

Club Talk

Year in Review

2006

Volume 15, No 1



ABN 82 599 208 521



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Club Talk is a Publication of the MX-5 Club of NSW Inc

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006 IN REVIEW

Hasn't the Club been busy during 2006!!!

So many things have been going on, and all of them very enjoyable.

Imagine being a member of a group that no matter where you go in the world, you can easily find friends and people who have a genuine interest in you and your passion, and who will go out of their way to show you a good time when you visit them, even if you've never seen them before. Sound like a dream? It isn't, and if you're reading this, then you ARE a part of this wonderful world wide group of people. During 2006, we picked up a lovely couple from Canada who were in Sydney for their first ever trip here, and because they are members of a Miata club in Canada, they contacted us so that they could meet some Aussie MX-5'ers.

We took them on our famous Fish and Chip run which runs from the Harbour Bridge, to Balmoral Beach and then onto Dee Why beach for coffee and cakes. This is certainly not the first time we have done something similar with overseas visitors, and I'm sure we will be doing this again. I know of a few Aussies that have gone overseas and been wined and dined by various MX-5 and Miata clubs from many different countries as well. It's a fabulous thing to know that wherever you are, there is always an MX-5 fanatic at hand to help out and show you around and I guess this is just one of the very good reasons to be a member of an MX-5 club.

But a club needs people to run it. Our club is running along very well, with membership up and our bank account growing every day. During 2006 the committee needed some help and we were able to encourage new members during the year to join the committee.

I am very pleased to announce that we have a new treasurer Jane Frost. Jane is a lovely lady and a very experienced and competent bookkeeper, and she has graciously agreed to be our treasurer. Jane is on her second MX-5, now being the very proud owner of a Galaxy Grey NC.

2006 saw a new Club Captain, Phil Ashton. It took us some months to coerce him into doing it, and now he doesn't know why he didn't do it a long time ago. Phil is an experienced sports car veteran having owned a variety of Sprites and other cars and he is also very handy on the race track. Phil will be asking people for ideas for runs, and then helping them get the run organised and run by the club. We are always looking for volunteers to come up with runs, so if you have one in mind, please let Phil know about it.

Regalia have traditionally been a troublesome area for us, but now that Ray and Pam Estreich have come on board, I know it will be left in good hands.

Paul and Sandra Williams are assisting with the content material for the Club Talk publications. Thanks guys.

The club thanks all new committee members and hope they thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Natmeet was held during 2006 and it was a good opportunity to go on holiday with 100 best friends is an experience you shouldn't miss out on when the next Natmeet occurs during 2008. The roads up around the Kooralbyn way were absolutely glorious and should not be missed. If you are ever going up the north coast of NSW – south coast of Queensland, try all of the roads that go between the inland and Pacific highways, as most of them are only lightly trafficked and go over the Great Dividing Range and the idyllic, twisty roads are a real treat. Natmeet was fabulous.

Kerry and I really enjoyed our stay there, even though we had to come home early because of some family matters, but for the few days we were there, we had a ball.

The club's track days are more popular than ever and I hear squeals of joy at every one I attend. Even from the competitors! There is a fuller track report from Mike Hicks later in the magazine (and what a great job he does in organising the track days too).

I really enjoyed the Natmeet track day at QIR, and even though it isn't an MX-5 friendly track, the different layouts the Qld club set up made sure we were challenged the whole day. Combining the track with the autokhana events made sure that the winners were very skilled in various facets of car control and motor sport. The resort was very nice, as was all the food, but the one thing that really stuck out for me was the road from the highway to the resort. This would have to be one of the best roads I've ever driven on. Some of the turns and the combinations of turns were better than any of the race tracks I've driven on, and the scenery was breathtaking. Not that I got much of a chance to look at the scenery while I was driving. I must have driven to and fro on that road at least 20 times! Wish I could have packed it up and taken it home.

Going away with the club is something that should not be missed. Even if you don't know anyone else that's going, you will become good friends after spending a night or 2 away with them.

With that in mind, I want to point out the October long weekend away we have organised for you, together with the Canberra Chapter of our club to go to Floriade in Canberra. There were lots of great drives organised by the Canberra guys and gals as well as a tour of Floriade and Canberra's surrounding areas. These guys really know where all the good roads are and they arranged for all of us to be able to enjoy them too. The accommodation was very good, and the prices, as always, are also very reasonable. Great fun for all.

I sincerely hope you have been having a good time at various club events and if you can think of any improvements, or have any ideas on fun things to do and great roads to drive, please let someone in the committee know about it. We are, after all, here for your enjoyment. It still surprises me that only a small percentage of members actually come out and attend our runs and functions.

During June we had a general meeting where we invited a spokesman from Penrite oils to come along and talk to us about oils. Martin, the guy from Penrite, was very knowledgeable and answered all of our questions but we only had around 26 members turn up.

Surely, more than 26 of you are interested in oils, but it's not just for the talk and discussion of upcoming events, but these meetings are arranged for you to meet other club members and chew the fat, so to speak.

We always have hot food arranged for these meetings, and it is usually brought in a good half hour before the starting time, so there is no excuse not to come straight from work, have some free food and hot drinks and talk to all the other like-minded members. It doesn't matter if you're into racing or just a nice Sunday cruise; there are always members that have similar interests to you. The more events you go to, the more you get out of the club.

Earlier, I mentioned our new web site. Robert Gage, our club secretary, has done a wonderful job with this, and he's basically done it all on his own. The new site is very easy to navigate through and there is fresh stuff being put up all the time. All of our upcoming events are listed, as well as lots of photos of past events and the members having a great time.

Please check it out at www.mx5.com.au/nsw

We have a new chapter of the club starting up very soon in the Newcastle area.

The first meeting is being held at Juicy Beans Coffee Shop in Hunter St Newcastle on Saturday 14th October, and long term member, Sean Thompson has agreed to be the initial convenor of the Chapter. Members of the NSW committee will be there, and I'm sure they will go great guns, just as the Canberra Chapter does. Further details are on the Club's website.

