

*club*

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

# TORQUE



## Mountain High

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## Notmeet 2015

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AUTUMN 2015

Print Post Publication: I00006993



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**NOTMEET 2015 12**



**MOTORSPORT 34**



**CANBERRA 16**



**BREAKFAST CLUB 33**



**MID NORTH COAST 27**

# **INSIDE <sup>club</sup> TORQUE**



**RPM 29**



**HUNTER 21**



**MEMBER NEWS 08**



**ILLAWARRA 22**



**SYDNEY 15**





The advertisement is a vertical banner. At the top, a black background features a white line-art car driving on a road, with a blue wavy line above it. Below this, the text 'Windsor Sports Car Hire' is written in orange. The middle section shows a red Mazda MX-5 sports car parked on a paved road next to a stone wall and greenery. Below the car, the website 'windsorsportscarhire.com.au' is written in white on an orange background. The bottom section has a black background with the text 'Book your DRIVE TODAY!' in white and '4579 7099' in orange. At the very bottom, there is a landscape photo of a mountain range under a blue sky.

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# club TORQUE

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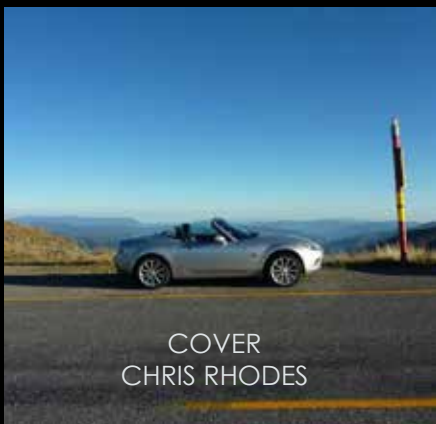
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COVER  
CHRIS RHODES

*“Nothing can match the beauty of our countryside (or our MX-5s). And we have the photos to prove it.”*

*Mel Keller*

## In the Eye of the Beholder

Years spent trying to keep my daughter amused whilst driving have left me with a bit of a habit; one that is proving impossible to break. Whenever I see a yellow car, I am compelled to yell “Spotto” and keep a running score. These days I am more often than not; blissfully unaccompanied when travelling but I still play “Spotto” every time I see an MX-5 - with double points for a yellow one. Thanks to our amazing photographers, you can “Spotto” too and you don’t even need to leave the house to play. We have pages and pages of beautiful images of our amazing countryside and our favourite cars.

We welcome your contributions here at “Club Torque” and invite you to share your MX-5 photos. Individual photos for our Front Cover can be emailed as a jpg file to the Editor. Please reference the event name and date and include your name and contact details. For our printing process, we need maximum resolution (5 megapixels).

Back Cover Member’s Gallery - we are looking for a collage of themed MX-5 photos. Subjects can include scenery, people or snaps from an MX-5 Club event. We need at least 20 original photos of 3 megapixels or more. Multiple photos can be uploaded to image sharing sites such as Flickr or Photobucket, simply mark each as “public” and email the weblink to the Editor.

Feature photos - we suggest at least 3 photos of 3 megapixels or more to accompany event reports with 5 megapixels required for full page feature photos.

Or just give us a shout at [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au)

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL

749

[FINANCIAL]

NEW  
MEMBERS

48

## NEW MEMBERS Welcome!

Yasmin Allen  
Joshua Allen  
Lisa Boes  
Michael Booth  
Trevor Brown  
Leian Busfield  
Dominic Busfield  
Jeff Choy  
Robert Crawford  
James Crowhurst  
Susan Dainter  
Fay Graham  
Michael Graham  
Fraser Granville  
Nick Granville  
Daniel Hill

Nancye Hull  
Denis Hull  
Jamie Irwin  
Rob Irwin  
Amanda Jeffrey  
Bronwyn Jennings  
Brad Jennings  
Kareene Kavanagh  
Mark Kavanagh  
Lester Langford  
Shae McDougall  
Ned McGovern  
Paige-Louise McSweeney  
James Millen  
Andrew Kieran Mulyk  
Brendan Newham

Marcella O'Donoghue  
Chris Olson  
Margaret Osborne  
Murray Osborne  
Sue Paisley  
Grant Paisley  
Geoff Pollard  
Adam Selwyn  
Bill Shipton  
Graham Smith  
Marco Spaccavento  
Maria Tallon  
David Temesvary  
Mark Virgona  
Kerri Ward  
Jim Zahra

## MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE

We have passed a milestone with our total membership, including current and past members, passing 3000 since the Club's inception 25 years ago.

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*“We’ve got two new initiatives for you this quarter: a special edition 25th Anniversary range of club regalia and the launch of our business directory,”* **Bryan Shedden**



## First in, Best Dressed

Club members who have joined us within the last few years would probably be unaware that we used to hold a stock of club regalia. It was a common sight on club runs to see Pam & Ray Estreich pop the boot of their SE, and sell an assortment of club shirts, caps, hats and beanies to the encircled horde. However, with the growth of the club it has become impractical to continue with this model, and we’ve gradually sold off the stock. The RPM and Illawarra Chapters developed their own range of made-to-order regalia with the financial support of their sponsors, and it is now a common sight to see those members sporting their “colours” of black/teal and red/white. The Mid North Coast Chapter has followed this trend and placed their first order of snazzy navy/white polo shirts and caps. Next up will be Hunter and Canberra Chapters in white/navy and royal blue/gold.

Even with this move towards chapter-based regalia, there is still a call for club wide regalia to be offered. We’re also celebrating

our 25th Anniversary in 2015, so we’ve taken the opportunity to offer a special edition of club regalia. The 25th Anniversary regalia will be produced on a made-to-order basis, and is available now for delivery in June-July. We have settled on royal blue/white for the club regalia and selected an exciting range of products to celebrate our Silver Anniversary. There are short & long sleeve polos, rugby tops, chambray shirts, polar fleece jackets, beanies & scarves, and the popular reversible jackets. Our 25th Anniversary regalia are essential collectors’ items, and you won’t want to miss out. See page 10 for the range and how to order.

When it comes to buying goods and services, most would agree that it is reassuring to deal with someone you know. With over 750 members in our club, many with their own businesses, it seems that we have a great opportunity to help each other. Better still, those businesses are likely to want to support the MX-5 community by offering

members-only deals & discounts. With this in mind, Vice President Glenn Thomas is leading the development of a Business Directory on the club website. The idea is that club members will be given the opportunity to promote their business, and you will benefit from the deals & discounts they offer. There will be a token fee of \$10 per listing to cover administrative costs, and the ads will be displayed in a dedicated section of our website for 12 months. I am hopeful that the Business Directory will grow to become a valuable resource for all club members.

I am very excited about the impending arrival of my Soul Red ND 1.5L Roadster manual. I have placed a pre-order with Cameron at Blue Mountains Mazda, who has been a generous sponsor of the RPM Chapter since it was launched a few years ago. If any other members are looking to buy an ND, I encourage them to contact Cameron (see page 9 for details).





## Thank You Zan

Our Motorsport Event Secretary Zan Menzel is retiring from the position at the end of May. We would all like to thank Zan for her dedication and hard work during her many years of service to the Club. Warm applause from grateful officials and drivers greeted a presentation of a plaque during the Trackday at Sydney Motorsport Park on April 12.



