

CLUB TALK



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WE'VE GOT THE RUNS'
UPCOMING NEWS

15/04/2007

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CAR CLUB OF N.S.W



TOM KERR MOTORS

MX-5 CLUB OF N.S.W. INC- MARCH/APRIL-2007 ISSUE

CLUB INFO.....

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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*Cover photograph: Day out on the Dam Run-18 MX-5s winding there way down south.
Photo: Sandra Williams*

Phil and Cheryl's trip on the Great Ocean road on page 9 will truly inspire you to get that MX packed and fueled up and on the road down south. I could not fit all the beaut photos into the story so check the website out.

Club Talk is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Mazda Club of N.S.W Inc
Po Box 402 Beecroft NSW 2119

All contributions welcome: articles and photos should be emailed to
"Publicity Team, Club Talk" at publications@mx5.com.au
Or posted to PO Box 402 Beecroft.NSW 2119

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A BIG MX-5 WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST

MEMBERS **YOU HAVE JOINED A FRIENDLY TEAM OF MX-5 DRIVERS AND**
THEIR INTREPID NAVIGATORS. HOPING TO SEE YOU ON THE MONTHLY RUNS AND
THE OTHER EXCITING EVENTS ON THE
MX -5 CALENDAR

**Richard Wishart, Dennis Brady, Travis McKeon,
Nichole McIver, David Gordon, Arthur Carroll, John
Leslie,
Glennis Holton, Mark Hellmund, Luca Larossi, Paul
Fisscher, Peter Brady, Narelle Morgan, Mervyn
Wells, Victoria Heyman,
Peter Sleeson, Dan Sz waj, Heather-May Kooley,
Geogory & Jeanette Scriven, Robert Easterbrook,
Neil Hird, Catherine Ty, Margaret Yates.**

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM



FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Member of the Year Award

The Member of the Year Award is aimed at encouraging and acknowledging individual member involvement in club activities. The award winner will be the eligible member who accrues the highest total points from participation in club activities during the year.

The valid period over which the points may accrue is from 1st Dec to 30th Nov in the following year.

The award will be presented at the Club's annual Christmas Party in December after the valid period. The final decision will be confirmed by the President of the Club, and neither objections nor disputes will be entertained.

To encourage New Members involvement in the Club, a New Member of the Year Award will also be presented. This Award will be presented to the New Member (who joins between 1st Nov and 30th Oct in the following year) who accrues the most points during the valid period.

Committee Members are not eligible to receive these Awards.

The Sydney, ACT and Hunter Chapters will each run separate awards, and each member is eligible for his home Chapter Award.

The Points Score System is determined by the Committee:

Attend an official Club Run

Provide photos that are published in Club Talk or Web

Attend a Wakefield Track Day as an Assistant

Write an article that is published in Club Talk

Organising a Club Run

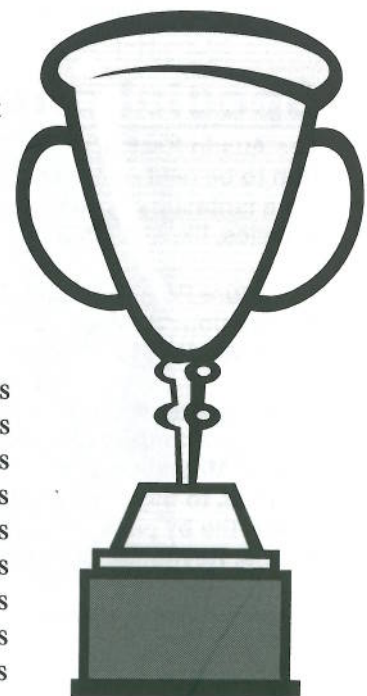
Assist in running a Club Event

Organising a Weekend Away

Assist in running a Weekend Away

Attend Annual General Meeting

2 pts
2 pts
2 pts
5 pts
6 pts
2 pts
8 pts
3 pts
3 pts



PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....

Autumn 2007

As we head towards winter and start to dig out the warmer clothing and the winter hats to wear in the car, we can look back fondly on all the sunburnt noses, ears & arms, and vow not to let it happen again next year! At least now the Club has some long sleeved items on sale that hopefully will prevent that if we are smart & remember to wear it or take it with us next summer!

We have had some great runs over the summer. Where else would you rather be on a sunny Sunday afternoon than sitting by the beach in Wollongong with friends? Having been on lots of club runs over the years, I had not thought there were too many lovely places around Sydney that I had not visited with the MX-5 Club. It seems I am wrong and there still are quite a lot left to see!

One thing that I have noticed over the last few years is the condition of the roads and the explosion in the amount of other cars out there competing with us for the lovely spots. It is getting more and more difficult to meet the criteria for a run, i.e. few if any traffic lights, nice

quiet country roads with little other traffic so that we can let the car "off the leash" so to speak! It is getting more difficult to keep track of all the cars on the runs these days, especially when no one seems to have radios any more. Almost every intersection these days has traffic lights, and not always is there a quiet safe spot where the leader can slow down to let the rest of us catch up. It is a shame when we get separated because a lot of the fun is being out on the road with a large group and have other drivers and pedestrians look at us jealously! That has its disadvantages too, because if any of us make a mistake or do something stupid then we all get tarred by the same brush. We certainly are highly visible out there now, no one can miss us!

I definitely enjoy the runs, I do find it frustrating at times with traffic and traffic lights, but I guess that is the way it is and we need to adjust to it. I am sure there are a few things that we could do to increase everyone's enjoyment a bit, so maybe we need to push the radios again. That makes it so

much easier to know where everyone is especially in heavy traffic.

