



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
ABN 82 599 208 521

Competition Report for the Year 2015 - 2016

Club Track Days

For 2016 it was exceptionally difficult to book venues for our club track days, and so I eventually decided to add an event each at the Marulan Driver Training Centre (MDTC) and at Winton Raceway in Victoria, to provide a sufficient track day program.

Since this time last year we have had two track days at Sydney Motorsport Park (SMP) and two at Wakefield Park, plus the non-championship regularity at MDTC. Another two track days are scheduled in 2016, including one at Winton Raceway. In the last year there have been 287 club member entrants at our track days, plus 39 visitors.

A big thanks to Barry Luttrell, the Club Event Secretary who manages all the entries for our track days. Without him the track day calendar would be very empty! Thanks to Joe Kovacic and Greg Bunn for helping run our grids. Joe is such a great grid marshall that I have had other car clubs contact me asking if he could be loaned to also help at their events! Jean Cook, Gaynor Lawler, Cathy Combes, Steph Katz and Maria Martin performed the important driver registration tasks efficiently and with a smile or two. Thanks to the many people who helped with scrutineering, as flag marshals at SMP, or as spotters in the control tower at Wakefield Park watching for wayward drivers on (or off) the track.

Club Driver Training Days

The driver training days are intended to assist those club members wanting to take their first steps from street driving onto a track, or to improve their track driving skills. Experienced club motorsport drivers are on hand to provide in-car tuition, particularly for those people driving on a track for the first time.

Since this time last year, there have been 96 club member entrants and 8 visitors attend our driver training days, along with up to 11 experienced advisors at each event.

Thanks to (in alphabetical order) Helen Green, Josh Fitzgerald, Lindsay Green, Stephen Fisher for the work they have continued since last year in making these events a great success.

For me, it is noticeable the number of club members who have done one or more drivers training days and then progressed on to track days at Wakefield Park, or in one case, directly to a national event at Philip Island! It is fantastic to see the skills that people have started to develop at these events, and the support provided by the many club members involved.

Club Motorkhanas

Thanks to Dan Szwaj and Scotty Gibbs for organising and running the motorkhanas, with help in driver registration from Jean Cook, Heather-May Koorey, and Gaynor Lawler.



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In the last year there have been 117 club member entrants and 24 visitors at our motorkhanas. The MX-5 Club ran a three round motorkhana championship in 2016, with junior, ladies and open classes. Unfortunately, one of those events had to be run as a non-championship round, because extreme weather conditions on the day made it impossible to properly time and score the event, but the other two events were very successful and well contested.

Congratulations to all the drivers who competed, and a big thanks to the club members who helped as officials at the motorkhanas. The normal attitude of the MX-5 Club is to welcome visitors to our motorsport events, but as our motorkhanas have been so heavily over-subscribed, with many club members missing out on a spot, we will give priority entry to club members in 2017.

Club Regularity

With the scarcity of available track day dates for 2016, I chose to add a track day in May at the Marulan Driver Training Centre. Given the nature of the track, I didn't believe it was suitable for a sprint event with drivers striving to achieve the fastest lap times, but instead ran the event as a regularity, which rewards fast consistent driving but not necessarily maximum speed. The regularity was a great success, with some variable weather adding to the excitement of the day.

Future regularities are possible, although the 2017 calendar is looking so busy that it might be difficult to find a suitable slot. If you would like to see a 2017 club regularity at MDTC, and are prepared to help organise the event, then please contact me.

Club Hillclimb

Josh Allen has been a fan of hillclimbs for some time, and suggested the club should organise such events for its members. He then offered to take the lead on making it happen, and so put together the club's inaugural hillclimb at the Ringwood Track in August. That event was a great success, and Josh has agreed to put together a series in 2017 with at least three hillclimbs. Having the hillclimbs at the Ringwood Track north of Newcastle provides more accessible MX-5 Club motorsport to the many club members in the Hunter and Mid North Coast Chapters.

