

club

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

TORQUE



President's Picnic | All Club in Orange | Supersprint Champions

SPRING 2017

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club TORQUE

Spring Cover Competition

There were so many beautiful photos for the Spring Cover Competition, thank you to everyone who entered. To submit an entry for the Summer edition of Club Torque, email a single high resolution image as a jpeg file to Mel Keller - 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, 31 January, 2018.



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President's Report

Keith Monaghan

COMMITTEE 2018

The AGM was held with a good turnout of members. I would like to thank everyone who attended for their support. I also congratulate all the members that received a tenure badge for their ongoing support of the club. There was one comment, yes, I will try to organise a pie chart for next year.

As a highlight it was great to see the look on Mel Keller's face when I presented her with Presidents award for exceptional service to the club. Part of this can be seen in the standard of this magazine. Well done Mel.

The committee was presented with a proposal to give free membership to any member that has had 25 years of continuous membership. This was assessed by the committee and agreed to. Congratulations to Lindsay Burke for being our first recipient of this offer.

There has been a great deal of work carried out by our team that is developing the program for the 20th anniversary of the motor sport section of the club. By the time you read this it will be over and I hope all that attended had a great time.

The President's Picnic was a great day with over 180 people and 130 cars attending the event. The judging for the Concours d'Elegance was modified to attract a wider variety of entries. These rules are a work in progress and we

are trying to find a suitable set up for NatMeet 2020.

After a period of time of not being able to be an advisor at our training days I was able to attend the last one. These are some of the most successful events the club runs. It is great to be a part of it. The thing that never stops surprising me is to see the excitement that the first timers get when driving on the track. The other pleasing thing is the increase in skills, that you can see in the first timers, from the beginning of the day until the end of the day. The skills that the people gain from these days can be applied to everyday driving and could help them if they get into a situation on the road.

In an article in the current issue of Wheels there is an interview with Mike Simcoe (an Australian) who is the current vice-president of design for General Motors worldwide. He was asked "Among GM's rivals, who does he believe is achieving the best aesthetic results? He didn't hesitate: Mazda is doing a good job in terms of design, branding and its portfolio of products."

As I am starting to attend more events please come up and say hello.



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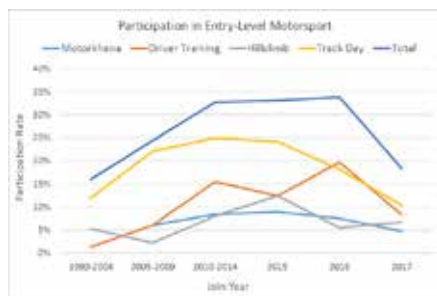


Membership Report

Bryan Shedden

This year we mark 20 years of MX-5 Club motorsport. And surely there's no better way to celebrate an anniversary than with some pie chart.

I started by looking at the participation rates in our various types of entry-level motorsport, as a function of how long people have been members i.e. the year they joined. This helps us identify which types of motorsport events are most attractive to new members, and which ones help to retain our long-term members.

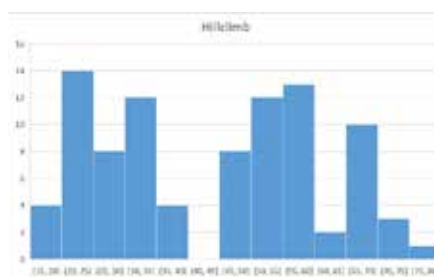


The highest participation rates for our Club Track Days are for those who joined in 2010-2014 and 2015, ie. 2 to 7 years of membership with a strong long-term following by established members. The age distribution of members who compete in our Club trackdays is similar to the general age distribution of our entire membership, with strongest interest from 46 - 71 year olds. There is also a peak of interest for 26-36-year-old members. A quarter of participating members were aged under 40yo, while 13% were aged under 30yo.



The next chart shows histograms for the age of members who participated in entry-level motorsport events during the last year.

Hillclimb had a very strong following by our younger members. The highest number of entries was received from 20-25-year-old members, while 30-35-year-olds also showed strong support. Clearly the affordable entry fees combined with the thrills of high-speed were a key to the success for our Hillclimb events. Having a 33-year-old and highly enthusiastic Josh Allen in charge of the events was another influencing factor.

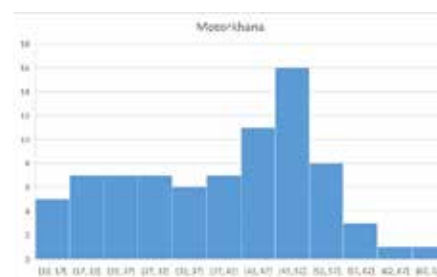


For Driver Training Days we see a strong peak in interest for 24-29-year-

olds, to the level like that of 44-59-year-olds. 38% of participating members were aged under 40yo, while 22% were aged under 30yo. We even had several teenage members participate, the youngest being only 14-years. Once again our efforts to minimise the entry fees and also offer discounts for first-timers and juniors appears to be a key factor in the success of the Driver Training Days.



Motorkhana events showed a shift towards older age groups, with the strongest involvement by 47-52-year-olds. However there was a consistent and even mix of age groups from 12-years to 42-years. About half of all members participating in motorkhana were aged under 40yo (46%), while one third were aged under 30yo (32%). These were very popular events for our younger members.



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

AS AT 15 NOVEMBER 2017

Our membership peaked at 1038 on 31 October before our annual renewal period began for all of our long term members who joined prior to 2010. Our numbers dropped a bit but have since crept back over the 1000 mark.

TOTAL
1004

NEW
MEMBERS
96

NEW MEMBERS *Welcome!*

Sherwin Ardestani
John Ball
Rod Berwick
Amanda Berwick
David Bourne
Philip Bowdell
Sean Brennan
Stephen Callaghan
Cheryl Callaghan
Margaret Carroll
Terry Carroll
John Chamberlain
Christopher Collins
Lisa Collins
David Coyle
Cam Crofts
Alfred Croucher
Wayne Dand
Paul Derwent
Carola Derwent
Steven Dodd
John Dohnt
John Elmes
James Ezra

Allan Franks
Steven Gosbee
Ross Green
Chris Hajos
Timmoor Hamidi
Suli Hamidi
John Heeney
David Ho
Toby Hodgson
Angela Horvath-Verdis
Ken Howarth
Michael Howe
Samantha Johnson
Deano Jordan
Matthew Kemp
Helena Keyworth
Peter Kneeshaw
Aimee Kovacic
Mark Lawrence
Ian Lawson
Denise Lazarus
Bryce Lenarcic
Victor Lewandowski
Sharon Lewandowski

Robert Lipa
Marnie Lipa
Susanna Lo
Xandro Lombardi
Megan Lowder
Chenqiang Man
James Mate
Karen Mifsud
Jon Millard
Peter Mohacsi
Roz Mohacsi
John Moss
Patricia Moss
Cyrus Nanavati
Adam Newlan
Kelly Newlan
Chris Nicholson
Harry Nicholson
Romeo Perin
Julian Peters
Stephen Pretty
Heather Pretty
Jarrod Pryor
Erich Raab

Basil Rachinger
Brett Randall
Coleen Randall
Matthew Rietdijk
Mark Rivers
Andrew Robertson
Edwin Robertson
Jeffrey Rowe
Pamela Rowe
Yunus Sarun
Nick Satsia
Petros Satsia
Ben Sewell
Warren Shipway
Sally Shipway
Sang Hun Son
Chris Stevens
Will Stevens
Leigh Sutherland
Con Verdis
Jason Wakelin
Simon Wooldridge
Christine Yee
Josh Zwar

JEFF GEHRIG

I am saddened to let you know of the passing of one of our Life Members Jeff Gehrig. Jeff passed away on 5th October at his Gold Coast home, after a long illness. Jeff was very much involved with the club from his early days and as he grew with the club he took on a number of roles including; Vice President in 1998, Publications Officer in 1998-2000 and Captain in 2000-01. In 2001, Jeff received the President's Award for Extraordinary Service to the Club. His work for and dedication to the club was rewarded with a Life Membership in 2003. Mike Hicks passed on the following: - "As a life member of our club his contributions as Club Captain and commentary in the timing room at Wakefield Park Track Days will live on for those involved forever."

This year Jeff was to receive his 25 Year membership tenure badge at the AGM, and was invited to attend the 20th anniversary of the motor sport as a special guest. I had been corresponding, by email, with Jeff about the coming events which due to his illness he gave his apologies. The following is part of that correspondence which shows his spirit and love of the club and the MX-5.

"I've had to say no to the 20th Anniversary Track Day. With regret, I must also decline your invitation, I'm just not up to it and will miss yet another gathering of the nicest people in the country. Or I could come, party like Hell and drop dead at the end of the night with a huge smile on my face!? Maybe not? You know the smile though, it's that

goofy one that comes to your face after you've parked the MX-5 and take one last look as you walk away. I'm so proud to have been a member and filled with very fond memories of a large number of people, to see the Club thriving that we must have done a few things right and proud to have served on the committee in the growing stages, that it's even stronger, speaks volumes for those who came after. Great Car, Great people, Great Club."

Our condolences go to Jeff's family and friends and he will be remembered by the members of this club that knew him and enjoyed his company and wit.

Keith Monaghan - President



OUR VOLUNTEERS

ROB FORSYTH

One of the highlights of the President's Picnic is the opportunity to indulge in a Forsyth Coffee and a piece of chocolate cake. Rob is an experienced coffee merchant and accredited World Barista judge who has been roasting specialty coffees for nearly 30 years. On the morning of the President's Picnic, Rob found a shady spot for his van and set about providing morning tea for the 183 members, guests and grateful volunteers.

