

*club*

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

# TORQUE



MX-5 30th Anniversary  
We Celebrate the NA

President's Picnic | AGM | Motorsport

SPRING 2018  
Print Post Publication: I00006993

# Spring Cover Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our SPRING Club Torque Competition. To submit an entry for the Summer edition of Club Torque, email a single high resolution image as a jpeg file to Mel Keller - [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au). Please include your full name, membership number and contact number. When composing your image, remember the magazine is A4 size with portrait orientation.  
Deadline for entries is Thursday, 31 January, 2019.



**COSTA PASSALIS**



**SHARON CASSIDY**



**DAVID GAZZARD**



**CURRAN BRENNAN**  
PHOTO ALEK HOSKINS  
PHOTOGRAPHY



**BRYAN HICKS**



**JASON HARVEY**



# club TORQUE

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

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michael Soulos Patrick McBride  
Joe Kovacic Barry Matson  
Elaine Gazzard David Raghavan  
John Hansen Brigid Gallop  
Dianne Henderson Verne Johnson  
Jon Millard Ken Keeling Bryan Shedden  
Jill McDonnell George Miskovski  
Mark Garven Bob Judd Phil Mayo  
Jamie Martin David Smith Mel Keller

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

### ROB WILKINS

David Bourne Greg Unger  
Keith Monaghan Peter Hilkmann  
Patrick McBride Joe Kovacic  
Barry Matson Rod Nicholls  
David Gazzard Wayne Lang  
Richard Herring Curran Brennan  
Leona Blair Natalie Davies  
Graham Rochester Stewart Temesvary  
Bryan Shedden Greg Cox  
Costa Passalis Bryan Hicks Jason Harvey  
Sharon Cassidy Mel Keller

### ADVERTISING

LESA BUNN  
vicepres@mx5.com

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.  
PO Box 402, Beecroft NSW 2119

nsw.mx5.com.au

# INSIDE

## News

Membership Report	06
AGM	07
MX-5 News	10

## Events

President's Picnic	13
Hunter Tech Night	17
Across the Nullarbor	18
Apples With Apples	20
MX-5 30th Anniversary	22
Club Trackday 1	24
Berrima Sights	25
War and Peaceful	26
Club Trackday 2	27
Pub With No Beer Run	28
Outback Wanderings	29
Ye Olde Trading Post	30
Comboyne Run	30
MX-5 Cup	31
Motorsport Triple Header	32
- Driver Training	34
- Supersprint Round 6	36
- Club Trackday 3	37
Car Spa	38
Warbirds Down Under	39
Alfa 12 Hour	40
Mayfield Gardens	41
Hillclimb 3	42
Walcha Weekend	43





# President's Report

Keith Monaghan

## The Spring Awakening

What a time spring has been. There have been a number of events and quite a lot of runs.

One of the major events was the President's Picnic. This was huge with over 240 people attending and over 140 cars on display. There were number of events held on the day including concours, show and shine, race car class and best modified car. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the people who attended this great event. A special thank you goes out to the over 60 members who volunteered to help on the day and the ladies and gentlemen of the Ebenezer church who did such a great job in preparing the lunch.

The AGM was held on the 26th of October and was attended by over 50 members. At the meeting the new committee was approved. The only change to the committee is in the Vice President role. Glenn Thomas has retired from the committee after over 8 years of involvement which included a period as President. I would like to thank Glenn for his dedication and services to the club in these sometimes difficult roles. I would also like to welcome the return of Lesa Bunn to the committee. Lesa has volunteered to take on the role as Vice President and I know she will bring her many skills to the role.

On the night the tenure awards were presented, and I would like to congratulate all the recipients of the awards. The number of these awards handed out was very pleasing to see and shows that our Club is healthy and meeting the needs of our members.

Spring time this year has had quite a number of motorsport events.

We have had success in some with one of our teams winning the Winton 12 hour relay regularity event but we weren't able to make it 5 in a row for the New South Wales Super Sprint Championship coming in second to the ARDC team. Congratulations to all the members that competed in the various motorsport events and thank you to the large number of volunteers that make these motorsport events such a success.

By the time you read this the convenors conference will have been held. This conference will set out the calendar for all events next year. These events will be published on the event page of our website.

2019 is a major milestone year as it is the 30th anniversary of the release of the Mazda MX-5 at the Chicago Auto Show. To celebrate this, we will be holding a simultaneous event with all the other MX-5 clubs in Australia. This event will be a day or weekend get together to be held on the 10th of February 2019. This event will be held at Bathurst. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more information. Hope to see you there to make this event great celebration.

We have had a few chapter convenors retire and I would like to thank them for their work and support of the club. I would also like to thank the people who have offered to take on the roles as the new convenors.

This club is run by volunteers and I would like to thank everyone who has worked hard to make this club what it is and what it has to offers to its members. Well done to all.

This is a great time of year to enjoy your car so get out and drive topless and don't forget the sunscreen. Hope to see you on the road.

COMMITTEE 2019



**KEITH MONAGHAN**

PRESIDENT

president@mx5.com.au  
0418 976 279



**IAN COMBES**

COMPETITION SECRETARY

competition@mx5.com.au  
0433 159 726



**BRYAN HICKS**

SYDNEY CONVENOR

sydney@mx5.com.au  
0407 225 064



**PAM ROWE**

ILLAWARRA CONVENOR

illawarra@mx5.com.au  
0419 405 877



**WESLEY  
HILL**  
SECRETARY

secretary@mx5.com.au  
0422 035 893



**JULIE  
SANDO**  
TREASURER

treasurer@mx5.com.au  
0438 538 837



**LESA  
BUNN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

vicepres@mx5.com.au  
0423 276 152



**MICHAEL  
SOULOS**  
CLUB CAPTAIN

captain@mx5.com.au  
0413 113 399



**BRYAN  
SHEDDEN**  
MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

membership@mx5.com.au  
0422 340 010



**CHRISTINE  
CAMERON**  
REGALIA

regalia@mx5.com.au  
(02) 4931 9388



**MEL  
KELLER**  
PUBLICATIONS

publications@mx5.com.au  
0421 069 019



**KEN & MAGGIE  
LISTON**  
MEMBERSHIP

(02) 9872 1639



**PETER  
BATTISSON**  
BREAKFAST CLUB CONVENOR

breakfast@mx5.com.au  
0417 269 325



**BRIGID  
GALLOP**  
RPM CONVENOR

rpm@mx5.com.au  
0428 114 401



**GIULIA  
SCHIEMER**  
CANBERRA CONVENOR

canberra@mx5.com.au  
0428 777 231



**JAMES  
SCHIEMER**  
CANBERRA CONVENOR

canberra@mx5.com.au  
0428 777 231



**JEFF  
ROWE**  
ILLAWARRA CONVENOR

illawarra@mx5.com.au  
0419 405 877



**JENNY  
LUTTRELL**  
HUNTER CONVENOR

hunter@mx5.com.au  
0411 231 107



**BARRY  
LUTTRELL**  
HUNTER CONVENOR

hunter@mx5.com.au  
0411 231 107

**Ex-Officio  
Representatives**

Competition Event Secretary  
**Barry Luttrell** 0411 231 107  
eventsec@mx5.com.au

MX-5 Cup  
**Paul Nudd** 0412 990 038  
mx5cup@mx5.com.au

Club Historian  
**Elaine Caldwell**  
(02) 9451 1432

# MEMBERSHIP

AS AT 28 NOVEMBER 2018

**40**

**NEW  
MEMBERS**

## Sydney Welcomes

Christopher Amanatidis Artur Batmanishvili Rafael Berroa  
Marcio Bianchi Nerida Byerley Mike Duncan  
Lyndon Findlay Craig Franklin Kirsty Gaal Steven Gaal  
Dianne Garven Bachar Haj younes Zaher Haj younes  
Alex Herstigg William Hick Richard Jamie Chris Kirlappos  
John Klompenhouwer Steven Lem Oliver Manning  
Rodd McClintock Jeremy McCowage David McSweeney  
Pete Middleton Paul Morrice Alan Morris Jackie Murray  
Charlotte Nyein Su Anthony Ogle Robert Parker Alan Parr  
Andrey Rolih David Ross Karina Santolin Vijay Teyjas  
Jennifer Trognot Michael Willis Mark Wrigley  
Theresa Wrigley Kenny Yau

## Canberra Welcomes

Genevieve Hetherington  
Benjamin Chaplin

**02**

**NEW  
MEMBERS**

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

**1034**

## Illawarra Welcomes

Adrian Schellenberg Jane Sharman  
Robert Simms Robyn Simms  
John Svoronos Christine Sykes  
Chrissie Zaremba John Zaremba  
Ray Kapel

**09**

**NEW  
MEMBERS**

## Hunter Welcomes

Ari Allen Des Docherty  
Christopher Hooper  
Linda Janus Mark Janus Gail King  
Grahame King Brynn McManus  
Roger Moore Samantha Moore  
Alan Russell

**11**

**NEW  
MEMBERS**

A warm welcome to the MX-5 Club of NSW. New members are encouraged to contact their Chapter Convenor for local events and to visit our website: [nsw.mx5.com.au](http://nsw.mx5.com.au) for the full range of social, technical and sporting events.



# MX-5 Club of NSW AGM By The Numbers

# 291

social (256) and motorsport (35) events were held this year across NSW and the ACT. All of our events are organised and managed by volunteers.

The MX-5 Club of NSW AGM was held at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club on Friday 19 October and was attended by over 50 members.

# 2018

# 38

In 2018, the Club entered a record 9 teams and 38 drivers in the Easter 6 Hour regularity relay.

# 9

# 76%

of members participated in a Club event in the last year with motorsport having the most attendees on average.

# 234

people in 141 MX-5s attended the President's Picnic at Ebenezer (see page 12 for our full report). 51 competed in the

Show 'n' Shine, 13 vied for the inaugural Guy Coles Memorial Trophy for track cars and 9 cars were presented in both the Concours and Modified MX-5s.

