

# CLUB TORQUE



**Carco Exhaust & Automotive**  
 Dave & Russell Battison,  
 Unit 6/55 Nettleford Street  
 BELCONNEN, ACT. 2617,  
 Ph: (02) 6253 1396  
<http://www.carco.com.au/>



**ROLFE  
 MAZDA**

**Rolfe Mazda- Mark Wilson**  
 Dealer Principal,  
 20 Josephson Street,  
 BELCONNEN, ACT. 2617

<http://www.rolfe.com.au/mazda.aspx?content=home>



**Fox Antiques- Barry Fauz,**  
 25 Jardine Street,  
 KINGSTON, ACT. 2604,  
 Tel/Fax (02) 6232 6366  
<http://www.foxantiques.com.au/>

## WHATS INSIDE

President's Report

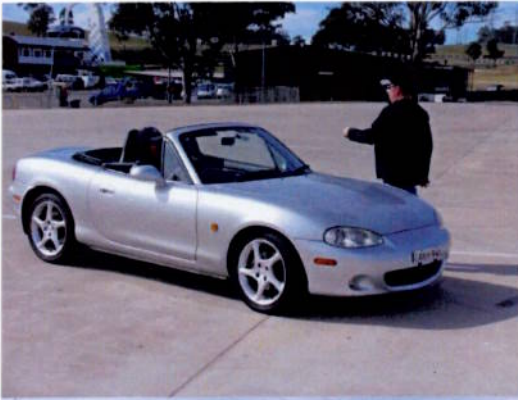
Chapter & Verse Canberra Style

Competition Report

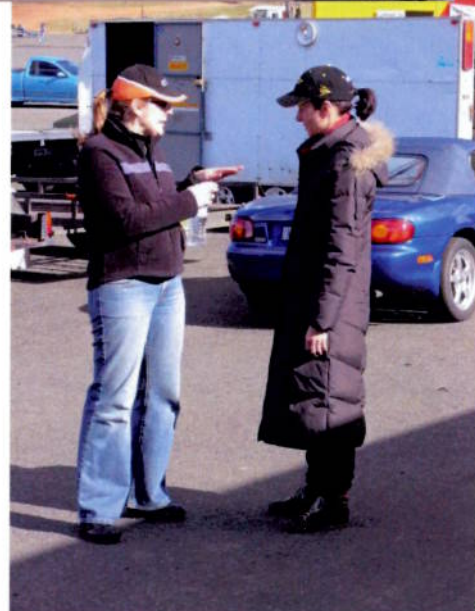
Lots of wonderful photos.

Articles featuring two of our successful MX-5 drivers.





## LADIES TRAINING DAY



## FESTIVAL OF SPORTS CARS



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As we head into spring again, your committee is busy planning all the activities for the next few months. So, everyone, go for a quick drive around your local area, and come up with a route showing off all your favourite spots. Sydney is such a beautiful city that none of us can live very far away from at least one scenic drive. Our favourite activity is driving our cars, so why not get some extra pleasure out of showing off your local area to all your friends in the Club.

The ladies driver education day went very well with special thanks to Val Stewart and Mike & Cobie Hicks for doing all the planning and thanks to all the instructors on the day, Nick, Matilda, Patricia, Mike and Val's brother Ian. It went off without any problems and all the ladies who attended seemed to enjoy the day as well as learning something. I get the impression we may well have a few more ladies entering the Wakefield track days. It gave me a lot of pleasure to see everyone

at the start of the day being a little hesitant and by the last few runs in the afternoon, vying with each other to get to the front of the queue again for another run! The aim of the day was to get the participants to feel comfortable in their cars and to develop an awareness of their own and their car's capabilities, and I think we succeeded in that.

As you see elsewhere, we are again looking for a Captain, or Run Coordinator which might be a better term. Why don't a group of you get together and come up with runs for the next year, then for the following year a different group? That way the tasks are shared out and it does not become an onerous task for one person to come up with, plan and lead all the runs for the year. The bonus would be getting to see some new areas of Sydney & its surrounds!

See you at the AGM or on the next run!

Jean

### **Hi fellow MX-5 Club Members your Club needs you**

I'm dropping a short line to everyone asking you to consider putting something back into the Club by standing for the position of Club Captain for the upcoming year. The Captain is responsible for co-ordinating the monthly club runs. This can be done by the Captain or by club members offering assistance in planning and leading the run. If you can't attend there is always someone from the committee or another member who is willing to help out by leading the run, so you don't need to stress about not being able to turn up every month.

Go to the Club web site here: <http://www.mx5.com.au/nsw/events.htm> and fill out the nomination form and get it in before 20<sup>th</sup> September. I can guarantee that you won't regret doing it.