110

social runs were held in 2017 with a further 138 social events on the calendar

In June this year, the Club reached the membership milestone of 1000 current members. New membership increased by 14% with the Hunter Chapter and RPM growing by 22%. The MX-5 Club of NSW is now the second largest single model club in the country.

1000

The MX-5 Club of NSW AGM was held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club on Friday 27 October at 7.30pm.

2017

In the last year, we welcomed

294

NEW MEMBERS

It was a busy year in motorsport with the Club conducting 3 driver training days at Marulan, 3 motorkhanas and 3 hillclimbs. Members competed in 6 MX-5 Cup rounds and 7 Supersprint rounds, 3 regularity relays, the Bathurst Challenge, the Nulon Nationals and

8

trackdays

44%

of Club members belong to the the Sydney Chapter - the largest chapter in membership and the smallest chapter in geography.

Mel Keller received the President's Award for Extraordinary Service which made for

1

803

members participated in Club activities over the last year an amazing participation rate of 79%. The Mid North Coast Chapter has the highest participation rate at 93%.

very surprised and delighted Club Torque Editor.

AGM BY THE NUMBERS

2017 Membership Tenure Awards

25 Years

Jean Cook
Jeff Gehrig
Ruth Simpson

20 Years

Kevin Addison
Nick Martinenko
Rod Menzel
Zan Menzel
Matilda Mravivic

15 Years

David Battisson
Toni Battisson
Paul Beerworth
Margaret Beerworth
Dave Bolton
Jan Broughton
John Broughton
Allan Cruz
Chris Fondum
Robert Gage
Gai-Louise Iezzi
Clive Jones
Peter McAulay
Robert McBey
John Williamson

10 Years

Norm Barker
Roz Barker
Phil Mayo
Helen Mayo
Diane Barry
Sue Monaghan
Keith Monaghan
Paul Byers
Dianne Byers
Brad Robinson
Marcus Cheng
Carmen Robinson
Angela Dodds
Kevin Tuckerman
Steve Dorian
Jenny Tuckerman
Peter Feutrill
Jill Feutrill
Mark Underwood
Hella Underwood
Mark Hellmund
Ted Weissel
Peter Hilkmann
Maureen Hilkmann
Leonora Weissel
Jill Wicklander
Dennis Wicklander
Phil Long
Mike Masters
Tony Williams

5 Years

Peter Barnwell
Barry Luttrell
Jenny Luttrell
Brendan Barr
Rachel Crawford
Keith Manion
Rosemary Dunning
Barry Matson
Gustavo Elias
Peter McDonnell
Graham Fletcher
Gillian Fletcher
Jill McDonnell
Gary Nobrega
William Fordham
Barry Pope
Scott Gibbs
Tristan Rappo
Jim Glissan
Phil Reid
Michael Hall
Ian Roache
Todd Herring
Peter Ryan
Justin Ibrahim
Louis Serret
Verne Johnson
Marie Smart
Melissa Keller
Alexander Tribe
Benjamin Wright



— 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

or call Peter Dannock on 0409 518 795



*The MX-5 Club of NSW
wishes all Members and
their families a safe and
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*



MAZDA are releasing a limited edition RF in January. The model will feature 17" BBS wheels, Bilstein shocks, Brembo brakes and Recaro seats, strut bar and Sports Body Kit. The RF will be available in two new colours Soul Red Crystal

Metallic and Eternal Blue Mica as well as Snowflake White Pearl Mica, Machine Grey Metallic, Titanium Flash Mica and Ceramic Metallic. Only 110 limited edition RFs will be released for sale in Australia with pricing from \$55,790

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



BLUE MOUNTAINS MAZDA



mazda

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Open seven days

The Latest in MX-5 Fashion

The fashion forecast for 2018 is looking good with the latest range of Club polo shirts. The Shadow Polo is a lightweight, breathable mix of cotton and viscose and features an embroidered Club logo. Head to the Club website nsw.mx5.com.au and click on the Regalia tab in the Club Zone to download an order form.



Mens Shadow Polo
Sizes S to 3XL, 5XL
\$40



Ladies Shadow Polo
Sizes 8 to 14
\$40



**Ladies Long Sleeved
Chambray Shirt**
Sizes 8 to 24
\$40



**Mens Long Sleeved
Chambray Shirt**
Sizes S to 5XL
\$40



MX-5 CLUB NSW NUMBER PLATE SURROUNDS

(376 x 88mm)



(385 x 112mm)



The Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW number plate surrounds fit the current, standard NSW premium slimline number plates and feature a colour, embossed logo and acrylic cover plate. Number plate surrounds are just \$32 a set and will be available for order in early 2018.



President's Picnic 2017

The beautiful grounds of Windsor's Ebenezer Church were the perfect setting for a catch up with friends, a picnic lunch and a look at some pristine MX-5s.



This year's President's Picnic was a success judging from the 183 people attending, the 131 MX-5s on show, and the complimentary comments on the free catering provided by the Club.

The Car Events were held with Show 'n' Shine being the most popular with 39 cars in 4 classes, Concours having 15 entrants over 4 classes with a drop-off in Modified & Performance MX-5s entries to 10 cars on the day over 3 classes.

A special thank you to all who volunteered their time on the day for registration, parking and judging events or entered a completion or had their cars prepared for display only.



SPRING SUNSHINE

A glorious Spring day had us setting up the deck chairs for some seat time.



SHOW & SHINE WINNERS

(clockwise) **Jason Gatt NA**
Christine Yee NB **Owen Sinden**
ND Mark Underwood NC



RAISING FUNDS FOR CAREFLIGHT

Throughout the year, the MX-5 Club of NSW has been raising funds for our nominated charity CareFlight. Club members have made significant contributions at events such as the Canberra Winter Warmer and the Hunter Charity Lunch allowing Vice President Glenn Thomas to present a cheque to Careflight for \$6000.

CONCOURS



**CAMERON
MACARTHUR**



**PETER
ALEXANDER**



**JAMES
BURKE**



**GARY
NOBREGA**

BEST IN SHOW



Cameron Macarthur
Silver NA

PEOPLE'S CHOICE



Stephen Lee
BRG NA

BEST LADIES MX-5



Jeanette Bramley
Red NC



CONCOURS JUDGES

Gary Nobrega, Marc Gibson, Peter Alexander, Guy Coles, Paul Byers, Sean Byers and James Burke were this year's hard working judging team.

MODIFIED AND PERFORMANCE

Our Volunteers

A big thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time on the day to marshal cars, man the registration desk, brew coffee, count votes and judge events.



David Bolton
Yellow NA



Russell Maxwell
Yellow NB Coupe



Guy Coles
Black NC



All Club Gathering In Orange

CANBERRA 12 - 14 AUGUST WORDS AND PHOTO NORM BARKER



“ This first stage of a full day's driving was enjoyed by all with a mix of roads well suited to the likes and capabilities of this amazing car and their drivers. John Fulcher

A cold but clear day met us for the start of a run to Orange. The group of 26 members in 13 cars gathered at the Hall Lay By for the drivers' briefing and Norm lead the group off on the Barton Highway with Wal Hick as tail end Charlie.

The route took us to the Hume Highway and then onto the Lachlan Valley Way to Boorowa for a comfort stop. The recent rain had brightened up the countryside and the canola crops were starting to flower. On to Canowindra for morning coffee and we were well looked after at "Cafe Delice" with friendly efficient service and excellent coffee. There were many conversations and the locals seemed not to mind the invasion. The group of cars attracted attention and quite a few photos.

Now refreshed, we continued on to Orange via Cargo. First stop was Lake Canobolas where car and group photos were taken. The Lake was a picture in the bright sunlight and everyone enjoyed the serenity. Onwards to the top of Mt Canobolas where we took advantage of the 360 panorama of the surrounding countryside. Lunch was calling so off past the Pinnacle and into the city of Orange where we had booked lunch at Kate Jones "One Nineteen" cafe. It is a beautiful Cafe/Restaurant with friendly efficient service and the food was first class. Once everyone had rested and eaten we proceeded to our accommodation at Duntroon Guesthouse, a magnificent old homestead on the golf course.

Once everyone was settled a group followed Norm to Millthorpe, a small historical village not far out of Orange. The craft shops and interesting buildings were the attraction and all enjoyed the afternoon. We returned to Orange via Lucknow, an old gold mining town. We met to go to the all chapters dinner at the Orange Ex-Services Club and most of us walked. There were good conversations with other chapter members and then dinner was served. It was a cold but invigorating walk back for a good night's rest.

Sunday morning was another sunny

start and after breakfast in the delightful sunny breakfast room we gathered for a briefing of the day's run. First to Wellington Caves and we all visited the Cathedral Cave and after the Japanese gardens adjacent to the caves.

At the appointed time we left for a drive through Wellington. The group was booked into the "Hermitage Hill Restaurant" which is part of the Old Wellington Hospital. The whole complex has been turned into accommodation, function centre and restaurant. Wayne and Julie were there to greet us and were pleased to see the cars parked up in front of the Historic Hospital building. The restaurant was set up just for us and we had the table on the veranda looking out over the countryside. The meal was excellent and beautifully presented by Julie. Everyone commented on the venue, service and high meal quality. After lunch Wayne and Julie showed us through the complex and everyone wanted to stay. However we eventually left to make our way back to Orange via Burrendong Way. The evening was spent in the lounge of the guesthouse with an open fire and drinks and small eats, a great finish to a very enjoyable day.

After another pleasant breakfast in the sunny breakfast room we all checked out and gathered for the final day's briefing in front of the house. We set off to Blayney for morning coffee and then on to the historical town of Carcoar where we stopped for photos and a look around. It is an unspoilt town and very photogenic.