Since the last AGM, we welcomed

# 228

new members

# 8

Thank you to outgoing Vice President Glenn Thomas. Glenn is retiring from the Committee after 8 years of service in various roles including President.

8 is also the number of Club trackdays help this year, 5 at Wakefield Park and 3 at SMSP South Circuit. Look for another 8 trackdays in the year to come.

# 90%

participation rate of Mid North Coast chapter members at Club events. Illawarra turned out 82%, 83% in the Hunter, 76% for RPM whilst Sydney and Canberra both recorded 73%.

Last year the Club had a participation rate of 76% with motorsport events having the most attendees on average. Our motorsport group celebrated 20 years of successful competition with a Club trackday at Wakefield Park. The event attracted 144 people including a record 93 competitors.

# 20

## YEARS

# MX-5 Club of NSW AGM By The Numbers

# 46

ND-RFs have now joined our Club MX-5 fleet. We are also home to 207 NAs and 274 NBs. The most popular model is the NC with 309 cars.

Congratulations to our Tenure Award recipients

- Stephen Carter
- Patsy Chivers
- Philip Stern

for attaining 20 years of continuous membership. This year, the Committee has initiated a free membership system to honour those members who attain 25 years of continuous membership.

# 20

## YEARS

# 10

## YEARS

Phil Abraham | Marcus Jeffery  
Helen Browning | Mike Kelsey  
Tommy Chui | Russ Maxwell  
Bob Collins | Roger Palfreyman  
Robyn Collins | Judy Palfreyman  
Steve Davis | Bill Rugg | Andrew Edgar | Will Rugg | Deen Hameed  
Col Stephenson | Gary Hobson  
Glenn Thomas | Doug Hughes  
Adam Walker | Tiffany Jeffery

Club members volunteered to organise, assist or officiate at an event during the last year. A further 97 members contributed articles and photos to Club Torque.

# 234

142 people participated in this year's Brass Monkey Run raising

# \$1,639.15

for our nominated charity CareFlight.

# 88

Members received their 5 Year Tenure Award Badges

•Chris Allanson •Joshua Fitzgerald •Kerry Allanson •Jonathan Fox •Leo Ascone •Elfie Gahan •Trevor Bown •Laurie Gallagher •Theresa Bown •Brigid Gallop •Stephen Brennan •Ronald Gallop •Curran Brennan •Garry Gibson •Rob Broadhead •Jan Gibson •Winton Brocklebank •Allan Gibson •John Brooks •Lindsay Green •Jason Brown •Andy Harris •Sean Byers •Russell Harris •Phil Bywaters •Tony Heathwood •Jodie Carty •Jennifer Heathwood •Dennis Chiswick •Chris Henwood •Jessica Chiswick •Richard Herring •Catherine Combes •Wesley Hill •Stewart Curtis •Lena Hill •Kelly Davies •Lindsay Hogden •Glenn Davies •Dianne Hogden •Phillip Donnelley •Warren Hotz •Michael Dunning •Tammie Hotz •Rhonda Evans •Christine Jeffery •Kerry Evans •Andrew Jeffery •Stephen Fisher •John Jentsch •David Johnson •Ian Nunn •Steph Katz •Rose Pope •Heather-May Koorey •Mark Puckeridge •Warren Lewington •Christopher Rhodes •Janet Long •Keiran Rodgers •Timothy Louie •Robert Scrymgour •Doris Louie •Alex Shedden •Gordon Mackenzie •Frances Sims •Jocelyn Mackenzie •Philip Soo •Mark Mansell •Mark Stenberg •Diann Miller •Kingsley Stewart •Con Mitsos •Dan Szwaj •Derek Mock •Sheila Montgomery •Robert Viner •Rob Mumford •Alan Vuong •Mary Mumford •Peter Wheeldon •Robert Mussett •Mark Wilson •Marsha Mussett •Donelle Wilton-Smith •Ray Noonan •Christopher Wilton-Smith

# 15

## YEARS

Year Tenure badges were awarded to Marilyn Bridgement, Tom Wilde, Keith Bridgement, Barbara Leyton-Grant and Ian Leyton-Grant.



2018

## President's Award

Christine  
Cameron



The President's Award is given to a member who has gone above and beyond the normal interaction with the Club. The member who receives this award has given exemplary service to the Club over the last 12 months.

I was very pleased to present Christine Cameron with the 2018 Presidents award at this year's AGM.

This award, given to Christine, was not only for her work in her position of Regalia Officer but is also in recognition the extra work she did in helping the Club outside of her committee role. The major task she worked on called on a fair amount of her skill and personal time and was a great benefit to the club. In her general interaction with the Club, Christine is one of the most active members of the Hunter chapter.

For me this was not a difficult choice. Christine epitomises what is needed to achieve the President's award. Well done Christine.

Keith Monaghan

President

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW

”

I love my MX5 and the fantastic group of people who share the same joy and enthusiasm and love of fellowship. Thank you to the President for this award. I'm very humbled as so many people in the club give so much of their time and energy to make it so successful.

**Christine Cameron**

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



**BLUE MOUNTAINS MAZDA**



**mazda**

T. 02 4788 1018

42 Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath

Open seven days

DL13607

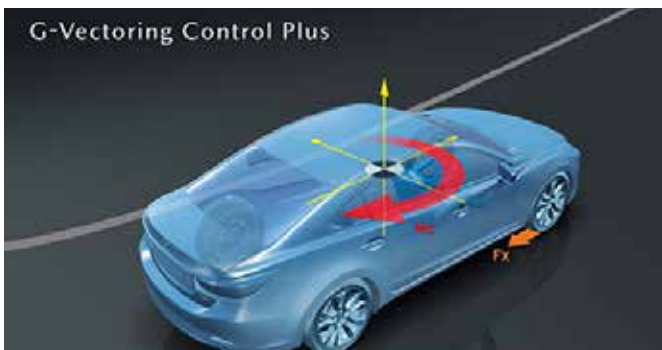
## DRIVE COTY AWARDS 2018

*The MX-5 GT has been named Best Convertible in the 2018 Drive Car of the Year awards. Says Drive Editor in Chief, Andrew Maclean; "The Mazda MX-5 is a genuine automotive icon and it just keeps getting better."*

### G-Vectoring Control Plus

HIROSHIMA, Japan—Mazda Motor Corporation has developed G-Vectoring Control Plus, the second new-generation vehicle dynamics control technology in the SKYACTIV-Vehicle Dynamics series. GVC Plus will be rolled out to all Mazda models.

The original G-Vectoring Control, the first technology in the SKYACTIV-Vehicle Dynamics series, was the world's first control system to vary engine torque in response to steering inputs in order to provide integrated control of lateral and longitudinal acceleration forces and optimize the vertical load on each wheel for smooth and efficient vehicle motion. GVC Plus uses the brakes to add direct yaw moment control for further enhanced handling stability. As the driver steers out of a corner by returning the steering wheel to the center position, GVC Plus applies a light braking force to the outer wheels, providing a stabilizing moment that helps restore the vehicle to straight line running. The system realizes consistently smooth transitions between yaw, roll and pitch even under high cornering forces, improving the vehicle's ability to accurately track sudden steering inputs and crisply exit corners. In addition to improving handling in emergency collision avoidance maneuvers, GVC Plus offers a reassuring feeling of control when changing lanes on the highway and when driving on slippery road surfaces.



### School Zone Rules

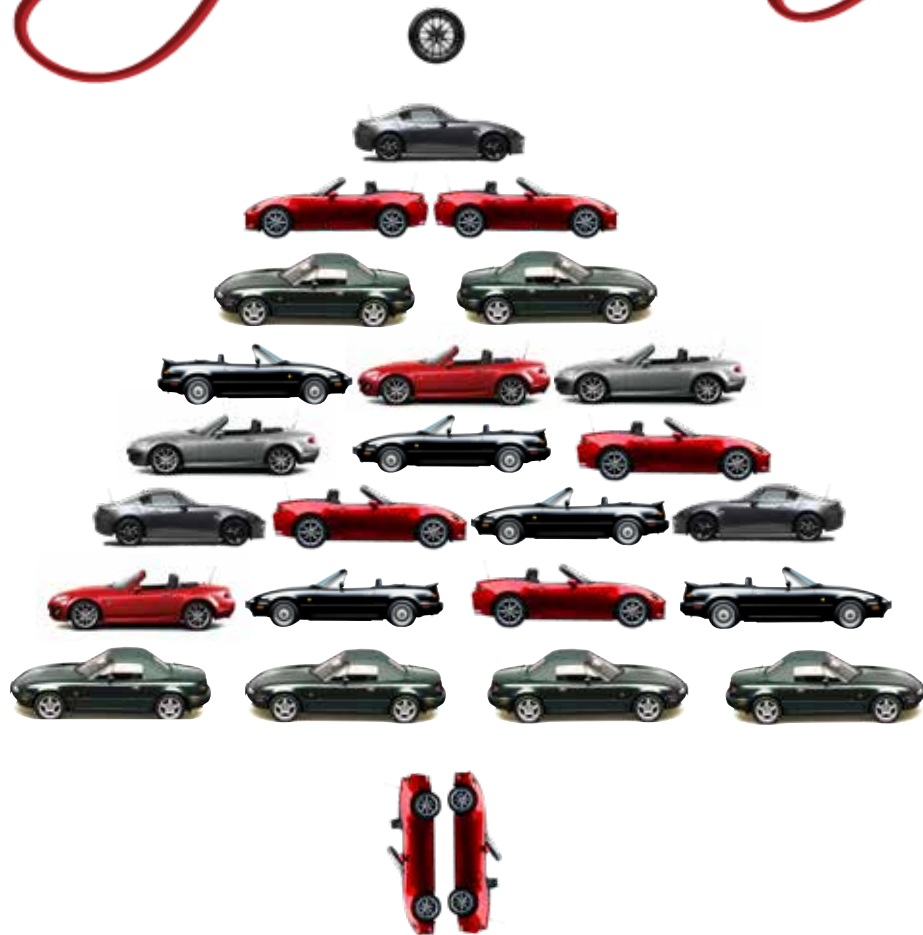
The NSW Government has introduced some rule changes along with increased penalties in an effort to improve school zone safety.

