

club

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

TORQUE



Member of the Year | Australia Day | MX-5 30th Anniversary | Regalia

SUMMER 2019

Print Post Publication: I00006993

Summer Cover Competition

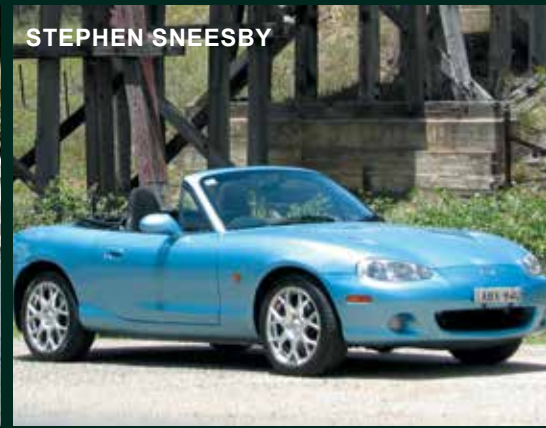
Thank you to everyone who entered the Summer Club Torque Cover Competition and congratulations to our winner David La. To submit an entry for the Autumn edition of Club Torque, email a single high resolution image as a jpeg file to Mel Keller at publications@mx5.com.au. Please include your full name, membership number and contact number. When composing your image, remember the magazine is A4 size with portrait orientation. Deadline for entries is Tuesday 30 April, 2019.



RODD MCCLINTOCK



PHILIP BELCHER



STEPHEN SNEESBY



CHRISTOPHER DUNDOV
(ALEK HOSKINS)



DAVID LA



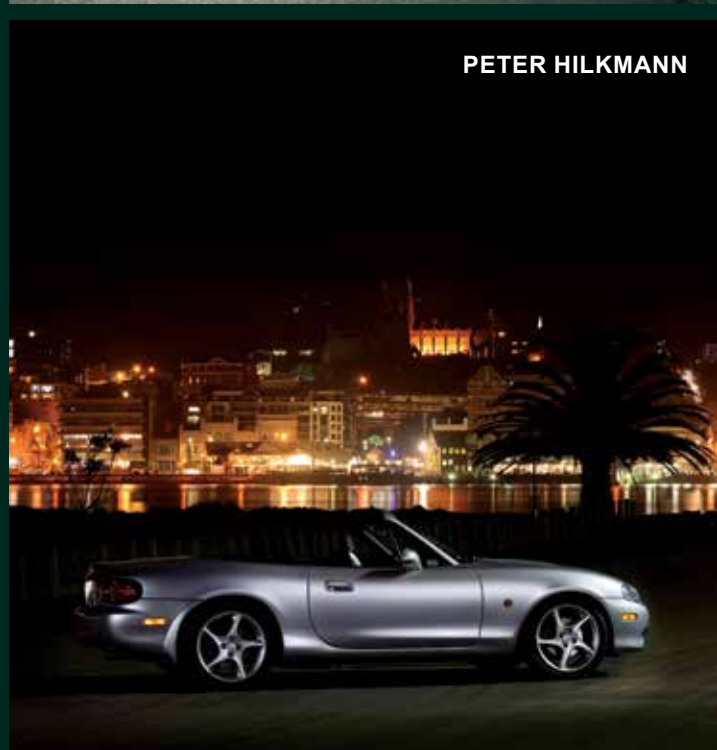
JASON HARVEY



GEORGE MISKOVSKI



MARK PULLAN



PETER HILKMANN

club TORQUE

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mel Keller Bryan Shedden
Keith Monaghan Christine Cameron
Joe Kovacic John Purcell Sharon Cassidy
Wesley Hill Dianne Henderson
Natalie Davies John Morgan Bob Judd
John McIntosh Jackie Briggs Grant Briggs
Pam Rowe Jeff Rowe Dianne Byers
Stephen Lord Patrick McBride
John Hansen Giulia Schiemer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

ROB WILKINS
Mel Keller Joe Kovacic Karina Santolin
Mark Gray Barry Luftrell Senia Gaunson
Robert Downing Jill Feutrell Vicki Legge
David Bourne Andrew Edgar Grant Briggs
Elaine Caldwell Giulia Schiemer
David Raghavan Simon Trickett
John Purcell Lou Iezzi Natalie Davies
John Zarembo Bryan Shedden
Jackie Briggs Ann Hicks Stephen Lord
Rod Nicholas Keiran Rodgers
Jason Harvey Stephen Sneesby
Peter Hilkmann Mark Pullan
George Miskovski David La Philip Belcher
Christopher Dundov Rodd McClintock

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	07
Member of the Year	08
Regalia	10
Member News	13

Events

Australia Day	14
Christmas Wrap	17
MX-5 News	18
MX-5 30th Anniversary	20
Motorsport Awards	24
Supersprint Round Up	26
Copeland Gold Mine	27
Corkscrew Weekend	28
Club Trackday 3	29
Coffee and Cake Run	30
Marques in the Park	31
Southern Sights Run	32
Milthorpe Markets Run	33
Kangaroo Valley Twilight	34
Mazdas in the Mist	35
SLIQ Run	36
Wee Jasper Run	37
Five Hills Run	38
Byabarra - Gingers Creek	39





**KEITH
MONAGHAN**
PRESIDENT

president@mx5.com.au
0418 976 279

From the President

It's summer time and what a great time to be a member of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW.

The annual convenors conference was held in December and the program the convenors have developed is very extensive with events to meet all our member's needs. These events cover weekend runs, midweek runs, multiple day runs and evening get-togethers. Information about these events is published on the Club's website. Please refer to this for any updates.

The Australia Day picnic was another great success even though the numbers or slightly down from previous years due to the very hot weather. It was good to see everyone decked out in their finery for the event. There was some good fun and competition on the day and thank you for all who attended.

The 30th Anniversary of the release of the Mazda MX-5 was celebrated with an event in Bathurst. There were number of runs to the event and these included weekend runs and day runs. It was a great event for the celebration of a birthday for a great car. We had 162 cars at the event and nearly 250 people. The parade lap around the race track at Mount Panorama was spectacular with the cars taking up almost the full 6 kilometres of the track. The event went

off brilliantly and congratulations must go to the people who organised and ran the day. Well done to all who attended.

Historic and Classic registration systems. The club will be setting up system for our members to register their cars under the Historic and Classic registration schemes. The Historic is for standard vehicles and Classic is for modified vehicles. We will be registering for both systems and we will be offering this style of registration to our members in the 2nd quarter of this year.

Our Club's motorsport calendar has been released for this year and what a full year is going to be. There are events to meet everyone's needs so come along and join in.

We have just started another new chapter. This chapter is called the South Coast chapter and extends from the Illawarra area south to Batemans Bay. I would like to thank Brian and Anda Clayton for the help in setting up this chapter and volunteering to be the first convenors. We wish them all the best and if you can join them on one of their runs that would be great.

NatMeet 2020 Planning is well underway with the accommodation

settled and the events under development. We will be sending out details on costs and registration in the near future. This is going to be a great event as it is the 30th anniversary of the Mazda MX-5 Cub of NSW and the 100th anniversary of Mazda. This will be an event not to be missed.

Life Membership is awarded to someone who has done some outstanding work for club. Going above and beyond what was needed or expected. These awards are assessed under a set of strict guidelines and is given out to a few exceptional people. I was disappointed that I was unable to attend the presentation of the latest Life Member award. Stephen Carter is the latest life member and is very deserving of the award. I congratulate Steven and thank him for all the work he's done for the club (full report page 13).

Well as summer comes to an end the weather is getting better for those evening runs with the top down. So go out and enjoy your car and I will see you on the road.

SOUTH COAST CHAPTER

The South Coast Chapter was formed in 2019 with a coffee gathering at Annabel's Cafe in Milton on 02 February. The Chapter is centred at Milton/Ulladulla and serves our members from Shoalhaven in the north to Eurobodalla and Bega Valley in the south. Details of South Coast Chapter events can be found on the Chapters page of our website and are open to all Club members.



**ANDA
CLAYTON**
SOUTH COAST CONVENOR

southcoast@mx5.com.au
0466 790 856



**BRIAN
CLAYTON**
SOUTH COAST CONVENOR

southcoast@mx5.com.au
0466 790 856



**LESA
BUNN**
VICE PRESIDENT

vicepres@mx5.com.au
0423 276 152



**JULIE
SANDO**
TREASURER

treasurer@mx5.com.au
0438 538 837



**MICHAEL
SOULOS**
CLUB CAPTAIN

captain@mx5.com.au
0413 113 399



**WESLEY
HILL**
SECRETARY

secretary@mx5.com.au
0422 035 893



**IAN
COMBES**
COMPETITION SECRETARY

competition@mx5.com.au
0433 159 726



**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

breakfast@mx5.com.au
0417 269 325



**BRYAN
HICKS**
SYDNEY CONVENOR

sydney@mx5.com.au
0407 225 064



**ALLEN
MARTIN**
MID NORTH COAST CONVENOR

midnorthcoast@mx5.com.au
0418 218 073



**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



**PAM
ROWE**
ILLAWARRA CONVENOR

illawarra@mx5.com.au
0419 405 877



**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



**PETER
McDONNELL**
MID NORTH COAST CONVENOR

midnorthcoast@mx5.com.au
0417 575 454

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

Website Coordinator
Bryan Shedden 0422 340 010
web@mx5.com.au

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

Club Historian
Elaine Caldwell
(02) 9451 1432



PHOTO STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Form an orderly queue - Mel Keller is leaving the role of Publications Officer at the next AGM and the job of Club Torque production is up for grabs. We are looking for a group of volunteers to form a Club Torque team comprising a variety of roles including; managing editor, content writer(s), sub editor, photo editor, graphic design, production and social media manager. Comprehensive hand over and training provided.



