

club

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

TORQUE



Our 2015 Member of the Year

CareFlight Presentation

Christmas Wrap

SUMMER 2016

Print Post Publication: I00006993



Performance Engine Building

Cylinder Head Porting

Suspension and Brake Modifications and Upgrades

Track Preparation and ECU flashing

2wd and 4wd Dyno Tuning and Power runs

**Until 30th June offering Financial MX5 Club members a 7.5% discount
on anything instore. Contact Peter Battisson**

REVOLUTION
RACEGEAR
CANBERRA



23 Kemble Court Mitchell ACT 2911

Ph: 02 6262 2680 Mob: 0417 269 325

info@acdcptyltd.com.au

INSIDE ^{club}TORQUE

8	Member News
12	2015 Member of the Year Awards
16	Australia Day at Cordeaux Dam
18	SLIQ Run Up The Putty
20	Tall Tales from the BreakFast Club
22	Great Gippsland Gallivant
24	Canberra run to Nelligen
25	Marques in the Park
26	Five Hills Run
27	Shoalhaven River Cruise
28	Christmas Wrap photo gallery
29	Hunter Show and Shine
30	Hunter Mid Week Run
32	Look Out Behind You (at Trackside)
33	Sounding Up
34	Rollands Plains Run
35	Gingers Creek Run
36	Christmas Bells Run
38	Drifting Away
40	CAMS Supersprints
42	Nulon Nationals Round 1
44	Motorkhana Photo Gallery by Adam Fong





PHOTO ANDREW EDGAR

Mel Keller

Drive Me to Distraction

I like to talk and I truly love my phone. Much to the annoyance of my people; it is by my side at all times. Except in the car. Because whilst my phone is my doctor, my accountant, my personal assistant and my significant other, when I'm driving – it stays in the boot. You see for me, car time is Me Time and, by it's very existence, my phone is a constant reminder that I could and should be doing other things.

I used to travel with my phone in an approved cradle and even if I never answered it's call, I was still being bombarded with messages such as;

"Mum, it's an emergency. I can't find my zombie contact lenses. CALL ME BACK."

And, "Um Mel, is the cat meant to be that colour?" (It was St Patrick's Day so; yes.)*

Such distractions were that last thing I wanted when flying along the M5, dodging fully laden B-Doubles and an untethered and clearly second hand couch that clung to the middle lane and fired off beige corduroy cushions at regular intervals. (It is out of character for me to be frightened of a pillow but corduroy was not built to travel at 100kms/h and those things impacted the road in an explosion of bad taste and feathers; leaving me with zero visibility and traumatic 1970's flashbacks.)

Traffic incidents caused by mobile phone distraction have been on the increase and in response, the Roads and Maritime Authority recently issued a raft of changes to the traffic laws to discourage (and in the case of L and P plate drivers - prohibit) mobile phone use whilst driving or riding. From January 22, 2016 it is illegal to touch or handle your phone in any way, including having it in your lap or cradling it between your shoulder and ear. You may not e-mail, use social media, take photos or hold your phone in any way even when your car is stopped in traffic (you must be parked). You can still make or receive calls, play music or use navigation services but only when the phone is in a cradle with Bluetooth or voice activation.

L and P plate drivers are not permitted to use their phones at all when driving or riding. From now on, mobile phone offences will be included in double demerit periods with increased penalties from 3 to 4 demerit points. For L and P plate drivers, this would exceed their demerit point threshold and result in a 3 month licence suspension.

So now there are many more reasons to keep that phone at arm's length and only for emergencies. All the better to concentrate on the drive and enjoy that Me Time.

*Some poetic licence here to illustrate the point. I would never colour in my cat. He is orange by choice.

club TORQUE

EDITOR
MEL KELLER
publications@mx5.com.au

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Malcolm Bernhardt Tony McDonald
Di & John Pullen Bryan Shedden
Keith Monaghan Glenn Thomas Wesley Hill
Brendan Barr Michael Soulos Peter Battisson
Peter Ryan Bob Judd Bricet Kloren
Norm & Roz Barker Phil Mayo Karl Mittman
Grant Webber Warren Lewington Greg Cox
Guy Coles Derek Mock David Lawler
Steve Green

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

MOTORKHANA GALLERY Adam Fong
Ed Crowley Adam Rumjahn David Lawler
Grant Webber Warren Lewington
Derek Mock Karl Mittman Keiran Rodgers
Bryan Shedden Wesley Hill Josh Allen
Peter Hilkmann Brendan Barr
Graham Fletcher Bruce Davies
Timothy Heppell Bob Judd Bricet Kloren
Malcolm Bernhardt Tony McDonald
Roz Barker Phil Mayo Peter Rodgers

ADVERTISING
GLENN THOMAS
vicepres@mx5.com

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER
MEL KELLER
publications@mx5.com.au



COVER Derek Mock

*NEW & USED MX5 SPECIALISTS FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS
DEAL WITH TRUE ENTHUSIASTS - CAMERON & ANDREW*