Another item that we have discussed at the committee meeting is Camp Quality, our charity. As you all know we were not able to do our usual Camp Quality run this year. Camp Q are looking at all their activities and reassessing their priorities. They have a lot of high profile groups donating much larger amounts of money than the MX-5 Club gives. We have some choices here, are we happy to continue donating to them, without having the run?

Should we look at some other charities, perhaps concerned with the victims of road trauma, either the spinal unit or brain injury or perhaps even the NRMA Careflight helicopters?

I encourage you to contact me with any comment you may want to make. In the meantime, Happy Motoring!

Jean

Special offer: Just received 10 tickets for the Austin Healey Club's Brass Monkey Run.

The Austin Healey Owners Club has invited the MX-5 Club to participate in their annual Brass Monkey Run to be held on Sunday 29th July.

It's a fantastic day to look over convertibles and sports cars from the early 1900's right up to modern classics, like the MX5.

Departure Point: Parking Area for Bunnings Hume Highway Casula
Destination: Goulburn Soldiers Club 15 Market St., Goulburn
Price: Adults \$15 Children 4 – 12 years old half price.

A very good breakfast has been organised at this venue, after such a wonderful run. Journey with us leaving Bunnings and travelling south along the Hume Highway through the crispy cold of Mittagong and Berrima, to the 1st turn off ramp to Goulburn, over Governors Hill to the first set of lights, turn left and follow the by pass Roads, Reynolds, Grafton and Sloane Streets to the intersection of Market Street.

For your tickets, please contact Phil Ashton on 0401 99 33 04.

TRACK REPORT.....

AUTUMN-2007 Club Events

The year commenced with the "Triple Treat" Track Day at Wakefield Park on Sunday the 4th March. A strong entry list of fifty-six competitors proved the growing popularity of this event on the competition calendar. Competition was particularly strong in classes 2 (standard NB8As & NB8Bs), 4 (modified under 1600 ccs), 5 (modified 1601 to 2000 ccs), 7 (turbo & supercharged MX-5s) and 8 (non MX-5s). Canberra member Barry Faux entered his beautiful sounding "Bullet" for the first time. Built in Queensland, the Bullet is based on a "rear cut" MX-5 sporting a V8 Lexus engine, and in Barry's case a supercharger is mounted on top of the V8 for that little bit of extra grunt.

In the morning the field was split in half with one group competing on the hill climb whilst the other half ran on the short circuit. Half way through the morning the groups changed. In the afternoon all ran on the main circuit. Peter Browning recorded fastest time on the hill climb with a time of 53.44 seconds closely followed by the Battison Brothers Russell and Karl who recorded times of 53.68 and 54.56

respectively. Peter Browning had a good morning topping the time sheets on the short circuit with a time of 39.32 seconds, with Barry Faux second in 40.28 and Val Stewart upholding the honour of the ladies with a 40.75.

On the main circuit Barry Faux and his Bullet recorded fastest time of 1.10.35 closely followed by Peter Browning in 1.10.76 and Karl Battison third in 1.11.17. On combined times for each circuit Peter Browning won the day from Barry Faux and Karl Battison, a clean sweep for the Canberra Chapter. Complete times for this event are on the motor sport page of the club website along with the progressive point scores after five rounds for all classes.

A big thank you to all the officials who helped make the day a great success, especially those on the grid and flags who worked in extremely hot conditions during the afternoon.

Next Track Day at Wakefield Park is on Monday 7th May.

Followed by this year's "Interstate Challenge" that will be at Wakefield Park on Sunday the 17th June. The Victorian's are expecting approximately a dozen of their

members to make the trip north in an effort to defend the cup they won at Phillip Island in December last year. The current score is two all with the organizing club, in this case New South Wales having the home track advantage.

Entry Forms and Regulations for both these events can be downloaded from the Motor Sport page of the club website.

Supersprint

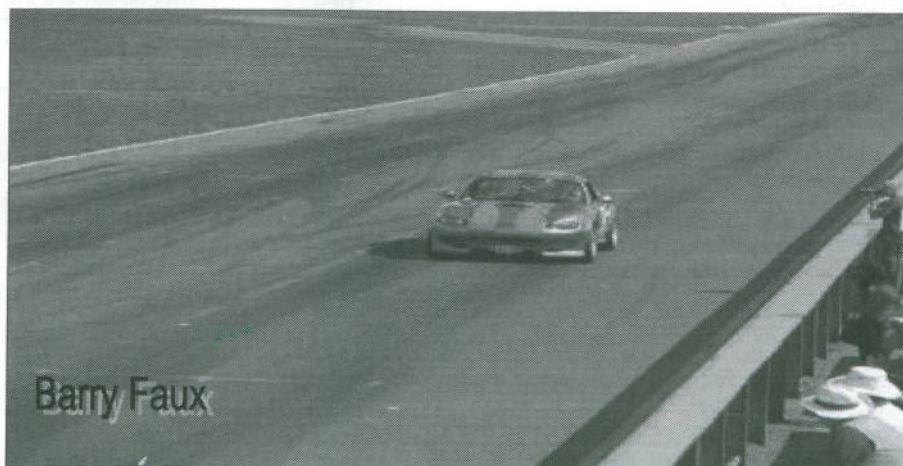
First round of this year's Championship unfortunately clashed with our club's Track Day on the 4th March. Never the less five members competed on the day resulting in class wins to Matilda Mravivic in 4D, Bradley Cecil in 2B and Renny Roden in SVC.

Stewart Temesvary was second in 1B and Kevin Addison was third in 3B.

We will be expecting a stronger roll up at round 2, which will be at Eastern Creek on Sunday the 22nd of April.

Hope to see you at Eastern Creek on 22nd of April and/or Wakefield Park on 7th May.

Mike Hicks



RACING.....

