small museum but packed to the rafters with antiques and curiosities from days gone by. Everything is pleasingly grouped into various areas.

They had many artefacts of objects from around the house, including old laundry items and irons.

There were also many relics in the historical section. With lots of information of Camden's history.

Museum entry is free however a gold coin donation is appreciated by the friendly staff.

From there we made a short drive to the Camden Valley Inn. The weather was so glorious we were able to sit outside for lunch. The food was great. The best part being that it was two for the price of one if you are a senior!!



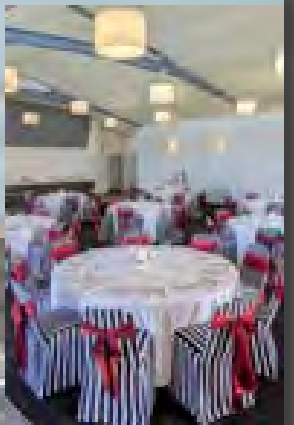


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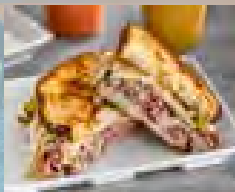
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Wet and Wonderful Run to Warnie's

25th June 2026

Story: David Gazzard

Photos: Elaine Gazzard

Despite the winter weather doing its best to keep us at home, six enthusiastic MX-5s gathered at Myuna Bay Park for today's club run to Warnie's at Warnervale. The lineup featured a nice mix of generations, including an NA, two NC's and three ND's, proving once again that the love of MX-5 motoring spans every era of the marque.

With rain falling steadily and temperatures firmly on the chilly side, we set off from Myuna Bay and turned off at Dora Creek, taking the scenic back roads through Cooranbong. The route along Mandalong Road and Hue Hue Road provided plenty of beautiful countryside views, even if they were enjoyed through rain-speckled windscreens.



The weather may have been wet, but spirits were anything but dampened. As always, the camaraderie and conversation were as much a highlight as the drive itself. The winding roads gave everyone an enjoyable run, and the sight of six MX-5s travelling together brightened an otherwise grey day.

Our destination, Warnie's at Warnervale, certainly did not disappoint. The food was terrific, with everyone enjoying a hearty meal after the drive. However, it was the desserts that stole the show—an unbelievable selection that had many of us wondering whether we'd left enough room after lunch. Judging by the smiles around the table, they were every bit as good as their reputation suggests.

It was great to see John Morgan and his pristine NA on the run.

A sincere thank you goes to Jen and George Boyko for organising both the run and the venue. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and helped make the day a fantastic success.

Rain, cold weather, great roads, wonderful friends and outstanding food—another MX-5 club run to remember.



Run to the Dunes

8th July 2026

Words & Photos: David Gazzard

After three days of relentless rain, grey skies and less-than-inspiring weather, Sunday finally delivered the sort of day every MX-5 enthusiast hopes for. Brilliant sunshine, crystal blue skies and dry roads greeted the Hunter Chapter as nine eager cars assembled at Cameron Park, ready for what would become a memorable run.

Our convoy consisted of an excellent mix of Mazda's iconic roadster: two NDs, six NCs and one RF.

Leaving Cameron Park, we headed towards Raymond Terrace before making our way to the peaceful surrounds of Seaham Park. The park proved to be the perfect location for our morning tea stop, where members enjoyed coffee, homemade treats and, as always, plenty of conversation. After the weather we'd all endured during the previous few days, everyone was appreciating the chance to be outdoors with the tops down and the sun on their backs.

From Seaham, the run continued along East Seaham Road. Members were pleasantly surprised to find that the road had only just been sealed. The fresh bitumen, gentle bends and picturesque rural scenery made it a highlight of the day's drive, offering smooth motoring through the beautiful countryside.

The route then took us along Limeburner's Creek Road towards Medowie, where the roads continued to provide an enjoyable mix of sweeping corners and relaxing country driving.

Our destination was The Dunes Golf Club, where a well-earned lunch awaited. Over a delicious meal, the conversation flowed as freely as ever, with stories of past runs, future adventures and plenty of good-natured banter shared around the table.

Sometimes the best club runs aren't about covering huge distances or tackling mountain passes. They're about spending time with good friends, enjoying some excellent roads, and making the most of a beautiful day behind the wheel of an MX-5. After the weather we'd experienced earlier in the week, this run reminded us just how rewarding those perfect driving days can be.



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Sydney Cruising Around



Dural to Banana Cabana
22nd May 2026
Story: Kay Godfrey
Photos: Rob Wilkins and Mark Godfrey

Gorge Curves, River Views and Monkeys with Opinions!

We set off into perfect driving weather. The roads toward Berowra Waters were smooth and sunlit, leading us down to the river where the ferry crew once again watched a colourful parade of MX-5s glide aboard.

After the crossing, the climb back up delivered exactly what we came for — tight bends, sweeping curves, and that unmistakable echo of engines bouncing off the rock walls. Then came the real treat: the run through Galston Gorge, where the famous hairpin bends demanded full attention and rewarded us with pure, twisty joy (or anxiety?!).

Our final destination, the Banana Cabana Primate Sanctuary, was nothing short of extraordinary. Serene, beautiful and extremely well kept it is a lovingly run sanctuary with a surprisingly rich history. Originally established as a refuge for retired film and research primates, it has grown into a peaceful haven where rescued monkeys live out their days with space, enrichment, and a whole lot of personality. Every enclosure has a story, and every story has a cheeky face attached to it.

The tour was warm, funny, and full of those “I had no idea!” moments. And then came the



Devonshire tea — fresh scones, real cream, jam, and the kind of relaxed chatter that only happens after a great drive.

A brilliant loop, a brilliant group, and an unforgettable visit to one of the most unique spots in the Hills. Sunshine, hairpins, monkeys, and scones — honestly, what more could you want from a weekday run.





Sunshine, River Roads and The Springs 27th June 2026

Story: Steve and Maree Ecclelston

Photos: Mark Godfrey

A large group met up at McDonalds Dural for this run despite the chance of getting wet. Our number of starters was larger than normal as we also had 8 members from Illawarra along for the ride, Zan, Phil, Beti, Emilco, Senia, Bob, Lesley and Peter who made an early start from the deep south to arrive for our 9.30 meet up time. We had a total of fifteen cars, so getting out of Macca's and onto the Old Northern Rd roundabout was a bit of a challenge, but after approx.10 minutes we all managed to escape.

Our first stop was Wisemans Ferry via Old Northern Rd which provides a pleasant run through rural acreages and bushland along the way. We were fortunate as the traffic was light and the weather began to clear and by the time we arrived at our comfort stop at Wisemans, the sun was fully out and promised blue sky ahead. We then departed to embark onto the ferry to cross the Hawksbury and onto the best part of the run along the river to Spencer and then up the hill to Mangrove Mountain.

The road directly off the Ferry runs alongside the river virtually all the way to Spencer and it provides very

attractive river views as well as an interesting drive with a good assortment of corners to keep the driver engaged. We were also lucky as again the traffic was very light and made this part of the run all the more enjoyable.

The next section from Spencer to Mangrove Mountain was our favourite, and we weren't alone.

It is a about 30 kms long and has a steady but not steep climb starting from about 5kms out of Spencer, from here the road provides about 15kms of easy open corners and short straights to enjoy, which we able to do, as again the traffic god was looking after us!

After completing the twisties we had a not so active but pleasant run onto The Springs Golf Club for lunch. This venue is a hidden gem, the building is very well designed and welcomes you in once you have negotiated your way through the very large front door. The staff are really friendly, they reserved 15 parking spots for us and as well we had our own private dining room and the food was great. The Springs Golf Club is really worth a visit.

Last but not least Rob Wilko was very happy to show off his "just picked up last Wednesday" beautifully customised ND roadster which was out for its maiden club run. Very Nice. (Check it out in Tech Talk P42-43)





Camden to Megalong Valley Tea Rooms 21st June 2026

Great little run yesterday from Camden to the Megalong Valley Tea Rooms. They don't take bookings on weekends and the place was packed when we got there but they had all 15 of us fed in around 20 minutes - great service and food.

I absolutely love the Mazda MX-5 BreakFast Club great group of gents, each drive just gets better. #zoomzoom

- Facebook comment from Monica Cram (a warm welcome to our new Club member, Monica)



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Farewell Vicki and Andy

18th August 2026



Photos: Andrew Edgar, Mark Godfrey and Rob Wilkins

*At Pie in the Sky we gathered today,
To cheer Andy and Vicki on their way.
Years of support, of runs well-planned
A legacy built by their steady hand.
Forster awaits with skies brand new,
But our MX-5 hearts will stay with you.*

Kay Godfrey

So happy to spend the morning with Andy and Vicki Bottomley to wish them well for the next season in their lives, moving to Forster. We will miss them but will be along to visit them to see the awesome place they are moving to.

They were given a beautiful book filled with fabulous photos and great memories which all present could sign, so special. Good luck guys
Ann Hicks

It was a fabulous turn out for the farewell of Vicki and Andy as they head to Forster. Their input to the chapter and club as a whole has been greatly appreciated. We wish them well for the future.