## Win An All-New Mazda MX-5

Don't miss your chance to win an All-New Mazda MX-5 1.5L Roadster GT and an Ultimate Driver's Luxury Weekend Away in Queensland. The prize also includes an MX-5 for you to drive, two economy air fares, two nights luxury accommodation, fine dining and spending money. Go to <http://allnewmazdamx5.com.au> to enter.

## NSW Technical Advisor

We welcome Peter Battisson to the role of Technical Co-ordinator. Peter will provide tips and tricks to advise and educate members on performance, safety and maintenance so you can get the most from your MX-5. Email your technical questions to: [technical@mx5.com.au](mailto:technical@mx5.com.au).



## NATMEET Fully Subscribed. However.....

Having reached capacity with 92 cars and 161 attendees, NatMeet XII Tasmania organisers have advised that they will still accept registrations to be placed on a waiting list. There is still hope so go to <http://nsw.mx5.com.au/events/natmeet> to register your interest.



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# CLUB

***Pam Estreich and the team showcase the latest in MX-5 Regalia with their Winter Collection. Featuring a huge range of pieces each with MX-5 Club of NSW logo with 25th Anniversary embroidery. Send your order using the enclosed form to: [regalia@mx5.com.au](mailto:regalia@mx5.com.au). Further details and sizing guides can be found on our website. Hurry - orders close 15 June, 2015.***



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Ladies (L) and Mens (R) Short  
Sleeved Polo Shirts

**\$24**

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# REGALIA



Perfect for Winter  
Mens Rugby Top (L)

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**\$75**



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Full Zip Polar Fleece Jacket  
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It Pays to Accessorise

1 Legend Life Cap 2 Headwear Racing Cap  
3 Polar Fleece Beanie 4 Polar Fleece Scarf

**\$15**



# Notmeet 2015

03 - 06 April WORDS STEPHEN CARTER PHOTOS PETER HILKMANN

*38 MX-5s, 65 people, 4 fun-filled days and just a little bit of rain.*

Glen Innes is a rural community located about half way between Sydney and Brisbane in the New England Region and is the home of The Australian Standing Stones and other tributes to it's Celtic Heritage.

Glen Innes has been effected by a terrible drought, that is until the MX-5 Clubs of NSW and Queensland hit town for Notmeet 2015. There's something about a large gathering of MX-5s that

seems to attract the rain and there was rain in abundance for the Easter event.

The NSW contingent gathered at a wet Beresfield on Friday morning, heading through Clarence Town and Dungog on the way to a lunch stop in the park at Gloucester. Thankfully the rain had broken for the meantime.

After lunch the route went up Thunderbolts Way to Walcha and Uralla, joining the New England

Highway for the final run to Glen Innes. Despite a hiccup with Jenny & George Boyko's SE, we arrived safely in Glen Innes where the weather had by now closed in.

The Queensland contingent had beaten us to The New England Motor Lodge and had already settled into the bar for happy hour. Dinner that night proved a great time to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Saturday's schedule had an option



of two runs; across the Great Divide to Dorrigo or a local area sightseeing loop. Greeted with a gloomy morning and very steady rain, most people opted for the shorter run although about a dozen cars headed towards the coast.

Group A set off on what was to be a very wet day with little respite from the rain. Heading East towards the Gibraltar Range word came through that another NB had been struck down with one of those mystery losses of power, most likely caused by a faulty sensor. So with Debra Webb deciding to return to Glen Innes the rest of the group continued towards Grafton.

Following a brief stop at a lookout to get a better view of the fog and morning tea at Grafton Maccas the group made its way up the infamous Nymboida Corkscrew. Slippery conditions made the drive either entertaining or terrifying depending on your point of view. There had been talk of returning via the Corkscrew but it was felt that discretion was the better part of valour and it was decided to return via Guyra.

The cars set off through the fog and despite a run in with a fallen tree branch and a deviation through Ben Lomond, the group made it back to Glen Innes in time to have a look at The Australian Standing Stones.

Group B started their day with a visit to the Standing Stones followed by the Glen Innes tourist drive. Heading to the north the







next stop was Emmaville for a visit to the fascinating Mining Museum. The Deepwater Inn was the impromptu lunch venue with the owners snapping into gear to provide great hospitality to the hoards of hungry MX-5ers that descended upon them. Saturday night's dinner was followed by the traditional Interstate Turtle Races. The title was successfully defended by the Queensland team after some fierce rivalry.



The Sunday run saw the group heading west for a visit to the National Transport Museum in Inverell. This attraction was a trip down memory lane with many people reminiscing about similar cars that had been in their family. A display of jewellery featuring local sapphires was also on hand with some items for sale. A few of the ladies left with big smiles and shiny new trinkets.



Following a hearty country style morning tea at the museum and with the rain having now stopped the group set off to Delungra and then on to Bingara for lunch

at the RSL. After lunch many members took the opportunity for a stroll down the street including a look at the beautifully restored Roxy Theatre & Cafe.

The return drive followed the Gwydir River through farm land before climbing the hills of the Munro State Forest and heading to the sad sight of an almost empty Copeton Dam.

After another great meal at the motel the entertainment was a trivia quiz prepared by Aaron Lewis, testing both the MX-5 and general knowledge of those in attendance.

Monday morning was a time of goodbyes before the two state groups headed home.





# Mid Week Run to Balmoral

25 March PHOTOS GUY COLES and MEL KELLER



# SHANNONS WHEELS ENLIGHTENMENT

07 - 08 March

STORY AND PHOTOS TONY AND IRIS McDONALD

PHOTOS BRENDAN BARR, TONY HEATHWOOD



*The MX-5 Club of NSW was the focus of Canberra's most prestigious automotive display.*

The Wheels Exhibition has been running in Canberra for 33 years, and has become one of the most prestigious automotive displays on the city's events calendar. The event has been sponsored for the past 15 years by Shannons Insurance.

This year's event attracted a large number of exhibitors representing a wide range of marques. The MX-5 Club of NSW – as the focus club – was extremely well represented with 41 MX-5s on display, comprising 12 NAs, 12 NBs (including an engineless Turbo Boy on a trailer), and 17 NCs. The display

also featured a club member's Evante, plus the club's BBQ trailer (half an NB). A big thanks is due to all members who attended the MX-5 display, in particular those 17 members of Sydney, Illawarra, and Hunter Chapters who travelled to Canberra to join us.

Canberra turned on beautiful weather on the day, the club's gazebo and banners were quickly set up and the cars were displayed to maximum advantage by 9 am. Later in the morning, Bob Judd was invited to address the public over the PA system and provide a short history of the MX-5 NA and the MX-5 Club, following

which the event was officially opened at 11am by Minister Mick Gentleman of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

The BBQ trailer then swung into action and great sausage and onion sandwiches were produced to provide lunch for hungry club members. A special thanks goes to Dave 'Bolts' Bolton and Mike Guina who manned the BBQ and kept the food flowing.

Once again, many thanks to all those who assisted to make this event successful, and we hope future such events will attract similar levels of support.





# WEEKEND IN CANBERRA

*A contingent from the Illawarra Chapter make the most of a weekend in Canberra.*

STORY JAN GIBSON

We began our trip to Canberra with a quick dash down some of our favourite roads; the twisty Macquaire Pass, some winding country roads through Moss Vale, Exeter and Windellama and the Sandy Point Road. After arriving in Canberra and settling into our accommodation, we aimed for "Enlightenment" to sample the delights of the noodle market, light show and live entertainment.

