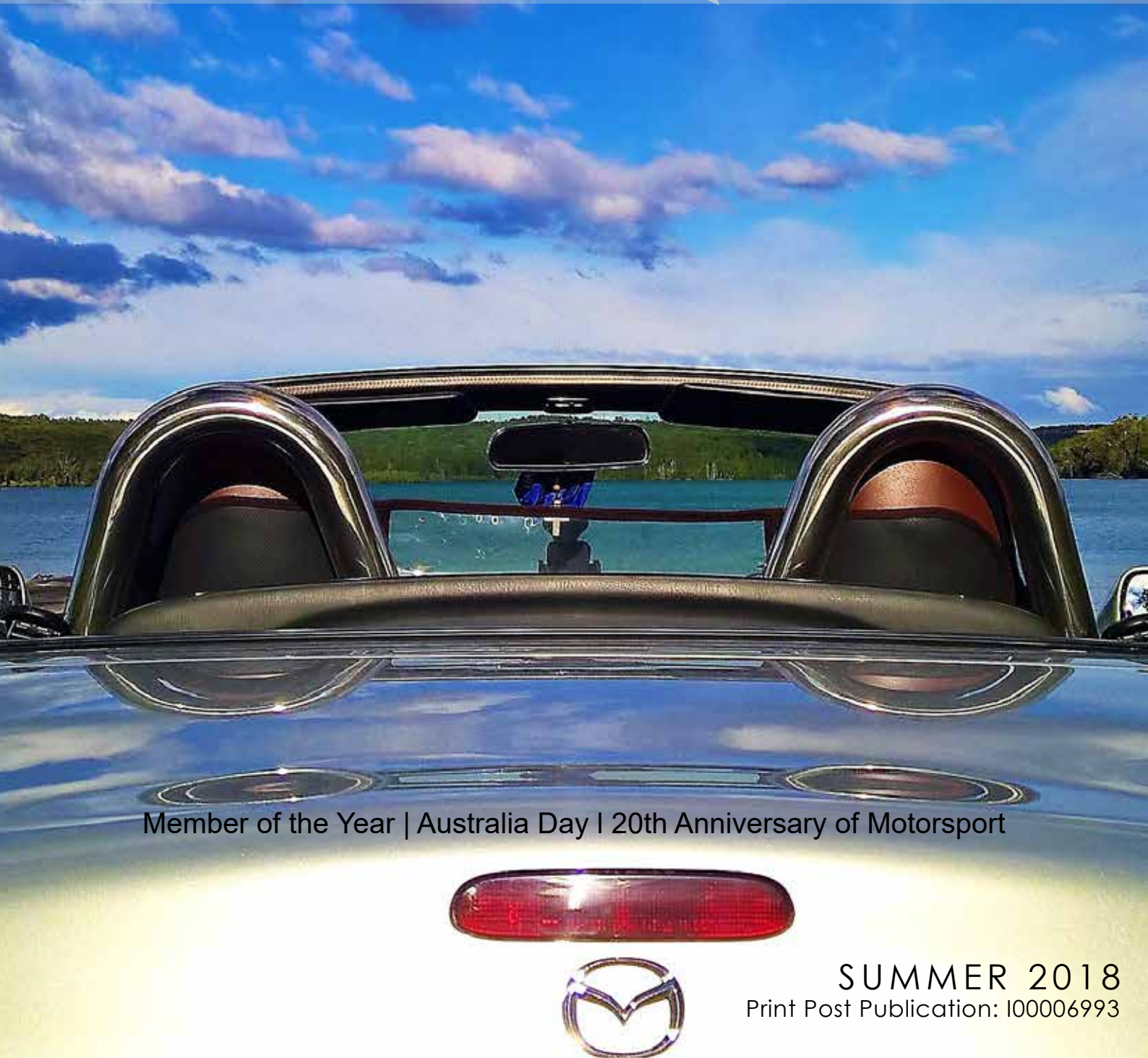


*club*

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

# TORQUE



Member of the Year | Australia Day | 20th Anniversary of Motorsport



SUMMER 2018

Print Post Publication: I00006993



# club TORQUE

# Summer Cover Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the second Club Torque Competition and congratulations to our cover star Allan Cruz. To submit an entry for the Autumn edition of Club Torque, email a single high resolution image as a .jpeg file to [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au). Please include your full name, membership number and contact number. When composing your image, remember the magazine is A4 size with portrait orientation. Deadline for entries is Wednesday, 18 April 2018.



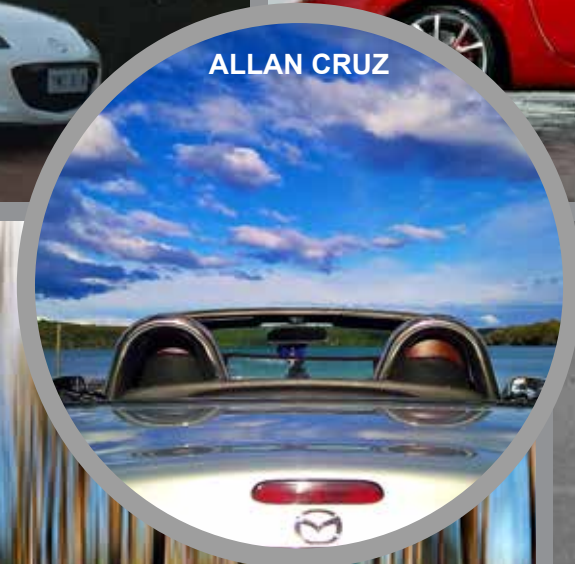
JULIE WALLACE



KIM RANGER



KEVIN CHAPPELL



ALLAN CRUZ



BEN SEWELL



PETER HILKMANN



DAVID BOURNE



DAVID BROWN



OWEN SINDEN



JACKSON PRATER

# INSIDE

EDITOR  
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER  
MEL KELLER  
publications@mx5.com.au

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Bryan and Ann Hicks Scotty Gibbs  
Verne Johnson Andrew Digney Colin Piper  
Ian Combes Stewart Temesvary  
Phillip Donnelly Keith Monaghan  
Bryan Shedden Norm Barker Yasmin Allen  
Greg Cox John Hansen Dianne Henderson  
Mel Keller Michael Soulos Martin Robertson

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

ROB WILKINS  
Julie Wallace Allan Cruz Kim Ranger  
Kevin Chappell Ben Sewell David Bourne  
Peter Hilkmann David Brown Owen Sinden  
Jackson Prater Ed Cory Keith Monaghan  
Mel Keller Julie Farquhar Josh Fitzgerald  
Colin Piper Steph Williamson Jamie Martin  
Neale Bayliss Phillip Donnelly Greg Cox  
Graham Rochester Keiran Ridgers  
John Hansen Norm Barker  
Gillian Fletcher Peter Le David Gazzard  
Wayne Lang Lesa Bunn Damon Muller

ADVERTISING  
GLENN THOMAS  
vicepres@mx5.com

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.  
PO Box 402, Beecroft NSW 2119  
nsw.mx5.com.au



News	
Membership Report	06
Member News	07
Nulon Tech Night	10
Motorsport News	11
Member of the Year	12

Events	
Australia Day	16
20th Year of Motorsport	19
Motorsport Award Night	22
Lightning Run	23
Interstate Challenge	26
Christmas Wrap	27
Bathurst Challenge	28
Leadfoot Festival	30
Marques in the Park	31
Harry's Schnitty Night	32
Mazdas in the Mist	33
Dorrigo Mid Week Run	33
Overnight to Avoca	34
RPM 5th Birthday	38
5 Hills Run	39
Harrigan's Pub Run	40
Twilight at the Bay	41
SLIQ Run	42





# President's Report

## Keith Monaghan

Since our last edition the club achieved another milestone and celebrated the 20th anniversary of our motor sport section.

This was a dinner and a track day. The dinner was held on the Saturday night at the Southern Star Inn in Goulburn with an attendance of 144 members. This included invited guests and sponsors. Among the invited guests were as many of the originals that could attend. These are the members that started the track day events. It was a great evening with presentations on the history of motor sport in the club given by Bryan Shedden. Ed Chivers, one of the originals, gave a talk on the start and the early days of the motor sport section. During the dinner the club Member of the Year (MOTY) and New Member of the Year (NMOTY) awards were also presented.

The track day that followed had a number of events. The normal timed events with all drivers getting 4 rounds. Then the special events, passenger hot laps in a MX-5 race car which were auctioned off and raised \$500.00 for the charity. It was great to see the faces of the passengers after they completed their hot laps. A celebration cake was cut and sampled by most people that were there. The final event was the track parade where 84 MX-5's lined up for photos and did a lap to celebrate the event.

All those that attended the dinner and the track day received a commemorative shirt and patch. The day was a great success with over 200 people attending the celebration at the race track, see our report on page 19.

The number plate protectors have arrived and some are appearing on our cars. Please contact me for further information or check the club's website.

The various chapter MOTY and NMOTY awards have been presented and congratulations to all the winners.

Another successful motor sport year for the club with over 300 of our members attending some form of motor sport. The club won the CAMS Super Sprint championship for the 4th time in a row. We finished 1st in a number of events and placed in others but we weren't able to win the interstate challenge. Well done to the Victorians - there is always next year.

The Australia Day picnic started the years events with 76 people attending this event. Another great day with various picnic attempted by a large number of our members, see our report on page 17.

Bryan Hicks has taken over as the Sydney Chapter Convenor and is starting to develop what he wants for the Sydney Chapter. This includes runs and a 3rd monthly meeting for the Northern Sydney area. Please support Bryan in his endeavours to increase the Sydney area activities.

The convenor conference was held in December with a very full calendar of events developed. Please watch the events section of the website for coming events. There a large variety of events and locations for all our members. So, come on and join in. I hope to see you at an event. Please come up and say Hello.