For information about Club Torque, visit the
Club Zone page on our website
nsw.mx5.com.au



For details on being Publications Officer
email Mel Keller at
publications@mx5.com.au



To lodge a nomination
phone President Keith Monaghan on
(m) 0418 976 279

MEMBERSHIP

AS AT 06 MARCH, 2019

40

**NEW
MEMBERS**

Sydney Welcomes

Daniel Bushell Robert Bushell Michael Cesco
Anna Cimarosti Domenic Di Santi Stephen Fraser
Joseph Geng Yves Goarin Louise Gordon
Peter Gordon Robert Gordon John Hawley
Rob Hay Steven Head Rob Herrick David Hill
Shaun Huckstepp Graeme Ireland William Kelly
Fernanda Machado Dias Leighlan Martin
Bruce Mcmurtrie Iran Naufal Peres Dias
Debra Newby Anthony Paine Julian Paine
Katrina Parris-Stephens Christopher Parsons
Zac Raddatz Rose Reyes Paul Rodgers
Ben Rookyard Lee Rushton Elaine Searle
Michael Searle Rita Shaw Sean Spence
Martin Steel Nick Whyles Thomas Winship

10

**NEW
MEMBERS**

Canberra Welcomes

Rory Alexander Holly Battisson David Burr
Elizabeth Burr Catherine Clunies-Ross
Angelo Dafillis Antonio Francis Judith Kelly
Peter Kelly Briohny Walker

05

**NEW
MEMBERS**

RPM Welcomes

Marlene Cosier
Ray Cosier
Bruce Park
Stephen Sneesby
Paul Thorncraft

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

1099

Illawarra Welcomes

Peter Ewing Lizzy Ferme
David Henderson Janice Short
William Short Gai Tarrant
Logan Tomczynski

Hunter Welcomes

Daniel Davis Samantha Gannon
Nathan McInnes Julie Mittman
Karl Mittman Friend Parsonage
Rob Tadich

07

**NEW
MEMBERS**

Mid North Coast Welcomes

Jane Cox Tim Herring
Paige-Louise McSweeney
Honey Osborne
Katie Patch
Nick Warne

07

**NEW
MEMBERS**

06

**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 for the full range of social, technical and sporting events.

Andy Bottomley

Andy Bottomley earned 172 MOTY points by participating in 53 Club events during the membership year to become our 2018 Club Member of the Year. Andy organised 4 runs for Sydney Chapter in addition to coordinating the northern Sydney monthly dinners and several Coffee and Pies. Andy has since stepped up to support Sydney chapter convenor Bryan Hicks with organising many more Sydney Chapter events in 2019. Congratulations Andy.

**2018
MEMBER OF THE
YEAR**



RUNNER UP CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**Gillian
Fletcher**
143 points

Gillian Fletcher participated in 25 club events in the last year, mostly with RPM Chapter. Gillian was an official at 7 club trackdays, managed a team at the SMP 6 Hour Relay, was pit crew at the Winton 12 Hour Relay, organised 2 runs for RPM Chapter, and volunteered at the President's Picnic. Gillian also provided photos for 8 events.



CANBERRA CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**James & Giulia
Schiemer 170/62 points**

CANBERRA NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Rod Nicholas 38 points

CANBERRA MOTORSPORT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jon Millard 28 points

CLUB NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

David Ho
124 points

David Ho joined the Club in August 2017 and in his first full year he participated in 43 club events, mostly with Hunter Chapter, but also Sydney, Illawarra and Mid North Coast Chapters, and BreakFast Club. David also organised 4 runs for Hunter Chapter, volunteered to wave flags at a Club track day, and attended the Motorsport 20th Anniversary in Goulburn.

RUNNER UP CLUB NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jeff & Pam Rowe 104/95 points

Jeff & Pam Rowe joined the Club in August 2017 and in their first full year they participated in 40 Club events, mostly with Illawarra Chapter, but also Sydney and RPM Chapters and BreakFast Club. They organised the Illawarra karting day and one run, and assisted at the Australia Day picnic. Jeff & Pam also volunteered as officials at our NSW Supersprint at Wakefield Park. Jeff & Pam have since stepped up as Convenors of Illawarra Chapter for 2019.



RPM CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Gillian Fletcher 85 points

RPM CHAPTER NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Ron Quester 67 points

RPM CHAPTER MOTORSPORT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jean Cook 78 points

The MOTY and NMOTY Awards acknowledge and further encourage member involvement in Club activities. MOTY points are accrued by attending, organising or volunteering in Chapter and All-Club events and motorsport. See the Membership page of our website for more details.

HUNTER CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Elaine & David Gazzard 108/101 pts

HUNTER NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

David Ho 90 points

HUNTER MOTORSPORT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Andrew Digney 82 points

MID NORTH COAST MEMBER OF THE YEAR



John Hansen
137 points

MID NORTH COAST NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**Allen & Pam
Martin 49/44 points**



SYDNEY CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Vicki & Andy
Bottomley 148/108 pts**

SYDNEY NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

David Raghavan
47 pts



ILLAWARRA CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jeff & Pam Rowe
86/77 points

ILLAWARRA NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR



James Mate
40 points

ILLAWARRA MOTORSPORT MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Matt Tarrant
60 points



JOHN



NORM



GIULIA



JOHN



TANYA



JIM

GET YOUR STREET



SHOP THE WORLD THE LOOK IS MY RUNWAY

nsw.mx5.com.au/club-zone/regalia

“You either know fashion or you don’t.” HA

JOHN combines with flair the essential elements of a summer wardrobe; **RPM Premium Mens Polo** (\$25) and **RPM Cap** (\$15), MX-5 accessory - model's own. **NORM** models the slimming lines of the **Canberra Mens Short Sleeve Polo** (\$24) topped with a **Canberra Cap** (\$15). **GIULIA** expertly uses the complementary colours of her name badge and shorts to embellish her look; **Ladies Carbon Polo** (\$40). **JOHN** is the epitome of sporting elegance in his **Sydney Short Sleeve Polo** (\$24) and **Sydney Cap** (\$15). **TANYA** adds some seasonal glitter to take her **Illawarra Ladies Long Sleeve Polo** (\$25) from day to evening. With bold originality **JIM** uses a white MX-5 to accentuate the lines of his **Sydney Mens Long Sleeve Polo** (\$25). **BRIGID** adds a timeless classic



BRIGID



GREG



JOHN



MAUREEN



KIM



DAVID

It can be hard to stand out from the crowd when you are the crowd. Our range of MX-5 Club of NSW regalia offers the perfect platform for you to accessorise and make your individual style statement.

WORDS AND PHOTOS **CHRISTINE CAMERON MEL KELLER**

ET STYL E ON

WHICH THE BEST “People will
FASHION SHOW stare. Make
IS ALWAYS ON it worth their
THE STREET while.” **REGALIA**
IS THE NEW BLACK
YES, WE ARE ALL INDIVIDUALS

cardigan to her **RPM Ladies Premium Short Sleeved Polo (\$25)** for a stylish trans-seasonal look. **GREG** models a traditional Australian silhouette in an **RPM Premium Mens Short Sleeve Polo (\$25)** and matching black Akubra. **JOHN** makes a fashion statement of noble simplicity in head-to-toe Hunter wear; **Mens Chambray Shirt (\$40)** and **Bucket Hat (\$12)**. **MAUREEN** teams her **Hunter Ladies Short Sleeve Polo (\$24)** with decadent open-toed sandals for added drama. **KIM** uses her masterful co-ordination of accessories to draw attention to her **Illawarra Ladies Short Sleeve Polo (\$24)** and matching **Illawarra Cap (\$10)**. **DAVID** has a modern take on effortless style with a **Sydney Mens Short Sleeve Polo (\$24)**.

Stepping Out in Style with *Christine Cameron*

Our MX-5 Club has a range of regalia guaranteed to boost the fun of attending a Club event, no matter what the season. Comfort and style are paramount and any members who've taken their regalia on an overnight trip know first hand that the shirts and polos hand-wash well and dry quickly. Each chapter has their own colours in a matching style, which makes it super-easy to identify each other at all-club events. There are also chambray shirts with the MX-5 Club logo - perfect for those dressier occasions. Keeping cool in the sun is easy with the chapter caps and the new bucket hats.