- Stopping in an intersection or queuing across an intersection within a school zone incurs a fine of \$430 and 2 demerit points.
- Stopping or parking within 20 metres of an intersection with traffic lights in a school zone will lead to a fine of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stopping or parking within 10 metres of an intersection (without lights) in a school zone will cost \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stopping or parking near bicycle crossing lights will set you back \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stopping or parking across footpaths, driveways or ramps within a school zone can result in a fine of \$330 and 2 demerit points.
- Parking car in opposite direction to traffic will set you back \$330 and 2 points.

40km/hr school speed zones are in force all days which are not weekends, public holidays or gazetted school holidays. Term dates can vary from school to school, so it is worth checking the your local school dates at [www.edu.nsw.gov.au](http://www.edu.nsw.gov.au) for NSW and [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au) for the ACT.



# Merry Christmas



**We wish all our members, sponsors and supporters  
a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year**







# AUSTRALIA DAY



## ▶ ALL CLUB PICNIC ◀

Chapter Runs | Wacky Races  
MX-5 Packing Challenge | Cricket  
| BBQ Facilities |

## CORDEAUX DAM

Illawarra, RPM and Sydney will host Chapter runs to  
Cordeaux Dam, Cataract.

For further details and to RSVP go to our website

## SATURDAY 26 JANUARY FROM 10AM

# 2018 PRESIDENT'S PICNIC



**BEST  
IN  
SHOW**

"Over 234 members and guests attended the largest annual event on our Club's calendar. I thank 63 people who gave their time on the day to act as judges, parking marshalls, manage registrations and regalia and help with morning tea and lunch."

**MICHAEL SOULOS**  
CLUB CAPTAIN

There was a record turnout for this year's President's Picnic and all agreed that Kevin Chappell's pristine NA was the star of the show.

PHOTO David Bourne

ALL CLUB 22 SEPTEMBER WORDS **MICHAEL SOULOS**  
PHOTOS **DAVID BOURNE GREG UNGER MEL KELLER**  
**KEITH MONAGHAN ROB WILKINS PETER HILKMANN**



# CONCOURS



NB

PETER & MAUREEN  
HILKMANN



ND

GRAHAM  
FLETCHER



OPEN CLASS

COLIN  
CALDWELL



NA

DAVE  
PERIN



NB

CHRISTINE  
YEE



NC

JOHN  
BRAMLEY

Not  
Pictured

ND

ROBERT  
MUMFORD

# SHOW & SHINE





# MODIFIED MX-5



NA

RODD  
McCLINTOCK



OPEN CLASS

STEPH  
KATZ



NB

MARC  
PULLEN



## GUY COLES MEMORIAL TROPHY



BEST TRACK CAR

MIKE  
KELSEY



BEST LADIES MX-5

KIM  
RANGER

## BEST LADIES MX-5

Of the 141 MX-5s parked in the Ebenezer Church grounds, 51 cars were entered in the Show & Shine, 13 track cars for the Guy Coles Memorial Trophy and 9 cars each in the Concours and Modified MX-5 categories. In competition this year there were 4 traditional classes of trophies which could not be individually issued as there were not the minimum requirement of 3 cars entered before the event. A new class of

trophy was created for those members who went to the trouble of preparing their cars for competition to give them the opportunity of winning a trophy for their efforts. These trophies were each called the "Open Class" in both the Concours and Modified MX-5 category. The inaugural Guy Coles Memorial Trophy for competition cars was open to any track car that has competed at least once during the year.

*Continued....*





**BEST IN SHOW**

**KEVIN  
CHAPPELL**



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

**TREVOR  
GRIFFITHS**



# Tech Night

HUNTER

27 JULY WORDS DAVID RAGHAVAN

Saturday 27th of July saw the Hunter Tech Night joined by a single Sydneysider, who darted across the M1, along with a horde of other drivers, keen to leave the congestion of Sydney behind.

A quick pitstop in Beresfield for snags and chops for the evening's barbie, then it was onward to Andrew and Angela Digney's stunning property in Thornton. Pulling into the driveway, it was clear the event was already underway, with our host assessing the extent of gutter rash on the wheel of Warren's near-new Civic Type R (a fault of another driver we're assured). With the wheel in question relocated to Andrew's handy van, more faces gradually showed up, and from there the usual mingling and banter ensued.

The workshop played host to a couple of sights, the first was a stripped back NA (codename 'Redback') which NA guru Phil Mayo took to at some point, delicately removing its rear garnish panel, so as to avoid cracking. A reconditioned engine and a slew of fresh parts await it, but ultimately a slick coat of paint is on the cards before it's ready for its debut on the track.

In the neighbouring room up on a hoist was Andrew's ND, which presented our challenge for the evening -- working out how many modifications were in the wheel well (including a couple of Andrew's own DIY mods). Many tried to guess, and later contested the answer of 12.

It was during dinner that Andrew thought it best the bloke from Sydney got his trip's worth, by answering questions and offering demonstrations. I was stumped as to what I could ask, as my technical knowledge is far less than those whose presence I was in. When this was relayed to the group, Phil was good to offer his business card should I find myself in need of an expert opinion.

From there it was suggested we tour the NA that Phil had a go at earlier that night, and as we made our way over, I posed the question of rust on NAs, which has long been a underlying concern (with the car being a year off 30 and all). Without a second thought, Andrew offered to have a lil' green Roadster hoisted and inspected by Phil, Andrew and the remaining group. Phil soon took to the underside with a torch, assessing the common problem areas, and fortunately for the most part the diagnosis was positive; there was however the issue of unusually warped chassis rails, which left the group scratching their heads for a cause (which is a worry).

So while there's something new to add to the to-do list, having the car looked over was for the better, and made the drive completely worth it, along with meeting new friendly faces. P.S., Andrew that spin in the ND was the cherry on top - definitely saving up for one!

# All Jap Day

HUNTER

PHOTOS PETER HILKMANN

What a great day we had at the Newcastle All Jap Day. Thanks George Boyko for your great effort in organising this day and getting us there nice and early so we had the best pick of the locations. PETER HILKMANN





# Across the Nullarbor

*Patrick McBride sets out on an epic MX-5 road trip from Perth to Canberra over the Nullarbor Plain.*

WORDS AND PHOTOS **PATRICK McBRIDE**





As I boarded the Indian Pacific train at Adelaide, leaving the ND to be loaded on to its special Motorail carriage, I thought there's no going back now. Was it crazy to commit to crossing the remote Nullarbor Plain in a vehicle without a spare wheel? Driving the Nullarbor had been a desire for decades and the ND had already been on shorter interstate trips to Brisbane and Adelaide with no mishaps, so perhaps the risk was acceptable?

Two days later I watched my car as it was unloaded from the Motorail carriage, cleaned the dust off the windscreen and drove into Perth to my hotel. Before starting the drive back to Canberra I diverted 300 km North-east to a town called Morawa to view the wildflowers that were then in peak season. No other state does wildflowers like WA.

The return to Canberra took 8 days, passing through places with wonderful names like Belladonia, Cocklebidy, and Mundrabilla before reaching the familiar territory of Adelaide and the Hay Plain. The wide and smooth-surfaced Eyre Highway allowed an average speed the same as the limit of 110 km/h. Occasionally I overtook a road train and the ND's power was handy to keep the time in the opposite lane as brief as possible. Just after Belladonia a sign announced 146 km of straight road and stopping there I chatted with a cyclist about to start along this road. Made my adventure seem tame by comparison.

The most interesting part of the route was across the border into SA where the highway runs close to the coast. This was the heart of the treeless plain with

no surface water and a landscape of gently undulating terrain covered with low bushes. Several lookouts gave great views of the sea cliffs and at the Head of Bight visitor centre I viewed whales from the cliff walkway.

Accommodation in the remote parts of the route was basic and the motel rooms brought to mind staying in demountables at mining camps during a previous career. A lot of the other travellers here were Grey Nomads staying in caravans and motor vans which were luxurious in comparison to the motel rooms.

For this trip the MX-5 had one very good feature in that the seat was wonderfully comfortable during repeated days of driving; and one very bad feature in that the tyre roar and wind noise in the cockpit would have become unbearable after a few days without wearing noise-cancelling ear buds. Overall fuel economy was 6.5 L/100 km. Distance between petrol supplies was never more than 200 km so the ND tank had ample capacity. I fitted a car-bra for the trip to protect the front of the car from stone chips. This featured a couple of raised ridges on the top edge that disrupted the airflow and resulted in a surprising amount of wind buffeting and noise in the cockpit at cruising speed when the top was down.

As to lack of a spare wheel, my luck held and the trip was completed without having to call Mazda Roadside Assistance from somewhere in the Nullarbor. There were a few minutes of horror on the two occasions when the tyre pressure warning light came on but fortunately these turned out to be false alarms.







**B**askerville Raceway. A damp and wet morning greeted us at the Baskerville Raceway followed by a dry and sunny track for the afternoon. And what a track it is. It has a fast back straight with lots of height and camber changes with an uphill climb taking a blind left hand off camber corner over the hill. This makes the perfect braking and turn in point hard to judge.

This track requires a lot more grip so consequently the ND1 with Hankook RS4 tyres, GLoc R6 Brake Pads and a better wheel alignment setup outperformed the ND2 with the

standard factory setup. The ND2 suffered from brake fade and lack of grip due to the standard factory brake pads and tyres.

But with more power for the ND2, 135kw vs 118kw, it obtained a higher speed down the back straight of 173km/h vs 164km/h. Thanks to my son Luke Kovacic and his driving abilities he was able to manage a laptime of 1.04:12 in our ND1 vs a laptime of 1.05:49 in the ND2.

I am pretty sure that if the ND2 had the same setup as our ND1 with better tyres, brake pads and wheel alignment, it would be probably be about one second faster on this track.