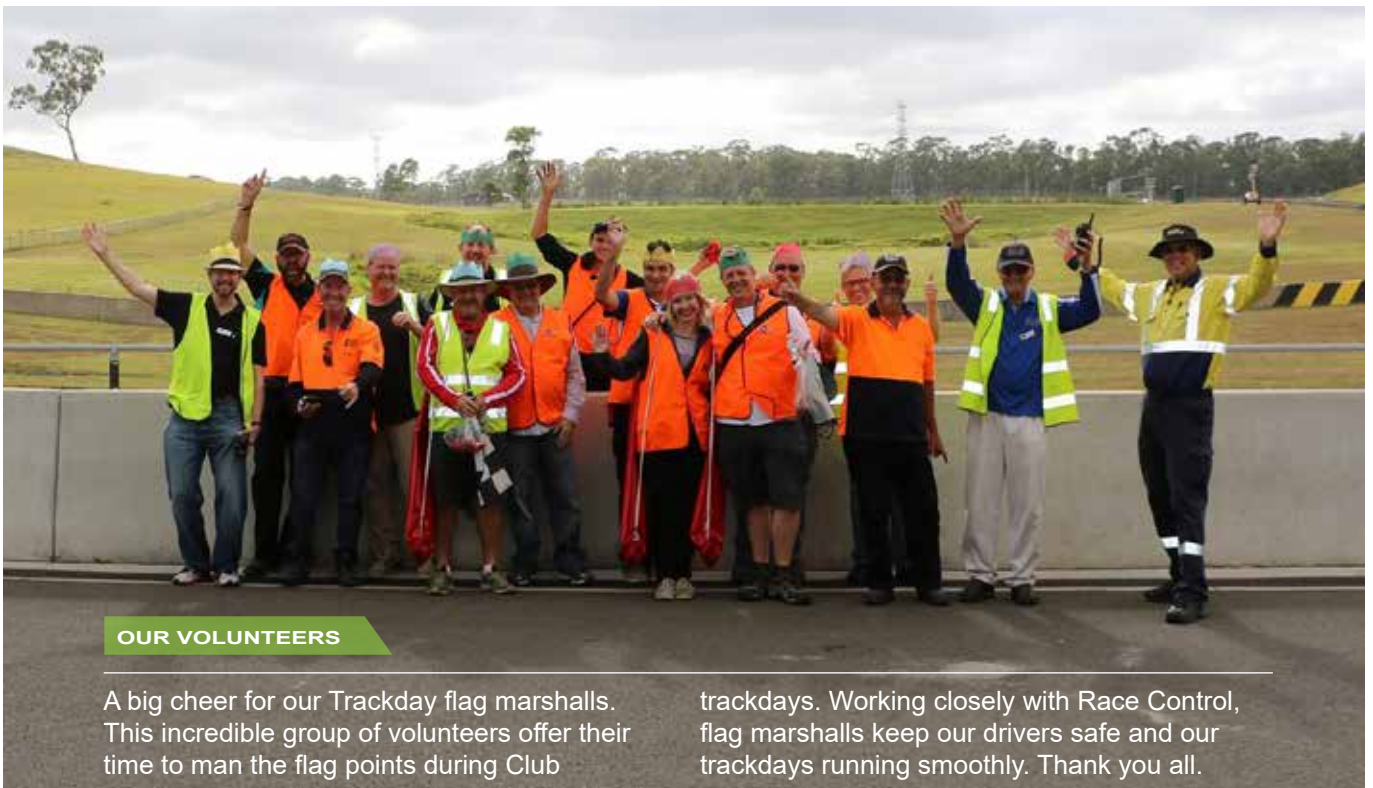
BLUE MOUNTAINS MAZDA



mazda

T. 02 4788 1018
42 Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath
Open seven days

DL13607



OUR VOLUNTEERS

A big cheer for our Trackday flag marshalls. This incredible group of volunteers offer their time to man the flag points during Club

trackdays. Working closely with Race Control, flag marshalls keep our drivers safe and our trackdays running smoothly. Thank you all.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL
823

NEW
MEMBERS
44

When you join the MX-5 Club of NSW, your joining fee goes towards the production of a Name Badge for you to wear at Club events. The badges are produced on a quarterly basis in order to efficiently optimise the production process. The badges are typically ordered in March, June, September and December with delivery 4-6 weeks later. For those who are keen to wear a name badge in the interim, we recommend using your Club membership card in a plastic card holder (available from stationers).

We are happy to replace any Name Badges be that due to change of car, loss or damage. We charge a replacement fee of \$12.00 per badge. This just covers the cost of the badge and postage. The request must be e-mailed to us at membership@mx5.com.au with proof of payment. The preferred method of payment is by direct deposit:

Reference: (Surname)-Badge
BSB: 062401

Account: 10080286

Name: Mazda MX-5 Club of New South Wales

For any questions, please contact me Keith Monaghan - membership@mx5.com.au

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome!

Elizabeth Lakos
Timothy Lakos
Susan Dawson
Renee Vester
Jonathan Cuthbertson
Thomas McCready
Gordon Burns
Malcolm Burns
Sue-Ellen Evans
Andrew Digney
Rob Henderson
Leona Nalliah
Craig Barney
Matthew Tarrant

Stephen Hodges
Alan Attwood
Matthew Guyder
Pingky Aquino
Clare Johnson
Brad Johnson
Allan Ritchie
Jeremy Kazanis
Karen Maigrot
Bitao Luo
Andrew Haigh
Robert Muir
Martin Long
Harrison Finch

Maria Martin
Gerardo Martin
Phil George
Jenette McNeilly
Andrew Keller
Thom Farquhar
Ryan Gillies
Brian Curtis
Albie Allen
Danny Gamwalla
Roy Gamwalla
Warren Hinder