### 2018 COMMITTEE

<b>President</b> <b>Keith Monaghan</b>	president@mx5.com.au 0418 976 279
<b>Vice President</b> <b>Glenn Thomas</b>	vicepres@mx5.com.au 0402 410 829
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Julie Sando</b>	treasurer@mx5.com.au 0438 538 837
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Wesley Hill</b>	secretary@mx5.com.au 0422 035 893
<b>Club Captain</b> <b>Michael Soulos</b>	captain@mx5.com.au 0413 113 399
<b>Membership Database</b> <b>Bryan Shedden</b>	membership@mx5.com.au 0422 340 010
<b>Membership</b> <b>Ken &amp; Maggie Liston</b>	(02) 9872 1639
<b>Competition Secretary</b> <b>Ian Combes</b>	competition@mx5.com.au 0433 159 726
<b>Publications and Club Torque Editor</b> <b>Mel Keller</b>	publications@mx5.com.au 0421 069 019
<b>Website Coordinator</b> <b>Position Vacant</b>	web@mx5.com.au
<b>Regalia</b> <b>Christine Cameron</b>	regalia@mx5.com.au (02) 4931 9388
<b>BreakFast Club Coordinator</b> <b>Peter Battisson</b>	breakfast@mx5.com.au 0417 269 325
<b>Canberra Convenor</b> <b>Norm Barker</b>	canberra@mx5.com.au 0409 604 041
<b>Hunter Convenor</b> <b>Josh Fitzgerald</b> <b>Lindsay Green</b>	hunter@mx5.com.au 0404 009 304 0422 470 118
<b>Illawarra Convenor</b> <b>Greg Tunks</b> <b>Kim Williams</b>	illawarra@mx5.com.au 0410 662 378 0411 045 235
<b>RPM Convenor</b> <b>Brigid Gallop</b>	rpm@mx5.com.au 0428 114 401
<b>Mid North Coast Convenor</b> <b>Graham Rochester</b>	midnorthcoast@mx5.com.au 0414 846 218
<b>Sydney Convenor</b> <b>Bryan Hicks</b>	sydney@mx5.com.au 0407 225 064

### EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

<b>Competition Event Secretary</b> <b>Barry Luttrell</b>	eventsec@mx5.com.au 0411 231 107
<b>MX-5 Cup</b> <b>Verne Johnson</b>	mx5cup@mx5.com.au 0408 973 879
<b>Club Historian</b> <b>Elaine Caldwell</b>	(02) 9451 1432

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.  
PO Box 402, Beecroft NSW 2119  
nsw.mx5.com.au

# CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

AS AT 16 FEBRUARY 2018

TOTAL  
1035

NEW  
MEMBERS  
48

## NEW MEMBERS

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

*New members are encouraged to contact their Chapter Convenor for local events and to visit our website - [nsw.mx5.com.au](http://nsw.mx5.com.au) for the full range of Club social, technical and sporting events.*

Peter Bennett (Canberra)  
Denise Bennett (Canberra)  
Basil Borun (RPM)  
Will Byrne (Sydney)  
Ben Cathcart (Sydney)  
Raphaella Chidiac (Sydney)  
Richard Chuck (Sydney)  
Claudio Cortes (Sydney)  
Paula Cowell-Yench (Sydney)  
Kane Davies (Hunter)  
Venita Dohnt (Hunter)  
Gerald Drechsler (Sydney)  
Michael Dunlevie (Hunter)  
Eugenia Dunlevie (Hunter)  
Jayden Edmonds (Hunter)  
Richard Fowler (Sydney)

Paul Fraser (Hunter)  
Kathy Grime (Hunter)  
Caragh Hansen (RPM)  
Paul Huxtable (Sydney)  
Phillip Ji (Sydney)  
Robyn Keyvar (RPM)  
Peter MacDonald (Canberra)  
John Macintosh (Illawarra)  
Nikki MacLeod (Hunter)  
George Main (Sydney)  
Suellen Main (Sydney)  
Allen Martin (Mid North Coast)  
Pam Martin (Mid North Coast)  
Donald McMurray (Hunter)  
Sarah Medley (Sydney)  
George Miskovski (Sydney)

Ingrid Mogensen (Sydney)  
David Muir (Sydney)  
Bill Nolan (Hunter)  
Robyn Nolan (Hunter)  
Evgeniy Parail (Sydney)  
Steve Pearce (Sydney)  
Greg Pointing (Illawarra)  
Steven Preedy (Sydney)  
Hannah Priebe (Sydney)  
Codey Soares (Sydney)  
Thomas Steigler (Hunter)  
Simon Stewart (Hunter)  
Aden Syrils (Sydney)  
Naomi Ward (RPM)  
Charles Willcox (Sydney)  
Jennifer Willcox (Sydney)



# Membership Report

Bryan Shedden

A question I'm often asked is "do I have to own an MX-5 to be a member of the MX-5 Club of NSW?" The answer is a definite "NO!" This category of membership is called "Associate" (one person) or "Joint Associate" (two people), and is for those who have a personal interest in the Mazda MX-5 and/or the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW. The membership fees are the same as Full / Joint membership, and the only real difference is that Associate members do not have voting rights at the AGM. Many of our Associate members are with us for our motorsport activities, but some join to be involved with our wonderful social events. There's something for everyone!

Associate members may even hold a limited number of positions on the Club Committee. Indeed our Mid North Coast Chapter Convenor, Graham Rochester, is currently MX-5-free after selling his ND last year. Graham has been doing a wonderful job running the Chapter since October 2016. Under his leadership, Mid North Coast Chapter last year enjoyed the highest membership growth rate (37% vs entire club at 17%), participation rate (93% vs entire club at 79%), and event attendance level (average 25% of MNC members, vs 16-19% for most other Chapters). This is a stunning achievement considering the huge geographical spread of Mid North Coast Chapter. Congratulations Graham!

Some other notable Associate members are:

Jan & Garry Gibson, the recently-retired Convenors of Illawarra Chapter, who traded in their NC to buy an Abarth 124 Spider. Their crammed garage also includes a Falcon XB GT Hardtop (owned since new), FPV GT, MG TD, and Garry is restoring a gorgeous little Austin 7.

Malcolm Bernhardt (2001), Laurie Tesoriero (1999), and Karen Evans (1997) are 15 or 20 Year Club members who no longer own an MX-5 but have maintained their membership so they can stay connected with old friends.

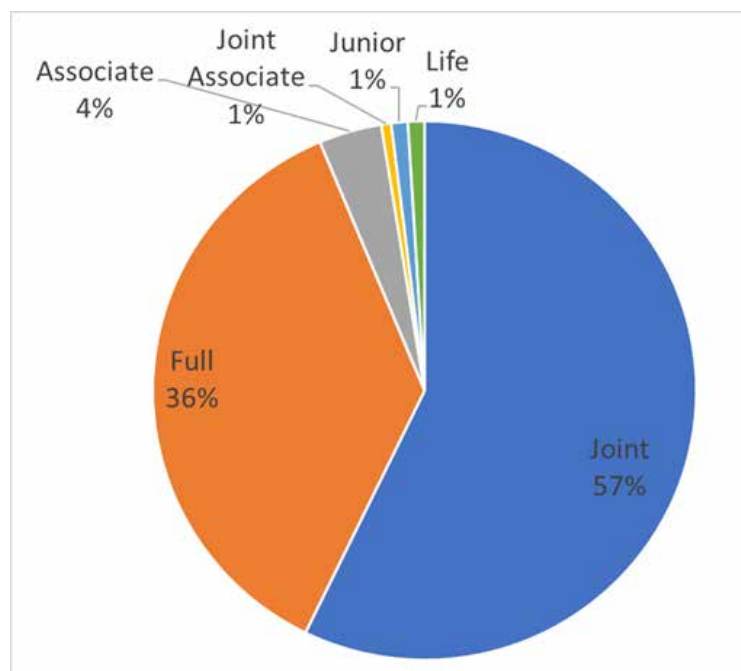
Keith & Marilyn Bridgement joined the Club in 2003 and will receive their 15 Year badge this year despite never having owned an MX-5. Keith joined to drive his WRX STI in our club track days, and he has been a regular competitor ever since.

Marilyn is a valued official at club track days, working at registration and as a spotter in the tower.

Other long-term motorsport Associate members include Bradley Cecil (EVO), Phil Abraham (Lotus & Clubman), Col Stephenson (WRX), Stewart Grigg (Holden Ute), David Hilling (EVO), Craig Hasler (BMW), and Matt Perry (Skyline). Many of them have contributed to our club titles in the State Supersprint Championship.

The most common car owned by our Associate members is the Toyota 86 / Subaru BRZ – 7 of them are regulars at club track days.

A breakdown of our membership is shown in this piechart. We have 44 Associate members in total, accounting for 4.3% of our membership.



# MEMBER NEWS

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOTORSPORT

---

On 26 November 2017 we celebrated 20 years of MX-5 Club Motorsport at Wakefield Park. In between regular trackday sessions, the Club hosted special spectator events including behind-the-scenes tours, hot laps, race car displays and a Parade Lap (see page 19 for the full report). An army of hard-working volunteers reported for duty as parking marshals, tour guides, paperwork gurus,



VIP wranglers and charity rafflers. Thank you - Julie Sando, Lena Hill, Alan Townsley, Cheryl Ashton, Gillian Fletcher, Ann Hicks, Guy Coles, Jon Fox, Grant Webber, Cathy Johnson, Diann Miller, Cathy Combes, Marilyn Bridgement, Kim Williams, Gary Williams, Sue Monaghan, Ed Cory and Rob Wilkins for helping our spectators and guests have a wonderful day.



## DOING IT FOR CANCER

### THE PINK LADIES

---

The first all-ladies team from the MX-5 Club of NSW will be competing in the 2018 6 Hour Regularity Relay at Sydney Motorsport Park this Easter long weekend. Drivers Tammie Hotz, Alex Breitsameter, Kim Jacobs and Lindsay Green along with Team Manager Pam Estreich and Pit Crew Evan Hotz, Josh Fitzgerald and Wulff Breitsameter aim to bring home yet another regularity trophy.

The Pink Ladies are putting their skills and their MX-5s to the test - "Doing It For Cancer" to raise money for the Cancer Council. Show your support for the team on Easter Saturday and Sunday. Spectator entry is free and be sure to visit the team in Garage 3. To donate and help kiss cancer goodbye, visit [www.doitforcancer/fundraisers/tammiehotz](http://www.doitforcancer/fundraisers/tammiehotz). You go girls!

## NEW MEMBER

### JON MILLARD

---

Jon has recently joined the Canberra chapter and is enjoying his fastidiously finished MX-5 since buying her at the end of last year. Jon intends to put the NB's impeccable manners and forgiving handling to good use during public days at Wakefield Park and Marulan. Welcome Jon.





# MEMBER NEWS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BRYAN AND ANN HICKS

Bryan and Ann have made a huge contribution to the MX-5 Club of NSW. They took the time to write to Club Torque about their first year as MX-5 owners and Club members.