Cheers,  
Phil Ashton



## Targa Floriade

### October Long Weekend

Saturday 29th September to Monday 1st October 2007

Contact person: Ray and Pam Estreich on 0428 970 998

**Meet: Saturday 29th at Pheasants Nest Hume Highway – Mobil service station**

**Time:** 9.30 for a 10am departure.

**Details Outline:** This will be a fantastic weekend away commencing with a great country drive through the back roads to Canberra with as little time as possible spent on the Highway. Late morning tea or early lunch (whatever suits) will be along the way. This run is approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours. Upon arriving in Canberra we will head straight to the Heritage Hotel, Narrabundah where you can settle in. Once settled, you can spend some time sight seeing before we join our Canberra members at 4pm for an early evening run. A map of Canberra will be supplied so you should not get lost.

**Highlights of the weekend will include a choice of activities** - visit Floriade with all its activities and/or join in on the organized runs events.

## Canberra Chapter and Verse

In my last report from the Nation's Capital, I indicated that the Chapter membership was fast approaching 100 members. Since then we have achieved that magic figure.

The last edition of **Club Talk** left us looking forward to our annual *Christmas in July* feast. This year, enthusiastic members John and Connie (Bwana and Memsab to their friends), organised the Chapter to hold the lunch in the Promenade Cafe at the Hyatt Hotel on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Forty seven club members and four guests of members attended, enjoying a classic yuletide feast presented as a buffet. Prawns and oysters proved popular and a number of diners were observed going back for a second helping while they waited for the queue for the main course to diminish.

There was no run organised for the Christmas in July event as the Hyatt is located near the centre of the city and our members live all around the capital and nearby country estates. For a change the car park was filled with proper cars.

July was also the ladies driver training day at Eastern Creek. Three ladies and a guest of a member from Canberra attended, enjoying the experience, so much so that one is now entered in the September Track Day.

August saw the inaugural 'Winter in the Capital', featuring a *Winter Wonderland in July* on Lake Burley Griffin's southern foreshores. One feature was the return of a drive-in. The movies were pretty ordinary, but selected by popular acclaim and featured Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Ghostbusters and Willy Wonka. The Council of ACT Motor Clubs arranged to purchase 70 places on the first night of the drive in and two MX5s joined in a cavalcade of panel vans, large American V8s, Morris Minors, EH and FJ Holdens and so on. It was a bit cold and the screen was on the small side. But heck, it was a drive in and brought back some memories of the 'olden days'. Our Chapter run in August was to the delightful village of Araluen. The following is an extract from <http://www.argylecounty.com.au/towns/araluen.html>





"During the rest of the year you are just as likely to come across families picnicking, or a group of genteel motor cycle or vintage car enthusiasts out for a country run and refreshment at the hotel." Yeah. Right! Not with a 27 km run from Braidwood after behaving on the Kings Highway watching out for the Kings Men! And a 9km drop from the plateau to the valley floor. 9 cars and 15 members joined in.



The meals at the 'otel were of a smallish size and we were a bit concerned that folk would leave feeling a bit peckish. Hmmm. Then we had to drive home. Remember, 27km back to Braidwood and that 9km climb out of the valley. And next to no oncoming traffic! But then we settled down for the run along the Kings Highway back to Canberra.

In Late August the Chapter held its annual meeting and decided to create a couple of informal positions to assist the Canvenor in organising the Chapter activities. The positions of a *Director of Touring* and a *Social Director* were established and details of those fortunate enough to be elected will be advised as soon as duty statements are finalised.

The Chapter is keenly anticipating September and Spring. Firstly a run out to landra Castle, near Young, on the 23rd, and then hosting a visit by Sydney members of the Club to our fine city for the annual Floriade Festival over the October Long Weekend which mainly happens in September! A busy program has been organised which should leave our visitors plenty of time for a self paced wander though the gardens.

The Chapter wishes to thank its sponsors for their kind assistance over the past year. Rolfe Mazda, Carco Exhaust and Automotive, and Fox Imports and Antiques. MX5 owners can be assured of a warm welcome to our fine city at any time, but particularly at our world famous *Coffee and Lies*, held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am at the Lookout Bar and Cafe, Red Hill.

Zoom, Zoom Paul





# Competition Report

**JULY – AUGUST 2007.**

The date for the following track day is Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Club Track Days.**

Since the last publication of Club Torque club track days have been in winter hibernation, however that is all about to change as I write. On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September we have a double header at Wakefield Park with round 7 of the State Supersprint Championship on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> followed by our first club track day for competition year 2007/2008 on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. At the time of writing entries for the supersprint are a little thin where as entries for the club day are almost full.

## **Ladies Driver Training Day.**

At the initiation of President Jean the club conducted a very successful Ladies only Basic Skills Driver Training Day at the Eastern Creek Skid Pan on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Fifteen club members and nine visitors participated. A very big thanks to Chief Instructor Val Stewart and her six trainers, Matilda Mravicic, Pat Rooke, Nick Martinenko, Chris Tonna, Bill Dougall and Ian Stewart. The day commenced with an informative talk from Val on driving attitudes followed by two-session of exercises on the skidpan. An enjoyable BBQ lunch broke the skidpan action.