This is the last President's Letter from me for the foreseeable future. Business pressures have forced me to resign from the committee after 4 years of service, and I'm very sad to go. I've really enjoyed being on the committee helping to guide the club and trying to ensure the enjoyment of it by the members and I would ask all of you to consider joining the committee. We are always looking out for people to help us

have a good time and steer the club in the right direction. It's not onerous being on the committee, but you may have to do a few minutes here and there. We're a fun-loving bunch and very keen to get more and more good ideas on what we should do and when. I wish the new committee all the best for 2007.

I won't be leaving the club, and I will still be seen at various events and helping out the committee if they need me, but unfortunately, I just don't have the time to devote to the club that I would like to.

I wish all of you much enjoyment and pleasure from our great cars.

Best regards,

[George Benedek](#)

President 2006

MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2006 IN REVIEW

By the time you read this I will probably be somewhere cruising in Alaska! My prearranged cruise happened to coincide with the invitation to join the tour of the Pacific Northwest arranged by the local Miata Club and an honorary Aussie, John Hewitt. That was an event I just could not miss! You will hear all about it when we return, as some other members are attending also.

The Club has at last found our Captain. It certainly gives some credence to the old adage that good things are worth waiting for. We have found the best in Phil Ashton. Already you will have noticed a huge difference in the activities being planned. Thank you Phil! We all know that Craig did an exceptional job in organising two runs each month single-handed and he is to be congratulated for that.

To all the ladies out there, keep looking at the coming events! Like most MX-5 owners I just love driving my car. I know that not everyone is like that, especially some of the partners who probably don't get to drive the car very often and almost never on Club runs or on the race track. I sort of started going on the track by accident, but as soon as I experienced the excitement and the thrill of beating that previous best lap time by even .05 of a second, I was hooked! I find that it has helped me immensely in feeling much more comfortable in the heavy traffic around Sydney. I know the capabilities of the car and have managed to avoid a few potential catastrophes!

Over the years I have managed to convince some other ladies to join me out there, most notably Matilda who now races in the Production Sports Car Series. Sometime early next year I am planning to organise a ladies only day at the track. It will be totally non-threatening, with no male testosterone around at all! (Unless we need them!) There may or may not be any organised lap times. I want this purely to be a day where you can learn to enjoy driving the car in a non-threatening environment. You don't even need an MX-5 to participate. If you would rather bring your everyday driver then that is fine, but if you can prise the MX-5 from your partner for the day then even better.

It will be open to non members as well, or members from other clubs also, but our own members will get priority, if I happen to get overwhelmed with participants. No idea of cost or date yet, but most likely it will be in February or early March, depending of course on the availability of the track. I will start serious planning when I get back from my trip, so as they say "Watch this Space"

Jean Cook,
Vice president.

COMING EVENTS

Monthly publication of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc, PO Box 402 Beecroft NSW 2119. It's compiled by the committee. The Mazda MX-5 Club encourages safe and responsible motoring at all events

October

- 11 - Committee Meeting
- 15 - Gramps Blue Mountain Run
- 17 - Phillip Island Supersprint with Mx-5 of Victoria
- 25 - Annual General Meeting

November

- 8 - Committee Meeting
- 12 - Camp Quality run to Stanwell Tops
- 26 - Concours De Elegance, Homebush

December

- 3 - Wakefield Park Track Day
- 10 - Christmas Party
- 13 - Committee Meeting



MEMBERSHIP NEWS FOR 2006

In earlier issues, we used to list new members in this section. Somehow, in the past year or so, this has not happened, so I hope to make up for this in this issue. I don't know how far back we have to go, so I have arbitrarily decided that we would list all those who joined in 2005 and 2006.

The 2006 MX-5 Club of NSW Membership expires at the end of October. Sometime in September, you will all receive an email or postal renewal form to be filled in for next year. I would very much appreciate if you could return this with your payment, and any detail changes, especially address/phone/email changes so that we can update our database. The more that I can receive early, the less work I'll have to do to chase up the late stragglers.

Those of you, who have not yet renewed for the 2005/06 year, unless you contact me immediately, will now be deemed to have resigned and will have to pay the joining fee again if you wish to retain your membership.

For the 2006/07 year, the committee has decided to maintain the existing subscription rates - \$40 for Associates, \$55 for Full, and \$80 for Joint members. The applicable amount will be shown on your renewal notice.

A constant source of confusion for new members is the discount levels for those who joined part-way through the year. The Club Constitution provides for only one level of discount, and that is 50% for those who joined after 30th April, 2006. The committee has decided a further discount of 25% (i.e. 75% total) for those who joined after 31st July, 2006. There is no other pro-rata discount applicable. Again, the correct amount will be shown on your renewal notice.

Peter Howe,
Membership Secretary.

If you need another form please email me on membership@mx5.com.au

Congratulations to the following new members.

2005

Name	
Albert E Concha	Mike van Zoggell
Amanda Reich	Nathan Scoular
Andre Queree	Neil Capadia
Andrew Ringland	Nicholas Parker
Ann & Wal Slaven	Paul & Sandra Williams
Annette Wilde	Peter Browning
Anthony Peter & Iris Eleanor McDonald	Peter Oborn
Anthony Scott	Peter Ranger
Benjamin D M Wright	Ray & Pam Estreich
Bevan Goddard	Robert Judd & Bricet Kloren
Bob Duncan	Robert Wall
Bradley Cecil	Rod Menzel
Brett & Coleen Randall	Rod Carter
Charles & Irene Chan	Rohan Primrose
Chris Gough	Russell John Battisson
Christina Jeppesen	Scott Morton
Christine Hamilton	Shawn Antonelli
Christopher McKeon	Stephen & Carol Cromer
Clarence Mak	Stephen & Nicole Kelly
Clive Parrott	Stephen Gooch & Ruth Pollard
Connie Brown	Stephen Taylor
Crystal Hall	Stephen Wayne Green
	Steve & Sharon Jokai