*"We were caravanners before joining and were considering buying a four-wheel drive to pull the caravan. When discussing the pros and cons we realised the work involved was too time consuming. We sold all the gear and looked at small convertibles. Friends suggested we join the MX-5 Club. Of course, we didn't own a car so we decided to hire an MX-5 and ended up with an automatic 1500 ND MX-5 which we drove for the weekend of the*

*20-year anniversary of the Canberra Chapter. We had such a good time; the ND was such a thrill to drive although it was auto.*

*We returned the car and went straight to a Mazda dealer where we purchased a Stormy Blue 2008 NC with 89 000 km on the clock. We love it because it has a glove box, more room than a ND and was cheaper too. I have fitted a USB port and have 900 songs of our favourite music. The Beatles have this song called "Oh Darling" - you should see me drive up Macquarie Pass singing along to that.*

*No time to wait, we were on the Club site looking for the next event. We went*

*to everything that was going, dinners, runs, the lot. My favourite events are the shorter runs which end in a delicious meal and good conversation with the great people who make up this great club.*

*I have participated in Marulan Driver training where I did a full 360 off the track. That training was good but not as good as Wakefield Park for my first track day.*

*Thanks to the club our lives have been transformed, I am now Sydney Convenor and Ann is the Regalia officer."*

See our Member of the Year report on page 12.



We like to keep you up-to-date with our news and events on Facebook. If you haven't checked in for a while or don't know how to find us, visit our page MX5ClubNSW. To connect with

local MX-5 Club events why not join one of our Chapter groups: MX-5 RPM, MX-5 Sydney, MX-5 Canberra, MX-5 MidNorthCoast, MX-5 Illawarra, MX-5 Hunter and our 2 new groups: MX-5 Breakfast Club & Motorsport MX-5.

### MX-5 CLUB NUMBER PLATE COVERS



The Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW number plate covers fit standard NSW premium slimline number plates and feature a colour, embossed logo and acrylic cover plate. Number plate covers are \$32 a set and payment is to be made by direct deposit:

Reference: plates [your membership number]

BSB: 062 401 Account: 1008 0286

Name: Mazda MX-5 Club of New South Wales

Email Keith Monaghan at [president@mx5.com.au](mailto:president@mx5.com.au) to place your order.

8 Club Torque



### GREAT RENTAL RATES FOR MX-5 MATES

*Travelling to Melbourne and want to retain the enjoyment and excitement you get from driving your MX-5, then why not rent a late model MX-5 from Open Road Roadsters?*

*As a member of the MX-5 Club of NSW you will enjoy a discount of up to 30% on all rentals*

*Don't miss an opportunity to drive Melbourne and Victoria in an MX-5. To book your rental or to find out more information, visit our website*

**[openroadroadsters.com.au](http://openroadroadsters.com.au)**

or call Peter Dannock on 0409 518 795





# GO

**MX-5 2017 PLATE SALE**

**HORNSBY**  
**MAZDA**

**GREAT DEALS FOR MX-5 CLUB MEMBERS**

## \$2000 GO BONUS *plus* \$1000 Accessory Voucher for MX-5 Club members on all 2017 Plate MX-5s in stock at HORNSBY MAZDA

### **Mazda MX-5 RF GT Auto**

Extensive range of MX-5 RFs.

2017 Plate Driveaway Price includes \$2000 GO BONUS plus Free Registration, CTP and Stamp Duty

#### **FEATURES**

Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Blind Spot Monitoring

MZD Connect

Keyless Ignition



### **Mazda MX-5 GT Roadster 2.0 Manual or Auto**

Make an offer.

2017 Plate Driveaway Price includes \$2000 GO BONUS plus Free Registration, CTP and Stamp Duty

#### **FEATURES**

7-inch full colour touch screen display

Satellite Navigation

Smart City Brake Support

### **OTHER GREAT MX-5 DEALS**

- Mazda MX-5 RF GT Manual in Crystal White with M Day Pack, Alloy Pedal Set, Rear Lip Spoiler, Reverse Camera and Premium Window Tint. Demonstrator model.
- Mazda MX-5 RF Manual in Crystal White Pearl.

\* \$2000 GO BONUS and MARCH SPECIAL OFFER FOR MX-5 CLUB MEMBERS applies to 2017 build stock MX-5s delivered in March. Subject to availability. Limited Edition RF excluded.

**Ph. 9372 3000**

**64 - 70 Pacific Highway Waitara**



*NEW & USED MX-5 SPECIALISTS FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS  
DEAL WITH TRUE ENTHUSIASTS - CAMERON & ANDREW*



**BLUE MOUNTAINS MAZDA**



T. 02 4788 1018

42 Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath

Open seven days

DL13607

# Nulon Tech Night

23 NOVEMBER WORDS **KEITH MONAGHAN**  
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**



**T**hirty four members attended another great Tech Night presented by Nulon. Mike and Ian were our hosts for the evening and the presentation started with the showing of their new range of race oils.

There was extensive discussion on what the numbers for oil i.e. 10w40 meant, why oils have a set mileage and time life and how the environment the oils are used in affect the life and

performance of the oil.

They explained their oil testing system and how the results can tell you the health of your engine.

Nulon then showed a presentation that explained what oil suited each model of our MX-5's for general driving to track work. This included engine, gearbox and diff. There was also discussion on brake fluid and coolant to give us more information for our knowledge. We were then presented with a large

number of pizzas and drink to satisfy our hunger.

The final event of the evening was a factory tour which showed how their oils are produced starting at the raw material, through the blending and testing to the final packing.

At the end of the evening there was a question and answer session to finish off a great evening. I would like to thank Mike and Ian and Nulon for putting on such a great and educational evening.



## MOTORKHANA

SCOTTY GIBBS

Over the past few years the club has developed some fantastic Motorkhana drivers. The NSW State Championship is the next level and with the rules changed this year so that your best 6 rounds count towards the title, our members can fight for a CAMS State title without playing in the dirt.

Also worth noting that the CAMS National Motorkhana Championships will be held in Sydney this year, so the door is wide open for some of our members to step up and take some of the biggest titles into the sport.

For what it's worth, my first ever event was a State round. While it is a State Championship, it is still very welcoming and encouraging environment for beginners.



## HILLCLIMB

ANDREW DIGNEY



Due to the discontinuation of the Jinba Ittai Go Kart Challenge, this year we will launch the Perpetual Hillclimb Chapter Challenge. What better way to involve all Chapters of the MX-5 Club of NSW in a friendly competition for a perpetual trophy and the associated bragging rights that go with it.

At each round of the annual three-round Hillclimb competition, the highest points earned by the three highest placed competitors from at least three separate classes of the MX-5 classes from each Chapter (utilising the Hillclimb scoring system) will be tallied. At the end of the year, the highest total chapter score wins the Perpetual Trophy to be at the Motorsport Presentation Night.

Round 1 of the 2018 Hillclimb series is on Sunday 11 March at Ringwood Park and spaces are still available. Check our website for details and come along and have a go.



Entries for the 2018 MX-5 Cup are now open. This year's series will feature 6 rounds at Wakefield and Sydney Motorsport Park including, for the first time, the GP circuit. Head to our website for details on race preparation and entry requirements.

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
1 Saturday 24/03/2018	WAKEFIELD PARK	FOSC Round
2 Sunday 06/05/2018	SMSP GP CIRCUIT	MRA Round 3
3 Sunday 03/06/18	WAKEFIELD PARK	MX5 Club of NSW Track Day
4 Sunday 24/06/2018	SMSP South Circuit	MRA Round 4
5 Sunday 29/07/2018	WAKEFIELD PARK	MRA Round 5
6 Sunday 09/09/2018	SMSP GP CIRCUIT	MRA Round 6





*Member of the Year*

**Rob Wilkins**

# 2017 Club MOTY

## Rob Wilkins - 285 Points

Rob is the first person ever to win both our club's prestigious NMOTY (2016) and MOTY (2017) awards. Incredibly, he achieved this feat in the first 21 months of his membership ... less than two full years. Rob is based in Sydney Chapter but he really covered some territory this year and the only Chapter he did not visit was Mid North Coast. After his friendly demeanour, the next most prized contribution Rob makes to the Club is with his camera. He often attends up to two different events per weekend, always with his camera and then generously shares his wonderful photos on social media for all of us to enjoy. Our motorsport competitors love to see the action shots of their cars. Our "Club Torque" editor definitely appreciates what Rob does because it makes her job so much easier to have great photos.



## Club MOTY Runner Up

### Barry Lutrell - 170 Points

Barry is our runner-up MOTY. Succeeding Zan Menzel in the role of Competition Event Secretary in May 2015, Barry continues to do an incredible job. It is wonderful that he receives this award as recognition for his valuable service to the Club. Barry is also a keen motorsport competitor and is very active on the social scene, especially in Hunter and Mid North Coast Chapters. Furthermore, he earned MOTY points for contributing stories and photos for "Club Torque".

## Club New MOTY

### Bryan & Ann Hicks

Bryan (223 Points) and Ann (145 points) have launched themselves into the MX-5 Club of NSW with gusto. Before they even bought their first MX-5, they attended the Illawarra Chapter's run to- Gundaroo for Canberra Chapter's 20th Anniversary lunch – in a rented MX-5! We must have made a good impression because they bought their Stormy Blue NC only a few days later. As residents of the Sutherland Shire, Bryan & Ann joined in the Illawarra Chapter and attended just about everything. They went to Fan Fest in January, NotMeet at Easter, Charity Weekend in May, Brass Monkey in July, and three driver training days. Bryan also recently started organising runs for Sydney Chapter and has since stepped forward to become the next Sydney Chapter Convenor.



## New MOTY Runner Up

### John Purcell

John (134 points) and his partner Christine Cameron joined the Club in May 2016. They have made an immediate impact on the Hunter Chapter, attending 2-3 events per month and contributing stories and photos for "Club Torque". John organised an epic five day High Country Adventure in March, and also a couple of Hunter runs, all of which contributed to his deserved award.

