

*club*

Winter 2023  
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# TORQUE



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



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

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

As at 5th August 2023

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

# 1093

Michael Alacqua	Stephen Doorey	Craig Jensen	Phoenix Ren
Silvana Alacqua	Philip Douglass	Lukas Kadlec	Lindy Richardson
Gregory Amadio	Anna Dousdebis	Darryl Kerr	Shane Richardson
Jennifer Amadio	Pedro Dousdebis	Jack Kewalram	Tim Rozea
Blake Anderson	Gabby Dowler	Mamun Khan	Mackenzie Ryan
Christopher Andry	Mary Dowsley	Joseph Knowles	Roy Seaman
Andrew Baran	Anne Drummond	Tatiana Konnova	Zoe Shacklady
Darren Bear	Rex Drummond	Logyn Lachmund-Stevens	Barbra Sharp
Kerry-Ann Bear	Marc Englaro	Pablo Lagos	Steve Sharp
Leo Belpomo	Terry Evans	Geoff Lanham	Damian Shaw
Christine Bendall	Belinda Felsch	Brett Lansley	Carolyn Skelton
Ian Bendall	Rodney Felsch	Michaela Lauren	Kevin Skelton
Joel Bosch	Bruce Frazer	Ethan Lee	Grant Spinks
Honie Boyd	Grant Freeman	Weicong Li	Gordon Stevens
Helen Boyer	Graham Frost	Lin Lu	Louise Storie
Timothy Brancourt	Janine Frost	Alun Luu	Aisa Sukarieh
Alex Burdakov	Reef Gaha	Chris Mahaffey	Maggie Taylor
Jake Burke	Danny Gamwalla	David Mahaffey	Mark Taylor
Henry Cardwell	Liz Gearing	Marcus Maller	Jason Tozer
Rick Carroll	Max Giacometti	Anthony Mancini	Leonard Turnbull
Lisa Caswell	Roberto Giacometti	David Marusic	Taylah Urquhart
Neil Caswell	James Gilray	Wayne McGarrity	Jeffery Walker
Ben Cawood	Kay Hawthorne	Ray McLachlan	Karin Walker
Bronwyn Chalmers	Stephen Hawthorne	Andrew McLaughlin	John Walsh
Robert Chalmers	Jack Hazelton-Kelly	Vira Mcleod	Dong Wang
Annie Chan	Gavin Heaton	Jack Milburn	Alison Watson
Gregory Chapman-Oliver	Alastair Hedge-Luzowoi	Bradley Mitchell	Anthony Watson
Kaixin Chen	Ryan Hill	Tim Ng	Paul Webster
Christine Ciccald	Chris Hogan	Justin OConnell	Andrew Weeks
Matthew Coffey	Nathan Houison	Denis Pana	Angela Wong
Karen Corke	Graham Humphrys	Charon Patterson	Daniel Woodcock
Ken Corke	Cath Hunter	Rod Patterson	Michelle Wright
Jeanette Cox	Phil Hunter	Paul Phibbs	Paul Yearley
Tony Cox	Ross Jackson	Cathy Phillips	Bowei Yu
Bob de Vries	Jason James	Mike Phillips	Kiara Zabetakis
Eunice de Vries	Vanessa James	Jayden Psaroulis	Shawn Zhang
Berenice Devlin	Brendan Jeffries	Chase Raddatz	Dirk Zhou

Membership Renewals - if you are having any difficulties logging into the Membership portal to process your renewal, please contact Bryan Shedden on 0422 340 010 and he will happily assist in resolving any issues.  
It rarely takes more than a few minutes and then you are good to go for another year.

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## From the Editor



Firstly, may I apologise for the long delay since my first edition of Club Torque. A couple of unexpected eye surgeries limited the amount of screen time I could do.

Taking this delay into account, it was decided to skip to a current issue covering the traditional Winter edition content of May to July. When time permits, I will attempt to go back and fill in the gap between issues.

Thank you to those who reached out with praise on my first edition. It was a big learning curve. As time progresses I hope my output will improve. While it is great to receive compliments, I am also open to constructive criticism or suggestions.

Once again, I seek your assistance in providing the content for your magazine. Please email articles and photos to:- [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au)

As you read through this issue you may notice an imbalance of the representation of articles from different chapters. This is a direct reflection of which chapters are either emailing or posting articles. If you feel that your chapter is under-represented, please talk to your Chapter Convenor and volunteer to write some content.

In this issue you will notice a couple of special feature articles written by members. I encourage submissions of articles on topics which other members may find interesting. Do you have

a favourite MX-5 road? Tell us about it. Is there something interesting in your area that members from other areas should visit if doing a run or on holidays? Tell us about it. Do you have some technical wisdom to share with other members? Tell us about it.

Since taking on this role, I've tried to sound out members on what they would like in Club Torque. The overwhelming opinion seems to be the sort of thing I have mentioned above. With this in mind, maybe focus your run reports on the drive, the good roads, the great views, the interesting attractions, and of course the great places to eat.

Enough from me. Happy Zoom Zooming!

Regards  
*Stephen Carter*







## President's Report

Blue Mountains. Many thanks to Senia Gaunson for organising parting gifts for Bryan, Ann, Andy and Vicki. A big thank you too for Stephen and Maree Eccleston for stepping up to take on the conveners role on the north side in the Sydney chapter. We still need volunteers to take on the conveners role on the south side of Sydney, so please think deeply about whether you can offer to help organise the southern side of the Sydney chapter – nothing can happen without volunteers!

In the Hunter chapter, Christine Cameron and John Purcell are also stepping down this year as co-conveners, after having done a fantastic job of managing the Hunter Chapter and organising numerous events over the years, including an epic run to Tasmania. Again, many many thanks guys – equally big shoes to fill!

In the RPM chapter, Chris Wyatt and Brigid Gallop are stepping down as co-conveners, after again doing a great job in the mountains. It was great to get to the 10th anniversary of the chapter earlier in the year. Well done guys – thanks!

Peter and Keiran Rodgers are also stepping down as conveners of the Mid-North Coast chapters. Thank you for your contribution as well.

Life has been tough for many people over the last year, with cost of living pressures having a big impact on our motorsport events. Participation in all our motorsport events have basically fallen off a cliff... I think that we are all

hoping for better times ahead. On the motorsport front, what a great event was The Bend in April (even if some of us came back with broken cars!). Thanks to the Victorian/Tasmanian club for putting that together. On the local front, the news at Wakefield Park is looking good, so we are all waiting with keen interest as to when we will next be able to run there. North of Sydney, asphalt is at last going down on the Circuit Italia venue. It's been a long (nine year) wait, but maybe we'll be able to enjoy that facility soon too.

Stay safe, and enjoy your MX-5(s)!

Kind regards,

*Ian Combes*



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It's great to see an issue of Club Torque hitting our members letter boxes after a considerable hiatus. While we would all have liked to see an issue earlier, please understand that like all things in our club, this is a volunteer effort, and sometimes things don't play out the way we would have liked. I would like to give a big thanks to Stephen Carter for the big effort that he has put into this issue. We expect that we will be back on our regular publishing schedule now.

Speaking of volunteers, we are seeing a significant changing of the guard in a number of our chapters this year. Bryan and Ann Hicks, and Andy and Vicki Bottomley are stepping down as Sydney co-conveners. Many thanks for the huge task of organising the Sydney chapter and running events over a number of years, which was justly recognised at the 10th Anniversary lunch in the



### Cover Photo

Frances & John Molden's immaculate NC. Photo taken on the Illawarra and RPM Chapters' Running of the Sheep Run, 2nd October 2022, between Boorowa and Young. This vehicle was awarded Open Class Winner and Best in Show at the President's Picnic Concours D'Elegance.

### Cover Competition

Entries are now open for the cover competition of our next issue and can be submitted to [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au). Please include the location and send portrait orientated photos to suit the shape of the page.

## COMMITTEE

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## Committee Report

We are providing this report for Members to keep you up to date with recent Committee Changes and Activities.

Since the new Committee was established, we have been progressing well with Club business and activities. The Committee held a one off Planning Day face to face meeting in January (on a Saturday).

Progress was made in planning schedules for the year in areas of finance, strategy, Club records, Sponsorships, Governance, Chapter organisation, and Constitutional reforms. Sub Committees were established to implement these ideas and plans. Good progress is being made at this time considering the complexity of some of the issues, particularly centralising Club records and Constitutional Reforms.

Committee Members working on these details include, Christine Cameron, Geoff Smith, Ian Mash, Bryan Shedden and Rod Nicholas, under the watchful eye of the President Ian Combes.

Fiona Shedden has stepped in as Regalia Officer so this important Committee Position will be well cared for. Fiona is already planning major changes to streamline the way Members purchase Regalia.

One change to the Committee is the Breakfast Club Convenor position being changed to an 'ex officio' position, i.e. no longer a Committee position.

While the Club is generally running smoothly, an area of concern is the continued drop in the number of Track Day competitors. The closure of the Wakefield Park Circuit has played a part in this and we hope the recent purchase of the Circuit by the owner of Pheasant Wood Circuit will lead to a re opening in 2024. The Committee feels the recent increases in cost of living pressures may be another factor in the drop in numbers.

Track days this year are running at a financial loss, whereas they were a major source of revenue for the Club in the past. We need to encourage more Members to participate, Track hire costs have increased considerably in 2023, which increases the problem.

There was an encouraging increase in participants at the Track Day on July 16th at SMSP South Circuit which is usually a popular track for Members, we hope this trend continues.

Encouragingly, Club social runs and events are still well attended with good work being done by the Chapter Convenors and Run Co ordinators.

Vice President Joe Kovacic has been very active since taking over the role, engaging a number of Mazda Dealers to Sponsor the Club as a Major or Chapter Sponsor, as well as MX5 Mania becoming a major Club Sponsor.

Your Committee has agreed to purchase Automated External Defibrillators for those Chapters who choose to have one available for Club runs. Considering the Club's demographics, a good idea.

Please feel free to contact me or any Committee member with any question, query or suggestion you may have, it's no problem, you will be listened to.

Best Regards,

*Phil Donnelley*

Club Secretary.





# 

The MX-5 Clubs of Australia gather for a national meet - NatMeet - every second year, bringing together MX-5 owners from all around Australia to have fun and show off their pride-and-joy.

NatMeets combine motor sport with events like motorkhanas, social runs, concours d'elegance / show & shine and a good deal of social activity over four or five days. These gatherings were born at a meeting of State MX-5 Club presidents at Daylesford, Victoria in 1993 and continue to be held biennially. With Covid lockdowns, the last NatMeet was held in the Barossa Valley in 2018.

NatMeet XV will be hosted by the MX-5 Club of Qld from 11th to 15th April 2024. Based in Toowoomba, we will be driving some of the many enjoyable roads throughout the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley regions.



where you will be able to enjoy yourselves with your friends and meet other MX-5ers from across Australia.

A Concours D'Elegance and Show 'n Shine where you can compete for the best of the best or just be happy to show off your baby in public. Take the opportunity to visit the nearby Cobb & Co Museum.



A Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation at the amazing heritage listed Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

Registration opened in June 2023 and by mid July, 64 registrations had been received with 113 participants from all Clubs across Australia. Registrations remain open until 1 Oct 23 and you can register via the Mx5 Club of Qld Website – [mx5clubqld.clubexpress.com](http://mx5clubqld.clubexpress.com)

NatMeets are great events where you can meet up with other MX-5 enthusiasts from all over Australia and enjoy some outstanding driving experiences and make new friends. We know NatMeet XV will be a great experience for all who attend.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Henri van Roden and  
NatMeet XV Committee**



NatMeet XV will include:

A Track Day at Morgan Park, Warwick on 11 Apr. The day will include sprints, separate classes for novices with track tuition available. Happy Laps and a Motorkhana will be held around midday. Entry to the track day is open to all members. You do not need to be attending NatMeet to participate.

Social Runs, both long and short, around Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley encompassing many of the enjoyable and challenging roads in the region.

Social functions, including a theme dinner night (fancy dress),



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## Braidwood & Bungendore Run



**South Coast - 10th May 2023 - Report : Rose Smith - Photos : Anne Zattera, Linda Downing, Rose Smith**

With the chilliest start to May in 100 years, we had all been watching our weather apps over the last few days, in preparation for our trip to Braidwood & Bungendore. Fortunately, the snow had melted, gale winds had dissipated, rain had stopped, and the sun was shining down through a brilliant blue sky. Nine members and six cars started our journey from The Heritage Bakery in Milton with tops down, hats and sunnies on.



Anne & Graeme led the convoy down the coast and surprisingly there was very little traffic, and it was easy to stay together as a group. All was going well until the Kioloa turn off, where Tony B had a dash alarm start beeping at him. Unsure of what the problem was, he had to leave the run and turn back for home.

The first section of the drive up the Clyde Mountain was fun... no caravans or trucks, just 5 MX5's having a great time on the bends....until we hit the first of many temporary roadwork traffic lights, and there were plenty of these. The red light stops gave us plenty of time to enjoy the scenery... or do a crossword.



Morning tea at Vanilla@Altenburg café in Braidwood was one of the most delicious we have had on a run. All goodies are baked each morning on the premises, jams are homemade, ingredients, when possible, are locally sourced. This place is well worth a repeat visit....just not too close to lunchtime as the serves are huge.

With satisfied appetites, we head off to Bungendore to join members of the Canberra Chapter for lunch at The George Hotel. Waiting for our orders to be served gave us plenty of time to catch up with our MX5 friends. Canberra had been on a scenic run along the Cotter Rd, through Tharwa and on to



Bungendore. We shared stories about our morning runs, Tassie trips, etc, etc. Lots of interesting tips and ideas for future runs.

After a long lunch, some of us head straight home, while others went on to The Woodworks and a browse through the interesting shops in town.

Another great day out... thanks everyone.



# The Journey to the Pub at Nerriga



Illawarra - 10th May 2023 - Report : Jeff Rowe - Photos : Rob Wilkins

There are lots of events on the Illawarra Chapter events web page for members to attend but we thought a midweek run would be something that hasn't been done for a while. You've got to like less traffic, easier parking, more chances to get a table at a venue and a chance to catch up with members who may not be able to attend weekend runs.

On the day our starting point was 'Ratha's Place' in Oak Flats. This is a great little café that operates to provide training and employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's not fancy but it's clean, well run and supervised, has a great atmosphere and the food and service are hard to fault.



Everyone left comfortable and full, ready for the next part of our day together. We showed our appreciation with a good loud 'Hand Clap' before we left. Another visit in the future maybe?

Our drive was to take us through Jamberoo on what is, a great MX-5 road and a favorite with some Chapter members.

Then skirting Kiama, we headed South along the Princes Highway towards Berry. Rather than taking our usual route through Gerringong and then along, what is generally known as the 'Tourist Coast Road', we stayed on the highway and

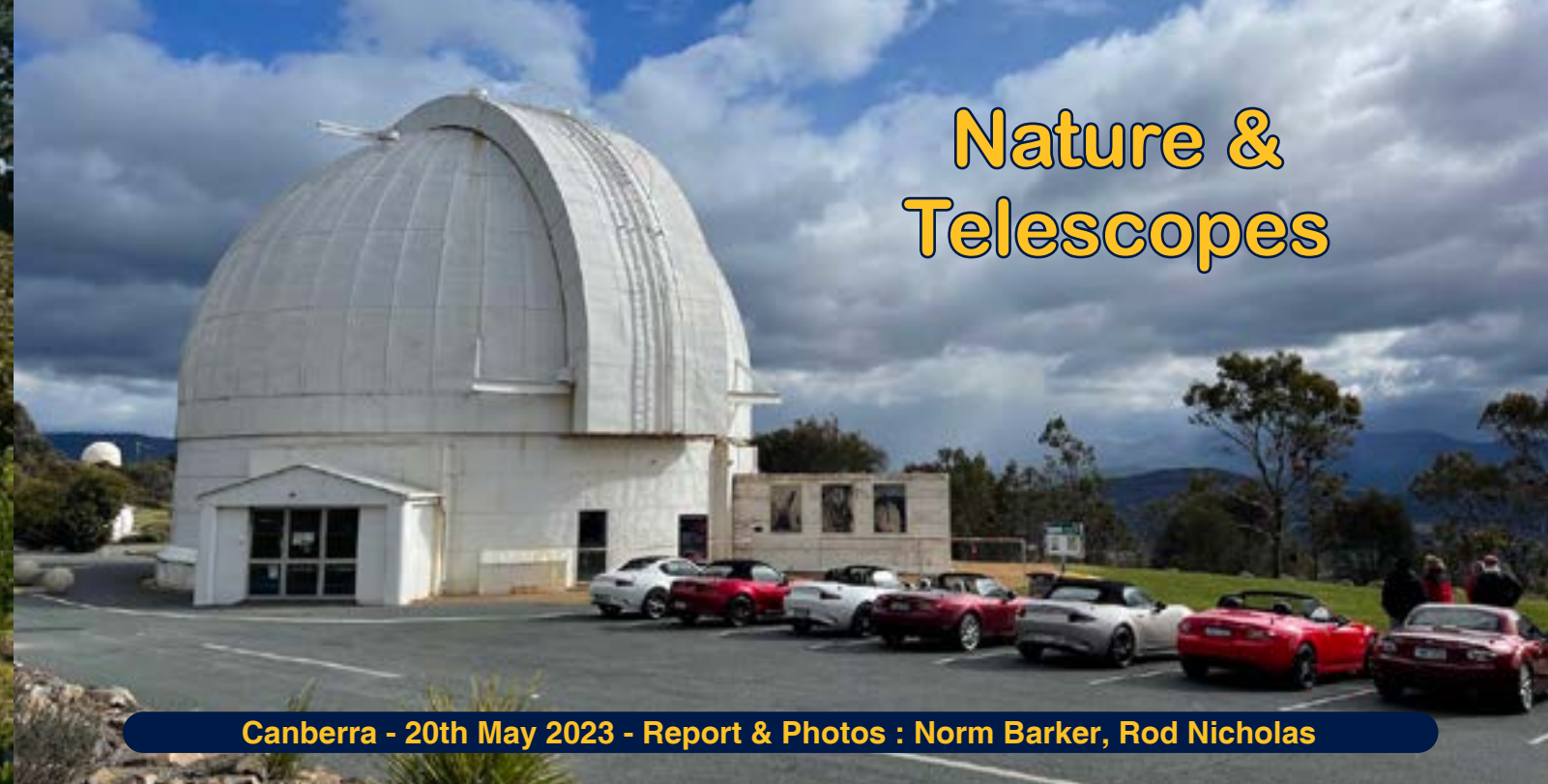
turned off towards Toolijooa. This put us onto the old part of the Princes Highway. It only went for about six kilometers on a windy section of road that all of us had most likely travelled before. The difference now was that the road was clear and we could enjoy the straights and corners without having to queue behind trucks or other slower vehicles. It was a short but good fun section of road nonetheless. Taking the exit ramp into Berry we then turned left to head down to join the 'Tourist Coast Road' and continue on to our lunch destination at Shoalhaven Heads.



Our destination was 'The Heads Hotel'. A great spot overlooking the Shoalhaven River. The menu is extensive and no one was left hungry. The staff looked after us well and were very friendly. It may well be a venue we visit again in the future.

After lunch some members took the opportunity to visit the Shoalhaven Heads Botanical Garden which is just around the corner from the hotel. They are a well-presented garden worth a look if you're in this area. It was great to see the support for a midweek run, 27 club members and 3 visitors in 18 cars. It was an opportunity to catch up with members not seen for some time, meet members not met before and welcome visitors into our group. The weather was at its best for a roof off drive so all in all this turned out to be a great MX-5 event.

# Nature & Telescopes



Canberra - 20th May 2023 - Report & Photos : Norm Barker, Rod Nicholas

We gathered at the Caltex servo on the Monaro Highway at Hume. After a briefing we set off and made our way via Jerrabomberra and Queanbeyan to Googong Dam. Most of the group braved the cold and had the top down on their cars. The countryside was green and the dam full, with mist on the surrounding hills. The group stopped here for photos and the compulsory chat which is one of the great aspects of club outings. The group has a diverse spread of backgrounds and conversations are always interesting. The lone non-MX-5, a respectable Mazda 6 in regulation Soul Red, struck a lonely figure, parked well away from the fleet of sports cars. Leaving the dam lookout, we continued via Burra and the Monaro Highway, back towards Canberra. The group was able to mostly keep together which made a good sight on the highway. At the first intersection we headed to Tharwa and out to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. There was not a lot of traffic and so we had a very relaxed drive.

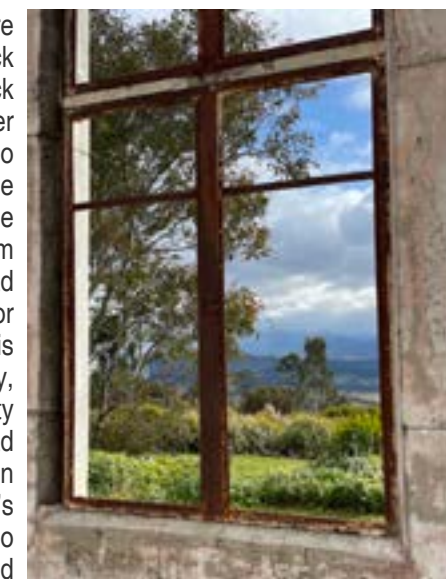


The group selected a spot beside the information centre and set up our chairs and tables for a picnic. A few got coffees from the shop to warm the body as it was still rather chilly. As usually happens on picnics a few people had brought cakes and biscuits to share, and conversations continued. At this point Norm and Roz had to leave as did a couple of others. Rod took over leading for the afternoon shift.

Leaving the Nature Park, the convoy wound its way just down

the road to the Tidbinbilla Deep Space Tracking Station where photos of the cars backdropped by the dishes were popular. Unfortunately, the visitors centre there is still closed so we were unable to poke around and explore the connection between the Tracking Station and the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing.

With one more telescope to check out, we headed back towards the Cotter and on to Mt Stromlo Observatory. The road up to the observatory from the Cotter Road is a favourite for pushbikes, and, this being a Sunday, there were plenty around. The road is a bit of a mess in parts – the asphalt's been chewed to pieces and gouged great potholes on some of the corners. Who would have thought a few mountain bikes could do so much damage?