Rob Wilkins

OMG what a great feeling we came home with today from all our friends at Pie in the Sky. The photo book was a wonderful surprise that will be pride of place in our new home. Also a huge thanks to all the people who couldn't attend today but helped in organising. Our other friends in Illawarra and RPM who have also sent beautiful messages a big thanks to you also. We hope to make it to the president's picnic and can give everyone an update of living in this resort and wonderful Forster.

**A HUGE THANK YOU ALL AGAIN
LOVE VICKI AND ANDY**

Farewell for now, see you in Forster! - Senia





Canberra Chapter Turns 30!

Story by **Bryan Shelden**

Long before websites and Facebook, there was a different kind of social network — one powered by cards left on windscreens, coffee cravings, and the occasional mysterious phone call. This is the story of how the Canberra Chapter of the MX-5 Club of NSW gradually came to life starting 30 years ago — part legend, part laughter, and entirely fueled by a love of the little roadster that could.

Chapter 1: The Easter That Started It All (1996)

In Easter 1996, Canberra found itself humming —

not with politics, but with the unmistakable buzz of Mazda MX-5s. NatMeet II had arrived, drawing enthusiasts from far and wide. It was meant to be the second national gathering of the Mazda MX-5 Clubs of Australia ... but for a handful of locals, it sparked something bigger.

Among them was Louis Serret — a 36-year-old new Club member of merely 9-months who looked around at the crowd and thought, “Why should Sydney have all the fun?”

And so, sometime after the Easter chocolate was exercised away, Louis began quietly organising informal monthly meetups. No grand announcements. No fancy schedules. Just a simple idea:

“Let’s meet for coffee... and maybe a drive.”

Chapter 2: The Underground Years (1996–1997)

This wasn’t a Chapter yet. It was more like a secret society of about a half dozen people. Most of them were met through leaving cards on windscreens and approaches on the street.

Information about runs? Rarely published.

Meeting points? Closely guarded.

Instructions? “Call this number.”

Photos from the run? Too busy enjoying the drive.

In the days before the Club website arrived, members relied on a printed newsletter — Club Events — that arrived by mail like a treasure map. Then, in February 1997, something remarkable appeared: the first Canberra Column, listing Louis Serret as the contact. By March, it had a name: Capital Capers. Which morphed to Canberra Capers from June 1997.

And just like that, Canberra had a voice.

Chapter 3: Coffee, Lies, and Open Roads

At the heart of it all was a ritual: the monthly coffee gathering.

It began innocently enough at Café Paradiso in Fyshwick (now Theo’s Café). Enthusiasts gathered on Saturday mornings, sipping coffee and talking cars.

But over time, stories grew taller. Modifications became wilder. Corners got tighter.

Eventually, someone gave it the only fitting name:

“Coffee & Lies.”

Meanwhile, Sundays became sacred. By early 1997, regular informal runs took place — usually on the first Sunday of the month. Routes were often improvised, destinations flexible, and the joy? Guaranteed. Legend has it that the runs were highly “spirited” — the original BreakFast Club!



Chapter 4: Characters Enter the Scene

Along came another new member, 49-year-old Rick Fischer — a meticulous enthusiast and serious contender in the Concours world. In 1996 at Kangaroo Valley, he claimed Runner-Up in the 1600 Original category and placed 5th outright. No small feat against the formidable Colin Caldwell.

By July 1997, Louis relocated to Sydney for his job and lost contact with the Canberra group. Rick took the wheel, bringing structure — and perhaps a slightly shinier polish — to proceedings.

Rick organised a Pre-Concours Critique & Picnic at Commonwealth Park, followed by a spirited convoy to Penrith for the Concours.

And in December 1997 came a defining moment: the first Canberra Christmas lunch at Cork Street Café in Gundaroo — a venue that would echo through the years, including its present form Grazing at Gundaroo.

Rick's influence would shape the group for four years as the Canberra Representative, and he remained a central figure until his move to Queensland in 2013.

Chapter 5: From Fringe Group to Official Chapter (1999–2004)

By the late '90s, the Canberra crew was impossible to ignore.

In 1999, the Club launched its first website, Canberra page included (though rarely updated), and the Constitution was amended to include an "ex officio Canberra Representative". It was starting to look official.

Meanwhile, the social fabric tightened: BBQs at Rick's place, farewell dinners, and spontaneous second runs on the same day — because one drive was never enough.

Then came "The Big One" in 2001 — a Thredbo overnighter that lived up to its name — along with regular meetups with Sydney members, proving Canberra was no longer the quiet cousin. But by this stage, only about 30 members from ACT had joined the Club since its 1990 foundation, let alone maintained their membership. It was a tiny group.

In September 2001, 47-year-old Steve Hinton took over after Rick's epic stint. Just like his predecessor, Steve was another new member for just 16 months. The formula remained — but the flavour changed. Steve decided to make some noise about the Club's future in Canberra. He focused on boosting membership in the region by enhancing social contacts and established links with the Council of ACT Motor Clubs. Runs expanded to include Temora Air Museum visits, Cowra and Mallacoota weekends, Snowy Mountains tours, and picnic runs to Uriarra Crossing and the Big Hole.

And yet, through it all, one thing never changed:

*First Saturday.
Café Paradiso.
Coffee & Lies.*

Capital Capers

Details of events in the ACT & surrounding areas

The Canberra members of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW continue to meet on an informal basis every 4 weeks.

The next meeting will be:

Date: Saturday 8th March
Place: Café Paradiso
100 Barrier Street
Fyshwick ACT
Time: 10:00am
Contact: Louis Serret
(06) 241-3507

Other informal runs are arranged during these meetings.

Canberra Column

The Canberra members of the MX5 Club meet on an informal basis every 4 weeks. They meet on a Saturday morning at the Café Paradiso, 100 Barrier St. Fyshwick around 10 am. Some informal runs are arranged at these meetings. Please phone Louis Serret at (06) 241 3507 for more info.

Discussions are taking place with some Canberra based dealers to try and arrange some club discounts. More to follow.





Canberra Chapter Turns 30!

Story by Bryan Shedden

Possibly Steve's most significant initiative was to hound members into providing stories for the Club's magazine for the first time. Another new member, John Brown summarised his first six-months of membership in the Summer 2001 edition of Club Talk. Finally, Club members could read some news about what was happening in the ACT. Steve Hinton, Chris Fondum and Ed Cory shared the workload with John in subsequent editions. Photos from Canberra events were shared on the website too.

When Sandie Wilcock took over in 2003 as the first female Canberra Rep, things grew even more ambitious. "The Big One" returned but this time it was a 550 km marathon in a single day. Then, in 2004, came a 16-day Tasmanian adventure. The Canberra group was no longer just driving. It was touring. Sadly though, coverage of Canberra events in Club Talk paused for a bit.

Then came the defining moment. In 2004, the Constitution was updated to formally define what a "Chapter" was and the Canberra Representative morphed into the Chapter Convenor, still ex officio — and there it was in black and white:

Canberra Chapter — official at last.

No longer a side note. No longer a whisper in the newsletter.

It had arrived.

Chapter 6: Growth and New Leaders (2005–2006)

By 2005, under Paul Beerworth, the Chapter hit full stride. Paul was 55-years-old and had enjoyed three years of Canberra activity under Steve and Sandie. He had a clear vision for the future of Canberra Chapter.

In October 2005, members were invited to the ACT launch of the new NC model at Rolfe Mazda in Belconnen. Rolfe's General Manager Mark Wilson used the occasion to announce sponsorship of the Canberra Chapter and presented the sponsor's cheque to Paul. Then in December 2005, at the Canberra Christmas Party held at Madew Winery on Lake George, Dave Battison of Carco Automotive announced their sponsorship of the Canberra Chapter. Both relationships would continue for several years. Later in 2007, Fox Antiques was added as a third sponsor of the Canberra Chapter!

Paul went on to become the first ACT member to join the Club Committee when he was elected as Vice President in October 2006.

New elements appeared:

- Monthly meetings at Rolfe Mazda
- Motorkhanas and karting events
- "Marques in the Park" and "Shannons Wheels" displays
- Winery lunches and Christmas parties

And the runs? Still relentless: Jervis Bay, Bundanoon, Wagga, Bermagui, The Great Alpine Road.

Coffee & Lies even went boutique, moving from Café Paradiso to Bohemian Café, and later to Tulips Café. Same stories. More parking space. Better coffee.

By the time the Chapter passed its 10th birthday in 2006 (slipping by unnoticed), membership had grown to around 50. Events were consistently supported by around 35 members in about 20 MX-5s. A loyal core from this era — names like Cory, Brown, Broughton, Beerworth, Bolton, Leyton-Grant, Judd, Klören, McDonald, and others — have remained the backbone of the community. Thanks to Paul's infectious energy and drive, the Chapter doubled to 100 members in the next 12-months!