# ILLAWARRA

(L-R) Chapter MOTY  
**Bryan & Ann Hicks**

Chapter New MOTY  
**Kerry Smith**

Chapter Motorsport  
**Bryan Shedden**



# CANBERRA

(L-R) Chapter MOTY  
**Wal & Jane Hick**

Chapter New MOTY  
**Stephen & Cecelia Wakeling**

Not Pictured  
Chapter Motorsport  
**Allan Gibson**



# RPM

(L-R) Chapter MOTY  
**Graham Fletcher**

Chapter New MOTY  
**Jacqueline Quester (R)  
with Convenor Brigid Gallop**

Chapter Motorsport  
**Stewart Temesvary**



# MID NORTH COAST

(L-R) Chapter MOTY  
**Cathy Lang**

Chapter New MOTY  
**John Hansen**



# HUNTER

(L-R) Chapter MOTY  
**John Purcell**

Chapter New MOTY  
**Christine Cameron**

Chapter Motorsport  
**Barry Luttrell**

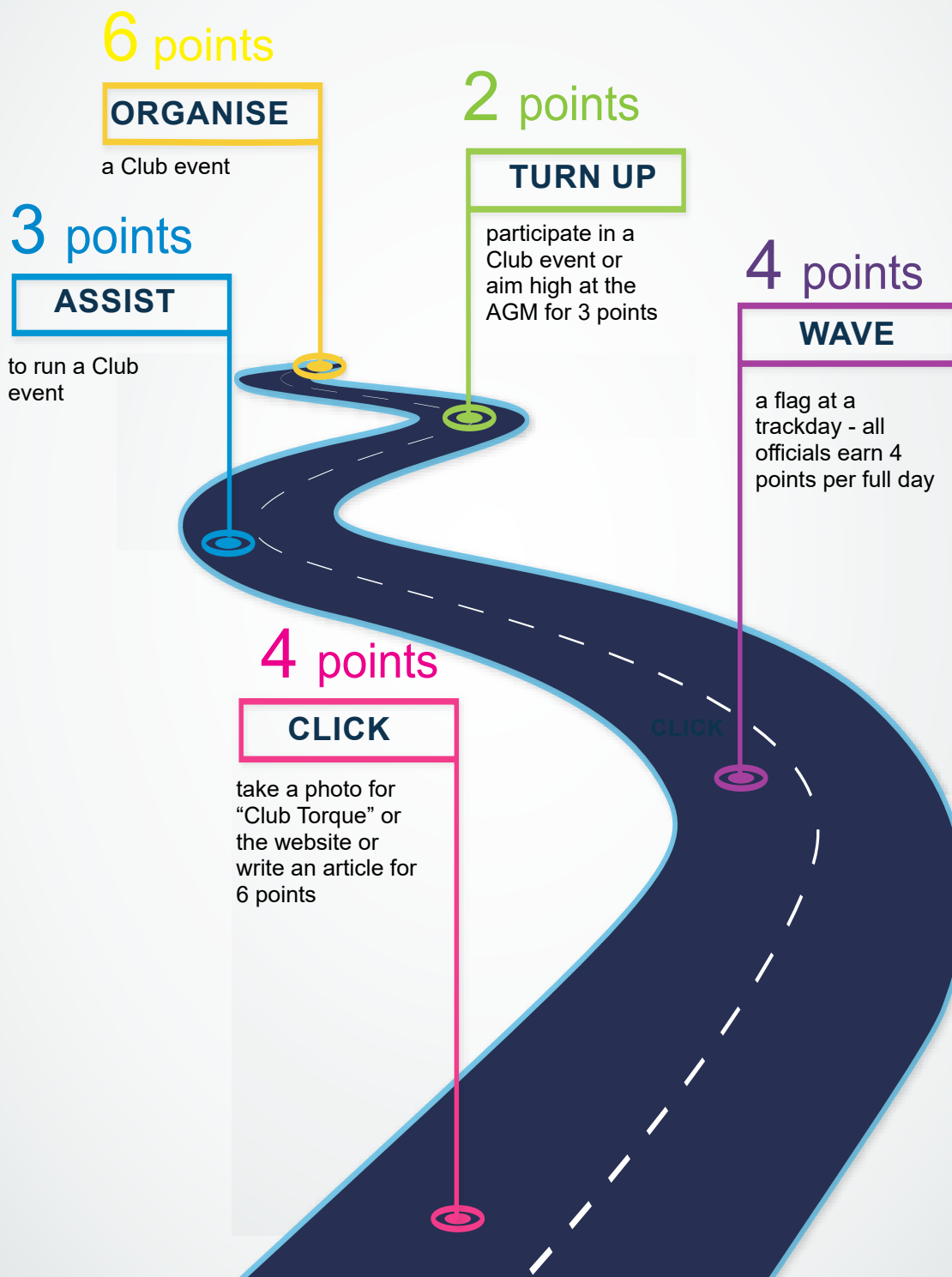


● **Bryan and Ann Hicks** are the inaugural Sydney Chapter MOTY and New MOTY Award winners. ●  
Their trophies had not been presented at the time of going to press. - Ed.



*There are points for participation  
so sign up and sign on.*

## PATH TO MOTY





# Australia Day at Cordeaux Dam

26 JANUARY WORDS **BRYAN SHEDDEN**  
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS MEL KELLER**

Australia Day 2018 was celebrated in traditional true-blue MX-5 Club style with a picnic and games at Cordeaux Dam. Individual runs for Illawarra Chapter, RPM Chapter and Sydney Chapter converged on the picnic grounds at 10am opening time, while many other people made their own way there. The total attendance of 76 people was made up of 26 from RPM Chapter, 25 from Illawarra Chapter, 22 from Sydney Chapter, 1 from Canberra Chapter and 2 visitors. Cordeaux Dam was a bit too far for Canberra, Hunter and Mid North Coast Chapter members to get to for a day trip - the tyranny of distance. This event is a great way to start the year by catching up with club mates from beyond our usual circle.

In past years of this annual event, the weather has been atypically cool and overcast. Not this year! For much of the day, we had bright sunshine, top of 30C and high humidity. It was a hot one!

Paul Byers set up a pair of Hot Wheels racetracks for the kids (and the not-so-young) to play with. Young Evan declared that the fastest of the four MX-5 models on offer was the yellow ND - if only Mazda would make a full-size one in this colour. This was the first of four fun games organised for the day.

At 11:30, we commenced the inaugural MX-5 Packing Challenge. Competitors in this game had to fit a selection of specific luggage items into the boot of their MX-5 in the fastest time

possible. The items included everything an adventurous couple needs for a weekend camping trip in their MX-5: one large, soft bag of clothing for her, a spare pair of undies for him (enough for eight days if you know how), a tent, double air mattress, air pump, 2 sleeping bags, 2 inflatable pillows, 2 camp chairs, fold-up table, lantern, fishing rod, and tennis racquets. No food or cooking items were included, because any self-respecting MX-5 owner would eat at the nearest cafe or pub. A 5 second time penalty would be applied if anything needed to be packed behind the seats. All of it was transported in the boot of my NC, so it was certainly possible. Ten spots were available and competitors were permitted to work as a couple. This option came with a warning that it might be an impediment to marital harmony! Those waiting for their turn were not permitted to watch the others, and waited in the "Cone of Silence".

Kim Ranger was first up in her NC and set the target with a time of 2:02. Paul Byers was next and revealed his "secret weapon" - he had previously removed the boot lining on his NC to free a little more space. His packing efficiency was incredible to watch and his time of 0:43 would be tough to beat. More NCs followed with Phil Ashton (1:04) and Wally Wojewski & Tanya Badovinac (1:17). When Wesley & Lena Hill rolled up next in their NB, murmurs from the field suggested a strong contender. True

to form, they set an incredible time of 0:40.5 to claim the lead. John Cassidy and his NC were next (0:49.9) before Graham Wakeham (1:21) and Stephen & Catherine Jordan (59.6) proved that the boot of an ND and ND-RF is equally capacious as their predecessors. A slight miscalculation of packing sequence meant Stephen & Catherine were the only challengers to incur the five second penalty. Ray & Pam Estreich were the second-last contenders, and they packed their NB with the speedy efficiency learnt from a touring holiday in Tasmania. They shot to the lead with a stunning time of 0:38.4. Last up were Tammie & Evan Hotz who filled their NB in only 0:56 to claim 5th place. The winners were Ray & Pam and they happily claimed their prize of a box of Celebration chocolates.

Not only was the Packing Challenge great fun for the competitors and throng of spectators, it also provided some great consumer advice. Yes you really can go camping for the weekend in your MX-5. And when it inevitably rains, it's possible to pack it all away in as little as 38 seconds!

Before you say the NB boot must be bigger than the NC and ND, it should be noted that all three NBs left their space-saver spare at home and unlike the NC and NDs, they did not carry a puncture repair kit. Their capacity-enhanced boot was fully brimmed, and good luck if they got a flat tyre!

*Continued.....*





Time for lunch and Paul Byers wheeled out his excellent little BBQ trailer, supplementing the available cooking area from the free electric units on site. Next time he promises to test all the burners are operational before arriving. All sorts of concoctions were cooked up, the most impressive being boerewors (a long spiral of beef sausage, originated in South Africa) and crocodile steaks (tastes just like chicken).

After lunch had settled, we set up the game of Wacky Races. Three teams of four people battled each other in the sack race relay, three-legged race relay, waiter race relay, and finally the thong toss (furthest throw of a thong wins). The cups of water for the waiter race proved to be additionally useful as a water fight ensued after that race. The "A-Team" from Illawarra started strongly with a win in the sack race but then fell behind. Team "First Place" from RPM Chapter proved a misnomer by finishing last in three races and ended up "first at the wrong end". The outright winner was team "Aussie 1" from RPM Chapter. Evan Hotz gratefully accepted the

Celebration chocolates for his team, and then proved himself a true gentleman by sharing them with everyone - including the non-MX-5 families whose picnic we crashed. Well done young man! What about the Sydney Chapter team? They chose to entertain themselves with a game of Bocce instead - no worries mate.

Our final activity of the day was a friendly game of tip-n-run cricket. Fielding positions were generally dictated by the availability of shade. The ball disappeared to all corners of the field, and Tanya Badovinac displayed her talent with a lovely range of cover drives and delicate cuts. Expect a call from The Southern Stars, Tanya. After each player had a bat, we called it quits and the crowd of MX-5ers gradually made their departures.

All agreed it was a tops day and a wonderful way to celebrate our national day. I'm already looking forward to doing it all again in 2019, and encourage more club members to come along and join in the fun.