A chilling wind made itself unwelcome as soon as we stepped from the cars, but there were still snaps to take, conversations to be had, and a little exploring to do. The views back to the Brindabella Hills are gorgeous, but the wind didn't encourage many of us to hang around, nor did the thick belt of rain that was visible streaming towards us. Even so, a couple of us took the opportunity to stage a little 'walking on the moon'. To be fair, all we did is peek at the sculpture by Anne Graham that's set in a grassy area near the burnt out observatory – it's a red and grey granite plinth embedded into the grass, etched with (I presume) a 'map' of the moon's surface. It's worth a look, but keep an open mind about what 'sculpture' means to you.



# Go West Young Man to Dubbo Zoo

**South Coast - 16th May 2023 - Report : Brian Clayton, Anda Clayton, Rose Smith, Brigid McCarthy - Photos : Rob Wilkins, Anda Clayton, Rose Smith**

**The Driving Experience:** The interesting drive started on the road to Crookwell and beyond. Many of us have driven this road, some multiple times and, apart from some damage in parts, the drive is one of the best country roads in the state and one you never tire of doing. The road consists of many sweeping bends, crests which open magnificent vistas of the countryside, and some tighter twisty stuff, particularly on the entry and exit to the Abercrombie River valley. The road stays interesting all the way to our overnight stop in Millthorpe. We arrive tired but happy after a long day "in the saddle".



The road to Orange is mostly highway but taking the less travelled road from Orange through Wellington provides a lot more interest for the drivers of an MX-5. More sweeping bends and hills to crest until the approach to Dubbo when the road straightens out for the last few K's into town.

The return journey was planned to travel through Parkes and Eugowra to Cowra. Unfortunately we selected the Newell Highway which provided an hour or so of boring straight roads. How fortunate for two of our party who turned right instead of left at the Dubbo Zoo and had a far more interesting run through Molong and Canowindra. A good road full of bends was the report .. next time. Meanwhile, on the road from Eugowra to Cowra "some of us" enjoyed an adventure along the way. After missing a turnoff, we struck a road closure resulting in a detour for a number of kilometres down a dusty unsealed road in our little car. The scenery was, however, lovely! 😊

The run from Cowra to Boorowa is well known to most and was another delightful experience. All up the trip provided an ample number of sweeping bends, delightful vistas and some great twisty MX5 driving.

**The Zoo Experience:** A decision on how to see all of Dubbo Zoo was first on the agenda, so many choices: walk, cycle, golf buggy or drive your car with the windows up and heater on. Brian and Anda had hired a golf buggy, so Geoff and Rose hitched a ride in the 6-seater. Brian set off at 'hare pace', about 15kpm, and the freezing cold wind blasted in on us through our open-air transport. Despite wearing many layers of clothing, including coats, gloves and beanies, this prompted an immediate return to 'turtle pace', about 5kpm. Brian was repeatedly requested to wind the windows up and put the heater on full blast..ha,ha... and some of us were dreaming of being in our cars.



The roads around the zoo were bumpy in places and combined with the lack of suspension it made for an interesting ride, hence the need for seat belts. However, what a fantastic way to see the zoo. The golf buggy was an ideal way to travel. The seating was raised, so you had a great view of the zoo paddocks and enclosures. Parking the buggy was simple and as there were no doors to open it was easy to jump out of the buggy to get a closer look at the animals. Brian was a great 'buggy driver' and took us wherever requested.... he even listened to the back seat drivers.

**The Food and Wine Experience:** Our gastronomic journey commenced early, with four of us at our first coffee stop in Braidwood at Provisions Deli and Creperie, run by a French couple and specialising in anything French....ooh la la!

Our lunch stop at Crookwell Services Club was a pleasant surprise, housed in a lovely cosy cafe, unlike any club bistro. After our indulgences at morning tea, one could not envisage a large meal. A nice warm spot to sit and catch up with our Sydney members Rob & Brigid was very welcome.



We were pleased to arrive in Millthorpe before Angullong Wines closed its doors, one of the two businesses open in Millthorpe on a Tuesday afternoon. Brian, Brigid and I treated ourselves to a wine tasting. We tasted and purchased some interesting

Italian style varietals including a Sangiovese, Montepulciano and Barbera. Apparently, the soil and altitude is well suited for these grapes.

Dinner styles on our four-day driving and eating extravaganza were varied from good old fashioned pub grub at Millthorpe Hotel, where we were pleased to be offered more than just pizzas, to a delicious Thai banquet at Rose Garden Thai in Dubbo. The grand finale was in Cowra, Masala Library by Sid – an unusual name for a restaurant but excellent Indian cuisine. The owner, Siddhant Kappur, formerly from Mumbai, who completed a degree in Hospitality Management at the prestigious University, Le Cordon Bleu in Adelaide and had subsequently won the prestigious Best Manager of the Year award in South Australia, showed his lifelong passion for restaurants had not waned. We found the food portions generous and cooked to perfection, in fact some of us commented that the entree would have been sufficient.

Our farewell lunch in Boorowa Pub was something special, the "best pub in the world", with its quirky décor and comfy lounges it is the perfect man cave! According to Brian, if he lived in Boorowa, I would never see him at home! The friendliness and joviality of the pub licensee, Mike was unsurpassed. Good old fashioned country hospitality, a delicious pub lunch, and even a pat of their dog for Geoff and Rose. No wonder he has been awarded the 2023 Traditional Hotel of the Year Award.

**Additional Sightseeing:** While the main object of the tour was Dubbo Zoo we had the opportunity to visit a number of other sites. In Dubbo, we explored the Old Dubbo Goal, now an interesting museum in the centre of town. Some interesting exhibits, including an explore of some of the prisoner's cells, the padded cell, a foiled escape, stories of the crimes and punishments of the inmates and a look at the prisoners'

hospital. Some of the medicines and treatments prescribed were astonishing, such as mercury being used as a laxative or for children during teething!!

Also on the agenda, a few kms out of town, the Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Experience. A film depicted the vastness of the Australian outback - it is indeed a necessary service.

Leaving Dubbo we took a rest stop at the radio telescope at Parkes, always an interesting place to visit and a convenient pit stop on the journey.

On the chilly morning which greeted us in Cowra we set out to see the local attractions. The POW Campsite is set high on a hill overlooking picturesque countryside. We could imagine the winters very cold, and summers blistering hot. Here we learnt of the Japanese POW's escape attempt in 1944, where 4 Australian soldiers and over 230 Japanese POW's were killed or committed suicide.

We paid a visit to the Japanese War Cemetery, where we viewed graves of not only Japanese soldiers, but also children and elderly set amid a traditional garden. There is also a Commonwealth War Graves site adjoining where the Australian soldiers killed in the breakout are buried.

We found time for a nice cuppa at the Japanese Gardens! The gardens were magnificent in their autumn colours.

Companionship

The beauty of a smaller group is that you get to chat to everybody. Each evening after a days travel we gather for "fivesies", a time to wind down and talk about the day's driving, family activities, cars and whatever, before heading off for dinner.

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Our run started at Mittagong McDonalds, where under the watchful eye of the local Highway Patrol, we planned our route for the day. The ten cars ended up heading straight to the Hume Highway, bound for the Marulan turn off where after driving past Pheasant Wood we'd snake our way down to Braidwood for Breakfast on whatever backroads we could find. After picking our way through Bungonia and Windellama we found ourselves on a short stretch of dirt road before stopping in Tarago where one of the group headed back to Sydney. The rest of us proceeded to Braidwood to the Albion Café for a great round of hot drinks and meals. After a quick visit to Car Models of Braidwood, we headed back to Taralga where we diverted onto Collector Road for the trip to Goulburn, where just before we arrived in town the heavens opened up sending us scrambling to pull up our rooves. From there we split up, refuelled, and headed our separate ways home.



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It was a great early morning start from the Glenbrook Cinema Carpark with the forecast for the day being a bit chilly but bearable. Travelling the Great Western Highway, we had a clear run through to Little Hartley Historic Village for our secondary pick up and morning tea. At this time the weather was changing, with a bitterly cold strong wind and the temperature not moving above 7 degrees. After discussions amongst the group we



decided, in the words of Rob Wilko "forego the picnic blanket and instead have lunch at the Hill End Pub". The booking was made with the publican stating they weren't expecting it to be busy as it was going to rain. Another thing the weather gurus didn't let us know.

Leaving Little Hartley, now with the roofs up and heaters on,

we proceeded on to Kelso where we turned off for a great MX-5 road drive to Sofala. After a comfort break, heading onto Hill End Road to Hill End for lunch. Arriving at Hill End, the decision to have lunch at the pub was justified. The wind was blowing a gale and it was raining and extremely cold. One thing that was a blessing was that most of the drive was without rain.



A big thank you to all that joined us on the run and as usual to catch up and have a chat just adds to making the day most enjoyable.

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## Mystery Around the Lake

Hunter - 21st May 2023 - Report : Elaine Gazzard - Photos : David Gazzard

The day started out a little dull and the wind was blowing with fourteen cars arriving at Edward Park Booragul for morning tea, our new member Lucas and visitor Terie were welcomed wishing them a good day's drive.

Everyone was still trying to guess where we were going, lots of good ideas were floating around. So off we went travelling back through Teralba out on to Rhondra Rd and Wakefield Rd until we turned down Miller Rd, thankfully all the pot holes

had been filled making for a smooth run. From Toronto towards Morisset we had to make sure Barry and Jenny's car didn't turn for home on autopilot before continuing down the western side of the lake through Mannering Park and Wyee, to the Pacific highway.

Now for the fun part, after turning off the Pacific Hwy for Murrays Beach we needed a break and we asked that the run stop for a moment but as if it was deemed not to be safe to stop with

so many cars the majority continued on. The next instruction confused many and they proceeded back onto the Pacific Hwy again. The first three cars to arrive at the meeting point were the leader and the two tail ends with the rest arriving a short time later after a detour, what a mix up, but that's all part of the adventure and fun. With the mystery venue now revealed as NESCA Park Owned and run by Ausgrid NSW. Many have known about it for years but few have ever been.

Wow and what a great setup everything that we required for a great day. With the sun shining and the wind dying down we sat and chatted while David Gazzard and Mark Janus cooked the BBQ. What a feast I hope everyone enjoyed it. After lunch a game of bean bag tossing was in order, so after a little practice the challenge of the ladies versus the men began. The ladies had a comfortable win over the men, there was lots of fun and cheering for everyone. Dessert was served and with so much choice it was hard not to have little of everything.

Many thanks to Mark & Linda Janus and to all the Ladies for bringing dessert and for everyone helping with the cleaning up you are all great. We have been welcomed back anytime by the caretaker Kai, so I suppose we weren't to rowdy.



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## Winton Historic Meeting

Motorsport - 27th May 2023 - Report & Photos : Phil Donnelley



Members of the "momentuMX5" regularity relay team decided to do a 'boys' driving trip to Winton for the Historic Race Meeting held 27th to 28th May. Neil Tribe (the organiser), Graeme Tierney, Phil Reid and Phil Donnelley, (the youngest at 74 !). There were 3 NC's and 1 ND.

We met at Tumut for a very cold start on the Thursday, the original starting point at Cooma changed due to icy roads on the Alpine Way, for the next nights stop



at Corryong.

The selfie was taken on this first day with cold sunny skies and perfect driving conditions on roads built for an MX5. Most Victorian B and C roads are !!

