

club

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

# TORQUE

MX-5 Cup

Bathurst 12 Hour

Driver Training

Christmas Wrap Up

**Gary Nobrega**

Our 2014  
Member of the Year

SUMMER 2015

Print Post Publication: I00006993



AUTOMOTIVE COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

# WE PROVIDE THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE YOU WANT

2wd or 4wd dyno-tuning & power runs  
Computer diagnosis, upgrades & re-mapping  
Auto electrical services, overhauls & re-wiring  
Fuel injection diagnosis, servicing & upgrades  
ECU diagnosis, repairs & upgrades  
Weight-corrected steering alignments & repairs  
Suspension testing, repair, overhaul & upgrade  
Exhaust modification, bending & upgrades  
Brake testing, overhaul, upgrade & machining

**[www.acdc.net.au](http://www.acdc.net.au)**

23 Kemble Court Mitchell ACT 2911  
Ph: 02 6262 2680 Mob: 0417 269 325  
[info@acdcptyltd.com.au](mailto:info@acdcptyltd.com.au)

# MAJOR SPONSORS



**mazda**

www.mazda.com.au  
1 800 034 411



23 Kemble Court  
Mitchell ACT  
(02) 6262 2680



113 Fairford Road  
Padstow NSW  
1 300 669 620

# CHAPTER SPONSORS

## Centenary Plumbing



Unit 6/1 Park Street  
Belconnen ACT  
(02) 6253 1396



24-26 Hollywood Drive  
Lansvale NSW  
(02) 9727 6788



42 Great Western Hwy  
Medlow Bath NSW  
(02) 4788 1018

# 2015 COMMITTEE

President: Bryan Shedden

president@mx5.com.au

Vice President: Glenn Thomas

0422 340 010

Illawarra

Jan and Garry Gibson

Treasurer: Julie Sando

vicepres@mx5.com.au

0458 715 000

Secretary: Wesley Hill

0402 410 829

RPM

Illawarra@mx5.com.au

Club Captain: Michael Soulos

treasurer@mx5.com.au

Lesa Bunn

Membership Database: Keith Monaghan

0438 538 837

Mid North Coast

0423 276 152

Membership: Ken & Maggie Liston

secretary@mx5.com.au

rpm@mx5.com.au

Competition: David Lawler

0422 035 893

Peter Rodgers

Publications: Rod Carter

captain@mx5.com.au

0422 237 588

Website Coordinator: Greg Perry

0413 113 399

Sydney

midnorthcoast@mx5.com.au

Regalia: Pam Estreich

membership@mx5.com.au

Guy Coles

BreakFast Club Coordinator: Adam Walker

0418 976 279

0419 914 443

Canberra

02 9872 1639

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

Hunter

competition@mx5.com.au

Competition/Event Secretary:

0403 070 644

Zan Menzel

0418 442 328

02 6558 4190

web@mx5.com.au

Track Day Coordinator:

compsec@mx5.com.au

0414 431 055

Mike Hicks

regalia@mx5.com.au

competition@mx5.com.au

0459 253 272

Club Torque Editor:

0419 202 558

Club Historian:

Mel Keller

0421 069 019

publications@mx5.com.au

Elaine Caldwell

02 9451 1432

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.  
PO Box 402, Beecroft NSW 2119  
nsw.mx5.com.au

# NSW MEMBERSHIP REPORT

CURRENT  
MEMBERSHIP



NEW MEMBERS  
Welcome!

James Axisa  
Jeanette Bramley  
John Bramley  
Sarena Chan  
Anda Clayton  
Brian Clayton  
Edward Crowley  
Julie Farquhar  
Paul Farquhar  
Victor Farrugia  
Ian Foster  
Christopher Fotheringham  
Andrea Galliford  
John Galliford  
Robert Guyder  
Keith Hammond  
Ron Hammond  
Aaron Herring  
Ros Holland

Carol Hoswell  
Graeme Hoswell  
Blake Hotz  
Evan Hotz  
Rory House  
Kristy Jirgens  
Christoph Jirgens  
Matthew Johnson  
Adam Jones  
Andrew Jones  
Garry Keyvar  
Anna Kuzmanovski  
Danny Kuzmanovski  
Stephen Lord  
Jacqueline McCormack  
Donald McCormack  
John Munro  
Geoff Moran  
Christopher Osborne

Diana Pullen  
John Pullen  
Greg Richard  
Deborah Rhodes  
Chris Rowe  
Jason Russell  
Pamela Stewart  
Dave Stewart  
John Tilley  
Maria Tzannes  
Nicole Tziavaras  
Nicholas Tziavaras  
Gabrielle Wilson  
Bruce Withnall  
Terence Wong  
Barbara Wyatt  
Chris Wyatt  
Martyn Voormeulen

---

**club**  
**TORQUE**

Editor: Mel Keller  
Publications Officer: Rod Carter  
[publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au)  
Cover Photo: Mel Keller



# PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

BY BRYAN SHEDDEN

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW, and we have a bumper year ahead. Our planning for the year is well advanced, with a detailed schedule of events mapped out on the Club Website. 176 events are already locked in, and no doubt there are more to come. I hope your driving shoes and party clothes are ready because 2015 is going to be a fantastic ride that you won't want to miss! As you can imagine, planning this enormous variety of events for our 700 plus members is no small task. First of all the motorsport dates are locked in because these are the most difficult to sort out. Then on 29th November, we filled a small meeting room at Camden Valley Inn with all of our Convenors, some of their assistants, and a few Committee members, for our 2nd Annual Convenors Conference. This was a full day of discussion and planning, ably facilitated by Fiona Shedden, and eventuated in a detailed event

calendar for the year. We all relaxed the next day with the very popular Christmas Gathering at Joadja Winery. On 22nd November, I attended the CAMS State Motor Sport Awards night at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia, and was joined by Mike & Cobie Hicks, and Stewart & Jeanette Temesvary with their sons David and Adam. The awards recognise car clubs and their milestones, state champions, CAMS service awards and officials of the year, as well as other perpetual awards. Stewart was presented with the Supersprint Type 1 Champion shield, I received the Supersprint Club Champion shield on behalf of the MX-5 Club of NSW, and Mike received the Event of the Year award on behalf of the CAMS NSW Supersprint panel. It was worthy recognition for an exceptionally successful year of motorsport by the MX-5 Club of NSW. The last few months also saw a wave of new information, reports, photos and video

about the new ND MX-5. The car was displayed at the LA Auto Show on 19th November with a collection of new promotional photos from Mazda. And on 31st January, there was a flurry for activity as the embargo was lifted on the world media's first drive of the ND in Barcelona. Local media confirmed that Australia will get both the 1.5L and 2.0L engines with engine output confirmed as 96kW/150Nm for the 1.5L, while the 2.0L is expected to produce 125kW and 200Nm. According to the Murdoch & Fairfax papers, starting prices are suspected to be about \$36k-\$37k (+ORC), and GoAuto intimates possibly less than this. Some have grumbled about the power output of the 2.0L engine, but I reckon the most exciting thing is the kerb weight which is reported to be 1000kg or possibly less for an entry level spec. When will we get it? Second half of 2015, with the first cars expected to arrive in Australia in August.







# 2014 MEMBER OF

My MX-5

## Gary Nobrega

1991 Classic Red NA6  
NB8A 5 speed  
Polished Cam Cover  
Toga high volume oil pump  
Magnecore blue 8mm ignition leads  
Car Make Corns stainless  
50mm cat back system, high flow cat  
Extreme 3.6kg flywheel,  
Exedy sports tuff kit  
Front Brakes: NA8 disc and caliper conversion with Hawk HP+ pads, DBA T3 slot rotors.  
Mazdaspeed front and rear strut brace and sway bars,  
Racing Beat adjustable end links, Yellowspeed dynamic pro sport coil overs  
Brown Davis roll bar  
Interior: Pioneer head unit, Pioneer 6.5" four-way speakers. Mazdaspeed Type F seats, Mazdaspeed 360mm steering wheel

Congratulations to Gary Nobrega, our 2014 Member of The Year. Gary was shocked and surprised when his win was announced at the MX-5 Club of NSW Christmas Gathering at Joadja Winery. "I had no idea what I had done to win when it was announced my reaction was quite funny and made a few people laugh," he says with characteristic modesty.