The outstanding contribution of Paul Beerworth was recognised in 2013 with the award of Life Membership.

Chapter 7: A Community Matures

As the years rolled on over the next two decades, the Chapter became a well-oiled machine.

Leadership passed smoothly through a succession of dedicated Convenors:



Convenors:

Pat Rooke
Damon Muller
Bob Judd & Bricet Klören
Tony & Iris McDonald
Norm Barker
Giulia & James Schiemer
Peter & Annemie Wilson
Rod & Maryanne Nicholas
And today, John Chapuis

Meanwhile, the broader Club evolved:

- The Hunter Chapter emerged in 2006 (first discussions began in 2001)
- The Chapter Convenor role was made a Club Committee position in 2010
- From 2012 to 2019, five new regional Chapters were established across NSW, including a formal Sydney Chapter
- The management structure of the Committee was overhauled
- Club-wide awards grew to recognise participation across all Chapters.

Through it all, Canberra remained true to its roots — active, connected, and always ready for the next run.

Epilogue: More Than Just Cars

What began as a tiny handful of enthusiasts meeting quietly after NatMeet became a thriving, recognised chapter with three decades of history.

But strip away the Constitution changes, leadership lists, and event calendars, and one thing remains unchanged:

A group of people, gathering over coffee — telling stories that get better every time — then heading out for a drive.

Because in Canberra, the road is never just about the destination.

It is about the journey ... and the friendships that grow stronger with every kilometre.

And somewhere in the background, you might just hear the echo of Louis Serret quietly suggesting:

"Let's go for a drive."



Shannons Wheels 2004

Then on to Eilat and a transfer around the shore at Suez Canal before taking in the Whiting Museum in Eilat and returning for a fish and chips lunch at a dock-side cafe.

After lunch it's time to head back to Canberra.



Up the Princes Highway to Potts Point and along a great meandering road to Bondi via Sydney. Then it's back along the M1 to Cronulla where we stop for a morning at the Australia Hotel before a quick cruise home into Canberra.



Once again a great run with extremely pleasant company. Thanks to Harry and Sandy for their organisation.

Chris Fendley

Natmeet 2004 We need your help!

Do you have any skills and/or contacts in the following areas?

- o Printing - brochures
- o Clothing/regalia suppliers - shirts, caps, etc.
- o Food suppliers - morning tea, lunches, snacks
- o Auto industry - car care products, accessories, dealers, services, etc.

Sponsors are needed to help offset costs of staging Natmeet. We will be producing a comprehensive brochure.

We offer advertisements in our brochure, as well as on banners, posters, regalia.

Please contact Jean Cook via email on jcook@bigpond.com, or phone 08 02 9833 4321.

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\$150 (1/4 Page)	\$300 (1/2 Page)	\$600 (Full Page)
\$200 (1/4 Page)	\$400 (1/2 Page)	\$800 (Full Page)

The above rates apply to all commercial advertisements. Club members receive 50% discount. Rates for Club Members are based on charges.

Canberra Capers

Big Hole Run 13 April 2003

Another great run with Canberra club members.



A good luck out with sun on showing up for this short day run. Drivers and passengers include Steve Hinton and Dorothy, Harry and Sandy Wilson, John and Connie Brown, Dave and Toni, Basilian, Kym, Malcolm, Bernhardt, Sharon Johnson, Paul Bernworth, Chris Fendley and Steven, and Terry Stubbart and Katherine.

The weather is a little overcast as we assemble at our usual south side meeting spot. And by the time we are ready to head out a slight misty rain has begun to fall. Undoubtedly most stay "top down" for the drive through Queanbeyan - and we are conscious of any rain. Then down the Kings Highway to Bundwood and out along the Kiewit-Coombe Road to Don National Park.



From Bundwood onwards it is real M3.5 country - smooth roads, gentle changes in elevation, lots of corners - from long sweeps to quite fast twisty bits - and some very interesting bridges.

Little other traffic and no blue lights. The final half kilometre or so into the Southview River is unsealed but well-graded.



Autumn 2003

Arriving at the picnic ground there is the usual scattered discussion on our favourite subject. Then most of us "casually" find the river and walk about 2 kilometres up a steady incline through lightly wooded woodland to a suitable beach - great views back along the Southview Valley - before reaching the Big Hole.



Steve Wilson is a renowned hunter. These parts as a bushwalker in another life informed us that a possum had been living in the hole for years. Someone said they thought it was a hyena and Steve said yeah that was what he meant.



Continued on page 15
CLUB Talk



But we did not see any hyena! Nor did we see the red-necked wallabies, echidnas, wombats and tiger quolls which live in the vicinity of the hole. We did see a lot of animal droppings and some very interesting fungi. Steve nostalgically recalled an old "bush rope" for mushroom tea.



Back at the picnic area we tucked into some well deserved lunch and liquid refreshments.

At just about the right time a light shower persuaded us back into our cars and we make the very enjoyable and spirited run back to Bundwood for coffee and cakes.



CLUB Talk



Back at Bundwood Harry and Sandy seem to have mistaken something. Does anyone remember what happened to the mushroom? Would you like another cup of tea, Paul?

And then an easy cruise back to Canberra. Well, that's the way I remember it. Perhaps you had to be there.

Thanks to Steve Hinton, whom organised the run.

Chris Fendley

What's coming up in Canberra??

Below is our local Calendar for the rest of the year. We did have a repeat of our M3.5 run last month (for my benefit not I missed the November one) which was a real treat.

We'll try to get some info together on the coming run to the Big Hole, Bundwood Bay fish & chips run and the Ansett pub run.

A late addition to the Calendar will be a "Indian Day" sometime in October.

I can be contacted at canberra@msf.com.au

Regards,
Steve,
Canberra Bay

- Saturday, 7th - Monthly Meet at Fyshwick
- Sunday, 15th - Ansett/Majors Creek Run with a Pub lunch. Organiser Chris Fendley
- Sunday, 22nd - Wakefield Championship Supersprint

July

- Saturday, 6th - Monthly Meet at Fyshwick
- Sunday 7th - Car Driving by Dave Harrison, Chris Exhauser, Conon
- Monday, 14th - Wakefield Track day
- Sunday, 20th - Teague Pub for lunch. Organiser Paul

August

- Saturday, 2nd - Monthly meet at Fyshwick
- Sat 16th/Sun 17th - Highlands Run. Organiser Steve B.

September

- Saturday, 6th - Monthly meet at Fyshwick
- Sunday, 7th - Wakefield Track day
- Sunday, 14th - Winston Track day
- Sunday, 21st N. A. S. A. run (Tidbinbilla T.S.)

October

- Saturday, 4th - Monthly meet at Fyshwick
- Sat 18th/Sun 19th - Dubbo/ Plains Zoo. Organiser Sandra

November

- Saturday, 1st - Monthly meet at Fyshwick
- Monday, 3rd - Wakefield NSW/VIC Challenge

- Sat 15th or Sun 16th - "The Big One" - Snowy Mountains. Organiser Rick
- Sunday, 16th - Phillip Island Track day

December

- Saturday, 6th - Monthly meet at Fyshwick
- Monday, 8th - Wakefield Track day
- Sunday, 14th - Christmas Party To confirm date, venue, etc.

Any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

Autumn 2003

15

Mx-5 Club of New South Wales Inc. Canberra Chapter Roundup

It seems like it was only yesterday I was writing for Club Talk, finishing with our August run to Bundwood to catch up with members from Sydney.

In late August, the Chapter held its annual general meeting. As an incentive to attend, members were informed that office bearers would be selected from absent members. It worked! A great turn out, and Paul Bernworth was unanimously re-elected as Convenor. That will teach him to miss the meeting!

September went with a blur. Not the least because Margaret and Paul spent all of it in Europe. A pleasant five weeks in Italy, France and the UK. In his absence Greg Rooke kept an eye on things and as Murphy's Law would have it, if something is going to fall over, it will occur while the convenor is away.

The first activity in September was our regular Coffee and Lunch, scheduled to be held at the Botanica Cafe, Red Hill. The early birds arrived to find a business notice on the door. No coffee was being served there that day. A quick ring around and a note on a scrap of paper and an alternate venue was organised. Without a drop of time being spent!

The September monthly run was to be to the delightful burg of Captain's Flat for lunch. The usual phone call to confirm members elicited a recorded message - "Gore Fiddle" - or words to that effect. Luckily the Canberra Chapter always has a Plan B. John Brown and Mal Bernhardt devised their individual plans for a tour of the New Parliament House - so we're normally off limits to the casual visitor. Followed by lunch and tea at the Old Parliament House.

Just to ensure that Greg did not have it all delivered on a platter, the Canberra Chapter hosted Sydney members for a visit to the National Capital to enjoy Florida. Our annual dinner-fest at one of the activities was to be a dinner at John's Restaurant, located above the aforementioned Botanica Cafe, Red Hill. The October Long Weekend is set a good time to organise a restaurant booking at late notice. Let alone for 30 odd people. But once again Greg came through.