From Corryong on Friday to Beechworth along more excellent driving roads.



We stopped often for sightseeing, Paddy's River Falls, and most tourist lookouts along the way, this was not a Breakfast Club run !

Morning tea and long lunch stops at towns like Walwa, Tallangatta, Tumbarumba were common and enjoyable.

Dinners were at the local town pubs which were excellent for hot meals and local beers.

The Orient Hotel in Tumut, the Corryong Hotel, and the Nicholas Hotel in Beechworth, can recommend them all.

Dinner took a long time with much good conversation and tall tales, maybe a few lies (?) .....

We attended the race meeting at Winton on the Saturday which was as good as you could expect, huge variation of race cars and bikes from mid 1930's to 1980. MG's, Lotus, Minis, early FJ/Fx Holdens, Sprites, Corvettes.

Weather was cold and grey, but no rain and little wind, so bearable for a bunch of mature age guys.

Highlight of the day was watching a very quick 1275cc Sprite trying for 4 laps (short circuit) to pass a thundering Corvette, the Sprite even got its nose in



front at one stage only for the Corvette to blast past on the short straight, they finished a car length apart, great racing and worth the price of admission alone. That Corvette sounded amazing.

Like most of the spectators, most of the drivers and bike riders were of a certain mature age, inspiring to see these guys doing what they love with old machinery.



The drive from Beechworth to Gundagai via Granya and Jingellic on Sunday was another highlight, cruising more MX5 roads in light rain through gorgeous countryside was perfection for us. MX5 heaven on those amazing roads.

One last dinner of pizza at the Criterion Hotel in Gundagai Sunday night completed the fabulous run. We made our own way home Monday morning up the M5, one of us had to be back at work that morning





# Singleton Auto Festival

Hunter - 27th May 2023 - Report : John Purcell - Photos : John Purcell, Glen Hawkins



Two of our members Mark Gray and Rodney Green, were having a discussion and the topic of the Singleton High School annual car show came up. The car show is to raise funds for the running of the school's Special Education Facility, so an idea was hatched to put on a display of the different models of MX-5's.



An early start was required to get the group from the Cameron Park McDonalds to Singleton High school by 9:00am, so with seven cars in tow Mark led the group on the windy road



around Mt Sugarloaf before joining the Hunter Expressway. Prior organisation and a couple of radio calls meant that two more cars of John & Chris and Rob merged with the group as they passed the Kurri exit and further along Marlene joined the group at Wittingham making a total of ten cars plus Rod's car for the display.



Arriving at the display it was line up under the club's and Mazda banners for the day along with hundreds of vehicles from all around the state, everything from Hot-rods, Holden and Ford clubs, vintage cars and even a few 4WDs all of different vintages such as a 1959 GoGomobile Dart, 1956 FJ HoldenD and a 1965 Jaguar convertible. Due to the last few years being cancelled due to covid it was the biggest rollout for years.

Was there any interest in our cars? Surprisingly with all the Classic cars on display there was, with many of our group discussing the virtues of our rides.



# Montague Island Adventure

South Coast - 27th May 2023 - Report : Dewi & Neil Brewitt, Karen Olde  
Photos : Rob Wilkins, Dewi Brewitt, Anda Clayton



On a glorious autumn morning, 14 enthusiastic trekkers met up at the Milton Heritage Bakery. We then headed off south along the Princes Highway, a short slow drive down to just south of Ulladulla to regroup, then off to Batemans Bay and beyond to the tourist drive turnoff at Mogo. Through picturesque countryside, past the Mogo Zoo to our morning tea stop at the Coffee Shed at Mossy Point. (Despite our intrepid run leader once leading us slightly astray).

Refreshed with coffee and cake, we hit the road again, along the banks of the Moruya River, for the run to our lunch stop at Bodalla - a choice of the Bodalla Dairy Café, the Bodalla Pub or Bakery followed by a brief look around town. Then back on track to our overnight stay at the Top of the Town Motel at Narooma.

After checking in, free time to relax or look around town. Some headed off down the hill on foot or by car to the harbour and breakwater. A great photo stop was the hole-in-the-wall Australia Rock which was nature's artistic creation of a good likeness. A few tourists requested photos be taken of them alongside or within this iconic piece of art. Further along the breakwater, quite a few seals were basking on the rocks in the last of the autumn warmth, and the subject of many photographs.



Then came the hard footslog back up the hill to our motel to get ready for dinner. Pre-dinner drinks and much talking at Lynch's Pub, then off to a delicious Australian / Nepalese meal at Food Mantra by Wildfire where two local members joined us. Then back to the motel for a good night's sleep before our exciting

Day 2 boat trip and tour of Montague Island.

We woke to a brisk cloudy Sunday morning. Everyone was excited for our boat trip to Montague Island. After a short drive to Mill Bay, we waited and had a few photos taken together as the crew prepared the boat for our departure. After a short safety briefing, we departed the wharf for Montague Island.

As Montague Island sits approximately 9 km off the township of Narooma, the boat trip took half an hour. We were instructed to put on our life jackets for the five minute crossing of the Bar. The water was pretty calm due to a Westerly blowing at the time. As we approached the island, Captain Georgia slowed down to give the seal pups a chance to swim towards our boat for photo opportunities. We saw lots of seals sunbaking on the rocks and swimming in the water. We also got to see eagles chasing an albatross, which even the boat crew had never seen before.



Captain Georgia then brought us to the only disembarkment on the island where we were greeted by our guide, a First Nations Elder, (Debbie) and a Parks and Wildlife Ranger. The island is famous for its colonies of penguins, mutton birds and Australian and New Zealand fur seals. Unfortunately, we did not get to see any penguins as we were there at the wrong time of year but we saw a few frolicking whales on their annual northern migration instead.

A few of us made the long spiral climb to the top of the lighthouse for a spectacular view of the island and of the NSW coast. The lighthouse was built in 1881 from local stone quarried on the island itself. The stone on the island was also used in the pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Our guide introduced us to native plants such as the Bracken Fern that can help ease the itch caused by insect bites, and the Soap Wattle. She took us to see the island's cemetery which consisted of a grave containing the remains of the children of John Burgess, the lighthouse keeper of the time, and the other containing the remains of Charles Townsend, his Assistant. She also shared with us the Dreamtime story of Gulaga (Mount Dromedary) and her two sons, Najanuga and Baranguba (Montague Island). We then walked to the old wharf and saw seal pups playing and learning their shark evasion skills.

We were back on the boat at 12 noon returning to Narooma. Everyone had a wonderful time.



# Sculpture for Clyde

Canberra - 31st May 2023 - Report : Brett Boyne - Photos : Rod Nicholas



On a cloudy last day of autumn 2023, we headed off to Batemans Bay for the outdoor art show, 'Sculpture for Clyde 2023', a ten-day event held on the south bank of the Clyde River off Clyde Street.

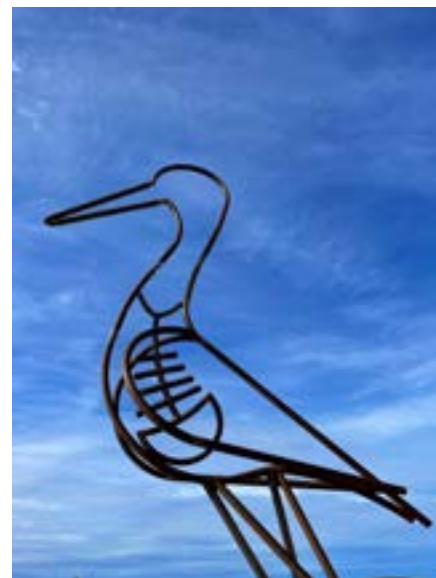
We stopped for coffee and cake at Vanilla Catering on the main street in Braidwood. Then a twisty run down to the Bay. We met up with Leann from the Illawarra Chapter for lunch at Café Se7en, under the new Clyde River Bridge. Café Se7en is light filled and the food was fresh and excellent.

After lunch, we walked up Clyde Street to the sculpture exhibition just as the sun emerged from the overcast sky. Sculpture for Clyde resumed in 2023 after a Covid 19 hiatus. Entry is free and the main prize is acquisitive, in that the organisers buy the winning sculpture. This sculpture is then added to the existing eight sculptures in the Bateman's Bay Sculpture Walk along the bay foreshore at Beach Road.

There were 51 outdoor sculptures along the bay, and 59 indoor sculptures in a marquee. The quality of the sculptures was high and many intriguing and beautiful works were on display.

After a good look around and an ice-cream, we drove up to the newly redeveloped Observation Point and gardens just past Batehaven.

This is a beautiful addition to the Bay with superb bay and ocean views. Then home via the run up the Clyde Mountain. In all, an excellent day.



# Whale Watching Cruise

Illawarra - 3rd June 2023 - Report : Jeff Rowe - Photos : Brendan Barr, Senia Gaunson

For this event it was not so much about the road journey, travelling down the Princes Highway A1, as the destination. We did leave Haywards Bay early, 7.30 am, to arrive in Huskisson by 9.00 am in plenty of time for coffee and a visit to the facilities before boarding our boat for the chance to see the majestic whales migrating north up our coast to breed in the warmer waters off Queensland. Google Maps suggested it would take 1 hour and 5 minutes to travel the 83.5 km. Our run leaders, Jeff and Pam thought that was a little bit optimistic so the reason for the early start. Well, as it turns out, we got mostly green traffic signals going through Nowra, so we got to Huskisson in just on 1 hour. An easy drive with a little clearing fog at the start and light traffic.



After paying for our Whale Watching Cruise, for which we all got at a good discount, we ordered coffee, looked around the waterfront, chit chatted and waited for the arrival of our cruise boat. We didn't have to wait too long. The 'Port Venture' pulled up at the boarding wharf. It is a very modern vessel with lots of room for moving around with comfortable seating, which we all tried at some time during the cruise, and plenty of space along the handrails to look out to sea when the opportunity came to sight whales.

We started boarding at 9.15 am for a 9.30 am departure. Boarding was easy and the crew welcomed everyone as they stepped aboard. The captain introduced himself and two other crew members. Some features of the boat were pointed out and the required safety talk given on how to fit a 'Life Jacket' if required. The captain did say that he had no intention of getting his 'undies' wet on this day but they had to comply with regulatory requirements. Time to set sail. "Let go forward, let go aft", some throttle applied to the motors and we moved gently away from the wharf. It didn't take long and we were heading out into Jervis Bay. Over the intercom the captain described points of interest and the two other crew members wandered amongst the passengers to make sure everyone was safe and comfortable. Jervis Bay is a large body of protected water and it didn't take long before the boat was encircled by a large pod of resident dolphins. They came very close to the boat and it was great to see them frolic and play in their natural environment. At one point there were several of them surfing in the bow wave of the boat.

While this was all very lovely, we had come to see whales. Continuing out further into the bay we could see lots of small

boats, some fishing and others doing as we were; looking for whales. The captain was very positive about our chances of seeing a number of whales because so many had been sighted over the past week. And then over the intercom the words we had all been waiting to hear, "there she blows".



A fine spray of mist rises into the sky as a whale surfaced and 'blew' followed by a tail wave. This was just the beginning, over a period of about an hour the boat moved slowly, stopped and wallowed in the swell as numerous whales swam past. What appeared to be two quite large whales swam very close to the boat, even the captain commented on their size. This was pretty special with no one being left disappointed.