Gary joined the MX-5 Club of NSW in July 2012 and has since been a keen participant in a variety of events. Over the MOTY year, Gary joined the BreakFast Club for 9 outings, including his favourite; the Brass Monkey Run. Working closely with Adam Walker, Gary also led the Mad Hatter's Run to Berry. "I did one trial run a few weeks before just to make sure the road was up to standards and so I wouldn't get lost on the day. I did anyway," he says. Asked if he has any advice for those planning a run, Gary laughs, "safety first, adhere to all the laws of the road and yes, memorise your planned route."

Gary also managed to find

time to join in 7 Sydney Chapter runs, 2 RPM runs and 6 All Club events. Gary has more than a passing interest in Motorsport. The Marulan Driver Training Days are another favourite event and he also appeared at a Motorkhana and a Track Day. Gary also achieved MOTY points for attending the AGM and contributing photos for Club Torque.

*"The Club gives me friendship, freedom and a sense of belonging."*

Gary has owned his MX-5 for six years. "Since a very young age I've been passionate about the Mazda make and their sports cars", he says. "I believe Mazda have captured the joys of driving perfectly with the MX-5. It out-handles more expensive cars and it's reliable. It's the perfect combination." Gary has made significant modifications to his 1991 NA6. "I'm a mechanic by trade," he says, "so I've done all the work myself. I couldn't help myself".



6 Club Torque



# THE YEAR AWARDS

Words, Bryan Shedden, Mel Keller. Photos Peter Hilkmann, Mel Keller



*Clockwise* **Phil Mayo** (left) Runner Up Member of The Year with Mark Gray.

Runner Up New Member of The Year **Chris Rhodes**.

New Member of The Year **Karl Mittman**

Runner-Up Member of the Year is Phil Mayo. Phil is a former Convenor of the Hunter Chapter and has been very active in the Club for his seven and a half years of membership. Phil organised four runs, participated in three track days and 14 runs & social events (including NatMeet in Queensland), and provided stories and photos for Club Torque.

The 2014 New Member of the Year is Karl Mittman. Karl joined the Club in June 2013 and completed his first full year of membership in 2014, making him eligible for MOTY. His Facebook friends will know only too well that "Kaos Kurri" is a very enthusiastic member of the Hunter Chapter. During the year, he participated in 13 runs, organised/assisted three events, contributed a Club Torque article, and did the Motorkhana at Eastern Creek. Karl received his award at the Hunter Convenors BBQ.

Runner-Up New Member of the Year is Chris Rhodes. Chris is a resident of the Central Coast and has found his home amongst our club members in the Hunter Chapter since joining the club in January 2013. His involvement in club activities followed a similar path to Karl, with participation in 11 runs, organised/assisted two events, contributed a Club Torque article and photos, and did the Motorkhana at Eastern Creek.

MOTY points are tabulated over the course of a full membership year - 1st November to 31st October.

Committee members and their partners are ineligible for MOTY awards and are not included on the points table. Former recipients of the awards are also ineligible, which excludes Graham Fletcher (98), Peter Battisson (81), and Peter Feutrill (68) from the points table.





# Vale

## Russell John Battisson

1977 - 2014

A member of the MX-5 Club of NSW since 2005, Russell Battisson was a wonderfully warm, friendly and helpful personality with a no nonsense approach to life.

Russell worked with his father David at MX5 Solutions in Canberra, and was close to his uncle Peter at ACDC. Many of our members have been grateful for Russell's excellent work on our cars.

MX-5s and off-road rallying were Russell's passion. Those who attended NatMeet 2012 could not forget his remarkable MX-5 rally car that was displayed at Concours.

Russell suffered a severe asthma attack and despite the best efforts of staff at the Harden Medical Centre and Canberra Hospital, he did not recover. He passed away on 25th November, surrounded by his family.

Russell's funeral took place on December 3rd, 2014. Among the mourners were Bryan Shedden and Glenn Thomas representing the Club Committee and all 6 of our resident NSW Life Members; Jean Cook, Zan and Rod Menzel, Cobie and Mike Hicks and Paul Beerworth. They were joined by almost all of the members of the Canberra Chapter.

Rest in peace Russell. Your mates from the MX-5 community are deeply saddened by your passing.



### "The Driver"

*Some folk drive for transport,  
just a means unto an end,  
They treat their cars as mere  
machine, and not a trusted friend,  
Concerned only for the badge in  
front, how bright it may be shining,  
And the many pretty toys  
inside, their egos there defining.*

*The driver sees it differently,  
with their car becomes a  
part, Take the road together,  
with a single beating heart,  
The turbo's rising wail, the  
exhaust's muscled subtle grow,  
To the driver's ear, an orchestra,  
there's music in that howl.*

*The road you feel, within your  
palms, at every bend you take,  
Every bump and line and camber,  
each triumph and mistake,  
Your car it tells you all of  
this, for this is truly livin',  
Petrol flowing through the  
veins, and ways it can be driven.*

*Not just a freeway drive, but  
each outing on a mission,  
And not a veering trundle,  
but a task of deep precision,  
Not the tedium of traffic,  
relief at he arriving,  
The thrill is in the journey,  
and the passion in the driving.*

© Graeme Cook 2009





[windsorsportscarhire.com.au](http://windsorsportscarhire.com.au)

**Book your  
DRIVE TODAY!  
4579 7099**



---

## MX-5 hire from \$95 a day!

Finding an affordable sports car to hire in Sydney can be difficult. There are plenty of car rental companies with people movers, hatchbacks, sedans and SUV's on offer, but what you want something fun and affordable?

That's exactly what we're here for. We have sports cars to hire that are practical, affordable and most importantly, a joy to drive.

Situated just 1 hours drive from the Sydney CBD, Windsor is the perfect starting point for your weekend away in the Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley or trip to the coast.

Why not explore and experience some of the best that New South Wales has to offer in the best way possible.. in an MX-5!

---

# Spinning Wheels



15 November 2014. Report and Photos by **Graham Fletcher**

Every year, club members are invited to gather at the Waterloo workshop of Spinning Wheels for this popular and well supported Tech Day. Spinning Wheels is one of the best wheel alignment facilities in Sydney and once again made their computerised alignment equipment available to the MX-5 Club of NSW.

Twelve members, old and new, secured a spot to have their wheel alignment assessed and adjusted by alignment guru Stuart Daly. Stuart spent time with each driver to determine their driving style and performance needs before providing a personalised set-

up for optimum handling and safety.

As what works for one MX-5 may not be the best for another (even if they are the same model), Stuart closely monitored each vehicle with the latest computer technology. I was already happy with the performance of my car when I entered the workshop and after speaking to Stuart very keen to see what could be done.

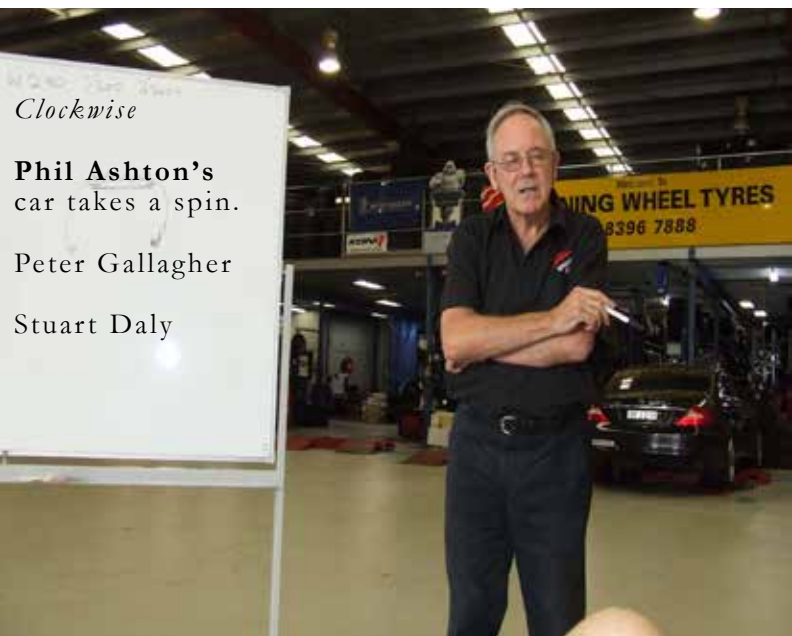
Following the alignments and lunch, supplied by our own Adam "Reggie" Walker, members had time to explore the workshop and ask questions. We were then treated to a tech talk on tyres by Spinning

Wheels owner Peter Gallagher. Peter clearly explained how different tyre ratings, air pressures and tyre widths affect a car's performance and safety.