# Apples With Apples

*How does the ND2 compare to the ND1? Joe and Luke Kovacic head to Tasmania's race tracks to find out.*

WORDS AND PHOTOS JOE KOVACIC



Symmons Plains. As fate would have it, a damp and wet morning greeted us at Symmons Plains Raceway followed by a dry and sunny track for the afternoon. This track is all about power, rather than grip, so consequently the ND2 had the ND1 covered for outright speed and lap times around this circuit. Driving the ND2, Luke was able to manage a top speed of 179km/h down the back straight with a lap time of 1.08.54 vs the ND1 top speed of 174km/h and lap time of 1.09.10.

Because Luke was driving the pants of the ND2, he completely destroyed the standard front brake pads and

went off at the hairpin and into the gravel. Once again, if the ND2 had the same setup as our ND1 with better tyres, brake pads and wheel alignment, it would be probably be about one second faster around this track as well.

Thank you to Randy and Gavin from the Victorian MX-5 Club for inviting us to these two special Club Trackdays. Keep your eyes open for a future Interstate Club Challenge at these two tracks.





# MX-5 30 Years

The MX-5 debuted at the Chicago Auto Show on February 10, 1989 and was released in Australia on October 11, 1989. MX denotes "Motoring eXperiment" with a competition between Mazda's Tokyo and California design studios producing an affordable, responsive and beautifully balanced fun machine. In a 1990 print ad, Mazda described the MX-5 as an "...automobile built with just one objective in mind: sheer exhilaration." Meet some of our 1989 MX-5 NA owners.



**Colin and Elaine Caldwell**

I was at the first meeting of the MX-5 Club of NSW on 10 June, 1990 at Vicary's Winery, Luddenham. The MX-5 has given us 30 years of delight and I am just as pleased now as when I bought it. It's a quality car that still looks as good now as it did in the showroom. It has extraordinary lasting power, I've not changed anything because the original parts are so good and I did trackdays for 20 years. We joined the Club to make friends and are still friends with people we met at the first NatMeet.



**Phil Mayo**

I bought a cheap "barn find" 1989 red NA that had been imported and painted. I rebuilt and modified the 1600 engine to put out about 170hp. I joined the MX-5 Club and the new Hunter Chapter and started doing track days. Through this great little car, we have met and made lots of friends and had a wonderful time.



**Richard Herring**



**George Miskovski**

My first drive was a 9 hour road trip from Melbourne to Sydney after having bought it sight unseen. It was a small gamble that has paid off. The car is an absolute pleasure to own and the driving experience is delightfully raw and uncompromising.



**Bob Judd**

We've owned the little red Miata now for 15 years. Its mods include extractors, Konis, cold air induction, Racing Beat body kit, and lowered suspension. We joined the Club and have taken the car to Tasmania twice, as well as many other trips to Queensland and Victoria, and all over country NSW. The Club has offered us a great new social life and we have made many friends who will be friends for life.



**Curran Brennan**



**Mark Garven**

The NA6 is still a joy to drive on a winding road. The engine/gearbox combination and the steering are particular highlights. You get a feeling of 'connectedness' which just isn't there in more modern machinery."



**David Smith**

I have owned my MX-5 for three years. As with most owners, I just love the car; great handling, fun to drive, sounds and looks great. A few months ago I had the whole car painted it looks fantastic. Every time I drive I end up with a smile on my face as it's so enjoyable.



**Jamie Martin**

A few years ago I decided to go home a different way and randomly spotted a red MX-5 NA6 for sale. Despite having close to 300,000kms on it, I bought it. With the encouragement of club members, I decided to do track days. In 2018 I won my Class in the club championship and came 1st in Group D at Challenge Bathurst. I love my MX-5!



**Leona Blair**





# SHEER EXHILARATION

MX-5 30th Anniversary  
All Club Celebration  
Sunday 10 February, 2019  
Bathurst

Overnight and Day Chapter Runs  
All Club Gathering and Charity Day

Check our website for details and registration  
[nsw.mx5.com.au](http://nsw.mx5.com.au)



# Club Trackday 1

**MOTORSPORT**

18 AUGUST WORDS **JOE KOVACIC**  
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

A sunny winters day greeted an over-subscribed field of 75 Motorsport competitors for our first round of Club Trackdays at SMSP Amaroo South Circuit. A competitive battle has already started to emerge in most classes. Welcome to all 6 of our nervous first timers. Thank you to all my fellow officials for another successful trackday. We managed 7 groups to get 6 runs each. Congratulations to all the drivers on their results.



<b>Class 1</b>	1st Place Keith Monaghan 1:10.84	2nd Place Greg Unger 1:10.89	3rd Place Gregor Lochtie 1:14.29
<b>Class 2</b>	1st Place Bryan Shedden 1:05.90	2nd Place Mark Virgona 1:09.15	3rd Place Stephen Simon 1:09.93
<b>Class 3</b>	1st Place Luke Kovacic 1:05.43	2nd Place Jie Ren 1:05.82	3rd Place Joe Kovacic 1:12.09
<b>Class 4</b>	1st Place Jamie Martin 1:08.60	2nd Place Chris Veitch 1:10.33	3rd Place Neil Tribe 1:10.89
<b>Class 5</b>	1st Place Mat Fraser 1:06.25	2nd Place Matt Tarrant 1:07.46	3rd Place Sean Byers 1:09.11
<b>Class 6</b>	1st Place Dan Szwaj 1:05.42	2nd Place John Karayannis 1:06.10	3rd Place Deen Hameed 1:06.56
<b>Class 7</b>	1st Place Andrew Digney 1:05.76	2nd Place Ken Hardy 1:06.95	3rd Place Tony Smithers 1:07.09
<b>Class 8</b>	1st Place Josh Fitzgerald 1:05.86	2nd Place Dave Alland 1:09.67	3rd Place Lindsay Green 1:09.678
<b>Class 9</b>	1st Place Gus Elias 1:04.41	2nd Place David Phillips 1:05.80	3rd Place Richard Jamie 1:05.92
<b>Class 10</b>	1st Place Matt Johnson 1:01.77	2nd Place Russ Maxwell 1:03.00	3rd Place Alan Townsley 1:04.23
<b>Class 11</b>	1st Place Keith Bridgement 1:06.06	2nd Place Jason Atkins 1:06.71	3rd Place Malcolm Fotheringham 1:07.67



# Berrima Sights

CANBERRA

19 AUGUST WORDS **BARRY MATSON**  
PHOTOS **BARRY MATSON ROD NICHOLS**

On a very cold but clear Sunday morning, 11 young MX-5s mixed incongruously with an assortment of aged Holdens at the Epic servo on Northbourne Avenue. So we were not the only club braving the winter weather in the pursuit of car fun. Elfie and I were leading this time, and we had promised a brisk drive through the back roads to Marulan, followed by a short run up the highway to Berrima, a colonial era settlement famed for crime and punishment. We were to be given a taste of the harsh justice faced by the early settlers as the Sydney settlement pushed out into the bush during the 1830s.

No problems were anticipated with the navigation as we had done the dry run a week before and all the turns went smoothly. However, just as the plans of sailors are said to be written in the sand, so it was for me this time. I could blame the poor sign-posting or my loyal partner/navigator, but the truth was that I was having a bad day and many of my turn decisions proved to be incorrect. It had all seemed so easy on the dry run!

My first clue was that my chosen path turned into a dirt road. It did go to Bungonia, but not in a way that any MX-5 would find comfortable. So we back-tracked and found the bitumen to Bungonia, where we were joined by John from Sydney. Although it seems like a one road village, I managed to find the wrong road to Marulan, although the others had the good sense not to follow me.

My CB alerted me to my mistake and I soon rejoined and took the lead once more.

Soon we arrived at the Hume Highway and my nightmare continued at the complicated roundabout that splits the traffic to the north and south of the town. True to form, I chose the wrong exit and led us on an exploration of the Boral industrial complex. After turning at the dead end, we followed a concrete truck back to the Hume and our planned coffee at the Truck Stop café. We had lost about a half hour on the planned itinerary but even I could not go wrong on Australia's largest motorway, and we arrived at Berrima with plenty of time to have lunch before our rendezvous at the Court House.

Our tour of the 19th century courthouse started with a short film about the expansion of the Sydney settlement into the Southern Highlands. My navigation chagrin was relieved somewhat when I learned that the convict escapees who first explored this region had been heading for China, convinced that it was just over the mountains.

Our tour of the forbidding sandstone courthouse ended with a splendid audiovisual re-enactment of the sentencing portion of a famous murder trial that took place there in the 1830s. A husband had been murdered by his wife and her lover. Justice was swift and certain in those days, and the Judge left no room for doubt about the inevitability and finality of British justice.

Mercifully, we dispersed after the tour and made our own way home, so I did not cause any more navigation crime or punishment for our group.



# War and Peaceful

HUNTER

28 SEPTEMBER - 01 OCTOBER WORDS **ELAINE GAZZARD**  
PHOTOS **DAVID GAZZARD**

**D**ay 1. We headed off south (along with all the holiday traffic) to the Hawkesbury rest stop; our second meeting point.

For our Cuppa and Cake, it was onto the Australian Botanical Gardens at Mount Annan and waiting to join our run, the wonderful 'Hunterwarra' club couple Kim and Peter. Leaving the highway, we travelled through the historic towns of Camden and Picton with Rob Emmett telling us some wonderful stories of their past. Then up old Razorback Road with its fun twists and turns, and the wonderful view from the top.

We arrived at Moss Vale for lunch at Bernie's Burgers. It's a great little retro diner with a big history, great food and a friendly owner. We headed for Goulburn then turned past Wakefield Park and on to Bungendore for our next break. Then a lovely scenic run in to Queanbeyan and the Golden Age Motel. We found Mark, Lynda, Wendy and Steve all set up ready for us to party. A short stroll took us to the Queanbeyan Leagues Club for a lovely dinner.

Our second day started with a short drive to the Australian War Memorial to journey through the halls of our heroes and the stories of the tragedies of war. We especially enjoyed the wonderful light and sound display of Lancaster bomber "G for George" in a battle over Berlin. After lunch at the museum we headed for Boorowa, stopping for afternoon tea at the quirky 'Pantry on Pudman', a unique little antique coffee shop. Arriving at the Cowra Information Centre we met up with the last members of our run group to watch the cleverly presented holographic story of the Cowra break out.