An early rise on Sunday morning, cars washed, we headed off to Kings Park for the Shannons Wheels Expo. What a fantastic display of vehicles, from vintage to modern, Holdens, Fords, Valiants, Porsche, Morgans, Minis, Austins - too many to name. Memories of our youth came flooding back, especially for Brendan when he saw a 1963 Holden panel van.

Prime position and best display belonged to our fantastic little MX-5s. Eight cars joined with Canberra, NAs NBs and NCs of all colours, parked in the prime position shining in the Canberra sun with a group of enthusiastic MX-5ers checking out each other's cars. Fiona & Alex commandeered an extremely powerful four wheel leg drive and motored up and down the path through the expo.

As the day drew to a close we hopped in our cars and headed home. What a weekend. Great drive, a great day at the Expo and as always great company. Thank you to the Canberra Chapter for hosting our visit and putting on an excellent sausage sizzle!







# CRUISE TO WEE JASPER

21 Feb STORY AND PHOTOS JON FOX

The 21st of February saw 28 cheery members of the Canberra Chapter and 2 prospective members join together on a run to Careys Caves near Wee Jasper for a picnic and for some, a tour of the caves. Jon Fox led the group of 17 MX-5s in his recently acquired NB8C Classic.

The numbers on the day showed the enthusiasm the Canberra Chapter members have for a top down run on country roads. Tony and Iris McDonald's efforts as the Chapter's new convenors no doubt played a big part in the excellent turn out. The cars on the day represented near 25 years of the marque, ranging from Philip Bywater's very smart NA6 right through to Rodger Textor's lovely red NC roadster.

The day kicked off on Canberra's north-side and then on through Gundaroo, Gunning, Dalton and Jerrawa to Yass before stopping at a coffee shop recommended by Norm Barker. The group took over the outside seating to enjoy the warm weather and enjoyed fresh brewed coffee, lots of sweet treats and a few handmade toy cars for Richard and Judy Andrew's grandchildren.

*A chance sighting of none other than Leo Sayer outside the coffee shop added to the buzz!*

The drive from Yass to Wee Jasper has to be one of the better MX-5 roads in NSW; with over 50 kilometres of twists and turns through the Murrumbidgee and Goodradigbee Rivers' ridges and valleys. After a leisurely picnic lunch and some good conversation with old and new friends, we made our own way back to Canberra. Most chose to take the suggested route and avoided the Saturday traffic; revelling in the twists and turns of Mountain Creek Road and Uriarra Crossing.





# COWRA AND WYANGALA DAM

21 March 2015 WORDS AND PHOTOS NORM AND ROZ BARKER



On a fine but cool Autumnal equinox morning in March, ten cars carrying 17 people set off from the Hall lay-by for our run to Wyangala Dam and Cowra.

Our first stop was at Boorowa where we sampled the delights of the Superb Bakery. By this time of the morning the sun was warming us sufficiently for our next leg to Wyangala Dam. On the way a hat was lost in the Frogmore rural vicinity, but one of the group had a spare to lend, so no sunburn! We stopped to take in the sights and the works to extend the dam at the dam car

park. There was a great spot for a group photo overlooking a dam which showed the results of a dry summer at only 39% capacity.

We drove on to Cowra, on good country roads, through the town of Darbys Falls and other rural localities and with the lovely Weddin Mountains in the distance we arrived in Cowra.

The Japanese Gardens Cafe provided an excellent light lunch for everyone in a very efficient manner, leaving time for some to stroll around the gardens while others relaxed. We all appreciated

the oasis of beauty and green of the gardens in what was otherwise very dry country.

The group then set off through the orchard area of Young and on to Wombat, Murrumburrah and Harden, again on good roads for the MX-5s with little traffic. A final stop at Bowring for refreshments at the Rollon In completed the day.

A lovely run, with great company and pleasant roads – what better way could there be to spend a Saturday?



Club Torque 19

# TRIP TO GUNNING MARKETS

26 April

STORY AND PHOTOS DENNIS WICKLANDER

At 9:30am we met at the designated spot near the ACT/NSW border. After a couple of days of stormy weather the forecast for the day was cloudy and dry. We welcomed new members Chris and Kristy Jirgens.

At 9:45 11 cars set off for a leisurely run up the Barton Highway, Yass Valley Way and onto the Hume. A few kilometres further led to the exit road to Dalton. This was a mixed bag of rough old and new laid road. Once passed the sleepy towns of Jerrawa and Dalton we ventured onto Gunning. We made our way into town and settled into the local café for coffee and cake. Members then went to the markets and viewed historical displays on WW1 following ANZAC day the previous day.

A quick round up followed by a short 15 minute run was undertaken to Gundaroo for lunch at the old pub. The pub was packed out. Our table was still available and with some chair and table adjustments made, we settled down to a really awesome lunch. Our intrepid member Ken made the trip from Canberra to display his as new white NC. It is a beautifully presented car. The rain held off for the run back home to Canberra. We managed to dodge the rain for our return to Murrumbateman.



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# BRUCE'S COUNTRY TO COAST

29 March

STORY BRUCE BETTINSON

It was a fine autumn morning as 18 members and 13 MX-5s gathered at our usual meeting place in Beresfield prior to an 8:30am sharp departure. As we had arranged to meet up with the Mid North Coast Chapter half way along the run, we had to have a mixture of highway and country roads for this run. So after our briefing it was off we go towards Bucketts Way via Raymond Terrace, through the picturesque town of Stroud heading for Gloucester where we stopped for morning tea.

*"Over \$200 was raised for  
Careflight. Well done everyone."*

After our refreshments we are off again along Bucketts Way heading for Taree. We stopped at the top of Wootton Way to meet up with the contingent from Mid North Coast. Our number increased by three cars and we set off to enjoy the drive down the Way. However, fate intervened as we were caught by a storm with heavy rain, thunder, lightning and strong winds. I was bringing up the rear and unfortunately one of the fold caught a six foot branch under her car. Luckily it worked it's way loose, the car was fine, and off we went. Once at the bottom of Wootton Way, the rain stopped. A few other cars had been hit by that falling branch, so I am not sure if everyone enjoyed this part of the run. After all that excitement, we made our way to the lunch venue at the Pacific Palms Rec Club via the Lakes Way. Again the storm had caused a lot of rubbish to be left all over the road. A good lunch and few beers went down well before we split up to go our separate ways home.



Seeing as it was still summer I decided that for our Sunday 22 February event, I would organise a Twilight Run, to "Beat the Heat". As it turned out, it rained for most of the day, but by late afternoon the sun decided to come out, just in time to dry the roads, and to give us all the opportunity to drive around "topless". But the storm clouds were never far away. With 15 MX-5s, and about 27 members, everyone was enthusiastic to experience our first twilight run. So we all set off with the roof down and enjoyed the cooler temperatures.

Our first stop was Swansea RSL Club for dinner. We travelled via Mount Sugarloaf, and some nice backroads toward Lake Macquarie, where we travelled along the eastern side of the lake to Swansea. Luckily we had a couple of large tables booked, as the RSL Club seems to be a very popular spot for the locals, and we soon found out why.