A huge thank you to Michael Soulos for organising the event with the Club's sincere appreciation extended to both Peter Gallagher and Stuart Daly for their time, efforts and advice. Brilliant is the only word that comes to mind as I departed the centre looking for the open road only to find my car more responsive and zippier than it was before I took it in.



10 Club Torque



*Clockwise*

**Phil Ashton's**  
car takes a spin.

Peter Gallagher

Stuart Daly



**O**n 30th November, 13 little MX-5s from the Illawarra Chapter left Haywards Bay filled with Christmas cheer and keen to test out their tyres (AGAIN!) on the Jamberoo Mountain Road. Our destination would be a Christmas Gathering at Joadja Winery just near Berrima, to meet with members from the other five chapters of the MX-5 Club of NSW. Everyone was eager to arrive at the winery as our car boots were overflowing with Christmas decorations to spruce up our already good looking cars.

We arrived and were very thankful that the paddock where we were parking had been slashed, so we weren't walking in knee high hay. After decorating, and looking skywards for the storm forecast later on, we headed to our beautiful seating area, where we partook of some nibbles and wine.

The aroma of wood-fired pizzas cooking ensured the line of hungry members waiting for their lunch was always long. After enjoying our delicious lunch, presentations were made by Bryan for "Member of the Year", and also members who went above and beyond the call of duty ensuring our club is well run and organised.

Just as Bryan started, the droplets began falling, and soon the formalities were being rushed through, before the heavens well and truly opened. We all just made it inside, before the downpour started. Dessert was a site to behold, and many thanks to the ladies for presenting our beautiful dessert in such an attractive manner. It was great for all six chapters of the club to get together for our Christmas celebration, and end the year relaxing at such a wonderful venue.

# Christmas In The Vines

**Words Hella Underwood**

**Photos Mel Keller**









# Australia Day at Avon Dam

26 January 2015 / Words by **Bryan Shedden**, Photos by **Alex & Bryan Shedden & Tammie Hotz**

**C**elebrating Australia Day with your MX-5 Club of NSW friends has become a bit of a tradition. Our venue for 2015 was the picnic grounds at Avon Dam, which demanded a fairly early start in order to claim the best picnic spot. The Illawarra, RPM and Sydney Chapters took separate paths with the Sydney run first to depart from Heathcote McDonalds. Mark & Julie lead a group of 14 members and 2 visitors in 9 MX-5s. They were first to arrive at Avon Dam after an entertaining drive through the Royal National Park, across to Appin and Broughton Pass, and then south to Avon. The Illawarra run was last to leave but second to arrive. I led a group of 15 members and 2 visitors in 10 MX-5s from Figtree McDonalds. This gave us convenient access to Mount Keira Road, which was recently reopened after a \$1.75 million upgrade.

The RPM run arrived fashionably late

at Avon Dam, with Greg & Lesa in the lead. The group of 19 members in 10 MX-5s enjoyed a nice little drive through the Wollondilly countryside of Mulgoa, The Oaks and Thirlmere. Everyone on the three runs agreed that the final 5km of tight & twisty road to our picnic spot was an MX-5 delight! The combined assembly of Australia Day revellers was an impressive 54 people and 30 MX-5s. Many were appropriately attired in an assortment of Aussie flags and Socceroos shirts. Adam had a flag wrapped around his bonnet, and Julie impressed with flags on her finger nails! The morning was spent in friendly conversation, dips & crackers were shared around, bonnets were lifted, modifications were prodded & admired, and those who had forgotten to pack a jumper quietly shivered and pretended they were pleased it wasn't a stinking hot day.

After a delicious BBQ lunch, a

small, energetic group enjoyed a hit of cricket. Young Evan was the star with a brilliant display of batting skill and sledging, while Graham made excuses for his performance with complaints about the substandard pitch preparation. What a wonderful way to spend Australia Day. Thanks to everyone for getting into the spirit and ignoring the mediocre weather forecast. It was worth it!



# BreakFast Club

A photograph of a line of convertibles driving on a winding road through a forest. The lead car is a red Mazda Miata with a black roll-over protection system (ROPS) and a license plate that reads "EQUA 125". Behind it is a silver Miata, and further back is a dark-colored Miata. The road is paved and has white double lines. The surrounding area is filled with tall trees and green foliage.

**BreakFast Club Heads West  
Up The Putty Road  
Twilight Run**

Photo By Adam Walker



# Up The Putty Road



18 January 2015 Words and Photos by **Adam Walker**

January's Putty Road run is a standing tradition of the BreakFast Club first conceived by Michael Vo (Sliq), kicking off the year for our early morning BreakFast runs. This has to be one of the easiest runs to describe and direct. Drive straight for 140km, turn right at Milbrodale, turn right at Broke and breakfast is 30km down the road at Wollombi.

6:30am, McGraths Hill and the roadsters were starting to stream in. 7am rolled around and after a quick briefing, 17 members (some familiar faces, some new) in 15 cars, tops dropped ready to hit the road.

We quickly made our way through

Windsor and Wilberforce, the sun was breaching the horizon and the Putty was as clear as the eyes could see. Leading the group it was a great spectacle seeing the conga-line of MX-5s in the rear view mirror snake their way over the escarpment and down through the dense, dry bushland. A quick stop and regroup at the Halfway House had us back on the road for the best 20km of the trip, down through the gorge just before Milbrodale. Excellent timing as we reached the end of the twisties there was a caravan cruising along at well below the speed limit.

A quick right hand turn had us heading towards wine country,

snaking our way through all the various vineyards in full bloom was quite the spectacle. By now I could hear stomachs rumbling behind me as we pulled into Cafe Wollombi, right on time at 9:45.

Everyone devoured breakfast over a few laughs listening to Russ Maxwell's antics and stories.

Everyone said their farewells as some members went off for some wine tasting, some hit the freeway home and some of us went home via Wisemans Ferry (with Gary Nobrega taking the extra long way home via the River Road.





# BreakFast Club Heads West

16 November 2014 Words **Adam Walker** Photos **Graham Fletcher** and **Adam Walker**

**A**t 7am on 16 November, the cars started rolling into Richmond McDonalds. A sly comment was made, this run should have been called “50 Shades of Grey”, not only because of the weather, but the exciting colour combinations of the MX-5s. It was Grey/Silver as far as the eye could see. This was quickly cured with the arrival of Jamie and Rico in their much more colourful MX-5s.

A quick briefing was carried out; we were full of caffeine and ready to hit the road. 13 members in 12 cars left

for the run up the Bells Line. The heavens opened and it was tops up to the first waypoint at Bell. We had a quick cut across the Darling Causeway, rejoined the Highway and made the run down Mount Victoria.

The road was dry on the other side of the Range, perfect timing for our next waypoint stop at the Jenolan Caves turnoff. Here we met a recently joined member who has just purchased the-Flak-NC with bright orange OZ wheels. Terry joined the convoy as we zig-zagged through the

narrow passageway into Jenolan Caves and out the other side for the twisty hill climb up to Oberon.

The Oberon locals were overcome with the influx of our beloved Roadsters. We promptly re-organised the cafe tables and sat down to a well-earned breakfast. The return run had us heading back towards Sydney along the Bells Line of Road just before the Sunday afternoon traffic kicked in. All members enjoyed the run, despite gloomy weather overhead. Another great Sunday morning run.