# 20 Years of MX-5 Club Motorsport



**M**otorsport has always been an important key to the success of the MX-5 Club of NSW, with our club members competing since the beginning in 1990. Our first club track day that we organised entirely on our own was at Wakefield Park on 20th January 1997. It is now 20 years since that major step for our club and on the weekend of 25/26 November 2017, we celebrated in some considerable style. Planning for the 20th Anniversary of Motorsport commenced almost exactly one year ago. The original target was to hold it in March, but a variety of obstacles saw the date pushed out to November. At least we managed to hold it in the correct year!

Goulburn was the destination so that we could combine it with a club track day at Wakefield Park. It was a busy weekend for Goulburn - our event in combination with a hockey tournament and horse race meeting meant that every motel in town was booked solid. This goes to show how important motorsport is to the economy of regional communities. Overnights such as this are also a fantastic opportunity for club members to socialise and reinforce friendships, and this was certainly the largest ever for our motorsport community.

Dinner on the Saturday night was held at the Southern Star Inn, a perfect venue for our 144 attendees. Upon arriving, members collected their commemorative long-sleeve polo shirts that had been created for the occasion and found themselves a table. A surprise-and-delight feature awaited them - a commemorative cloth badge placed at each setting - perfect for decorating a racesuit. Canapes were served on the back verandah overlooking the gardens, as the tightly packed group mingled enthusiastically.

After taking our seats inside, President Keith Monaghan kicked off with an introductory speech, followed by Competition Secretary Ian Combes explaining the proceedings and introducing our invited guests. These included our life members, the "originals" (current club members who were at the first track day in 1997), and our club sponsors. The alternate drop main meal was served and devoured in short time. I then took the stage to give a presentation explaining the intricate history of our club's motorsport activity and the people who made it happen. Desserts were served while I spoke. Our special invited guest for the event was Ed Chivers, the man who got us started with club track days in 1997. Ed moved to Queensland almost ten years ago, but has always retained his membership and this was his first return to Goulburn in many years. In his fascinating speech, Ed spoke of the pathway he devised that would see us establish club track days, compete in state supersprints, and progress into

sports car racing.

Bright and early on Sunday morning, we filed out to Wakefield Park. A field of almost 100 drivers was expected and the task of scrutineering was breezed through, as half had been done on Saturday afternoon. A few late withdrawals meant that the record total of drivers was 93, divided into seven groups of up to 15 cars. The variety of planned activities meant that track time would be limited and this was reflected in the substantially discounted entry fee. Each group had three timed runs before lunch, and one more run in the late afternoon. The fastest drivers were Michael DeMaio (Class 1, 1:16.941), Bryan Shedden (Class 2, 1:13.404), Luke Kovacic (Class 3, 1:11.864), Jamie Martin (Class 4, 1:15.519), Mat Fraser (Class 5, 1:14.150), Gus Elias (Class 6, 1:11.660), Greg Bunn, (Class 7, 1:11.414), Josh Fitzgerald (Class 8, 1:11.755), Dennis Chiswick (Class 9, 1:09.932), Verne Johnson (Class 10, 1:05.173), and Stephen Wan (Class 11, 1:04.903). Full results are available [here](#).

The cafeteria was pumping with club members utilising their \$10 vouchers, given to them by the club committee. The keen crowd of spectators was bolstered by many more from the variety of day runs by the Canberra Chapter, Illawarra Chapter, and Breakfast Club. Hot laps passenger rides were raffled off, with a \$500 donation raised for CareFlight.

After cutting the celebratory cake, those lucky enough to win hot laps were kitted out with racesuits and helmets and then got to experience the track at speed in the passenger seat of an MX-5 race car in the hands of our most experienced drivers. Some of our "originals" also got to drive the track on their own in some extremely quick race cars - Jean Cook loved her drive of Verne Johnson's MX-5 Cup winning rocket ship. What a birthday present!

The major highlight was a parade lap for most of the MX-5s in attendance (many preferred to watch it all from pit lane). A total of 84 MX-5s made their way around the track and lined up on the main straight for a spectacular group photo. It capped off a perfect day that was thoroughly enjoyed by 201 club members and 16 visitors - 24 officials and 100 spectators were there to watch the 93 drivers.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of a dedicated sub-committee who pulled it all together: Ian Combes, Mel Keller, Julie Sando and Bryan Shedden. Sincere thanks are extended to the Club Committee for generously subsidising the event. Our motorsport competitors and officials have made a tremendous contribution to the club and our financial success owes primarily to them. This was our way of giving back and saying thank you.









## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS MOTORSPORT PRESENTATION NIGHT OF NIGHTS



●Alaine O'Connor●Alan Townsley●Alexander Shedden●Andrew Digney●Anna Fraser●  
Cassandra Barclay●Charlie Simon●Christan Thompson●Curran Brennan●David Johnson●David Wilson●Gaynor Lawler●Graham Fletcher●Greg Bunn●Greg Smith●Gustavo Elias●  
Heather Koorey●Helen Green●Jamie Martin●Jason Atkins●Jie Ren●John Karayannis●Joshua Fitzgerald●Kareene Kavanagh  
Katharine Keller●Keith Bridgement●Kim Jacobs●Lachlan Holswich●Lesa Bunn●Lindsay Green●  
Lou Iezzi●Luke Kovacic●Mark Kavanagh●Michael DeMaio●Philip Mayo●Phillip Donnelley●Ralph Thompson●Richard Herring●Russ Maxwell●  
Stephen Wan●Tammie Hotz●Valerie Stewart●Warren Hotz●







**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
OFFICIALS AND  
VOLUNTEERS**

- Jean Cook ● David Lawler ● Barry Luttrell ●
- Joe Kovacic ● Josh Allen ● Diann Miller ●
- Dan Szwaj ● Scotty Gibbs ●
- David Johnson ● Mike Hicks ●
- Stephen Brennan ● Verne Johnson ●
- Helen Green ● Lindsay Green ●
- Josh Fitzgerald ● Stephen Fisher ●
- Matt Tarrant ● Stewart Temesvary ●
- Rob Wilkins ●





# Lightning Run



## Words and Photos Colin Piper



In November, my wife and I took our 2007 NC Roadster on the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club's 2017 "Big Trip", an annual event that this year took us on "A Lap of New South Wales".

Along with 21 other cars, we travelled from Sydney to Gunnedah, Lightning Ridge, Bourke, Cobar, Broken Hill, Mildura, Barham, Mulwala, Tumbarumba, and Thredbo. We then returned to Sydney via Yass, in all, 3945kms in 17 days.

I wondered at first if it was the ideal car for such a trip, (my wife had no such doubts) but I have to say it was more pleasurable than we could ever have imagined. No one would classify an MX-5 as a "Grand Touring Car", (there were a few such vehicles on the run) but this trip proved to me what a truly brilliant car the MX-5 is, not that I didn't already know that of course!

Effortless and very economical cruising at the legal speed limits, though the stereo was probably useless at cruising speed, especially with the roof down, which it was for a lot of the time. The air conditioning was more than adequate on some of the hotter days out west, but early morning travel 'al fresco' was brilliant, especially on the drive from Mulwala-Tumbarumba-Thredbo-Yass.

A friend, who took his 4WD on the run offered to take my space-saver for me, so we had adequate luggage capacity, though visits to antique shops and impulse shopping were off the agenda for obvious reasons!

My car (I am the 3rd owner) is in excellent condition,



having only travelled 36,000-odd kms before we left, so I purchased a car-bra from 'Car Bra Australia' in Melbourne to protect the front from stones and other low flying objects. It fitted perfectly and did the job it was designed for.

The scenery varied from the dry red-soil out west to the glorious Alpine roads and the rich farming areas of the Liverpool Plains and the Murray Valley. Some of it we had experienced before, but never in an open car where, as we all know, ones senses are heightened by the sounds and the smells, not to mention the sheer joy of driving.

We were staggered by the amount of 'road-kill' encountered, especially on the roads from Lightning Ridge to Mildura. There was an abundance of wildlife grazing on the verges too; feral goats and pigs, 'roos, the occasional emu and cattle, but fortunately none of it found its way into our path...we were very much on the lookout I have to tell you. The road-kill made for some interesting 'slalom' manoeuvres too, and not wanting to run over any carcasses with our low ground clearance, timing with

the occasional on-coming car or semi was a skill soon mastered.

As I said, the little red car performed brilliantly; it ran like clockwork, used no oil to speak of and unlike some, we suffered no tyre problems as the Bridgestones were more than up to the coarse road surfaces encountered from time to time. Something to be said for NOT having ultra low-profile tyres I reckon. I ran with the handbook's recommended pressures, and while at home I usually run slightly higher pressures, the available wisdom was to run with lower ones. It was good advice.

For anyone thinking of such an extended adventure in his or her MX-5, from our experience, it is a hugely pleasurable one. Our car was the smallest of the 22 cars on the run and one of three drop-tops. Yes, a few of the true Grand Touring Cars must have eaten up those kilometres in true GT manner, what was the old 1960s Jaguar slogan...grace, space and pace...but none of them could have provided more enjoyment than did Mazda's remarkable MX-5.

#### TRIP PLANNER

### To Bra Or Not To Bra

*Road trips often mean stone chips but fitting a car bra is a great way to protect your paintwork. Car bras are manufactured from water resistant vinyl with a mesh panel to filter the grill and air intakes. Driving lights are protected by UV rated perspex panels.*

*Car Bras have a foam backing and will not scratch your paintwork however the foam can absorb and trap moisture. It is important to regularly remove and clean your car bra especially after wet weather.*

*Car bras are available for NAs through to NDs and are custom made to accommodate pop-up headlights, parking sensors and cameras. Contact CAR BRA Australia Ph (03) 9357 2300 [www.carbra.com.au](http://www.carbra.com.au). - Ed.*



# Chapter Christmas Wrap



## HUNTER

For the second year, Elaine Gazzard stepped up to organise a wonderful end of year Twilight Xmas Party for the Hunter Chapter. A whopping 60 attendees came out to enjoy a BBQ dinner and bowls all provided by the Boolaroo Bowling Club.



## MID NORTH COAST

The Mid-North Coast Branch of the Mazda MX-5 car club met at the Rivermark Café for the start of the annual mystery Run which was followed by a Christmas.



PHOTOS PETER LE DAVID GAZZARD ROB WILKINS BRYAN SHEDDEN WAYNE LANG GILLIAN FLETCHER





## CANBERRA

43 Canberra chapter members convened at the Yowani Country Club for lunch and to celebrate a successful year with 30 events attended by 675 members.