How do we know the day was a success? Well you just had to look at the smiles on the ladies faces at the end of the day. The day also generated two new members plus a couple of entries for our September track day.

## **Supersprints.**

Three rounds of the State Championship have been run in July and August; the rounds 4 and 5 were at Oran Park GP in July and round 6 was at Eastern Creek in early August. Matilda Mravicic is currently running second outright in the Championship, second in Type 4 and first in Class 4D. Ian Vickers and Stewart Temesvary are tied for second in Class 1B and tied for third in Type 1. Bradley Cecil leads Class 2B with yours truly in third with Matthew and Robert Guyder keeping us honest. Bradley is currently third in Type 2. Kevin Addison has not competed in the last two rounds but still holds fifth place in Class 3B. "Turbo Girl" Patricia Rooke, leads Class 3D and is fourth in Type 3 and Renny Roden is leading Class SVC.

The combination of these results sees the Mazda MX-5 Club in second place behind the New South Wales Road Racing Club in the Club point score. As mentioned above the club will be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> round at Wakefield Park in September with the 8<sup>th</sup> and final round at Oran Park South on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

## **Racing.**

During July and August we have had a one-hour race at Eastern Creek, rounds 4 and 5 of the State Race Championship, a Festival of Sports Cars Race Meeting at Oran Park Grand Prix and Chris Tonna ventured north to Queensland Raceway to run in the MX-5 races at the V8 Supercar meeting.

At the one-hour race Ed Chivers joined Chris Stannard in Chris' Porsche to finish 7<sup>th</sup> one place ahead of Lou Iezzi and Anthony Robson in Lou's "SE". Val Stewart was 11<sup>th</sup> in her Mazda RX-7, Tyrone Gautier was 15<sup>th</sup> ahead of the MX-5 Racing duo of Chris Gough and Joe Macare. Unfortunately Brian Anderson recorded a DNF completing only 40 minutes.

Entries in the two rounds of the State Race Championship have been very poor with only

fourteen starters at Oran Park and five at Wakefield Park. David Raddatz had mixed results at round 4 but was victorious at round 5 winning all 3 races finishing ahead of a Ferrari 360 Challenge and three Porsches.

The Festival of Sports Cars meeting at Oran Park was a great success. MX-5 races included Matilda Mravicic, Nick Martinenko, Chris Tonna, Lou Iezzi, Chris Gough, Joe Macare and Arron Giltrow and Brian Ferrabee all the way down from Queensland. Brian Anderson swapped to the "dark side" and ran his 924S Porsche. Chris Tonna gave his new "SE" Nemo its first win in the wet race on Sunday afternoon.



Miss consistency Matilda finished second in all five races and Lou Iezzi finished between third and fifth in his five races. Chris, Joe, Nick and Arron all flew the MX-5 flag with honour.

In the regularities Renny Roden, John Burgess, Dennis Brady and myself represented the club. I had a good weekend winning one regularity and finishing second in another two.

Up coming race meetings include round 6 of the State Race Championship at Eastern Creek on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. The third Festival of Sports Cars race meeting at Wakefield Park is on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October, a one-hour Prod Sports race at Oran Park on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

Don't forget the club's AGM on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. Trophies for the 2006/2007 Competition Year will be distributed after the A G M.

**Mike Hicks.**

## **RACING TO A DREAM**

At a time when the news is full of negative stories about young drivers a local lad is proving them wrong

For year 11 Gloucester High School student Aaron Giltrow getting his driver's licence was not quite the same "big deal" as many of his peers.

While Aaron now has his L plates he found himself in the unique position of having to go through the process of becoming a qualified driver, but the past two years he has been driving race cars, often up to speeds of 180 kilometres per hour.



Aaron first got a taste for competition racing in go-karts seven years ago and as a kart driver he won two of the club championships and placed in the top 10 in two state championships.

Aaron said it was while driving karts he was noticed and offered the opportunity to get in a race car.

With the help of the NSW MX-5 Club, Aaron has been able to compete in Supersprints since the age of 14 and holds a CAMS competition licence.

Aaron races in the production sport category which contains largely Mazda Mx-5's and the occasional Porsche.

"I started car racing when I just turned 15, two Christmas' ago, it's the best feeling, an adrenaline rush", he said.

Aaron turned 16 in March and recently competed in his first race. Despite being in a field of over 20 cars he managed to qualify sixth on the grid in his first attempt. Long time sponsor and supporter MX-5 Racing supplies the Mazda MX-5 race cars, which are capable of speeds in excess of 200 km/h.

Aaron is due to compete in the Festival of Sports Cars at Wakefield Park in Goulburn and the Production Sports Championship one-hour race at Oran Park in October.

Aaron said these events often have talent scouts in the crowd, on the lookout for the next up and coming young driver. And he's hoping he will get noticed.