As a bonus views of the cliff face at Point Perpendicular, where some abseiling gents watched us from up high, were spectacular as well as the view, from the waterside, up and down the coastline.

Returning to the wharf in Huskisson we passed another pod of dolphins playing and feeding as we just enjoyed the calm water and great views. The water had generally been quite calm which was great for a few of us, as we thought 'sea sickness' may have been a real problem. We were prepared though as Senia had brought along ginger tablets for those who may need them. I took some and whilst they didn't taste to good, they certainly seemed to do the trick.



Our return to Huskisson meant it was time for lunch. A thank you to the boat crew for a great time followed by a short walk got us to Club Jervis Bay, our lunch destination. You don't go on an MX-5 run without eating at some point. Lunch was good as we continued Jeff Rowewith our laughter and chat. As a bonus we were joined by Rose from the South Coast Chapter.

With the shadows getting longer we, each said our goodbyes and left for home. As a foot note, 157 whales had been seen in the bay for the week until yesterday afternoon. This turned out to be another great MX-5 event enjoyed with some lovely people.



# Menangle Memories

RPM - 30th May 2023  
Report : CW - Photo : JM



Settlers at Mulgoa is always a great place to start a southern run. Bathed in history and blessed with great coffee and food it's sometimes hard to finally make a move.

New members John and Helen Walsh fitted right into our group of 10. Even the banter between Graham, Ron and Gary couldn't put them off. Showing off their "as new" NB series 2, John Molden has finally met a challenger to his concourse winner.

John and Francis headed us up and led us south through historic Wallacia and onto Greendale Road. Then over the old Northern Road now known as Wentworth Road past the old Bringelly shops and onto the new Northern Road. There are many other ways to Menangle, but you can only hit so many potholes in a day and stay sane.

Heading west on Cobbitty Road took us down through many old towns and villages that will soon be subject to development hopefully not a sea of grey roofs. Over Razorback and down into Picton reminded me of the many traffic jams I suffered when that was the main (only) road south.

Left at Picton and Down Menangle Road, past some huge homes, we crossed the Nepean River to see some of the recent flood damage.

Reaching the Menangle Country Club just as it opened, we settled in for an afternoon of food and fun.

Thanks to John and Francis for another fun time.

# The MX-5 Way to Scone

RPM - 3rd June 2023  
Report : Grant B - Photo : Chris W



Seven cars left Kurrajong village at 8.30, the weather was just perfect for the tops down. We travelled along Commeroy Road through to the Putty. A reasonable run up the Putty bar a slow Landrover who eventually pulled over. We stopped at the grey gums for coffee and comfort stop. Proceeded on our way with another short stop at Bulga as we waited for other cars to catch up after one had to pull up with seat belt issues. Once we were all together again and we let the Mustang Club go off, we then proceeded to Denman for a hearty lunch at the Denman Hotel. Time for a walk around the shops before off again to Scone via Merriwa. We travelled the flowing Scone Road, getting into Scone around 3.30. We booked into Airlee House motel and then true to RPM tradition we had pre dinner drinks and snacks. Scone RSL for dinner with a choice of Australian, Chinese or pizzas and with the footy on the big screen. An enjoyable evening had by all.

Breakfast was to everybody's own and then we meet at the Hunter Warbirds Museum for a look at the great aircraft on display. The museum is only 18 months old and they are going to be building another hanger shortly to house more planes. A couple of the ladies opted for a walk around the local markets instead. Around 11:00 we headed off via the Gundy Rd, passing Glenbawn Dam and the horse studs arriving in Aberdeen, then travelling onto Muswellbrook for our lunch at the Hunter Belle Cheese Café, where once again great food and conversation was to be had. Lunch was done and people headed in different directions home or were staying on in the Hunter. Some 600 kms covered, on for the most part good flowing roads that were made for MX-5s.



# Club Hillclimb at Ringwood

Motorsport - 4th June 2023 - Report : David Lawler - Photos : Rob Wilkins



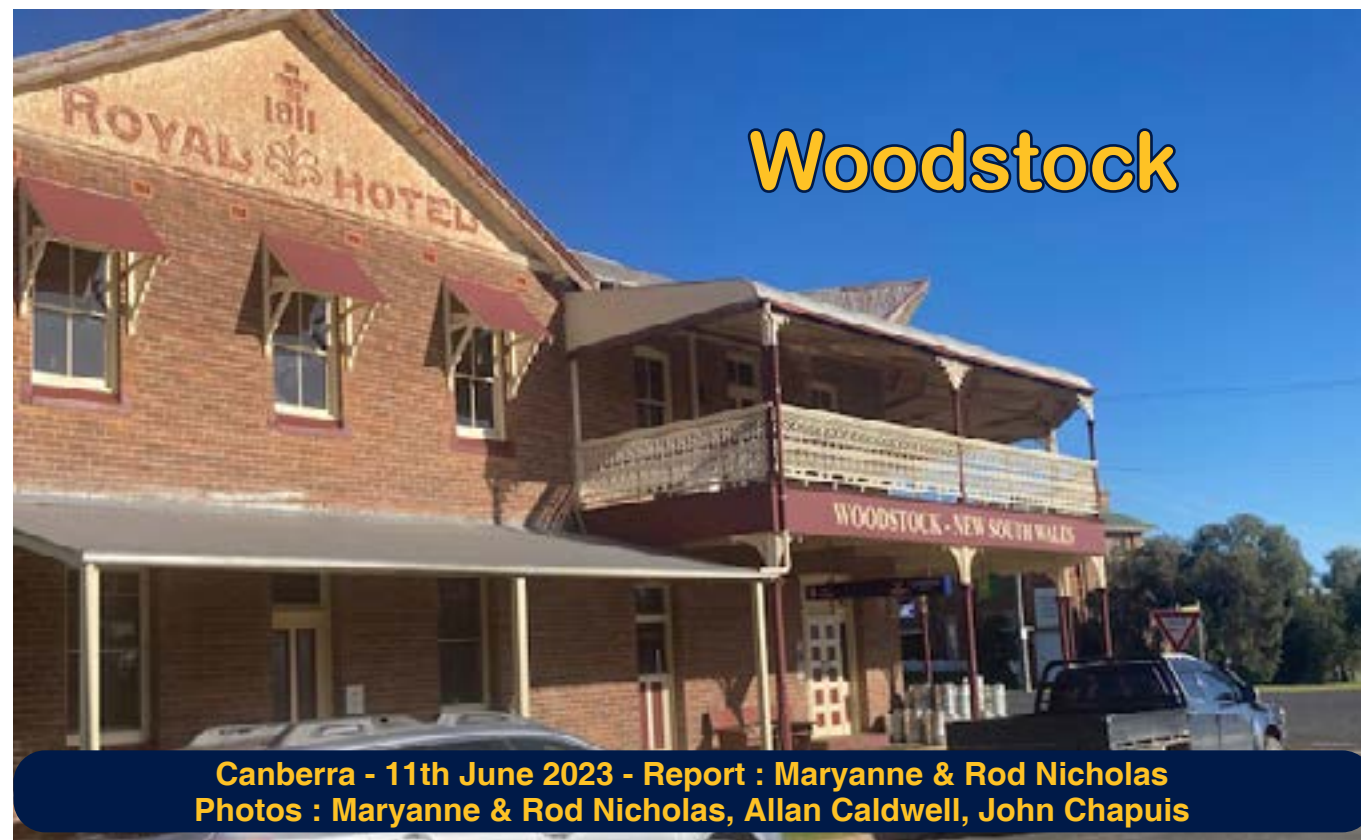
The club's 2023 hillclimb was run at Ringwood Park Motorsport Complex north of Newcastle.

There were 33 drivers entered in the event. They were challenged with two different layouts of the hillclimb course.

Plenty of runs were available for all competitors. Apparently one driver clocked up 16 runs on the 2nd of the offered courses!







**Canberra - 11th June 2023 - Report : Maryanne & Rod Nicholas**  
**Photos : Maryanne & Rod Nicholas, Allan Caldwell, John Chapuis**

Sunday. The middle of a long weekend. Sunny and dry. A crisp -3.5° ('feels like' -5.7). What more is needed for a good drive?

We headed to the meet point nice and early, even with a fuel stop, as good run leaders do. And yet there were already three cars waiting – I swear our members must have their clocks set to a different time zone. Soon enough we had everyone assembled and with the briefing done we headed off for a day of peace, love and MX-5s.

Several of our runs take a break at Boorowa for coffee, cake, and comfort. This time, rather than take the usual trip up the Lachlan Valley or Burley Griffin Ways, I was pleased to take the run on a path that no one else in the group had covered. I'd been given a 'heads up' by Peter Wilson about this 'new' way of getting to Boorowa that was fast becoming a favourite for his motorcycle riding group. We travelled to Yass, past the never-ending roadworks and through the town on the main street (once the Hume Highway) to North Yass, unknown territory for some. We zoomed (rather reservedly) along Cooks Hill and Dalton Roads to Rye Park, chucked a leftie along Rye Park Road and straight on to Boorowa for refreshments.



I'd done a recce only a few days earlier and the road was an untested beauty; a narrow country lane with a few good twists and a few good straights, and decently quiet. Pretty, too, in an Aussie bush style. Unfortunately, during the run we saw little of the scenery. A heavy fog blanketed the area only a few minutes out of Yass and continued (with variations in opacity) for much of this leg of the journey. Never mind, I assured those on the run when we stopped in Boorowa, we will definitely be driving this track again.



Our next leg was from Boorowa to Wyangala Dam, where I planned to stop for a peek and a few photos. We've been up to the dam a few times now, and it is a delight to see if nearly full to the brim for a change. It's currently at 95% capacity – the first time we visited it was a sad 12%. I had intended to stop at the southern end but cleverly missed the turnoff (as was pointed out to me by a cheeky couple of members who had actually loaded up the map I'd prepared). Not to worry, I just moseyed on to our 'usual' stop as if it was my intention all along. The roads from Boorowa through Frogmore to Wyangala had been recently repaired, although the roadworks were not quite complete, and there were a few uneven bits and potholes. I did a reasonable job negotiating them and as best as I could tell, so did the mob following me.



Snaps taken, we pointed our fun machines north and hit the Reg Hailstone Way for a 30-minute drive into Woodstock (Reginald Hailstone – Reggie to his mates – was a prominent member of the Mount McDonald community, who championed the Lachlan Valley in which we were travelling, and was instrumental in getting the government to form the Wyangala National Park Trust, much to the benefit of the community and NSW as a whole).

Reg's namesake road is a delightful drive up the escarpment and along the ridge – narrow and quite twisty, albeit a little 'scary' given the absence of guard rails and the presence of a steep drop off into the valley below. Given the frequent sharp blind corners, we were taking care to keep a good corner line and stick to our lane.