Winter outings are also well taken-care of, with a wonderfully warm two-tone unisex jacket in chapter colours. It's fully reversible with zip-off sleeves, a removable hood, waterproof outer and snuggly fleece lining. Rugby shirts are very popular, offering warmth without being bulky, and fleece jackets do a great job of keeping warm on cooler days. Both are available in a range of chapter colours.

To top it off, a knit scarf and fleece beanie do a great job of keeping out those cold winds that try to sneak in around the back of your neck.

MX-5 CLUB of NSW	MX-5 CLUB of NSW CANBERRA CHAPTER	MX-5 CLUB of NSW SELECTED CHAPTER	MX-5 CLUB of NSW ILLAWARRA CHAPTER	MX-5 CLUB of NSW MID NORTH COAST	MX-5 CLUB of NSW SYDNEY CHAPTER	MX-5 CLUB of NSW RPM CHAPTER
 BUCKET HAT \$12	 CANBERRA CAP \$15	 HUNTER CAP \$15	 ILLAWARRA CAP \$10	 MID NORTH COAST CAP \$15	 SYDNEY CAP \$15	 RPM CAP \$15
 POLAR FLEECE BEANIE \$15	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 18 \$24	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 18 \$24	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 18 \$24	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 18 \$24	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 18 \$24	 LADIES POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 26 \$25
 LADIES CHAMBRAY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24	 MENS POLO SHORT SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25
 MENS CHAMBRAY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$40	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 24 \$25	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 24 \$25	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 24 \$25	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 24 \$25	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 24 \$25	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 22 \$24
 LADIES CARBON POLO SHIRT SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES XS - 5XL \$25	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES S - 5XL \$24
 MENS CARBON POLO SHIRT SIZES S - 3XL, 5XL \$40	 LADIES RUGBY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 18 \$35	 LADIES RUGBY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 18 \$35	 LADIES RUGBY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 18 \$35	 LADIES RUGBY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 18 \$35	 LADIES POLAR FLEECE JACKET SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 LADIES POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES 8 - 20 \$25
 SCARF \$15	 MENS RUGBY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$35	 MENS RUGBY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$35	 MENS RUGBY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$35	 MENS RUGBY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$35	 MENS POLAR FLEECE JACKET SIZES S - 5XL \$40	 MENS POLO LONG SLEEVE SIZES S - 3XL \$25
	 LADIES POLAR FLEECE SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 LADIES POLAR FLEECE SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 LADIES POLAR FLEECE SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 LADIES POLAR FLEECE SIZES 8 - 24 \$40	 UNISEX REVERSIBLE JACKET SIZES S - 3XL \$75	 LADIES RUGBY SHIRT SIZES 8 - 18 \$35
	 MENS POLAR FLEECE SIZES S - 5XL \$40	 MENS POLAR FLEECE SIZES S - 5XL \$40	 MENS POLAR FLEECE SIZES S - 5XL \$40	 MENS POLAR FLEECE SIZES S - 5XL \$40		 MENS RUGBY SHIRT SIZES S - 5XL \$35
	 UNISEX REVERSIBLE JACKET SIZES S - 3XL \$75	 UNISEX REVERSIBLE JACKET SIZES S - 3XL \$75	 UNISEX REVERSIBLE JACKET SIZES S - 3XL \$75	 UNISEX REVERSIBLE JACKET SIZES S - 3XL \$75		 LADIES POLAR FLEECE SIZES 8 - 24 \$40
						 MENS POLAR FLEECE SIZES S - 5XL \$40

To place an order - go to the Regalia page on the Club website - you'll find it under 'Club Zone'. The page opens to MX-5 Club of NSW regalia; simply click on the link to the electronic order form. You will also see my contact details should you have any queries. At the bottom of the page are links for chapter regalia. There is a link on each Chapter page to their catalogue and order form, as well as the contact

details for the chapter regalia officer. Each Chapter manages their own regalia and most carry caps and a range of sizes on hand for their long and short-sleeved polos. Orders are placed quarterly at the end of January, April, July and October, with delivery in around 4 weeks. It can be possible for urgent orders to be placed at any time, but there will be an additional delivery fee from the supplier.

LIFE MEMBER

STEPHEN CARTER

WORDS **KEITH MONAGHAN BRYAN SHEDDEN JEAN COOK KIM AND PETER RANGER**

Stephen joined the Club in December 1998 (Member No.535) as a member of Hunter Chapter. He received his 20 Year tenure badge at the 2018 AGM and is currently the 23rd longest serving member. Although Stephen resides in Tamworth, he is an active member of the Hunter chapter (and default New England representative) who frequently travels 250 - 400 kilometres to attend chapter and all club events. From 2002, Stephen has organised and lead weekend runs including the Thunderbolts Run to Walcha in 2002, 2003 and 2008. In 2004, he took the Thunderbolts Run through Tamworth and lead Easter runs in Orange in 2016 and Tamworth in 2018.

In the years between NatMeet, Stephen organises and hosts "NotMeet" – an extended 4 day meet held over the Easter long weekend. The first "NotMeet" was held in Port Macquarie in 2007 with 10 cars. "NotMeet" has been based in Coffs Harbour (2009), Armidale (2011), Grafton (2013) and Glen Innes (2015 and 2017). Over the years, the event has grown to over 50 cars and is now hosted jointly with the MX-5 Club of Queensland. Stephen continues to plan and organise the run routes, meals and accommodation for what, all attendees agree, is a very enjoyable weekend away.

Stephen has served on the Club Committee in two positions: a few months in 2005 as stand-in Treasurer, and three years as Membership Database Secretary. Stephen's most important contribution was setting up the online membership database system with SportsTG (called IMG at the time). Stephen dedicated many hours to successfully developing and implementing the system and was recognised with the President's Award for Extraordinary Service in 2010.

Stephen's active participation, attitude and overall demeanour reflect a dedication to the values of the MX-5 Club of NSW. The Club Committee was unanimous and delighted in awarding Stephen a Life Membership. Stephen becomes the 13th person to receive our Club's most prestigious award, joining Peter and Ruth Simpson, Jean Cook, Zan and Rod Menzel, Jeff Gehrig, Mike and Cobie Hicks, Paul Beerworth, Bryan Shedden and Pam and Ray Estreich. Congratulations Stephen.



A FAMILY AFFAIR

JOE KOVACIC

WORDS **JOE KOVACIC** PHOTOS **JOE KOVACIC LOU IEZZI**

Motorsport runs in the veins of our family. We have the father, daughter and son competitive combination of Joe, Aimee and Luke Kovacic all competing in our well run Club Trackdays. Joe is your friendly Grid Marshall driving a Standard 2016 ND MX-5 GT 2.0L. I am the slowest driver in this family affair with best times around Wakefield Park 1:15.43 and SMSP Amaroo 1:11.51.

Aimee drives her Standard 2015 KIA Proceed GT 1.6L turbo. Aimee's best time in the KIA around Wakefield is 1:14.90 and 1:10.30 at SMSP.

Luke drives both the 2016 ND MX-5 and a slightly modified 2004 MX-5 SE. Luke's times in the ND are Wakefield Park 1:10.96 and SMSP 1:05.43. Luke's time in the SE around Wakefield Park is 1:08.50 and SMSP 1:03.40.

All three of us have a friendly competitive rivalry on and off the track. We are always helping each other maintain and prepare our cars for the trackdays.

Thank you to the MX-5 Club of NSW motorsport officials for making all of these Club trackdays and other motorsport events possible. After competing in all 8 Club trackdays for 2018, we were all very proud to be presented our trophies for the season. Bring on 2019.







Australia Day

ALL CLUB

26 JANUARY WORDS **BRYAN SHEDDEN**
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS KARINA SANTOLIN**

Our traditional Australia Day Picnic has been a regular event in the Club calendar for the last six years. Cordeaux Dam is a great venue with a large parking area that readily copes with our horde of MX-5s. The facilities are excellent with picnic shelters, electric BBQs and plenty of shade under the trees. Little wonder that we keep returning!

17 members joined the Illawarra Chapter run starting from Figtree McDonalds for a delightful drive to Mount Kembla, through the

escarpment rainforest to Mt Keira and then a quick blast up Picton Road to Cordeaux Dam. We were the first group to arrive but some other MX-5ers had already made their own way there. Fiona and Alex Shedden unselfishly skipped the run to arrive at gate-opening and claim our favourite spot. Paul Byers towed his homemade BBQ-trailer and it was ready to go. Mel Keller had arrived early too with a group of members scheduled to participate in a photo shoot for Mazda Australia - watch out for the next edition of Zoom Zoom magazine.

The early arrivals were soon joined by 13 from the Sydney Chapter run, 16 from the RPM Chapter run, and a steady trickle of other members who made their own way, bringing the tally to 80 people. It was wonderful to welcome Rob, Mary, Greg and Yvonne from Hunter Chapter, who had made their way down to join us that morning. It was a fair swap with John, Sharon, Trevor and Theresa from RPM Chapter celebrating with the Hunter Chapter at Lake Macquarie.