The long weekend included two organised runs, one a condensed version of our (now) famous "Five Miles for 24 in Canberra Run", and then a longer run out to the Bundabilla Reservoir, culminating with a fast, uninterrupted drive along Paddy's River Road and the 'NASA' road to the Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communications Station for coffee at the Moon Rock Cafe.

One October event was the long awaited "Whale Watch Run", a 570 km, two day drive across the Monaro Plains to the coast for lunch at the Tattara Hotel and, following an overnight stay at Bermagui, a cruise out to Montague Island to observe whales on their migration to the Southern Ocean. 35 members in 18 cars attended, enjoying a great drive through a snow storm between Bombala and Carthart to the sun of the coastal strip. And we saw some whales!! Bonus.



4



Canberra Chapter Turns 30!

Story by Bryan Shedden

Canberra Chapter

Wattle it be - Sunday 21 August 2005

The weather surrounding the territory was threatening but Canberra enjoyed blue skies in 1926 from across the city gathered for the run in to Cotnamandoo, home of the famous wattle and buttercup or our 'Dor'.

They and Paul met at Regatta Point at 8:23 am and then headed to trial to meet up with Tim and Jim, Chris, Frank and Wilson and Ben and John. Arrangements were made from Dave and Russell. After introductions and run brief, it was out onto the Barton Hwy for the leg to Yass just after



9:00 am. John volunteered (?) to navigate for Road, with encouragement from Jan, and they brought up the rear.

The only outcrop on the leg was an impromptu, southbound Cotnamandoo driver overtaking using the northbound right turn lane for the turn off onto the Barton Highway Road, (which takes you to the Murrumbidgee River).

We stopped off at the Yass Service Centre to remove taro covers in case the storm clouds to the north decided to open up. After that it was right onto the Lachlan Valley Highway and then after 4 hrs, left into a narrow road to Dorrigo. This brought us out in back blocks of the town.



Then it was on to finishing along the Burley Griffin Way, and there a short detour to the old part of town, with its railway station, village squares and historic hotels.

Back on to the Burley Griffin Way for 11 km until the turn off to Gungah. Instead of heading east to Gungah, we turned to the west, making a bee-line to Cotnamandoo via narrow sealed lanes with short stretches of mainroads including the Harden - Yass leg and the Cotnamandoo - Gungah Rd.

What a drive! A fantastic roller coaster ride, with sweeping curves, ridge to ridge vision of the road between the green hills and a thrilling heart in the mouth gully. As you approached you lost sight of the road as it fell away and

then you experienced negative G as you ran down the side. They, who was taking the corner, lost sight of the car immediately to his front as it fell from view. Thanks to Robert for the detailed route description.

Arriving at Cotnamandoo we were struck by the absence of wattle trees, but impressed by the quality of buildings and architecture of the 40s and 50s, reflecting the post war boom.



At the district, we stopped for obligatory coffee and early lunch at the 'Outback Bakery' passing up the opportunity to dine at the (common as chips) Wagon Cafe, and parked the backs in waiting the world go by.

After a break we split up to take in the sights and sounds of Gungah (people who spend 5 minutes in the town are given the right to use the address) and, including the house where Don Bowman was born and the newly created Cotnamandoo Walk - built of a number of cottages of the Australian Cricket team. Then it was to the Railway Station



and Heritage Centre. The Costa Antique and Historical Car Rally were conducting a run from Gungah to Yass, but we were lucky enough to see a couple of examples around town.

We arrived at the Railway station at the expected time that the Sydney - Melbourne 387 was due, and we left as it arrived - an hour later!

The run back to Canberra along the Burley Griffin Way was uneventful, not at all interesting compared to the run out, except that we did see wattle trees along the Olympic Way.

Returning to Canberra around 4:00 pm, we managed to avoid rain, but did experience a great deal with great concern in our great 1926.

CLUB TALK IN REVIEW

Wenny Boden, Kevin Addison, Tim Sullivan and Mike Hicks competed in the Regularity events. A great weekend was had by all who now look forward to the next meeting on the Oron Park GP Circuit in July. Congratulations to Kevin Addison who won one regularity and was second in another.

Bill Douglas had the pleasure of hosting "Zoom" to 1976 CAMS Gold Star Champion John Leffer for a demonstration run in one of Sunday's Regularities. Bill managed to shake John's best time by 0.4 of a second, if only you had taken up motor racing earlier in life Bill you may have been a Gold Star Champion.



The next State Championship Race Meeting will be at Oron Park on the 29th and 30th of July followed by the sixth round of the Superprint Championship at Eastern Creek on Sunday the 17th August. Good luck to all those competing and if you're not competing go along and support the MX-5 members. Safe and exciting MX-5 motor racing till next time. Mike Hicks - Competition Secretary.

John Leffer and Wenny Boden on the 1976 Gold Star Champion

CLUB TALK CANBERRA REGION ROUNDUP

Since the last Club Talk, the Canberra Region Chapter has continued its frantic pace of events, starting with an informal run to Thirlmere on Sunday 4 September 2005 to meet with Sydney members and visit the NSW rail transport museum. We all enjoyed lunch at the 'Welcome Inn' and then proceeded to brush up on the history of the NSW Railways.

September's formal run was named 'Tip Toe through the Tulips' but would have been more appropriately called 'Tip Toe Heat the Tulips'. Held on Sunday 18 September 2005, the first day of Riverside and the opening of the Tulip Farm's 8th Spring Festival, we drove via Bungendore for a coffee stop and visited the famous Woodwards. That took a little longer than expected so we decided to bypass the Tulips and enjoy the Bungendore to Gundaroo Road for a lunchtime pizza in the Courthouse at Gundaroo.



The first Tuesday in October saw the local launch of the new NC model MX-5 at Rolle Maista in Murrumbidgee. Rolle Maista's General Manager, Mark Wilson, used the occasion to announce sponsorship of the Canberra Region Chapter of the MX-5 Club of NSW.

Photo: Rolle Maista Grand Opening. Mark Wilson presenting the sponsor's cheque to Canberra Chapter Treasurer, Ted Bennett.

This following weekend saw the third annual Dave's Dodge Day, this time a two day event. Sponsored by Dave Battison of Carco Automotive, the Chapter enjoyed a fascinating technical talk and demonstration by Stewart Clode of the Lake Tuggeranong College automotive faculty. The following day at Dave's workshop was a more practical day, where he installed turbo heat shields, provided advice on panel and paint repairs, an underbody power wash and more.

Our Club run on Sunday 30 October coincided with a flying day conducted at the Australian Museum of Flight, Narrabri. The Museum Director invited the MX-5 Club to attend and participate in a parade of WW2!

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CLUB TALK IN REVIEW

Pacific Campaign veterans, 7 Canberra cars joined one car from Mittagang for the event. Unfortunately, the weather, which plagued the Track Day at Wakefield Park, also affected the flying day.

Sunday 20th November the Chapter saw 13 Chapter cars participate in a display of Cars and Trucks called 'Marquees in the Park' on at John Knight Park, Belconnen, ACT. More than 700 vehicles of all types were presented. This gave us an opportunity to promote our Club and our sponsor, Rolle Maista, who provide a gleaming new NC 1.6 for the display of our fine MX-5s.

The crime do to crime of runs was the long awaited two day run around the Snowy Mountains. Held over the weekend 26 - 27 November, 9 cars including 3 from Sydney enjoyed marvellous roads through the Southwest Slopes, the Snowy Mountains and the Monaro Plains.



This Chapter events in December included a mid week evening run to check out the Christmas Lights in the northern suburbs. A great turn out of 16 MX-5s, and a Clubhouse. The main event was the Canberra Region Chapter Christmas Party. Held at Madaw Winery, Federal Highway, Lake George, the event attracted 55 people including a number from Sydney down for the December Track Day. Dave Battison of Carco Automotive and Andrew took the opportunity to announce sponsorship of the Canberra Region Chapter.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter Christmas Party, Madaw Winery, Lake George.

Chapter members have achieved good results in a range of motor sports activities including motorcycling, Club track days at Wakefield Park, hillclimbs and the domestic Go Kart Championships, made up of 4 rounds conducted on an indoor karting track.



The Chapter's first run in 2006 was an evening run to miss the heat of the day. A great turn out, 19 cars in the end, 17 at the start and two joined us during the run. It was a spectacular sight, one of the biggest groups of MX-5s cruising the roads to check out the hills of Canberra. The run finished with supper on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, unfortunately the superb sunset we experienced in 2005 was absent.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter members, Mt Anaka, Canberra

The inaugural Conventor's BBQ was held on Sunday, 31st February 2006. 42 members and 6 guests gathered at the Lenda Estate Winery, Lake George to enjoy the hospitality of the MX-5 Club of NSW and Lenda Estate.



12 March saw the Chapter participate in the Annual Shannons Wheels Expo. This charity event attracts a wide range of motoring and is a popular event in the ACT. 23 cars were presented during the day and all agreed it was a great promotion for the Chapter.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter display, Shannons Wheels Expo

Also in March, 5 cars and crews participated in the Riverina Run, a famed rally conducted between Goulburn and Wagga Wagga.