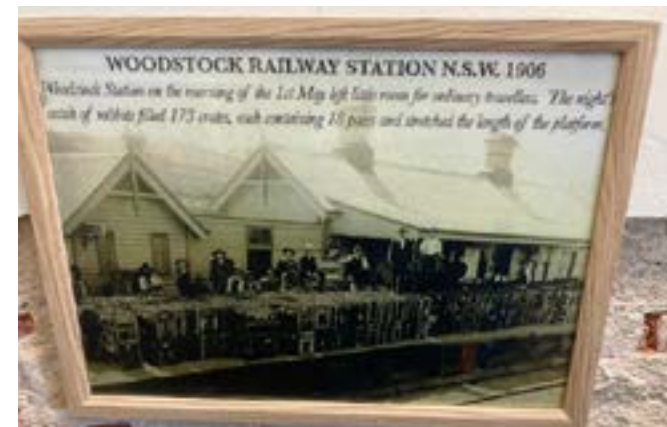
Out front, I rounded a bend and ducked for cover (figuratively speaking) as a pair of large 4WDs (of the type heavily adorned with spotlights, dog cages and mud) ploughed through towards us. Hearing some radio chatter, which I assumed\* had come from our lot, I remarked to the few in my group with radios something about 'some blokes think they own the road'. How was I to know the 4WDs were also on 'our' channel? The spray was immediate. There were lots of comments about our f@#%ing pi@#y little cars. Lots of instructions about matters that were anatomically impossible. Lots of **very** nasty name calling. It went on for quite a while, way beyond what I had thought was a reasonable range for our radios. Lots of radio silence from our end.

There's a lesson in that, I thought, as I led our group to our lunch venue. I was thankful that most had no knowledge about how little love there was for us (at least, among the drivers of the two 4WDs) and how nervous I was about whether they had turned around and were aiming to run over the top of us (they did not). The Woodstock Hotel bunch, on the other hand, were happy to see our group of 15, as we took over their dining room and sold them out of schnitties. It's not fine dining, nor was it



expected to be, but we can't fault the T-bone and the generous lamb cutlets. No one was complaining about tucker.

Our journey home was pleasantly uneventful. A short trip from Woodstock on the delightfully named Sheet of Bark Road to the Mid-western Highway in to (and through) Cowra and then straight down the Lachlan Valley Way to Boorowa and home to 'Berra.



We knocked up about 420 km, had a great drive on roads that were previously unexplored by many of the group, had a good feed at a great little country pub, and nobody got their lights punched out by non-believers. I call that a win.

As for the lessons learned:

1. 'our' radio channels are not private
2. radio chatter among run members, while encouraged, should be respectful of other road users (whether they deserve it or not), because
3. you never know who is listening, and
4. not everyone is a fan of the MX-5, and
5. those that aren't may have a stunted vocabulary but are happy to share it, and
6. road rage is real, with potentially nasty outcomes, so best avoided.

Peace and love, always.

\* Yes, you're right. Never assume. It makes an ass of u and me!





# The Faces of Motorsport



**Motorsport - Special Feature - Photos : Rob Wilkins, Kaixen Chen**

The MX-5 Club of NSW now has a history of over 25 years of motorsport. As I've prepared this issue of Club Torque, I realised that I tend to gravitate towards photos of the cars to go with each article. Our intrepid club photographer, Rob "Wilko" Wilkins, along with Kaixen Chen (now a fulltime photographer and videographer), have recently supplied some great shots of the people involved in our club motorsport. Regardless of them being officials, drivers, supporters, or even photographers, motorsport, like the rest of the club, does not happen without people. With gratitude to Rob and Kaixen, this is a pictorial tribute to some of the faces of motorsport.









# A Chariot of the Gods

South Coast member Mic Brooke recently took his MX-5 for some special treatment at club sponsor MX-5 Mania. He submitted this report.



'MXSOOM' is a 2005 MX-5 NC series 1 that MX-5 Mania has transformed into a virtual raging, red-hot stallion that has humbled V8 muscle cars on the winding roads of the far south coast.

My manual-transmission Miata was stock 'piss-weak' until MX-5 Mania provided me with a cost-effective performance upgrade and ECUTEK Racing Rom Tune that boosted horsepower by a rocket-ready 14%.

This classic roadster can now 'talk the torque' in lower gears before running amok in 6th gear against a range of chassis stiff V8s like the (Ford) 'pony'.



A Google search for more power led me to MX-5 Mania in Sydney which specialises in bringing tired MX-5s back to life with excellent Racing Beat systems designed to increase optimal performance and operational longevity.

MX-5 Mania guaranteed that the performance enhancements would keep my Miata essentially 'organic', although I was very tempted by their extensive range of turbo, supercharge and DOH 2.5 litre engine upgrades.

So, in one day I drove over 400km from my home on the

fabulous far south coast to MX-5 Mania's workshop where Dave and his mechanics needed only a day and a half to install:

- \* Magnaflow Cat-Back Exhaust System (NC 2005-2014);
- \* Racing Beat Cold Force Air Intake Kit (NC 2005-2014);
- \* Racing Beat Extractors / Headers with Oxygen Sensor Extension (NC 2005-2014)

and an Aluminium Catch Can Breather Tank, as well as gas-operated chrome bonnet struts and a new coolant tank.

Then came the ECUTEK Race ROM Tune which delivers far more power and torque, while sharpening up the throttle response like a professional race car. Yeah baby!

The enhancements and the tune increased 'MXS00Ms' horsepower by 14%, while the Magna Flow Cat back system which looks and sounds like a 1950s NASA jet-engine delivers fantastic bang for buck.

These enhancements combined with 'MXS00Ms' gravity defying ride and slide agility on Michelin PS4s has enabled me to outrun a V8 'pony' on winding and hilly coastal roads



where agility, turning and traction are crucial to a sports cars' reputation.

My Miata also looks magnificent because MX-5 Mania as a one-stop-shop installed an array of chrome fittings and 'teak' dashboard panels to make the interior as stylish as a vintage Jaguar or Aston Martin.

MX-5 Mania also transform old Miatas into track cars but that's something I would only explore with a second car and not my precious 'MXS00M' which Dave appears to have weaponized with the spirit of a samurai warrior.

# Bendooley at Berrima

South Coast - 14th June 2023 - Report : Rose Smith

Photos : Anne Zattera, Rose Smith



It was that time of year again and the Southcoast Chapter headed into the highlands for lunch at Bendooley Estate in Berrima.

Three cars, Geoff & Rose, Anne & Graeme and Paul, met up at Tomerong and were joined by two more cars, Sue & Martin, Jonnie & Tony, at the start of Nowra Road in Bomaderry.

We headed off towards Kangaroo Valley and just as the road got interesting came across a little old lady (LOL) in a red Mazda 2. She set a blistering pace, 20km/h in the bends and a reckless 30km/h in the straights.

By the time we all passed the LOL and navigated the continuous roadworks it was time for a coffee break at Kangaroo Valley in a lovely sandstone building which was the old English, Scottish and Australian Bank. Both the company and the coffee were



great. As we left the café who should tootle through the main street? You guessed it, LOL had caught up to us.

After looking for our cars in the wrong car park we managed to head off towards Bendooley enjoying the beautiful southern highlands along the way.

Lunch at Bendooley was excellent as always, as was a browse through the extensive collection in the book barn.

Sue and Martin had a better offer, so they left us at Bendooley Estate. The rest of us decided to take the scenic route home via Kangaloon Road, Robertson then Myra Vale Road to re-join the Nowra Road for the return journey back through Kangaroo Valley.

Another great day for the South Coast chapter!





# NSW Supersprint Round 3

Motorsport - 18th June 2023 - Report : David Lawler - Photos : Rob Wilkins



The MX-5 Club ran another successful NSW Supersprint round, as we have done for many years, but at the Pheasant Wood Circuit instead of the usual venue of Wakefield Park due to its hiatus.

It was a mostly clear but very cold day, with the temperature hitting a max of 10°C and strong winds contributing to the icy wind chill. I specifically want to thank the following club members who were flag marshals and/or scrutineers in the difficult conditions: Alex Shedden, Blake Roy, Bryan Shedden, Graham Tierney, Greg Unger, Ian Spinks, Lou Iezzi, Michael Tarrant, Phil Donnelly and Steve Fisher. We also had Joe



Kovacic and Gaynor Lawler managing the grid and Gerry Martin as the primary scrutineer. Thank you to all of you for making the event possible.

This was the first time a NSW Supersprint has been run at Pheasant Wood Circuit, and I want to congratulate everyone involved for making it a successful event, specially our regular admin Barry Luttrell.

Meanwhile on the track we had 7 club members driving, with most of them winning their class, and with Jie Ren also winning type RM.

Member Results			
Driver	Class	Time	Class Place
Jie Ren	RM4	56.634	1st
Luke Kovacic	RR3	57.904	1st
Ralph Thompson	2S3	57.944	1st
Sarah Medley	TA3	1:01.134	1st
Ken Hardy	RM2	1:01.331	1st
Edward Baker	2R3	1:06.878	3rd



# Not Quite Out Through Oberon

Breakfast Club - 18th June 2023 - Report & Photos : Jason Brown

On a cold Sunday morning we had originally planned to head out to Bathurst via Oberon, but as those who were available were not able to commit to such a long trip, we changed plans.

After meeting at the Crossroads Cranebook McDonalds, seven cars went for a short trip up Bells Line of Road and down Blaxland's Ridge Road, before a short stint on the Putty and down to the Sackville Ferry which had just pulled up allowing us to get straight on.

Once across we tackled the great River Road which is equal parts exhilarating and terrifying narrow in some spots. After a chat and a catch up in Wisemans Ferry we headed back up the hill to the Glenorie Bakery for Breakfast.

For quite a few of us this was a first visit to this place which was



packed with people but sorted us all out pretty quickly – great pies ! After a feed we all split up and went our separate ways home.





# Club Track Day Round 3

Motorsport - 19th June 2023 - Report : David Lawler - Photos : Rob Wilkins



As a part of our annual double-header weekend, the 3rd round of the club track day championship was run at Pheasant Wood Circuit on Monday 19th June.

The number of entered drivers was relatively small, and with a few last minute withdrawals we had 27 drivers on the day. As a result there were lots of laps on offer with Mal Smith clocking



up the most with 69 laps.

The day was incident free and finished slightly early. I reckon there were a few tired but happy drivers heading home.

The standout result was Jie Ren driving his MX-5 ND in the standard class with a benchmark result of 102.22%.



Class Winners			
Class	Driver	Time	Score
Standard	Jie Ren	60.067	102.22%
Clubman	Sean Byers	63.205	97.30%
Super Clubman	Gerardo Martin	61.887	99.05%
Modified	Rod Tippet	60.373	97.73%
Open	Ian Spinks	58.308	98.79%
Non MX-5	Ralph Thompson	57.841	



# Mollymook Fish'n'Chips

Canberra - 24th June 2023 - Report & Photos : Mike Lawless, Jo Blackburn



At about 8.30 am we begin to gather at the Cafe Woodworks in Bungendore. The cafe had set up a long table at the back for the 21 of us from the Canberra Chapter doing this run to Mollymook. We had good weather, and we were pleased that it was about 7 degrees and not the minus 7 we had had in Canberra during the week.

As well as several longer-term members, it was good to see that there were a number of new faces. We endeavoured to make them feel as welcome as possible.

As there was so many of us, we didn't drive in convoy, but we made our own way travelling in small groups. The Kings



Highway has had a lot of repair work done on it over the last year. There were still some rough patches, including just before the Shoalhaven River bridge, just before Braidwood, at Misty Mountain and Nelligen. Traffic was reasonable, however, and we were only held up by temporary traffic lights once.