16 Club Torque





# Twilight Run

05 February 2015 Words **Adam Walker** Photo **Alan Vuong**

Each year during Daylight Savings, both the Sydney Chapter and BreakFast Club have been hosting twilight social events/runs.

These events have been running on alternative months during Summer with the Sydney Chapter hosting a successful Fish and Chips Run to Balmoral Beach followed by a run to Terry Hills via McCarrs Creek. The BreakFast Club hosts a burger and run evening starting at the famous Paul's Hamburgers at Sylvania with a run down to Stanwell Tops via the Royal National Park.

This month it was the BreakFast Club's turn and a gathering of 10 members (with some new faces) met for a great burger and a social chat. I am one of those people that will be late to my own funeral and it took a few phone calls from members to remind me that there was an event on. That I had organised!

I turned up an hour late just as everyone was getting into their cars for the quick run. Everyone's (but myself) hungers were suitably satisfied, we joined up for a convoy run down the Princes Highway and

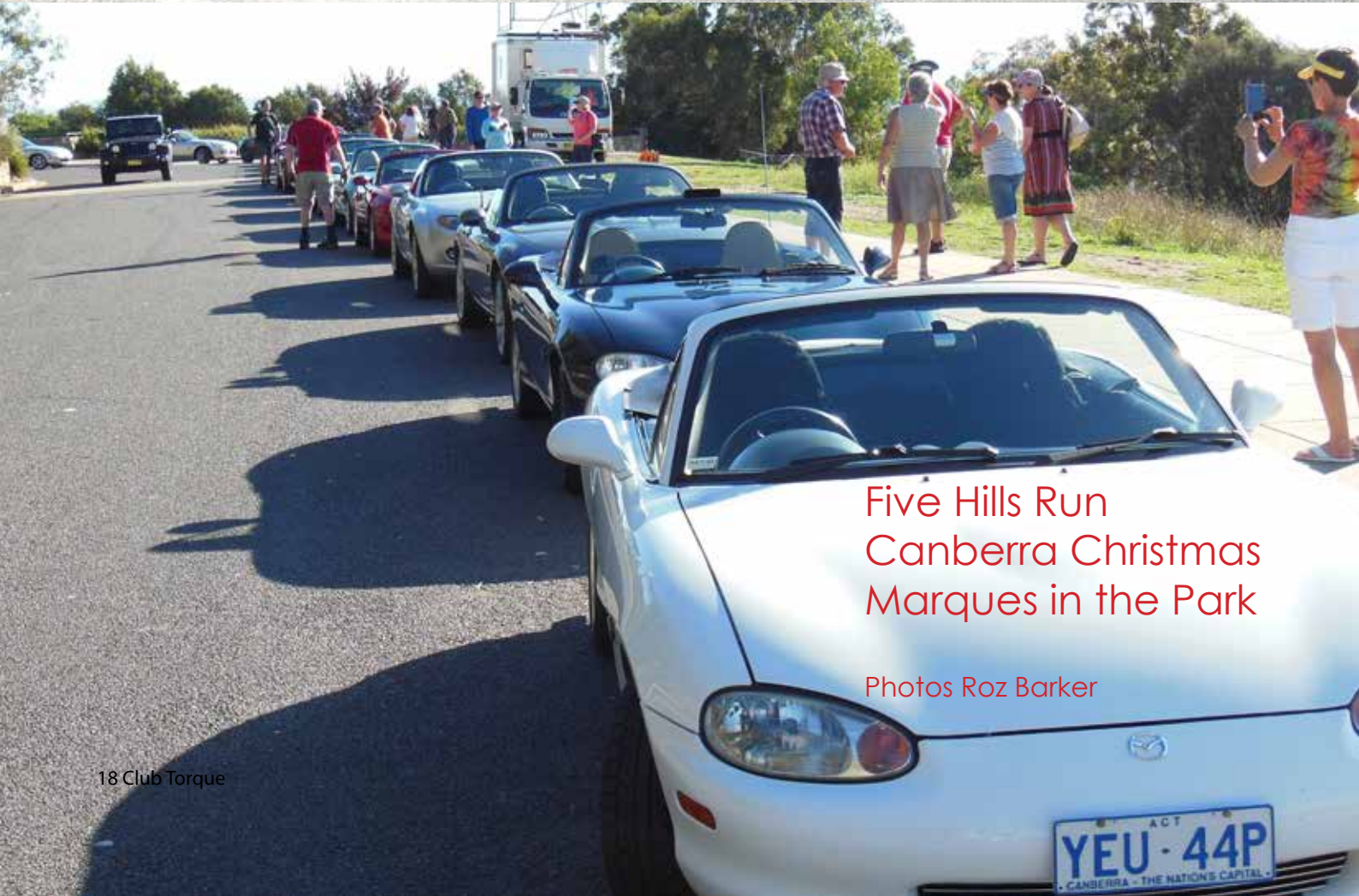
down into Audley and onto Stanwell Tops. We got into Stanwell Tops, the light was slowly disappearing for some great photo opportunities. Sadly, in my rush, I had left my camera at home. Everyone had a good laugh at my antics for the night before the brisk run back up to Sydney via the Royal National Park.

The next twilight event will be at Balmoral Beach on the 25th March hosted by the Sydney Chapter.





# Canberra



Five Hills Run  
Canberra Christmas  
Marques in the Park

Photos Roz Barker



25 JANUARY 2015  
Words **Norm** and **Roz Barker**  
Photos **Roz Barker**

**W**hat a great start to the year, on a great Canberra summer evening for this run around Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin, going up and down five of the hills around town.

It was the Australia Day long weekend and on this run we met many other Canberrans who were out enjoying the day. 19 MX-5s lined up in front of the Russell offices and after a briefing, Norm and Roz Barker led the group to the first hill Mt Pleasant (Hill 1) which is in the grounds of Duntroon/ADFA.

There was a short stop to take in the view and a chat. The convoy then proceeded to Mt Ainslie (Hill 2), which involved a steep climb on a winding road. Another short stop, with some not able to resist the call of ice-creams being sold from a van at the top. The route then took us past the Australian War Memorial and down Anzac Parade.

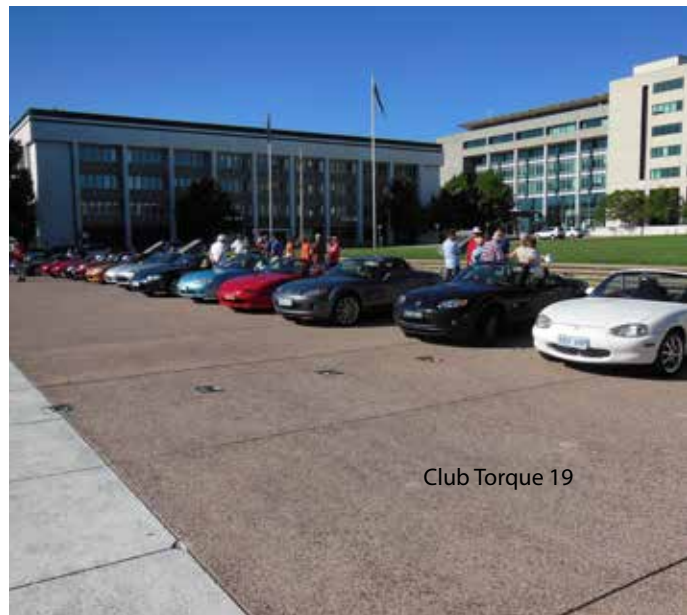
At the bottom of Anzac Parade the group turned right and followed the lake along to Black Mountain (Hill 3). Another steep and winding road, with no stopping, just circling the car park with the leader meeting the tail end as they made it to the top. At the bottom of Black Mountain we made our way west to the National Arboretum and up to the top of Dairy Farmers Hill (Hill 4).

Here we all parked and took in the view back across the lake to the city. We then drove past the Canberra Zoo and across the top of Scrivener Dam, through Curtin and Deakin and up Red Hill (Hill 5). At the top the convoy formed up in the car park for some photos and then down the hill to Melbourne Avenue around Parliament House via State Circle and to Lennox Gardens for a BBQ/picnic.