As usual we all settled in and started chatting and mingling, whilst we were waiting for our delicious meals ... oh, and maybe a drink here & there as well. Soon it was time to drive

back north to Newcastle City via the beaches, watching the sunset along the way. The clouds were back and it started to drizzle but we continued on with the roofs down, confident in the fact that "the faster we drive, the drier we stay". So there was no sunset for us to enjoy, but we did get to Bar Beach dry, and just in time for some quick photos before it was totally dark. From the comments I received during and after the run, everyone had a fantastic time and everyone enjoyed a run with a little bit of a difference.

# TWILIGHT

STORY AND PHOTOS PETER HILKMANN

# MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR

26 April STORY ALEX BREITSAMETER PHOTOS BRYAN SHEDDEN



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We awoke to a blustery, damp Sunday morning on the 26th of April for the Illawarra Chapter's 'Magical History Tour', which didn't bode well for a good turn out. Contrary to expectation, however, a bumper turnout of undeterred wet-weather-warriors descended upon Haywards Bay Hungry Jacks for a very civilised 10am start. I was especially thankful for this, as it meant that I was awake enough to take the wheel for the whole trip, rather than having to share with my father and settle for the ride home!

As is customary, we were to set out for a drive before arriving for a lovely lunch and tour of the very impressive Australian Motorlife Museum, Kembla Grange. Any excuse to take the windy, circuitous route, we made our way through Jamberoo to Bomaderry, then opted for the rural by-roads across Cambewarra Mountain, stopping briefly for views and scalding hot coffees-to-go, to the historic Kangaroo Valley township and Hampden Bridge. We then hotfooted it up Barrengarry Mountain, joined ranks with our RPM friends in Robertson, and then slalomed down Macquarie Pass to Kembla Grange. We encountered rain, alarmingly narrow two way roads and newly opened potholes along the way, but nothing that our hardy little MX-5s couldn't master.

The Motorlife Museum's expansive collection is certainly something to behold, housed as it is in what looks like a double aeroplane hanger. Indeed, it is virtually a one-off museum dedicated to all things vehicular, coming in second in the country only to another motoring museum in Adelaide and boasting an exclusively volunteer staff. It would require repeat visits just to take in a good portion of the collection, which is a revolving one of gleaming, chromed vintage beauties and old faithfuls (delivery vans, trucks & bikes), both owned and on loan.

*"Perhaps, one day, I shall be able to say the same when I see an MX-5 amongst such a collection."*

It even currently lays claim, much to my surprise and delight, the 10hp De Dion Bouton driven in the 2005 rerun of the (in) famous 1907 Peking to Paris race! There is certainly something for everyone, as I would argue that it seemed to have at least one example of just about every imaginable piece of motoring ephemera under the sun. I even learnt what a vulcaniser was! For many though, the trip was less museum and more memory, as I heard on multiple occasions from members, "oh, I used to have one of those!"





# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS RUN

12 Feb STORY JULIE FARQUAR  
PHOTOS BRENDAN BARR, BRYAN SHEDDEN

I had joined my husband up to the MX-5 Club when we arrived in Wollongong from Dubbo ... it would be good for him I thought ... meeting new people and talking car stuff ... a bloke world ... Little did I know how wrong I was! The first major run for us was the Daylight Savings run from Bald Hill Headland Reserve up in Stanwell Tops to Werri Beach just down the coast. As neither of us know Wollongong and the surrounds I hoped he understood the

directions which included "a pie shop you can't miss" ... we did. Sure there was a runsheet and I noted then that the only "points of interest" listed on the runsheet referred to a warning about speed cameras. We were luckily near the rear of the group as the front end disappeared before we could blink. But the run down through Thirroul following the coast was fine. Garry and Jan "tail-end Charlies" had lent us a CB so I could ... if I was quick enough, hear what was going on. Ahh,

I thought as we skimmed past those poor plebs on the beaches ... you are missing one of life's real treats. Then we turned into the hills and I discovered the real reason behind the expedition. We were to find every twist and turn, every narrow lane (not road), and every chasm (on my side) that the Illawarra has to offer. And all at a spanking pace. Paul loved it ... but he wasn't on the drop side of the road. We headed to a lookout on Saddleback Mountain through rainforest and stunning





rock walls. The MX-5 Club caters for all driving skills. There we were moving at a good pace up a steep incline just rounding a tight corner when ... bamm! a stop sign, a T intersection, a steep drop and no road signs came leaping out at us. The brakes work well.

We made a wrong turn but were soon redirected to finally arrive at a spectacular lookout and recover some of our breath. This

was followed by the run down Saddleback Mountain which reminded me of the freewheeling feeling we had as kids when we took our feet from the pedals and let the world race past. The next stage was a short drive down to the coast again, fly along the expressway and completing the trip by negotiating back streets and speed humps and dining at Werri Beach on the promised "fish and chips". Yet the run was

spectacular on a variety of levels. The members exuded warmth and friendship, the procession of beautiful cars was both fun and gave you this enormous sense of pride, and the drive allowed us to see and experience parts of the Illawarra that would be unobtainable from our everyday car. It was not what we expected ... but we wouldn't have missed it for the world.



24 Club Torque





Well it was Illawarra's turn for the Go Kart Challenge to see who will represent our chapter at the Jinba Ittai Challenge final later this year. We all arrived around 5.30pm at Fox Karting to register and suit up for our go kart challenge.

Jan and her daughter Allyson had light refreshments for us including fresh fruit, cheese plates, soft drinks and juice to prepare us for the night ahead. It was a great turn out with around 25 eager rev heads wanting to see who was the fastest karter in the south.

Everyone was put into groups for two 10 minute lap sessions. First to go was the kids group of 5 who were a little cautious at the beginning but certainly settled in the more they went on. They were buzzing when they completed their session.

Next it was the ladies turn to get into the action all 7 of us. On with the helmets as we were put into karts some adjustments required for those of us who were short; adding cushions and pedal extenders.

Start the engines and off we go,

we were all having a ball and there were plenty of challenges out there, who said we aren't competitive. The 10 minutes seemed to fly before we were back in pit lane. Time to cool off and have a drink. It was then the guys turn and as there were 13 men in total they had to be split into 2 groups, the first group headed out and there were a few spills as overtaking seemed to be the main option to see who could get to the lead, little did they know that it is a time trial so last did not necessarily mean



# Go Kart Challenge

18 March STORY KIM RANGER PHOTOS BRYAN SHEDDEN



last as the times later showed. After their 10 minutes they all pulled in and Group 2 was waiting in the wings for their turn. Off they went the engines still warm and they seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. By the time they all pulled in the light was starting to disappear and we wondered whether we would actually finish. So the kids quickly had their second 10 cuts.

They returned to pit lane and the girls were set to go. By now the light was well and truly disappearing. We started off with 7 girls but after a couple of laps, two pulled out due to poor light. At times, we wondered who was actually out there racing.

We couldn't see very much at all, which became very obvious as I missed the end of the track and ended up in the gravel.

The men still had to complete their next set and some weren't keen to go out as by this stage it was pitch black. Well you weren't going to stop Bryan and a few others. Watching from the sidelines you couldn't see them but you could hear the roar of the engines. After a couple of laps, it was deemed too dangerous to continue. The men will have to return in the future to complete their trials.

Overall, it was a fantastic night and racing in the dark added to the excitement. Fox Karting now have lighting so we are looking forward to the next Go Kart Challenge.