2006

Name	
Adam Gordon Newlan and Renee Louise Kilroy	Melissa Rooke
Adam Gosling	Michael George Howe
Adrian R Lochrin	Michael Gough
Adrian Trenery	Michael John Whyte
Alfred & Mei Chew Ong	Michael McLaren & Brenda Hulme
Allan Owen	Nathalie Collet
Andrew William Irwin	Nola & Ronald Freestone
Anna Pennell	Peter & Kathleen Eaton
Benson Comb	Peter Bickford
Bevan Calliess	Phillip & Jenny McCormack
Bill Kinnane	Rachael Eggins
Brenda M Rogers	Richard Jenkins
Bruce Hugh McKenzie & Louise Barry	Robert Saunders
Christopher Fleer	Rolfe Mazda
Colin J. & Leena M. Ward	Russell Chafer
Daniel Deckers	Sanyu Kibukamusoke
Daniel Katz	Sean M Pyper
David Hood	Sean Thompson
Derek John Fung	Steven John Head
Donald William & Myongsook Witheford	Stewart David Temesvary
Fiona & David Nichols	Tom Campbell
Franck & Margaret Verheyen	Tyrone Andre Gautier & Nicole Crosby

CLUB TALK-2006 IN REVIEW

Darren Gardner	Stewart Eckermann	Gary & Janet Leedham
Darren Hurst	Stewart M Clode & Leona Curran	Geoffrey Norman Hartney
David Hammon	Ted Webber	Geoffrey Wasser
Debbie Hewgill	Therezia Mihajlovic	Grant Bell
Denzil Hunter Ronald Bourne	Tim Sullivan	Howard A Fleming
Dianne Miller	Timothy & Sharon Ebbeck	Ian Bennett
Donald Hurst	Timothy Streatfeild	Ian Miller
Drew Rodwell	Verne Johnson	Ian Soklevski
Felix & Christine Tydeman	Warren & Pamela Johnstone	Jack E & Kathy J Francis
Gary David & Sue Delaney	William Campbell Gemmell	Jade Lewis Hurst
Gerry Murphy	William Spence	Jane Frost
Graeme Hill	Keith W Leslie	Jee-Yoong Leong
Greg Nielsen	Ken Liston	John William Foley
Heidi Lawson	Kenneth Law	Julian Flitcroft
Hilary & Denise Stones	Kyle Alberts	Justin Fox
Ian Vickers	Kylie Liddell	Justin Murray
James Sinnet King	Lance McGrath	Katherine Farina
Jennifer & Anthony Slater	Leo Saly	Kayleen Reid
Joe & Carmel McGarity	Lettie MacCormaic	Keir Malpas & Margaret Noakes
John Brandt	Louise Johnson	Kevin Mulready
John Bugh	Lyn Everingham	Kevin Nam
John Dunks	Lyn Murray	Lindsay Claude Buckmaster
John Percy & Deborah Hunter	Margaret Stevenson	Louise & Klaas Tigchelaar
John Preston	Margaret Williams	Luke Chiam
Jon Dobell	Mark John Davies	Malcolm Flynn
Jonathan David Hawkins	Michael & Ann Margaret Pauline	Mark Dumas
Joseph Rocco Macare	Neil Capadia	Mark William & Jennifer Gail Sanders
Karl Way	Nicholas Parker	Matthew Robert Guyder

MIKE'S COMPETITION REPORT FOR 2006



Brian Anderson and Jaffa on their winning way at Wakefield Park

It has been some time since the distribution of the last edition of Club Talk. However during that time there has been plenty of activity on the competition side.

On the club scene we have conducted five track days at Wakefield Park since July 2005. All events have been oversubscribed with some members being disappointed when they found that they were not able to compete due to the early closing of entries. Remember club members receive preference with their entry ahead of visitors provided that you enter prior to the preferential entry date; this date also

entitles you to the early bird discount as well. To the club members and visitors who continue to support our track days the committee and organisers would like to thank you for your on going support.

At the December track day we devoted additional time to the very important topic of Driver Training. A very big thank you to Brian Anderson and Zane Al-said who spoke on the many aspects of safe and fast competitive driving and in particular how this should be done at Wakefield Park. At lunchtime they and a number of our experienced drivers conducting a track walk, providing all with additional tips on how to lap Wakefield Park quickly.



The October meeting was spoilt by continuing rain that made the conditions most unpleasant for both competitors and officials. This meeting was run as the annual interstate challenge with our southern cousins from across the Murray. Unfortunately only two ventured north and the NSW Club was able to regain the "Challenge Cup".

In 2006 the Victorians will play host to us on the 17th December at a supersprint at Phillip Island about an hour and a half southeast of Melbourne. Phillip Island is recognised as one of the best racetracks in Australia so don't miss out. A CAMS L2S will be the minimum licence requirement for this one.

Our February track day was run as a "triple treat", featuring three events on the one-day, a hill climb, short circuit and main circuits. Canberra member Greg Sutton returned after a reasonable absence with his Porsche 911 RS and managed to win all three events. Congratulations to Greg. He was kept honest during the day by a swarm of Turbo MX-5s driven by John Bugh, Verne Johnson, Darren Wood and President George Benedek. Lance McGrath in his RX7 and Bill Dougall in the recently re-christened Zoom put in the best times for the naturally aspirated cars.

A good field of forty-seven starters competed at our May track day on Monday the 8th. It has been some time since we have conducted a mid-week event, so the good roll up was most encouraging. Up to eight runs including the six-lap regularity were completed by the keen competitors. Joe Macare from the Central Coast won the regularity driving Chris Gough's car. Fastest time of the day was recorded by Chris Tonna making a welcome return to club track days in his black prod sports race-car.

Back in September last year four of our members faced the challenge of the Hunleys hill climb near Dapto on the South Coast. Those competing were Rodd Clarke who recorded a time of 31.06 seconds followed by Phil Ashton giving his beautiful NB8B its final outing in his hands, 32.61, Renny Roden 32.83 and Michael Bowden 34.05. All enjoyed the day but indicated that the club's track days offered more "bang for the bucks" spent.

Our May Track Day brought to a close our 2005/2006 Competition Year. Competitors and Officials who have supported the Wakefield Park Track Days will be presented with their trophies and gifts of appreciation following our Annual General Meeting in October.

For those of us that travelled north to attend Natmeet in Queensland the challenge of competing at Queensland Raceway on the Thursday prior to Easter was a great experience. Eight cars from NSW attended, we competed on two of the many circuit configurations available at Q R plus a couple of motorkhana tests behind the pit area. The Clubman Circuit being a little more MX-5 friendly than the National Circuit. Class winners from NSW on the National Circuit were Colin Caldwell, Jean Cook, Mike Hicks, Phil Ashton and Verne Johnson. On the Clubman Circuit the class winners were the same with the exception that Phil Roberts just edged out Colin for the Standard NA 1.6 class.