On an already hot day that would only get hotter, our scheduled activities

continued....

got underway with a Thong Tossing Competition organised by Tanya Badovinac and Kim Ranger. Each competitor first had to array themselves in national dress consisting of a cork hat, BBQ apron and BBQ tools, before attempting to throw a pair of thongs. A raucous crowd cheered on the competitors as the flip-flops flew in (mostly) forward directions. One of our visitors impressed all with a pair of immense throws that defeated all others and he was delighted to claim the impressive trophies.

Next up was the Wacky Races, with six teams for four people vying for glory. First event was a waiter race with competitors relaying a tray of drinks across a 20m course. I pity those who have to drink at the venue served by some of our waiters if you prefer to have your drinks without fingers dipped in them.

The second event was the three-legged race which saw a couple of teams retire early claiming physical incapacity. The third and last event was a scissors-paper-rock war. In this game, two teams face each other at each end of the course. One player from team hops forward and when they meet in the middle, they play a game of scissors-paper-rock. The winner gets to hop forward while the next player on the losing team starts and the process repeats when they meet. The winner is the first team to reach the other end. After all three events were completed, the winners were "Hunter and Ring-ins" were presented with a box of chocolates.

President Keith Monaghan then made some announcements with our 2018 Member of the Year award winners for the whole Club. Congratulations to Andy Bottomley (Member of the Year), Gillian Fletcher (Runner-Up Member of the Year), and Jeff & Pam Rowe (Runner-Up New Member of the Year).

Time for lunch, and the BBQs were fired up for a feast. With bellies full and conversation ending, we called it quits on another very successful Australia Day.

I have organised all six Australia Day Picnics since 2014. Now it's time to pass on the job to someone else. If you are interested in organising it on behalf of the Club, please email me at membership@mx5.com.au

Australia Day Hunter Style

HUNTER

26 JANUARY WORDS **JOHN PURCELL**
PHOTOS **MARK GRAY BARRY LUTTRELL**

As the perfect location for an Australia Day picnic, Awaba House park on the shores of Lake Macquarie is hard to beat. And what a great choice it turned out to be. With temperatures nudging 40°C, our scenic spot provided us with plenty of shade and a warm, but welcome breeze, making the temperature a little more bearable.

Two runs were organised to arrive at approximately the same time - the first from the Central Coast starting at Ourimbah with 4 cars, and the second from Cessnock with 5 cars. From Cessnock our group travelled along the back roads through the vineyards in a loop towards Maitland. As I was watching the outside temperature start nudging 37°C, Mark Gray informed everyone that we had precisely 1 of each model MX-5 in our little convoy. Yep, an NA, NB, NC, ND and an ND RF! So a celebratory photo stop was made outside Scarborough Winery with the cars all lined up in order. A lovely sight indeed.

At the final turn toward the lake, our convoy was joined by 2 more MX-5s, driven by John and Sharon and Trevor and Theresa from RPM chapter. Perfect timing! Chris Cameron, Barry and Jenny Luttrell and David and Elaine Gazzard had arrived early to secure a shady picnic spot and a parking area for all our MX-5s, so we quickly unloaded and settled in for cool drinks and nibbles.

Our picnic was attended by 23 club members and together we raised \$125 for the CareFlight Helicopter. This came from the sale of Lamingtons and Party Pies generously donated by David and Elaine, and the addictive 'get your gold coin closest to the bottle of bubbly' donated by Chris & John. A few hardy souls also went out into the sun to partake in the inaugural 'croquet challenge'.

Many thanks to everyone for braving the temperatures to come along and contribute generously to the fundraising, especially to our RPM chapter friends making the trip up to join the fun.



Christmas Wrap

SYDNEY

25 NOVEMBER WORDS **SHARON CASSIDY**

A bright blue sky with sporadic white puffy clouds, and mild temperatures greeted us as we joined 15 other like minded couples on this perfect Sydney morning. Congregating at the M4 West truck stop, we joined an eclectic array of MX-5s, ranging from a hand-painted NA Miata to a couple of ND's, and everything in between.

Odometers set to zero and a quick radio check, then we were on our way, heading west. We followed in the footsteps of the great explorers of 1813 past villages along the way that bear their names. 205 years ago it took 21 days to complete the journey; we should have it covered in under 90 minutes.

Our 16 car motorcade became 19 as we entered the car park of the Grandview Hotel at Wentworth Falls, a splendid old structure from yesteryear on the outside, with décor to match on the inside. A traditional Christmas fare of Turkey, Ham with all the trimmings was table-served by pleasant staff, as the conversation and wine flowed (for the non-drivers of course); the mandatory "silly Christmas hats" were deployed by some, as light hearted speeches got underway. Christmas pudding and custard followed, and for the more adventurous, a drive home via the Bells Line Of Road in our little roadsters, being a perfect way to finish a perfect day.



ILLAWARRA

09 DECEMBER WORDS **WESLEY HILL**
PHOTOS **SENIA GAUNSON**

Sunday 9th December was a beautifully warm and sunny day as we headed to Wollongong - the Illawarra Chapter's spiritual home to attend the Illawarra Chapter Christmas Party at The Australian Motorlife Museum in Kembla Grange.

After inspecting the vintage car and motorbike exhibits, it was time to sit down to lunch of three meats and salads, followed by some delicious desserts all catered for by the volunteer museum staff. Throughout the event members were able to buy raffle tickets with all the proceeds - \$362 going to 'CareFlight'. This is a tremendous effort, so a big thank you to everyone for buying tickets.



There were many people to thank who have worked hard not only on the day but throughout the year to ensure that Illawarra members have had good opportunity to become involved in the Illawarra Chapter to help maximise their enjoyment of their MX-5. A big thank you to outgoing Convenors Greg Tunks and Kim Williams - also event organisers together with Jan Gibson. Gifts of appreciation were also given to the many run leaders and event organisers during 2018. A big vote of thanks to committee members Brendan Barr (Website Coordinator), Phil Reid

(Chapter Regalia Officer and organiser of Mazdas in the Mist) and retiring Run Coordinator Wally Wojewski.

The afternoon ended with some fun as we laughed our way through the baby photo competition. Who would have thought those sweet and innocent looking babies would have grown up to become MX-5 immortals.



A total of 59 members attended this event - testament to the many strong friendships that have formed. It is true what they say - what you put in you get out. Here's to 2019 - onwards and upwards.

CANBERRA

15 DECEMBER WORDS **GIULIA SCHIEMER**

What a great event this turned out to be; 61 members attended and enjoyed the beautiful food that Yowani provided for us, and all seemed to have a good time. And, in the Christmas spirit with lots of colour being the theme for the lunch, Jim Woods took out the "most over-the-top attired man" award in his Fred Flintstone outfit.....no one else stood a chance! Very brave, Jim! The very colourful Robyn Bottcher received the "most-spectacularly-outfitted-lady" award!

Our Run Leaders from 2018 were deservedly recognised, as was Tony MacDonald who does a great job with Curmudgeons each week.

Close to 20 lucky door prizes were handed out, and the raffle prize of Scotch, Gin and Chocolates was won by Elfie Gahan. While having a great day, laughing lots and generally enjoying the company of friends we managed to raise \$288 for our Club charity, CareFlight. Well done, and a big thank you to everyone for making it such a successful day. Time to start planning our 2019 Christmas function!



LIMITED EDITION



Thirty years to the day after the MX-5 made its debut, Mazda showcased the global unveiling of the Mazda MX-5 30th Anniversary Limited Edition at the 2019 Chicago Auto Show.

The anniversary model features exclusive Racing Orange paintwork.

In addition to the new color, the MX-5 30th Anniversary Edition also features forged aluminum wheels (Rays ZE40 RS30), Bilstein shock absorbers (manual transmission only), Bose® sound system and Racing Orange detailing on the Brembo front brake calipers, Nissin rear brake calipers, Recaro seat accents and door trim.

Each unit is fixed with a 30th Anniversary badge that displays the model's serial number.

Sales are limited to 3,000 units worldwide, of which only 30 will be released in Australia.

Although an RF option was available in the US (the allocation has already sold out), it is rumoured that the Australian delivery will be a soft top however, Club Torque was unable to confirm at the time of going to press.



MX-5 SPECIAL EDITIONS

1999



10th Anniversary Edition

Based on the NB second generation 1.8L six speed transmission with a tuned suspension from the RS Roadster, the 10AE showcased such features as “Sapphire Blue Mica” paintwork and alloy wheels with a buffed finish. The interior was predominantly black with blue mica highlights. There was also a BOSE® sound system and “carbon-fibre” styling on the centre console to give the cockpit an even sportier atmosphere. 7,500 units were produced with only 150 coming to Australia.