The Princes Highway from Batemans Bay up to Mollymook was in good condition and there were no hold ups. We went



through Ulladulla, which seems always crowded these days, on to Mollymook and the Mollymook Golf Club. We enjoyed the warmer temperature on the coast. Some even went top down.

We met up with several members of the south coast chapter and our numbers were now about thirty. The club bistro accommodated us at a long table with a great view of the ocean. It does have a spectacular view. Fish and chips were popular though there was plenty choice on the menu. The food and company were great, and a pod of dolphins put on a show for us after lunch. After lunch we made our own way home.





# Araluen Lunch Run

South Coast - 28th June 2023 - Report : Anne Zattera - Photos : Rose Smith



Grey skies overhead, we depart the Heritage Bakery at Milton and head south towards Batemans Bay. Right turn onto Kings Highway. We send occasional messages via our CB radios updating on the current temperature. It's cold out there. Will we see snow? It's a possibility. It's bleak. It's grey. It's a wonderful day to be alive.

We head through Braidwood and then start our winding descent to Araluen. The scenery is dense with trees, the road is narrow and though it is sealed, there are the ubiquitous potholes. We have a commentary from the back seat, "do you always drive this far to lunch?"

We get to our destination, Araluen pub at the bottom of a pretty valley. A once thriving gold town. Current population 209. We get out of our cars and try and avoid the horse patties that dot the grassy car park. One of us manages to step in one. The pub is rustic and charming and historic in my eyes.

We enter the pub. The publican has a fire blazing. It's warm inside. A few locals are chatting at the bar. This is a country pub. The lifeblood of this tiny community. We are greeted warmly.

Introductions are made. A warm welcome to Jeff Rowe from Illawarra and Teresa from Sydney. We start to talk like old friends. Teresa can see into the rustic kitchen. She is surprised



there is only one lady cooking all our meals and is impressed at how clean and organized the kitchen is. Our meals arrive, hearty pub food. The mashed potato is perfect. Steaks well cooked.

Time flies by as we talk and eat. It is soon time to head back to our cars. Another great day out with good friends. Grey skies and cold weather made for a perfect day by a warm fire.



# Hampton Halfway House

RPM - 4th July 2023 - Report : Uncredited - Photos : Rob Wilkins

A long time ago we were taught by Lesa Bunn, our then convenor, that it never rains on an RPM run. It may drizzle and it may pour but it never rains. (There was a song about Southern California saying something like that)

Raining it was on the 4th of July as we gathered at Richmond Tourist Information Centre for our heart starter, photo session, and catch-up before the run. As eleven of us moved back to our cars it had eased back to drizzle and stayed there for the remainder of the run. RPM does it again.

Winding our way through Richmond and up Bells Line traffic was very slow, not helped by most of the overtaking lanes being closed for road works. The other frustrating thing was the large number of roadworks speed limit signs with no evidence of any work being done. That gave us plenty of time to partake in some healthy sledging over the radios.



Broken into three groups, we all arrived at Old Hartley within minutes to meet up with five more members from the upper mountains. What a great turnup for a Tuesday. Even the drizzle had eased up enough for us to catch up with recently returned cruisers and learn about the Pacific islands and the rivers of Europe. Stomachs were starting to rumble so we returned to



our cars for the last few k's to the Hampton Halfway House. This place has become a popular destination due to the great views complimented by hearty and good value food off a suitably sized and varied menu.

Gathering around the large fire we all sat around to talk about anything and everything including that the fire was a very convincing electric blower heater, but at least we kept each



other warm with hot conversation. Rob Wilko had a "moment" when his chair slowly collapsed beneath him and everyone jumped to help him with no damage done.

Keep up the great work Jacqui, Ron, and Garry, we look forward to many more.





# MX-5 Cup Round 2

Motorsport - 15th July 2023 - Report : Paul Nudd

The Sydney 300 was at Sydney Motorsport Park in the evening of 15th July 2023. Earlier in the day as part of the MRA program was Round 2 of the 2023 MX-5 Cup.

Consisting of a qualifying session and 2 races Round 2 had a good turnout including 2 entries from drivers from Queensland. Initially 21 entries, dropping to 20 a few days before then down to 19 on the day.

## Overall placings

First place on the day went to 2021 champion Tim Herring with 23 points from wins in races 1 and 3 and second in race 2, both outright and in the Forced Induction Open Class. Second place on the day went to Craig Barney also with 23 points from a second and 2 wins in Class B. Third place on the day went to Stuart McFadyen with 22 points from 2 wins and a third in the Naturally Aspirated Open Class Jacob Giovenco also scored 22 points from 2 second places and a win in the Naturally Aspirated Open Class. The tie was broken in Stuart's favour as he scored more class wins.

## Class Results

### Forced Induction Open Class

6 Turbo Cars made up the class which was dominated by Tim Herring with 2 wins and a second place in class. Rob Krietch was next best with a 5th a 3rd and a 4th in class. Richard Herring was heading for a good result with a second in class in race 1 and a class win in race 2 but sadly scored a DNF in race 3 to finish 3rd in class. 4th in class was Brett Lansley with a 5th and two 4ths in class. Jett Herring started well with a 3rd outright and in class in race 1 and finished even better

with a 2nd outright and in class in Race 3 but a DNS in race 2 relegated him to 5th in class. John Fraser rounded out the class with a 6th in race 1 then DNFs in races 2 and 3.

### Naturally Aspirated Open Class

4 Naturally Aspirated Cars were quick enough to qualify for the Open Class and the best result went to Stuart McFadyen with 2 class wins and a third in class in race 3. Next best was Jacob Giovenco with 2 second places and a class win in race 3. Third in class was Robbie Giovenco with 2 thirds and a second in class. The rapidly improving Kiara Zabetakis made it into the open NA class and scored three 4th places in class.

### Class A

James Hay, from Qld, won Class A with a third, a second and a first in class. Just 1 point behind was Rob Herrick with a second, a third and another second in class. David Johnson started well with 2 class wins but sadly did not finish race 3 and dropped to third in class.

### Class B

Aisa Sukarieh is new to racing and became the only entry to qualify for Class C. The rules specify that a single entry to a class is 'moved up' to the next class. So Aisa joined class B. Craig Barney won the class with a second and 2 wins. John Connolly was second in class with a 4th, a 3rd and a 2nd in class. Third in class B was our other Qld visitor, Richard Barram with a win, a second and a DNF. Aisa Sukarieh was 4th in Class B with two 5ths and a 3rd. Paul Nudd was 5th in class B with a 3rd a 4th and a DNF (broken gearbox). Lou Iezzi qualified for class B but did not start in any of the races.

# New Online Shop for Club Regalia

The simple and efficient way to purchase your club regalia

So you have bought the car, joined the Club, gone on the runs as well as the great weekend trips away and attended Club events, now it's time to wear the great Club merchandise.

The range features a variety of clothing items with the MX-5 Club of NSW logo. We also have number plate covers.

We now have a fancy new way to order your Club Regalia. Orders can be placed quickly and easily using an online form with payment via credit card. Please note that a flat fee of \$11 is charged for delivery to your mailing address.

Orders will now be placed with our supplier once per month. Limited stock of some items are available for immediate delivery. Online shops

for Chapter Regalia are coming soon.

See more at:

<https://nsw.mx5.com.au/club-zone/regalia>

## Website Ordering Example

Motorsport 25th Anniversary Polo Long-sleeve



Premium pre-shrunk long-sleeve polo shirt.

Regular fit, 100% cotton, 200 GSM, UPF 50+

Screen-printed with the club logo on front-left and large 25th Anniversary logo on the rear.

Option: S (52cm chest)

Add Close

# 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Sydney - 15th July 2023 - Report : Senia Gaunson Photos : Various



The Sydney Chapter was officially launched on the 4th of September 2013 at the Waverton bowling Club, headed by Guy Coles. From there thousands of fun runs evolved, including some that have prevailed since those early days, like the Bottom of the Harbour Fish and Chips nights at Balmoral and Southern Sydney Social Dinners.



Bryan and Ann Hicks, together with Andy and Vicki Bottomley decided a Christmas in July was a great time to celebrate 10 years of Sydney Chapter, so off we trekked to the Grand View Hotel at Wentworth Falls for our adventure celebrating Sydney Chapter's 10th Anniversary.



Bryan and Andy, retiring as Convenors after 5 and 6 years respectively, introduced Maree and Steve Eccleston who will be taking over from them as Sydney Convenors at the

end of the year. We're not sure whether Bryan's threat to lock the doors until a Convenor was found, influenced Steve and Maree, who are long time members, and really nice people,



but we look forward to some fun runs ahead with them, and I'm sure they'll be helped by other keen Sydney members.

A few of us lingered into the afternoon, evening and overnight and were joined by Graham and Gillian Fletcher the next day for a ride on the Zig Zag railway. Zig Zag was closed for over 10 years due to fire and flood damage, restored to its' former



glory by volunteers. We couldn't by-pass the Three Sisters at Echo Point, a marvel of nature. And yes, the mountains did look blue Brendan!

What a fun and varied weekend, culminating in a drive home along Bells Line of Road and the best apple pie and cream I've ever tasted in a little cafe in Bilpin.

It was a fabulous mix of members from Sydney, RPM and Illawarra Chapters, all coming together to celebrate Sydney's 10 years. Looking forward to the next 10!





# Club Track Day Round 4

Motorsport - 16th July 2023 - Report : David Lawler - Photos : Rob Wilkins



The 4th round of the club track day championship saw 54 drivers compete in 5 run groups on the very technical SMSP South/Amaroo Circuit. There was plenty of track time on offer with up to 7 runs and 49 laps available.

Fastest on the day was Ralph Thompson in his Lotus Exige followed by David Lawler and Ian Spinks in MX-5s. The standout result came from Jie Ren, yet again, with a score of 101.08% beating the class 1K benchmark by almost 0.7s. That



was a great result given the track was generally seen as "slow" on the day. No other class benchmark times were broken.

A special thanks to all the officials who made running the event possible, especially those who assisted as flag marshals. Unfortunately, we did not have as many helpers as we would have liked and as a result the flag marshals did sterling service at their flag points all day, and in 2 cases working their flag point solo. Thanks very much.



Class Winners			
Class	Driver	Time	Score
Standard	Jie Ren	63.909	101.08%
Clubman	Sean Byers	68.194	95.32%
Super Clubman	Gerardo Martin	66.763	97.81%
Modified	Ken Hardy	63.671	97.85%
Open	David Lawler	62.230	96.58%
Non MX-5	Ralph Thompson	61.649	82.20%



## Bodalla Pub Run



South Coast - 18th July 2023 - Report : Brian Clayton  
Photos : Anda Clayton, Kim Mackechnie, Christine Ciccaldo, Rick Carroll

With the sun up and not too early, conditions were right for tops down on our little car. Arriving early at the appointed start location we find Rick and Christine already waiting, shortly joined by Fred and Kim.

The trip south was marked by road works, especially on the coast road south of Batemans Bay but our pace was sedate in

any case, paced to enjoy the views along the coast. Turning off through Mossy Point we were soon at our coffee stop, Killibinbin Café at Broulee where we met our motor sport chapter member, Mal Smith, for our morning break. Enjoying delicious home-made honey cakes and more convivial chat it was soon time to journey on to Bodalla for lunch. Being Tuesday the Pub was busy but not crowded and, after being shown to our table we ordered drinks and meals.