## RPM

It was a warm start but a lovely, cool finish for the RPM Fish & Chip Run to Berowra Waters.



## ILLAWARRA

The Illawarra chapter returned to the Figgy Bowlo for their Christmas party and award presentations.

# A Wet & Wild Challenge Bathurst



18-19 NOVEMBER WORDS STEWART TEMESVARY PHOTOS STEPH WILLIAMSON JAMIE MARTIN NEALE BAYLISS



The second annual running of the Challenge Bathurst event at Mount Panorama was held from 16th November to 19th November 2017. The event comprises two days of a SuperSprint style event (Thursday and Friday) with some seriously quick vehicles. Saturday and Sunday were dedicated to regularity events, with a fastest allowed time of 2 min 36 sec.

While Andy Harris in his race-prepared NC entered in the SuperSprint event, the majority of MX-5 Club members competed in Saturday and Sunday's Regularity Events. Unfortunately the dates of the regularity event clashed with the MX-5 Club's track day at SMP South Circuit (the Interstate Challenge), so the number of members competing at Mt Panorama were down on the previous year.

The regularity competitors were divided into 5 groups of approx 50 cars per group, supposedly based on the speed of the vehicles, with Group A being the fastest cars.

Most of the regularity competitors arrived at the track on Friday so that they could do all the paperwork and scrutineering before the Saturday morning.

Saturday saw the adverse weather forecast proving accurate and rain falling most of the day, with some of the rainfall being torrential. Group A started their 20 minute familiarisation session at 8am, but during this session the officials decided to delay the running of subsequent groups until the thick fog and cloud blanketing the top of the mountain had cleared. After a delay of approximately 30 minutes the fog cleared and groups B to E started their familiarisation sessions.

Unfortunately, due to the less than ideal conditions there were numerous "red flag" stoppages throughout the day, which meant some groups struggled to get any recorded lap times. Luckily none of the MX-5s were the cause of any of these stoppages.

One incident of note was in the Group C familiarisation session when Stewart Temesvary entered the chase in front of Greg Bunn (at the bottom of Conrod Straight) and started to aquaplane on a river of water flowing across the track. Luckily for Stewart the application of full opposite lock caught the slide.

At lunch time the officials called a special drivers briefing and announced that the third session of the day for each group (originally scheduled to be the first Trial of the competition) was being changed to a second practice session. For the safety of all the drivers it was felt that to have any competition was not fair

to all drivers (when some groups had not yet recorded enough laps to allow drivers to nominate a time).

Sunday saw the competitors waking up to clear skies and ideal conditions.

There were still the occasional red flag stoppage but most groups got a decent amount of track time. The first Trial of Sunday yielded in the following club members achieving top 10 results:

Group A - Tony King 7th

Group C - Stewart Temesvary 1st, Glenn Thomas 5th, Ray Estreich 7th and Kevin Nokes 8th

Group D - Jamie Martin 9th

The second Trial of Sunday yielded in the following club members achieving top 10 results:

Group A - Tony King 8th

Group B - Mike Kelsey 7th

Group C - Stewart Temesvary 1st, Glenn Thomas 2nd, Ray Estreich 3rd, David Johnson 9th

Group D - Jamie Martin 1st and Gregg Noonan 6th

The third trial for all groups was affected by a trail of oil from Skyline to the Dipper, resulting in localised yellow flags nevertheless, Tony King finished 5th in Group A. In Group C Glenn Thomas finished 2nd, Ray Estreich 3rd, David Johnson 8th and Stewart Temesvary 9th. In Group D Gregg Noonan was 9th.

At the end of the Sunday's competition the total penalties from all 3 trials were added together to determine the overall results of each group. In Group C, RPM Chapter took a clean sweep of the podium with Glenn Thomas finishing 1st, Ray Estreich 2nd and Stewart Temesvary 3rd. The overall results for Group D showed Jamie Martin and Gregg Noonan finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

All drivers had a great weekend and while some were very cautious of the wet track on Saturday, others revelled in the wet. The wet track can be a great leveller for the MX-5, which in dry conditions can suffer from a lack of grunt to get up the Mountain. In the wet the great handling of the car comes to the fore and can leave other more powerful cars in their wake. To highlight this, Jamie Martin was the 205th fastest in the field out of 252 competitors in the dry on Sunday, but on Saturday he was 8th fastest outright in sector 2 in the wet.

The date for next year's event has already been confirmed and it is pleasing that in 2018 the event will not clash with a club track day. For those who may be interested in ticking off a bucket list item be sure to keep the weekend of 17th and 18th November 2018 free.





# New Zealand Leadfoot Festival

SPECIAL REPORT WORDS AND PHOTOS **PHILLIP DONNELLY**

If you've ever wanted to see the Goodwood Festival in the UK but were put off by the long expensive flights, the expensive English hotels, English weather and the massive crowds, then you **MUST** do the Leadfoot Festival in New Zealand.

I have just attended this event over the weekend of 03-04 February. Held on the 100 acre property of famous Kiwi racer Rod Millen of Pikes Peak rally and race fame, it is a hillclimb course up his 'driveway', much the same as Lord March at Goodwood.

In a beautiful part of New Zealand on the Coromandel Peninsula, a 2.5 hour drive east from Auckland. There is ample accommodation within a short drive in lovely coastal holiday towns of Hahei, Tairu and Whitianga.

New Zealand boasts an amazing array of classic and modern motor sport vehicles. This year the range was from 1930's Bugattis and an Auto Union with a V12 Rolls Royce engine, to the new Ford GT especially imported from the US by Rod Millen for the event. Apparently he approached Ford's CEO to arrange the shipment!

The whole gamut of motor sport is covered to include Pikes Peak specials, rally, track, stadium trucks, bikes, quads, sidecars and drifters, which turned out to be the most popular attraction.

Drifting was never a favourite motor sport for me, however, seeing Mustangs, GTR's, and stadium trucks drifting and smoking the entire 1.6km course through some very tight hair pin bends was amazing. Fabulous car control.

The event goes for two days starting at 8am and finishing about 5pm both days. The cars go out in 4 groups, each group getting 2 runs per day.

With such an amazing, eclectic variety of cars, you certainly get your money's worth. There was a 50's Citroen with a V8 stuffed in and a V8 Austin Healey which sounded amazing. Also featured was a Replica D Type Jaguar driven by an elegant, older lady and Rod Millen's Pikes Peak winning Toyota Celicia. Also a new Mazda 2 based rally car with the loudest turbo lag crackle on the planet.

There were no MX-5s on the track but plenty of rotaries, RX3, 7 and 8. I counted about 20 MX-5s in the car park from the NZ MX-5 Club.

The venue was never over crowded, I would estimate 8000 to 10,000 people each day, plenty of room to walk around. You need to be fit to get to the top of the hill, it's a short, sharp climb and there was access to the pits at all times. There were two VIP enclosures and ample food and drink outlets around the grounds.

The event, while a casual competitive hill climb, never the less became very competitive for the final top 10 run on Sunday afternoon. This year the winner was a (boring) but very quick WRX Sti driven by a Scot. Go figure - he won in 2016 as well.

This is an event well worth considering for next year. The 2019 Festival will be held at the Leadfoot Ranch on February 02 - 03. Go to [www.leadfootfestival.com](http://www.leadfootfestival.com) for details.





# Marques in the Park

## CANBERRA

12 NOVEMBER WORDS **NORM BARKER**  
PHOTOS **ED CORY**

**M**arques in the Park events are organised by the Council of ACT Motor Clubs, and most makes and club types are represented. This year it was held on Sunday, 12 November. It had been wet leading up to the day, which put some doubt on the event going ahead, but although the day started out cloudy it cleared to a bright, sunny and warm day. There was a good range of car makes set out across the Park including a display of Police bikes and cars.

The MX-5s had a good position again at one end of the park. We were able to have the 18 cars, with all models represented, arranged looking down the Park with the BBQ trailer and our large banner at the rear. People came and asked about the different models and we may see some new members when they purchase their own car. One couple came with their newly purchased NB8A and they intend to join the club and will come to the next Coffee and Lies.

The BBQ trailer was in operation and drew a lot of attention.

Members were well fed with sausage sandwiches and some interested viewers were treated to some well cooked sausages towards the end of the day.

Cooking was shared around as was the set up and clear up at the end. Our club certainly is not short of members prepared to join in when things need to be done.

We took it in turns to visit the other groups and many interesting conversations were had with proud owners of other makes of cars. Owners are always more than happy to discuss their cars and this creates a very good community atmosphere.

In between looking around, and talking to the viewers of our cars, we gathered under the shade of the trees for a chat. The usual exchange of stories from the legendary past kept everyone engaged and the time passed quickly. By all accounts a good day was had by all and the MX-5 was promoted.



# Harry's Schnitty Night

11 NOVEMBER WORDS YASMIN ALLEN PHOTOS JOSH FITZGERALD

## HUNTER

Early Saturday evening on the 11th a whole bunch of us from the Hunter Chapter met up at Harry's Schnitzel in Thornton. The car park was surprisingly crowded but we managed to fit most of our cars into the one section, with the exception of one, who decided instead to park with the Ford club. After chatting, looking over cars and procrastinating for the good part of an hour we headed into Harry's Schnitzel Joint, queuing almost back out the front door then nearly filling the seats once served.

Our meals were prepared fairly quickly despite the numbers and having no advance warning, and the schnitzels were tasty (ask for the secret menu if you want to try some unusual flavours) and the thickshakes are highly recommended. Once our bellies were full we bade farewell to those not cruising with us, including a pair of visitors from the central coast, and headed off on our way.

We won't mention the wrong turn our run leader Josh led us through on our way out of Thornton (maybe he was worried about Lindsay following up as tail end in Stephen's Porsche), but we were thankful that after Josh and Josh in the two lead cars left everyone else behind when we got caught at the first set of lights, the rest of the group caught up quickly and we were back on our way all together.

What followed was a beautiful sunset drive, roller-coastering up and down along the winding roads through the aptly named Hillsborough. We continued after dark, passing the beacon like glow from the occasional farmhouse then Josh and I nearly drove into the back of the run leader's car when smooth Josh forgot how close the intersection was. We finished just beyond a very strange intersection at Singleton hospital, pulling into McDonalds to grab a hot drink, or a colouring page for some, then heading home for a well earned rest.