Everyone thanked the leaders for organising the Roulettes display. Trouble is, how can we top this for next year?



## Five Hills Run





# A Canberra Christmas

14 December 2014 Words **Tony and Iris McDonald** Photos **Damon Muller**

Canberra Chapter's major function for the year was held at in the "Stone Room" at "Grazing", a delightful restaurant in Gundaroo. The co-convenors, ably assisted by Rick and Judy Andrews who live locally, arrived early and decorated the tables in a Christmas theme. Paul Beerworth, our chapter's Life Member, led the majority of attendees on the short run out to the venue and 33 chapter members and one guest attended the function. Consumption of entrees and mains preceded the drawing of a door prize, presentation of several gifts of appreciation, and the awarding of 5-year tenure badges to Diana Keeling

and Matt Shepherdson. This was followed by our time-honoured practice of presenting gifts to members who organised and led the various Chapter runs for 2014. Alan Bottcher was also presented with a small gift in appreciation of his efforts in supplying the beautiful eucalypt-burl plinths which became part of the physical awards for the Chapter Member of the Year and the Chapter Motor Sport Member of the Year. The chapter's Motor Sport Member of the Year for 2014 was then announced, with the award going to Peter Battisson. Peter is our top points-scorer in motor sport and a worthy

recipient of this award due to his regular involvement both as a competitor and an official at club track days. The 2014 Chapter Member of the Year award was awarded to worthy recipients, Norm and Roz Barker. Norm and Roz have been involved in most aspects of club activity, from organising and leading runs through to attendance at social events and making contributions to Club Torque magazine. Desserts and coffee ended the day, which was obviously enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks to the management of "Grazing" for the high standard of meals and service provided.



20 Club Torque







# Marques in the Park

09 November 2014 Words and Photos **Tony McDonald**

For those not familiar with this Canberra event, it is an annual gathering of cars of all types, and their enthusiastic owners, for display to the public.

The event has been running for many years, and attracts exhibits from many car clubs. This year's event was held at John Knight Park in Belconnen, and by my estimation, over 250 cars participated. The Canberra Chapter was represented by nine gleaming cars with all series on display. During the course of the morning, we were joined by others (non-members) with their cars, and at one point there were 17 MX-5s on display. Red NAs easily outnumbered NBs and NCs.

The club banner greatly assisted MX-5 drivers to locate our site and no doubt provided a focal point for those interested in finding out more about the club. I personally spoke to three people who showed keen interest in joining up.

Adjacent to our site were some excellent marques such as Porsche and Ferrari (9 or so cars), so they obviously appreciated the classy company! The event officially ran from 10 am to 3 pm, but the threat of a hotter-than-usual day had many cars arriving early,

and subsequently leaving prior to the official finish time. Nevertheless, the generally high standard of display of golden oldies, exotics, super-modifieds, and muscle cars provided a wonderful spectacle (and some great photo opportunities) for those who attended the event. Our chapter members all enjoyed their time at MITP, and will no doubt put their hands up as participants next year. Hopefully next year our chapter will be able to display a greater number of vehicles, perhaps including an ND or two! Let's wait and see.





# Hunter

RFS Presentation  
Show 'n' Shine  
Christmas in the Park

Photo Peter Hilkmann

Photo Josh Fitzgerald



# Christmas in the Park

22 December 2014 Words **Bob Pimm**  
Photos **Peter Hilkmann**

**T**raditionally the Hunter Chapter do a drive before arriving at a location, but this year with the weather producing afternoon thunder storms all the week leading up the event, we decided to just meet up for our XMAS get together at Speers Point Park in the cool of the late afternoon beside the shores of Lake Macquarie with a close-by alternative.

The weather was kind to our 22 members and a visitor as we enjoyed a BYO BBQ and Picnic Tea. Even "Kuntry Kuzzin" drove down from Tamworth for the afternoon to join us which was fantastic. With 13 MX-5s decorated in a Christmas theme, judging was very keenly contested. John & Gaye Morgan won by a XMAS Bell gap.

Lots of laughs and some XMAS thank yous for the people that made our runs & hard work special in 2014. The Hunter Chapter has had a great year and we are looking forward to many more events in 2015.







# Show 'n' Shine in the Vines

23 November 2014 Words **Mark Gray** Photos **Peter Hilkmann**

**M**embers of the Hunter Chapter love breaking out the shampoo, polish and claybar for a bit of Show 'n' Shine competition. The inaugural Hunter Show 'n' Shine last year was a great success and this year it promised to be even better. The weather forecast promised to be warm but an early cloud decided to make rain while signing on at our Beresfield meeting spot. Everyone had gone to a huge effort in preparing their cars for the day, so it was decided to complete the Show n'Shine judging in light drizzle rather than at the lunch stop where they would inevitably be covered in grime. Judging was divided into three groups for NA, NB, and NC using a basic scoring sheet, in addition to people's choice. After the judging the rain stopped, of course, and the roads even dried before our late departure.

Some headed off with roofs down and others chose to not risk it was we zoomed over towards Minmi, Mount Sugarloaf's nice winding roads and across into the back of Cessnock taking the picturesque views of the vines. Arriving at our Lovedale Store lunch location we were greeted by Paul & Janee. They had enjoyed a busy few days in the Hunter Valley Wine country area hosting Mick Jagger's Rolling Stones concert which attracted over 18,000 people. Lunch started rolling out with a choice of three selections and followed by desserts and onsite roasted coffees. The crew were asked to answer a series of tricky MX-5 questions and the winners were awarded some interesting items as spot prizes. The time came to announce the winners of the Hunter Chapter Show n Shine 2014 ... and the winners were:

NA Phil & Helen Mayo  
NB Dean & Rowan Morgan  
NC Rachel Crawford

People's Choice  
Phil & Helen Mayo

Overall Champion  
Phil & Helen Mayo

Head & Tails Hamper Award  
Maureen Hilkmann  
Donated by Lovedale Store

The Lovedale Store had proved a popular breakfast and coffee stop for people heading home in the morning. Also a well admired Blue NA soon took centre of the row of the cars with many taking time to look over this MX-5 with different extras not often seen. A big thank you to Paul & Janee for a great day and hopefully we can return soon again enjoy their hospitality.



24 Club Torque







# Hunter RFS Presentation

8 November 2014 Words **Mark Gray** Photos **Josh Fitzgerald**

In October 2013, the Medowie Furies were battling away to save many properties in the Hunter region from the ravages of bushfires. Twelve months later, on Saturday 8th November 2014, the Hunter Chapter of the MX-5 Club of NSW showed their gratitude by presenting a donation from various fundraisers to our chosen Rural Fire Service region of Port Stephens for their welfare and catering division.

Planning was essential to ensure a group of Hunter MX-5ers were available to meet the Medowie RFS on a suitable day for the presentation. We started at Williamstown McDonalds with 11 MX-5s and 13 members for the short drive to Medowie. As we entered the roundabout, where the RFS are located, I don't know who had most smiles on their faces - the MX-5ers or the RFS Volunteers.

We were greeted with a carpark full of fire vehicles and volunteers. They arranged to park us in front of the fire vehicles and they were keen to get photos just as much as our members were. The hospitality the furies showed us was exceptional and really made us feel this was a charity that is very worthy of our support.

The \$1000 donation will go towards the cost of slide-out tracks for the portable fridges, LED portable light and power pack, these will make life easier for the welfare & catering division who make sure the fire fighters are well fed and watered.

They invited us to have a look around the station and see what they do and even they loved all the convertibles.