President Bryan Shedden	president@mx5.com.au 0422 340 010
Vice President Glenn Thomas	vicepres@mx5.com.au 0402 410 829
Treasurer Julie Sando	treasurer@mx5.com.au 0438 538 837
Secretary Wesley Hill	secretary@mx5.com.au 0422 035 893
Club Captain Michael Soulos	captain@mx5.com.au 0413 113 399
Membership Database Keith Monaghan	membership@mx5.com.au 0418 976 279
Membership Ken & Maggie Liston	02 9872 1639
Competition David Lawler	competition@mx5.com.au 0403 070 644
Publications Mel Keller	publications@mx5.com.au 0421 069 019
Website Coordinator Greg Perry	web@mx5.com.au 0414 431 055
Regalia Alan Townsley	regalia@mx5.com.au 0414 497 976
BreakFast Club Coordinator Peter Battisson	breakfast@mx5.com.au 0417 269 325
Canberra Tony & Iris McDonald	canberra@mx5.com.au 0467 883 248
Hunter Josh Fitzgerald Lindsay Green	0404 009 304 0422 470 118 hunter@mx5.com.au
Illawarra Jan & Garry Gibson	illawarra@mx5.com.au 0458 715 000
RPM Lesia Bunn	rpm@mx5.com.au 0423 276 152
Mid North Coast Peter Rodgers	midnorthcoast@mx5.com.au 0422 237 588
Sydney Ed Crowley	sydney@mx5.com.au 0413 409 326

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

Competition/Event Secretary Barry Luttrell	eventsec@mx5.com.au 0411 231 107
Track Day Coordinator Mike Hicks	competition@mx5.com.au 0419 201 558
Club Torque Editor Mel Keller	publications@mx5.com.au 0421 069 019
Club Historian Elaine Caldwell	02 9451 1432
Technical Advisor Peter Battisson	technical@mx5.com.au

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

Bryan Shedden

President's Brief



Welcome back after the summer break. I almost wrote "Happy New Year" ... but felt that would be a little redundant since I'm writing this the day after our hugely popular Australia Day picnic at Cordeaux Dam.

I've been on annual leave for the entire school holidays, and it's back to work for me next week. I started the break with a long list of "jobs" and remarkably managed to cross some off while others were mysteriously added. The biggest job by far was buying a new family car – we ended up with a new Mazda6 wagon (a lovely thing to drive) and sold our beloved Volvo V50 ("MX50"). I also bought myself an NC as my new track toy – thanks David & Gaynor – and have been buying and fitting bits for it. Thankfully there was plenty of play time too. While Fiona slaved away at work, our 11 year old son Alex and I have been enjoying ourselves far too much on our "stay-cation" with karting, local beaches, indoor rock climbing, trampoline parks, laser tag, bushwalking, waterslides at Jamberoo Action Park, treetop climbing at Trees Adventure Nowra, and much more.

Top fun!

The biennial national festival of MX-5s – NatMeet – will be held on 15-18 February in Launceston, Tasmania. It will be done and dusted by the time you're reading this and hopefully we'll bring home the Club Championship Shield once again, plus plenty of individual trophies for Concours and track. It will be the biggest NatMeet ever with 105 MX-5s and 183 MX-5 enthusiasts in one place, and the MX-5 Club of NSW is the strongest supporter with a whopping 40 MX-5s and 65 people. We're ready to go with special team shirts and caps, travel plans to and from Tasmania, and a group booking for dinner on the "free night". It's going to be a fantastic experience and I'm especially excited by the lure of competing on two new race tracks – Symmons Plains and Baskerville.

The Member of the Year awards for the Club and individual Chapters were presented over the last couple months. Greg Perry, our Website Coordinator, does all the hard work behind the scenes with collecting the registration forms for all Club events, and compiling

them into a huge database with over 5000 entries. Thank you Greg! Selecting the winners is then a purely mathematical process and I was absolutely delighted to see the names that floated to the top for the prestigious Club MOTY and NMOTY awards. Please flick over to page 12 for the full story on why Illawarra Chapter was the place to be in 2015. Finally there is a piece of news that I'm sure everyone already knows. On the evening of 20 January at a gala ceremony in Melbourne, and followed enthusiastically via social media, the Mazda MX-5 ND was declared as the 2016 Wheels Car of the Year. It is the third win for the popular sports car, with previous generations having won the prestigious award in 1989 and 2005. Since taking delivery of my 1.5L manual ND Roadster on 5 August and already clocking up 10,000km, the win was never in doubt in my mind. Congratulations and thanks Mazda for producing a car that provides "motoring at its purest – beautifully simple, yet simply beautiful to drive."

Vale SANDRA REID



MX-5 Club members, particularly those in the Illawarra Chapter, will be deeply saddened to learn that Sandra Reid passed away last month after four months of illness.

Sandra and her husband Phil joined the MX-5 Club of NSW in 2012, and have been an integral part of the Illawarra Chapter ever since. When Peter Feutrill stepped down as Illawarra Chapter Convenor in late-2013, Sandra was quick to raise her hand and accept the task. With her husband Phil as Co-Convenor, they both completed a year of guiding the membership to the many events organised, be it runs, visiting top-of-the-line sports car mechanics, competing in track days, or simply heading up Macquarie Pass to enjoy Sandra's favourite Saturday morning event, a "Chat at Chats". This latter event is an Illawarra Chapter favourite, instigated by Sandra & Phil and organised every month of the year. Sandra frequently attended club track days at Wakefield Park, contributing to everyone's day by assisting with 'spotting' from the timing tower. This is a safety job entailing the highlighting of any off-track excursions by the drivers. Sandra was always keen to help in any way she could.

After completing her tenure as Illawarra Convenor, Sandra volunteered to become the Illawarra Chapter's Welfare Officer, with the aim of ensuring that any member who missed club events through illness knew that we are aware of their condition and that we wished them a speedy recovery. That says so much about the kind and caring person we knew Sandra to be.

