



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
ABN 82 599 208 521

Competition Report for the Year 2014 - 2015

The 2014 – 2015 competition year has seen us building on the 25 years of competition events with our Club, with an increasing range of events available to us all.

Club members have organised, run and competed in:

- Track days
- Driver training days
- Motorkhanas,
- MX-5 Cup racing

and many Club members have competed in other events.

I estimate that about 25% of MX-5 Club members participate in our various competition events. That is a fantastic participation rate for a marquee-based club like ours, which is not primarily focused on motorsport.

However, I want to provide the other 75% with the opportunity to enjoy the full capabilities of their cars in a safe and fun environment. That is why I have been very keen to promote and facilitate the motorkhanas and driver training days that we added to the calendar in 2014, as they provide a great way for people to get started, without having to take a big first step straight to track days.

Motorkhanas

Anyone aged 12 and up who is able to drive a car can participate in a motorkhana. No special equipment is required - not even a helmet - and you can wear normal everyday clothing. Any roadworthy car can be used, and MX-5s are ideal for motorkhanas. We drive on a slippery wet concrete skidpan with speeds up to about 40 km/h, so there is little wear on the car or it's tyres, and no real risk of any other damage.

The Club has run one motorkhana so far in 2015, with 40 Club members participating. For 16 of that 40, it was their first motorsport event. It was great to see everyone have a great day, especially the first-timers.

Thanks to Dan Szwaj, Joe Craddy, Josh Allen and Scotty Gibbs for getting involved and organising this year's motorkhanas.

Driver Training Days

These events are intended to provide an environment for people to have their first taste of track driving, with hands on tuition from Club members with extensive track experience.

There have been four driver training days at Marulan Driver Training Centre since mid-2014, with a total of 167 drivers participating, and just under half of them driving at their first track event. Many of those first-timers have since gone on to join one of our track days at Wakefield Park or Sydney Motorsport Park.

These driver training days have been such a great success due to the excellent work by the organising team, and the support of many Club members providing their time and experience as in-car advisors.

A special thank you to Lindsay Green, Stephen Fisher, Helen Green and Josh Fitzgerald for returning in 2015 to carry on their great work organising these



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events. Without them, these driver training days would not be viable. Thanks again guys.

Club Track Days

Since mid-2014 there have been 7 track days, with 5 at Wakefield Park and 2 at Sydney Motorsport Park. Thanks to the great team of Club members who give their time to make these days a success.

This year we saw Zan Menzel step down as Event Secretary after 17 years.

Thanks Zan for your tireless efforts. Thanks to Rod Menzel also, for his support of Zan and the Club.

Barry Luttrell came on board as Zan's replacement in April, and after tuition from Zan and some practice with the May track day, he got a baptism by fire with two track days and a NSW Supersprint or organise simultaneously. Thanks Barry for taking on the Event Secretary role.

MX-5 Cup

2014 was a successful inaugural year for the MX-5 Cup race series, and that continued into the 2015 championship with events again at Wakefield Park, and for 2015 also at the Sydney Motorsport Park South Circuit.

The MX-5 Cup series provides races in a friendly environment, with points awarded in laptime-based classes. Thanks to Craig Durrant, Steve Green and the MX-5 Cup committee of Luke Otten, Stuart McFadyen and Daniel Deckers for their work in continuing the success of the MX-5 Cup.

A one-off MX-5 Nationals race event saw up to 30 drivers from NSW, Qld and Victoria competing in sprint races and an endurance event over a weekend at Wakefield Park in August. While this was not part of the MX-5 Cup series, it was run with similar rules and the friendly spirit of competition.

NSW Supersprints

MX-5 Club drivers have returned to the NSW Supersprint series even stronger in 2015, with 40 drivers representing the Club, and hoping to repeat the 2014 Club championship win.

We currently lead the 2015 championship with a good margin, and with only one event to go we are looking good to win again in 2015. This would cement the MX-5 Club as the most successful club in the history of the championship with 10 wins, and our first back-to-back win since 2002-2003.

Victorian 6-Hour Regularity Relay

The Victorian 6-Hour Regularity Relay was run at Phillip Island in August, and five teams comprised of MX-5 Club of NSW members participated. Each team had four drivers, plus an enthusiastic support crew. The 6-Hour is a great event at an iconic track, and a very social and fun weekend for the Club members who make the trip. The MX-5 teams finished 2nd, 11th, 12th, 29th and 38th out of 50 teams.

Everyone I spoke to after the event said they would be returning next year, so I expect it will be even bigger for us in 2016.



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Nulon Nationals

For 2015 the Nulon Nationals expanded from 3 to 4 events, with the addition of a motorkhana to complement the hillclimb, track day and drag race events carried over from 2014.

Club based teams each put forward five drivers to compete in each of the events. With some teams fielding very powerful and quick cars, the MX-5 Club was never going to be in the running to win the series, but still did well with 6th place out of the 9 competing clubs.

The Year Ahead

The 2016 competition calendar currently has six track days, three driver training days, three motorkhanas, plus the MX-5 Cup Championship series.

We will hopefully be defending the NSW Supersprint championship and winning our 11th title, I expect that many Club members will be making another trip to Phillip Island for the Victorian 6-Hour Regularity Relay, and the Nulon Nationals will be back again with revised rules.

2016 will be bigger and better.

David Lawler
Competition Secretary
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.

Annual General Meeting
21st October 2015