## RESULTS

### Ladies' Race - Final Results

1st Kim Ranger 39.631  
2nd Alexandra Breitsameter 39.653  
3rd Allyson Giustianiani 39.791  
4th Jan Gibson 40.002

### Men's Race - Final Results

1st Graeme Hoswell 37.681  
2nd Garry Gibson 38.199  
3rd Darren Guistianiani 38.676  
4th Bryan Shedden 38.701



# Valentines Weekend To Walcha

21 - 22 Feb

STORY BARRY AND JENNY LUTTRELL

PHOTOS KIERAN RODGERS

*A classic MX-5 drive and a Valentine's Day surprise make for a great weekend away.*



THE MILE CREEK





We arrived at McDonald's Port Macquarie Service Centre on Saturday morning to join Mike (run leader) and the Mid North Coast Chapter for their run up and down the mountains via Walcha and Gloucester. This is one of the best MX-5 loops in NSW. After photos by Kieran, six cars set off to Wauchope to meet with two additional cars for lunch at the Wauchope RSL.



Eight cars left Gloucester to begin the fun part of the weekend, along the Oxley Highway and up the twisty mountain road, to well-earned stop at Gingers Creek Store. We shared the car park with the usual assortment of high powered motor cycles all there to have fun.

We left Gingers Creek and had a clear quick run up the remainder of the mountain and on to Apsley Falls. There are a number of viewing platforms with magnificent vistas of the falls and deep gorges of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. And the road is all sealed to the falls car park!



The short run into Walcha was uneventful and we arrived at the Walcha Motel for check-in and a few drinks at Walcha's historic Apsley Arms hotel before dinner in the motel restaurant. A surprise for each of the girls on our run was a Valentine's Day gift package in their room from Mike. (What was in the package? You will have to ask the girls). Valentine's Day celebration dinner was up to the usual high standard we have come to expect





from the Walcha Motel and many stories and laughs were shared during the evening.

Sunday morning was time for a hot buffet breakfast in the motel restaurant and packing up ready for Sunday's run to Gloucester.

The drive from Walcha through Gloucester is a great MX-5 road. The road out of Walcha to Nowendoc has a couple of kilometers of rough sections but otherwise is smooth and quick. Parking at the mountain lookout was at a premium as the car park was filled with motorcycles, caravans, motor homes, cars, 4WDs and even a boat. The lookout provides a magnificent vista of the Woko National Park and Barrington Tops in the distance. The run down the mountain was a challenge with a large boat on a trailer and an assortment of Sunday drivers making for a slow run to ensure safe driving. Lunch at Gloucester, was at the Avon Valley Inn hotel that provided an extensive menu and good food.

With lunch completed we continued down Bucketts Way to Booral and then across to Bulahdelah via Girvan. This is a great little MX-5 road through forests with its share of tight bends, climbs and descents.

We said farewells and departed at Bulahdelah to travel to Newcastle whilst Mid North Coast members travelled north via Wootton Way. This was indeed a classic MX-5 drive - fun with great people.

Thanks to the Mid North Coast Chapter for inviting us.

# LEADERS OF THE PACK

26 March STORY GLENN DAVIES

PHOTOS GLENN DAVIES STEVE ECCLESTON

A beautiful dawn greeted the RPM gang for the Run to Kurri Kurri and the annual Nostalgia and Rock & Roll Festival. Lesa and Greg Bunn took station as "The Leaders of the Pack", as nine cars headed off from our meeting point at Penrith McDonalds. After a brief stop at Windsor to collect another 5 cars, we headed out along the Putty Road, tops down of course. We were able to enjoy a brisk pace in close convoy, all the way to our Morning Tea stop at Grey Gums Café. The second leg to Kurri Kurri was no less enjoyable, most notably for Tammy Hotz in her newly acquired NB, who was taking to the twisty road with gusto.

On arrival, we decided to split up to maximise our time at the various attractions. These included: Rock n' Roll dancing, fashion parades, singing and musical performances and a market place selling retro

clothing and memorabilia. There was a large and impressive show of classic cars with emphasis on Aussie and American Muscle, Hot Rods and Cruising Classics. A high percentage of the thousands of visitors chose to dress in period clothing, and there was even a hair dressing station offering hair styles to match the outfits.

We headed off for the run home via Wollemi. Unfortunately, one car wouldn't start for the return journey and with a 2 hour wait for the NRMA, the pack decided we had to leave one car behind. The final of the World Cup Cricket was on so we decided to stop at the Wollemi pub for a drink and to check the score. It was very enjoyable sitting under the trees in the beer garden, but we still had a long way to go so after saying our goodbyes it was time to head on down the track.



## BLUE POLES AND HARRINGTON

16 April STORY AND PHOTO **GREG COX**

**F**ive MX-5s and a Lotus set off on a beautiful Sunday morning for our April run South to the coastal village of Harrington. Departing the Port Macquarie Service Centre at 9:45am, we drove West on the Oxley Highway through Wauchope, then turned South stopping at Blue Poles Art Gallery and Café at Byabarra. Ian and his staff served us a tempting array of coffee and cakes for morning tea that was hard to resist, while taking in the magnificent valley views from their outdoor eating area.

We then continued up the Broken Bago mountain range to Comboyne Plateau, enjoying the winding road our MX-5s were designed for. The next stage of our run was down the mountain range to Kendall, and included around 13 kilometres of ... [wait for it] ... unsealed road. Some of our contingent, including the leader, were hesitant about taking our cars "off road" however the gravel surface was better than expected, and apart from the dust enveloping our vehicles, all went well. (Luckily no Concours d'Elegance today)

It was then a short run down the M1 freeway to Coopernook where we then turned off to drive into the small fishing village of Harrington for lunch at the Harrington Hotel. After an enjoyable lunch overlooking the entrance to the Manning River, we took a short walk before saying our goodbyes, and heading for home.



## PORT TO PACIFIC PALMS

21 March STORY AND PHOTO **GREG COX**

**O**ur first joint run for the year with Hunter Chapter commenced at the Port Macquarie Service Centre, with a small group of Mid North Coast MX-5 members gathering at 9.30am.

We set off in fine weather down the Pacific Highway on our usual route through the winding back roads of Moorland and Lansdown to the Service Centre at Glenthorne for morning tea. After a short break, we continued South to the Wootton turn off, where we met the Hunter contingent, waiting at the Northern end of the Nurbushring. Soon after we set off on this "made for MX-5" piece of road, the heavens opened, and it was all stop to close the roof, and then take it slowly as the road was awash and covered in debris from the storm.

We regrouped at the Pacific Highway North of Buladelah, and proceeded along the Lakes Way across the Northern end of Myall Lakes and into Pacific Palms. A planned side trip to Seal Rocks was cancelled due to the weather and time restraints. We enjoyed a tasty lunch and good conversation with the Hunter members at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club, before making our separate ways home. Thank you to the Hunter group for joining us on the run, and to Kevin for leading the Mid North Coast contingent.