Beyond Convenor-dom, Sandra and Phil continued to be very active Club members, and they were joint recipients of 2015 Illawarra Chapter Member of the Year.

Sandra leaves us with many fond memories. She always greeted you with a cheery smile, she had a dry wit and was quick with a riposte. She worked tirelessly for the Club and for other charities in her local area. We have already been missing Sandra at Club events over the last few months and she will live on in our memories. We extend our deepest condolences to Phil, their daughter Samantha and all extended family members.

With one final example of her desire to help other people, Sandra donated her body to scientific research at the local University.



CHARITY DRIVE

Careflight Donation Presentation

27 JANUARY STORY **GLENN THOMAS** PHOTOS **BRYAN SHEDDEN**

On 11 December, Bryan Shedden and Glenn Thomas had the great pleasure of presenting the donations raised by our Club members to our charity – CareFlight. CareFlight was established in 1986 to provide rapid response critical care to ill and injured people who cannot wait to get to a hospital. CareFlight doctors and nurses are specially trained in pre-hospital and transport medicine and care for their injured patients at the scene of an incident.

The four person Careflight crew include the Pilot, Air Crewman, Doctor and a Paramedic who work 12 hour shifts.

During this time the crew will typically launch in less than two minutes after receiving 000 call. Currently, Careflight care for over 5,000 patients a year with an average mission costing up to \$11,000.

Your generous support of the Club's fund-raising efforts enabled us to donate \$2715. These funds will be used for specialist training, patient care, equipment and research. Everything CareFlight has achieved has been with the support of the community they serve and you can be proud of your contribution to this outcome.

2.0L ND LAUNCH

SUTHERLAND MAZDA

Peter Diab, Dealer Principal at Sutherland MAZDA, hosted the MX-5 Club of NSW at a special event to launch the 2.0L MX-5 ND on 19 December. With just six big sleeps until Christmas; it was the last chance for over 50 of our members to test drive the latest addition to the fleet before dashing home to write that letter to Santa. Ray Conway from Nowra was the winner of the lucky door prize, an Apple iPad Mini; kindly donated by Sutherland MAZDA. Christmas wishes came true for at least two members who will take delivery of their NDs soon. Congratulations to all.





From L to R Treasure Gerald Powell, Events Coordinator Brian Roy, Avril Roy, Jocelyn Powell, Secretary Joanita Koch, Lena Hill, Chairman Bernie Koch and Wesley Hill.

CLUB AMBASSADORS

WESTERN CAPE MX-5 CLUB SOUTH AFRICA

On 2nd January Club ambassadors Wesley and Lena Hill caught up with the Western Cape MX-5 Club Committee whilst holidaying in Cape Town, South Africa. We were warmly welcomed and treated to some great Cape hospitality at café Roux in the picturesque Noordhoek Village – not far from Cape Point where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet.

Over some cold refreshments and tasty eats we had the opportunity to talk all things MX-5. For those that don't know the Western Cape MX-5 Club operates in what can only be described as MX-5 heaven being blessed by some of the most beautiful mountain ranges (read twisty mountain passes), pristine beaches (read great destinations) and many wine farms (read really great wine) to plan runs around not to mention an "official" speed limit of 120kph!

The Committee led by a very enthusiastic Chairman Bernie Koch talked about their desire to grow the membership (currently 100+) by making events more attractive whilst also encouraging greater member participation. In this light, Events Coordinator Brian Roy spoke about recent efforts to encourage members to organise Club runs – sounds familiar! They were very interested to hear about our Club Chapters, how they operate and how they have been the catalyst for growth in membership and member participation. Before we knew it was time to say our goodbyes. Strange thing although we met as MX-5 enthusiasts we parted friends – is there no end what this little sports car can achieve?

WELCOME

ALBERT ALLEN

Congratulations to Yasmin and Josh Allen of the Hunter Chapter on the safe arrival of their son Albert (Albie) Allen born on December 12, 2015. Not one to waste time, Albie joined the MX-5 Club on December 13, 2015 and is already a welcome regular at Chapter events. With assistance from Diane Barry; Albie has been outfitted with personalised regalia - an MX-5 Club of NSW onesie.

Albie has modified his MX-5



WHEELS MAGAZINE CAR OF THE YEAR

The Mazda MX-5 has taken out the coveted Wheels Magazine COTY Award for the third time. Wheels judge Nathan Ponchard declared the MX-5 "a stunning achievement... a deliberate rejection of excess to achieve a fundamental lightness of being."



SPINNING WHEELS TECH DAY

Book now for the Spinning Wheels Technical and Alignment Day on Saturday 12 March in Waterloo. Spinning Wheels is offering 12 lucky members an expert wheel alignment for the special price of only \$77. See the Club website for further details.



NEW MEMBERSHIP RECORD

As we celebrated our silver anniversary, the financial membership of the MX-5 Club of NSW passed the 800 mark. Expansion into new regional Chapters and the launch of the ND has sparked a flood of new members - 246 in 2015.

2015 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

WORDS **BRYAN SHEDDEN** PHOTO **PHIL REID**

CONGRATULATIONS

PHIL REID

Phil was presented with the 2015 MX-5 Club of NSW Member of the Year Award at the Illawarra Christmas Party at Figgy Bowlo on Saturday 5 December. Phil also won the Illawarra Chapter Member of the Year in recognition of his participation in events organised by the Chapter.