On the 4th June our club in conjunction with the Z Car Club hosted the 3rd round of the New South Wales Supersprint Championship at Wakefield Park. Unfortunately the number of entries was down on the numbers from previous years. Never the less we were able to give all competitors the opportunity to complete nine timed runs of four laps each. Although cold the weather was kind and many competitors established their personal best times around Wakefield Park.

The day ran very smoothly thanks to the efforts of many of our members who assisted in an official capacity on the day. To those members a very big thank you and in recognition of your efforts you will receive a 50% discount on your entry fee at either our September or December track days.

In open competition the club and its members have once again had a successful year in 2005.

In the New South Wales Production Sports Car Races Brian Anderson won the six round CAMS Championship Outright, he was also the winner of class C, a great effort by Brian particularly as he was competing against GT3 Porsches, Cobras, etc. David Raddatz won class D. Other club members flying the flag were Chris Tonna, Matilda Mravicic and Nick Martinenko.

In 2006 the State Race Championship is at the halfway point in a six round Championship. Club member Brad Douglas currently leads the Championship Outright and Class C. Brian Anderson and Nick Martinenko have had some teething difficulties with their "new SP" racecars and are looking forward to a better second half to the year. Chris Tonna and Matilda Mravicic continue to fly the MX-5 flag along with class D new-comer Tyrone Gautier having purchased the Ed Chiver's car.

In the 2005 New South Wales Supersprint Championship the Mazda MX-5 Club won the Club Championship for a record fifth time. Congratulations to all those that contributed to our win. The club was also well represented in the winners of individual trophies. First time supersprinter John Burgess won the Type 1 trophy for standard production cars and our favourite lady Matilda Mravicic won the Type 3 trophy for production racecars running on treaded tyres. In addition John (class 1B) and Matilda (class 3B) won their respective classes. Other trophy winners were Michael Bowden – 2nd in class 1A, Chris Gough – 2nd in class 2A, Lindsay Burke – 3rd in class 2A, Rodd Clarke – 1st in class 2B, James Yu – 2nd in class 2B, Darren Wood – 2nd in class 2D, Doug Mellows – 3rd in class 2D and Nick Martinenko – 2nd in Class 3B. Other club members who competed in the Championship and contributed to the club's overall success included Ian Vickers, Bradley Cecil, Peter McAulay, Kevin Addison and Mike Hicks.

Incidentally John Bugh who was second outright in last year's championship driving his turbo PRB Clubman is an MX-5 member who competes at our Wakefield Park track days in his road MX-5. Congratulations to John.

In 2006 our representation in the State Championship is not quite as strong as last year. Five of the eight rounds have now been completed and the club sits in second place in the Club Championship with fifty-seven points to the New South Wales Road Racings 101 points. John Bugh has a slender one-point lead in the outright, type 4 and class e championships. Supersprinting newcomer Ed Cory leads class 2 b and shares the lead in type 2 with a WRX, Kevin Addison leads class 3 b. Stewart Temesvary, Ian Vickers, Brad Cecil and Matilda Mravicic are recording strong class performances.

On the 11th and 12th March seven of our members competed in round 1 of the MG Racing Series on the Oran Park South Circuit. Chris Tonna and Chris Gough competed in various races whilst Bill Dougall,

Renny Roden, Kevin Addison, Tim Sullivan and Mike Hicks competed in the Regularity events. A great weekend was had by all who now look forward to the next meeting on the Oran Park GP Circuit in July. Congratulations to Kevin Addison who won one regularity and was second in another.

Bill Dougall had the pleasure of loaning "Zoom" to 1976 CAMS Gold Star Champion John Leffler for a demonstration runs in one of Sundays Regularities. Bill managed to shade John's best time by 0.4 of a second, if only you had taken up motor racing earlier in life Bill you may have been a Gold Star Champion.



The next State Championship Race Meeting will be at Oran Park on the 29th and 30th of July followed by the sixth round of the Supersprint Championship at Eastern Creek on Sunday the 13th August. Good luck to all those competing and if your not competing go along and support the MX-5 members. Safe and exciting MX-5 motoring till next time.
Mike Hicks – Competition Secretary.

John Bugh leads Verne Johnson into turn 2 at Wakefield Park

CLUB TALK CANBERRA REGION ROUNDUP

Since the last Club Talk, the Canberra Region Chapter has continued its frantic pace of events, starting with an informal run to Thirlmere on Sunday 4 September 2005 to meet with Sydney members and visit the NSW rail transport museum. We all enjoyed lunch at the "Welcome Inn" and then proceeded to brush up on the history of the NSW Railways.

September's formal run was named *Tip Toe through the Tulips* but would have been more appropriately called *Tip Toe Past the Tulips*. Held on Sunday 18 September 2005, the first day of Floriade and the opening of the Tulip Farm's 8th Spring Festival, we drove via Bungendore for a coffee stop and visited the famous Woodworks. That took a little longer than expected so we decided to bypass the Tulips and enjoy the Bungendore to Gundaroo Road for a lunchtime pizza in the Courthouse at Gundaroo.



The first Tuesday in October saw the local launch of the new NC model MX-5 at Rolfe Mazda in Belconnen. Rolfe Mazda's General Manager, Mark Wilson, used the occasion to announce sponsorship of the Canberra Region Chapter of the MX-5 Club of NSW.

Photo: Rolfe Mazda General Manager, Mark Wilson, presenting the sponsor's cheque to Canberra Chapter Convenor, Paul Beerworth

The following weekend saw the third annual Dave's Dodgy Day, this time a two day event. Sponsored by Dave Battison of Carco Automotive, the Chapter enjoyed a fascinating technical talk and demonstration by Stewart Clode of the Lake Tuggeranong College automotive faculty. The following day at Dave's workshop was a more practical day, where he installed turbo heat shields, provided advice on panel and paint repairs, an underbody power wash and more.