On towards Cowra and turn off to Wyangala Dam via Woodstock. A great road for our cars and everyone enjoyed the road down to the dam. Stop for photos looking at the Dam and the beautiful countryside around the water. A short comfort stop at the base of the Dam and off to Boorowa via Frogmore. This is a good road and wonderful scenery which we all enjoyed. Lunch at Boorowa and people made their own way home. A perfect weekend thanks to the weather and the way we were looked after at all the places we visited.

Jinba Ittai Go Kart Challenge

ALL CLUB 01 OCTOBER WORDS GRAHAM FLETCHER
PHOTOS GILLIAN FLETCHER

Beautiful weather welcomed the chapters who had gathered at Wilberforce Go Kart track for the 2017 Jinba Ittai challenge.

There was some fierce but fair competition and the results were:

1st Male - Kristian Zadro (Hunter)
2nd Male - Connor Atkins (RPM)
3rd Male - David Temesvary (RPM)
1st Female -
Alex Breitsameter (Illawarra)
2nd Female -
Jan Gibson (Illawarra)



Outright team Points

RPM	97	Sydney	8
Hunter	49	Illawarra	44.5

Congratulations to all of the teams and the spirit in which the Challenge was conducted. Special thanks to the RPM cheer squad headed by Ron and Brigid Gallop.





CAMS NSW Supersprint Champions 2017

The MX-5 Club NSW team
take out their 4th successive
title.



Supersprint Four-peat

Job done: NSW Supersprints Champion Club 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017! The MX-5 Club of NSW has won the Club Championship in the CAMS NSW Supersprints for 2017, and with it the fourth title in succession, the first Club to do so. After the technical regulations were revamped for 2017, removing MX-5s from Types 3 and 4 (amongst other changes) we thought our run had come to an end with a hat-trick. But a strong performance from 35 Club competitors over the seven rounds we have prevailed again! Congratulations to all 63 Club registrants who have contributed to our success; the four-peat was only possible because of our success in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

The last round of the 2017 Championship was held at Sydney Motorsport Park on the Gardner Circuit (GP) on 15th October. Not only did the Club hold the lead we took into this round, we eked it out another 9 points to 261, finishing with 3247 points to ARDC's 2986!

Congratulations to our six round 7 Class winners – Michael Demaio (1B), Tony Williams (2A), Scott McGarry (4A), David Johnson (4B), Ralph Thompson (6A), and Matt Tarrant (7A). They were ably supported by second places from Jason Russell (2A), Jamie Martin (4A) and Jon Fox (4B).

A big thanks to those who made a special effort to compete at this round in the knowledge that some of our most seasoned supersprinters were competing in another event on the same weekend - the Alfa 12 Hour Regularity Relay at Winton Raceway in Victoria.

The MX-5 Club of NSW has now won the Club Championship in 12 of the 19 years that we have competed in this State Championship. It is a tremendous achievement by any

standard, and a credit to the enduring strength of the Club over this period, especially the leadership, mentoring and encouragement of our Competition Secretaries and more experienced competitors. Luke Kovacic has been our "top gun" over the four years, the only one to top 600 points! Congratulations Luke!

A further five members got into the 500s – Scott McGarry (597), Bryan Shedden (560), Russ Maxwell (557), Ed Cory (553) and Ralph Thompson (500). Top scorers by year were David Lawler (2014, 169 points), Phil Donnelly (2015, 158), Chris White (2016, 175) and David Johnson (2017, 175) - well done to each of you. It should be noted that Chris White and David Johnson each scored the maximum – seven class wins in seven rounds! Sixteen members competed in all four years, and seventeen competed in only one year – a nice balance of old hands and newcomers.

Our top scorer this year was David Johnson in 4B with a maximum 175 points, mirroring Chris White's similar feat last year in the very different 2016 4B. Class winners for the 2017 Supersprint Championship were Bryan Shedden (1B), Jason Russell (2A), Gus Elias (2B), Scott McGarry (4A), Phil Ashton (6A) and Matt Tarrant (7A).

A total of 35 Club registrants scored points this year, each and every one making a contribution to the Club's record-breaking success. Thanks to EVERY pointscorer - you all contributed to our results in a meaningful way. The strength of our Club is the depth of our competitors, and whether you did only one round, or have been there for every round every year, you are part of our success, and the reason for our success!

Four-peat Contributors

Luke Kovacic
Scott McGarry
Bryan Shedden
Russ Maxwell
Ed Cory
Ralph Thompson
Phil Abraham
Gus Elias
David Lawler
Ian Combes
Tony King
Tony Williams
Mike Kelsey
Jon Fox
Keith Monaghan
Stewart Temesvary
Jason Russell
Phillip Donnelly
John Karayannis
Greg Bunn
Chris White
Marty Voormeulen
Phil Ashton
David Alland
Matt Perry
Dan Szawaj
Greg Perry
Mike Hicks
Mel Keller
David Johnson
Mark Palmer
Derek Mock
Jim Glissan
Matt Tarrant
Daniel Gardner
Glenn Thomas
Guy Coles
Ray Estreich
Jamie Martin
Kevin Addison
Mitchell Bennett
Dennis Chiswick
Michael Demaio
Cameron Williams
Steven Williams
Verne Johnson
Peter Browning
John Metham
Craig Gartlacher
Warren Hotz
Drew Rodwell
Phil Munnings
Wade Jenkins
Andrew Fordham
Adam Callender
Peter Battison
Steve Green
Richard Jamie
Lindsay Burke
Graham Fletcher
Peter Feutrill
Ian Caldwell
Baden West

Whale Watching

13 AUGUST WORDS **BRENDAN BARR**

PHOTOS **JULIE FARQUHAR BRENDAN BARR BRYAN SHEDDEN**



With apologies to (Terry Fielding and Fred Dyer)
They drove from Bay one morning, the weather it was fair,
A gentle breeze it pushed them and no one gave a care.
They drove and swerved and laughed all day and opened up
the tops,
They're out to see the monster whale that always bellyflops.

The Captain said "a piece of gold for s(he) who sees my
whale,"
So bend your backs and look my lads, I know that we won't
fail.
So bend your backs and look my lads and I think I have a
hunch,
Today we'll sing and dance and then we'll have some lunch.
We'll sail into the harbour no prouder crew there'll be;
We'll show them all we photo'd the monster from the sea.

(Rousing pirate type chorus) - Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di

They saw the whale soon after, the weather it blew our hair,
Alex was white as a ghost, the Captain didn't care
I'll chase this whale myself he cried, the waves were getting
swirly,
Some of us put aside, thoughts of making burley.

(Rousing pirate type chorus) - Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di

The whale it came so close, it was bigger than the sky
They raised up their cameras and Brendan heaved ... a sigh.
Click those shutters and cheer my lads for Brendan's off the
hook.
Just to prove it was no fluke, Husky lunch is on the book.
We'll order up our lunches, no prouder crew there'll be;
We'll showed them all we photo'd, the monster from the sea!

(Rousing pirate type chorus) - Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di
Sorry Mates, not a whale in sight - group photo time!



A Bridge Too Far

A Bridge Too Far was the name of the run,
So Hendo and I headed to Maccas at Thornton to start the fun!
20 MX-5s with 32 Maz-thusiasts lined up ready to start
With some coffee and brekkie and a whole lot of heart.

Dave Gazzard was our nominated photographic fella,
While I (Di) accidentally volunteered to be the storyteller.
Lindsay was a legend and took the tail end,
Keeping safe our new found friends.

Off we headed through Seaham and on to the Bucketts Way,
Turned off at Booral to dark clouds and no sun rays.
We were prepared for a bad road with a large crown
But the road workers were onto it and had smoothed it down.

We saw the strangest sight popping up from the trees.
A 10 storey apartment building surrounded by leaves.
A part of the Gold Coast there amongst the hills?
Thought I had popped one too many pills.

We were nearly at Buladelah when disaster did strike.
A roo decided that one of the MX-5s it did like.
Well, an MX-5 and a kangaroo do not mix!
But Helen, an artist with tape, applied a quick fix.

So morning tea at Buladelah with coffee and cake
Time to reflect on roos, road and the pics we had take(n).
Then back on the road and along the Wootton Way for the main.
Windy roads, beautiful scenery, and a tiny spit of rain.