Extract from the Gloucester Times



## VAL' S ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNIZED.

Val Stewart has always been a car fan. As a child, she says she was more likely to be found hanging out with her brother and his friends who were interested in cars, rather than doing those other typically "girlie" things. And she says she and her brother inherited their passion for cars from their father.

Stewart's most recent RX-7 addition was her second racing car, a 2000 model she imported from Japan. She competes in state championship events in NSW, Queensland and Victoria and of the 300 or so competitors; Stewart says there are usually only five female drivers at the most.

But that's not enough to put her off. "I've been doing it for about 12 years," she says. "I should've been doing this 30 years ago."

There aren't many females, but the guys don't treat me any differently at all.

Stewart says she enjoys the thrill and excitement of racing her RX-7s and gets a big "buzz out of it", especially when reaching speeds as high as 250km/h on the straight. Stewart would love to see Mazda make a new RX-7 because "Japanese cars have really come of age", she says. They're absolutely brilliant. The design and performance is very good."

And while the RX-7 is her true desire; she's also a fan of all Mazdas-including the MX-5 turbo that also shares the garage.

Extract from article in the Cars guide section of Daily Telegraph, July 13,2007

### Ladies Driver Training Day

My day started very early with me making my dad drive my car to Eastern Creek so I could get more sleep.

Once there everything started to happen with forms to fill out and our cars checked for road worthiness. Then we went up to a room for coffee and an informative safety talk by Val full of tips to drive more safely on the road.

We then decided to get out there and put them into practice. We crowded around Val as she explained the first course to us. There were a few nerves which weren't made any better with the drive in the Camry with the instructor. But once in the driver's seat it was very exciting and fun.

We started off with the dry slalom run. I had the luck of being the second to try the course. I discovered it was harder to miss the cones than I thought. A few of us after 3 runs killed a few cones. I said it might be because they were the size of cats.

Now we had warmed up they decided to make it harder by wetting the course and adding a much more difficult track with 2 sets of cones which confused a few people, who decided to skip a few of the corners and we got our first spin outs of the day with 3 of the MX-5s spinning out on the tight corner. This was when we broke for a hot lunch where conversation naturally turned to MX-5's and racing.

After lunch we went back to the skid pan to try our hardest track yet. This demonstrated that women are actually better at directions than the male instructors who went through the course incorrectly not once or twice but three times even with the map in their laps. **Not one woman got it wrong!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

It was slalom with a three leaf clover at the end and I am very proud to say that I was going so fast that one of my wheels came off the ground, totally under control of course.

It was back to the shed to look at what was the favourite run of the day, a double slalom where the drivers could race against each other, and a few ladies got quite competitive. I was proud to say that I beat an MX-5 in my little Pulsar Q. We ran through the course 4 times before we had to stop.

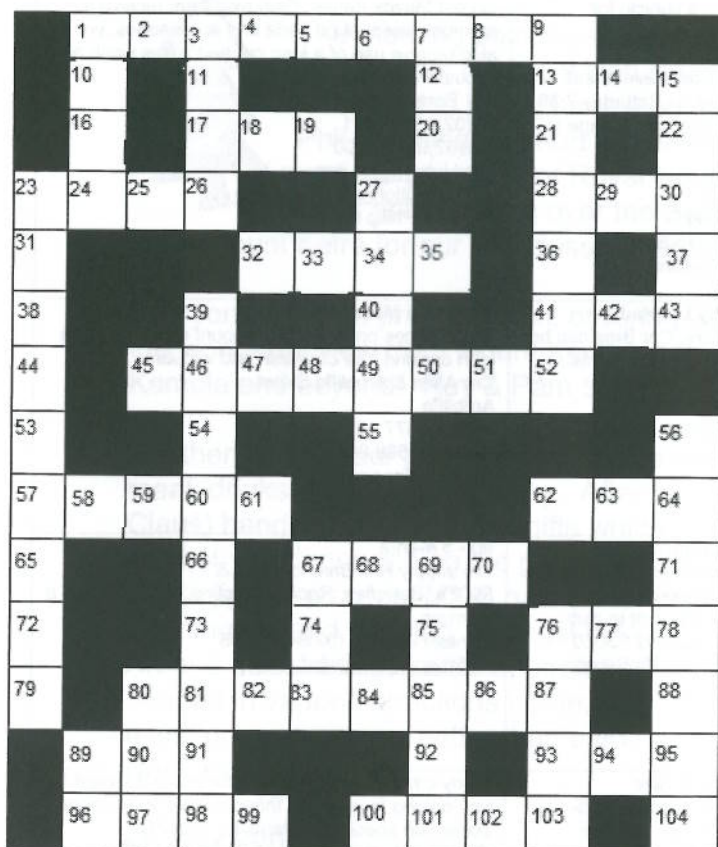
We thanked the instructors for a great day and especially Jean for organizing a great day that ran so smoothly.

**Melissa**



# HUMOUR AND QUIZZES

## CROSSWORD



Answers to the last editions crossword.