2009



20th Anniversary Edition

Based on the third (NC) generation following its first face-lift, the RS-based 20th Anniversary model was available in either a soft-top roof with six-speed manual transmission or as a retractable hardtop with a six-speed automatic transmission. Equipped with Recaro seats and a number of special 20th Anniversary accessories, the model was only released to the Japanese market.

2014



25th Anniversary Edition

The 25th Anniversary MX-5 was the last outing for the third generation NC. There were 2000 produced world-wide with only 40 units being released in Australia. A six speed manual, this special edition had a power retractable black hardtop roof and Soul Red Premium metallic paintwork. Soul Red went on to become a signature colour for the release of the next generation ND a year later and across the Mazda range.





10 FEBRUARY
MOUNT PANORAMA
RACING CIRCUIT
BATHURST

30TH ANNIVERSARY

PHOTOS MEL KELLER ROB WILKINS
ROBERT DOWNING JILL FEUTRILL
SENIA GAUNSON VICKI LEGGE
DAVID BOURNE ANDREW EDGAR
GRANT BRIGGS ELAINE CALDWELL
GIULIA SCHIEMER DAVID RAGHAVEN
SIMON TRICKETT

The Cars That Ate Bathurst

ALL CLUB

WORDS MEL KELLER PHOTOS MEL KELLER ROB WILKINS
SIMON TRICKETT ELAINE CALDWELL

The MX-5 was launched on 10 February, 1989 to instant acclaim. Over 30 years and four generations, the MX-5 has built a solid fan base to become the world's most popular sports car. Late last year, Mazda Australia invited all state clubs to join dozens of MX-5 clubs around the globe in bringing MX-5 fans together to celebrate the MX-5's 30th Anniversary. So how best to celebrate this remarkable milestone? Club Captain Michael Soulos and our club Committee knew it had to be bold. It had to big. It had to be Bathurst.



Since 1938, Mount Panorama Racing Circuit has held a special place in the hearts of Australian motorsport fans. At 6.213 kilometres with 23 bends, the circuit rises 174 metres from Pit Straight to the top of Brock's Skyline and has been the scene of personal endurance, heart-stopping crashes, and intense tribal rivalry.

On race day, V8 Supercars power through The Esses at an average of 220kms/hr before launching off The Dipper and flying down Conrod Straight, topping out at 300kms/hr.

David Reynolds attained the official fastest time of 2:06.14 in his Holden ZB Commodore during last year's Bathurst 1000. The best unofficial time, recorded by Jensen Button in an F1 McLaren, is 1:48.88.

On any other Sunday, Mount Panorama circuit is a dual carriageway public road with a sedate 60km/hr speed limit. You can get around the circuit in just over 6 minutes or you can take all day. The best unofficial lap times for daily drivers are often adjusted for kangaroos, view appreciation, picnics and visits to Mount Panorama Winery. Mount Panorama is a uniquely Australian confluence of blood-pumping motor sport and scenic Sunday drive. It was clearly the best spot for a gathering of MX-5 friends.

The Club sent out word and Michael began arranging Council permits and insurance, notifying the local Police and booking a venue for lunch. Chapter convenors organised day and overnight runs and staked out accommodation. Lesa and Greg Bunn went door knocking for missing merchandise. Mel Keller and Rob Wilkins made the great sacrifice of driving the circuit many,



many, many times to select the best photo spots. Finally, all the decisions had been made and all the arrangements in place. Yet - we didn't know how many people would come. For that, we would have to wait.

Many MX-5 Club of NSW members joined overnight runs with the Canberra, Illawarra, Hunter, RPM and Sydney and began arriving in Bathurst late Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning, the BreakFast Club waypoint run and a Sydney convoy run rolled into town. By 10.00am, members and guests started to gather in McPhillamy Park to prepare for our 11.00am Parade Lap. It was delightful mayhem in the park as Michael and his team from the BreakFast Club arranged the MX-5s into lines by model. Greg's efforts to hand out Mazda 30th Anniversary caps was akin to being attacked by seagulls before Mel bossed everyone together for a group photo. Meanwhile, Rob waited patiently in his eagle's lair at the Rydges hotel, ready to catch his prey with a telephoto lens.



At 11.00am on the dot, our marshals took advantage of a break in the traffic

and signalled for the first MX-5, a red NA6 to lead the procession onto the circuit. Even as the Parade began, more MX-5s continued to arrive. Twenty minutes later, McPhillamy Park was empty and we had a traffic-stopping, 3.5 kilometre conga line of MX-5s snaking around the mountain. We travelled at a stately pace to ensure a safe distance between each car and many other road users good naturedly pulled over to spectate as we claimed the mountain.

One and a half circuits were completed before cars began to peel off and make their way to the Bathurst RSL for our celebration lunch. Many stayed on to enjoy the circuit for a few more laps including Michael and his marshals



driving a lap of honour in the opposite direction.

Meanwhile, at the Bathurst RSL, Lesa Bunn, Pam Estreich and Julie Sando, were armed with their sign on sheets in preparation for the expected 190 guests. When 225 people arrived, additional tables and meals were speedily arranged with grace and good humour. The 30th Anniversary celebration was also an opportunity to raise funds for our nominated Club charity CareFlight. \$5 per head was collected from the event registration fee and a quick game of Heads and Tails after lunch brought the total amount raised to \$1, 905. The highlight of the lunch was the hugely popular presentation of Life Membership

to Stephen Carter (see report - page 13).

So how many MX-5s took part? It took many cups of coffee and at least three attempts at scrolling through the hundreds of photos to count, lose count then count again. In all, 44 NAs, 29 NBs, 56NCs and 33 NDs – a grand total of 162 MX-5s and nearly 250 club members and MX-5 friends took part. Our thanks go to Mazda Australia for the special edition 30th Anniversary caps and to all our members and supporters for participating in the Parade Lap. We are also grateful to the staff of the Bathurst RSL and to the volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes to ensure a safe and enjoyable weekend.



***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**



2018 MOTORSPORT AWARDS

After 8 successful Club Trackdays in the 2017-18 competition season, our Club Championship winners were honoured during a presentation night at Sydney Motorsport Park's Garage Cafe. Thank you to all our competitors and volunteer officials for another successful year of motorsport. A special congratulations to Michael DeMaio, who not only competed

in all 8 Club Track Days, also placed first in every round and holds the club track records for both Wakefield Park and SMSP Amaroo. Also a special mention to my son Luke Kovacic who competed in all 8 Club Trackdays in two different classes, placing first in every round and holding Club track records in 2 classes for both Wakefield Park

and SMSP Amaroo. Congratulations to all our lady competitors on a successful year in motorsport. Finally (ha ha) a special mention to myself Joe Kovacic for Grid Marshalling and also competing in Class 3 only to come 2nd in Class to my son Luke Kovacic. Congratulations to all our Motorsport Competitors and trophy recipients.

2018 CLUB CHAMPIONS

CLASS

1

Standard
Road
Registered
NA and NB

Class Champion
Michael DeMaio

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Michael DeMaio 1:14.063

Magdalena Wilczynska 1:26.029

Lap Record SMSP

Michael DeMaio 1:09.867

CLASS

4

Road
Registered
NA and NB
Clubman

Class Champion
Jamie Martin

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Jamie Martin 1:15.161

Lap record SMSP

Jamie Martin 1:08.407

CLASS

7

Road Registered
Modified NC & ND
Max 110kW

Class Champion
Andrew Digney

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Greg Bunn 1:10.296

Lesa Bunn 1:12.912

Lap Record SMSP

Andrew Digney 1:06.254

CLASS

10

Turbo/SC
MX-5
Race Car
& MX-5 on slicks

Class Champion
Russ Maxwell

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Verne Johnson 1:05.173

Matilda Mravivic 1:05.897

Lap Record SMSP

Curran Brennan 1:02.591

Stephanie Rochford Cole
1:09.174

CLASS

2

Standard
Road
Registered
NC & NB SE

Class Champion
Bryan Shedden

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Bryan Shedden 1:11.894

Kerry McLeish 1:26.075

Lap Record SMSP

Bryan Shedden 1:05.983

CLASS

5

Road Registered
NA and NB
Super Clubman

Class Chammpion
John Karayannis

Lap Record Wakefield Park

John Karayannis 1:13.725

Anna Fraser 1:17.188

Lap Record SMSP

Mat Fraser 1:06.303

Anna Fraser 1:10.860

CLASS

8

Road Registered
Modified Turbo
MX-5

Class Champion
Joshua Fitzgerald

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Luke Kovacic 1:09.785

Lindsay Green 1:15.436

Lap Record SMSP

Luke Kovacic 1:04.392

Lindsay Green 1:09.803

CLASS

3

Standard
Road
Registered
ND

Class Champion
Luke Kovacic

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Luke Kovacic 1:11.195

Yuki Chau Kam Yu 1:21.926

Lap Record SMSP

Luke Kovacic 1:05.580

Yuki Chau Kam Yu 1:14.855

CLASS

6

Road Registered
Modified NA & NB
Max 100kW

Class Champion
Gustavo Elias

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Gustavo Elias 1:11.211

Heather May Koorey

1:39.078

Lap Record SMSP

Gustavo Elias 1:05.583

CLASS

9

Normally
Aspirated MX-5
Race Car

Class Champion
Malcolm Steel

Lap Record Wakefield Park

David Johnson 1:08.184

Gaynor Lawler 1:13.908

Lap Record SMSP

Ralph Thompson

1:03.023

CLASS

11

Non MX-5

Class Champion
Richard Herring

Lap Record Wakefield Park

Stephen Wan 1:04.903

Kim Jacobs 1:11.743

Lap Record SMSP

Richard Herring 1:05.444

Aimee Kovacic 1:13.406

LADIES CHAMPION

Lesa Bunn

Supersprint Round Up

MOTORSPORT

WORDS AND PHOTOS JOE KOVACIC

The final round 8 for the 2018 NSW Supersprint Championship was held jointly with the National Australian Supersprint Championship at Wakefield Park on the weekend 03 - 04 November, 2018.