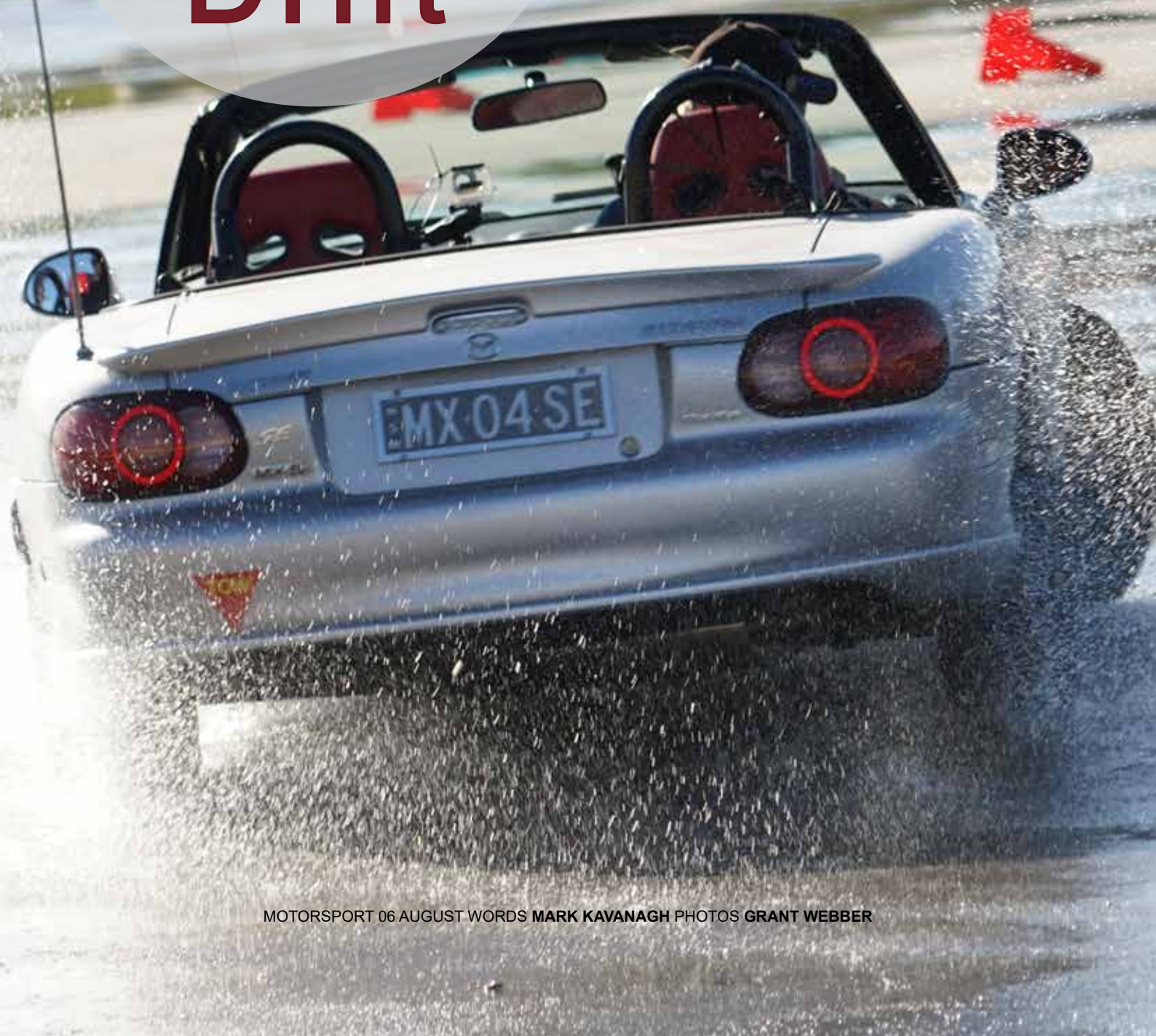
Finally to Tuncurry and over the bridge to Forster
Filled the car park with MX-5s except for the seafood van - imposter!
Lovely lunch at Beach Bums Cafe with good food not to be missed.
Then we had to part our ways as a night in Tuncurry was on Hendo's
and my list.

Waved goodbye to our MX-5 mates as they took flight
And reflected on our day and it's lovely highlights...
What a fabulous run, what a fabulous day!
Our thanks go out to Helen and Grant - organisers extraordinaire.

26 AUGUST WORDS **DIANNE HENDERSON**
PHOTOS **DAVID GAZZARD**



Catch the Drift



MOTORSPORT 06 AUGUST WORDS MARK KAVANAGH PHOTOS GRANT WEBBER

By very definition a motorkhana is a low speed, safe form of motorsport that involves manoeuvring a car through a series of tight marked out courses with speeds rarely exceeding 60km/h.

CAMS considers it safe enough not to require a helmet or even long sleeve/trousers, however if you considered it to be a low skill and unexciting form of motorsport, you could not be so wrong. Anyone can drive around cones, but try to do it at speed, on a slippery surface, while trying to remember do I go to the right or left of the next cone and the fact that after looping around, finding the correct next cone seriously tests the short term memory. Now do all this without hitting a cone or going in the wrong direction as a mistake on both runs of a test will push you way down the leader board. Nothing like a track day where you can have up to 30 laps trying to perfect your best time Round two of the Club Motorkhana series was held at the SMSP skid pan on the 06/08/17 on a day where the weather gods were again looking down on us

David, Dan, Scotty and their band of assistants again did all the hard work prior to and during the day to ensure that it was run with minimal delays and in complete safety. Without people like this, there would be no events and we would all be at home most likely working through our "to do lists" and not out flogging the life out of our MX-5's and some other alternates marques for those misguided fools.

The day was planned with six tests (two runs at each) of which five were to be competitively timed and the sixth was untimed and set up as an unofficial side by side match race.

With the tests underway, a number of differing strategies soon became clear, these were; -

- Rev the ring out of it, keep the rev limiter in overtime and be as spectacular as possible
- Study the course diagram, commit it to memory, try to find some small areas of dry concrete where the acceleration may be a little better and get around the cones as fast as possible using controlled aggression, knowing that if the first run of a test is affected by a cone hit or wrong direction, then the second run has to be clean.
- Drive the tests with minimal wheel spin/rev limiter action, get around the cones without the help of a hand-brake and be just as happy to wrong direction as to getting through with a clean sheet.

In spite of which ever strategy was chosen, the most common factor for each competitor when stopped in the finish garage was a big smile or laughter.

At the end of the day when the times were totalled up the gaps between the first three outright placed could be measured using tenths of a second.

Congratulations must go to; -

Outright

1st John, 2nd Mark, 3rd Brett

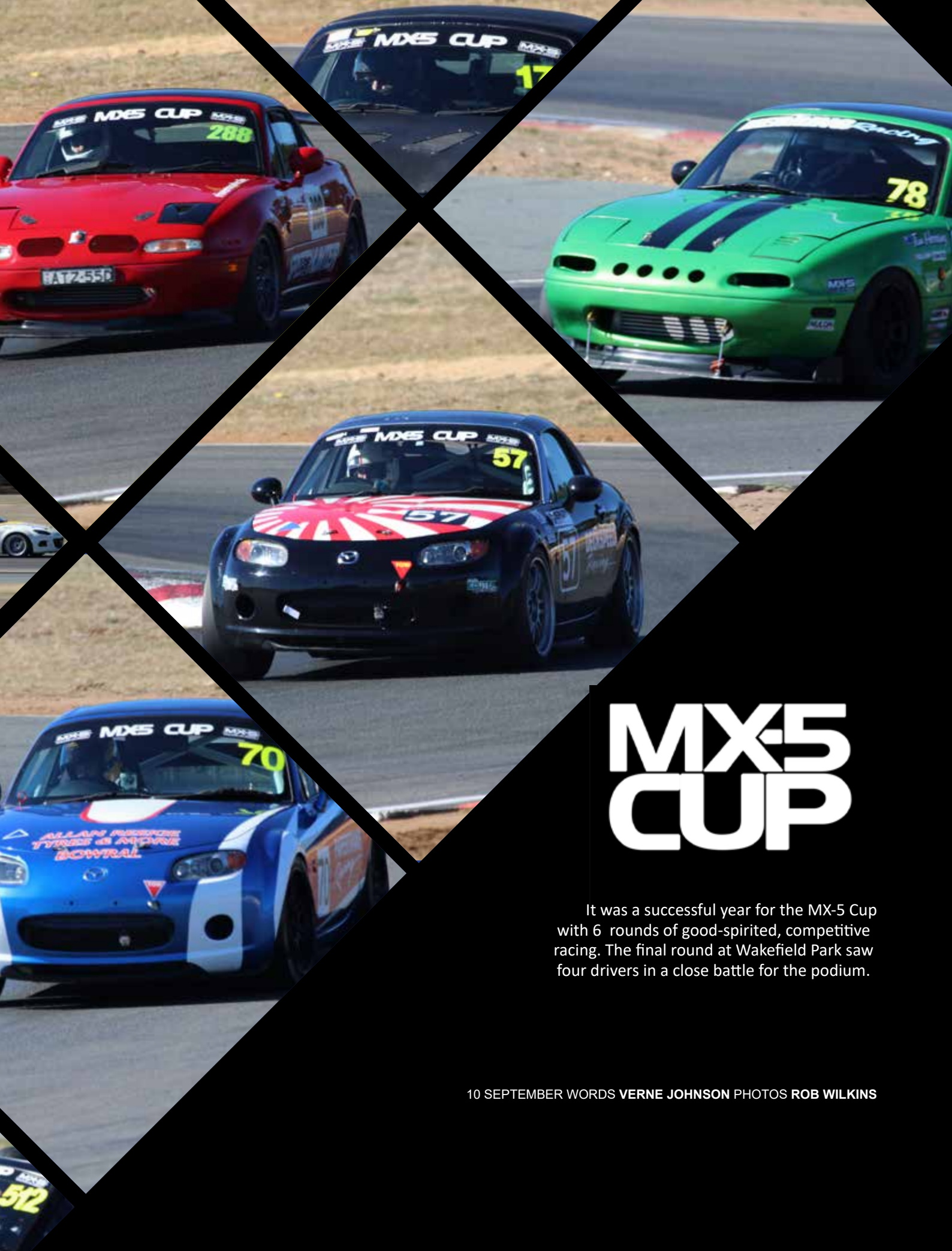
Ladies

1st Kareene, 2nd Heather, 3rd Helen

Special mention must also go to the pre-L plate contingent of Katharine and Alexander who both manoeuvred their cars like experienced drivers.

If you get the chance, enter the next round and see what it is all about, but bring a passenger or dual enter as a navigator makes it so much easier





MX-5 CUP

It was a successful year for the MX-5 Cup with 6 rounds of good-spirited, competitive racing. The final round at Wakefield Park saw four drivers in a close battle for the podium.