Eastern Creek One Hour Race -25th February, 2007

The Production Sportscar racing had an early start this year with a One Hour race at Eastern Creek on February 25. It was a one-day event so everyone was kept extremely busy with two qualifying, two sprint races and the one-hour race all jammed into one day. There is a series of five one-hour races this year in the Cue Enduro championship.

Once again MX-5s dominated the field with 11 cars entered with several club members driving. The turbo MX-5s are starting to get numbers with 3 SP and 2 SE participating.

In driver qualifying Brian Anderson put the turbo MX in Position 6 outright and 2nd in Class B with Matilda right behind in 3rd. Unfortunately the MX-5 Mania Turbo MX-5 had a mechanical issue and retired for the weekend. In Class C, Val Stewart put her new RX7 in 2nd in class followed by Lou Iezzi 3rd in the Silver SE and Henri Van Roden in 4th place respectively.

Chris Gough entered his MX-5 SE in class D and qualified 2nd in class. Class F for 2F cars had the usual gaggle of cars with Cal Ballinger setting pole, Tony Bonanno in 2nd, Mark Dumas 3rd, John Metham 4th, Tyronne Gatier in 5th.

The co-driver qualifying saw Gerry Murphy put the Anderson Motorsport MX-5 3rd in Class B.

Unfortunately Nick Martinenko had gearbox problems in their Turbo and pulled in after 3 laps. In class C, Bruce McCabe put the Van Roden car in pole with Anthony Robson in Lou's car in 2nd. Joe Macare was the only Class D co-driver and so took pole. Class F was dominated by the Ballinger/Dedrie car with Troy Hazard in Tyronne's MX-5 2nd, followed by Dennis Brady and Sheridan Phillips.

The Drivers race was a quick 5 lapper and Brian Anderson held off Chris Stannard for second place with smoke pouring off the front left guard after the tyre caught the guard. Matilda was missing in action. Val came second in Class C with Henri 4th and Lou having a DNF. Class F was again dominated by Cal with Tony Bonanno second and Chris Gough third.

In the co-drivers race Gerry continued to lay down a smoke screen as again the tyre caught the guard and claimed 3rd place. Nick came from rear of grid up to 4th. Bruce McCabe won class C with Anthony 3rd in Lou's car. Neil Dedrie continued the trend with a win in Class F followed by Joe, Dennis and Sheridan.

The main event saw 23 cars line up and an incident free race was run with no safety cars. Outright

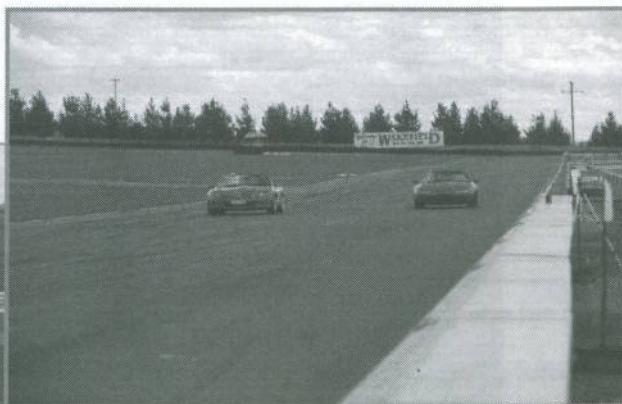
was won by Bob Pearson in his RX7. In class B Brian got the car into a solid second place but a slow pit-stop (no practice due to diff repair) saw them loose 2nd place but finished 4th outright. Nick and Matilda did a great job and came 4th in Class B and 5th outright. Henri and Bruce finished 2nd in Class C with Lou and Anthony 3rd and Val 5th.

A clean sweep for the Ballinger/Dedrie class F MX-5 followed by Tony Bonanno in 2nd with Chris and Joe 3rd, Tyronne and Troy 4th, Mark Dumas and Dennis Brady 5th and John and Sheridan sixth.

The hard luck award for the meeting goes to Iain Pretty when he retired his Cobra from the lead with only two laps to go due to a fuel line routing issue. He still had plenty of fuel it just would go into the main tank.

It was great to see lots of MX-5 club members turning up to watch the racing and several were helping in the various pits. The next one-hour is on at Eastern Creek on the 1st of July; hope a few more can make it to the grid or to watch some great racing.

Brian Anderson



STORIES.....

JANE'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON-FINAL

Day 4

We had breakfast at the hotel and had a chance to slow down a bit, to just cruise around the island in the MX-5s on our own rather than in convoys before catching the 1.55pm ferry back to Anacortes which takes just over an hour. The convoy is again back on highway I5 to Marysville. Dinner that night is with the Club Miata Northwest at their monthly meeting where we catch up with members who were present at the earlier BBQ and a few others. There are about 50 people at our table – it's immense!

Day 5

We have a free day.

A few of us leave at 7am to do a tour of the Boeing Everett factory at 9am. It's not very far away but rush hour traffic could make the journey very slow but it only takes half an hour, time for a coffee at the Hilton Hotel on the Boeing site. The factory is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest building in the world occupying 98.3 acres under one roof – the ceiling being 90 feet above the factory floor. In here, we viewed the production of twelve 747s on a rolling basis. There is a visitor centre which houses the reception, museum, shops and café. After lunch Jean and I hit the designer outlets centre about 1 km north of Marysville where we were staying. Here we shopped till we dropped meeting up with various other members of our group who had already made our group famous in the shops that morning.