Only 8 MX-5 Club members competed over the weekend in a total field of 59 competitors. Congratulations to Michael Demaio (RC-B), Paul Fraser (LMRC-A), Malcolm Steel (LMRC-B), and Russ Maxwell (TA-A) for winning National Titles in their respective class.

As most of our regular competitors were away touring in Tasmania and competing in the Bathurst Challenge on this same weekend, the ARDC had no real challenge and won the round convincingly.

Congratulations goes to the ARDC who walked away with the Club Championship on 2566 points ahead of the MX-5 Club of NSW who, unfortunately, faded on the straight and placed second on 2274 points. The HSV/HDT Owners Club of NSW were third on 1812 points.

This is the first time we have lost the Club Championship in the last 5 years after winning the last 4 years in a row. Hopefully next year in 2019 we can regain the Club

Championship title again. Congratulations goes to the following MX-5 Club drivers on their 2018 Class results.

Class 1B	1st	Michael Demaio	125	points
	2nd	Keith Monaghan	69	points
Class 2A	1st	Paul Fraser	159	points
	2nd	Jamie Martin	158	points
Class 2B	1st	Malcolm Steel	169	points
Class 2C	2nd	Luke Kovacic	137	points
Class 4B	2nd	David Johnson	100	points
Class 5C	1st	Marty Voormeulen	146	points
	3rd	Paul Nudd	79	points
Class 6A	1st	Ralph Thompson	175	points
Class 6B	1st	Russ Maxwell	172	points
	3rd	David Alland	122	points

Another congratulations goes to the following MX-5 Club drivers on their 2018 Type results:

Type 1	2nd	Michael Demaio	110	points
	3rd	Keith Monaghan	64	points
Type 2	2nd	Luke Kovacic	119	points
	3rd	Malcolm Steel	103	points
Type 6	2nd	Russell Maxwell	122	points



Copeland Gold Mine

HUNTER

04 NOVEMBER WORDS **DIANNE HENDERSON**
PHOTOS **BARRY LUTTRELL JOHN PURCELL**

It was an early, hazy Sunday morning when 16 MX-5s and the Allen family carrier with 26 members (including our youngest member, 3 month-old Ari, and his older brother, Albie) headed off from Thornton McDonalds to look for *gold in them tha' hills* of Copeland. We were accompanied by some prospective members who were interested in what great fun we got up to.

We headed off towards Raymond Terrace and then took a leisurely 1 hour back road drive to the historic town of Stroud. It turned out to be a great drive with the MX-5s having the run of the road with few other cars to be seen. There was a 3km patch of dirt road that drew some looks of fear when I mentioned it at the pre-run briefing but turned out to be fine. In fact there were many a comment about how the road was quite good and the scenery was lovely.

It turned out the dirt stretch of road was somewhat better than much of the Bucketts Way, which had many patchy pieces. We took a pit stop at Stroud showground before setting off on the final leg to Copeland.

It was a lovely drive through Gloucester and on through Barrington before reaching our destination. By this time the haze and cloud had lifted and the heat had started to rise. Luckily the gold mine is in a beautiful rainforest setting with loads of canopy leaving it quite pleasant.

After a lovely morning tea, Mel, our guide from National Parks & Wildlife, arrived to begin our tour of the Mountain Maid Gold Mine. Mel first gave a safety talk about not touching stinging trees as they would hear you screaming from Gloucester with pain, that it being tick season to make sure to do a check afterwards. Also to be aware of leeches although because they hadn't had much

rain we were probably OK and finally watch out for snakes but it's OK; we only have diamond pythons. By this time I could feel all eyes on me...where have you brought us? And - we're paying for this pleasure?

As it turned out no-one touched a stinging tree, and no ticks, leeches or snakes were to be seen. Mel proved to be a real treasure with lots of local knowledge. The tour was incredibly interesting and started out with a short film from the 1950s-60s taken by the gold miners of that era.

There was much MX-5 commentary during the film about the safety aspects of gold mining at that time: safety gear included shorts, no shirt and thongs. There was even a piece in the film where one of the miners was packing dynamite while, as you do, having a smoke. How things have changed!

We then took a long walk around the gold mine area that still has some of the original 1950s machinery in place. Mel was a wealth of knowledge pointing out all the various aspects of the mine and the machinery.

It was then a lovely boardwalk up through the rainforest with Mel giving us some education on local flora including what makes good bush tucker. And finally we were back in the car park, giving Mel large applause for her guide skills and heading back to Gloucester for lunch.

The Roundabout Inn gave us the front courtyard to ourselves and had all but George's burger ready for us. The lunchtime special...burger and a beer seemed to go down a treat! There was a big round of happy birthday for Diann - hopefully turned out to be a birthday not to be missed. All in all a great day I would say. Now the thinking caps on... what can we do for our run next year?



Corkscrew Weekend

BREAKFAST CLUB

09 - 11 NOVEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS
NATALIE DAVIES

I had a fun time away with The BreakFast Club on their Corkscrew Weekend on 10 -11 November. It was my first BreakFast Club run and I was feeling apprehensive about the speed, the bends and the early starts. Those fears were quickly allayed as the guys were all very friendly (I was the only female). I really enjoyed the camaraderie at breaks and during meals. Brunch on the Saturday morning was at the Riverbank Café, Gladstone (a lovely spot overlooking the junction of the Macleay and Belmore Rivers). Saturday night we had a relaxed dinner at the Macleay Hotel Bistro (until 8.30pm when the lights were turned off - a subtle hint that it was time for us to leave). Sunday we ate brunch at the quirky Amor Café in Walcha – styled as a 50's diner with many images of cars, Elvis and other memorabilia scattered around. Just before leaving Walcha we observed a minute's silence (at 11am) in respect of the fallen. We then drove to Gloucester where we said our goodbyes and headed our separate ways home.

The highlights of the weekend were - the sensational "Nurbushring" (Wootton Way) just north of Buladelah; the spectacular "Waterfall Way" from Bellingen to Dorrigo; the mind-bending "Corkscrew" (Armidale Road) that snakes its way up along the eastern escarpment of the Great Dividing Range for 45 kilometres between Nymboida and Tyringham; the scintillating "Oxley Highway" north west to Walcha with 200 corners on the ascent to the New England plateau; heading back to Sydney via Thunderbolts Way (that features 146 kilometres of long straights with wide corners intermixed with tight sections and the Manning River gorge) and Bucketts Way.

With a small group of five cars we could go at our own pace then quickly regroup as we wished. Whilst I still felt a little scared at the speed going around the bends, I occupied myself taking photos and enjoying the spectacular scenery. We travelled around 1300 kilometres on many roads we would not usually traverse. We had great weather, great runs, great conversations and got to meet some lovely people. Thank you Peter for organising an awesome weekend.



Club Trackday 3

MOTORSPORT

11 NOVEMBER WORDS **JOE KOVACIC**
PHOTOS **JOE KOVAVIC LOU IEZZI**

A warm and sunny spring day greeted an over-subscribed field of 76 motorsport competitors for our fourth round of Club Trackdays at SMSP Amaroo South Circuit. Weather conditions were ideal in the morning for some competitive times and then on the 11th Hour on the 11th Day, race proceedings ceased for one minute of silence for Remembrance Day and a speech held by our Club President Keith Monaghan. After all the run groups were re-grided, competitive race battles continued in all classes in the heat of the afternoon. As we had 7 run groups with 1 run group of 12 first timers, we managed to achieve 5 runs for all competitors. Thank you to all my fellow officials for another successful trackday and congratulations to all the drivers on their results.