After happy hour in the garden courtyard of the Sovereign Inn, we

headed to dinner at the Cowra RSL. Local lamb was the order of the day - lamb cutlets yum yum!

Next morning, we made our way to the Cowra Breakout site. Mark Gray had organised for Cowra Breakout Society guide Lawrance Ryan to come and recount the history of the breakout followed by a tour of the both the camp site and the War Cemeteries. His tour and commentary were outstanding and I recommend seeking him out if you visit Cowra.

After a delicious lunch at the Japanese Gardens café, many of the group took the opportunity to stroll through the gardens. What a beautiful place, seen at its best in the glorious sunshine. We then headed on to Bathurst and a quick coffee break at the Lions Park. Some lovely windy roads brought us to the towering painted silos of Portland. Wow what a wonderful sight - actual Aussie farmers depicted on these towering silos.

We rolled up to the Bowen Inn at Lithgow a little late but there is always time for a carpark party.

Dinner at the motel's restaurant was magnificent with the rugby league grand final (go the Roosters!) providing entertainment for the rest of the evening.

On Day Four, we followed old faithful Bells Line of Road through Kurrabung to Windsor for morning tea at McDonalds McGrath Hill. Our group said their goodbyes here before heading home by varying routes. Wisemans Ferry appealed for many as the best route to avoid long-weekend traffic. This brought the added bonus of a refreshing ice cream while waiting for the ferry.

Many thanks to everyone for coming and your contribution in making this an awesome MX-5 weekend.





# Club Trackday 2

**MOTORSPORT**

26 AUGUST WORDS **JOE KOVACIC**  
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

A cold crisp Sunny winters day greeted a small enthusiastic field of 50 Motorsport competitors for our second round of Club Trackdays at Wakefield Park. The weather conditions were ideal for many personal best times and the competitive battle continues in most classes. A special mention to our resident husband and wife team of Greg and Lesa Bunn on their competitive track times. It looks like it won't be long before Lesa overtakes Greg. Another special mention to our competitive father and son team of Peter and Ross Barnwell. Congratulations to my daughter Aimee Kovacic on her personal best time of 1.14.90 in a Kia Ceed GT. Thank you to all my fellow officials for another successful record track day. As we had only 5 run groups, some drivers managed to get up to 60 laps of record track time.



Class 1	1st Place Greg Unger 1:17.69	2nd Place Gregor Lochtie 1:21.10	3rd Place Phillip Reid 1:21.30
Class 2	1st Place Bryan Shedden 1:12.13		
Class 3	1st Place Jie Ren 1:10.98	2nd Place Luke Kovacic 1:11.17	3rd Place Jonathan Lagrange 1:15.79
Class 4	1st Place Jamie Martin 1:15.47	2nd Place Josh Jones 1:15.55	
Class 5	1st Place Sean Byers 1:15.88	2nd Place Jonathon Fox 1:15.99	3rd Place Mark Pullan 1:20.47
Class 6	1st Place Dan Szwaj 1:11.72	2nd Place John Karayannis 1:12.25	3rd Place Rodney Esdaile 1:13.12
Class 7	1st Place Greg Bunn 1:10.61	2nd Place Lesa Bunn 1:12.37	3rd Place Tony Smithers 1:13.52
Class 8	1st Place Josh Fitzgerald 1:11.74	2nd Place Lindsay Green 1:16.58	3rd Place James Mate 1:19.29
Class 9	1st Place Stuart McFadyen 1:08.69	2nd Place Ralph Thompson 1:09.55	3rd Place Paul Nudd 1:09.91
Class 10	1st Place Russ Maxwell 1:08.86	2nd Place Alan Rewell 1:12.92	3rd Place Joseph Maher 1:13.27
Class 11	1st Place Peter Barnwell 1:07.95	2nd Place Ross Barnwell 1:09.99	3rd Place Keith Bridgement 1:10.68

# Pub With No Beer Run

MID NORTH COAST

08 SEPTEMBER WORDS JOHN HANSEN  
PHOTO WAYNE LANG



A group of 4 MX-5s assembled outside Oliver's at the Port Macquarie Service Centre for the start of the annual 'Pub with No Beer' run. We set off to our morning tea destination at Gladstone with the wind in our hair. We travelled the now well-worn route along the Pacific Highway to the turn off to Crescent Head.

The road from Crescent Head to Gladstone is always a pleasant MX-5 run as it meanders along with some interesting corners through the rural countryside a surprise awaited us at the next main intersection. We normally turn right onto the connecting road to Gladstone, however run leaders Cathy and Wayne had scouted an alternative way. It is always fun to drive on a new road although the road surface left a bit to be desired, actually quite a lot to be desired with numerous potholes. However, it was most enjoyable as it twisted around the river bank until it ended just outside Gladstone. It is amazing to find so many small roads winding through our Mid North Coast scenic countryside where you feel far away from anywhere.

Gladstone is a picturesque historic town perched on the banks of the Macleay River. It is home to at least 19 well preserved historic buildings some with magnificent views of the river. Our morning tea was held in the 'Old Church' coffee shop where the grounds slope down to the river bank. It has

an interesting menu with many mouth-watering delectable items. We lingered over morning tea as the portions were large and some of us didn't realise that we could have ordered half portions!

Now that the Pacific Highway upgrade to Coffs Harbour is completed a large amount of traffic has been taken off what was the old highway and other feeder roads. With a reduced amount of traffic on the road the drive to the back of Macksville was very pleasant. From Macksville we took the back roads to Taylors Arms for our lunch at the 'Pub with No Beer'. These roads appear to have been made for MX-5s with a variety of corners from long sweepers to tighter ones with the road rising to crest the hills and then swooping down to the valley floor, all with a pretty good road surface.

All too soon we were at the 'Pub with No Beer'. Even though morning tea was not a distant memory driving with the roof down certainly works up an appetite and did not prevent us from our food orders. We had just finished lunch and were starting to move when a small shower hurried us up. The run was to continue to the 'Beer Church' and then to the Macksville Star Hotel via Bowraville. All in all, a most enjoyable day, good companionship, driving, scenery and of course food.



# Outback Wanderings

RPM

08 SEPTEMBER WORDS **BRIGID GALLOP**  
PHOTOS **NATALIE DAVIS**



At Little Hartley we met, it was bleak. It was chilly. It was wet  
We thought "Oh well things could only get better.  
Then the fog rolled in.  
The rain came down and we got a whole lot wetter.

At Jenolan, to the Cave house for a roaring fire to gather round. And the weather is not a issue when you're deep underground.

Well, My Ron, and Your Ron and now we're off to Oberon.  
We stopped for lunch, we emerged to find the sun was going to shine.  
And we knew that our little holiday was going to turn out fine.

At dinner we ate Thai as per our reservation.  
Well, I don't know what was spicier the food or conversation.

Next day, it was off to the Mountain with the Panoramic view  
We took our little roadsters for a cruisy lap or two.

In Mudgee, we stocked up on all kinds of delights  
But especially the kind that comes in reds and whites.  
We headed out to Taronga, out to the Western Zoo.

Cause when you find yourself in Dubbo,  
well - it's just the thing to do.

The meerkats won our hearts. Their lives they are oh so busy.  
And if you crook you neck to see giraffes, it's goin' to make you dizzy.  
Around the elephant enclosure, there was a air of satisfaction.  
And lucky us, did get to see some serious Pachyderm loving action.

Then off to Coona, and to the heavens our eyes we cast,  
and ponder that we found ourselves looking to the past.  
Looking through the eye glass we saw the Saturn rings.  
And we saw the moons of Jupiter and other amazing things.

We drank our wine and ate our crackers - topped off with our cheese.  
And talked of stars and motor cars, sitting out under the trees.

Our holiday, almost over, we hugged and before we drove away:  
We said to all there present, let do this again another day.  
All home we find ourselves safe and sound.  
And guess what, we're already planning another round.

# Ye Olde Trading Post

HUNTER

09 SEPTEMBER WORDS DIANNE HENDERSON

At Cessnock Airport the Hunter MX-5s gathered for a Sunday morning run  
To the old Trading Post at Laguna for some food, fun and sun.  
There were plenty of people and lots of MX-5 engines ready to start  
With our fearless run leader, Kung Fu Dave, at the heart.

Some welcomes to new members, Chris & Sam On their maiden journey...  
what a day was planned.  
Hendo offered the Marshalls up as tail-end Isn't he a fabulous friend!

So off we headed all in a row  
Through the vineyards at least for a mo...  
Only a few kilometres on and Dave called a pit stop  
So into Harrigans car park we all did hop.

Why a break after such a short distance and a small wait?  
It was Jenny & Barry in their BMW running a little late.  
Much was made of their arrival and ribbing of course  
Back on to the road – an MX-5 tour de force.

Through vineyards and mountains our MX-5s sped  
With our stomachs growling and waiting to be fed.  
Past Two Fat Blokes and Wollombi village Definitely worth a pilgrimage!

Onward and upward we roared  
Until behind a white sedan we paused.  
The sedan was weaving left to right at a snail pace.  
Maybe too much wine tasting he'd embraced?

No...just a sightsee-er on a slow Sunday drive  
So past we went with a high-five!  
We arrived at the Trading Post in time for brunch  
Although some of us were slower and settled in for lunch.

The Trading Post was quaint with lots of old world charm  
The yummy Blackberry Jam for sale certainly didn't do any harm.  
Even the restrooms looked like they were straight from Lord of the Rings!  
With a green pointy roof it was fit for a Hobbit if not for kings.

Yet another great run with great company.  
Can't wait for the next one as there's always more to see.  
Thank you Kung Fu Dave...5 stars for the day  
You did a great job...nothing more to say!