The food at Bodalla Pub is home cooked and excellent and we enjoyed dishes ranging from Nachos to a seafood basket. After lunch came the mandatory visit to the Bodalla Creamery to sample and buy their excellent cheeses.

With fine weather and excellent company, we had another great day out with our MX5s.





# A Very Merry Christmas in July Dinner at Montrose House

Canberra - 22nd July February 2023 - Report : James & Giulia Schiemer



On a frosty but sunny winters morning, nine MX-5s and a couple of guests in a lone VW Golf R appeared in the car park of the Little Sutton Bakehouse. Strangely, one MX-5 immediately turned around and left! Was it too cold? No, a forgotten wallet required a dash to the other side of Canberra - there and back in an hour!

After coffees and breakfast, we hit the road, aiming for Binda, about 110ks away. We temporarily lost another car at Crookwell, subject to an urgent need to buy some woolly socks! The Binda toilet block proved popular, and the sock people made it before we left. Next stop was lunch at Millthorpe, but not before some fascinating scenery was observed and some great MX-5 roads were traversed, via Tuena, Trunkey Creek, Hobby's Yards, Barry, and Blayney.

Lunch was at the Millthorpe Motel, and MX-5ers were warned to eat light in preparation for Christmas dinner. Most got the message, although one person ate his meal, finished off another's pizza and then attacked a bowl of chips! You shall remain nameless! Shopping followed in the quaint stores of Millthorpe.

Then it was onward to our overnight destination at Canowindra through Blayney, Carcoar, and Mandurama. After checking in at the Riverview Motel, Santa Claus (yes, the real one) and the ever delightful Mrs Claus materialised in the car park and proceeded to lead us elves down to Montrose House for a night of eating and drinking with the delightful Tommy and the lovely Denise.

We started with canapés in the Kennedy Room, which transported us to Washington, USA, and then proceeded to the Downton Abbey Room for a delightful three-course Christmas feast.

Morning found us with a thick frost layer to scrape off our cars, and the disappointing realisation that our breakfast plans had gone awry; the booked cafe had decided not to open! We converged instead on Perennial Cafe and Emporium and

breakfasted to our hearts content.

Our plans to head for Grenfell were sent into disarray when the run was hijacked by our resident historian, bushranger descendent and sock buyer, Mike Lawless, who garnered support for a side trip to Eugowra to see how the flood recovery was proceeding and to gaze upon the mural of his predecessor, the horse holder for Ben Hall the bushranger. Nangar Road, the only viable way into Eugowra, was showing plenty of evidence of the impact of the recent floods. Our drivers needed to be on the alert and travel was somewhat slower than it might have otherwise been. On a serious note, the town had looked after us brilliantly on a previous visit in 2022 before the floods, and it was saddening to see the over 2 metre flood heights of November 2022 marked on walls of all the buildings in the main street. But the town is bouncing back and we'll visit again next year; it's a great place and they appreciate our support. It is wonderful to see how far they have come in rebuilding their town..

So, after the hijack, we headed for Grenfell (via Goolagong) and lunch at the Cri (the Criterion Hotel). Lunch was ready for us at the Cri, with the promise of silo mural viewing afterwards. Full of pub tucker, we wandered along the streets of Grenfell and checked out the shops, with some of the boys visiting the local Chrysler museum. After a round-up, we all made it to the silos for group photos. BTW, the artwork on these is amazing!



Young was next in our sights, and a pleasant drive saw us arrive at the Federation, our motel for the night. Although dinner was 'own choice', we all seemed to end up across the road at Young Services Club.

A disorganised ramble next morning eventually saw us breakfasting at Hussy Specialty Coffee and Kitchen (which was both quick and very tasty), and then it was sadly time for goodbyes as we left Young to head homeward. A few of us stopped for coffee at the Yass Cafe before the final leg of our trip. Others took a different path to suss out some new roads for our crew to travel.

All up, a thoroughly enjoyed weekend and an eye-opener for our guests who've discovered the joys of being involved in our club.



## Yulefest on the Nepean Paddlewheeler

Illawarra - 29th July 2023 - Report : Wes Hill - Photos : Rob Wilkins

A beautiful winter's day dawned as we gathered at the truck stop on the Picton Road, all full of anticipation for a great run and Yulefest Lunch whilst cruising the Nepean River. It was tops down despite the early morning freshness as we travelled along country roads admiring all the palatial acreage houses, farmlands and animals.

We were fortunate not to encounter roadworks and potholes that were in evidence when Lena & Wes did the recce. As a result,



we arrived at The Bunker in Mulgoa for morning tea a little earlier than planned - just as well as the service was a bit on the slow side. After some much-needed sustenance there was still time for

the ladies (and some of the men with nothing better to do) to visit a local clothing boutique called La Petite Maison (The Small Shop) with Fiona Shedden finding a top by a favourite designer at a fraction of the normal cost!

We were soon on the road again for the short trip down the road to the Ferry Wharf where the Nepean Belle awaited our arrival. Meeting us there were a few folk who travelled directly to our departure point. It was a short downhill walk to the boat which was resplendent with Christmas decorations. We were



welcomed onboard by the captain and after some important announcements like welcoming the 'Car Club' some birthday celebrations, and some important safety information like where the life jackets were kept! Fortunately, it was a calm day for cruising and we didn't need to worry about life jackets, etc.

Soon after casting-off we were served our main course - ham, chicken (with stuffing), cream potatoes, sweetcorn, carrots and peas together with lavish serving of gravy. Magically all the noise dissipated as we all indulged in the faire before us whilst looking at the scenery on the banks of the river as we cruised upriver towards the Blue Mountains.



Between courses there was ample opportunity to move around and chat to everyone and to visit the Captain upstairs - and even to take the wheel. At one stage we were piloted by Jeff Rowewho was not sure where SatNav was? Upstairs provided a good vantage point to appreciate the peaceful scenery as we slowly made our way upstream. Desert soon followed comprising sticky date pudding and pavlova - yum! Again, a peaceful silence descended upon the dining area as we all tucked into desert.

All too soon our cruise came to an end arriving back at the wharf. Time for a group photo before departing for home with thanks to Lena & Wes for organising an enjoyable event.





# Lunch at Shoalhaven Heads Pub

South Coast - 29th July 2023

Report : Rose Smith

Photos : Anda Clayton, Rose Smith, Kim Mackechmiw



The weather was perfect for today's run. It felt more like spring rather than mid-winter. Fifteen members and eight cars had an early start, meeting at Earnest Arthur's in Nowra for coffee number one. After catching up with members we only see on weekend runs (some of us are young enough to still work) and two Canberra members, we set off on today's driving journey. After crossing the Nowra Bridge, Kerry Warner led the group through Back Forest and Far Meadow. Most of us had never driven these roads before, actually, we didn't know they existed. The roads were narrow and windy, but despite a couple of potholes, were mostly in good condition. The weekend cyclists were more dangerous!! This is a route we will definitely explore again on a future run.



The drive continued up Berry Mountain and through Kangaroo Valley where a very courteous caravan driver pulled off the road to let the MX5 convoy pass. He got the 'thumbs up' from everyone. Morning tea at Moonacre's Kitchen in Robertson saw everyone fill their tanks with some very yummy cakes and pastries.

We were all looking forward to the next section of the trip down Jamberoo Mountain which only reopened last week

after landslides caused by the torrential rain last year. Despite speed restrictions being in place, as they are still completing stabilising works in some sections, it was exciting to be back on this road.



Saddleback Mountain was our next challenge. It's easy to find dead ends on this road and Kerry led a few unsuspecting followers down a couple of these roads. They got to enjoy some beautiful scenery while the rest of us waited for their return. After a successful navigation over the mountain, we continued through Kiama and Gerringong to arrive at our final destination at Shoalhaven Heads Pub for lunch.

Today's run was a great MX5 run. Almost the entire journey was on scenic, back country roads, and despite being a weekend, there was very little traffic. Thanks, Kerry, for organising this run for our Club members.



## NA Versus NC

Article & Photos : Bryan Hicks

We all know our cars well, some of us are aware of the great things our own model displays, but how much do we know about the models we don't own?

Some of us have had multiple examples of these great cars but not many have owned all four models and know the good and bad. I have an NA and have had 2 NC's of various ages. Both are great cars in their own right but have different strengths and weaknesses. Here is a bit of my interpretation of what I like and dislike about both cars.

### NA

This is an awesome car to drive. From a tall person's position, I love the seat height and was astounded that a 6' 3" person could be so comfortable in such a small car. It seems so strange that you so often see big people in small cars and vertically challenged folk in these large four-wheel drives. My wife calls our Mazda 6 a ship.

The pop-up headlights are a delight and the handling unbeaten, but the power is not what you would expect from a sports car. Powerful enough but a turbo would definitely be an improvement. The steering is much lighter than the NC. I have taken the footrest out and now can straighten my left leg, awesome. This car does not have cup holders which is a real pain these days with take away coffee a must. I purchased a double cup holder in plastic, which I am trying to find a place to mount. I also built my own wind deflector and mounted it to the bar behind the seats. It is very effective.

I have had problems with the handbrake as most of you with NA's will know. It jams on when the car is parked for a week or so. The reason mine jammed was because the brake calliper piston corroded on the outside near the seal, so the piston would not retract after the handbrake was released.

New piston and seals did not sort it so I am replacing both callipers. They cost \$1500 each from Mazda (who don't have stock) or you can get them from MX-5 Mania for about \$250 each. I opted for the latter and got red ones.

The old girl has also sprung a leak in the main seal between the engine and gearbox, so that is getting done soon too. The old girl is now 27 but still strong with 250k on the clock.



### NC

She's a beauty in black and driving her is really different in so many ways. The gearbox is tight and awesome. Some of us with NC's complain that when cold, the gears are stiff going from first to second and apparently this is quite common. This car is much more sophisticated than the NA. You get all the bells and whistles that the NA doesn't have. I have added some mods for comfort, unlike most people who like to go faster. I can't go faster because of the speed limits, so I added a 7" touch screen which has blue tooth and Apple Carplay. I kept the Bose amp and speakers. I also lowered my seat with a very inexpensive bracket at the back of the seat runner which gives me another inch or so height. I also have seat height adjustment, which you don't get in the earlier models. Mine is a 2014 NC, so it also has the stronger crankshaft so it will redline at 7500 rpm.

Another addition I have added to my NC is the special chip which enables me to open and close the hard top when I am driving at less than 40km/hr. This can also be done whilst in gear. The other cool thing is that I don't have to hold the button down.



## 6 Hour Regularity Relay at Phillip Island

Motorsport - 29th & 30th July 2023 - Report : David Lawler - Photos : Not Supplied

The Victorian 6 Hour Regularity Relay was run last weekend at Phillip Island, with 28 teams entered and 2 of those teams, "Panorama Mountain Men" (PMM) and Just Regular Guys" (JRG), comprised of MX-5 Club of NSW members.

The PMM team were again successful at the 6 Hour, winning the event for the 3rd time, and bouncing back from a 2nd last year. This is also their 3rd win of a team regularity this

year. The JRG team had to be satisfied with 5th place after a "controversial" penalty sank their chances of a repeat of their win in 2022.

The win by PMM also means they take out the Motorsport Australia Victorian Regularity Relay Series win in 2023, based on results from the Sandown 360 and Victorian 6 Hour events.



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