Class 1	1st Place Michael DeMaio 1:08.25	2nd Place Greg Unger 1:10.30	3rd Place Keith Monaghan 1:10.88
Class 2	1st Place Bryan Shedden 1:0.44	2nd Place James Burke 1:09.72	3rd Place Alan Barclay 1:10.86
Class 3	1st Place Luke Kovacic 1:05.50	2nd Place Jie Ren 1:05.82	3rd Place Kenny Yau 1:09.64
Class 4	1st Place Michael Tarrant 1:11.31	2nd Place Sean Brennan 1:14.91	
Class 5	1st Place Matthew Tarrant 1:08.04	2nd Place Sean Byers 1:08.67	3rd Place Mark Pullan 1:11.77
Class 6	1st Place Gus Elias 1:05.85	2nd Place John Karayannis 1:06.00	3rd Place David Muir 1:07.89
Class 7	1st Place Simon Ho 1:06.56	2nd Place Peter Feutrill 1:06.73	3rd Place Tony Smithers 1:07.29
Class 8	1st Place David Alland 1:08.86	2nd Place Christopher Lowry 1:11.63	3rd Place Robert Parker 1:12.07
Class 9	1st Place Andrew Boydell 1:03.19	2nd Place David Phillips 1:05.45	3rd Place Jordan Farr 1:08.55
Class 10	1st Place Russ Maxwell 1:02.79	2nd Place Jason Russell 1:04.64	3rd Place Alan Townsley 1:04.94
Class 11	1st Place Keith Bridgement 1:06.20	2nd Place Cody Skoumbourdis 1:06.83	3rd Place Paul Mitchell 1:07.52

Coffee and Cake Run

HUNTER

16 DECEMBER WORDS **JOHN MORGAN**
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

Sunday 16 December was the final run in Chris' Coffee and Cake/Lunch series of events. A great roll up of sixteen cars and twenty nine people met at Hexham Maccas under grey skies and the threat of rain. Some people took the opportunity to grab a late-ish breakfast before setting off and as the clouds had not yet opened it was tops down, or back in the case of the RFs.

The large convoy somehow managed to stay relatively together through Raymond Terrace, Clarencetown and onto Bucketts Way to a rest break at Allworth. Here Chris and John took us on a quick tour of this quiet little village that no one on the run had ever been to before.

John also advised here for those who wanted a more spirited run through the upcoming more twisty section of the journey that they should tack on to the rear of David Ho. This didn't start off particularly well as David initially headed off in the wrong direction. Once this had been sorted out the rest of us followed at a more sedate pace.

We all re-grouped further down the road and set off again.

John assured us that our route would by-pass Buladelah but this didn't quite work out either as the road he thought he could take turned out to be a 'No Through Road'. Never mind, a quick u-turn and we were off again. Hmm - two wrong turns by two different leaders on the one trip must be some kind of Chapter record.

The rest of the trip proceeded uneventfully onto The Lakes Way to Pacific Palms where we did a circuit of the township and beach. This brought on nostalgic memories for some of the group who had been visiting this area since way back. Then it was around to Pacific Palms Recreation Club for lunch, a few drinks and the chance to have a bit of a chat.

Once again Chris and John did an excellent job of organising and leading this trip and all agreed it was very enjoyable. After Christmas wishes were made we all headed off home, finally being hit by the rain that had been threatening all day. Thanks again Chris and John for the effort put in to ensuring this was another great Zoom Zoom day.



Marques in the Park

CANBERRA

11 NOVEMBER WORDS **BOB JUDD**
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

The annual Marques in the Park day is always eagerly awaited as it tends to signify the end of winter and the start of the warmer spring and summer – a perfect time to get the MX-5 out and about, and put that winter roof away! Again, the Council of ACT Motor Clubs put on a great day with all the local car clubs being invited to join them at the John Knight Park, next to Lake Ginninderra, under perfect sunshine and still winds. About 300 cars attended, including 22 of our members with their MX-5s (and a Morgan!).

We had a terrific site to show off our cars, sitting on the side of a slight hill in the shade, looking down on the poor people with their GT Falcons, Porsches and Ferraris. (A highlight for me was a display of an original 70's Alpine A110, in full race trim, together with its brand new grandson, the new all-aluminium 2018 A110.)

Our display was able to represent all models of the MX-5, and just about every colour. We had some turboed cars and a supercharged car also to whet the appetites of the horse power junkies.

As the day was more importantly Remembrance Day, celebrating 100 years from the signing of the Armistice at the end of the Great War, a quiet moment was held and respected by all at 11.00am with the playing of the Last Post.

Marques is a great day as you can come and go as you please and it is all about getting together, meeting new and old members and having a good day out.



Southern Sights Run

ILLAWARRA

18 NOVEMBER WORDS **JOHN McINTOSH**
PHOTOS **JOHN ZAREMBA BRYAN SHEDDEN**



On Sunday 18th November, 25 members of the Illawarra Chapter enjoyed a great drive starting at Haywards Bay. We were well organised by Bryan before departing in 14 cars at 9.35am. We left Yallah proceeding to Marshall Mount, Calderwood, Albion Park and Jamberoo.

The countryside was beautiful and a luscious green; the cattle were spoilt! We turned right to Saddleback Mountain. The lookout was amazing, with spectacular views of our coastline from Shellharbour to Kiama. The sights of Calderwood, Bombo, Kiama and Jamberoo were breathtaking.

Our next stop was Killalea National Park with once again

spectacular views of The Farm and surrounding hillside. Phil Belcher did a great job of organising this morning tea stop.

After a short coffee break we headed to Kiama. Kiama was very busy, so we had a scenic tour of the harbour. With no parking available we moved on to Gerroa via Gerringong.

The Fisherman's Club was stretched to its limits, loads of patrons and almost no parking. We enjoyed a superb lunch with great friends before departing for home. Our thanks to John (photos) and Bryan for his leadership and masterly organisation.



Milthorpe Markets Run

RPM

02 DECEMBER WORDS AND PHOTOS
JACKIE AND GRANT BRIGGS



Sunday the 2nd December saw nine cars meet at Glenbrook. After some small talk at 8.00am we headed off up the Great Western Highway, with Paul and Sandie leading the way and Ron and Brigid bringing up the rear, to meet two more cars at Blue Mountains Mazda.

We then headed to Mt Victoria and turned right to head across to Bells Line of Road, as we were motoring along

to Lithgow the weather decided it was going to give us three seasons in one with a little bit of rain and high winds which resulted in a hat being blown off (good news the hat survived to live another trip).

We stopped at Lithgow for morning tea and a chance to smell the roses in the beautiful gardens.

Regrouping we headed off to Millthorpe at a leisurely pace where as we entered

town more rain came down and with parking at a premium we split up to get a parking spot. The markets were lovely with lots different stalls to stock up the Christmas stocking with myself finding couple nice bottles of white to bring home. A lovely lunch at one of the local pubs was followed by a walk around town before heading off. A great day was had by all. Thanks to Sandie and Paul for the run.



Kangaroo Valley Twilight Run

ILLAWARRA

05 JANUARY WORDS DIANNE BYERS

PHOTOS BOB DOWNING ANN HICKS KARINA SANTOLIN BRYAN SHEDDEN

The Club's first run of 2019 was organised by the Illawarra Chapter to traipse to Kangaroo Valley for dinner at the pub. 47 club members met at Haywards Bay and listened to the briefing from our organiser, Dr Shedden.

We expected clear blue skies in the cool of the late afternoon. Those who had travelled from the north were blissfully unaware that heavy thunderstorms had been rolling across Albion Park all afternoon. As our 24 cars departed, the lightning cracked and thunder rumbled - an ominous portent of what lay ahead.

Trevor and Mary had been excited about joining the run, but experienced an engine warning light in their MX-5 on the way to Haywards Bay, and were

forced to wave goodbye. Rain attacked our precious rides - all thankful it wasn't hail. Macquarie Pass as expected was steep and oh so slippery with falling bark and debris that we manoeuvred around quite nimbly. We navigated safely along the Tourist Road through intermittent heavy rain, and as we passed through Glenquarry; we added another MX-5 to our contingent. We took a left at Sheepwash Road and found ourselves in the clouds. Our MX-5s pushed on and all 25 cars made it securely down Kangaloon Road. The wind blew but the scenery was lost in the mist. Right at Illawarra Highway towards Moss Vale, Pearson's Lane turned us left again then a right on Myra Vale Road.

By Nowra Road the rain stopped and

the skies began to clear ... until we hit the valley. Our twilight run was at an end and as it was most fitting we all joined up at the Friendly Inn for dinner and tall stories. We were met there by Bob and Linda, swelling our tally to 49 people. We had two large rooms all to ourselves and enjoyed a great meal together - the pub staff really looked after us.

The real fun started when a group of us returned home via Berry Mountain. Initial concerns about watching for 'roos on the road were not necessary because the fog was so thick that we crawled at walking pace in some places. The large reflective corner signs on the hairpins brightly reflected our headlights which made it twice as hard to see where the road went. It was definitely a run to remember.