1.Xylophone, 10. Yes, 21. Grab, 26.Esky, 32.Art, 35. Enter, 45. It, 50. Halter, 58. Map, 63. AdamEve 70. Gear, 79.Diet, 84.Ton, 89. Wreck, 95.Ely, 98. ie, 101. Use, 105.Nero, 11.Wheel, 116.Keys.

Across

1. Xmas, 4.Oil, 6. Helmet, 8.Nag, 12.Softtop, 22. Rim, 24. Basement, 29. Yesterday, 37.Tirade, 43. Wakefield, 56. Dam, 57. Jean Cook, 52.Twine, 56. Nee, 90. Reel, 102. SOS.

## ACROSS

1. Competition Secretary
13. Unit of electric current
17. In debt
23. Smallest particle
28. Our makeup
32. Lone
41. Chequered flag for you
45. Where's Wakefield?
57. Kept in a quiver
62. \_\_\_\_ for two
67. Ensign
76. Sign of the lion
80. A leap ahead of the mob
89. First name of this mask wearing bush ranger.
93. To copy
96. Eras
100. Curve in the road.

## DOWN

1. To encounter
2. Swimmer who married a princess
7. Male swan
9. Melbourne race track
15. Ordinary
23. Best place to live
27. Orb, sphere
39. Procession of cars
56. Any group of non-metallic elements.
67. Thick mist
69. Hold similar opinion
76. Burden
80. Small barrel
89. Slang for no.

You know what the lawyer said when he stepped into a cowpat?  
I'm melting

## TRIVIA

1. Which popular word game originated as a game called Lexico?
2. In which category did Einstein win his Nobel Prize in 1921?
3. What is the main ingredient of black pudding?
4. True or false? The 2004 Olympics were held in the month of July.
5. Mathematically speaking, what is the next prime number after 7?

Answers on page 11

The local drunk was staggering home with a bottle of scotch in his back pocket when he slipped and fell heavily. Struggling to his feet, he felt something wet running down his leg," please God", he implored, "let it be blood".



## MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNTS

<b>Eurocars Northside Mazda</b> Trade prices on parts and accessories, monthly parts specials. 15% discount on labour for service. Complimentary car wash and vacuum, courtesy transport to nearest transportation station. 43-45 Hotham Road Artarmon. Service: Patrick Campbell (02)9439 2722 Parts: Bruce Roberts (02)9439 2733	<b>Hornsby Mazda</b> 10% discount on genuine parts & labour. Mobile service van for on site servicing Monday to Friday. Hire vehicle for \$10/day (plus GST) Fuel and comprehensive insurance Or reimbursement of rail travel ticket. Service also available on Saturday 7:30 to 12:00 will tailor a service package to your needs. Sales (02)9372 3000 Parts (02) 9372 3092 Service (02)9372 3098 Service Mgr: Brian Sprouster 64-72 Pacific Hwy, Waitara	<b>John Newell Mazda Services</b> John Newell are a proud sponsor of the Mazda Mx-5 Club of NSW, they are also Australia's largest Mazda dealer. Club members receive a member discount on parts and accessories; you also receive use of a loan car and a free wash and vacuum with every service. 301 Botany Rd. Waterloo 2017 Ph(02)9319 0011 Fax(02)9319 0200 <a href="http://www.johnnewell.com.au">www.johnnewell.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:waterloo@johnnewell.com.au">waterloo@johnnewell.com.au</a> Contact: Philip Adler
<b>Ammon Leather</b> Special rates for Mx-5 Club Members, 2 seats in full leather for your Mx-5 (any colour) will cost only \$800-. Price includes full installation and a three year warranty. 14 Telopea Avenue, Homebush West. Contact: Frank Wang (02)9746 9433	<b>Robco Products Pty Limited</b> Car Bra manufacturers. Car Bras can be tailor made if your car is customized. 10% discount to club members. 49 Shepard Street, Marrickville Contact: Sandra (02)9560 5393	<b>Rockdale Mazda</b> Trade prices on all parts, discount on labour, free loan car and free car wash and vacuum. Cnr Allen & Arncliffe Street, Arncliffe Ph (02)8577 4888 Fax (02)9599 8121 Service Manager: John Mansweto
<b>A.M.R Motors Mazda Service</b> Complimentary loan vehicle, 10% discount on labour, free exterior wash and interior clean. 370 Parramatta Road, Petersham. Contact John Healey (02)9569 2844	<b>Al Palmer Repairs Penrith Pty Ltd</b> Al is a MX-5 Club member, his company offers a wide range of services for your beloved MX-5, 20% discount to club member. Contact Al (02)4721 5060 Lot 12 Robertson Place, Sth Penrith	<b>Mx- 5 Mania</b> We supply Roll Bars for Mk.1 & Mk.2's, Batteries, Racing supplies, Rims, tyres & a lot more. Contact Simone (02)94823238 <a href="mailto:mx5mania@optusnet.com">mx5mania@optusnet.com</a>
<b>Penrith Car Care</b> Specialist in Paint & Fabric Protection, Swirl Mark Removal Paint Scratches and Buff & polish. Contact Sam Cilidonio. Phone(02) 4732 5225 Unit5,55/61 York Rd. Penrith	<b>RTM Lap Timing Software</b> Time laps and analyse results 15% Off RTM to members, see website For further information. <a href="http://www.menzelcom.com">www.menzelcom.com</a>	<i>Many other companies will offer you a discount if you belong to our club, this can save you serious dollars on specialized items for your Mx-5. Please note that Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc. does not endorse or recommend any product or service provided by the above companies. It is listed as an information service for our members only</i>