# Illawarra

Illawarra Christmas Party

Fiona's Floral Frolic

Photo Bryan Shedden





# Illawarra Christmas Party

14 December 2014 Words **Barry Pope** Photos **Bryan and Fiona Shedden**

While our Christmas Party and awards presentation was set to commence at 2pm at Albion Park Rail Ten Pin Bowling Centre on 14 December, it seemed like a waste of a perfectly good morning not to begin with a short run. 6 cars, with all occupants fitted with Santa Claus hats, started from Haywards Bay through Albion Park to the lush countryside of Jamberoo and on to the Saddleback Mountain Lookout. The trip to our final destination took us through Jerrara and onto the Swamp Road for a run up the Princes Highway. At the AMF Bowling Centre we met up with the remainder of the contingent, ready for refreshments and two games of "non-competitive" ten pin bowls. Teams were posted on the screens, sledging was discreet, strikes were rare but rejoiced with great enthusiasm. A wide variety on new bowling styles were exhibited, some probably never seen before in a bowling alley. Peter was judged

best on style and the day's champion was Anna Nietner. Keith Monaghan was men's champion, and Alex Shedden won the hotly contested under 30s championship. A light lunch was followed by presentations and awards. Illawarra Chapter's 2014 Member of the Year is Peter Feutrill, a well deserved award, with enthusiastic contributions to all areas of the Chapter. The New Member of the Year was Jan Gibson, who certainly "learnt the ropes" this year and showed even more enthusiasm by taking up a Convenor's role for 2015! Run leaders and chapter volunteers were recognised - Mark & Hella Underwood, Tony & Jenny Heathwood, Peter & Janet Wheeldon, Fiona & Bryan Shedden, Brendan Barr & Anna Nietner, Phil & Sandra Reid, Peter & Jill Feutrill, and Kieren Heikkinen. So ended a fabulous year for Phil & Sandra Reid, our hard working Convenors, who are stepping aside to take up the Regalia position for the Illawarra Chapter.

Our new Convenors will be Jan & Garry Gibson. Additionally some recognition to Mark & Hella Underwood for their tireless work in the 'Runs Coordinator' role (which seemed to encompass nearly every facet imaginable!) and to Tony & Jenny Heathwood for their regalia and finance endeavours. Finally thanks to our MX-5 Club President, who whilst working overtime coordinating the whole Club, finds the time to be fully involved in our Illawarra Chapter.







# Fiona's Floral Frolic

19 November 2014 Words **Bryan Shedden** Photos **Fiona Shedden**

**T**hose who know my wife Fiona will be very well aware that she has green thumbs and a passion for garden design. With this in mind, Fiona ordered a slot in the Illawarra Chapter calendar for a visit to the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mt Annan, where she could share her passion with other MX-5ers. Established in 1988 on former farmland, the Garden showcases Australian flora amongst rolling hills and lakes in Sydney's suburban south-west. That's the botanical bit sorted – as for planning and leading the drive there, "you can do that" I was told. OK boss. 18 people in nine MX-5s arrived for the start at

Haywards Bay on 9 Nov 2014, including visitors Carol & Graeme from Mangerton who were keen to sample a club run. They joined the club a few days later – welcome aboard! I designed a short but sweet drive. From Albion Park we climbed through the ancient rainforest of Macquarie Pass, and turned onto the stunning sclerophyll forested Tourist Road. We skirted around Mittagong via Range Road, Old South Road and Old Hume Highway, before jumping onto the Freeway for a quick blast to Mt Annan. After a short walk to The Sundial of Human Involvement, we found several Macarthur Mob MX-5s and an RPM ring-in had

joined us, swelling our number to 27 people. Fiona gave us a botanical commentary over the CBs as we slowly drove to our picnic spot. Then out came the picnic rugs, fold-up chairs and hampers as we sprawled ourselves on the shaded grass for lunch. Plenty of friendly conversations and mingling ensured a thoroughly relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. After lunch, many of us did a short walking tour of the Connections Garden. It's a stunning display and the variety of flora is truly amazing. Jan said it best: "We definitely have a beautiful part of the world. Great spot for our picnic lunch and as always great company."





# Mid North Coast



Port to Comboyne Run  
Rollands Plain Run  
Nurbushring

Photo Keiran Rodgers





# Port to Comboyne Run

12 January 2015 Words **Greg Cox** Photos **Keiran Rodgers**

Being our first outing for 2015, and with inclement weather threatening, it was pleasing to have our largest group to date consisting of nine cars (originating from Wingham in the South to Nambucca Heads in the North) depart the Port Macquarie Service Centre for the Boorganna Nature Reserve near Comboyne.

The weather was threatening as we travelled west on the Oxley Highway to Wauchope, where we stopped to raise our tops as heavier rain started. We soon reached the turn off to Byabarra, where we could open the throttle to the speed limit along stretches of flat and curved road with little traffic and

enjoy the mountain scenery. After slowing to drive through Byabarra, we commenced the climb up the Broken Bago mountain range to the Comboyne Plateau, enjoying a perfect MX-5 hill climb of sharp corners and dog leg turns that we had to approach somewhat conservatively due to the wet conditions. Our next stop was the quaint village of Comboyne, where we enjoyed morning tea at the Udder Cow Café a delightful spot for coffee, cake, and a break from the rain.

Refreshed from our brief stop, we continued the short drive to the Boorganna Nature Reserve, where our more active members attempted a rainforest walk descending

to view the Rawson Falls. After surviving the mosquitos and leeches, they returned and we then set off for our lunch at the Blue Poles Café and Art Gallery at Byabarra, a tiny settlement on the road back to Wauchope. Our host Ian had set up tables for us on the outside balcony looking down a beautiful valley, and once again, the rain held off for most of our stay. This unusual venue combines a varied menu along with a display of locally produced art, and a B&B for those wishing to stay. After a delicious meal with great company, which was enjoyed by all, it was soon time to depart for home looking forward to our next MX-5 Club run in February.







# Rollands Plain Run

08 December 2014 Words **Peter Rodgers** Photos **Kieran Rodgers**

The weather forecast was for thunderstorms, not the best portent for our Christmas lunch; but fortunately (and not so unusual) the forecast was wrong. We had a beautiful sunny day with some breeze, so we had a great drive. We started from our usual place at the Port Macquarie Service Centre and welcomed two new faces (and cars) to our Chapter – James and Peter both with NBs. I spotted few envious glances at Peter's number plate MX5 1. They don't get better than that! We were a little late setting off as Mike anticipated an early lunch and attempted to meet us at our lunch venue but a quick phone call ensured that he delayed lunch and drove with us instead. So we had seven cars with ten aboard as we set off on our Rollands Plains Run via Wauchope, returning via Telegraph Point. We did however encounter a suicidal goanna and a wandering calf but fortunately no harm was done to critters

or cars, though we did have the opportunity to test our brakes and reaction times. We also kept a wary eye for the calf on our return run along the same piece of road.

After stopping at the Rollands Plains Hall for a photo shoot, we continued on to the end of the tar before turning around and heading off to the Rivermark Café in Port where Mark and Jodie were waiting to join us for lunch. During lunch we presented

Mike Walkden-Brown with his Member of the Year plaque and a bottle of red as acknowledgement and thanks for his contribution to the Chapter this year. We also presented Keiran Rodgers with an MX-5 cap and scarf as thanks for his photographic skills and as runner up Member of the Year. Mark Wilson from Port Macquarie Mazda was thanked for his ongoing support of our Chapter.







# Bathurst 12 Hour Weekend

07 - 08 February 2015 Words and Photos **Joe Kovacic**

**M**t Panorama Bathurst is Motorsport Heaven and one of the worlds best racing circuits. A sunny Saturday morning greeted 11 enthusiastic MX-5 Club of NSW cars for our run to the Legendary Mt Panorama, Bathurst 12hr weekend. We met up with an additional 4 MX-5s plus 2 RX-8s in Bathurst for an 8.30am start. Upon arrival we finally swamped the 10 cars from the Toyota 86 Club who shared the Harris Park club cars area with us along with the HSV Club, Torana Club Subaru Club and a gaggle of Ferraris, Lamborghinis, McLaren's and Bentleys. We all enjoyed the morning festivities while anxiously awaiting our Parade Lap around the Legendary Mt Panorama circuit following the pace car with our tops down.