Mazdas in the Mist

ILLAWARRA

12 JANUARY WORDS **JEFF AND PAM ROWE**
PHOTOS **ROB WILKINS**

It was a perfect morning as 19 cars met at Yallah for our monthly "Mazdas in the Mist" run to Moonacres Kitchen in Robertson. To split our arrival time some choose to go our favourite way up Macquarie Pass while others went up Jamberoo Mountain. We all arrived in Robertson to share great coffee and eats with plenty of chatting and laughter. Some had come by different routes so there was a total of 43 people there - 30 from Illawarra, 12 from Sydney and 1 from RPM. With such a large turnout, many wondered if it was a record attendance but we didn't quite match the 48 people at the same event last January.

Phil Reid, organiser of this event, presented the owner and manager of Moonacres Kitchen, Stephen Santucci,

with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Illawarra Chapter members for his and his staff service over the last year.

Another very popular presentation was made by us to James Mate, the 2018 Illawarra Chapter New Member of the Year (NMOTY). James is a popular young man amongst chapter members and was surprised and very humble in receiving this award. Congratulations James.

After a good morning, at this very popular event, some of those gathered choose to motor on and went to Werri Beach Bowling Club for lunch. Have MX-5 will travel and eat. All enjoyed until mid-afternoon when we went our separate ways home.

Another good day spent with our MX-5 friends.



2019 SLIQ Run

BREAKFAST CLUB

20 JANUARY WORDS AND PHOTOS STEPHEN LORD

How can something so named start off as anything but? A faulty alarm clock caused our intrepid BreakFast Club convener Peter to be “dragging the chain” for our planned 6:30am departure from McGrath’s Hill, but not too long after, 14 participants in 12 MX-5’s ventured into the early morning light, past Windsor’s contentious new bridge construction and onto the long and winding route towards Singleton.

Our initial run leader Brad set a cracking pace through the sweeping curves and longish straights of Upper Colo, with a fine mist of precipitation necessitating intermittent wipers, but not dampening our exposed noggins as we headed north with purpose, passing only one stationary highway patrol vehicle, whose occupant looked on bemusedly.

One could have been lulled into a false sense of security, until the passing of the Grey Gums Café site signalled the descent into the narrow and tightly wound ravines for which the Putty Road is famous. Handling was tested as we negotiated both the acute bends and moist road surface, but isn’t that what we look forward to on BreakFast Club events?

One of our Members from the Hunter zoom-zoomed past us in the opposite direction, sporting a very nicely optioned ND.

He joined us shortly after, when we stopped for a breather and photo shoot at Milbrodale.

By now, we were looking forward to a hearty breakfast, but that had to be earned on the short but challenging run along Wollombi Road, towards the village of the same name, where the quaint and inviting Myrtle Café can be found. Some efforts at finding a park were creative to say the least, but the atmosphere was superb, the service was friendly and fast, and most options in the menu were explored, with your author having to (unfairly) justify the choice of local muesli.

Snippets of conversation included Trump’s Wall, Brexit, the problems of Australian Rugby and, of course, comparisons among our varied array of MX-5’s, all of which displayed some individual touches of their respective owners.

With bellies full and driving appetites also sated, we left Wollombi suitably exhilarated and richer for the experience of sharing our passion with like-minded folk. We gathered from as far afield as Canberra, Maitland and Picton, and pursued a similarly wide variety of routes home. Bravo to our Convener for organizing this BreakFast Club “season opener”, and a salute to all who joined in, especially those attending BreakFast Club for the first time. Can’t wait for the next event!



Wee Jasper Run

CANBERRA

18 NOVEMBER WORDS **PATRICK McBRIDE**
PHOTOS **RON WILKINS ROD NICHOLAS**

Wee Jasper is a small town to the west of Canberra usually reached from Canberra by driving a roundabout way through Yass. The recent sealing of the last remaining gravel stretches on Mountain Creek Road, which links Uriarra Crossing with the Yass to Wee Jasper road, now offers an alternative, shorter route from Canberra.

Twenty-five of us in sixteen cars assembled at Russell Square on a warm sunny morning and after the signing in formalities, we departed for Uriarra Crossing. From here a winding road led through picturesque farmland and forest to the Yass - Wee Jasper Road at Mountain Creek. More winding, hilly road then led to Wee Jasper, ideal territory for enjoying a sports car.

At Wee Jasper we drove across the bridge into town and continued to Carys Cave where morning tea was set out for us in a pleasant shelter festooned with grape vines. We chatted

together for half an hour, viewed the mini museum at the kiosk (they sell jasper, it's a greenish mineral that takes a high polish) then returned to the cars for the drive to Yass. At the end of the Carys Cave track the cars were halted for a photo then we were off again for a brisk drive along a winding road with no other traffic to hold us up.

Lunch was at Roses Café in the main street of Yass. This place has the same wide-ranging menu as the long-established Roses Café in Goulburn and is part of the same group. They gave us our own room beside the main dining area and soon the buzz of conversation filled our space. By no means as loud as the MX-5 Men's Shed can become on Thursday mornings but loud enough to make it kinder to the other patrons to have a wall separating us from them. An hour or so later and amply refreshed and relaxed we each made our own way home.



Five Hills Run

CANBERRA

13 JANUARY WORDS **GIULIA SCHIEMER**
PHOTOS **RON WILKINS ROD NICHOLAS**

On a very warm Sunday afternoon in January 28 MX-5s gathered at the Cooleman Court car park in Weston for our first official run of the year.

Forty five keen people (including four visitors) took off at 4.15pm to explore the Five Hills of Canberra. This is a traditional run that has been organised for many years, and this year the Run Leaders Wal and Jane Hick did an excellent job.

Our first stop was Mount Stromlo where we all gathered for a group photo. From there we proceeded to Red Hill for some scenic driving, and on to Capital Hill which took us past Parliament House.

The convoy travelled on to Black Mountain Drive, then on to the National Arboretum (Dairy Farmer's Hill). Not being Canberrans, the convenors got lost, so many thanks to Ron and Maree for taking the lead and preventing us ending up in Goulburn.

Our National Arboretum is a beautiful Botanic Garden which in time will be home to 104 forests of rare, endangered and symbolic trees from Australia and around the world. If you haven't been there it is well worth the visit.

We set up dinner at the picnic spot and lookout on Himalayan Cedar road. As always, there was lots of laughing, drinking and eating in the true spirit of our Canberra Chapter members. Thanks to Wal and Jane for organising such a great run as the first for 2019 to welcome in the New Year.



Byabarra - Gingers Creek

MID NORTH COAST

27 JANUARY WORDS JOHN HANSEN
PHOTOS KEIRAN RODGERS

Saturday 27 January saw seven cars rolling into Oliver's car park at the Port Macquarie Service Centre a.k.a 'The Donut' for the first club car run of the year. The day was starting off hot and temperatures would build during the day to be extremely hot! However this was not going to deter our intrepid starters of; Jane and Greg in their grey GT RF Limited Edition, Cathy and Wayne in their Burgundy NB, Peter in his Heritage Burgundy NB, Pam and Allen in their gleaming red ND, Judith and John in their Galaxy Grey NC, Katie and Keiran with their MX-5 hot hatch Suzuki, Graham in his beautiful blue BMW MX-5 and run leaders Jill and Peter in their still gleaming black NB. With tops down we set off under clear skies and a blazing sun on the road to Wauchope and then to our morning tea spot at 'The Byabarra' at Byabarra.

Keeping in mind that this was just a morning tea stop, most of us ordered circumspectly from a delicious range of foods. After a most relaxing time we set off for our next stage up through the "twisties" to Gingers Creek.

On the way up to Gingers Creek we encountered little if any traffic and once in the hills and enjoyed a spirited drive along the mainly new road surface avoiding the occasional rock and tree detritus on the road. Gingers Creek was simply a refreshment and turn around point before we swooped down to the Long Flat Pub for lunch.

"Swooping" down the hill was not actually what happened as the amount of traffic going down increased dramatically with many large vehicles and caravans traversing the tight corners. Many of the large caravans

were extremely considerate and pulled over to let cars pass whenever possible; however we no sooner passed one vehicle when another loomed up in front. Inevitably we came across one combination that was travelling very slowly and it was not possible for most of us to pass safely. It was also ironic that for the last part of the descent the MX-5s and the caravans that we had passed formed a very slow moving convey down the hill together. However looking at the bright side, travelling at less than 30 kph does enable one to take in the magnificent countryside that is the backdrop to Oxley Highway and to reflect on the travels of John Oxley down the mountainside to Port Macquarie.

Eventually we reached our destination, the Long Flat Pub. It almost felt as if we had been traveling with the original explorers and we arrived hungry and thirsty. The temperature had risen considerably from when we left the foothills and entered the Long Flat valley. We had lunch in the outside covered BBQ area as it was extremely hot inside the pub. Copious jugs of iced water were provided and consumed which helped allay the heat whilst we waited for the food. The menu was interesting and portions large and we took time to talk and appreciate the entertainer Phil with his acoustic guitar.

Finally it was time to say goodbye and make our individual way home. It was all agreed that the day had been very enjoyable with a good mix of driving and socialising and that our Club Run Year was off to a good start due to the work of the organisers and run leaders Allen and Peter.





Thank you for your support

Major Sponsors



Chapter Sponsors