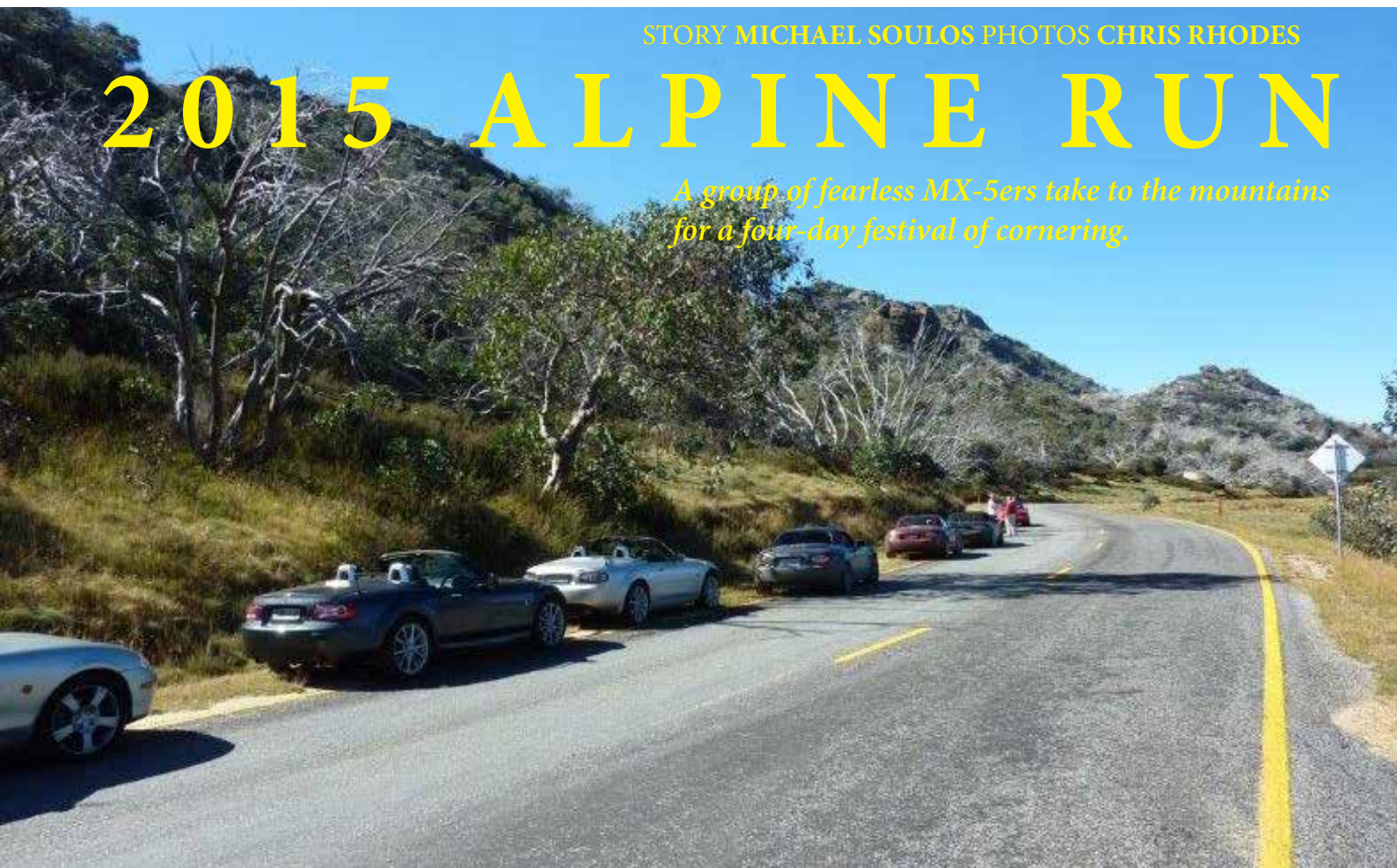




STORY MICHAEL SOULOS PHOTOS CHRIS RHODES

# 2015 ALPINE RUN

*A group of fearless MX-5ers take to the mountains for a four-day festival of cornering.*





In 2015 a compliment of 15 MX-5s with one rented 86 tagging along took five days to complete the epic route for this year's MX2015 Alpine Challenge. There are many misconceptions about what goes on a Breakfast Club event but the reality is everybody has a great drive each day doing their own thing together on superb roads through some breathtaking countryside.

Day 1 took us down to Tumut for a relaxing first time run up the Snowy Mountains Highway as far as Adaminaby then cross country to Berridale, Dalgety then to our overnight stop in Bombala. The back roads are a good meandering drive through typical grassy Monaro High Plains country.

Early on Day 2 we headed for the Bonang Highway that what was once thought to be the best MX-5 road in Australia. This road is a must for anybody who gets a thrill on seeing a sign that reads "Caution Winding Road 113kms" followed by the Bobsled Run and a 10km stretch of hard pack dirt.

After morning tea we revisited Buchan then proceeded up the



Great Alpine Road starting with a scenic run in the picturesque gorges alongside the meandering Tambo River then on to Omeo. After refreshments it was up and over Mount Hotham to scale Tawonga Gap for a final run from Bright to Mylftford for the night.

Day 3 was a new adventure as we took the opportunity of a run down the King River Valley to climb Mount Bulla after brekkie in Mansfield. The views from Mount Bulla are spectacular and well worth winding your way up the mountain to the ski resort.

We retraced our route back to Mount Beauty for the night through neat Victorian farmland that included a fantastic section of road that threaded its way over a spur off the Great Divide. This is a pleasant day trip with the option to spend some time in Milawa a highly reputed gourmet region.

Day 4 was the drivers' day and what a great day it turned out to be. A drive in crisp cool air under a blue sky in bright sunlight topped off by the new Nivana. We easily dispatched





the 400 corners up to Mount Hotham for the run down to Omeo for a generous hit of caffeine before confronting the much anticipated washing machine section heading north near the start of the Omeo Highway up to the High Plains Highway to Falls Creek. In 2014-15 the 25km dirt section of the Omeo Highway past the Falls Creek turnoff was sealed resulting in a stunning 175km of continuous winding road all the way up to Lake Hume patronised by bold and intrepid bikers.

***“David Battinson, Karl Battinson, Bruce Davies, Guy Coles and Stephanie Katz were able to tick another item on their bucket list and add another line to the to-do list.”***

When driving within your comfort zone, the MX-5 overcomes whatever challenge the Omeo Highway puts before them with ease. We skirted the Victorian High Country down to Mitta Mitta to proceed along the Mitta Mitta River Valley to Murray River Highway. Our drives to Khancoban for an overnight stay will never be the same again.

Day 5 saw a start from Khancoban after our traditional last dinner and breakfast at Shane O's Café with everybody choosing their own routes home. Some went through Greenhills State Forest up to the Hume Highway whilst others chose to run over the mountains to Cooma. All in all everybody enjoyed themselves.

# TEAM TOP BERRY

22 February

STORY STEPHEN LORD PHOTOS ANDREW BOYDELL

**S**hiny wet roads and leaden clouds greeted us as 16 people in 14 MX-5s gathered at Eastern Creek on Sunday 22 February, all looking forward to getting to our destination by any means other than straight and wide. Gary had the registration process nailed, Andrew assisted with the briefing and then we were off, heading west on the M4 towards The Northern Road. The hamlets of Mulgoa, Wallacia and Silverdale passed by before we hung a left at Werombi Road and headed for Razorback via Theresa Park, Cobbitty, Ellis Lane and Cawdor.

The view was almost non-existent from the famous summit, such was the steady rain and low cloud. On to Robertson via Picton, Thirlmere, Couridjah, Buxton, Balmoral Village, Hill Top, Colo Vale, Aylmerton, Glenquarry and Kangaloon, travelling on roads made for our vehicles. The weather had lifted somewhat for our stop at the renowned Pie Shop, but there was no time for dilly-dallying, as we were late for our breakfast booking at Berry's Hedgehog Café.