Our Club run on Sunday 30 October coincided with a flying day conducted at the Australian Museum of Flight, Nowra. The Museum Director invited the MX5 Club to attend and participate in a parade of WWII

Pacific Campaign veterans. 7 Canberra cars joined one car from Mittagong for the event. Unfortunately, the weather, which plagued the Track Day at Wakefield Park, also affected the flying day.

Sunday 20th November the Chapter saw 13 Chapter cars participate in a display of Cars and Trucks called "Marques in the Park" on at John Knight Park, Belconnen, ACT. More than 700 vehicles of all types were presented. This gave us an opportunity to promote our Club and our sponsor, Rolfe Mazda, who provide a gleaming new NC LE for the display of our fine MX5s.

The crème de la crème of runs was the long awaited two day run around the Snowy Mountains. Held over the weekend 26 – 27 November, 9 cars including 3 from Sydney enjoyed marvellous roads through the Southwest Slopes, the Snowy Mountains and the Monaro Plain.



The Chapter events in December included a mid week evening run to check out the Christmas Lights in the northern suburbs. A great turn out of 16 MX5s, and a Clubbie. The main event was the Canberra Region Chapter Christmas Party. Held at Madew Winery, Federal Highway, Lake George, the event attracted 55 people including a number from Sydney down for the December Track Day. Dave Battison of Carco Automotive and Exhaust took the opportunity to announce sponsorship of the Canberra Region Chapter.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter Christmas Party, Madew Winery, Lake George.

Chapter members have achieved good results in a range of motor sports activities including motorkhanas, Club track days at Wakefield Park, hillclimbs and the domestic Go Kart Championship, made up of 4 rounds conducted on an indoor karting track.



The Chapter's first run in 2006 was an evening run to miss the heat of the day. A great turn out, 19 cars in the end, 17 at the start and two joined us during the run. It was a spectacular sight, one of the biggest groups of MX-5s cruising the roads to check out the hills of Canberra. The run finished with supper on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, unfortunately the superb sunset we experienced in 2005 was absent.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter members, Mt Ainslie, Canberra

The inaugural Convenor's BBQ was held on Sunday, 19th February 2006. 42 members and 6 guests gathered at the Lerida Estate Winery, Lake George to enjoy the hospitality of the MX5 Club of NSW and Lerida Estate.



12 March saw the Chapter participate in the Annual Shannons Wheels Expo. This charity event attracts a wide range of marques and is a popular event in the ACT. 23 cars were presented during the day and all agreed it was a great promotion for the Chapter.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter display, Shannons Wheels Expo

Also in March, 5 cars and crews participated in the Riverina Run, a tarmac rally conducted between Goulburn and Wagga Wagga.

To make sure no one missed out on a March MX5 experience, our monthly run was the Dilly Dally in Dalgety Run, a visit to one of the alternate sites for the National Capital, and near the headwaters of the Snowy River. The area contains some magnificent roads, despite the transport stage to Cooma and return. Mal Bernhardt organised and led the run.

April saw the Chapter move its regular '**Coffee and Lies**' informal monthly meeting from Fyshwick to the Bohemian Café on the top of Red Hill, right in the middle of the city. Providing plenty of car parking and fine food, the new venue has been an outstanding success. Regular attendances of 20 or more cars, even during the depths of Canberra's infamous winter, have been recorded.

The April run saw 10 cars take a back roads run through Bungendore, Tarago, Goulburn and Bungonia to Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands for lunch at the Hotel Bundanoon.

In May the big news was the Great Roads Run. While only four cars took part in the two week run around Victoria, taking in the Great Ocean Road and the Great Alpine Road, and many other great roads in between, it was a quality field. The touring party were joined in Bairnsdale for the Great Alpine Road leg by three other Canberra cars. The final leg through the Snowy Mountains was a blast!

Making sure that other Chapter members were not left out on their monthly drive, John Brown headed a run via Braidwood to Araluen and Majors Creek, catching up with Braidwood's sole MX-5 owner.



With the middle of the year coming up, it was time to go inland. Stewart and Leena organised a great run through some fantastic roads of the South West Slopes and a tour of the beautifully restored property of Monte Cristo Homestead and a tour/lunch at the popular Junee Liquorice and Chocolate Factory. 9 cars participated.

Photo: Canberra Region Chapter at Monte Cristo, Junee

July means Christmas, and this year the Canberra Region Chapter celebrated with traditional Christmas fare at the Shaw Vineyard Estate, in Murrumbateman, just over the border. Superbly organised by Iris and Tony, 31 members and 4 guests enjoyed fine company, fine food and fine cars, beginning with a smart 80 km run including nine of the ten roundabouts along Parkes Way in the City.

In August, it was back to Bundanoon to meet up with the Sydney members of the MX-5 Club of NSW. 11 cars made the journey and enjoyed the company of fellow MX-5 aficionados.

The Canberra Region Chapter has enjoyed growing membership over the past twelve months; it enjoys the enthusiastic support of many members driving cars from across the range of MX-5s from 1989 to the present. The Chapter is well supported by its sponsors, particularly Mark Wilson, Dealer Principal of Rolfe Mazda, Belconnen, and Dave and Russ Battisson, of Carco Exhaust and Automotive, also of Belconnen.

The Canberra Region Chapter welcomes visitors to our fine city; be assured that you will receive a warm welcome at any time, but in particular at our famous Coffee and Lies, held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. You will find us at the Bohemian Café, Red Hill, just look out for the long row of superb cars!



MAZDA MURMURS

MUDGEES WEEKEND AND WINERY TOUR

10TH and 12TH June

It all started on a cold and wet Saturday morning from McDonalds at McGraths Hill. Armed with muffins and coffee we had breakfast and just after 10.00am 11 MX-5's with Jean Cook leading the way headed to Mudgee (not too fast said some as a lot of our drivers don't have many demerit points left and of course it was double demerit long weekend). We crawled along the Bell's line of road being slowed by the bad weather and a van that couldn't manage to go above 60kph or around corners without braking.

Some of us were itching to overtake, but, unable to safely do so. We finally arrived at McDonalds Lithgow for a toilet stop and coffee. Weather improving but still the roofs

remained up we were back on the road again and, as it wasn't the clearest of days it was decided after discussion to go, Straight to Mudgee. The pace was a bit quicker now (it's amazing how those older NA's seem to want to go faster) and we finally arrived at Mudgee around 2.30pm all safe and well.