**President:** Jean Cook email [president@mx5.com.au](mailto:president@mx5.com.au) 0412 189 513

**Vice president:** Paul Beersworth email [Canberra@mx5.com.au](mailto:Canberra@mx5.com.au)

**Secretary:** Robert Gage email [secretary@mx5.com.au](mailto:secretary@mx5.com.au) 0409 450 906

**Treasurer:** Jane Frost email [treasurer@mx5.com.au](mailto:treasurer@mx5.com.au) 0409 600 930

**Competitions:** Mike Hicks email [competition@mx5.com.au](mailto:competition@mx5.com.au) 0419 201 588/0298949167

**Captain:** Phil Ashton email [captain@mx5.com.au](mailto:captain@mx5.com.au) 0401 993 304

**Social Secretary:** Roger O'Grady email [socialsec@mx5.com.au](mailto:socialsec@mx5.com.au) 0419 487 943

**Memberships:** Peter Howe email [membership@mx5.com.au](mailto:membership@mx5.com.au) 0418 489 050

**Publications:** Paul & Sandie Williams email [publications@mx5.com.au](mailto:publications@mx5.com.au) 0428 446 426

**Regalia:** Ray & Pam Estreich email [regalia@mx5.com.au](mailto:regalia@mx5.com.au) 0428 970 998

**Hunter Valley rep:** Tom Wilde email TBA.

**Comp/Event Sec:** Zan Menzel email [eventsec@mx5.com.au](mailto:eventsec@mx5.com.au) 02 6558 4190

**Webmaster:** email [webmaster@mx5.com.au](mailto:webmaster@mx5.com.au)

### *Stanley & Stewart Chartered Accountants*

Honorary Auditors of the MX-5 Club of NSW, for all your business and financial needs including:

- Accounting
- Auditing
- Business Advice, Planning, Budgeting and Costing
- Personal Wealth Creation Planning
- Superannuation
- Taxation

**Level 8, 91 Phillip Street, Parramatta 2150**

**Phone 02 9891 6777 Fax 02 98914455**

**Email: [inbox@sands.net.au](mailto:inbox@sands.net.au)**



## **MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT – MOUNT KEIRA SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2007**

### **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**



The meeting point was Heathcote McDonalds 10 for a 10.30 start. There was a great turn up which is usually the case for Christmas in July. It was good to finally have it on the south side for all us southern folks. Phil organised a short run before lunch which took us through Waterfall and the back end of Royal National Park then a quick stop at Stanwell Tops before going over the Sea Cliff Bridge then up Bulli Pass and finally up to Mount Keira for our well deserved lunch.

Everyone mingled prior to lunch, ordering various drinks from the bar and looking at the wonderful view from Mount Keira out towards Northbeach, Wollongong, Port Kembla and beyond. Ray & Pam sold lots of regalia and took orders from others.

We then all took our places at our tables where we enjoyed a lovely three course meal, drinks and great company. After lunch Phil and Cheryl (aka Santa and Mrs. Claus) handed out Christmas gifts which depending on the coloured stars you had in front of you depended on the gift. So everyone received something from lollipops, Santa jigsaw puzzles, MX-5 hats to name just a few. After this there was more time for mingling and chatting amongst the group.

Around about 4.30pm after another fantastic MX-5 day we all said our goodbyes and headed in various directions home.

It just doesn't get any better than enjoying a good day with all our friends at the MX-5 Car Club.

### **Zoom Zoom**

Kim & Peter Ranger

## **NEWS ! NEWS ! NEWS ! NEWS !**

### **MX5 Club Regalia Fund Raising Activity for Camp Quality**

Cloth badges **\$15.00 (\$5.00)** goes to Camp Quality



The Club's Christmas in July Event, we raised from sales, \$35.00 what a great effort!

#### **Answers:**

1. Scrabble
2. Physics
3. Blood
4. False
5. Eleven





## *MX-5 Club*

### **Good energy for Camp Quality families**

There is something quite special about cave areas. They have a special energy that is relaxing and peaceful.

Camp Quality families love that feeling and family camps are regularly held at Wombeyan and Jenolan Caves for that reason. There are two camps held in each location every year and our old friends the MX-5 Club are hosting one and a half camps to Jenolan Caves with funds just banked.