To make sure no one missed out on a March 10th experience, our monthly run was the Dilly Dally in Dalgety Run, a visit to one of the alternate sites for the National Capital, and near the headwaters of the Snowy River. The area contains some magnificent roads, despite the transport stage to Cooma and return. Mal Barnhart organised and led the run.

April saw the Chapter secure its regular 'Coffee and Kie' informal monthly meeting from Frodo to the Buchanan Café on the top of Red Hill, right in the middle of the city, providing plenty of car parking and fine food, the new venue has been an outstanding success. Regular attendances of 20 or more cars, even during the depths of Canberra's infamous winter, have been recorded.

CLUB TALK IN REVIEW

The April run saw 10 cars take a back roads run through Bungendore, Targo, Goulburn and Bungonia to Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands for lunch at the Hotel Bundanoon.

In May the big news was the Great Roads Run, while only four cars took part in the two week run around Victoria, taking in the Great Ocean Road and the Great Alpine Road, and many other great roads in between, it was a quality field. The touring party were joined in Koorndook for the Great Alpine Road leg by three other Canberra cars. The final leg through the Snowy Mountains was a blast!

Making sure that other Chapter members were not left out on their monthly drive, John Brown headed a run via Brindwood to Araluen and Majors Creek, catching up with Brindwood's sole MX-5 owner.



With the middle of the year coming up, it was time to go inland. Stewart and Lesia organised a great run through some fantastic roads of the South West Slopes and a tour of the beautifully restored property of Monte Cristo Homestead and a tour/fun at the popular Luncheon and Chocolate Factory. 9 cars participated.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter at Monte Cristo, June

July means Christmas, and this year the Canberra Region Chapter celebrated with traditional Christmas fare at the show vineyard estate, in Murrumbidgee, just over the border. Superbly organised by Tim and Tony, 25 members and 4 guests enjoyed fine company, fine food and fine cars, beginning with a smart 80 km run including nine of the ten roundabouts along Parkes Way in the City.

In August, it was back to Bundanoon to meet up with the Sydney members of the MX-5 Club of NSW. 11 cars made the journey and enjoyed the company of fellow MX-5 aficionados.

The Canberra Region Chapter has enjoyed growing membership over the past twelve months! It enjoys the enthusiastic support of many members driving cars from across the range of MX-5s from 1989 to the present. The Chapter is well supported by its sponsor, particularly Mark Wilson, Dealer principal of Rolle Maista, Belconnen, and Dave and Russ Battison, of Carco Exhaust and Automotive, also of Belconnen.

The Canberra Region Chapter welcomes visitors to our fine city, be assured that you will receive a warm welcome at any time, but in particular at our famous Coffee and Kie, held in the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. You will find us at the Buchanan Café, and will, just look out for the long line of sports cars!



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MX-5 Club of New South Wales Inc.



November was a more settled month, just two activities for a change (!). First up was the Chapter's participation in the annual *Marquee in the Park*, the Council of ACT Motor Clubs spring time motoring event hosted by the Canberra Region Motors Minor Club. Hundreds of vehicles were displayed, including 17 MX-5s, 19 of which had two Victorian registered cars that parked next to us.

The second event was a BBQ lunch at the Binalong Motor Museum. 34 members in 21 cars enjoyed a tour of slightly confusing run along the Barton and Blaine Highways to Bookham, and then on a pleasant country lane to the Budley Griffin Way and then to Binalong. We enjoyed a tasty BBQ and were able to wander freely around the displays and workshop.

December is usually a quiet month, providing you do not attend the Annual Chapter Christmas party and the now well established Christmas Lights Cruise.

The Christmas party was held at the Modern Winery on the Federal Highway at Lake George. 35 people in 21 cars met outside Government House, even hopeful of an invite for a cappa, and then took an 80 km short cut to the winery including a run on the 'old' Barton Highway. Funny how those dreadful old roads are much more fun in an MX-5!!



Wine tasting ahead of dinner made for a great start to the festivities, which included certificate presentations to members who had contributed to the Chapter's success during 2020.

The Christmas Lights Cruise is an informal drive through Canberra's northern suburbs checking out the magnificent light displays, both on an individual house basis and complete streets. 23 cars started, and we think all 23 ended up at Dave Harrison's house for pudding and refreshments.

The Canberra Region Chapter continues to grow enjoying the enthusiasm, support of many members driving cars from across the range of MX-5s from 1989 to the present. The Chapter is well supported by its sponsors, particularly Mark Wilson, Dealer Principal of Rodie Motors, and Dave and Ross Harrison, of Carco Import and Automotive, both of Belconnen, all of whom are regular participants in social and motor sport activities.

The Canberra Chapter welcomes visitors to our fine city, be assured that you will receive a warm welcome at any time, but in particular at our famous Coffee and Lies, held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. You will find us at the Tulp Cafe, Belconnen Road, Phillipago.



30 years later! Canberra's story continues.....

Canberra Chapter celebrated their 30th Anniversary on Saturday 18th July 2026 at Yowani Country Club.



A Farewell Run to Araluen

Story: John Chapuis and Barry Matson | Photos: Lili Chi



Canberra Chapter farewelled Colin McNally, a good mate and a proud bling-enhanced MX-5 owner, who passed away earlier this year, with a short trip to his old haunts at Araluen.

June 10, 2026 at the township of Sutton, in NSW, but fast becoming a suburb of Canberra.

First the weather report. Early fog, but soon clearing to a typical crisp dry Canberra winter morning.

For the first run of the season six cars took off on time from the Bakery at Sutton. The plan called for the remainder to join at Bungendore.

In a display of fearless independence, Barry our run leader missed the first turn onto Macs Reef Road and preceded on his own towards Sydney. Not to be fooled, Tony in the next car, like Nelson at Copenhagen, judged the situation correctly, ignored his leader and turned anyway. After a slight delay, leadership resumed at the Mick Sherd rendezvous in Bungendore. Then it was off on the well beaten path through Braidwood to the tiny township of Araluen.

We have enjoyed runs to this historic village many times, but this may be our last. The Pub has closed down for sad family reasons, and does not look like re-opening. One hundred and fifty years ago, Araluen was at the centre of Australia's Wild West, which would put to pale insignificance anything experienced in America around that time. Here they had bushrangers, stage coach hold-ups, bank robberies, Gold mines,



hangings, aggressive natives, plenty of pubs, bars and saloons, gambling dens, and dozens of armed police. All that is left now is a few farm buildings, and the old hotel where we gathered.

It was time for lunch, but we had not come to Araluen for that. We came to remember our old mate Colin McNally who had recently left us. Colin was a good mate who loved to decorate his cars. He had blinged up his NC in the Art Deco style, and added some questionable adornments such a fox tail on the radio antenna and a AA powered hula dancer on the dash. That was typically Colin: funny and sometimes mysterious. It was often difficult to tell when he was being serious.

Colin had greatly enjoyed our previous runs to Araluen, and he had been nagging Barry to get on with this one for months. Sadly, he was not quick enough. Nevertheless, we all

wanted to give Colin a proper send off, so we decided to make this a memorial run. His lovely granddaughter Lilly joined us to observe our tribute, and so did Rusty, a Groodle pup much loved by Colin. He would meet Rusty every Thursday with the men's group at Hall. Often Colin prepared nice meals for Rusty. In return Rusty would send him a thank you e-mail, and also honor him with an aromatic gift which Colin could take home in a plastic bag.

Barry made a short speech remembering Colin, and then we back-tracked to the nearest pub at Major's Creek. The scenery in this area is remarkable: rolling green pasture valleys studded with grazing cattle and framed by mountains in the distance. On this fine winter day, the views were breathtaking. However, it was difficult for the drivers to take all this in because the roads wound through the hills and valleys with some quite steep and tight corners that challenged the MX5 reputation for excellent road holding. As expected, every car held on in the MX5 manner.

The Pub lunch managed our group well and the food was adequate. After the usual raucous discussion and being replete, we made our way home under our own navigation.

We hope Colin was watching.



Vale Colin McNally - from BMW Motorcycle Club Canberra (Greg Barber Facebook 9th Jan 2026)

Former club member (1990's/2000s?) Colin McNally passed away earlier this week.

I came to know Colin in the late 1990's after a chance meeting at the then BMW dealer (Eurotune) in Queanbeyan, as we both lusted after particular models (bikes) that we eventually purchased. He also convinced me join the Club at this time.

Over the years Colin had a number of BMWs and always kept them in immaculate condition. He also had an interest in cars, owning MGs and later MX5s. He remained an active member of the Canberra MX5 club. He also enjoyed regularly kayaking on Lake Burley Griffin with a group of friends until very recently.