The afternoon saw us enjoy the qualifying sessions of the GT3 12hr Production cars from the Comfort of David & Gaynor's Rydges Hotel Balcony situated at the end of Conrod Straight. Most of us had dinner at the Schnitzel house and bar celebrating Linton Jones' 35th Birthday and exchanging stories on a most exciting Saturday. What a coincidence that car 35 won the race. Sunday morning was an early 5.30am start in the dark for the 12hr race. The full field of 50 exotic international race cars was a spectacular sight to behold. There were some of the world's best GT3 production cars in attendance including the Aston Martin Vantage, Audi R8 LMS, Bentley Continental, Ferrari 458, Lamborghini LP560, Mercedes SLS AMG, Nissan GTR Nismo, Porsche

GT3 and many more cars all lined up on the multi million dollar starting grid. Eventually after 12 gruelling hours the Nissan GTR Nismo team won the race, followed by the Audi R8, Aston Martin Vantage and the unlucky Bentley. This is the fourth time we have been to this event which is growing larger in popularity. I would like to thank Ian and Tim from Raceline Events who organised all the Club Cars along with the hotly contested show and shine competition. Congratulations goes out to Luke Kovacic who won the Most Outstanding Detail Award for his NB 18 SE street/track car. Next year we will endeavour to get even more of our world's most popular convertible MX-5s to this exciting weekend of Motorsport Heaven. Diarise this event as a must do on the weekend sometime in early February 2016.







# Sydney



## Twilight Fish 'n' Chips Run

Words and Photo **Guy Coles**

The first Fish 'n' Chip Run for 2015 threatened rain all day and to be honest, I genuinely wondered if anyone was going to turn up. With Sydney copping a dumping

all day, it was looking bleak but miraculously the rain subsided around 5pm and at the meeting point in Kirribilli, 5 cars took the gamble on the weather which paid off.

A fine dinner at "Bottom of The Harbour" on Balmoral Beach followed..... where the world's most popular roadster was the hot topic of discussion. All in all, a good night was had by all.



# Marulan Track Extension Gets

01 February, 2015 Words **Natalie Strain** Photos **Josh Fitzgerald, Mel Keller**

Once again the MX-5 Club of NSW has hosted a successful driver training day at the Marulan Driver Training Centre. It was to be a seamless day of spirited driving which catered to all levels of individual experience.

It was also the first time a new extension of the track would be used at a club event. As this new section of track was an unknown entity - as it includes a particularly interesting banked hairpin bend - it was bound to be a hot topic.

On a clear, cool and sunny Sunday morning, drivers and spectators alike trickled in, including two kangaroos sitting on the side of the track - arguably the best place for them to be. It was not all

MX-5s as a Holden Commodore, a Subaru BRZ, and Nissan 180Z and one loon in an automatic Corolla (my husband) took to a clear, clean and dry track.

David Lawler, our Competition Secretary, conducted the driver's briefing and provided some guidelines for beginners and experienced drivers alike. The beginner groups were then introduced to their trainers who had very generously offered their time to act as advisors for the day.

Thanks to the co-ordination of the MDTC team coupled with the excellent driving exhibited by everyone the 10 minute sessions ran back to back all day without incident or delay. Overall the new section of track is a welcome

addition although even the MDTC guys could not agree on the best line due to the subtleties of the banking and increased speed on the straight.

Which leads to my and my husband's sincere gratitude and thanks to all of the other organisers - David Lawler, Lindsay Green, Helen Green, Joshua Fitzgerald and Steve Fisher. Also worthy of note are our volunteers; Keith Monaghan, Stewart Temesvary, Russ Maxwell, Tammie Hotz, Steve Green, Bryan Shedden, Tony Williams, Ralph Thompson, Glenn Thomas and David Lawler. The fact there are always so many people willing to help out is one of the greatest aspects of this club (other than the MX-5 itself of course).



34 Club Torque







*"I'm looking to get a little faster, get the lines right and learning to trust the car. It felt great."*

**Karen Fotheringham**



*"I've only had my little car for 1 month so I thought I'd bring it out and put it through it's paces."*

**Ros Holland**



## Seal of Approval



*"Just hang on! I've just joined the Hunter Chapter 8 months ago."*

**David Boyes**



*"It's my first time on a proper track. AMAZING."*

**Karl Mittman**







# MOTORSPORT





A record field of 93 cars took to the track for the last 2014 track day, including 9 members of the Toyota 86 club.

Those of us who travelled to Goulburn on Saturday afternoon had a challenging drive as 50 mm of heavy rain drenched Wakefield Park and surrounds. The rain continued on well into Saturday night but fortunately, after a foggy Sunday morning, the weather cleared.

However conditions at the track were not good. A lot of soil had been washed across the track and Wakefield Park's Sam was working furiously to get the track into a reasonable condition. A considerable amount of water was removed from "Lake Feutrill" and there was a little seepage on the exit of turn 10 onto the main straight. The first few laps of the first run were run under "yellows" as a precaution.

Jean Cook and Craig Durrant acted jointly as Clerk of the Course; Joe Kovacic once again had the dummy grid under control with assistance from Chris Roberts on the PA. Phil Roberts and Robert Kai acted as the Circuit Entry Marshal and Flag Marshal at the Control Tower. Zan, Narelle & Steph looked after timing whilst Cobie & Marilyn handled Registration and then looked after the lights with assistance from Louise and Sandra. Thank you also to all the members who pitched in at Scrutineering.

Amongst the entries were a few interesting ones. The Herrings from the Mid-North Coast arrived with Todd's 'Green Machine', a second "Green Machine" for Timmy, a Cobra for Richard and an NB for Kristy. Chris Gough entered an "Exocet" a clubbie with MX-5 running gear. The modified road registered NBs in class 6 had the strongest entry with 14 cars. Eight ladies were amongst the entrants, including long time club stalwart Matilda Mravicic making a welcome return driving an SP Turbo race car.

As a mark of respect for Canberra Member and Track Day Competitor Russell Battisson a minute of noise was observed at lunch time. We hope you enjoyed it Russell.

Fortunately the weather held off all day and the track "cleaned up" allowing competitors the opportunity to complete six timed runs of six minutes each. Well done to Jean and Craig and all the officials in achieving this. Fastest Time of the Day went to Matilda with a time of 1:05.57, Todd Herring recorded a best time of 1:07.03 followed by Richard in the Cobra with a 1:07.77. New comer Chris White recorded a 1:08.30 and Mark Hellmund did a 1:08.64 before retiring early with a cracked brake rotor. Fastest of the 86s was Simon Smith who recorded a 1:11.17.



## Wakefield Park



## 07 December 2014







Words **Mike Hicks** Photos **Neil Tribe**

Our first Wakefield Park Track Day for 2015 attracted a strong field of 76 entrants, unfortunately a few experienced car problems just prior to the event resulting in seventy starters, sixty-six club members including six ladies and four visitors.

It was great to see Bob Pimm back at Wakefield Park along with two generations of Team Battisson although car issues restricted the number of laps they were able to complete. Being February one would only expect warm weather at Wakefield Park and the day didn't disappoint in that regard with temperatures reaching 34 degrees.

Thanks to all the officials for their efforts particularly Grid Marshals Phil Roberts, Lindsay Burke and Blake Hotz who spent most of the day in the sun and Rod Menzel our Clerk of Course. Ten first timers were amongst the entrants, a couple of double enters forcing us to split them into two groups for the purpose of training.

It soon became evident that the turbo cars were not enjoying the hot weather. The morning ran smoothly with few spins or incidents, however after lunch in about a one hour period one car put a rod through the block spectacularly on the main straight resulting in the need to clean up the resulting oil spill followed by two cars that experienced various hose problems in the one run.

Fastest Time of the Day was recorded by Patrick Bramston with a lap of 1:08.21, second was Phil Ashton now taking advantage of his 2.5 litres recording a best of 1:09.47 with Craig Gartlacher third on 1:10.30. Fastest Lady was our editor Mel Keller in 1:15.58 with Kim Jacobs, this time in a Renault Megane and Tammy Hotz both in the 1:18s keeping Mel honest. All entrants had the opportunity to complete six timed runs each of six minutes.