# Mazdas in the Mist

ILLAWARRA

13 JANUARY PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**



Mazdas in the Mist is held on the second Saturday of every month, meeting at the Moonacres Kitchen in Robertson.

# Mid Week Run to Dorrigo

MID NORTH COAST

21 NOVEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS **GREG COX**



It was under threatening skies that two Mid North Coast Chapter cars departed the Rivermark Café in Port Macquarie for our midweek run to Dorrigo. Heading north on the M1 freeway we entered the recently opened section of freeway crossing the new Dennis Bridge over the Hastings River, a significant improvement after years of road works. We soon reached Kempsey where Wayne Lang joined us, before proceeding North to the Waterfall Way turn off to our morning tea stop at the Old Butter Factory at Bellingen. Here we met new members Rob Partridge from Coffs Harbour and Warren Shipway from Safety Beach.

After a coffee and chat, our now five car group set off up the mountain to Dorrigo. Here we stopped at the Rainforest Centre for a few photos, and to enjoy the view from the lookout. Graham departed the run here to return home. With the rain still holding off we travelled through Dorrigo and North along the corkscrew to Nymboida, where after a brief stop we started our return to Dorrigo for lunch. It was on this section that Warren received a puncture which destroyed his tyre. Fortunately he carried a space-saver spare that allowed him to limp back to Dorrigo, and then down the mountain to buy a new tyre. Unfortunately, by the time we reached Dorrigo we missed lunch at the hotel, so settled for a quick refreshment then made our separate ways down the mountain and home.

Thanks to Warren and Rob for joining us, and we look forward to seeing them on future runs. Apart from Warren's tyre problem, we all enjoyed the drive on some great north coast roads. Thanks to members attending the Run, Greg Cox, Graham Rochester, Wayne Lang, Warren Shipway and Robert Partridge.

# Overnight Run to Avoca

11 NOVEMBER WORDS **JOHN HANSEN GREG COX**  
PHOTOS **KEIRAN RODGERS**

## MID NORTH COAST

**T**he Mid North Coast Chapter on the 11 November held an overnight run to Avoca. The highlight of the run was a visit to the Gosford Car Museum.

8am saw the assembly of five Mazda MX-5s with a couple of honorary MX-5s for the weekend (BMW MX-5 a new Mazda CX-3 MX-5 and a Subaru XV MX-5) at the Port Macquarie Service Centre. Several members of the Hunter Chapter of the MX-5 Club also joined us for the weekend.

The weather was fine with some heavy clouds on the horizon. A sedate trip down the Pacific Highway to Kew where we picked up a couple more members. Then another sedate drive along the highway with club member Keiran calling out various scenic attractions over the two-way radio such as the brightly coloured highway patrol cars.

The turn off along the Wootton way (the old Pacific Highway) was irresistible especially as the road surface has been upgraded and provided a chance to blow some of the cob webs out of the cars. The drive was probably a bit more interesting for those not in MX-5s trying to keep up! Back on the highway and the cry went out from our spotter that the 'sky was falling'; a quick stop whilst most put up their tops. One hardy member demonstrated that its possible to drive through a shower without putting the top up and not drowning!

Back on the highway towards

McDonalds at Heatherbrae whilst the traffic started to build up. Dave from the Hunter Chapter secured a table for us and directed us to the old Bunnings car park as the McDonalds one was full. A short stop for morning tea and a leg stretch before going down to the Motor Museum. As it was November 11 and 11am and Remembrance Day; we observed a minute's silence in contemplation and respect for those who served their country and enabled the development of a society in which we can enjoy activities such as our car run.

The next stretch of the highway down and along the M1 was slow as the traffic seemed to build up endlessly making it very difficult to drive together. Graham the leader had explained the route to the Museum and so it did not really matter that cars became separated. In fact, a couple of cars decided to take an additional scenic detour around Ourimbah before we regrouped on the ramp off to Kariong Hill down to Gosford.

The Gosford Motor Museum is on the site of the old Gosford Bunnings Store. Graham had negotiated a very good deal for all of us including the members from Hunter and we were soon inside. The first impressions were simply "wow"; exotic cars seemed to go on fore-ever, all in pristine condition with excellent signage. Signs indicated that all cars would be considered for sale. This prompted one wag to suggest that we were really looking at a very very







expensive exotic used car yard! Keiran and Peter photographed the moment where our group leader Graham was allowed to clamber into a Ford GT 40. Clamber was the operative word in getting in and out of the car which was a work of art. There was something for everyone. We saw cars that one could only dream of and also cars that we had seen and or driven in our younger years. After a couple of hours, it was time to take a break and have some substance from the mobile kitchen caravan outside and then back into the museum.

A drive through heavy traffic to Terrigal and then a group photo near the famous Skillion and a scenic drive to Avoca beach before docking at our hotel for the night. The hotel had access to the pub's bistro which provided us with the evening meal. We were entertained watching a live band set up whilst we finished our meal. We were in the front row to the band and when they started to play it was quite loud (bit of an understatement). Many of us took the opportunity to go to an outside veranda to finish conversations. Some intrepid members stayed inside to listen to the band and some even danced! Wayne an accomplished guitarist himself provided interesting insights into how the band was playing.

The motel rooms were comfy and after a good night sleep we marshalled at 8am the next Morning for a short run to a

cafe on the Beach for breakfast. Really great food; a bright and sunny day, magnificent beach and rock pool, good company and conversation, with the prospect of another run the in the MX-5. Really life doesn't get much better than this! Paraphrasing the old advertising slogan "you meet the nicest people in an MX-5!"

Day 2 of our 'Central Coast Escape', started at 8.00am, when we met in the hotel car park for the short drive to Avoca Beach for a leisurely breakfast at the 'Point Cafe'.

Following breakfast, we enjoyed the beach and ocean views before driving the winding road up the hillside overlooking the coast, where we stopped at Killcare lookout. From this great vantage point we could look south to Pittwater and the Northern beaches peninsular.

After a short stop and lots of photos, we drove down the hillside and through some busy shopping strips to our morning tea destination at Pearl Beach. As some members of our group had private plans for the afternoon, we said our farewells here after enjoying a great weekend drive around the Central Coast, and visit to the Classic Car Museum.

Thanks to all that participated and to Graham Rochester for organising the weekend.









# Interstate Challenge

18 NOVEMBER WORDS **IAN COMBES** PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS** **KEITH MONAGHAN**

**T**he track day at Sydney Motorsport Park Amaroo Circuit on 18th November 2017 was the Interstate Challenge with the MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania. On our home track, we felt that we had a chance to wrest the trophy back from the Victorians. The weather forecast guaranteed rain on the day but it turned out to be fine and warm.

There were 85 entrants on the day, including 11 from the Victorian Club. In the Interstate Challenge, the MX-5 Club of NSW was represented by Michael DeMaio, Greg Unger, Phil Reid, Luke Kovacic, Graham Fletcher, Danilo Poropat, Gustavo Elias, Mark Kavanagh, Andrew Digney, Josh Fitzgerald and Russ Maxwell. Unfortunately, the Victorians hadn't entered anyone in class 2 or class 9, so two of our strongest contenders (Bryan and Ralph) were without dance partners from the South. That would prove costly.

The day got off to a rocky start with some issues with radios delaying the start of proceedings. It was bemusing sitting on the dummy grid watching Blake Hotz doing laps of the track in Mike Hicks' course car. I think Blake almost got more laps in than I did that day!

All the action was at Brocky's corner (05). Jon Fox had a day that he would probably like to forget, creasing a few panels after losing it on the exit. One of our Victorian friends split a coolant hose going into turn 5, ending up in the kitty litter after spinning on his own coolant.

In the Interstate Challenge, the Victorians took out class 1 (Gareth Pedley), class 4 (Max Lloyd), class 7 (Alan Conrad) and class 8 (Kim Cole). NSW claimed class 3 (Luke Kovacic), class 6 (Gustavo Elias) and class 10 (Russ Maxwell).

Overall, the Victorians retained the

trophy with a 119 to 99 point victory. Not being able to compete in class 2 or class 9 was unfortunate, as was having a number of our fastest regulars competing at Bathurst on the same weekend. We will be taking the next Interstate Challenge at Winton in Victoria a bit more seriously!

In our Club Championship battle, the class winners were:-

Michael DeMaio (class 1 - 1:09.867)  
Bryan Shedden (class 2 - 1:06.466)  
Luke Kovacic (class 3 - 1:05.580)  
Graham Fletcher (class 4 - 1:09.590)  
Mat Fraser (class 5 - 1:06.303)  
Gustavo Elias (class 6 - 1:05.657)  
Andrew Digney (class 7 - 1:06.254)  
Phillip Donnelley (class 8 - 1:06.837)  
Ralph Thompson (class 9 - 1:03.023)  
Russ Maxwell (class 10 - 1:02.689). Fastest non-MX-5 was Cody Skoumbourdis - 1:06.944. The fastest of the visitors from Victoria was Kim Cole (1:05.327).







**RPM  
Chapter**



**Happy  
5th  
Birthday**

13 JANUARY  
PHOTOS VICKI LEGGE GILLIAN FLETCHER  
JASON BROWN TREVOR BROWN



**Run to  
Wallerawang**





# Canberra 5 Hills Run

CANBERRA

14 JANUARY WORDS **MARTIN ROBERTSON** PHOTOS **NORM BARKER**

The first run for the year was the annual 5 Hills Run and was held on the 14 January, with 16 cars, NA, NB, NC and ND all turning up, most with a co-pilot. It serves as an easy start to the year and a good chance for new members to join in. After some preliminary chit-chat at Russell Defence Central, I called the group to order and issued the route instructions and a quiz sheet - more about the quiz later.

At about 5:40pm under clear skies, warm weather and a brisk breeze, we headed off towards ADFA and Mt Pleasant - our first stop. We had a bit of a leg-stretch after the 5 minute journey, checked-out the view across Lake Burley Griffin and then drove to the lookout atop Mt Ainslie. Paul Beerworth gave me a run-down on the history of this annual drive. Apparently, this was the 16th anniversary of the hills drive. First it was a 4 hills run, then it became the 5 hills, then 6 hills, all without going to the arboretum and Dairy Hill, before its' current format.