As a long term resident of Bungendore, Colin was a frequent participant at the Club's (previous) regular Sunday breakfast gathering in Bungendore which was held over many years and a number of cafes before falling off the club calendar. Colin ensured that the event continued (and continues at Cafe Woodworks) informally and he held court frequently showing his sense of humour, making fun of others, but also happily being on the receiving end. I'm still not sure if his support of Donald Trump was genuine or just a vehicle for cheekiness and shenanigans.



What's coming up for Canberra in September.....

- 5th September - Coffee and Lies at Poppy's Cafe, Australian War Memorial, Campbell ACT
- 8th September - Mystery Run. Where are we going?
- 12th September - Wonderful Wee Jasper
- 18th Septembr - Canberra Chapter Run to the President's Picnic
- 19th Septembr - President's Picnic at Ebenezer
- 20th September - It's a long way to lunch at Bungendore
- 25th Septembr - We're Going Wayback to the Goulburn Brewery





CSCA Supersprint R3 3rd May 2026

Words: Bryan Shedden

Photos: Baden Jones

The MX-5 Club of NSW took on hosting duties for Round 3 of the Combined Sports Car Association (CSCA) Supersprint Championship at Sydney Motorsport Park's Amaroo Circuit on Sunday 3 May. While our club has a long history of running this event and normally supplies virtually all of the officials, this year proved to be a little more challenging.

With many of our experienced volunteers committed to NatMeet in the Hunter Valley, we called on officials from several other CSCA clubs to help ensure the event ran smoothly. Their assistance was greatly appreciated. The Clerk of Course also had an unexpected challenge on the morning when the appointed Steward failed to arrive, creating some extra work before proceedings could get underway. Fortunately, a solution was found, and the event proceeded without drama — a testament to the teamwork that exists between the CSCA clubs.

A total of 75 competitors lined up for the day, with the MX-5 Club fielding an impressive 29 entrants — by far the largest club representation. While the majority competed in the cars that brought us together, seven members were campaigning other machinery. Our growing Toyota GR Yaris contingent has now expanded to four with Georgios Zaharof joining the club, proving that while some members have wandered from the Mazda fold, they still know where the best motorsport club is.

Unfortunately, recent minor surgery ruled me out of competing, so instead of wearing a helmet I spent the day wearing an orange

vest as the flag marshal at Flag Point 12. It turned out to be one of the better spectator positions on the circuit, with a clear view of the cars charging over the rise at Turn 10, standing on the brakes for the tight hairpin at Turn 11, and then digging in for the uphill run through Turns 12 and 13.

Thankfully, my sector remained incident-free all day, so the yellow flags stayed rolled up. Instead, I spent much of the day displaying blue flags as the faster cars caught traffic. It's surprising how often a well-timed blue flag is rewarded with a grateful wave from the quicker driver — and occasionally a sheepish one from the driver who had been ignoring their mirrors. Helping competitors get a clear lap without interrupting their rhythm was almost as satisfying as being out there myself.

At the front of the field, Benjamin Jackson's Radical SR3 was simply untouchable, recording the fastest lap of the day with a blistering 58.493 seconds. Club Lotus Australia's Louis Chan claimed second outright in his Lotus Exige, while our own Georgios Zaharof announced his arrival in the club with an outstanding third outright in his Toyota GR Yaris, stopping the clocks at 1:00.289.

The first MX-5 home was Luke Kovacic, who continued his excellent form by steering his 30th Anniversary MX-5 to fourth outright with a 1:03.285 lap. Jason Russell's ever-rapid NA MX-5 was close behind in fifth, while Sam Hou's GR Yaris finished eighth overall. Brett Lansley rounded out the outright top ten in ninth with another strong performance in his turbocharged MX-5.

The MX-5 Club's Sprint Championship produced some excellent competition across the classes. Chris Andry claimed Standard Class honours with a benchmark-beating score of 100.47%. Luke Kovacic topped



Clubman (100.02%), while Scott McGarry (99.68%) and John Karayannis (99.64%) completed the podium in an extremely competitive class. Kyle Robinson took Modified Class honours (98.69%) ahead of Paul Dierking (98.40%) and Reece Lyndon (97.15%), while Brett Lansley headed the Open Class. The Non-MX-5 category was won by Georgios Zaharof leading home fellow GR Yaris drivers Sam Hou, Jason Atkins and David Phillips.

The Amaroo Circuit once again delivered close, competitive sprinting and plenty of personal bests.

More importantly, despite the organisational challenges leading into the event, the day ran safely and efficiently thanks to the efforts of competitors, volunteers and officials from across the CSCA clubs.

While I'd much rather have been behind the wheel than behind a flag point, spending the day on the other side of the fence gave me a fresh appreciation for the volunteers who make our events possible.

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MOTORSPORT - Winter 2026



CSCA Supersprint R4

Words: Bryan Shedden

Photos: Anthony Tsikas and John Karayannis

On Sunday 14 June 2026, 27 club members enjoyed a unique day of competition at One Raceway for Round 4 of the 2026 CSCA Supersprint Championship / MX-5 Club of NSW Sprint Championship. Competitors tackled the clockwise Wakefield Circuit in the morning before switching to the anti-clockwise Shelley Circuit after lunch, with Round 4 treated as a single event and half-points allocated for each layout.

Light rain on the drive to Goulburn left the track damp for the opening runs, prompting cautious early laps as drivers searched for grip. As conditions improved, lap times quickly began to fall. Thanks to some successful lobbying by John Karayannis, most MX-5 competitors were allocated to just two run groups, making life much easier for those sharing cars and providing ample time for driver changes.

Finding a clear lap remained a challenge throughout the day, however. Large speed differences across the field created plenty of traffic, leaving few opportunities to piece together a perfect run.

One of the lighter moments came courtesy of father-and-son team Bryan and Alex Shedden, who shared Alex's NB8A. Their day ended on a memorable note when Bryan put a sizeable flat spot on the tyres under braking into the fish-hook during the final session. Once the laughter subsided, Bryan reminded Alex that they were his tyres anyway. Alex still had the final word, however, finishing ahead of his father on the Shelley Circuit.

Mechanical gremlins also made an appearance. John Karayannis' NC became stuck in neutral after the final run and was left awaiting recovery, while Leo Ascone's NB SE suffered a separate issue. The Muir brothers' modified NB also spent the day



battling a troublesome throttle body. As always, club members rallied around to help. Gerardo Martin assisted with repairs to Leo's car, Leo and Janine provided transport home for Charlie and John, and Ian Combes helped recover John's car later in the week.

Although MX-5s made up a significant portion of the field, the event — organised by the Triumph Sports Owners Association — featured some impressive machinery. The standout was a McLaren 570S GT4, a \$350,000 factory-built race car that proved only four to five seconds quicker than the fastest MX-5s.

Among the MX-5 contingent, Sarah Medley set the benchmark on the Wakefield Circuit with a 1:07.072, while Jason Russell was fastest on the Shelley Circuit with a 1:07.942. Lou Iezzi was consistently near the front on both layouts, featuring prominently among the quickest MX-5 drivers throughout the day.

Sprint Championship scoring was exceptionally close. On Wakefield, John Karayannis, Luke Kovacic and Gerardo Martin were separated by a mere 0.04% in Clubman Class. On the Shelley Circuit, Charlie Karayannis edged out his father by just 0.02%.

In the remaining classes, Kyle Robinson claimed Modified honours, Lou Iezzi won Open, and Jason Atkins took victory in Non-MX-5. For the first time in living memory, there were no competitors in Standard Class after Bryan and Alex were moved into Clubman due to their use of non-standard wheel sizes, while Ralph Thompson has made some modifications to his ND.

In the outright Sprint Championship standings, John Karayannis emerged victorious on 23.5 points, with Luke Kovacic second on 21 points and Charlie Karayannis third on 19.5 points.

With two circuit layouts, changing conditions, close competition and the club's trademark camaraderie, the day delivered everything members enjoy about MX-5 motorsport.