We had certainly worked up an appetite and stopped off at a local cafe/restaurant where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and met some of the locals. After lunch we all sampled some of their large assortment of chocolates. Yummy!!

We all headed for the Winning Post Motor Inn where we were staying to the weekend. After checking in and unpacking we headed off to Honey Haven where we sampled some of the different flavours of honey (I didn't realize there were so many). We headed back to the Motel, left our cars, and headed off to dinner at the Lawson Park Hotel, except Ricko who had dinner at the motel. We had some tables reserved in the beer garden. It was cook your own BBQ or order something from the bistro. It was a cold night but there was plenty of alcohol. On table 1 we had, Peter, Carolyn, Jane, Jean, Colin, Elaine and the Central coast couple getting a head start on the wine sampling, Table 2 the noisier group of Sandra, Paul, Pam, Ray, Franck, Marg, Maggie, Ken, Peter and how could we forget Kim. Sandra made quite a few friends around the BBQ while cooking her dinner (that's what you get Paul for letting your wife do all the cooking)

Sandra and Kim were waiting anxiously for the band to come on so they could get down and boogie but when they finally did it was a big disappointment, the band were hopeless, our singing around the dinner table was better, so Table 2 decided to call it a night and head back to the motel, Table! followed shortly thereafter.

Sunday morning after a good night sleep, everyone arrived for breakfast except the honeymooners (Sandra and Paul) who arrived when everyone else had finished. Sandra, Maggie and Kim headed off for a brisk walk after breakfast followed slowly by Peter and Ken. Carolyn and Peter went for their own day tour and the rest of us boarded the bus for a trip out to the Simon Gilbert Winery for our private tour.

Once at the winery we were greeted by Simon who took us down to the vineyards where our tour began. We were all standing there freezing with coats, gloves and beanies on when Simon announced "we must keep the vineyards free of any bugs and pests" as we stood on what looked like normal turf beside the

vines. Everyone must sterilize their shoes in a special solution! Each of us stepped into the sterilizing basin and out again, only to step back on the same turf. I think it was a bit of a gimmick but we all did it. I think the wine must have gone to his head a little. Simon then talked on for about 15 minutes on the pruning and cutting back and when and how the grapes were picked. Enough of that we were all frozen and itching to try the real stuff so back inside we went and into barrel room.

Simon explained a bit about the wines, how long they were matured before drinking etc. and then showed us the syringed instrument that is used to extract wine from the barrels (it was huge) and on seeing that every woman in the room took a step back (looked just like that gyno instrument hey girls).

Anyway back to the serious business of wine tasting, Simon poured it; we swirled, sniffed, sipped and spat (or in a lot of cases swallowed). After we all sampled (even the non wine drinkers) reds and whites, Simon asked what we smelt and tasted. Many comments of burnt, woody, hay, sweet, sour and I've got no idea. By this stage there were quite a few rosier cheeks than when we arrived.

Wine tasting over it was now time for lunch and we had a two piece band playing just for us (they were 200 times better than the band at the pub the night before) Lunch consisted of samples of local produce from Angela's kitchen. There was Pizza with Onion Jam and High Valley Feta, Roast Vegetable Frittata, Fig tree Olive Tapenade, Mudgee Rouge Cheese with Quince Paste, sourdough bread with Cudgegong Olive Oil and Pork, Veal & Chicken Terrine with pickles, chutneys and olives. Lunch was enjoyed by all except Paul and Kim who couldn't wait for dinner.

After lunch the music cranked up and the girls starting dancing (you think the wine had gone to their heads). Pam, Maggie, Elaine, Kim and Sandra all got into the dancing then, wait for it, and a special appearance from the girls from Abba (aka Sandra and Kim) for the Mama Mia song. It was now time to go but not before Jane and Jean purchased a few cases of wine. Just as well those MX5 boots are bigger than we think.

All aboard the bus and we really wanted to take the music with us. A couple more winery stops, more tasting and back to the motel we go. A couple of hours free time to do what you want and then meet in the motel restaurant for dinner. We enjoyed a meal together and talked about what a great weekend it was, and then we called it a night.

Monday morning had come around and so had the frost as we poked our heads out the window it was -4 degrees and all of our little MX-5's were frosted over. Colin was already down there melting down the ice with water. The rest of us thought we'll have breakfast and think about it after (except, of course, Peter who was a little under the weather, says it was the food). After breakfast, we wet down the cars and packed.

It's time to go, the sun is out, the roofs are down as we zoom zoom to Gulgong where we have free time to explore the Gulgong Museum which most of us did and I must say it is huge and well worth a look. Then everyone went their own way home. Pam, Ray, Sandra, Paul, Maggie, Ken, Marg, Franck, Peter and Kim made their way back through Rylstone and we met up at the pub for lunch.

The weekends over, we had such a great time, everyone got on so well and many new friendships were formed. It was our first weekend away with the Club and it was exceptional and I can't wait for the next one. Thanks Jean and Jane for a job well done.

If you have never been on an MX-5 weekend give it a go.

Story by Kim & Peter Ranger

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



IN JULY

Christmas in July the Mazda way:

Firstly, you take a few well presented machines in varying colours. Next, a select group of like minded people who enjoy back road drives, good coffee, good food and great company. Thanks to Roger's fine organization the day was a success albeit a bit expensive and embarrassing for one member of our troop who we all felt a genuine, glad it wasn't me sigh.



Good samaritans weren't too far away and Karen was back on the road, even though a little shaken and stirred. Yarramalong Manor put on sumptuous and rather large meal that tested even the heartiest appetite, the staff you couldn't fault and they should be congratulated for their efforts.



Thanks again Roger.

White Water Rafting

Penrith-5th February 2006



Take away their Mx-5 and they were like ducks out of water!!!!!!!!!!

Not Zoom Zoom but Boom Boom.

Well what a day! Only a small group of seven dared to step out of their cars and into a raft in which they had no control. Roger, Daniella, Nando, Paul, Sandra, Ray and Pam (although a little reticent) signed away their lives, had their safety talk, dressed in their life jacket and helmets, grabbed an oar and off they set into a raft with their big kiwi leader in tow. Roger, of course, was told he would be in the back and Pam insisted on taking a centre spot.