Our next Track Day is on Sunday 12th April at the South Circuit, Sydney Motor Sport Park, conducted under a CAMS Permit this event will require competitors to hold a minimum of a CAMS L2S Licence. With the need to man a minimum five flag points we will be looking for assistance in manning the flag points.

# Wakefield Park



# 08 February 2015





Words **Stuart McFayden**  
Photos **Stuart McFayden** and **Craig Durrant**

A bustling grid of 12 MX-5s lined up for this year's big finale at Wakefield Park. The round was taking place at the AASA ACT State Championship, with the headline act being the Super Trucks. Late November plus Super Trucks means hot weather, spilt diesel and a slippery track. Lap times were to be less important than track position.

The first five of six races over the two days ended with Daniel Deckers taking the wins, Chris White in second and David Stone picking up third. But the battles that went on to make that happen were fantastic to watch. Saturday was a scorcher, track temperatures of 56 degrees and cabin temperatures not much different, the racing was fierce but fair right the way through the field. Sunday's weather looked ominous with thunderstorms forecast. In true Wakefield style they rolled over the dummy grid just as we lined up for the first race. It absolutely bucketed down with a few drivers having harmless spins on the diesel laced, wet track. There were some cars with reliability problems; two cases of gearboxes crying enough, some fouled plugs and an electrical gremlin, but those with the know-how pulled together to get most back on the track. A massive thanks to everyone who pitched in particularly Daniel Deckers, Gary White and Russell Harris.

The final race and the championship decider was another wet one. Those with wet tyres put them on and so it became a race of the haves and the have-nots. David Stone commendably battled on with the tyres that most resembled slicks, but the stand out performance was from Andy Harris who charged his way through the field to take a well-earned second place. His best result, in an underpowered car. He was second place to Daniel Deckers however, who was faultless and untouchable all weekend, winning every race and deservedly, the championship. David Stone took second place and third shared between Steve Green and Andy Harris.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the events and all who participated. The spirit and camaraderie on show this whole year was an example to all club level motorsport. Here's to a bigger and even better 2015 MX-5 Cup.

Our sincere thanks to Audio-Technica, Deckspeed and Hydrawash for providing the Cup Trophies.



## MX-5 Cup Round 5



29 - 30 November 2014





# MX-5 CUP



## 2014 Wrap Up

Words by **Stuart McFayden** Photo **Scott Walker**

**I**t's early March 2014, a Saturday, and it's pouring with rain. 16 race engines scream at each other waiting for a pair of red lights to blink out. A few long seconds later, they do. 163 competitive laps 21 races 24 championship entrants 25 round trophies 4 championship winners and dozens of Audio Technica headphone prizes later ... we've come to the end of the first year of the MX-5 Cup. It's been an amazing first year for the Cup. It began as a twinkle in the eye of a few MX-5 racers that were sick of filling the back end of someone else's grid and has grown to be a thriving category in its own right. Grids of 12-16 cars have filled every meet and the prospects look even better for next year. The racing has been hard, but above all fair.

Respect has been shown up and down the grid, each of us knowing that good clean racing is not only possible but the priority. With the support of the MX-5 Club of NSW, the potential for involving many, many more talented and enthusiastic MX-5 drivers, going forward, is huge. The long and the short of it was that after a faultless season of leading the way, quite rightly Daniel Deckers took home the 2014 MX-5 Cup after a disciplined and consistent season. David Stone took home second place with metronome like precision to his driving (and a great, generous spirit of sharing his vast experience with new competitors). Third was shared equally between Steve Green and Andy Harris, both from the hotly contested Class 'C', a testament to the

class structure that rewards consistent high performance irrespective of outright car speed. A huge thank you to all the competitors who made it to the rounds of this year's Cup. A race series is nothing without its competitors and the support and enthusiasm from everyone this year has been fantastic to see. A massive thank you to our sponsors: Deckspeed Racing for their prize of a sponsored drive at each of the rounds this year (an incredible opportunity for the winners). Audio Technica for their support with audio equipment prizes for all classes for each round this year and Hydrawash for their sponsorship of the trophies for this year's finale. The Cup promises to be bigger and better in 2015 with a dedicated website being launched.



As has been reported here in the past, Deckspeed Racing offer MX-5 Club of NSW members an amazing opportunity to win an “arrive and drive” package in one of their NC race cars at a round of the MX-5 Cup. Much to my astonishment, my name was drawn out of the hat to drive in Round 1. I’d never had the opportunity to drive a race car on slicks before, so I wasn’t sure what to expect. With some final words of encouragement from Daniel, I set out for qualifying. After warming the tyres and generally getting the feel of the car for a few laps, I began to pick up the pace (or so I thought!). Going by the seat of my pants, I figured that I had run somewhere between a 1:12 to 1:13, however I’m

the first to acknowledge that I’m an overly cautious driver at the best of times, and even more so when in someone else’s car and when learning to drive on slicks. I started off the rear of the grid and amazingly, managed a clean start. I stuck with the pack... until the second corner when they all proceeded to race off into the distance, never to be seen again. My focus was simply to improve my lap times and to keep all four wheels squarely on the track. I managed a somewhat pleasing 1:11.8; still a fair way from where I had naively thought that I’d be. By midday the clouds were building and old Mr Conservative here was deadset scared of doing something silly, whereas the rest of the field knew it was absolutely



# MX-5 Cup Round One

From Agony To Ecstasy (Almost) by **Tony King** Photo **Stuart McFayden**







formulated. This time I would relax and focus on being smooth and consistent. Something must have worked with Race 5 yielding a best time of 1:10.8 and the best lap in Race 6 was a 1:10.4. In the last race I actually managed nine laps in the 1:11's and keep in contact with the pack the whole way.

Wow... what a weekend! Memorable for a whole variety of reasons. Apart from spending the weekend with Daniel and Deckspeed's race car, perhaps the most satisfying aspect was (semi) successfully working through the process of acknowledging the cars strengths and subsequently adapting my driving technique to suit. It was certainly a character building exercise.

Thanks again to Daniel for his time, patience and good humour; and thanks again to Deckspeed Racing for their generous support of the MX-5 community.

nothing to worry about. My times suffered accordingly and my best lap was a painfully laboured 1:13.2. A few sprinkles in Race 3 psyched me out again, delivering another disappointing result. Saturday evening was spent bench racing and enjoying a

meal with fellow MX-5 Cup competitors at a local pub. Sunday dawned a cool and bright day, perfect for racing. Armed with a fresh game plan I eagerly lined up for Race 4. Although I went into the corners far quicker, I didn't do as well as expected so Plan B was quickly







# Nulon Nationals Round 1

17 January 2015

Words **Keith Monaghan** Photos **Keith Monaghan** and **BC Photography** Courtesy of Nulon

Nulon Nationals for 2015 has started and it will be run over 4 rounds next year. Round 1 was a gymkhana style event held at Sydney Motor Sport Park (Eastern Creek)

There are 9 teams competing in the event with Nulon making a 10th team. RTDC; MX-5 Club; 86 Drivers club; EvolutionOZ ; SAU – NSW; Club Deutsche; Honda Owners Club; HSV; Aus Ford and Nulon.

Round 1 has been run and what a day. The MX-5 Club team consisted of:- Verne Johnson  
Glenn Thomas  
Todd Herring  
David Lawler  
Scotty Gibbs

Keith Monaghan Team Manager

It was great to see a lot of last year's competition return and take up the old rivalries.

The day was a gymkhana event run over 8 different courses head to head with an opposition car. It took a little time to understand the system but once we had it mastered we were able to gain some good results.

After the first round we were in 7th place (we were learning). After the 2nd round we were in 3rd place. Then we moved into 2nd place. We were successful with keeping the 86 Drivers club in 3rd place but we couldn't catch the RTDC club.

The final results for the

round are as follows:-

Nulon points	Nationals after Round 1:	Team
1st	RTDC	193
2nd	MX-5 Club	165
3rd	86 Drivers Club	148
4th	EvolutionOZ	130
5th	SAU NSW	120
6th	Club Deutsche	109
7th	Honda Owners Club	109
8th	HSV	41
9th	Aus Ford	20