We journeyed there by a route partially unknown to this author. Pearson's Lane took us via Wilde's Meadow, skirting Fitzroy Falls Reservoir and boasting some decent scenery before we joined Nowra Road south of the falls and flew through Barrengarry, Kangaroo Valley, Bellawongarah and Bundewallah before descending into Berry for our "fashionably late" brekkie at Hedgehog. For this novice on only his second BreakFast Club run as a driver, I couldn't think of many better ways to spend a Sunday morning. The drive had the right balance of challenge and fun, the countryside was at its green best, the "team tops" revealed an eclectic range of sporting interests and, as always, the company was superb. Muchos congratulatos to Gary for his planning, and thanks to all who participated.



# MOTORSPORT



## *In A Class Of Their Own*

*Team MX-5 take the lead in the  
CAMS NSW Supersprint Championship*

PHOTO CAMERON GREEN



# ROUND ONE

08 March STORY **DAVID LAWLER**  
PHOTOS **MARK PALMER**

After a great MX-5 team performance last year which gained us our 9th CAMS NSW Supersprint Championship, interest for 2015 was even higher with 49 MX-5 club members registering for the championship. At the first round, there were 34 MX-5 club members participating. What a fantastic turnout! There were so many MX-5 club drivers that this was the first supersprint I have been to where I wasn't able to get around and have a chat with everyone.

The rain that was predicted for the afternoon didn't eventuate, however it was a warm day, reaching 34 degrees at one point, which made it more difficult for drivers, cars and fast lap times. We had 4 runs over the day, each of 8 minutes. Fastest times were typically set in the first runs of the day, becoming progressively more difficult as both air and track warmed.

Bryan Shedden and Stewart Temesvary were at it again in class 1B, with Bryan reversing their 2014 championship placings to beat Stewart. Unfortunately both of them were bested by a Lotus Exige. In class 2C, Luke Kovacic was 4th behind three Porsche GT3s, but in front of a Mitsubishi Evo and a very fast Datsun 240Z. Ralph Thompson won class 3B by over 4 seconds, beating two Lotus Elise's. Mike Hicks, Dennis Chiswick and Gus Elias took 2nd through 4th in SVB, with only half a second between the three of them. Verne Johnson was the quickest MX-5 on the day with a time of 1:47.608, but had to be content with 3rd in SVC behind two Lotus Exige's. Is it just me, or do there seem to be more Lotus cars at supersprints this year? Phil Ashton sure seemed to be having some sort of recurring Lotus nightmare. Unfortunately three MX-5 club drivers had early finishes to their day with car problems. Ed Cory was lacking power, Craig Gartlacher was lacking electricity, and Baden West was lacking gears. Better luck next time guys!



Club Torque 35

## ROUND TWO

22 April

STORY DAVID LAWLER PHOTOS JOHN SMITH  
(johnsphotos0065@gmail.com)

Both the weather predictions and the skies looked foreboding leading up to the 2nd round of the NSW Supersprint Championship at Wakefield Park on 22nd April. Although there were showers and rain on the Sunday it did hold off until the early afternoon and most drivers had at the opportunity of at least 4 dry runs. Even with a few of the regular MX-5 Club drivers missing from this round, there were still 26 drivers representing the club at this round, and 22 who have been at both rounds so far this year. What a great effort! Once the rain set in around 1:30pm, most drivers decided to pack up and go home, although there were a few hardy types who took the opportunity for some wet weather practice, before the organisers called it a day at 3pm.

### RESULTS

#### Class 1B

Bryan Shedden 2nd  
Stewart Temesvary 3rd  
Wade Jenkins 4th  
Keith Monaghan 5th  
Mitchell Bennett 6th

#### Class 2B

Daniel Gardner 2nd  
Phil Munnings 3rd  
Jon Fox 6th

#### Class 3A

Mark Palmer 2nd

#### Class 4B

David Lawler 2nd  
Ed Corey 3rd  
Ian Combes 4th

#### Class 6A

Tony King 1st  
Glenn Thomas 2nd

#### Class SVC

#### Class 1C

Mike Kelsey 3rd  
Phillip Donnelly 4th

#### Class 2A

Scott McGarry 1st  
Tony Williams 2nd

#### Class 2C

Luke Kovacic 2nd  
Mel Keller 3rd

#### Class 3B

Ralph Thomson 1st

#### Class 4D

Matt Perry 2nd  
Greg Perry 2nd

#### Class SVB

Mike Hicks 2nd  
Greg Bunn 3rd

Andrew Fordham 4th



Overall, we scored 603 points, extending our lead in the championship, with 1,351 championship points to the ARDC on 692, and the HSV/HDT Owners Club of NSW coming 3rd with 425 points. We are on track to win back-to-back championships, but it is still early days and we need to keep pushing at the remaining events to be sure.





# AMAROO

12 April

STORY MIKE HICKS PHOTOS DAVID LAWLER

Sixty six members and two visitors from the HSV Club faced the starter on Sunday the 12th of April for our one and only Track Day at the Sydney Motorsport Park Amaroo Circuit for the 2014/15 Competition Year. The weather was a little cooler than expected with two short showers during the day, fortunately they did not last long and the track soon dried.

The day started with familiarization laps behind the pace car for those that had not competed at the circuit before. The field was broken up into six groups with a maximum of twelve cars in a group. Each group was given runs of 6 minutes giving competitors five or six laps in each run. First timers were given the normal training by experienced competition drivers in their run.

*“A big Thank You to all the Club members who helped out as officials; the day could not have run without you.”*

Daniel Deckers in his “Deckspeed” NC and Todd Herring in his “Green Machine” almost broke the 1 minute barrier with Daniel recording the fastest time of the day with a lap of 1.00.23, second was Todd keeping Daniel exceptionally honest was with a time only 0.02 slower, third went to his brother Tim in 1.02.19, all class 10 cars. Other Class winner were Keith Monaghan (2), Luke Kovacic (3) in his dad’s NC, Gus Elias (4), Warren Hotz (5), Tristan Rappo (6), Daniel Gardiner (7), Glenn Thomas (8), Ralph Thompson (9) and Peter Barnwell (11) this time aboard a Toyota 86. Six ladies entered the event with Tammy Hotz recording the best time for a lady of 1.09.75. It was another great day with competitors having the opportunity to complete eight runs.

*See David Lawler’s Photo Gallery on our back cover*



# ROUND ONE

14 - 15 Feb

STORY **STUART McFADYEN**

PHOTOS c/ **SCOTT WALKER**

Not that anyone was counting, but it had been 75 days since the end of the 2014 season. We had a good field of 10 eager racers lining up for qualy on Saturday, old faces and some keen new ones. Tony King and father and son team - Keith and Ron Hammond were making their first appearance.

The headline event for the weekend was the 50 year anniversary of Formula Vee, but since they were after a mostly social weekend and the less some 50 year old cars are run the better, there was plenty of track time left over for the other categories, MX-5 Cup included. So we had long races of 8, 10 and 12 laps.

Saturday threw up a bit of a mixed bag weather wise which did great things for the racing. Matilda Mravicic lead the way in qualifying and the first 3 races. There were great battles up and down the field with a sprinkling of rain in some races compressing the field right up, with 4 cars bombing into turn 10 vying for the lead at one point. Further back the usual Andy Harris - Steve Green death-match was in full force.