So how do you win the MOTY Award? It's all about getting involved with the Club activities by participation and helping. And boy oh boy, did our 2015 Member of the Year Phil Reid tick those boxes! Our MOTY records show that Phil participated in ...

- 8 runs with Illawarra Chapter including the weekend trip to Canberra
- 10 Illawarra Dinner Meetings
- 9 mornings at Robertson for Chat at Chats (he also organised most of them)
- 6 Club track days
- 3 driver training days
- 1 motorkhana
- 3 Technical Events
- 2 All Club events (Jinba Ittai Challenge and Red, White & Blue Run)

Phil is also the Regalia man for the Illawarra Chapter - a role that he does not receive any MOTY points for. It's wonderful to see this award going to a person who has done so much with and for the MX-5 Club of NSW. As I am a resident of the Illawarra Chapter, I was delighted to see the efforts of the current Convenors Jan & Garry Gibson, rewarded with both Member of the Year and New Member of the Year Awards going to the 'Gong.

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

JULIE FARQUAR

The 2015 New Member of the Year is Julie Farquhar. Julie and hubby Paul joined the Club in January 2015 and in only 10 months, she still earnt enough MOTY points to beat all other candidates. During the year, she participated in 7 runs (including two weekend trips), 9 Illawarra Chapter dinners, 3 Chat at Chats, assisted at the 25th Anniversary Day by organising the Wacky Races, and contributed a couple of wonderfully written Club Torque articles.

Julie is also a bit of a whiz with the sewing machine and whipped up the fabulous Illawarra cheer squad bibs for the Jinba Ittai Challenge. Sadly, Julie has also been battling a serious illness in recent weeks and it was a big effort for her to attend the presentation and be recognised for her exemplary start with the MX-5 Club of NSW. Good luck with your treatment and recovery Julie, and hearty congratulations on your award!



THE MOTY POINTS SYSTEM

Member of the Year (MOTY) points are aimed at acknowledging and further encouraging member involvement in Club activities. The MOTY Award goes to the member with the highest number of MOTY points accumulated during a full membership year - 1st November to 31st October. New MOTY points are accrued during the first full award year after joining the Club.

There are many ways to accrue MOTY points including:

- Organising a Club event - 6 per day
- Assisting to run a Club event - 3 per day
- Organising a recurring Club social event 2 per day
- Participating in a Club event - 2 per day
- Attending the AGM - 3
- Official at Club track event - full day (eg. flag marshall, grid marshall) - 4
- Official at Club track event - partial day (eg. scrutineer) - 2
- Writing an article published in Club Torque or on Website - 4
- Providing photos published in Club Torque or on Website - 4

NOTES:

- 1.The "per day" points allocation is capped at a maximum of 5 days.
- 2.Recurring Club social events include monthly dinner meetings and coffee gatherings.
- 3.A member attending/organising an event who also writes an article and/or provides photographs of the event published in Club Torque or on Website earns accumulated points.
- 4.Track events include club track days, MX-5 Cup rounds, CAMS Supersprint rounds, Nulon Nationals, Philip Island 6-hour, Driver Training Days, Motorkhana and Drift Days.
- 5."Organising a Club event" includes Event Secretary and Clerk of Course at Club track events.

Committee members and former recipients are ineligible for the MOTY Awards and are not included on the points table. See the Membership page on our website for more details.

2015 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

MOTY RUNNER UP

BOB JUDD

Runner-Up Member of the Year is Bob Judd. Another former Chapter Convenor - the Canberra Chapter - has been recognised for his participation and contribution in 2015.

Bob participated in 8 Coffee & Lies, 10 day runs / social events, and the 4 day trip to Bright. More significantly, Bob organised and participated in the 9 DAY Great Gippsland Gallivant at the end of October - an amazing feat which earned him almost two thirds of his MOTY points tally.

The runner-up presentation occurred at the Canberra Chapter Christmas Function on 13 December 2015. Thank you to Tony & Iris McDonald for looking after the presentation. Congratulations Bob.



NEW MOTY RUNNER UP

VICKI LEGGE



Runner-Up New Member of the Year is Vicki Legge. Vicki and hubby Ray joined the Club in February 2014, and completed their first full year in 2015.

Vicki has become a vital part of the RPM Chapter, and is always the first to share her photos of RPM runs on the Facebook Group.

She participated in 10 runs/events, organised or assisted with several of them, and contributed to Club Torque. RPM Convenor Lesa Bunn presented Vicki with her trophy at the Chapter meet-up for the Australia Day Run. Well done!

CHAPTER AWARDS

HUNTER - New Member of the Year Josh Allen (L) with Member of the Year Josh Fitzgerald



MID NORTH COAST - Member of the Year Greg Cox



CANBERRA - Member(s) of the Year - Jennifer and Peter Le. New MOTY - Michael Guina. The Russell Battisson Memorial Trophy for Motorsport - Jonathon Fox



We're fundraising with Entertainment™

"I love this Book! I'm discovering places I have never been before."

"I have the Entertainment™ Digital 'Book' on my smartphone and I love it!"

Each Book gives you over **\$20,000** of value!

The **entertainment** Book

OR

The **entertainment** Digital Membership

With thousands of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers, here's a taste of what's in it for you:

Sydney Membership \$70

Sydney Greater West Membership \$65

Newcastle, Central Coast and the Hunter Membership \$60

NSW South Coast Membership \$55

Up to
550
Dining
offers!

Sydney



CATALINA



Newcastle, Central Coast and the Hunter



Sydney Greater West



NSW South Coast



Up to 215
Takeaway and
Attraction
Offers!