30 Club Torque

## Midweek Comboyne Run

MID NORTH COAST 07 AUGUST  
WORDS JOHN HANSEN  
PHOTOS GRAHAM ROCHESTER

We set out from the Port Macquarie Service Centre for our first inner fuel stop at the Watermark Café in Wauchope. Fortified with good food and talk we left for the trip up to the Comboyne Plateau. Before we could turn off and enjoy the road up the mountains we had to navigate some extensive roadworks on the other side of Wauchope. After crawling along, admiring the countryside, we then had quite a swift trip along the valley floor until we came to the pass up the mountains. Where of course there were more roadworks.

Fortunately, the roadworks were confined to the lower parts of the climb and soon we were able to enjoy the very tight corners that make up the road into Comboyne and our destination; The Udder Cow Café. The food was excellent and we lingered over lunch whilst planning future runs as the sunshine was warming and there was a reluctance to go out to face the cold!

Eventually we said our farewells and departed, going downhill through the corners, with the cars considerably heavier after lunch than before. All in all a most enjoyable mid-week run, ably led by our run leaders Greg and Wayne and organised by Graham Rochester.





# MX-5 Cup Champions

MOTORSPORT

09 SEPTEMBER

WORDS VERNE JOHNSON PHOTOS ROB WILKINS

The final round of the 2018 MX-5 CUP Championship was run Sunday 09 Sept on the GP Circuit SMSP. We had 16 entries, a number of whom running in their first round. The three races were dominated by young Zac Raddatz in his first showing, taking pole and all three races by a considerable margin.

## RACE RESULTS

Race 1 : 1st Zac Raddatz 2nd Todd Herring 3rd Ian Caldwell

Race 2 : 1st Zac Raddatz 2nd Ian Caldwell 3rd Rob Hay

Race 3 : 1st Zac Raddatz 2nd Ian Caldwell 3rd Rob Hay

## CLASS RESULTS

We had cars running in all 5 time based classes. Class winners are:

Open Forced Induction	Zac Raddatz
Open Naturally Aspirated	Rob Hay
Class A	Ben Cathcart
Class B	Andrew Boydell
Class C	Paul Nudd

## OVERALL ROUND WINNERS

Round 6 winners are:

1st	Ben Cathcart
2nd	Paul Nudd
3rd	Ian Caldwell

## 2018 MX-5 CUP Champions

Coming in to round 6 we had 4 points separating the top three racers competing for the championship. All three had competed in each round so they all had the opportunity to drop their lowest scoring round which meant the championship was wide open.

With consistent performances throughout the year and often competing is a highly competitive class, Kerry Smith competing in the Track School MX-5 finished the series in 3rd place with 101 points.

The highlight of the 2018 season has to be the ongoing battle between Stuart McFadyen and Ben Cathcart. They went head to head all year with some really competitive and clean racing which is what the Cup is all about. Well done fellas. Stuart held a 4 point lead coming into the final round but unfortunately suffered mechanical issues during qualifying and had to sit out the three races. Ben Cathcart I know would have much preferred to have his buddy on the track to go wheel to wheel for the championship. Ben had a great round taking out first place with 24 points and after dropping his worst round he increased his points tally to 109 points to take out the 2018 Championship. Congratulations to Kerry, Stuart and Ben.

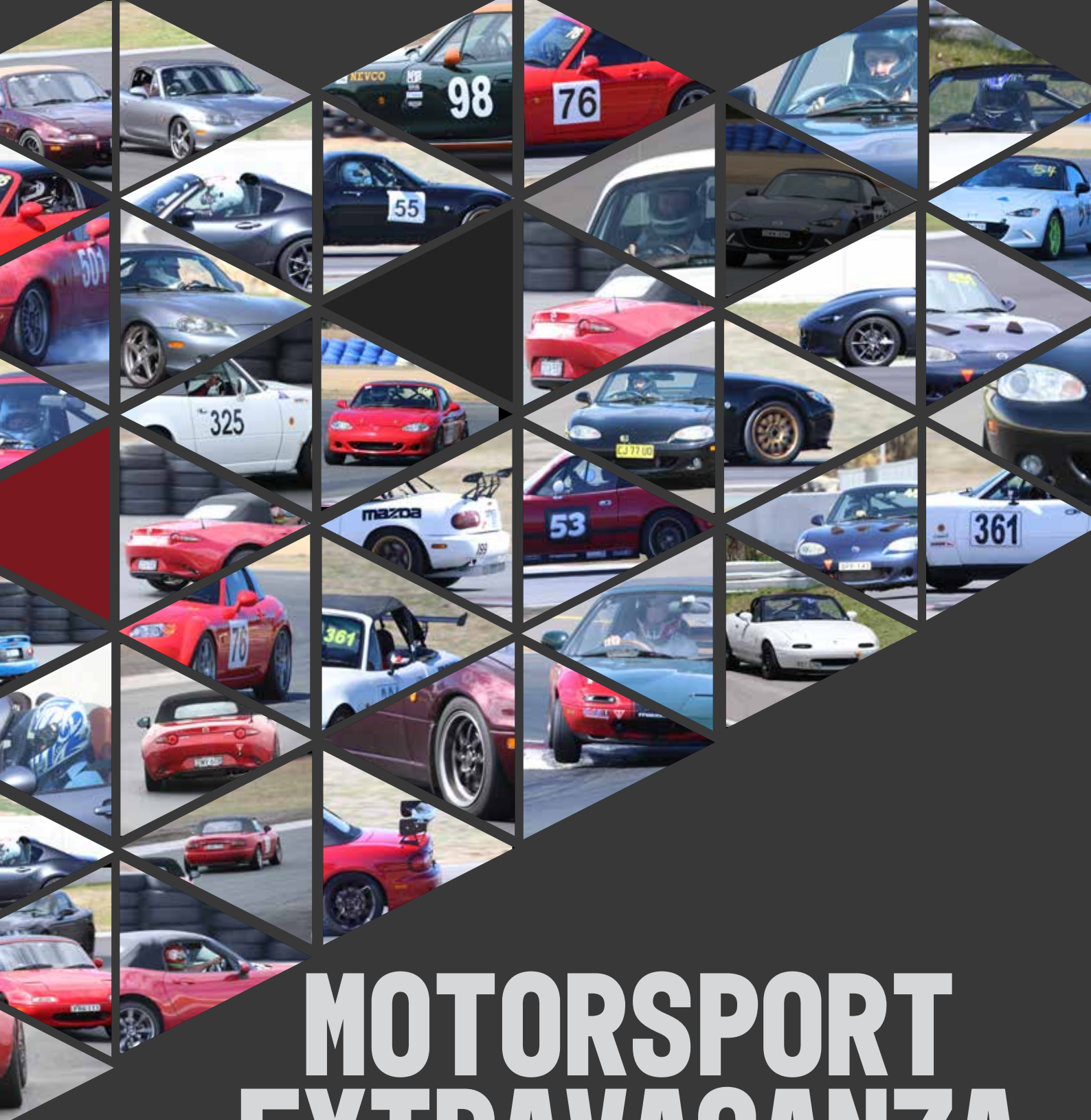
## 2019 MX-5 Cup

Paul Nudd will be taking the reins for the 2019 Season. With a number of competitors showing interest to joining in or returning to the fold; I believe 2019 can be the best series to date. Thank you everyone for your support over the past couple of seasons. See you at the circuit.









# MOTORSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA

*A driver training day, a Supersprint round and a Club trackday. It was a long weekend of motorsport in September.*

15 - 17 SEPTEMBER PHOTOS ROB WILKINS

# Driver Training

**MOTORSPORT**

15 SEPTEMBER AND 14 OCTOBER  
WORDS **JON MILLARD** PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

Well, we nearly didn't make it to the MDTC on 30 June. In the primae donnae stakes, my beautiful, quick and spritely little NB was making Maria Callas look like a rank amateur! Having her spit out her rear crankshaft oil seal about a week before, she revealed a seriously worn clutch plate. Happily, we found it before its rivets attacked either the flywheel or the pressure plate.

But this fortune rapidly morphed into a saga of Nordic proportions. The staff at Autotech Services in Hume (ACT) had her together for me, with a new HD clutch, by mid-afternoon on Friday. They road-tested her, only to reveal that she wouldn't select sixth gear!

'Oh well', said I, '... c'est la guerre!', but I reckoned without Ed Lee, Autotech's owner, who had the gearbox out of her, fixed and back in her, solo, that evening. I picked her up after 9.00pm and arrived at the Marulan Motor Inn after midnight. Speaking of Nordic sagas, it has been a fairly long wait for the refurbished track to be reopened. Was it worth it? Well, yes it was. Not only has the track been resurfaced, but it has been radically realigned.

Gone are the quixotically quirky curves at the highest point of the track where the right line for the first was totally wrong for the next and vice versa.

And the welcome by Natalie Wilmington was as charming and as helpful as ever.

Anyway, to the Club's Driver Training Day. Was it worth waiting for? Yes, it was and also in spades!

As to categories of experience, there was a variety and I enquired of Helen Green and Bryan Shedden which one was suitable for this driver. Beginner? Intermediate? 'No,' Bryan advised, '... enter as a First Timer' as I could drive with a variety of instructors and learn from each of them — and get to go to the introductory classroom session as well.

Some of you might know that Dr Shedden also has education qualifications, and it showed. His very professional PowerPoint presentation covered an eclectic range of topics from the balance of the car to taking advantage of this while driving it. Lines in corners were of course covered, as were braking techniques, basic-to-advanced control use and many more.

Out on the track for the second round, drivers were allocated instructor/advisors, for as many rounds as they desired, before taking their cars around the track solo. And, possibly due to its being the first outing on the re-aligned and re-surfaced track,





the usual dearth of them was replaced by a surfeit. I got to drive with some of them, learning something from each. Sometimes though, you can find someone who speaks the same language. I refer to Mike DeMaio. After a round with Mike, in which he gave me much advice on lines etc., I offered him a drive of my supercharged NB.

Well, yes, he would like to drive her, with me in the LH seat, and I was able to observe his lines, choice of cogs etc. (And with six gears and the low-end torque of a supercharged engine, there is an almost astronomical choice!)