10 SEPTEMBER WORDS VERNE JOHNSON PHOTOS ROB WILKINS

Round 6, the final round for 2017, saw 14 regulars return to close out the season as well as Luke Kovacic joining us for his first door to door race. Great work Luke, I hope you enjoyed yourself. Some close and clean racing through the field, I hope everyone had a great day's racing.

Sporting a new set of tyres I managed to have my first pole of the season (by 61/10,000th) and win each of the three races, just managing to hold off Todd Herring each time. Andy Harris took third place in race 1 and Ian Caldwell took third place in race 2 and the 10 lap trophy race.

Congratulations to the Class Winners for Round 6:

Class A	Verne Johnson
Class B	Tim Herring
Class C	Scotty Gibbs
Class D	Matthew Johnson

Steve Green headed into the final round for the year with a one point advantage over myself with Todd Herring and Stuart McFayden a few points back. Technically all four competitors had a chance of finishing on the podium for the year and with each driver competing at all 6 rounds; the dropped round was going to come into play in the final result.

I ended up having my best round of the season with 24 points. Steve Green unfortunately had some tough new competition in the form of Scotty Gibbs compete in his class at the final two rounds making the end to his season tough with round 6 his lowest scoring for the season being his dropped round. Todd scored 21 points to finish the season however this proved just short of what was required to bridge the gap to second place. Stuart McFayden had a great return after most of the 2016 season overseas and competed fantastically well all season against a range of competitors and car types during 2017 from 1800 naturally aspirated cars like his own, through to 2.5lt NC's and a few turbo cars. Hats off Stu, great to have you back.

Once the dropped round was taken into account the 2017 Championship finished as follows:

1st	Verne Johnson	114 points
2nd	Steve Green	111 points
3rd	Todd Herring	109 points

Congratulations to everyone and special thanks to Steve Green who through his efforts competing in the series over the years and his stint at secretary (included 2016 when he did not race but made a great contribution) is a major factor in the success of the series and the spirit in which it is run. Also apologies to Steve and Todd as my spreadsheet calculating the final result for the season at round 6 led me a bit astray to believe Steve finished in second place over Todd by count back when in fact after the dropped round was correctly accounted for he maintained a 2 point advantage. Well done mate, I really thought you were going to end the season in first place.

I trust everyone had a great of racing. I personally had a great year and particularly tough battles with Todd Herring. Thankfully my luck during the season probably proved the difference in our battle which will resume in 2018. Thank you to everyone for making 2017 a great year. Bring on 2018. First of all a thank you to everyone who competed and assisted to make 2017 a successful year for the MX-5 Cup. Thanks to Terry Donovan, MRA, and all the volunteers who contributed to make the four MRA rounds we attended this year great events. A special thank you to David Lawler, Ian Combes and the MX-5 Club of NSW for putting on two special events for us this year allowing us to compete at the club track days. It was a lot of work and additional cost, you did a great job and I believe they were a great success and will help the Cup align more closely with the MX-5 Club NSW, as well as spark an interest in many who attended the track days.

I know we can make 2018 better again with some variations to class structure now we have a growing number of Turbo cars competing at the rounds. I believe we have little option but to use some form or time based class system however, I know as a collective we will get something down that will make it better for all competitors. I think we will also have the opportunity to include some interesting rounds in the coming season so watch this space.

Meguiar's Tech Night



“

Once again the MX-5 Club members turned out in force. I must congratulate you on having such a strong Club with a member base that like to participate. It was a pleasure to have you all here. Of all the clubs we have here for these nights, your club is the most enthusiastic and inquisitive of the lot. They get involved and I'm sure they go away with a good understanding of what we have presented. Once again, it was a pleasure to have you all here last night and I look forward to the next evening.

”

Denis Driscoll - Meguiars



Pub With No Beer Run

09 SEPTEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS WAYNE AND CATHY LANG



After arriving late at "The Puma Service Centre" for our own run (great form), we found Peter, Kieran, John, Judith, Greg and Graham already there patiently waiting for us.

A brief chat and the obligatory signing of the run sheet and we were off on our 2nd "Cath's Pub With No Beer Run" out to Taylors Arm. We couldn't have asked for a better day. The weather was warm with nothing but blue sky above. Perfect for MX-5ing.

Cath and I led the group off to Crescent Head, before turning left out toward Gladstone for our morning tea destination at "The Old Pottery Lodge". We were met there by Sandie Hammond and Chris Clark, and our orders were taken by the friendly staff. Scones, banana bread, coffee and tea were the norm.

Leaving Gladstone, we turned left over the bridge at "Smithtown" to get us back to the highway. From there it was a sedate drive to the "Stuarts Point" turn-off, where we were looking forward to some nice twisty roads to drive. As it happens, a few kilometers in, we were presented with some nice fresh roadworks, complete with wet clay, just enough to cover

our cars in mud.

Arriving at Stuarts Point proper, we turned left out along the "Grassy Head Road" toward "Scotts Head", and then back out to the "Pacific Nightmare"... I mean, Highway.

A few short kilometers later, we turned left into the "Industrial Area" road to take the back streets through Macksville and down to "Boat Road", which would take us out to Taylors Arm, and "The Pub With No Beer".

It was a nice drive out to the pub where it was time for your chosen beverage, and to order a meal from a good menu selection.

In the meantime, I broke out my "Stagg" soprano ukulele to show our group of friends, and it was quickly taken up by Kieran, who played a few tunes on it for us.

After lunch, Greg, John, Judith, Peter and Kieran took the most direct way back to the highway, while Chris, Sandy, Cath and I took the back road out through Bowraville and on toward the Nambucca Heads, "Wirrimbi Road" turn-off, where we waved them off as they headed back to Coffs Harbour.

Port Mac Go Kart Challenge

A small group of attendees turned up for the annual challenge and some good times were posted. At the end of the day, Mark Wilson emerged as the victor, followed by Wayne Lang and Kevin Atterill. Thanks to those of you that turned up. A fun day was had by all. And thanks to our sponsor Port Macquarie Mazda for supporting the Go-Kart Challenge.



Yarramalong Wyong Run

26 AUGUST WORDS **JACOB FLAK** PHOTOS **GILLIAN FLETCHER**
GODWIN CAMILLERI ROB WILKINS JASON BROWN



I would like to start by thanking Trevor & Theresa for organising and heading their first run. It was also my first time ever going to Wyong, I had no idea there was a Milk Factory there!

We headed off from Richmond-McGraths Hill Maccas with roughly 13 cars, 12 MX-5s and one Sunbeam, to Sackville Ferry Road where we turned off to River Road for the beautiful 30km trip alongside the Hawkesbury River, to Wiseman's Ferry where we stopped for morning tea and picked up 2 more MX-5s to join us. The first ferry managed to take 14 of the cars, leaving one lonely MX-5 to take the next ferry.

The roads were tight and narrow, which was great fun for drivers and passengers, along with great scenery. One of the few ideal MX-5 roads. We also had to go along a gravel section, good thing I didn't wash the car before the run!

The tavern itself has lovely food and a fantastic atmosphere. Definitely one to keep on the list for future runs. This was my third run with the club and I'm looking forward to many more RPM chapter runs in the future.

See you on the road!





Sydney Chapter's monthly meet-ups at PITS are rapidly becoming an institution.



Pie in the Sky

03 SEPTEMBER PHOTOS ADAM WALKER ROB WILKINS
KERRI LANGWORTHY WARD



A coffee and pie were followed by a farewell lunch for out-going Sydney chapter convenor Guy Coles.



Australia's Next Top Model

21 - 22 OCTOBER WORDS JULIE SANDO PHOTOS **BRYAN SHEDDEN**



The day before the search began the drought had finally broke,
Oh no said the Jill and Pete - MX-5s don't float!
But as the sun rose on Saturday and the weather was all clear
The Illawarra participants all gave a great big cheer

We gathered at the usual spot, Haywards Bay where anticipation was high
A great weekend was planned, lets get in those cars and fly
All the club members looked great in their red shirts
But some were remembering the leaders previous adventures on dirt!!

We ambled down the south coast through picturesque towns
The first stop was Milton where rather large cakes were hungrily downed
Will full bellies the convey headed south and at Hwy B52 took a right
Some looked out for the love shack, but it was nowhere in sight!!

We arrived at Braidwood with the sun gods smiling the whole way
But where were those models? We don't want anyone to go astray
After oohing and ahing over all the small shiny things
We head to our hotel to see what the afternoon brings

We drove on a road made in MX-5 heaven venturing west
to the Araluen hotel where we could all have a rest
The first round of the famous Feut trivia began
Let's hope all the teams have a great game plan

Back into Braidwood and an afternoon of grazing before dinner
I am quite sure no one will be coming home thinner!!
Fours fun rounds of trivia helped the time just fly by
Finally the winning team was announced....what a bunch of wise guys!

After a nice Sunday sleep in and time to look in the shops
We all headed to Tarago for the second last stop
After a quick drink we were all ready for the final part of the run
Now off to Nerriga – that's a place you can't shun

So we finished the weekend at Nerriga Pub with what else? But a lunch,
We are glad you all came you are such a great bunch
This just shows the club is a great place for making new friends
So a very big thank you to Jill and Pete for organising a great weekend

Midweek Run To Pacific Palms

29 AUGUST JOHN HANSEN PHOTOS GRAHAM ROCHESTER JOHN HANSEN



Tuesday 29 August found an intrepid group of club members Jen and Kev, Judith and John and Graham gathering at the Port Macquarie Service Centre a.k.a. The Donut for the start of the Inaugural Midweek Run for the Mid North Coast Chapter with Graham as run leader. Graham led us down the highway to Kew to pick up Margaret and Murray to complete our complement for the day.