2 for 1



\$20 value



25% off



2 for 1



2 for 1

Up to 1,600
Retail and
Travel Offers!



DAVID JONES



Up to 50% off Retail, Travel, Leisure and Accommodation

We receive 20% from every Entertainment™ Membership sold. Purchase yours today!



**To order your Book or Digital Membership
securely online visit: www.entbook.com.au/9n21323**

Alternatively, please complete your details below and post to:
1/77 Auburn Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

NSW South Coast **\$55** (including GST)

_____ Book(s) # _____ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

Canberra **\$60** (including GST)

_____ Book(s) # _____ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

Sydney and Surrounds **\$70** (including GST)

_____ Book(s) # _____ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

Sydney Greater West **\$65** (including GST)

_____ Book(s) # _____ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

Newcastle, Central Coast and the Hunter **\$60** (including GST)

_____ Book(s) # _____ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

☐ Please post my order \$10.50

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Payment type: ☐ CASH ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Credit Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____ CVV*: _____

*The CVV Number is the last 3 digits found on the back of your credit card

Cardholder's name: _____ Signature: _____

Thanks for your support! 20% from every Membership sold contributes to our fundraising.

Australia Day at Cordeaux Dam

ALL CLUB 26 JANUARY STORY and PHOTOS **BRENDAN BARR**

“Would the gloomy skies laden with threatening precipitation dampen the enthusiasm of MX-5ers for the annual Australia Day Picnic at Cordeaux Dam?”

Surely only the toughest would depart home, and only the true optimists would have the top down. The meeting venue of the Illawarra Chapter provided testament to what a tough group we are, with 12 cars arriving with the tops down. Would the Wacky Races winners be a foregone conclusion if no other chapters arrived? I could see that El Presidente was worried as we headed up the mountain in light rain (with the tops down, of course!) and negotiated huge potholes and the obligatory mad push-bike riders.

Arriving at Cordeaux Dam we were met by a solitary MX-5, with the top up, however, as he had a BBQ trailer attached to his car, he was warmly embraced! Then the deluge started, it began raining cars! I stopped bothering to count at 53.

MX-5s of every type, age, colour and description rolled into the car park, with the tops down, and disgorged a multitude of laughing, happy Australians, dressed in suitably patriotic styles, ready to enjoy our national day.

Cars were inspected, ND owners interrogated, one even consented to giving a 'lend' to a pair of likely lads. Off we went, and, out of sight, tested the rev limiter, traction control and power slides in the dirt. Thanks Pete, great car!

Tables groaned under the weight of enormous calorie loads of beautifully cooked slices, boxes of Favourites and lamington rolls. Stories were swapped, a fantastic race track was built for the youngsters and games of cricket started up.

As the sun came out, the feasting began in true Aussie style, with men grouped around the hotplate, beers in hand, complimenting each other on their culinary style. With meals devoured, it was time for some light hearted competition in the Wacky Races.

Would any Chapters stoop to cheating to win?





RPM Chapter argued that it was a 'rule interpretation,' not cheating, (two grown men carrying a 7 year old in a sack in the sack race). Their request for drug testing of the Illawarra fell on the deaf ears of the race officials. Sydney was accused of lightening the load of the waiter's trays (Rule 3 subsection C, thirst, they claimed, negates all other rules). All the teams tried to have 'Hunterwarra' disqualified on the grounds of late a betting plunge on the TAB, but investigations by Sepp Blatter cleared them of any 'fixing.'

With the races under way teams strived to make the uniquely Australian finish line of rolls of gumtree bark lined up across the track. When the sacks were finished with, two legged bands untied, bean bags dropped and trays of water filled wine glasses dropped, Hunterwarra emerged victorious, to collect their victory prizes (and a small payment from Sepp!). The prizes of caps and patch came all the way from South Africa courtesy of the MX-5 Club Western Cape - thanks to Wesley & Lena Hill who met up with them during their Christmas holiday.

Weary racers and spectators returned to the tables for afternoon tea before departing. What a great day, thanks to Bryan for the organising, we might even do it again next year!



The SLIQ Run

BreakFast Club 23 JANUARY STORY **MICHAEL SOULOS** and **PETER BATTISSON**
PHOTOS **MICHAEL SOULOS GRAHAM FLETCHER BRUCE DAVIES**

The SLIQ RUN up the Putty Road is the annual opening event for the Breakfast Club; held for members who relish the opportunity for an early morning drive.

As the run had been postponed the previous week; the weather conditions and Double Demerit Points due to Australia Day, meant only six cars were on hand for the drive. We headed off on a misty overcast morning in the crisp fresh air; roofs down hoping for the sun to make an appearance. Within fifteen minutes the sun could just be seen trying to peek through the cloudy mist. It wasn't long before we were bathed in glorious sunshine and Enjoying what is arguably the best MX-5 road within 200 kilometres of the CBD. This is an ideal way-point run; only two changes of direction, both right-hand turns.

The road was swept clean by the recent rains; providing excellent grip levels, although there were many corners with running water keeping us alert. We enjoyed a virtually un-interrupted 13 kilometre drive through the gorges, before breaking out into the farmlands before the right-hand turn to Milbrodale. Once there we stopped to re-group and bid farewell to Graham. He had to return for work so took the opportunity to back to back the Putty Road.

Onwards to Broke General Store & Service Station, before heading south to twist and turn our way through farms and forest on Paynes Crossing Road to the historic village of Woolombi for a well-deserved breakfast.