Day 6

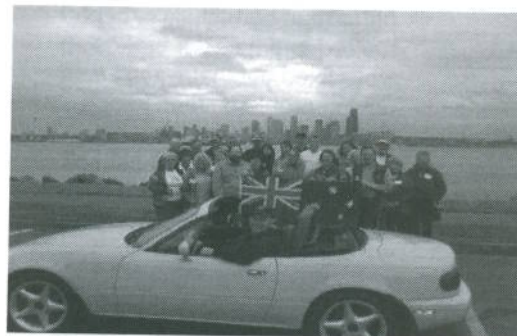
We commenced our trip towards Backroads to Bavaria. We checked out of Marysville and headed to John's house to leave excess luggage and organise things. Next stop was

to pick up picnic supplies then head on to the North Cascade Mountains – locally classed as desert due obviously to the lack of rainfall compared to the Seattle side of the mountains which usually gets heaps. Our trip so far has been rain free which has been great because we've had the tops down all the time.

We head north to turn east on Highway 20 – a scenic route that is closed in winter due to severe snow which can pile as high as 4 metres! We stopped in Washington Pass for our picnic lunch; the scenery is just stunning, the mountains, the fir trees, the rivers, the blue sky studded with a few high clouds, just so beautiful. We arrived at Winthrop, our next overnight stop about mid afternoon. We were amazed as this is a Western town (as in cowboys) out of the old movies with timber sidewalks and Western style buildings. The Winthrop Inn is not much less Western but comfortable on the outskirts of town. We check in and decide to check out the town. We found a coffee shop where John and his mate, Ivy (who had joined us for the trip in his Miata) are already enjoying a coffee and to find some seats which were actually saddles.

Day 7

We depart Winthrop after our usual driver's meeting at 9am for Leavenworth via Eastern Washington State. We take Highway 153 south. These Backroads are very good and there isn't much traffic so driving in convoy is very easy and so much fun. We keep driving south along Lake Chelan via various highways to Confluence Park along the Columbia River at Wenatchee. It's John's dad's birthday (Ed) and his wife (Myrna) and friend's have got together to provide us with a typical American BBQ lunch of hamburgers and salads and



birthday cake and juice. A white Miata drives by the car park having seen the 8 Miata's and pulled in for a chat! We had a lovely time chatting to Ed and Myrna and their friends over a delicious lunch. After lunch we headed off via Highway 2 to Leavenworth, the Bavarian village in the Eastern Cascade Mountains for the Oktoberfest weekend and the ninth Backroads to Bavaria trip that John has organised. We arrived after about an hour's driving and check into the Enzian Inn, a modern lodging of Austrian style in the centre of the main street so very well located about a block from the shops. Club registration was from 3pm and a total of 185 Miata owners were expected to register for this weekend from the Northwest and other clubs. There was a welcoming reception with light hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. A quick wander of the shops, it's all tourism generated complete with an Aussie Shop selling boomerangs and God knows what! That was a surprise! A few of us banded together to go for dinner and returned to the hotel to join other club members for a late night dessert.

Day 8

Started off after breakfast in the car park at 9am with us Aussies hosting the Poker Run. There are five pick-up points. We Aussies had to bring 2 packs of cards for John to organise this. It was my turn to drive the NC today! My first go, having driven all the

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other 6 NA cars variously (plus the Tribute and the Honda as we girls seemed to get those cars frequently) and which performed beautifully except the red one until the brakes were fixed but that wasn't a driving problem. John keeps these cars very well but he doesn't maintain them himself.

We are gathered in the hotel car park and I'm in the lead and John is in the passenger seat with the CB radio - communicating. Oh, this is fun! We glide out of the car park and head towards the hills - mountains actually. Oh, there's a marathon going on in town and runners and police are everywhere. We didn't plan on this! We are guiding the Aussie contingent to their pick up points for the poker run so there's no rush as such but we do have to take it really slowly as Americans do around pedestrians. We Aussies are a bit more gung ho in that regard.

We drop our Aussies off. Our American clubs are leaving at 10am for the poker run culminating with a show and shine at Smallwood's Harvest - a Country Mercantile. It appeared to be a farm with fruit and pumpkins and a good sized lawn to accommodate our 105 cars for the show and shine! Magic. Because I was leading the pack I was with Tony and Janice Fairhurst from Perth handing out poker cards

when participants arrived. The display was immense. I took a few shots from the hill above. It was just amazing - all these Miatas.

Well, as I'm driving the NC and our illustrious leader takes the mic, I lead the 105 Miatas for a discovery drive through the mountains to discover the beauty and marvellous autumn display. We drive through Tumwater Canyon, Lake Wenatchee where we stop to view the beautiful volcanic lake, park in the forest so we can view all the Miatas on this trip. What a sight to see. It is overwhelming - I've never seen so many in one hit! Then we move onto Plain and the Chumstick Valley and back to Leavenworth.

Such a heady day! I wouldn't have missed this for the world. Our hotel provided free entry to its putting course but it was a bit busy when we got back so that was out. That night they put on a banquet and the various clubs filled the dining room and John presented the prizes from the Poker Run and various others so most people got a gift/prize. Jean got up and spoke about our club in Sydney and was very well received. She speaks well publicly. Good on you Jean.

Day 9

We leave Leavenworth and return to Marysville and wherever else we're going with our excess luggage stored at

John's. Me, I'm off to Vancouver on the bus, but we have to get there first. Jean decided she couldn't cope with me as driver so she takes the helm on the drive back to Marysville and we drive through mists and rain and horrendous driving conditions. This, our last day, is the worst weather day we've experienced and definitely a day of hoods up - our first! We've had such a bundle of fun driving John's cars around Washington State we don't give a dam on our last day!!!

Jean did a great job returning us to John's house where I picked up my luggage, got a lift to the bus station with Grant Butler from Vic. to go to Vancouver.

This was one of the best trips I've ever undertaken and faultlessly planned by John but having said that I've never done anything like this before. I feel that when an opportunity like this arises you should snap it up. No questions - just do it. I had the best time and I think all the others will concur. My companions were strangers at the beginning and best friends at the end.