Leaving Kew it was a leisurely drive to the Flow Bar at Old Bar for morning tea. Graham had warned us that there had been a fleet of highway patrol cars refuelling at the Donut and we didn't want to draw attention to ourselves. Morning tea was a sumptuous affair and provided a very relaxing environment for

coffee cake raisin toast and chat in the sun.

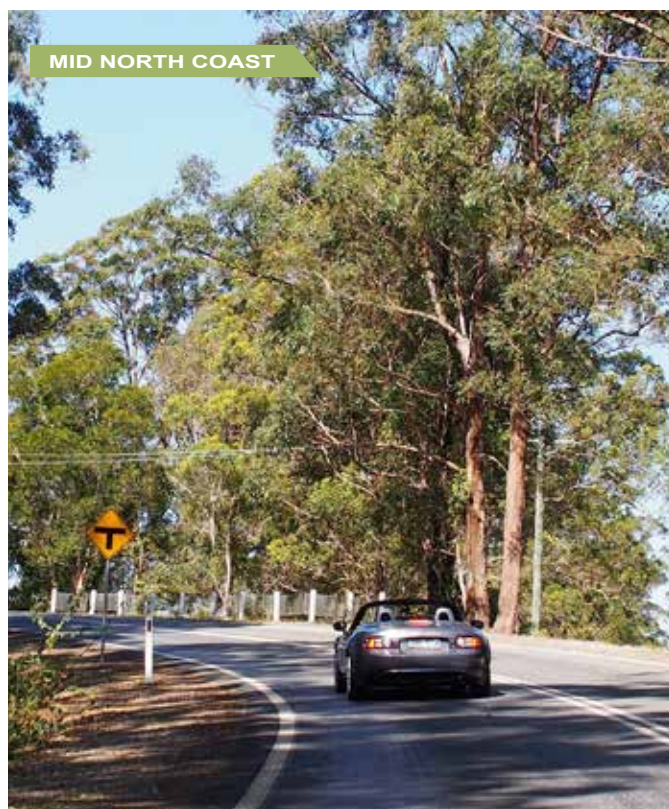
Graham warned us to expect a rough surface and plenty of 'kitty litter' and leaves on the corners of Wootton Way as we set off for our next leg down to Pacific Springs. After an interesting short diversion off the highway when we lost sight of Graham it was back on track for Wootton Way. The road had undergone maintenance and the surface was much better than expected and the leaf litter confined to the apex of some of the corners. A short detour onto the Pacific Highway and then off on the famous twisty winding road the Lakes Way on the run to Pacific Palms. There was comparatively little traffic in front of us and the drive allowed some spirited

driving. Graham had put it to a vote for a change of eating places so we stopped at the Kembali cafe at Bluey's Beach. With its extensive menu and extremely good food, Kembali's Cafe is well worth a visit.

After lunch a short drive up to the Lookout for the group photograph overlooking the magnificent view over beautiful Bluey's Beach. The sun was out, the sky was blue, as the song goes, and the view lived up to its expectations. We all agreed that the inaugural Midweek run had been most successful incorporating interesting driving, great food and good company. Thanks to our Run Leader Graham for selecting the route, food stops and ordering fine weather!

Spring Run To Comboyne

18 SEPTEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS WAYNE LANG



A small group of our Mid North Coast Chapter members got together for a short day drive out to Comboyne. Attendees were Graham Rochester, Greg Cox, Peter Rodgers, Margaret and Murray Osborne, new potential member, Simon Abell, Cath and myself.

We all met up at our usual starting point at the "Port Service Centre" at around 9:45am for a 10:00am start. Our first stop was just down the road at "Waterman's Café" in Wauchope for morning tea. After leaving there we headed up the Oxley for the short run out to "Long Flat", but after coming across several sections of roadwork, it was decided to turn back. So off we went until reaching the turn-off that would take us up some nice Twisties to the sleepy village of Comboyne. On the way there, Greg's and our car barely avoided some fallen rocks that were in the middle of the road.

We met at our agreed destination at the "Ruby's Café" to have lunch, where we sampled some tasty treats like "pulled pork rolls" or a "pepper pie". We got to talking to a couple who had the misfortune of hitting the rocks I was speaking of earlier, in their Mercedes and needed to call a tow truck to get them back into town as it had punctured a tyre and they had no spare.

Then it was time to part ways with our little convoy and head back to our separate lives until we meet again for another of our escapades. Until then, good health and happy trails to you all.



John's Midweek Run



20 SEPTEMBER WORDS JOHN PURCELL
PHOTO **DAVID HO**

On a sunny and pleasant Wednesday morning, 6 cars with 8 club members met at MacDonald's Thornton for an easy-going cruise up the Hunter Valley to Gloucester and from there to Bulahdelah on John's Midweek run. Or should I say on "JOHN'S ROAD WORKS" run. Yep, almost from the start we ran into ½ road closed while tree felling or road works were being carried out.

Diverting at Clarence Town and taking the side road through Glen William toward Dungog got us away from this but the wooden bridge across the Williams River at Glen William was a bit of a concern, as all the planks were bouncing up and down as we drove across. More road works at Dungog then onto Stroud Hill road for a lovely clear run through to the Bucketts Way.

Morning tea at Gloucester for coffee and cake and then on the road again towards Bulahdelah. A diversion off the highway along Wootton Way (old Bulahdelah Mountain) where those wanting a "Spirited Drive" were given their heads in front of the rest of the group, everyone regrouping at the bottom of the hill before proceeding to lunch at the Plough Inn.

Lunch done, we started to head home but not before a last diversion along Booral Road. After regrouping again at Booral it was time to head home down the Bucketts Way and Pacific Highway to say our goodbyes and split up at Raymond Terrace.

Junee Weekend

23 - 24 SEPTEMBER WORDS **BOB JUDD**
PHOTO **BOB JUDD BRICET KLOREN**

To escape the overwhelming heat of Canberra's hottest September day EVER, 10 cars left for the even warmer climes of the railway town of Junee. Despite a few drips and drops of rain when we left, the weather was perfect for our relaxed two-day trip which took in the spectacular canola-filled fields of the area around Binalong, Harden, Cootamundra, Junee and home via Gundagai.

Three months ago, when we planned this excursion, we were told of a new coffee shop that was opening in Binalong. Canberra travellers well know that there is no decent coffee about an hour out of the Capital, so the news of a new venue was eagerly anticipated and built into our plans for this excursion. Unfortunately, they didn't make it in time. Something to do with 'the damn council' and unconnected sewerage pipes. We called in to say G'Day, but had to travel on to Harden to get a coffee. The backroads took us to lunch at E'Claire's Café at Cootamundra – a venue that never fails to satisfy. The short trip down the Olympic Highway, under the watchful eyes of several members of the Constabulary, got us to Junee with time to visit the Junee Railway Station.

Junee is a Railway Town in the true sense of the word. The town didn't exist until it was decided to build an overnight stop for the long journey between the capitals of the two Colonies of Victoria and New South Wales. Situated half way between Melbourne and Sydney, the French Renaissance-style station was opened in March 1885, after the first station burnt down. Even today, the Railway Station and its incorporated Refreshment Rooms is a most impressive complex of Heritage listed buildings. Our arrival at the station coincided with the arrival of the XPT train heading to Sydney. I think our group of 10 cars was more impressive!

Witnessed again by our Friends in Blue, we slowly moved off to meet our appointment at the Railway Round House Museum for our guided tour. Built in 1947 to provide employment for returning soldiers, the turntable, at 100 foot, was the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and was built to service virtually every class of steam and diesel Locomotive, rail car and XPT in NSW. Today, half the Roundhouse is still used for commercial reconditioning and the rebuilding of locomotives. The other half has operated as a museum since 1994 and now has a significant collection of locomotives and rolling stock, which includes an 1891 Z24 locomotive in full working order. Our Guide on the day,



Keith Ison, was knowledgeable and friendly and gave us ample time to clamber on and over all the exhibits on display. Very BIG Boys Toys!

We stayed the night at the very comfortable Crossing Motel and fine-dined in their restaurant. Their selection of beers and local wines was enthusiastically tested by our group without any complaints of inadequacy.

Next morning, at a gently suitable time, we went straight to the other major attraction in Junee, the Licorice and Chocolate Factory for a top-class breakfast / brunch. Here you can also visit the Gasworks Garage, which houses the local historic car club's collection of dusty and rusty relics.

Whilst casually eating our breakfasts, we noted the arrival of three Highway Patrol cars and, thinking that we were seeming to attract a lot of interest from our Friends in Blue, we invited them in to look at our cars and have some photos taken. It seems they were down from Windsor for some unspecified reason and we noted their rather obvious presence. They assured us they weren't chasing us, despite the common journey we seemed to be taking. After some good-natured banter and photo taking, we asked them which way they were going so we could go the other way. Funnily enough, we didn't see them again. After buying vast quantities of licorice, and chocolate, and gifts from the gift shop, we started off for home. We travelled the pretty little road from Junee to Gundagai and saw the first of the anticipated brightly coloured Cootamundra wattle we'd expected to see over the weekend.

At Gundagai, we paused to continue our Railways theme by visiting the 1902 wooden Railway Bridge. At 812 metres it sits parallel to the wooden Prince Alfred Bridge which formed part of the Hume Highway until it was replaced in 1976. The Prince Alfred Bridge was built in 1866 and is the longest timber viaduct in Australia. Both bridges are classified by the National Trust for preservation as being historically important.

At this point, we parted ways, with some heading south and others heading home via Jugiong for a cuppa. We had a good collection of cars for our run, covering all 4 models, and an RF to complete the set. Funnily, there were 6 white cars out of the 10 (if you include the Ceramic ND). What happened to every car being red?