The families arrive at Jenolan early on Saturday morning. They come in their own cars because they need to be able to go home if a child becomes unwell. A temperature can mean a life threatening infection so families are on the alert 24/7 for any sign that something is not quite right with their child's general health. They move into their accommodation at the caves with lovely family rooms in Mountain Lodge with a fridge for any medications and a TV for people who need a rest from their caving, bushwalking and partying.

Then it's off to explore, but in the process, with 60 CQ people on site, they meet other parents and kids who they have known at the hospital or have seen at the camp before. Importantly the old hands are always on the lookout for brand new families so they can make them feel welcome and begin friendships that often become the mainstay in peer support networks that form spontaneously....this is what the family camps are all about....other than fun and enjoyment, that is.

There is so much beautiful scenery in such a short walk from Caves House and so much to see in the caves that the families are very active during their stay and the staff in the Rangers Office and at Caves House really took us under their wing and make everything very special and give every assistance to anyone who might need a hand.

Dinner on Saturday night is a magical Olde Worlde experience in the Grand Dining Room....the Chifley Room. The ceilings are so tall they are almost out of sight and the tables are set with crisp white cloths. There is a piano playing and the parents sit at tables with a glass of wine and a beautiful meal and the children have their own tables with their own food and everyone has a wonderful and memorable experience. After dinner there is a movie in the theatre and the big kids and dads play pool in the games room which is on the same floor as the restaurant and bar....some of the parents have a quiet drink in the bar and get to know others a bit better. Parents end up supporting other parents and because of these friendships, brothers and sisters of sick kids form friendships with other siblings going through the same stuff. Siblings have their own cross to bear. Their parents are preoccupied with a sick child and siblings often feel unloved, left out, frightened and alone and also guilty because they know it can't be helped...but they're only human after all. To find other kids in the same boat makes a difference. They're no longer the only child in the world who feels this stuff and without any discussion of their problems, just having someone who understands, helps them through.

Thank you MX-5 Club members for making all this possible...what you have really funded is the setting up of a whole group of peer support situations and a whole lot of great memories of a wonderful and magical experience in a place full of good energy....**what you have promoted is optimism in the families and that is what gets them through....thank you again from all at Camp Quality.**



# **The Brass Monkey Run**

**29 July 2007**

For those who don't know what the Brass Monkey Run is. Basically it is an annual run organized by The Austin Healey Owners Club .Other sports and classic car clubs are invited to attend. As the name implies it takes place in the coldest part of the year. The idea is to leave early in the morning on mass to go for breakfast somewhere. Last Year it was Mudgee and this year it was Goulburn. ( I reckon possibly two of the coldest country towns in New South Wales).

Sounds mad and I guess it is but it is great fun and in a strange way exhilarating. Not to mention, to be given the opportunity to drive our modern day classic sports car and to see its famous forbears in the flesh or moulded metal to be more precise.



Sydney had been experiencing a spate of very cold weather. During the previous week the Weather Bureau had recorded the coldest July day for many years and here we were, planning to drag ourselves out of a nice warm bed at 4.00 am, to drive to, of all places ,Goulburn, a notoriously freezing country town on the Southern Highlands, for breakfast!!

Yep, you guessed it, it was mandatory that the hood on the car had to be down. Just before I went to bed on the night before the onslaught, I quietly went outside and stared up at the clear star- lit evening sky. Not a cloud to be seen. If it had been raining at least we could have had an excuse to have the hood up!! As I stood there, I said ever so softly so Maggie my long suffering wife would not hear me, " it's going to be bloody freezing tomorrow we must be completely NUTS".

I recalled we had bought our tickets some weeks earlier on a beautiful warm autumn day, "The Pearl Beach Run", in the company of a number of other zealous MX5 devotees. As I stood there shivering I realized that my judgment had been greatly impeded or at least I must have been swept up by the prevailing enthusiasm. Anyway there was no turning back now we had told too many people what we were up to, we had to go.

Just before hitting the sack I swapped the cars over and put the MX in the carport and the Camry (work horse) in the garage. I quietly apologized to the "Green Machine" for making it sleep out in the cold, of course. I've heard of other relatively sane people talking to their sports cars!! The plan was to avoid any unnecessary delays moving the cars the next morning (i.e., five more minutes in bed and more importantly, at least try not to wake the dog up which in turn would guarantee the neighbourhood an early awakening as well. Somebody who will remain anonymous suggested that I could roll the MX backwards down our relatively steep driveway without starting the motor. As I had no desire to roll down the driveway with no brakes for the sake of not waking the mutt, I dismissed the well meaning suggestion). The alarm was screeching its head off in my ear. I peered at its red led screen with a half opened eye and said to myself "four o'clock, what sort of time does one call this"? I switched the annoying thing off and promptly tried to push Maggie out of bed. I was then not so diplomatically told that she got out of bed first everyday and it was my crazy idea anyway etc. I eventually dragged myself out of bed and peered out the window. Pitch black, not a cloud in the sky and even the birds had not woken up yet! Probably had frozen to death over night.