Sunday was hot and there was more great racing with Scott Walker taking out the final race in style pushing his little NA to times and angles of opposite lock that were impressive to watch. It was weekend long run of consistent performing by Scott which left him at the end of the weekend at the top of the points table, followed by Steve Green and Stuart McFadyen on equal second. A big thanks to everyone involved, it was a great start to the season; lots of support and helping each other out. Looking forward to the rest of the season being even bigger and better!





# ROUND TWO

26 April

STORY AND PHOTOS CRAIG DURRANT



Round 2 of the 2015 MX-5 CUP was held at Wakefield Park on Sunday 26th April, at the end of a week of wild Sydney weather – rain, hurricane strength winds and to cap it all off the day before race day; damaging hail.

Goulburn turned on a cold and grey start to Sunday, and a wet qualifying session. The track dried up progressively over the day providing some exciting racing. Daniel Deckers, who was absent from Round 1, qualified 1st which is where he finished in all 3 races. Race 1 saw him on first on a greasy track with Deckers Junior - Chris second and Matilda Mravicic third. This proved the way of it in all 3 races. That doesn't tell the whole story though.

*"The track was very slippery early on, contributing to a number of spins and heart stopping moments."*

Chris Deckers put in arguably the drive of the day in race 2, when he was unable to start the car on the dummy grid before the race. With all the other competitors having started their warm up lap, he was able to fire the car with the help of a push from a few old geezers (including yours truly). He was forced to start from pit lane after race start but stormed through the field to finish second. In the final race he pressured Deckers senior all the way, Daniel just managing to hold him out to take the win.

Well done to the new entrants who all performed commendably. Wayne Cooper put his car on second in qualifying, Scotty Gibbs slashed his lap times over the day and James Glissan was solid and consistent throughout. Mr Consistency Steve Green sits atop the points table after the first 2 rounds, with Scott Walker second and Stu McFadyen on third.



## ROUND TWO

STORY VERNE JOHNSON PHOTOS KEITH MONAGHAN

For the second round of the 2015 Nulon Nationals the team returned to Bulahdelah to compete in the Bulahdelah Hillclimb. This year the event was to be held over 2 days on 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> March and promised plenty of runs after last year's rain shortened event. The event consisted of 10 teams and the club's competitors for this round included Todd Herring, Glenn Thomas, Tony King, Patrick Bramston and I, with our team captain Keith Monaghan coming along in support.

Following scrutineering the Friday evening was taken care of with a few drinks and a feed at the local pub with the other drivers and the Nulon team.

Rising early the following morning; teams headed down Wootton Way to the course to prepare to attack the hill. Despite all the teams MX-5's being forced induction, this event was always going to be a tough event for our points tally due to the course being better suited to high power and AWD grip. Some competitor's cars were boasting upwards of 800hp which is probably more than our 3 most powerful cars combined.

With 4 runs available on the Saturday it gave drivers the opportunity to get some sighting runs and post some times in favourable conditions. Todd was leading the charge for our team by the end of day 1 posting a

40.00. While this put him in the top half of the field there was no doubt that Todd was leading the field by ripping the biggest burnout of the day in the staging area.

***"It was great to once again spend time with the team, other competitors and the boys from Nulon."***

Day 2 the team was one driver down with Patrick not making it to the course. With up to 5 runs available, it provided plenty of opportunity for competitors to try better their previous day's times which most did. At the end of the day Benny Tran is his monster WTA Integra took out first place with a blistering 32.53 followed by last year's winner



Phil Heafy in his Evo with the impressive Evo Mirage hybrid taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Team Honda blitzed the field taking out 1<sup>ST</sup> place with Team MX-5 finishing in 8<sup>th</sup>. Todd Herring finished the weekend at head of our team in 15<sup>th</sup> place overall with a very respectable 38.12s, mind you this was in his brother's MX-5 which is not as quick as his own car.

***"I believe Todd (or his brother considering they were his tyres) was very unlucky not to take out the trophy for the best burnout of the weekend, he definitely got my vote."***

Fortunately none of our cars succumbed to the hill on a weekend that saw two other competitors being far less fortunate, once again proving that this hill must be respected.

Finishing this event down the leader board has pushed the team down to 6<sup>th</sup> place overall, however we can boast two of our drivers currently positioned in the top 8 over the first two events. The next event in July is at Wakefield where we will be far more at home, and have the opportunity to claw some points back on the other teams. Thanks to Nulon for another great weekend of motorsport. Bring on Round 3.



# DRUITT CIRCUIT

STORY MIKE HICKS

Six MX-5 Club Members entered this event on Saturday the 7th March, three, Craig Durrant, Steve Green and Stuart McFadyen entered the Historic & Invited Sports/Touring Cars Races whilst Tony King, Neil Tribe and Mike Hicks entered the Regularities, Tony and Mike in Regularity A and Neil in Regularity B. It was Neil's first experience on the DrUITT Circuit, previously known as the North Circuit. This being a one day event, each category was allocated four ten minute sessions, one practice or qualifying and three races or regularities.

A full field of thirty seven cars faced the starter in race 1, Craig finished fifth after qualifying third, and then engine problems forced him out for the remaining races. As the races progressed both Steve and Stuart improved their finishing positions, Steve recording a thirteenth, eleventh and ninth whilst Stuart recorded a sixteenth, thirteenth and fifth.

***"Overall, a great day, almost perfect weather and a smoothly run event with no major incidents. It would be great to see more Club members participating in FoSC events."***

In regularities Tony recorded a first, a second and a fifth to unofficially finish equal second on points for the three events, Mike had an average day finishing consistently in mid field in all three events whilst Neil made steady progress improving his lap times by over four seconds from practice to the final regularity.

The second in the 2015 series of driver training days at Marulan Driver Training Centre (MDTC) dawned with a chilly and foggy morning and track resident Skippy taking a turn about the Paddock. The fog-enshrouded track walk first thing had anxiety levels rising as the tarmac was a nice slippery grey, but it was a good way to get the warm blood pumping.

After reviewing the last training day at Marulan we took the opportunity to try a few new things. The advisers drove for the first-timers for the first 5 minutes of the initial run then swapped seats so the newcomers could immediately practice all they had learned.

Josh strongly encouraged the roos to leave and, thankfully, the fog lifted. The track started to dry very quickly and everyone was having a great time. We had 55 entrants; with 18 first-timers, 11 beginners, 11 beginner-novice, 4 novice, 2 experts, plus of course the 9 advisers, in 7 groups. Each group was split into groups of up to 10 cars based on driver's previous track experience with ten minute sessions running back to back to ensure minimal delays between groups and give drivers enough time to get into a rhythm for each session.

We managed to squeeze 5 rounds in the day for all run groups. We had a young driver (17yo)

participate in the day which was a welcome opportunity. Feedback we had from participants on the day was that there are a number of other younger drivers from the club family who would be interested. This can be organised in the future dependent on numbers.

Huge thanks to the MDTC staff and all our advisers; David Lawler, Stewart Temesvary, Luke Kovacic, Russell Maxwell, Bryan Shedden, Keith Monaghan, Steve Green, Tammie Hotz, John Karayannis. It is safe to say you made the first-timers and a few others' day.

# THRILLERS IN THE MIST

17 May STORY HELEN GREEN PHOTO JOSH FITZGERALD







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