Cheers,

Jane

Secrets to Going Fast in a MX5

- Car set up: Alignment, corner weights and good maintenance/proper equipment.
- Seat time: Can't go fast if you don't practice...
- Coaching: Find someone who's fast in a MX5 and ask for help!
- Remember that a MX5 is a low horsepower, high handling car so get your braking done before the corner and get on the power early to go fast out of the corners.

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DIARY OF THE NC'S SOJOURN SOUTH OF THE BORDER.

A few notes from Phil & Cheryl Ashton's diary to Phillip Island and beyond.

Friday December 15

The journey south to Victoria was inspired by my desire to drive on one of Australia's premier road circuits, Phillip Island and the MX-5 Interstate Challenge on December 17 provided that opportunity. Previously we also have made two (failed because of time restraints) attempts to drive the Great Ocean Road. As we were going to Phillip Island why not make a big loop round the bottom of Australia and kill two birds with one stone, so to speak?

Plans were put in place, accommodation booked and the day arrived to depart.

Cheryl's work commitments meant that she had to fly to Melbourne the following day, so at 7:00am on Friday 15 I headed for the M5 to meet up with Renny Roland in his newly turboed NA, nick named "Hand Grenade". We had hoped to catch up with Mike and Cobey Hicks (who were towing their MX-5) for a coffee break but they were too far in front of us.

The trip down the Hume was fast but boring. From Albury the smoke from the bush fires in NE Victoria hung in the air for a 100 kilometres or so. Renny had booked to stay in Wangaratta so he peeled off the highway at about 2:00pm and I continued on to my son's place in St Kilda arriving around 5:00pm.

Saturday December 16

This morning it was out to the airport to pick up Cheryl and then off to Phillip Island to do the tourist things - a quick glance at the track to see a bike club doing their thing and that night we huddled together watching the penguins come out of the ocean and walk through the sand dunes. We had a real laugh watching their many hesitant attempts exiting the sea to get to their burrows.

Sunday December 17

Race day started fine and cool. Scrutineering began just after 7:00am with a wide range of car makes and models making up the 80 plus field. NSW was represented by eight 8 MX-5s and Victoria had 16, so MX-5s made up over a quarter of the field.

Those who hadn't driven on the circuit before went out with an observer for instructions about braking points, lines etc. I'm sure the Victorians sabotaged us by saying very little.

Phillip Island is a fantastic circuit. Smooth, wide straights, with some deceptively narrow corners and fast. Did I say FAST? Once moving the lowest gear you select is 3rd. At the end of the main straight the NC hit 200 kph. Turn one was being taken by the turbo MX-5s at around 220 kph on R Spec tyres. Me, I chickened out and went round at about 180. It would

have been a long way round the Great Ocean Road with a bent or damaged car, so I erred on the side of caution.



The best part of the day was my last race. The Alfa Club does things differently to our Club. Cars weren't grouped in the fastest to slowest but in mixed groups of 14 that gridded up in no particular order. So, in my last race I found myself near the end of a bunch of Alfas. At the completion of the first lap I rounded up a light weight Alfa Sud at the exit of Turn 1. Yep, there are some still around that rust hasn't consumed. Entering Turn 2, I was sitting on his bumper and I'll never forget his eyes widening when he looked in his mirror to see the NC ready to go under him in the 130kph corner. Priceless. I arrived back in the pits not worried about my times just rapt with going under, around and past most the Alfas that had lined up in front of me. You couldn't remove my smile.

In the end the sheer weight of numbers from the Victorian Club and their local knowledge won the

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day. Our thanks go to them for their hospitality and friendly rivalry. The MX-5 spirit certainly brings a lot of people together.



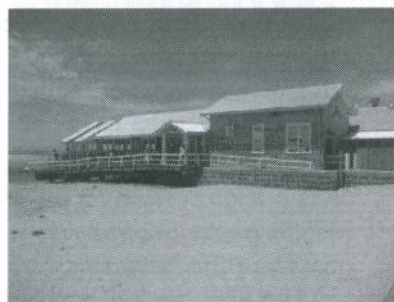
Monday December 18

Left Phillip Island and headed north and then west to Mornington Peninsular for the run down to the ferry at Sorrento. The ferry leaves on the hour so we planned our trip with travel times from the Motel owner to arrive 15 minutes or so earlier than required. I thing he had it wrong 'cause we missed it by 5 minutes and I was motoring pretty hard down the freeway trying to get there on time. Didn't matter though as we enjoyed a yummy breakfast waiting for the next ferry. Once onboard you can settle back and relax, view Port Phillip Bay and the heads and take in some more sun. On the other side you disembark at Queenscliff. This is a walk back through time town, full of superbly restored 1800's buildings. (CA says – great shops! Being the expert shopper I am, an item first seen in Queenscliff, but wrong size, was later located and purchased in Lorne the same afternoon while Phil

sat in the car in the shade listening to the cricket).

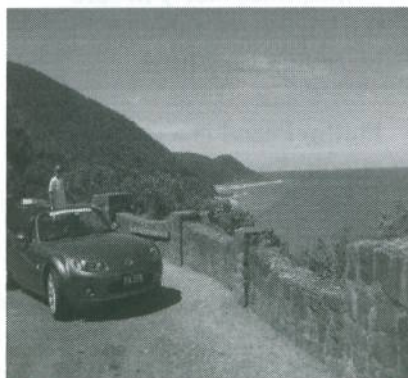


Leaving Queenscliff we headed to the "Sea Change" town of Barwon Heads for a seafood lunch in Diver Dans boat shed or what's left of it. The old boat shed has been extended and renovated internally and has a great view.



Then it was off to Lorne and the run down the Great Ocean Road.