Was there any downside to the new MDTC? Yes, perhaps one. Many of the old 'spin-out' areas have been replaced by decidedly unyielding concrete walls. A lot less forgiving than Wakefield Park's open spaces and walls made of tyres! No Club day, nor any other motor sport event, can take place without the hard work of officials, and Clerk of Course Ian Combes and his team did a splendid job of keeping the day efficient, enjoyable, smooth-running and safe.

The day had other pleasures of course — chatting with other Club members, ogling their cars and, in my case particularly, meeting so many from other Chapters.

A subsequent Driver Training Day occurred at the MDTC on Saturday 15 September. Again, Club drivers were assisted in improving their driving, their safety and, of course, their lap times, by the Club's advisers.

Having been promoted from First Timer to the exalted heights of Beginner, I, regrettably, did not get to drive with any of them this time. Perhaps accounts of my driving had got around.

Nevertheless, there were many pleasant moments. One of them was following (and, yes, overtaking) an A-Type MG (or, if you must really insist, an MGA). Such a pretty car — I think Syd Enever's masterpiece, just look at her lines — and with the impeccably forgiving manners that reminded me of the MX-5, she brought back fond memories.

As well as such on-course delights, there were others off course (of course). Significant among these was having a conversation with the day's organiser Helen Green.

The day ended with the precipitate departure for points north (or in a couple of our cases south) of all concerned, but a happy reminder that many of us shall meet again — coming from various parts of the State (and Territory) — and happily in the not-too-distant future.



# CAMS NSW Supersprints

**MOTORSPORT**

16 SEPTEMBER AND 14 OCTOBER  
WORDS JOE KOVACIC PHOTOS ROB WILKINS

## Round 6

The MX-5 Club of NSW hosted Round 6 of the Championship at Wakefield Park Goulburn in relatively good weather conditions. We had a total of 57 competitors attend a cold windy drivers briefing. All drivers had the opportunity of 6 runs despite the fact that there was a stoppage after lunch while oil was cleared from the circuit after one of the non MX-5 race cars expired on Turn 10.

A special thank you to all our club track officials on running the best Supersprint round for the year. Also congratulations to all the 15 drivers that represented our MX-5 Club so proudly. Congratulations to Bryan Shedden, Luke Kovacic, Tony King and Ralph Thompson for achieving 1st place in their respective classes.

This round, the MX-5 Club of NSW placed first for the club championship collecting 324 points. Going into the last round, ARDC lead the Club Championship by 77 points with 1,931 points ahead of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW who are on 1,854 points. The HSV/HDT Owners Club of NSW are in a very comfortable 3rd place with 1,359 points.

## Round 7

A very wet start to Round 7 hosted by ARDC was held at Sydney Motorsport Park Gardner Circuit. The MX-5 first run group 3 was red flagged for ten minutes due to extremely wet and dangerous track conditions. However, the weather improved with all competitors getting 5 runs with at least 3 runs on a drying track. Thank you to all of our 14 MX-5 Club drivers who represented our club gallantly against a barrage of ARDC drivers. A special mention to our 1st place in Class Achievers: Keith Monaghan, Tony Williams, Malcolm Steel, Ralph Thompson and Russ Maxwell.

With a bunch of our regular drivers away competing in the 12 Hour Regularity relay at Winton, the Club dropped a bundle of points in round 7. So while the cat's away the mice will play and ARDC did just that, scoring 358 points to our team's 227. ARDC now lead the Club Championship with 2,285 points, some 215 points ahead of the MX-5 Club on 2,070. With only one Round to go that should be a winning lead. The HSV/HDT Owners Club of NSW have a strangle hold on 3rd place with 1,615 points.





# Club Trackday 3

**MOTORSPORT**

17 SEPTEMBER WORDS **JOE KOVACIC**  
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**



Another cold crisp Sunny winter morning greeted an enthusiastic field of 55 Motorsport competitors for our third round of Club Trackdays at Wakefield park. The weather conditions were ideal for many personal best times again today and the competitive battle continues in most classes. Welcome back to Club Trackdays Mike Kelsey. It was good to see your car up and running again. A special mention to another competitive husband and wife team of David and

Gaynor Lawler who placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class 9. Another special mention to Jie Ren and Luke Kovacic who are having a very competitive, ding-dong battle in Class 3 with their standard NDs and respective times of 1.10.80 and 1.10.96. Thank you to all my fellow officials once again for another successful trackday. Since we had only 5 run groups some drivers managed to get up to 50 laps of record track time. Congratulations to all the drivers on their results as follows.

Class 1	1st Place Keith Monaghan 1:16.32	2nd Place Gregory Unger 1:16.70	3rd Place Varvara Efremova 1:18.59
Class 2	1st Place Robert Muir 1:15.15	2nd Place Roger Palfreyman 1:16.75	3rd Place Les Paterson 1:17.59
Class 3	1st Place Jie Ren 1:10.80	2nd Place Luke Kovacic 1:10.96	3rd Place Joe Kovacic 1:15.43
Class 4	1st Place Jamie Martin 1:15.37		
Class 5	1st Place Gerardo Martin 1:14.43	2nd Place Matt Tarrant 1:14.89	3rd Place Jonathon Fox 1:15.12
Class 6	1st Place Gus Elias 1:11.20	2nd Place Dan Szwaj 1:11.64	3rd Place John Karayannis 1:11.92
Class 7	1st Place Peter Feutrill 1:12.04	2nd Place Tony Smithers 1:13.52	3rd Place Jason Brown 1:16.38
Class 8	1st Place Allan Gibson 1:15.15	2nd Place Anna Fraser 1:15.58	3rd Place Barry Luttrell 1:17.29
Class 9	1st Place David Lawler 1:07.94	2nd Place Anthony Carter 1:12.35	3rd Place Gaynor Lawler 1:12.60
Class 10	1st Place Mike Kelsey 1:09.90	2nd Place Russ Maxwell 1:10.03	3rd Place David Alland 1:13.06
Class 11	1st Place Keith Bridgement 1:10.29	2nd Place Ken Howarth 1:11.14	3rd Place Jamie Collins 1:12.52

# Car Spa Morning

MID NORTH COAST

05 OCTOBER WORDS JOHN HANSEN  
PHOTOS GRAHAM ROCHESTER

A perfect day for a car wash and run. Blue skies and a warmish day saw a gathering at our club convenor's house in Lake Cathie.

Members assembled were Jill and Peter with their black and dusty NB, John with a dirty grey NC, Pam and Allen with their immaculately clean red ND just to show us how it should be done, Margaret and Murray in their NB and Graham with not one but two gleaming cars on his front lawn, one being a sporty White MX-3 and the other the trusty Blue BMW.

The wash highlight of the day had to be Jill and Peter's NB. We were now able to see that it was indeed black. Peter had long maintained that the veneer of dust that gave their car a dusky appearance was in fact protecting it from the elements. After the wash and shine many members thought that perhaps this car had been a 'barn find' as it positively gleamed in the sunlight. Washing and vacuuming over we went inside for the huge morning tea that Graham had kindly provided and to meet his black Labrador that had been wanting to join in the washing activities.

What do MX-5 owners do after a sumptuous morning tea with newly washed cars? Go on a run of course! We set off for the historic town of Wingham where lunch had been booked at the very popular Bent on Food Cafe. It gave members a chance to see the newly improved road surface of what is locally called the 'Ghost Road' flanked by large silvery gum trees to the Pacific Highway. A careful hop down the highway to the turn off at Coopernook with Jill and Peter being ride leaders.

An interesting deviation at Coopernook as Peter pulled into the service station for fuel; followed by a slight deviation to show us the old road to the river before doubling back to take the correct turn off to Landsdowne!

The back road to Landsdowne and Taree is a familiar route for us as it provides an interesting piece of road rather than simply going along the Pacific Highway. The surface has become increasingly bumpy whilst awaiting for the inevitable roadworks. A moderate amount of traffic and although there are several railway crossings on the main Northern Line we have not yet come across a train. Then through Taree and just down the road to Wingham.

Not all that many people around and we were able to park virtually right outside the café. Lunch was a very leisurely affair and as we were a relatively small group plenty of congenial group conversations, a very pleasant way of spending a Sunday afternoon. The run finished after lunch and we made our separate ways home. Many of our runs take us to interesting and historic towns around the Mid North Coast and I took the opportunity to walk off lunch by visiting the historic wharf on the river bank and the local museum again before heading for home.

All in all a very relaxing pleasant day with the added advantage of having a newly washed car. To take home. Thanks to Graham our Convenor and Jill and Peter the run leaders. Thanks to all members that helped out on the day.





# Warbirds Down Under

CANBERRA

13 OCTOBER WORDS KEN KEELING  
PHOTOS ROB WILKINS

As an OLD pilot and acknowledged aeroplane tragic, it was inevitable that I would be at Temora for their second "Warbirds Downunder". A "Warbird" is an aircraft used during periods of conflict, so include some famous aeroplanes, such as the Spitfire, Messerschmitt Me-109 and Mustang as well as more mundane machines that nevertheless played a vital role supporting their nations' wartime effort.

Consistent with the weather forecast for cool conditions and showers, the drive to the Hall rendezvous was in a drizzle that required only intermittent use of the wipers. But the Gods of Flying smile upon those who have soared skywards and romped among the clouds, so by the time we got to Hall the rain had dissipated to give fine but overcast conditions for the rest of the day - ideal for an airshow. Our two Canberra cars departed on time to meet up with the two cars, respectively from Sydney and Goulburn, on the M31 near Yass. The run to Temora along the B94 proved to be a substantial procession of westbound cars, fortunately maintaining the speed limit, which allowed us to get parked reasonably near the airfield

and into the airshow before the flying display commenced.

The day's flying opened with a formation display by the RAAF's Roulettes in their Pilatus PC-9s, and progressed through the Ryan STA and Tiger Moth ab initio trainers of WW2 (and of my flying in the 1950s) through to the heavier basic and advance trainers that prepared pilots for their flying of the machinery of war.