Our thanks to everyone who came along and put up with my ceaseless briefing sessions.



Fifth Chapter Gardens

23 SEPTEMBER WORDS **DONELLE WILTON-SMITH**
PHOTOS **VICKI LEGGE ROB WILKINS JACQUI QUESTER**

On a hot summer's day, in early spring (a record breaking day – temperature wise across the state) fifteen MX-5s and a pretty 1964 Sunbeam Alpine met up at the Peppercorn Café in Mulgoa. After a caffeine hit, we were off heading south to the Southern Highlands.

We were led admirably once again by Lesa, who was then followed by our organiser, Glen, running number 2 in the pack in his lovely red NB. Onto Silverdale Road and pass the camels, we headed for Picton for our first pit stop. Here we picked up our Camden couple, John and Francis Moulder in their gorgeous original green and tan NA.

It was also a chance to have a closer look at the Sunbeam Alpine. The owner, John, told us he qualified for the run as his highly modified Alpine has MX-5 seats! What more could we say? Well, plenty actually, after he opened the bonnet to reveal a Datsun engine which is hooked up to a 5 speed box. John reckons it goes so well, it can keep up with the V8 Sunbeam Tigers. I so much wanted to take home that green Sunbeam Tiger in the Gosford Classic Car Museum when we were there. Rumours have it though, we may also see John in an MX-5 sometime. Here's hoping.

So onward south, through the beautiful, twisty roads with stunning views across the Highlands with their black painted fences or stonewalls under construction. Next stop was Fitzroy Falls Reservoir. A great place to bring out the thermos and stock up on

coffee and cake ("at last" said Fletch!) whilst enjoying the company of our RPM friends. This was a leisurely stop as the lunch venue had double booked us and lunch had been put back to 2.00pm. It is such a picturesque coffee stop with great facilities.

After Fletch had had enough cake, we were back on the road for our drive to the Fifth Estate Winery and Gardens in Avoca. No wine tasting nor sales available at this time but for a small charitable fee (for the Garvan Institute) we had entry to the impressive gardens. There was oodles of time to spend enjoying the gardens, which were blossoming in early spring. Cherry blossom trees, tulips, bulbs, ranunculi and more were all coming out. The property was surrounded by vines, with a lovely lake, stunning topiary and Japanese gardens too.

After a team photograph we were back in our cars to make our way to lunch at the Eling Winery and Café at Sutton Forest. A nice lunch was had by all, with a few sampling a bottle of the Winery's best over lunch. A great fun day was coming to an end. It was time to do our own thing and wander up the highway and home.

Many thanks to Glen for organising such a wonderful run to the cooler climes of the Southern Highlands, when Penrith was a scorching 39 degrees. Thanks to Lesa, who knows those roads so well and did such a great job of leading. And finally thanks to Mazda for giving us such great air conditioning, that meant we could still keep cool with the hood down on such a hot day.



Hillclimb Champions 2017



Thanks to
everyone who
attended,
especially
our wonderful
volunteers.

Josh Allen



Final Point Scores 2017 MX-5 Club Hillclimb Championship

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	A1	David Wilson	5
2	A1	Jackson Prater	4
3	A1	Stephen Simon	3
4	A1	Zac Skoumbourdis	2
4	A1	Gregor Lochtie	2

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	A3	Lachlan Holswich	18
2	A3	Mark Kavanagh	17
3	A3	Phillip Mayo	8
4	A3	Joshua Allen	7
4	A3	Dennis Chiswick	7
6	A3	Sean Byers	6
7	A3	Jonathan Fox	5
7	A3	Malcolm Steel	5
9	A3	Gerardo Martin	4
9	A3	Oliver King	4
11	A3	Mohamed Mussa	3
11	A3	Mark Granger	3
13	A3	Paul Nudd	2
13	A3	James Millen	2
15	A3	Andrew Walker	1
15	A3	Benjamin Funayama	1
15	A3	Daniel MacKay	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	A4	Helen Green	7
2	A4	Kareene Kavanagh	5
3	A4	Francesca Meliton	2
3	A4	Maria Martin	2
5	A4	Yasmin Allen	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	B3	Andrew Digney	9
2	B3	Sandro Dayrit	6
3	B3	Neal Parker	2
4	B3	John Evans	1
4	B3	Paul Nudd	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	R1	Greg Smith	13
2	R1	Joshua Fitzgerald	10
3	R1	Keith Hammond	7
4	R1	Verne Johnson	6
4	R1	Phillip Donnelley	6
6	R1	John Engisch	3
6	R1	Alan Townsley	3
8	R1	Jamie Collins	2
8	R1	Lachlan Holswich	2
10	R1	Barry Luttrell	1
10	R1	Graham Smith	1
10	R1	Kenneth Frost	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	R2	Lindsay Green	4
2	R2	Gaynor Lawler	3
3	R2	Keiran Taylor	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	B1	Jie Ren	8
2	B1	Jason Atkins	5
3	B1	Blake Rochford-Cole	3
4	B1	Daniel Smalley	2
5	B1	Clive Jones	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	DM1	Christian Thompson	10
2	DM1	Cody Skoumbourdis	3
3	DM1	Ryan Digney	2
3	DM1	Andrew Walker	2
3	DM1	Matthew Pryor	2
6	DM1	Michael Booth	1
7	DM1	William Dougall	1
8	DM1	Jordan Farr	1

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	DM2	Valerie Stewart	2

Place	Class	Name	Points
1	D1	Charlie Simon	1

It's Mango Season

“

What a sight to see
- three yellow
MX-5s parked
together...

SYDNEY 07 OCTOBER WORDS **BRYAN HICKS**
PHOTOS **KEITH MONAGHAN KIM RANGER**



The 12 cars and 22 people enjoyed a run through the “Nasho” to Austinmer. A picturesque drive was followed by

lunch at the Headlands Hotel where we appreciated the good food and fantastic view. After lunch on we went on stage

two, up to Mount Keira for a look see. Thanks to all who made our day great.



Two Punts and a Pizza Run

07 OCTOBER WORDS **GRAHAM FLETCHER** PHOTOS **VICKI LEGGE**



A beautiful autumn afternoon greeted the RPM Chapter on an evening run to the Stone House Cafe at Maroota. A total of 14 Cars joined in the afternoon drive through the Hawkesbury hills, down by the river and via the Lower Portland ferry.

Visiting car enthusiast Rob joined the fun in a very shiny Fiat Abarth 124 (lovingly known as a "Fiata") and by all account had a very enjoyable afternoon hanging with the RPM crew. Birthday celebrations highlighted the afternoon after the pizzas with both our run leader Gary and Convenor Brigid receiving a special birthday cake proudly supplied and decorated by Gillian Fletcher. Many a tall story was exchanged during the afternoon with a great run having been organised and lead by Gary and Robyn Keyvar. The food was top quality alongside a pleasurable drive. Any member passing would be wise to stop for a snack.



Corin Dam Run

CANBERRA

03 SEPTEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS BARRY MATSON



The objective was to admire a couple of Dams and to have a leisurely lunch at the Corin Forest Resort. I was not expecting a great turn-out for this run because it was only a Saturday afternoon trip, and we had done most of it several times recently. Nevertheless, eleven cars showed up at the first starting point under the Eagle at Russell, and another four joined in later. The sky was overcast and slightly threatening as we set off around the airport and on to Queanbeyan.

Our first stop was at the Googong Dam, which is one of four reservoirs in the ACT and adjacent NSW catchment area. After admiring the view I asked Mike Guina to take the lead in his black NA. We pressed on and were

soon headed into the country on the MX-5-friendly Old Cooma Road. Upon reaching the junction with the Monaro Highway, we back-tracked towards Canberra and turned into the far southern suburbs of the Tuggeranong Valley.

Soon we were back on country roads and approaching the picturesque village of Tharwa over its elderly bridge across the Murrumbidgee. The Tidbinbilla Road is always a treat as the winding road and scattered hills gradually reveal the quintessentially Australian vista of the eucalypt clad Brindabella Mountains and rolling sheep pastures.

Too soon, we turned left into the road leading to the Corin Dam through the thick bush of the Namadgi National

Park. The road was more fun than I remembered from previous trips in the family wagon, and Mike increased the pace up the winding hills to maximise our MX-5 benefits. We were enjoying this so much we neglected our planned visit to Gibraltar Falls, and soon arrived at the Corin dam at the very end of the road. The small car park could barely take our fifteen MX-5s and perhaps the other visitors were a little shocked to see the natural beauty enhanced by an array of colourful sports cars.

I led the way down to the Corin Forest Resort and we arrived just in time for lunch. Although the rain had held off and it was not very cold, we enjoyed our meals and socialising by the log fire for an hour or two, and then made our own way home.

Hunter Picnic Run

22 OCTOBER WORDS **BARRY AND JENNY LUTTRELL**
PHOTOS **IAN NUNN**

After days of rain, wind and generally poor weather the sun was shining and sky was blue for our Sunday run. Eighteen cars including two visitors met at McDonalds Rutherford for a 9.30am start. Parking was at a premium for the excellent attendance. It was great to see one of our club members who has been suffering with serious health problems being able to participate in most of the day's activities. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

With driver briefing completed we set out on Aberglasslyn Road for an easy drive through the outskirts of Maitland and then Maitland Vale road with beautiful scenery across country to Elderslie and then on to Gresford for a relaxed picnic morning tea. This was also the opportunity to swap stories and check out other member's cars.