Much conversation was had by all whilst enjoying a wonderful breakfast. With everyone well satiated we headed back to Sydney. Bruce left us, so the run was down to three NC's and an SE. The traffic being light up to the M1 meant we had a dream run back. Waving the others goodbye, Lia and I then drove in the drizzle back to Canberra completing just over 1,000 kilometres for the run. A big drive well enjoyed great company, wonderful scenery and excellent food, what else could one wish for. Thanks to all for your efforts and company.



Tall Tales from the BreakFast Club

BreakFast CLUB FILE PHOTOS **TIMOTHY HEPPELL**



Twisty Mystery

BreakFast CLUB 28 NOVEMBER STORY **PETER RYAN**

It was a great run with everyone meeting up in a cafe in Crookwell, the poor cafe owner did not know what hit them with at least 30 MX-5's ranging from NA's to the new 2L ND's and a few other cars, all starting off on a 2 day run through Harden, Tumut & Khancoban where Michelle's afternoon tea was great as usual. Then off to Jindabyne for the overnight stay with a Chinese banquet for dinner.

The next day was to go home any way you wanted, some slept in recovering from a big night out, others went home licking their wounds as their cars could not keep up with the MX-5 pressure and others had a great morning run back to Tumut through some great twisting roads where motorbike riders were trying to keep up; again they were left wondering. All in all it was a great 2 days on the road where close friendships were enjoyed and new ones formed. There were lots of new people that joined this run and by the laughter that went on at dinner everyone had a great time, with lots of stories to be shared and enjoyed. If you are thinking about coming on a BreakFast Club run, then all I can say is stop thinking about it and be ready for some great roads, lots of bends, and good food to be had.

I would like to take this time to say how I enjoyed this trip and what this trip meant for me. My story starts back in November 2014, where I had my NB's motor rebuilt, Bluemax was rebuilt by a close friend Russell Battisson and as some of us know he passed away on 25 November 2014, just after finishing the work. So Bluemax meant a lot to me. However, the new ND was launched and with my partner's support, we ordered the 2L GT the first week the 1.5L was launched. The delivery date was to be 25 November 2015; I was so excited because of the date. I sold Bluemax to a new club member knowing that he would care for the car, then the wait.

On the 25th I'm on my way to pick up the new car, twenty minutes before I get it, I get a call, sorry car not ready having transport problems. No car, no trip. I called Peter to cancel my trip, not happy. On the 26th, Maria calls them, -red haired Irish girl- gives them a blast in the morning, I get a call, car will be ready by 3 pm, amazing, must of flown from Sydney, I pick the car up, trips on and no sleep that night with excitement.

28th I meet up with the other club members in Canberra with

15 kilometres on the car. We meet everyone else from Sydney in Crookwell, and then the biggest group of cars I have ever seen go to Harden. Harden is where Russell's home was, and the closer I got to Harden, the harder it was to hold back the tears. I was at the back of all the cars, we all drove past and stopped outside Russell's home, then we went down the main road past the ambulance station where he passed away, words cannot describe how I felt. We refuelled the cars, I managed to see Peter where we both took time out, cried, hugged and remembered Russell. A moment I will never forget and defines the friendship within the club. No judgement; just understanding.

We get to Gundagai what a drive; enjoying the drive, I look at my car, stone dent on the front grill, "bloody Russell throwing rocks at me", then, so happy I swap cars with Barry to share the experience with someone in the club, I get to drive an NC for the first time. Now I want to say, lending the car was supposed to be a short run. Barry lead the way, while I followed with a few other cars, we pass Tumut, no stopping there, that's OK I thought, we will change over at Elliot's way; No,



Run Along to Megalong

BreakFast CLUB 13 DECEMBER STORY **MICHAEL SOULOS**

straight past that, humm! Is he ever going to stop, no, not until Khancoban, first day in my car, lol? We have lunch and I go to my car and what, a cracked windscreen, in my day old car, "bloody Russell throwing more rocks", but low and behold Barry's car also had a cracked windscreen. We both laugh and swear at Russell and carry on.

There were lots more things happening, people getting lost, kangaroos being hit, picking up parts from the side of the road, stopping by the side of the road and having a coffee break while people are waiting for us, just sharing stories and time together, what a group of people.



For our final run for 2015, the BreakFast Club organised a short run to Megalong Valley Tea Rooms nestled amidst the farms on the valley floor. The Megalong Valley is a hidden jewel of the Blue Mountains with spectacular views of the sandstone crags and bluffs below Medlow Bath, Katoomba and Leura and the monolith of Mount Solitary.

Our run headed off from Maccas Dural for Windsor via the Cattai Creek Road for a drive up the Putty Road as far as Blaxland Ridge Road to cut across to Kurrajong. The run up the Bells Line of Road through Kurrajong Heights was uneventful until we got to Bilpin where we first encountered banks of light fog and rain all the way to the Daring Causeway turnoff at Bell. The mizzle made otherwise familiar landmarks suddenly appear out of the mist making for an interesting and challenging drive across the mountains to Lithgow. By 9am the clouds had dispersed and the sun was breaking through as we took the back road to Hartley on a road less travelled for a rundown Browns Gap. From Harley there was only one way to go and that is up the Great Western Highway to Blackheath and fun run up Mount Victoria in a line of MX-5s with the tops down in the morning sun.

Access to the Megalong Valley is over the railway crossing at Blackheath then turn right and follow the signs out of town. The drive into the valley is a great bit of MX-5 road that snakes its way down into a temperate rainforest where the tree canopy overlaps Megalong Valley Road as it hugs the course of the Pulpit Hill Creek. The road through this surviving stretch of Gondwana forest is smooth hotmix that meanders for a few kilometres before breaking out open farmland a few kilometres from Megalong Valley Tea Rooms. All in all a pleasant short run into a big long valley that leads into the Jamison Valley State Forest overlooked by the Three Sisters and spectacular views from Echo Point Lookout.