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW One Raceway - Wakefield Circuit 14th June 2026

Class	Cat.	PL	Car	Driver	Make & Model	Time	Benchmark	Score	Points	Outright
2-Clubman	2F	1	16	John Karayannis	Mazda MX-5 2009	71.535	69.5	97.16%	12.5	12.5
	2K	2	13	Luke Kovacic	Mazda MX-5 2019	68.561	66.6	97.14%	11	11
	2B	3	434	Gerardo Martin	Mazda MX-5 1999	72.798	70.7	97.12%	10	10
	2A	4	62	Scott McGarry	Mazda MX-5 1990	75.960	72.6	95.58%	9	8
	2F	5	116	Charlie Karayannis	Mazda MX-5 2009	72.824	69.5	95.44%	8	7
	2B	6	68	Bryan Shedden	Mazda MX-5 1999	74.414	70.7	95.01%	7	5
	2E	7	89	Mal Smith	Mazda MX-5 2009	73.788	70.1	95.00%	6	4.5
	2B	8	681	Alex Shedden	Mazda MX-5 1999	74.722	70.7	94.62%	5	4
	2A	9	14	Joshua Tkac	Mazda MX-5 1992	76.827	72.6	94.50%	4.5	3.5
	2K	10	76	Ralph Thompson	Mazda MX-5 2023	70.674	66.6	94.24%	4	3
	2H	11	43	Michal Marszalek	Mazda MX-5 2020	72.808	67.3	92.43%	3.5	0.5
	2A	12	555	Ian Mash	Mazda MX-5 1993	81.164	72.6	89.45%	3	0.5
3-Modified	3B	1	25	Kyle Robinson	Mazda MX-5 1998	72.654	69.6	95.80%	12.5	9
	3G	2	777	Reece Lyndon	Mazda MX-5 2005	70.696	67.4	95.34%	11	6
	3E	3	712	Paul Dierking	Mazda MX-5 2010	73.688	69.0	93.64%	10	1.5
	3B	4	138	Robert Muir	Mazda MX-5 1999	76.593	69.6	90.87%	9	0.5
	3E	5	37	Bill Bannister	Mazda MX-5 2009	78.304	69.0	88.12%	8	0.5
	3B	6	381	James Muir	Mazda MX-5 1999	80.463	69.6	86.50%	7	0.5
	3A	7	331	Ross Jackson	Mazda MX-5 1992	83.066	71.5	86.08%	6	0.5
4-Open	4N	1	41	Lou Iezzi	Mazda MX-5 ND	67.710	63.8	94.23%	12.5	2.5
	4T	2	369	Sarah Medley	Mazda MX-5 2000	67.072	62.9	93.78%	11	2
	4T	3	722	Jason Russell	Mazda MX-5 1990	67.922	62.9	92.61%	10	1
	4N	4	171	Ian Combes	Mazda MX-5 1999	71.120	63.8	89.71%	9	0.5
	4T	5	56	Lionel Ascone	Mazda MX-5 SE 2005	75.396	62.9	83.43%	8	0.5
5-Non-MX-5	5O	1	4	Jason Atkins	Toyota GR Yaris 2024	71.624			12.5	
	5O	2	66	Stewart Grigg	VW Golf R 2012	72.490			11	
	5O	3	11	Joshua Collins	Subaru BRZ 2015	72.547			10	



Panorama Mountain Men equal record at NSWRRC 600

Words: Stewart Temesvary

Photos: Stewart Temesvary and Paul Byers

The weekend of the 27th and 28th June

2026 saw the 10th running of the NSW Road Racing Club's annual Regularity Relay event at the Sydney Motor Sports Park GP circuit.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary the event was run as a 10 hour regularity relay rather than the usual 6 hour format. The first 4 hours of competition were conducted under lights on Saturday evening from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, with the remaining 6 hours conducted on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Five teams from the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW took part in this Premier event on the club's motorsport calendar.

Panorama Mountain Men – Drivers:

Brendan Thomas, Stewart Temesvary, Gus Elias and Glenn Thomas

Barge Racing – Drivers:

Michael Demaio, Terry Johnson and Sean Byers

momentuMX5 – Drivers:

Peter Barnwell, Craig Franklin, Kim Jacobs, Gregor Lochtie and Gerry Martin

Just Regular Guys – Drivers:

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

Just Regular Guys 2 – Drivers:

Ian Combes, Reece Lyndon, Mike Kelsey and Ralph Thompson.

Each team was required to have between 3 and 6 drivers. David Johnson was scheduled to compete as part of the Barge Racing Team (along with Michael Demaio and Sean

Byers) but a last minute family matter led to his withdrawal the day before the start of the event. Luckily Terry Johnson agreed to transfer from the Just Regular Guys 2 team to compete with Barge Racing, meaning Barge Racing would not be disqualified before the event started.

Each driver had to nominate a time that they considered they could drive consistently to over the period of the two days. The event does not allow drivers to have two different nominated times, one for dry track and one for wet track. Weather played an important part in what times drivers nominated because the forecast of showers through the event meant there would probably be periods of dry track and possible periods of wet track.

The event soon became a four-way battle between regular front runners; Phoenix Racing, Barge Racing, Southern Motorsport and the defending champions Panorama Mountain Men.

Phoenix Racing got out to a commanding lead in the early stages of the event and looked like they would never be headed.

Panorama Mountain Men started slowly and were placed 13th after 1.5 hours of competition. By the end of the Saturday evening they had climbed up to fourth place, joining the ongoing battle between Barge Racing and Southern Motorsport for the minor placings.

A penalty imposed on Phoenix Racing in the later stages of the event brought them back towards the other three teams, giving those teams a glimmer of hope.

The first $\frac{3}{4}$ of the event was conducted on a dry track, but a torrential downpour impacted on the event with about 2.5 hours

of competition left. This downpour had a significant impact on the overall results. Those teams where all drivers had nominated dry times could no longer achieve any bonuses and those teams that had some or all of their drivers nominating wet times were able to continue to score bonuses.

All Panorama Mountain Men nominated wet track times, which meant by the end of the event they had taken the lead with a little over 15 bonus points ahead of Phoenix Racing who in turn were less than one bonus ahead of Barge Racing in third.

The results for the MX-5 Club teams were:

1st	Panorama Mountain Men
3rd	Barge Racing
5th	Just Regular Guys
7th	momentuMX5
10th	Just Regular Guys 2

The Win by Panorama Mountain Men means they have now won four of the last five NSW Road Racing Club regularity relays and have equalled Phoenix Racing's record of 4 wins at the event.

The win also means that of the last 11 regularity relays Panorama Mountain Men have competed in they have won nine, second in one and third in one. A very impressive record by anyone's standards.



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Christmas In July!



**Sydney at Victoria and Albert Guesthouse
12th July 2026**

Words: Gary Nobrega

**Photos: Gary Nobrega, Rob Wilkins and
Mark Godfrey**

The skies turned blue today for 12 MX-5's to celebrate Christmas in July at Mt. Victoria.

There were 2 new members on the run, one of whom had owned her yellow NA MX-5 for 23 years.

Members of the Sydney chapter made their way up the Putty Road from Windsor, cutting through the swooping backroads of Kurrajong before turning onto Bells Line of Road. After a well-earned rest at Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, the Darling Causeway took us to the Victoria and Albert Guesthouse where we joined in the festivities and had a roast lunch while the resident Kookaburra kept a watchful eye on us.



**RPM at Victoria and Albert Guesthouse
19th July 2026**

Words and Photos: Chris Wyatt

Many world luminaries have graced the luxurious climes of the Victoria and Albert Guest House over the last one and a half centuries. From John F Kennedy and Dame Nellie Melba, many famous politicians and Royal Family. This week it was the return of the infamous Rivers Plains and Mountains chapter of the MX5 Club of New South Wales.

Nineteen members from various parts of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains came together under the blessing of our, unfortunately absent, Social Coordinators Sandie and Paul to partake in a glorious feast of meats and greens complimented by fine wines and beers. The festively dressed guests in a controlled chaos then dove into the luxurious deserts to complete the sumptuous afternoon repast.

Much discussion was held with members returning from their "Grand Tour" as the party wound down and couples returned to their open carriages and four, for the return journey to their distant homes.

Many thanks to all and looking forward to future such meetings.





South Coast in the Southern Highlands 18th July 2026

Words: Anda Clayton

Photos: Anda Clayton and Rose Smith

Our Christmas in July event for 2026 is now done and dusted, and a successful day at that.

A cosy but friendly group of 7 South Coasties gathered at The Berry General Store for coffee to fortify ourselves for our journey up the mountain to the Highlands.

Due to roadworks at Jamberoo Mountain Rd, we decided to alter our originally planned route to a run via Kangaroo Valley Rd. It is a very scenic route, albeit peppered with Saturday morning cyclists and potholes. We experienced a variety of climates on our run from sunshine one minute to fog. When visible, the views in the area are unsurpassable.

We arrived at our favourite Christmas in July venue, Bundanoon Hotel, where we were welcomed by friendly staff who led us to our private dining room, fire blazing and beautifully decked out in Christmas decorations. Needless to say, our Rose, who is known to feel the cold, made a beeline for a seat close to the fire.

Following a starter of warm sourdough, our feast of share plates was laid out on the table - delicious slow cooked lamb, ham, turkey, crunchy potatoes, oven baked vegetables and a yummy salad and all the trimmings.

Our servings were so generous that, yet again, we had enough to take home for "Ron".

Tummies full, Anda decided to spring a Christmas trivia quiz on the unsuspecting diners. We did, after all, need to work off the food.....I'm sure brain exercise counts.

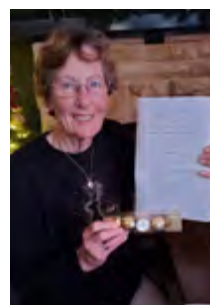
Following moans of "we need easier questions", the group fared considerably well and learnt a lot along

the way. We learnt that the legend of Santa Claus originated in 280 A.D. in Patara, in modern day Turkey, and Geoff claims to have seen annual migrations of reindeer on Christmas Island! Rose was the victor with a score of 81/2 and claimed a well-earned box of chocolates.