Many of the participants gave up on my quiz at this point. "If you're not in it, you can't win it" is my motto. We drove on to Black Mountain, without a stop, driving around the car park and under the walkway which leads to Black Mountain Tower. Back down the mountain, around the Lake and thence to Dairy Hill in the Canberra Arboretum. The wind was dropping (along with the sun) by now and after much car shuffling to fit everyone in, we enjoyed the view looking back across the Lake to the 3 hills we had just visited. Peter Coonan pointed out the highlights from his childhood in the valley below to the west- he grew up on the property at Coppins Crossing.

Lastly we drove across Scrivener Dam and called in at Red Hill for a photo shoot before descending to the lake shore at Lennox Gardens. The wind had almost gone by then and a very pleasant picnic was had by all. My quiz was not well received, and what seemed easy to me (aided by a clever computer) was very hard for drivers and their co-pilots. Ros Barker was the well-earned winner. And we got to see the sun set in one of the best cities in the world.



# Harrigans Run

## MID NORTH COAST

20 JANUARY WORDS **JOHN HANSEN**  
PHOTOS **JOHN HANSEN GRAHAM ROCHESTER**

A hot Saturday morning on 20 January saw the assembly of six MX-5s at the Port Macquarie Service Centre, a.k.a 'The Donut' for the first official MNC Chapter run for 2018. A variety of MX-5 models made up the group. Graham with Elma had wrangled a demonstrator white 2017 MX-5 RF from Port Macquarie Mazda for the day to showcase the car to members. Keiran and Peter brought their 'new' NB Heritage Model, a maroon colour with a spotless tan interior, Chris had driven down in his ND from Coffs Harbour, Leonie and Steve having a run up from Forster in their NC and Judith and John in their newly acquired NC. Although the temperature was rising we all put the tops down and travelled south to Johns River for morning tea.

Rosie's Café at Johns River is a favourite eating place just off the highway with delicious home-made scones and biscuits and slices. Graham gave demonstrations on the remarkable roof folding mechanism of the MX-5 RF. Roof up, roof down, roof up and down this could have gone on all morning! Seriously it was quite an amazing sight and showed off the ingenuity of the Mazda engineers. Hunger satiated we were ready to tackle the back roads on our way to Harrington.

The Pacific Highway had a considerable amount of traffic on it for a Saturday which lead to a slow and uneventful trip to the Coopernook turn off. As an added incentive to safe and responsible driving this section of road is rather renowned for patrol car presence. After passing through the small township of Coopernook we were on the back road to Taree Airport.

I have mentioned in previous reports that one of the attractions of the Mid North Coast is that within minutes one can go from a rather urban environment to MX-5 style country roads with the bonus of beautiful scenery all around. The vegetation was quite lush and green and with the top down the sounds of birds and cicadas were clearly heard. Wind in the hair, fine day, bird sounds and the air-con on full blast, MX-5 humming along an almost deserted country road what a way to enjoy a Saturday. Almost deserted roads, still require concentrated driving and sure enough we came upon a milk truck with not many safe overtaking opportunities. The truck eventually turned off to a small town and we had the road to ourselves again. A cry over the two way from Kieran and Peter that they had suddenly 'lost' two gears 5th and 6th and were searching around for them. After brief stop Peter found them again and we proceeded without further incident to the coast village of Harrington stopping for lunch at Harrigan's Irish Pub. The sun was mercilessly beating down and the temperatures seem to be climbing higher. Joy and F. Stelco whom we had met at the pub on last years run. Joy and F. Stelco drive what we call a Mercedes MX-5 type sports car with folding roof! We missed seeing David it turned out that there are several Harrigan's Irish pubs in the immediate district and Harrigan's at Harrington is quite a way from Harrigan's in the Hunter Valley!

We enjoyed a good lunch. One member ordered a Mega Parma and it was the largest meal that most of us could remember ever seeing; certainly, enough for two people. As one can imagine this elicited quite a few entertaining comments from the table. Graham gathered the crew together for the photograph on the banks of the river. The view of the Manning river is quite stunning and then it was off to Crowdy Head for the next obligatory photograph against the light house and coast line as a backdrop. Crowdy Head is where the Manning river meets the sea and the coastline north and south is most impressive with crescent shaped beaches and a varied hinterland.

This was a fitting backdrop to say farewell after a very pleasant day of driving, eating, being out in the scenic countryside with camaraderie between club members. The sun had been turned up to high, so your scribe put the roof wound the windows up with air con on full blast for a trip back home to Port Macquarie. Thanks go to Graham Rochester for organising the run.





# Twilight at the Bay

HUNTER

20 JANUARY WORDS **DIANNE HENDERSON** PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

The run was called Twilight at the Bay  
The first-ever Hendo run everyone would say.  
After doing a trial run (nicknamed the reccy)  
Everything was organised so it was time to sit back and have some fun.  
Then we received an email from John to say the numbers were growing.  
The numbers showed 21 cars and 35 bods – the maths started flowing.  
The numbers were large, the cars were many.  
How were we going to cope with one large group? We'd have to be canny.  
Luckily the restaurant was very kind.  
Set up a whole section on the waterfront – what a find!  
Now for the run - John and Lindsay suggested splitting the group into two.  
But the big question was we needed a run leader and who?  
Lucky for us the Marshalls had been on the reccy  
So made a quick call straight after brekky.  
"Please, please lead the second group up to the Bay".  
"This will require some thinking" they did say.  
But after a night of thinking and their own reccy the next day,  
They rang to say "Sure we'd like to play!"  
So two groups it was that left Thornton in a straight line,  
One via Gan Gan lookout and one straight to dine.  
Through copious roundabouts and along Grahamstown dam we burned  
Through newly laid road that had melted in last week's Tomago fire we learned.  
Around Bob's Farm via Marsh Road, a winding road with no hill,  
A long string of MX-5s flowed giving the locals a thrill.  
Group 1 veered off to Gan Gan Lookout up Lily Hill Road,  
To magnificent views and photo opportunities in overload.  
Then off to the Bay Harbour Café which was the place to be  
Out on the waterfront with a beautiful breeze.  
The groups came together for a twilight dinner  
Elaine Gazzard's recommendation, the Bay Harbour Café, seemed to be a definite winner.  
People started leaving except for a few who walked to the Marina where ice cream was found.  
Then home to our beds all safe and sound.  
Now for the thank yous please bare with us for a mo  
To the Marshalls for stepping up and doing such a great job – everyone said so!  
To John and Lindsay for their great advice  
Answering our emails not once but sometimes twice.  
To everyone who came along and made it so much fun  
Thank you, thank you - what a drive, what a club, what a first run!  
So watch out, we'll be back again in August next time  
To hopefully not get lost and lead the run to Copeland Gold Mine.





A photograph of a line of black sports cars, likely Mazda MX-5s, parked on a paved road that winds through a dense forest. The cars are parked in a single file, with the closest car in the foreground being a black Mazda MX-5 with a silver roll-over protection bar and a license plate that reads 'MX-53 NB'. The road is bordered by a concrete guardrail on the right side. The background is filled with tall trees and lush green foliage. A semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'SLIQ Run Up The Putty'.

# SLIQ Run Up The Putty



21 JANUARY WORDS **MICHAEL SOULOS** PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

A new benchmark has been set for the best run on the best route out of Sydney on an early waypoint breakfast run from McGraths Hill at 7.00 am on Sunday 21 January 2018 to challenge all before it. The Road Gods kept the Putty Road free of the fires that had left scented pockets of burnt eucalyptus along the road and graced 17 MX-5s with a drive up to Milbrodale and down to Laguna through Wollombi without once having to execute an overtaking manoeuvre. A miracle run truly blessed by not once having to worry about north bound traffic for 180km.

The Weather Gods did their thing by rewarding us with clear blue skies, a light breeze and a pleasant temperature all the way to the quirky GNTP Cafe at Laguna before switching over natures reverse air conditioner to turn the heat up after brekkie at around 11.00am for the one hour drive back to Hornsby and home for lunch.

The new road works, red and fluoro signage and hazard warnings for motor cyclists served to lift the anticipation and anxiety in negotiating the five star run through the awesome gorges in a MX-5. The gorges remain a tight twisting 16km ribbon of asphalt laid down in the gorge carved by Darkey Creek when it was a raging river many millennia ago for the enjoyment of people who love a great drive in their five.

The great company both on the road and at the breakfast tables all helped elevate the run to the top rung ladder. A mix of old hands, regulars and new driving enthusiasts were rewarded for getting up at sparrows to be at Maccas at 6.30 am for a pre-run coffee expressing their gratitude to the Gods of the road and weather at the conclusion of the run with a grin from ear to ear as they walked up from the car parking area to the quirky Great Northern Trading Post cafe to visit is an event on its own right.

The GNTP is built from what appears to have been a homestead with outbuildings and extensions that are either very old or constructed without a consistent design concept, set of building plans or the use of a builder's level from second hand building

material. All in all, a very interesting destination venue that promotes local artists, producers and musicians. The interior of the main building houses a rustic licenced bar, a basic general store, a hidden kitchen and adjoining dining area under a naked corrugated iron roof and missing the period touch of a dirt floor. The eating area is fitted out with what appears to be a collection of motely and mismatched windows, doors, tables and chairs acquired from items left by the roadside on council clean ups with a BBQ facility and old service counter. The only consistency about the buildings is their quirky ambience and the quality of the coffee.

Our coffee guru and run leader, Robert Forsyth, who selected the destination, rated the coffee as quite drinkable which to us less qualified members means its good. I can report that I had no trouble downing a double macchiato without any sweetener that for me deserved a well done to the bush barista and worth a return visit. I almost forgot to say that the food was OK but on the day inferior to the standard of the coffee.

I have been driving past this venue for more than I care to admit though mostly on a Sunday morning. I had always assumed from the cars parked on the grass leading up to the buildings that it was some evangelical church. Make a point of dropping in and don't make the same mistake as me.

The drive on this waypoint run lived up to everyone's reasonable expectation. Everyone enjoyed the drive, at the pace at which they felt most comfortable between waypoints, as they negotiated the rise and fall of the Putty Road as it weaved its way over and along the ridges; through the valleys before the truck stop; the gentle run down to Howes Valley that heralds the start of the gorges that lead out to the Lower Hunter Valley for the scenic run past the vineyards and farms on Milbrodale Road and lazy twists and sweeping turns of the narrow Wollombi Road from Broke. I finish with a comment in an email from Lester Langford "Ingrid and I had a wonderful time. I want to go on every BreakFast Club run I can!!!





Thank you for your support

## Major Sponsors



## Chapter Sponsors