We had been warned that



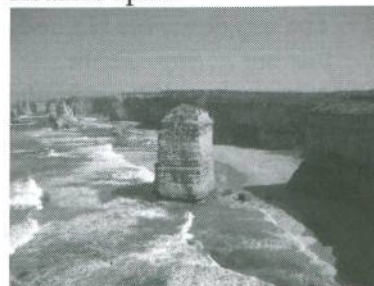
unless you are on the Great Ocean Road early in the day be prepared for a slow run behind the caravans, motor homes and dawdling sight-seers .

We left Lorne at about 2:00pm, wound our way down the coast taking in the fantastic views and enjoying the twisting road as it hugs the shoreline and I started to wonder when all the vans were. Maybe we were lucky but the run to Apollo Bay was van free and only two other cars travelling in the same direction as ourselves. So no hold ups, we could travel at any speed we wanted, although the posted 80 kph in some sections of the road was a little optimistic! Overall this is a fantastic piece of road with magic scenery. Well worth the trip down to travel on.

Tuesday December 19

Today we went inland to the Otway Ranges and thoroughly enjoyed driving through the tall timbers, rain forest flora and pine forests.

We encountered a couple of sections of dirt road and were slowed by a couple of cars that did not appear to have rear-vision mirrors or know how to use them. Vastly different scenery from the coast and only a short distance apart.



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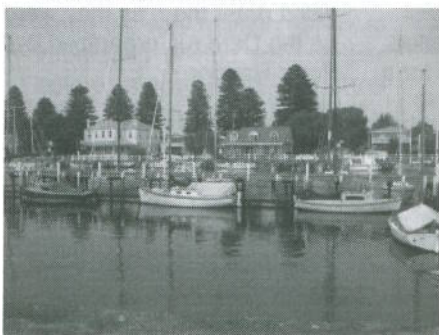
Wednesday December 20th

We left Apollo Bay early and continued further around the Great Ocean Road stopping at many vantage points to view the spectacular Twelve Apostles and Bay of Islands. We were a little concerned about the visibility because of the bush fires but we had a beautiful clear sunny day.

We continued through Warrnambool to Port Fairy where we stayed overnight in an apartment on the river. Port Fairy is a prosperous fishing village, which, we were told, is favored by the gentry of Victoria for weekend get-aways. (CA says - *This is obviously the reason for great shops, ie. "If the Shoe Fits", "Frances & Frances". "Rebecca's Café" for great coffee and we had a divine dinner at "Portofino on Bank"*).

Thursday December 21

After a casual breakky overlooking the fishing boats and river we departed for The Lake House at



Daylesford for two nights of luxury, massage and mineral

hot spas – an off set for my racing at Phillip Island.

Unfortunately after about an hour the navigator realised we were heading in the wrong direction.....towards the town of *Hamilton* on the left hand page of the map instead of Daylesford (via *Hamilton Highway*) on the right hand page of the map. The navigator took responsibility for our half hour detour but still blames the printing on the map! Our detour on a dirt road caused a few moments of terror when a large speeding semi rounded a corner not expecting to see any on-coming. Just about locked brakes (the semi), a bit of swerving and a huge dust storm resulted! The remaining trip to was uneventful.

Daylesford is a charming town with natural mineral springs (home of Hepburn Spa Mineral Water), lake, wildlife, shops and restaurants in Victoria's Spa Country.

Friday December 22

Today we spent time visiting the local tourist sites, the magnificent and huge Convent Gallery with many stained glass windows and doors, and the many and varied shops of Daylesford doing last minute Christmas shopping (obviously very small items). (CA – *She shopped!!! Wedding present from The Convent, funky*

retro cuff-links for son from Antique Shop, and at a shop called "Puppy Phat" we brought our Bella some "Aromatherapy" Pet Shampoo for Christmas, however, I was dragged out of the shop before I could look at the other gorgeous puppy accessories! Female members please note – Daylesford would be a fantastic destination for a Girls Weekend Away – it has absolutely everything to keep a Goddess happy – shame it is so far away).

Saturday December 23

All good things have to come to an end and it was time to head home in time for Christmas Day. We left The Lake House at 9.15am and drove about an hour cross country to connect up with the Hume.

We stopped at Benalla Art Gallery on the river for morning tea. When we were there 12 years ago the water was lapping under the floor of the Gallery – a different story this time!

Apart from passing Jean Cook at Albury on her way to Melbourne for Christmas it was a long and uneventful trip.

We arrived safely home at 8.15pm with only 2 sleeps before Santa arrived!

Phil & Cheryl Ashton

WE'VE GOT THE RUNS.....

THE BREWER'S RUN

Thanks to Nicole & Darren Frost for organizing a wonderful and varied run with morning tea at Austi Beach Café, then onto Mt Kiera lookout with views spreading out over the Illawarra area, the near perfect weather with very few clouds gave us the best view not only of the townships but right out to sea.

18th February, 2007

Then onto Wollongong for lunch at the Five Islands Brewery, where we all had lunch and caught up with friends for a chat.

We had a few who strayed from the pack but with 26 MX-5s winding their way down some steep and narrow roads we turned a few heads as it looked very impressive.

Thanks again for a lovely day.



MEGUAIRES TECH NIGHT

28th March, 2007

Once again a multitude of products that fascinated, and overwhelmed, with not just one or two products for each job, but sometimes three.

The two most outstanding products were the waterless car wash and then came the quik clay detailing system that had to be seen to believe, it claims to remove pollution,

sap, mist and airborne salts and more, takes away that gritty coating, leaving the paintwork as smooth as glass. Meguiars has something for every aspect of car maintenance from general washing to detailing for a concours win. Everyone received a bag of goodies and with light refreshments and 4

lucky door prizes drawn the night was a great success. Our thanks must go to Matthew who had excellent product knowledge and the General Manager Andrew Spira for the time given to make it an informative and enjoyable evening.