A quick shower, then on with the thermal underwear, flano shirt, jeans, woollen socks, thick woollen jumper, ski parker, scarf, beanie, driving gloves, yep, we were ready for Antarctica. Not a word was spoken as we snuck out the front way and slipped silently into the Green Machine. Then the moment of truth I **turned the ignition key**. The MX as MXs do fired up first go and we disappeared down the driveway without even waking the dog!! That's a good start I said to myself as we

motored towards the M7 (hood still up). It was still dark and we were the only car on the road. "Watch the speed", I said to myself, "if the police were mad enough to also be out of bed at this time as there are no other cars around to book it's going to be you"! Southwest we motored on the M7. Then in the darkness of the rear vision mirror I could see a set of headlights way back in the distance coming up fast. I thought to myself this is either a cop or another couple of crazies in a sports car. I was relieved when the big red Ferrari roared past.

In what seemed no time at all we arrived at the "Cross Roads" Casula. The place was in total darkness. No sign, "where the h... is Bunnings car park (the designated meeting venue). Great, don't tell us we've got the wrong day". Then we caught sight of a few more MX5s with just as perplexed occupants. Eventually after driving what seemed like hundreds of kilometers around the massive shopping/warehouse complex we found the meeting place.

On arrival we were greeted by the sight of Austin Healeys, Aston Martins, Shelby Cobras, Triumph TR3s, 4s and 5s, Clubmans, Jaguars, Ferraris, Porches, Sprites, Spitfires, Datsun 2000s and heaps of other sports and classic cars including 15 MX5s of course. All the blokes were standing around in the dark and cold doing what male sports car drivers do, talking about sports cars, the women where also standing around talking, about far more important things.

It was 6.30am time to go. The dawn was just breaking. Approximately 70 sports and classic cars were on the move on the Hume Highway Goulburn bound. The further we went the more our number swelled as other cars appeared from the side of the road, side roads and out of petrol stations. The procession of open-topped sports cars extended far down the highway in front of us and into the distance behind us. From time to time sports cars would pass us obviously a little frustrated with driving at a sedate 110 kph. One car of particular note was a British Racing Green Jaguar XK SS the road going version of the "D Type" which won Le Mans in 1955, 1956 and 1957. It looked, smelt and sounded absolutely fantastic as it roared past.

Other non sports cars/ tin top family type varieties went past as well. One could almost lip read the parents of the children in these cars saying to them (referring to us) "they are very strange people and you would think that grown adults would be smart enough to put their hoods up on such a cold morning". They were right it was freezing. As we went through Suttons Forrest the paddocks on both sides of the road were white with frost, it looked just like fresh snow. We found out later that the outside air temperature was 4 degrees below centigrade. Maggie at that stage had submerged herself under a woollen crochet blanket, I did not blame her!

At 8.30 am we arrived at The Goulburn Soldier's Club for breakfast. In the streets in proximity to the club, parking spaces were at a premium. There were all sorts of wonderful sports and classic cars to be seen. An official from the Austin Healey



Owner's Club said over 200 cars had turned out from all over the place, including Canberra, Sydney and out west. What a sight.

In the club, there were at least 300 people getting stuck into mountains of sausages, scrambled eggs, grilled tomatoes and cereals all washed down with copious amounts of freshly brewed coffee. The place was warming up very quickly and you have never seen so many people stripping layers of clothing off so quickly.

A few of us from the MX5 Club then went on to Berima for Devonshire teas (as if we hadn't had enough to eat already) and a look around the antique /gift shops, then off home for an early night. One of our members said, she was so tired she fell asleep watching Grey's Anatomy.

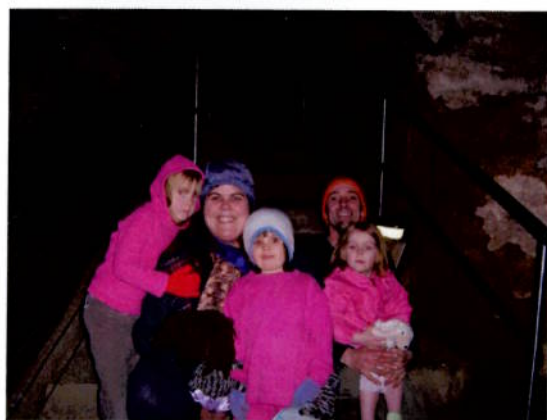
The experience was well worth enduring the cold and lack of sleep! I hope the MX5 Club gets invited to participate again next year.

Ken and Maggie Liston



### BRASS MONKEY

Photos Maggie & Ken Liston



### CAMP QUALITY-JENOLAN CAVES OUTING





XMAS IN JULY



LADIES TRAINING DAY



AARON GILTROW