The raft headed up the conveyor belt and into the calm waters

before the storm, each member paddling away with grins from ear to ear and at this stage as dry as a bone. How quickly things changed! Paddling away headlong into the first rapid and bingo they all got soaked. Not to be phased they kept paddling with instructions right, left, paddles up water gushing all around and as they approached the second rapid they were facing the wrong way, never mind go with the flow and they did backwards into gushing water would you believe, another drenching but still all smiling, they pulled into calm waters and a quick check that everyone was having fun. They completed the first lap and up the conveyor belt they had survived and headed for round 2.

The second time around was a little more eventful as their big kiwi leader thought time to really test their mettle. The raft gushed through rapids 1,2,3 before stopping at the 4th rapid for a breather where everyone was told to get out drop their oars and then get back in minus their oars and to paddle headfirst



into the rapids by hand. Needless to say our big kiwi leader got what he wanted as poor Sandra fell out head first, legs and arms going everywhere, this happened a couple of times before she managed to find her way back into the raft. Just when you thought they conquered it poor Daniella went out the backdoor and couldn't swim into the rapid so she did a bit of body surfing down the 4th, 5th and 6th rapid before being thrown a rope by one of the ever present life guards on dry land. Back to the raft she went, they all grabbed their oars and off they set through the final four rapids to end their second lap. They weren't deterred by this experience and were still all smiling as Jean, Kim and Peter followed them around the circuit and could see what was ahead of them at every turn. The photos Jean took will be sensational and I must say it was nearly as much fun watching as participating. We certainly got a laugh. Well up the conveyor belt again for round 3 and this is when the leader is supposed to be able to tip the raft upside down spilling all and scattering them throughout the rapids. Fortunately or unfortunately the MX-5 group proved a tough opponent as their raft managed to stay upright with minimal spills. They stuck to their rafts like MX-5's stick to the road. Other rafts were spilling their crew at will. There were more bodies' body surfing down the rapids with plenty of empty boats but our group finished with all aboard. Shane Gould's son was a leader in one of the other rafts. A few more laps around the course and the journey was over. They stepped out of the raft absolutely soaked but certainly rapt in the experience and even Pam, a little scared at first, had a ball. Can't wait until next time some said. They dried off, changed and we enjoyed lunch together before heading off in our MX-5s home.

Zoom Zoom...

Story by Kim & Peter Ranger

Photos by Jean Cook



Bits and Pieces

HIGH FIVE



Nineteen eighty nine came a car so fine,
You couldn't believe your eyes,
And you can bet they were so hard to get,
The zippy little MX-5.

Now it lays claim to motoring fame,
And that's no real surprise.
Car of the year twice, that's clear,
The zippy little MX-5.

So out on the highway, doin' it our way
Out for a weekend drive,
You get a natural high under clear blue sky,
Cruisin in your MX-5.

We keep countin' the bends on the mountain,
As we wind our way to the sea,
Then its rest a spell in a comfy motel,
For my little lady and me.

Very few cars show the twinklin' stars
When you're out for a drive at night
With the hood tucked away like it is through the day,
That's an MX5 delight.

When the weekends done, hey, we had a lot of fun,
Just what you need to revive,
With the wind in your hair, not a worry or care,
Cruisin' in your MX-5

Poem by Anonymous

Important notice:

We need tit bits, jokes, news. Questions you may have about your car, details on events that you would like to organize, anything that you think your fellow Mazda drivers would be interested in and don't forget us ladies. Trips that you have taken, and that may interest others who are thinking of venturing out. Just put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and let us know for coming editions.

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Members Only

Some of the friends of the club have kindly offered special discounts and value service to NSW Mazda MX-5 Club members. The following companies will provide these discounts and services provided you present your current Club Membership Card at the time of your purchase

<p>Al Palmer Repairs Penrith Pty Ltd Al is a MX-5 Club member, his company offers a wide range of services for your beloved MX-5, 20% discount to club members. Contact Al (02) 4721 5060 Lot 12 Robertson Place, South Penrith</p>	<p>Ammon Leather Special rates for MX-5 Club Members. 2 seats in full leather for your MX-5 (any colour) will cost only \$800. Price includes full installation and a three year warranty. 14 Telopea Avenue, Homebush West Contact Frank Wang (02) 9746 9433</p>	<p>Eurocars Northside Mazda Trade prices on parts and accessories, monthly parts specials. 15% discount on labour for service, complimentary car wash and vacuum, courtesy transport to nearest transportation station. 43-45 Hotham Road Artarmon Service: Patrick Campbell (02) 9439 2722 Parts: Bruce Roberts (02) 9439 2733</p>
<p>AMG 10% discount on body kits, wheels, tyres, sports exhausts and suspension parts. 500 Glenmore Rd, Edgecliff Call Brian Connell (02) 9327 6508</p>	<p>A.M.R. Motors Mazda Service Complimentary loan vehicle, 10% discount on labour, free exterior wash and interior clean. 370 Parramatta Road, Petersham Contact John Healey (02) 9569 2844</p>	<p>G H Mouldings Woodgrain or trinomitic black dash trim, installed on site \$395. 24K gold plating car emblems – whole car \$195, top \$100 extra. Ph: (02) 9882 2156</p>