Aircraft of WW2 were well represented by the Kittyhawk, Spitfire and Mustang, as well as the Lockheed Hudson and Australia's home grown Boomerang. And the sound of a V-12 aircraft engine in full song is always great to hear - at least to an aeroplane tragic. The jet age was well represented by the Meteor F8, a Korean War veteran, and progressed through the Vietnam era to the RAAF's current fast jets - the Hawk lead-in fighter and the FA-18, the sound of which in a vertical climb on full afterburner is an assault on the hearing. And a fitting finale! Whilst it is not possible here to describe all the aircraft displayed (and heard), it was a day's outing well worth the experience.



# Alfa 12HR Relay

**MOTORSPORT**

13 - 14 OCTOBER WORDS **BRYAN SHEDDEN**  
PHOTOS **STEWART TEMESVARY**

**T**he Alfa Relay was run for the 13th year on 13-14 October at Winton Raceway with 37 teams competing. Our club entered two teams once again. Panorama Mountain Men returned to defend the title we won in 2017 with the familiar faces of Gus Elias, Bryan Shedden, Stewart Temesvary, Glenn Thomas, and Dan Szwaj replacing Warren Hotz. Stewart was team manager and pit crew were Jean Cook and Gaynor Lawler. The Blue Mountains Mazda team consisted of Greg Bunn and Ray Estreich sharing Greg's NC, Ian Combes, Graham Fletcher and David Lawler, with Pam Estreich as team manager supported by Lesa Bunn and Gilliam Fletcher as pit crew. Graham did an amazing job securing sponsorship from Blue Mountains Mazda, Blackheath Automotive and Emu Signs, and our team shirts looked fantastic.

The 12 Hour Relay consisted of 3 hours practice and 5 hours regularity on Saturday, followed by 7 hours regularity on Sunday. The scoring system rewards drivers for lapping within a one second window of their nominated laptime. You want to avoid breaking but the penalty is not disastrous - the lap just doesn't count toward your tally. Driver changes need to be minimised so the strategy of the Panorama Mountain Men was to do 4 stints of 75 minutes on Saturday and 6 stints of 70 minutes on Sunday. A 75 minute stint is the limit for NAs and NBs on a full tank of fuel.

The fastest permitted laptime in the Alfa 12 Hour is 1:40 and in Saturday morning practice, the Panorama Mountain Men ranged from 1:42.82 for Gus Elias to 1:49.85 for Stewart Temesvary, while Blue Mountains Mazda ranged from 1:38.95 for David "leadfoot" Lawler to 1:50.59 for Graham Fletcher. After nominating our laptimes, the relay got going a few minutes after 1pm with a rolling start behind the pace car. Our starting drivers were Gus and Graham, with Gus up in 4th.

Gus recorded 19 bonus and 1 break in his opening 43 lap stint - a fantastic start. This was followed by more consistent scoring from Glenn, Bryan and Dan. Unfortunately David's drive was ended after 35 laps on Saturday with an oil leak into the bellhousing that caused a slipping clutch.

The event resumed at 9am Sunday, with Stewart knocking out 25 bonus, 3 breaks in his 48 lap opening. He was scoring so well, we left him out longer than planned. More consistent scoring followed from Dan and Gus. Glenn's stint featured a safety car interruption and long stoppage to clean up an oil spill. Bryan got the team going again in an extended stint with a flurry of 13 bonus in his last 17 lap. Stewart brought it home for the excited team who knew we now had a great chance of claiming the win.

Blue Mountains Mazda improved strongly on last year to finish in 10th place. There were huge cheers as the Panorama Mountain Men heard that they had won. It was not only about the driving - this result is mostly due to incredibly successful teamwork that brought it all together.





# Mayfield Gardens

ILLAWARRA

20 - 21 OCTOBER WORDS **FIONA SHEDDEN**  
PHOTOS **BRYAN SHEDDEN ROB WILKINS**

It was a weekend of Weirdness, Wonderous Gardens and a mix of coming and going people. A large contingent met up at Hungry Jacks Hayward Bay for what promised to be a fun trip away with a bit of a difference. After a beautiful run up Macquarie Pass and through all the backroads through Bundanoon and Tallong, we briefly rejoined the Hume Motorway before taking the first exit to Marulan - well all except our lead car who managed to miss the turn!

The Meridian Café was as usual welcoming, and after morning tea and a quick stop in at the handcraft shop we were back on the road taking the back road to Goulburn.

After we parked and then wandered around the block to find the Park-n-Ride, we joined the queue to get out to the Steampunk Festival. We were joined by a couple in full Cosplay outfits to introduce us to the theme. Upon arrival at the festival we were amazed at the efforts that people and their dogs had gone to. It was definitely a sight to behold. Lunch, wandering around, playing some old time games down by the river and checking out all the weird and wonderful stalls and people.

The last members at the Festival made it back to the car park just as the heavens opened, while some relaxed at the pub others did a small spot of retain therapy, and yet others waited in their cars. We left Goulburn in torrential rain, which continued - at times getting slightly lighter - as we headed towards Oberon via Taralga and Abercrombie. It was a shame about the rain as the road was wonderful, but the standing water not so much fun.

Arrival at our motel was greeted by the rain taking a break, and we quickly reconvened to a central dining room for drinks, nibbles and much chatting before dinner. A lovely dinner was served and everyone had a blast meeting new friends and catching up with old ones.

The next morning after enjoying a continental breakfast accompanied by the smell of a full breakfast the motel owner had cooked for us without asking if we wanted it. It was then goodbyes again to some, before we headed the short 10 minute drive to the gardens where we met up with the RPM crew. The time at the gardens was free although the large contingent took the shuttle bus right up to the chapel to allow us to slowly meander back down to the café for our healthy lunch. After lunch there was a parting again as some headed home, other wanted more time in the amazing garden. The garden is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, with a full time staff of 35 gardeners (and always looking for more). The gardens were out of this world, and as the post event photos were posted on Facebook it was a common theme that this should be a regular event to see how the gardens develop and enjoy once more this spectacular flowering garden.



# Hillclimb Round 3

MOTORSPORT

27 OCTOBER PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**



Stock Under 1900cc	Michael Demaio - 3rd Outright	MX-5	05	58:08	New Record
	Jake Murphy	MX-5	16	61:29	
	Gregor Lochtie	MX-5	12	63:12	
Stock Over 1900cc	Jordan Farr	MX-5	07	58:41	New Record
	Mark Janus	MX-5	33	62:81	
Modified Under 1900cc	Daniel MacKay	MX-5	14	58:59	New Record
	Jackson Prater	MX-5	22	59:67	
	Mark Pullan	MX-5	25	60:67	
Modified Under 2100cc	Paul Nudd	MX-5	17	58:22	New Record
Forced Induction Over 2100cc	Greg Smith - 1st Outright	MX-5	30	55:63	New Record
	Mark Kavanagh - 2nd Outright	MX-5	27	57:94	
	Christian Thompson	MX-5	31	59:94	
Non MX-5	Andrew Fraser	Corvette	08	54:83	
	Cody Skoumbourdis	Ford Fiesta	29	57:60	
	Peter Barnwell	Proton	02	58:36	



# Walcha Weekend

MID NORTH COAST

27 - 28 OCTOBER WORDS JILL McDONNELL  
PHOTOS GRAHAM ROCHESTER GREG COX

An early start Saturday morning and we met at Oliver's Real Food at the 'Donut' intersection. A beautiful, sunny morning as 7 cars readied themselves with Peter and Jill in the lead, for the drive to Waterman's Café – the best in Wauchope – for early morning tea or brekky. We couldn't do the early morning run to Ginger's Café because all the motorcycle riders were doing the Oxley Bicentennial Ride at that time and we didn't want to get in their way. Warm sunshine as we headed out past Curly's Café and Timbertown to our first major roadworks stop at Yippin Creek on the Oxley Highway at the 160km sign to Walcha. The roadworks are to get rid of the bends and corners in that area.

Past Huntingdon Public School and through Bago Bluff Forest area – and oops nearly took the Byabarra turn off. Rushing over Rushers Creek as we sped along looking at the beautiful green hills, light fluffy clouds and blue skies as we headed past Mount Seaview Resort. Then, along the run in the sunshine, with the sounds of bellbirds, and the windy, curvy road to Gingers Café. Two slow vehicles kindly let us pass and then a horse trailer held us up.

At Ginger's a multitude of bikes were parked but we managed to fit ourselves in. We met the ladies dressed in their 19th century celebration outfits, collected our Bicentennial Ride certificates, bookmarks and chocolate fudge samples and after photos galore, set off again. Numerous sections of minor roadworks and speed limits to slow us down. Then we drove through the beautiful Yarrowitch Valley.

The next couple of slow downs were

the cattle grazing on the roadside as we passed near the Tia River – apparently it is a trout stream. We stopped at Wild Rivers National Park to view the Apsley Falls flowing quite strongly. Robert entertained us all in the car park with a couple of well-loved tunes on his bagpipes.

We drove straight through Walcha to the Walcha Road Pub for lunch. The dining room was all set up for us and we enjoyed a delicious counter meal and drinks as we perused the idiosyncratic paintings of the late artist Peter Blaney. Then it was off on the 19 kilometre run to the village of Wollun and picking up Kevin and Jen on the way to Dobson's Distillery on the Eastview Estate at Kentucky. We were booked in for 2pm and had a great rundown on their famous gins, whiskeys and vodkas by Lyn Dobson. Then we tried some tasters, Greg proposed a toast to our friend Mike, checked out the quirky shop, bought a few samples and then headed off with Kevin in the lead to Walcha Motel.

After settling in to our rooms we all set off up the hill to the Commercial Hotel, built back in 1864 a typical hotel of its era on the outside but with ultra-modern renovations in the lounge and dining room. We enjoyed a noisy, friendly, appetising dinner and drinks before heading off back down the hill to the motel. Up bright and early for breakfast at 8am – too early for some. Enjoying eggs, bacon, sausages and hash browns we appreciated each other's company once again before setting off on our separate ways. Many thanks to Peter McDonnell for organising the weekend.





Thank you for your support

## Major Sponsors



## Chapter Sponsors