Leaving Gresford we then continued north and onto Bingleburra Rd which sweeps through the very lower portion of the Barrington Tops National Park and provides spectacular views over valleys on both sides as you climb the road across the ridges. This road is also a brutal reminder how poorly some country councils maintain their roads. Dropping down off the ridges we then turned north towards Chichester. This is a fun twisty road that leads to Chichester dam, located in picturesque foot hills of the Barrington Tops National Park. We then dropped down to a well maintained and pretty picnic area for a relaxed lunch and the opportunity to meet up with new and old members, and visitors, watched over by the local Kookaburra population.

With lunch over and photos taken, we then did a convey tour of the dam area and left for home via Dungog where the muscle car group were parked up in the main street. We then progressed on to Bucketts Way with a comfort stop at Stroud and then home via the Pacific Highway.

Many thanks to John and Chris for organising a great run and a perfect day's weather (your influence on the weather was amazing), and everyone who participated to make it a great day.



Alfa 12 Hour Relay

14 - 15 OCTOBER WORDS **BRYAN SHEDDEN STEWART TEMESVARY**
TAMMIE HOTZ GILLIAN FLETCHER BRYAN SHEDDEN

The Alfa Relay is an annual regularity relay organised by the Alfa Romeo Owners Club at Winton Raceway in north-eastern Victoria. First held in 2006 as a 6 Hour relay, this year was the 12th running of the event, and it was extended to a 12 Hour format, split over the weekend of 14 & 15 October.

Our mates from the MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania regard the Alfa Relay as the premier event in their motorsport calendar. They take it extremely seriously and have had five podiums in the last six years, including back-to-back wins in 2012 and 2013. Our club's first attempt at the Alfa Relay was in the 2015 10 Hour, finishing in 15th place, followed by 5th and 18th in the 2016 10 Hour. Riding hot on the heels of a famous 1-2 finish at the NSWRRRC 6 Hour Relay at Eastern Creek earlier this year, we fielded two teams of five drivers each:

Panorama Mountain Men: Gus Elias, Warren Hotz, Bryan Shedden, Stewart Temesvary, Glenn Thomas, Tammie Hotz (Team Manager), Gillian Fletcher (Assistant Manager), Evan Hotz (Junior Manager)

Blue Mountains Mazda: Greg Bunn, Ian Combes, Ray Estreich, Graham Fletcher, Dan Szwaj, Lesa Bunn (Team Manager), Pam Estreich (Assistant Manager)

Peter Barnwell filled a vacancy in one of the three Victorian MX-5 Club

teams, while Kim Jacobs was assistant manager.

There were 34 MX-5s in the 40 team field of 202 cars, equalling the total number of Alfa Romeos. The rest was an eclectic mix of Toyota Corollas, Nissan Pulsars, BMW E30s, Ford Lasers, Hyundai Excels, Fiats, Austin Healeys, Triumphs, Minis, and Hondas. Affordable motorsport at it's best!

The event was run with qualifying during Saturday morning for three hours. The 12 hour relay commenced at 1pm for five hours. It was then restarted on Sunday at 9am to complete the remaining seven hours. The results were calculated from the two combined days' competition and announced at 5pm.

Scoring of the Alfa Relay is completely different to the Regularity Relay events at Phillip Island and Eastern Creek. The calculation is complicated (as usual), and factors in nominated laptime, completed laps, bonus laps, and penalty laps. Breaking out from each driver's nominated laptime is penalised mildly compared to the other events, but is still to be avoided. We needed to maximise our time on track, aiming for stints of over one hour. The management of stopwatch laptiming and communication to the driver via pit boards is crucial to scoring well. Running updates for the scores are not provided, which means that everyone is held in suspense until the very end, and recovery from a slow start is possible.

A couple of our drivers had mechanical issues on the Saturday. Ian's car was overheating and we pitched in to help improve airflow to the radiator, before discovering that the real issue was a badly damaged thermostat. Warren returned to the pits after his stint with a very raspy exhaust due to a split weld. He was delighted to find a local workshop to patch it up in the late afternoon. Apart from that, our MX-5s ran smoothly over the very long stints, some even opting to leave the aircon running as it was a warm day.

Overnight, we met at one of our rented houses for dinner. Glenn & Bryan had whipped up a treat with slow-cooked beef burgundy and roast pork with baked vegetables. After a tiring day at the track, the feast was devoured in short order and washed down with a glass or two of vino. Social get-togethers like this are a major attraction with our regularity relays.

Come Sunday morning, the relay picked up again and we enacted our strategies that had been refined after hours of discussion the previous evening. Both teams were scoring well with bonuses and avoiding breakouts. How well? We had no idea!

After the completion of 12 hours of competition, we packed and then headed to the presentation. Tradition demanded that the results were announced in reverse order: in 40th place was Sprites Talk, in 39th place

was Team Romeo, etc. The suspense built relentlessly as our teams were not called. The first of the Victorian MX-5 Club teams was announced in 16th place. Hurrah, we're in the top 15. Blue Mountains Mazda was announced in 13th place - an excellent result for a team that included two newbies. The next Victorian MX-5 Club was announced in 9th place, and the third was in 6th place. Fantastic, we're in the top 5. We're on the podium. And finally, the win goes to - Panorama Mountain Men!

2017 is the first time an interstate team has taken out the event. The winning score by Panorama Mountain Men was more than 7% higher than the second-place team. If you equate the results to the Bathurst 1000 race, then when we completed the 161 laps, second and third place were both 11 laps behind us. It was a dominant performance by the drivers and pit crew. It's notable that Warren, Bryan and Gillian were also on the winning team at the NSWRRRC 6 Hour Relay at Eastern Creek earlier this year!

An analysis of individual driver scores revealed that not only was Gus Elias the best performer from our club, he was the best performer of all 202 competitors. Well done Gus. Bryan, Warren and Glenn were also amongst the top 10 drivers, while rookie Dan Szwaj was in the top 20.

While these driver performances were outstanding, the valuable contribution of the pit crew to facilitate it cannot be overstated. There were numerous occasions where all five drivers would have incurred a penalty without the pit crew indicating that a breakout was imminent, and the driver adjusted his speed in the last few hundred metres to not incur a penalty. All five drivers agreed that without the strategy used and the hard work by the pit crew, they would certainly not have achieved the result they did.

Congratulations to both teams and we will be back next year to defend the win.



The THRARVO

09 SEPTEMBER WORDS **DIANNE HENDERSON**
PHOTOS **HELEN GREEN**

THRARVO (3 Part Arvo) was Saturday's run name
With a focus on getting into the Go-Kart Hall of Fame
So we met at Kearsley at Go Karts Go
Josh and Lindsay looking professional with helmets in tow.

9 men and 3 women willing to face the fear
And a bevy of MX-5 spectators ready to cheer
Wait...is that true what we heard?
Helen Green as a spectator? That's absurd!

Helen who loves speed not going to race?
Poor Helen was sick so it was the bench she faced
The racers all registered and tried on their head gear
A lovely blue shower cap and a giant helmet so you couldn't hear.

Races 14 and 17 were the MX-5 team's lot
Damn those helmets were tight and boy were they hot!
We all lined up ready to start
I led them out in my #12 Go-kart

The man said start at walking pace like mice
So off I went slow and steady as per advice
Obviously local rules did apply
As next minute past me everyone did fly.

So the foot went down and the Kart took flight
I gripped that wheel with all my might
But I still saw the back of a number of MX-5 shirts
As they slid by me, even Hendo. Damn that hurt!

42 Club Torque



So harder and faster I went, flying past
people of all kinds
Ok - so most of that was in my own mind
By this stage my arms were aching and
my hands sore
Were they ever going to stop, I didn't
know if I could take any more.

Round 1 was over and it was a blast
Ok, so I came 23rd and wasn't so fast
Josh was the fastest on the course with
his eyes on that gold medal
But there was one more race for others
to catch up, so right foot to the pedal.

Race 2 took off and it was fast and it
was mean
The men all trying to beat Josh's time -
they were keen!
The last race seemed shorter but maybe
it was that my arms were numb

Poor Hendo had to retire early, his
breathing came undone.
So the scores were in and we waited
with baited breath...
Who would take the men's medal out
- had someone overtaken Josh by
stealth?

Out to the podium in the car park for
medal allocation.
It was tight and it was close for male
domination.

But Josh nipped them to the post for
gold then up next was Andrew for silver
medal.
At only .04 of a second later, Greg took
out bronze with his mighty pedal.

The women's gold medal was always
clearly defined,
With Lindsay flying well in front with
Elaine and yours truly lagging well
behind.

Lindsay nabbed the gold a full 10 sec-
onds in front of my time
With Elaine taking bronze - it was a toss
up between her time and mine
A fantastic time was had by one and by
all with stories to tell
Even with the sore arms, hands and
some bruising as well.

Some said goodbye and then seven
cars drove off to Bimbadeen Lookout
Hendo trying to convince me he would
have won if his lungs hadn't given out!
Through beautiful scenery and lots of
smoke from bushfires we did drive
Along a six kilometre dirt road which felt
like twenty-five (kilometres).

Diann was happy to have her Hyundai
loan car
As she reckoned Goldie would have not
taken to the dirt road (she only likes tar)
Up to Bimbadeen Lookout for a magnifi-
cent view
More beautiful scenery and a tad chilly
too.

Then to Cessnock to have our fill of
Chinese
It was a banquet of dishes and then
some dessert...deep-fried ice cream
please
And the funny coincidence that was in
our sight,
Was that the restaurant owner was Dave
Ho's uncle, our host for the night!

So now it is Sunday ... aching arms and
a bruise on my butt I fear.
Sitting and contemplating would I do it
again next year?
Hell yes I say! Watch out Lindsay! I may
be older,
But next year I'll be chasing something
golder!



“

Big thanks to
Andrew, hip hip
hooray!
For a fantastic
THRARVO and a
fabulous day...





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