Ian Luff Motivation Australia Discount packages available for Defensive Car Control, Skid Tuition and CAMS courses. Contact Ian Luff or his staff on (02) 9829 5399, or fax (02) 9829 5400 or www.ianluff.com.au	Hornsby Mazda 10% discount on genuine parts & labour. Mobile service van for on site servicing Monday to Friday. Hire vehicle for \$10/ day (plus GST) fuel & comprehensive insurance or reimbursement of rail travel ticket. Service also available on Saturday 7:30 to 12:00 Will tailor a service package to your needs. 64-72 Pacific Highway, Waitara Sales (02) 9372 3000 Parts (02) 9372 3092 Service (02) 9372 3098 Service Manager. – Brian Sprouster	John Newell Mazda Service John Newell are a proud sponsor of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW, they are also Australia's largest Mazda Dealer. Club members receive a member discount on parts and accessories; you also receive use of a loan car and a free wash and vacuum with every service. 301 Botany Rd. Waterloo 2017 Ph: (02) 9319 0011 Fax: (02) 9319 0200
MX5 Mania We supply Roll Bars for Mk.1 & Mk 2's, Batteries, Racing Supplies, Rims, Tyres & a lot more. Contact Simone (02) 9482 3238 or mx5mania@optusnet.com	Paddington Phones 10% Discount, stores at: Neutral Bay Ph: 02 9904 1511, Surry Hills Ph: 02 9281 8044 or Menai Ph: 02 9541 2266 Product Sales & Marketing Manager – Peter Mason Ph: 02 9316 9999	Penrith Car Care Specialists in Paint & Fabric Protection, Swirl Mark Removal, Paint Scratches and Buff & Polish. Contact Sam Cilionio. Phone (02) 4732 5225 Unit 5, 55/61 York Road, Penrith
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	Sam's Auto One Check out Sam's Specials for Club Members. 187 George Street (Cnr Alfred St) Parramatta Contact Sam Silvestro Ph: (02) 9633 2899 Fax: (02) 9891 1473	Strathfield Car Radios Club members can purchase the Uniden Pro 510AX CB radio at the agreed club discount price of \$105. Normal retail price; \$149. Other club monthly specials available. Call in at Pacific Highway, Artarmon or phone (02) 9427 7299 Contacts; Ashley Milne (Manager) or Joe Scaltrito

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The above Base Rates apply to **commercial** advertisements.

Club Members Please note:-
PRIVATE Sales for Club Members are free of charge.

Many other companies will offer you a discount if you belong to our club, this can save you serious dollars on specialized items for your MX-5.

Please note that the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc. does not endorse or recommend any product or service provided by the above companies. It is listed as an information service for our members only.

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CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 2006

Hi, let me introduced myself, Phil Ashton (aka Charlie Brown) your new Club Captain. I've been roped into coming onto the committee and though I struggled for a while, in the end I felt that I needed to give back a little of what the Club has given me in the last year or two. That's fun, fellowship and a bit of adrenalin.

Here's a bit of my background for you. I'm an old, no make that young at heart, rev head.

I was a sports car owner in my youth, learning my driving skills behind underpowered Austin Healy Sprites (4 of them) before dropping in larger motors to make them perform. I then progressing to an MGB, modified it and did some club racing at long lost or almost lost tracks like Amaroo, Warwick Farm, Catalina, Oran Park and Silverdale Hillclimb.

Family commitments brought sports car ownership to an end for a number of years until the MX5 was released back in '89. This rekindled my desire to get back into an open top sports car but still the family couldn't fit so I had to put my desires onto the back burner for a few more years.



When the opportunity arrived back in 2001 for Cheryl & me to finally get a MX-5 the hunt was on. I knew what I wanted; I had scanned the Sunday newspapers for the last 10 years. It had to be a '93 Limited Edition with the same colour combination that reminded me of a Dino Ferrari that I raced against many years before. Red with a tan interior. It took a few months to track a good one down but finally we had our first MX5. It came with that obsolete piece of equipment called a hard top, a BD alloy roll bar and Remus muffler that gave a wonderful exhaust note.

Two years past and I toyed with the idea of joining the MX-5 Club but knew that as soon as that happened I'd want to be out there on the track. That would mean putting my ageing baby under pressure, something now that I know wouldn't have been a problem but following my experiences with the MGB years before, where in 12 months the 'B' sustained a broken engine and then gearbox, I wasn't sure that I wanted the MX-5 to suffer the same fate.



Then at the start of 2003 we bought the Classic to provide a bit of comfort for my ageing bones on the drive to work. Now we just had to join the Club and did, enjoining all it had to offer, including monthly runs, talking with others about our great cars and finally getting onto the track. They say you never forget how to drive fast on the track but boy did I need to have a few ruff edges polished off.



Almost three years after the Classic along came the NC, more comfort, more power and more fun for that old rev head. A little chat with Lou, our Club sponsor AMR Motors, at the release of the NC and a month later Bluey arrived.

About this time Craig resigned as Club Captain and the vacancy stayed that way waiting for someone to step up and fill it. I had a chat with Cheryl, my better half, before, during and after Natmeet about taking on the job. Finally in June I took the plunge.

So there's the background, now for the way ahead.

I need some help from you and other members of our great club in planning and leading our monthly club runs. So far Garry Morris has done our run in August to Bundanoon, Stefan Mayer in September to Wollombi and in October, Sean MacCormaic is doing a run to Mt Victoria. My thanks go to them.

Coming up next year will be ladies only run and the men will have to hand over their beloved MX-5s so the wives/girlfriends can head off for some market (retail) therapy around Bowral before heading to McVitty's Winery for lunch.

So if you have an idea on where we can have a run to or any other event you would like to see, please let me know and we can plan it out together.

Cheers see you on a run to somewhere.

Phil

DYNO DAY

Dyno Day was run on Saturday 5th August and was a great success. We have 23 MX-5's on the day including new member Robert Saunders and an old member rejoined, Sean Thompson. We also had a couple of people apply for membership after seeing what a great bunch of people the MX-5 member are.

The day was cool and showery with thanks going to Sean MacCormaic who kept everyone's tummy full with his skills on the BBQ. There was fantastic camaraderie between all those present and we topped it off with a run up the Old Pacific Highway to Pie in the Sky for a bit of lunch and a few more stories.

Out puts varied far and wide with the turbo cars putting out large kilowatts, especially Alan Townsley's 1991 turbo, putting out 163.4kw!!!!!!

Class results were:

NA6A Standard	Robert Saunders	72.8kw
NA6A Modified	Steve Lamont	82kw
NA8A Standard	None	
NA8A Modified	Andrew Irwin	83.8kw
NB8B/C Standard	Ian Bennett	78.4kw
NB8B/C Modified	Bevan Goddard	82.5kw
NC Standard	Phil Ashton	91.6kw
SE Standard/mod	None	
SP Standard	Allan Cruz	127.9kw
SP Modified	Stephen Gooch	153.kw
NA6Aturbo	Alan Townsley	163.4kw