RAY'S RIVER RUN

18th March, 2007

Feed back from the run was positive with Ray and Pam receiving an email from Sean & Lettie MacCormaic to say what an enjoyable and well organized run it was.

Quoting the email "We enjoyed driving in the cooler conditions along roads which we had not used before. Until today we had avoided the river drive stretch from Wiseman's

because of the reports of gravel but the amount was absolutely minimal and as we live at Castle Hill, we will do it ourselves."

The River road has only been sealed in the last few years which made for a reasonable drive even though a bit narrow. Ray and Pam were very pleased with the comments that some MX-5ers had never been on

that particular road before. One of our new members collected a nail in the tyre and carefully drove home; it didn't deter them as they were seen on the Dam run organized by Kim & Peter Ranger.

NO MATTER WHERE !!!!!!!

A very avid MX-5er was seen running down a street in Singapore with a club card in hand, after spotting an MX-5 pulled up at a set of lights, his friends looked on hoping that

the fellow MX-er was a friendly native and thankfully yes, with a very Aussie style thumbs up took the card. He definitely earned his Singapore Sling that night.

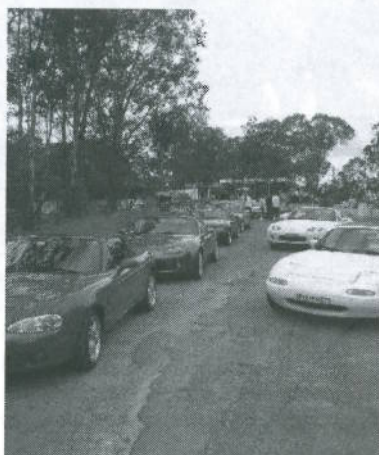
Not to be out done the other keen MX-5er was on the lookout in Hong Kong and finally spotted an MX-5 but only one.

The things we do.

PORT MACQUARIE

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

We all met up at McDonalds McGraths Hill for the start of our journey to Port Macquarie. Stephen Carter our Kuntry Kuzzin organised the weekend and gave us all a run sheet for the Friday and Saturday runs. Making the journey were Roger, Jo, Peter, Kim, Phil, Cheryl, John, Penny, Sylvia, Andrew, Robert, Richard, Garry, Cameron and George. Noel and his wife and Jean were heading on part of the run to Bulahdelah.



We left McDonalds and headed towards Singleton via the Putty Road around 185kms with interesting weather changes along the way making for some interesting driving experiences before stopping at the Half Way House and Bulga for quick regroups. We arrived at Singleton around 11.45 for a morning tea break. We were joined for morning tea by a local owner of a shiny new NC RC. Jean seemed to be paying particular attention to the car, possible update in the air? At this stage Jean left the run for the return journey home but we were joined by Ted who had come down from Tamworth that morning. We then proceeded towards Dungog around another 70kms before another regroup and toilet stop.

Stephen was constantly on the CB making sure everyone was heading the right way and keeping tabs on the vehicles at the rear. We then headed through Stroud, Booral and finally into Bulahdelah at 2pm for lunch at pubs, cafes and takeaways. We regrouped after 1 hour and headed up the famous Bulahdelah bends through Wootton, parts of the highway, through Moorland, Johns River and then Kew for a regroup and quick break before our final run through Laurieton and along Ocean Drive into Port Macquarie where we arrived at our destination El Paso Motor Inn. We then checked into the rooms and rested before dinner.

Dinner was to be a poolside BBQ but it was decided as it was rather dark we would eat in the Oasis room where the chef prepared steaks, sausages, rissoles and fish with a wide range of salads enough food to feed an army. We all sat around the tables together enjoying the food, drink and good company before retiring for a good earned sleep to be ready for our run in the morning.

Breakfast was served in the restaurant from 7.30 – 8.30 and we all met up at 9am for the run to Walcha. Paul a local MX-5 owner saw on the MX-5 site that we were up for the weekend and joined us for the Saturday run. Steve again led the run and was extremely well organised giving constant directions over the CB of hazards and making sure everyone was heading in the right direction as we headed through Wauchope, Long Flat and to the Kindee Suspension Bridge which was a single lane one car at a time bridge that we all took the journey over. We then headed to Gingers Creek for a morning tea stop. The twisting and turning roads



were made for our little cars. We then headed towards Apsley Falls a further 60 kms away where we all parked and spent time visiting the falls. Then it was off to Walcha for lunch at a local hotel. The service was slow and some of the meals not up to standard but the company was good. After lunch we went our



separate ways. A few stopped off to buy lemons and throaties (good for car sickness) and from what I hear were used as a few passengers got a little sick on the copious twisting bends.

There was no fixed venue for dinner and we all did our own thing.

After breakfast Phil, Cheryl, John and Penny left for home, Steve led a short run for anyone who was interested and Peter, Kim, Richard, Garry, Cameron and Robert headed off to the lookout at Dooragan National Park to take in the views of Camden Haven District which we missed on the

MX-5 CLUB OF N.S.W. INC- MARCH/APRIL-2007 ISSUE

way up due to fog and darkness. We then headed to Kendall for a quick drink break then on to Comboyne to the Udder Café where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and finally through Pembroke and then back home to Port.

Dinner was in the restaurant at the Motor Inn that night and by all accounts was very nice.

Some got takeaway and just had a restful evening.

We all slept well after a great long weekend. Up again for breakfast in the morning at the restaurant and then we all made our separate way home.