Out came dessert - plum pudding, Chantilly cream and custard....can we do this? Needless to say, none of us needed dinner that night.

Another lovely day out with MX5 friends. We had fine tops down weather, stunning views, great conversation with many laughs and a magnificent meal.

A unanimous decision was made then and there....let's do this again next year!





Christmas In July!



Hunter's Christmas in Fingal Bay 18th July 2026

Words: Felicity Harden

Photos: Wendy Mulholland

Although the weather was a little unpredictable, with torrential rain along the M1 giving way to beautiful sunshine at Fingal Bay, 23 members in 13 MX-5s braved the conditions to enjoy our annual Christmas in July run.

The day began at Raymond Terrace before our convoy headed north to Fingal Bay, where members gathered for lunch at the newly refurbished Saltwater Restaurant at Fingal Bay Surf Club.

The Christmas lunch was a great success, with our group enjoying access to the surfside deck. The stunning coastal outlook provided plenty to admire, from whales breaching in the distance to boats making their way across the bay. To top it all off, a vibrant rainbow appeared, creating the perfect backdrop for some memorable photos.

Three beautifully decorated Christmas tables, arranged close together, encouraged plenty of conversation and laughter throughout the afternoon. Despite the mixed weather, it was another enjoyable social event, with good food, great company, and plenty of Christmas spirit shared among our Hunter Chapter members.



Thursday 10 Sep 2026

Panorama House

A Run, A Meal, A View

Meet:

Settlers 1300 Mulgoa Road Mulgoa

Saturday 19 Sep 2026

Whole Club

President's Picnic 2026

Every member of the MX-5 community is invited to the President's Picnic in the Ebenezer Church grounds. Members enjoy morning tea and lunch with the compliments of the Club with a fee charged to non-members to cover catering etc. Everyone is encouraged to show or enter their MX-5 in a competition.

Meet

Ebenezer Church Grounds at 95 Coromandel Road Ebenezer

Saturday 26 Sep 2026

Mudgee with Graham and Gillian

Two nights with Graham and Gillian, Wine and Food in Mudgee. SORRY FULLY BOOKED.

Duration

3 days (26 September - 28 September)



President's Picnic



Cullenbone Schoolhouse Mudgee

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Illawarra Pork Knuckle Run

18th July 2026

Story: Bryan Shedden

Photos: Bryan Shedden, Ann Hicks and Senia Gaunson

Technically it wasn't a "Christmas in July" dinner but it was July and it was a darn good "Christmas" dinner.

25 happy MX-5ers gathered at Haywards Bay for an 8:30am getaway on 18 July under brilliant blue skies. It was one of those crisp mornings that reminds you why winter is often the best driving season.

After a gentle warm-up through Jamberoo, the fun began in earnest on Jamberoo Mountain Road. Twisting through magnificent rainforest, the road was in superb condition and had everyone wearing the trademark MX-5 grin. We regrouped at Robertson before heading through Wildes Meadow and Bundanoon.

The first entertainment of the weekend came courtesy of Tail-End Charlie, who rang to confess they'd taken an "alternative route" and would meet us later at Bungendore. Every club run needs at least one navigator with an adventurous streak! The rest of us happily continued along Highland Way, one of those roads that seems purpose-built for MX-5s.

Morning tea at the Wingello Village Store was well earned. The coffee, muffins and raisin toast disappeared quickly, although the lack of scones caused more disappointment than anyone cared to admit. The lolly counter claimed a few victims, while Rob and Max tackled milkshakes so large they arrived with a second cup. Fiona, Bryan and Paul also proved you're never too old for the playground, giving the rope castle and zipline a decent workout.

Leaving Wingello, we briefly joined the Hume and escaped as quickly as possible, picking up the far more entertaining roads through Bungonia, Windellama and Tarago before arriving in Bungendore. Parking was surprisingly scarce thanks to a gathering of American muscle cars. We couldn't help noticing they looked much happier parked than tackling winding back roads. Lunch at The George Bar & Dining hit the spot, with most choosing lighter meals in anticipation of dinner.

Skirting around the southern end of the capitals suburbs, one of the unexpected highlights came from an impromptu stop at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex. What started as a comfort break quickly became a photo opportunity beneath one of the enormous satellite dishes, followed by an interesting wander through the visitor centre. It's well worth a visit if you're passing through.

From there, Paddy's River Road delivered exactly what we were hoping for — kilometres of flowing bends and great scenery. We finished the day's drive with spectacular views from Black Mountain Lookout before checking into the Garden City Hotel.

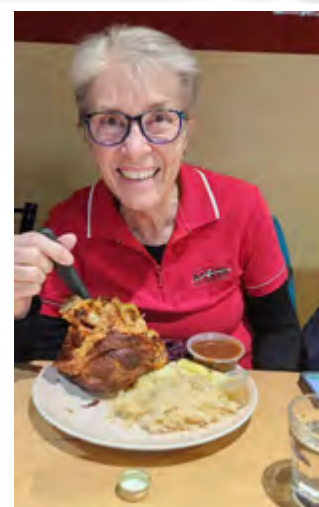
Dinner next door at the Harmonie German Club was our Christmas in July celebration. Thanks to Canberra Convenor John Chapuis for dropping in with the Chapter's 30th Anniversary badge. Fifteen brave souls ordered the legendary pork knuckle, each arriving with a knife protruding from it like Excalibur. Most surrendered before the finish, but Rob and Ian somehow reduced theirs to a lonely bone. After several excellent German beers, the barman decided one round of schnapps was enough. Apparently we looked like we were enjoying ourselves a little too much.



Sunday morning reminded us we were in Canberra, with the temperature plunging to -6°C . Those lucky enough to find the underground car park congratulated themselves while the rest scraped thick frost from their MX-5s. After breakfast, some enjoyed a stroll around Kingston Foreshore and the Old Bus Depot Markets before regrouping at Manuka.

The run north through Sutton, Gundaroo, Gunning, Cullerin and Breadalbane uncovered another cracking country road that was new to most of us. Lunch at Tattersalls Hotel in Goulburn wrapped up another terrific club weekend before everyone headed for home.

Great roads, superb food, plenty of laughs and excellent company — it's hard to ask for much more from an MX-5 Club weekend away.





Rob's Journey to "Finding Dory"

Tuesday 16th June 2026 was a big day for Rob Wilkins, known to most as of us as Wilko. It was the day he picked up his Deep Crystal Blue MX-5 ND from **Blue Mountains Mazda**. He named her "Dory". Dory was beautiful just the way she was, but like a phoenix, she was about to go through a re-birth to make her amazing! Here is Rob's diary through her transformation.

Tue 16th June 2026

It's been quite a day. My mate, Alex, drove me up to Blue Mountains Mazda as my new MX-5 was ready for delivery. He saved me a long train ride.

What a great experience it was dealing with Cameron. He made the whole process enjoyable and stress free.

After all the features were explained I was ready to begin my ownership with my fifth MX-5, my first that wasn't an NB.

The odometer climbed from 7 to 103 by the time I arrived at MX5 MANIA. Here it will stay to undergo a cosmetic change.

I'm looking forward to this new chapter in my MX-5 journey.

Tue 23rd June 2026

It's been a very exciting week. After leaving my new ND with MX5 MANIA to have its black interior and roof removed. It was time to organise a ute to the get the parchment replacements over there.

I think at some stage it was all hands on deck to get the new out and get ready for the slightly old. The donor car was a damaged and sacrificed 35AE with only 1600km.

Plenty of photos through out the day kept me up to date with the progress. Already with the Konig

wheels I could see a big improvement.

By Tuesday morning it looked completely bare. While many would consider it a sacrilege to tamper with a perfect ND I had my vision. The team at Mania, led by David soon had the roof, carpet and all the plastics in place. Next the seats and finally the Guardian Designs steering wheel.

I couldn't get there soon enough once I heard it was ready.

Simone made me cover my eyes before the big reveal. I was overwhelmed. It looks amazing, what a transformation. I can't thank the guys enough for making this possible and in a short period of time.

Now to enjoy it and take some photos of my own. First, I had to show it to Alex who had helped me do my last interior swap. 100% approval. Then, off past Pie in the Sky to Brooklyn and over the Hawkesbury River Bridge for a mini photo shoot and admire my new ND, Dory.

Saturday 27th June 2026 - First Big Day Out
Pretty keen to get going. We're part of the 15 cars ready to leave McDonalds at Dural. Both the Sydney Chapter and Illawarra Chapter are heading off to Peats Ridge.

The route took us over the Wisemans Ferry and beside the Hawkesbury River. There were plenty of corners to enjoy even at legal speed limits. Destination, The Springs Golf Club at Peats Ridge for lunch.

By days end at the Lake George rest area we'd covered 459 km.

Sunday morning and we joined the Canberra Chapter for the popular annual run to Laggan Hotel. I was quite pleased to see the fuel consumption reporting a low 6.6 l/100km.

Sunday's run with the Canberra Chapter helped break in the running gear. By the end of the week and a few more events, Dory was living up to her new quote "Just keep driving".





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