MX-5 Cup

The 2016 MX-5 Cup race series consisted of six events at Wakefield Park and Sydney Motorsport Park as part of other race meetings. There were up to 11 drivers racing at each MX-5 Cup event, and the final round is this Sunday. The 2016 season continued the tradition of close but fair racing, with good camaraderie between the drivers.

For 2017 there will again be six MX-5 Cup race events, with the first and last being run at MX-5 Club track days. This will give the track day regulars a chance to see the excitement of MX-5 Cup racing and to find out more about how to get involved.



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CAMS NSW Supersprints

Thanks to Ed Cory for being the prime club contact in relation to NSW supersprints this year. His efforts in motivating entrants and also dealing with the bureaucratic nightmares at some race venues helped make 2016 another successful supersprint year for the club.

With 36 drivers registered in the championship, out of over 220 in total, we won the club championship for the 11th time, and for the third year in a row. We were trailing the ARDC in the points tally mid-year, but finished strongly while the ARDC faded away.

Many MX-5 Club members finished in the top three in their respective classes, which is a fantastic effort given the level of competition. Luke Kovacic deserves a special mention for not only winning his class, but also claiming the Type 2 Championship in his MX-5 SE up against drivers in much more exotic machinery like Porsches (6 of them), Lotus (3 of them), an assortment of Subaru WRXs, HSVs, and also 11 other MX-5s! Well done Luke.

There were six club members who competed at all seven Supersprint rounds in 2016: Chris White, Bryan Shedden, Jason Russell, Luke Kovacic, Dan Szwaj, David Alland. Well done! Another six club members missed only one round through the year. It was dedication like this which won the championship for the club. There are 25 classes contested in the championship. Our winning margin was equivalent to the points from an 8th place at each event in just one of those classes.

Regularity Relays

The Victorian 6 Hour Regularity Relay at Phillip Island is an annual event, contested by 50 teams each with 4 to 6 drivers. This year five teams from the MX-5 Club of NSW competed, each with four drivers and a similar number of pit crew. This really is a team event, and the pit crew contribute as much to the result as the drivers, if not more.

Our MX-5 Club teams placed 2nd, 18th, 25th, 26th and 33rd. A great effort by all the teams in what is a very difficult event. A single mistake by anyone in a team can result in that team dropping half a dozen places. This is the third time an MX-5 Club team has placed second, and hopefully in 2017 one of our teams can take the top spot.

A special thanks for Stewart Temesvary who is instrumental each year in helping organise the teams, and in managing the adminstrivia of submitting their entries.

This year also saw MX-5 Club teams compete at the NSWRRRC 6hr Regularity Relay at SMP Druitt Circuit at Easter, and the AROCA 10hr Regularity Relay at Winton last weekend. These regularity relays are truly addictive and many of our club members cannot seem to get enough of them!



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Nulon Nationals

For 2016 the Nulon Nationals were held over 4 rounds of motorkhana, hillclimb, track day and drag race events. Club based teams each put forward five drivers to compete in each of the events. With some teams fielding very powerful and quick cars, the MX-5 Club was never going to be in the running to win the series, but improved on last year to finish in 4th place out of the 11 competing clubs. Thanks to Keith Monaghan for managing our team.

2017 Competition Secretary

For 2017 Ian Combes has offered to serve as Competition Secretary managing much of the back-office administrative work in providing the club's motorsport program. I intend to assist in a non-committee position I have called the Competition Event Manager, organising the individual events and supporting the officials and drivers at those events. Barry Luttrell will continue his excellent work as the club's Event Secretary, managing the entries for our club track day events.

2017 Motorsport

The 2017 competition calendar is still being finalised but will likely have:

- 8 track days (5 at Wakefield Park and 3 at SMP South Circuit),
- 3 motorkhanas at the SMP skidpan,
- 3 driver training days at MDTC,
- 3 (or more) hillclimbs at Ringwood, and
- 6 MX-5 Cup race meetings.

This is as well as the other events frequented by MX-5 Club members such as the NSW Supersprint rounds, and the 6 Hour Regularity at Philip Island.

2017 will be busy!

David Lawler
Competition Secretary
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.

Annual General Meeting
21st October 2016