It's a pity a few more cars didn't make the weekend away as Stephen Carter certainly put

a lot of effort and organisation into the weekend and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

*Story by Kim &
Peter Ranger*

KIM & PETE'S DAM RUN

SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2007

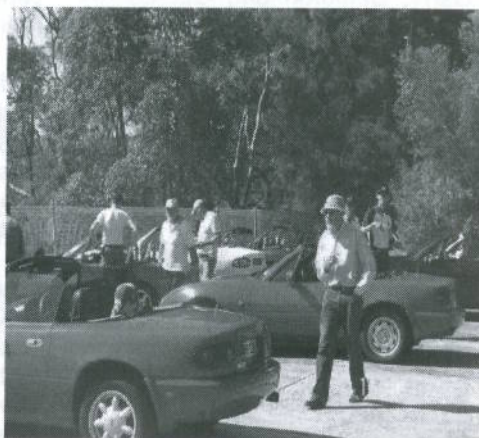
What a perfect day for a great run, 18 cars started from Loftus Park and headed towards the Woronora Dam, with time to stroll along the dam wall and chat, quite a few new members joined in and a chance to get to know each other was the order of the day.



Onto the next dam the Cordeaux, where the surrounding parkland made for great photos (see the website for a full range of photos) James, a soon to be new member had only bought his car a week

ago and along with his dad enjoyed the day and his father even said that he would consider a Mx-5 so he could join the club.

Off to the Picton Hotel for lunch where afterwards some MX-5ers went to Thirlmere



for the trains, some called it a day and some went off for coffee, not really wanting to end a wonderfully organized and enjoyable run.

Thanks Kim & Peter
Ranger

Stanley & Stewart

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BOOK NOW FOR THE LONG WEEKEND

Saturday 9th – Monday 11th June

The club is heading to Cowra for the June Long Weekend to bring together the Sydney, Canberra and Hunter Chapter members.

The run(s) will commence on Saturday 9th June, with members meeting at a designated starting point in Sydney, Canberra or Newcastle and heading towards Bathurst, finally converging on hallowed ground at Mount Panorama for a Club photo shoot before proceeding to Cowra for two nights stay. The start time and meeting points will be sent to those coming and posted on the club site shortly.

We will be staying at a new 4 star motel, the Breakout Motor Inn. Accommodation is in either a standard unit at \$115 per night or if you like to share costs, in a two bedroom unit at \$160 per night (or \$80 per room per night). We have booked 10 standard units and 4 twin bedroom units with preferences going to those who responded to the 'expressions of interest' first. So if we fill all the rooms we will have 18 MX-5s travelling the country side.

Time permitting in Cowra we hope to see a lot of the following:

- ☐ Cowra Japanese Garden & Cultural Centre
- ☐ P.O.W. Hologram Theatre
- ☐ Cowra Fun Museums
- ☐ Lachlan Valley Railway
- ☐ P.O.W. Camp Site
- ☐ Japanese & Australian War Cemeteries
- ☐ Cowra Rose Garden
- ☐ Australia's World Peace Bell
- ☐ Cellar Doors and Vineyards

On our Sunday drive we will head to the historic township of Canowindra (pronounced Ca-noun-dra). A walk down the heritage listed main street will take us past cafes, pubs, clothing stores trading in beautiful linen and famous country labels such as RM Williams, guesthouses, galleries and antique stores. At the end of the main street is the spectacular Age of Fishes Museum, home to an incredible 360 million year old fossil collection and travelling exhibitions. In Ferguson Street is another beautifully restored shopping quarter including The Canowindra Trading Post - well respected for its beautiful antiques and collectables, and the newly opened taste Canowindra cellar door and gallery.

Bookings for this great event will close on Friday 18th May 2007, so send off the booking sheet now with your details and accommodation requirements to the Social Secretary.

A BIT OF HUMOUR

A mechanic was removing cylinder heads from an engine when he spotted a famous heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his car.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, come over here for a minute." The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag, and asked argumentatively. "So, Doctor, look at this. I also open hearts, take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish, this will work as well as a new one.

So how come you get the big money, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The doctor leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try to do it when the engine is running."

A reporter interviewing a 104 year old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" The reporter asked.

She simply replied "No peer pressure."

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, I still have my driver's license.

MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

<p>Eurocars Northside Mazda Trade prices on parts and accessories, monthly parts specials. 15% discount on labour for service, Complimentary car wash and vacuum, courtesy transport to nearest transportation station. 43-45 Hotham Road Artarmon. Service: Patrick Campbell (02)9439 2722 Parts: Bruce Roberts (02)9439 2733</p>	<p>Hornsby Mazda 10% discount on genuine parts & labour. Mobile service van for on site servicing Monday to Friday. Hire vehicle for \$10/day (plus GST) Fuel 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</p>	<p>John Newell Mazda Services 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 www.johnnewell.com.au waterloo@johnnewell.com.au Contact: Philip Adler</p>
<p>Ammon Leather Special rates for Mx-5 Club Members, 2 seats in full leather for your Mx-5 (any colour) will cost only \$800-. Price includes full installation and a three year warranty. 14 Telopea Avenue, Homebush West. Contact: Frank Wang (02)9746 9433</p>	<p>Robco Products Pty Limited 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</p>	<p>Rockdale Mazda 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</p>
<p>A.M.R Motors Mazda Service Complimentary loan vehicle, 10% discount on labour, free exterior wash and interior clean. 370 Parramatta Road, Petersham. Contact John Healey (02)9569 2844</p>	<p>Al Palmer Repairs Penrith Pty Ltd Al is a MX-5 Club member, his company offers a wide range of services for your beloved MX-5, 20% discount to club member. Contact Al (02)4721 5060 Lot 12 Robertson Place, Sth Penrith</p>	<p>Mx- 5 Mania We supply Roll Bars for Mk.1 & Mk.2's, Batteries, Racing supplies, Rims, tyres & a lot more. Contact Simone (02)94823238 mx5mania@optusnet.com</p>
<p>Penrith Car Care 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</p>	<p>RTM Lap Timing Software Time laps and analyse results 15% Off RTM to members, see website For further information. www.menzelcom.com</p>	<p><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></p>