We welcomed Warren Hinder who had just joined our Club and was waiting on his membership number. It is hoped he enjoyed his first Club event. We also met up with Ian and Carmel Hatherly who drove over from Orange to join us in Lithgow to experience a MX-5 Club event. A hearty breakfast was enjoyed by all and speaking for myself I was back home to Watsons Bay before 1.00pm for lunch after a great early morning run with like-minded enthusiasts.



Great Gippsland Gallivant

CANBERRA 24 OCTOBER - 01 NOVEMBER STORY AND PHOTOS **BOB JUDD** AND **BRICET KLOREN**



On Saturday, 24 October, our gallant band of Gallivanterers departed from Hume for nine day, eight night, 2,200 kilometre trip around the Gippsland region of Victoria. Five cars travelled to Lakes Entrance. We stopped for morning tea at Nimmitabel Bakery, had lunch at Cann River and stopped briefly at Marlo. Marlo is the township where the Snowy River meets the sea. We also detoured to visit the Stoney Creek Rail Trestle Bridge, near Nowa Nowa, built in 1914/15, which greatly impressed the very civil engineers amongst us. Whilst we thought this was to be our only bit of dirt road for the trip, it proved, more accurately, to be our first bit of dirt. Dinner at the Lakes Entrance RSL proved to be convenient, enjoyable and entertaining. Instead of the customary meat raffle, the local sewing group supplied all the prizes for the fund-raising raffle. We all bought tickets, but somehow completely missed out on winning any prizes. We were delighted by the generosity of the locals who gave each of our ladies a small embroidered keepsake to take home to make up for missing out in the raffle. Things were

starting to look good.

Lakes Entrance laid on perfect weather for top-down driving for the two days we spent there. Day 2 took in a short drive of 20-odd kilometres to Bruthen through some most scenic back-roads to the Bullant Boutique Brewery for a cleansing ale, cider, or the inevitable cup of tea. More back-roads led to the Metung Hotel at Bancroft Bay for a seafood lunch overlooking the magnificent lakes. Dinner that night at the Ferryman's Seafood Café proved to be the best seafood we could imagine and all enjoyed the relaxed company and fine fare.

Day 3 saw farewell to Jill and Dennis Wicklander whilst the remainder of the group headed south to Sale for an overnight stop. We detoured to Maffra to visit the Gippsland Vehicle Collection Motor Museum, where everybody was able to find an old vehicle that took their fancy. Shopping in the afternoon for some – the Swing Bridge and Nature Walk for others meant that there was something in Sale for everyone. It was then tops-down for a long days drive to Phillip Island. No highways for us on



Day 4 as we visited, the petro-chemical gas works near Longford, then the Customs House Inn at Port Albert for pre-arranged scones and coffee. We enjoyed a sandwich lunch then at Wilsons Promontory, followed by a wander along the sands at Squeaky Beach, before finally reaching our destination at the Seahorse Motel at Cowes on Phillip Island.

Warm and clear skies welcomed us for Day 5, which was a free day to do as you pleased on Phillip Island. Whilst some visited chocolate factories and art galleries, three of us visited the GP Track for the walking tour of the facility. We were pleasantly surprised to witness 12 new Lamborghinis being put through their paces by their new owners. Of course, you can't go to Phillip Island and not go and see the penguins! What a great experience it is to witness, seemingly on cue, 20,000 little fellows all coming ashore at sunset and then hurrying off to find their own burrows.

Day 6 saw the group head to the Balgownie Estate Resort in the Yarra Valley, via some, eh, interesting (dirt)

roads between Cockatoo and Emerald. Following lunch and a little shopping in Yarra Glen, Diana and Ken Keeling joined us at Balgownie Estate resort and stayed with us for the remainder of the tour. The wines and the food were terrific, except for a small mix up in whose steak was whose.

Good weather was still with us for Day 7 as Rosemary and Michael Dunning left our group to travel home. The rest of us took the 280 kilometre drive from Balgownie to Beechworth. We travelled through the absolutely stunning Yarra Ranges National Park from Healesville to Marysville – you MUST do this road sometime in your life! We refreshed with a lovely morning tea at Made in Marysville & Surrounds Café, Gallery and Provadore, before driving on to the Mansfield Regional Produce Store for a gorgeous lunch. Then it was on to Beechworth via Whitlands and the King Valley.

We arrived at the Linaker Art Deco Hotel in Beechworth in the late afternoon and were joined by Canberra member Patrick McBride. The rooms at the Linaker used to be the Nurses Quarters

of the old mental asylum, but have been thoroughly refurbished and modernised. Well worth a stay! The hotel includes a quality French restaurant where we dined exquisitely on Breton gallettes, a savoury filled buckwheat crepe that really hit the spot.

On Day 8 the rain tumbled down and encouraged shopping and coffee drinking, which was actually a very good result for most. Our final day, Day 9, saw us heading home by dodging showers as we travelled home via Granya, Jinjelic, Tumbarumba, Tumut and Jugiong. Somehow, we managed to stay basically dry on a day when incredible storms seemed to be all around us.

Apart from a blown catalytic converter on my little NA on the final leg home, we all travelled safely and incident free. Tony and Iris McDonald and Kerrie and Matt Shepherdson joined us for the full 2,200 km trip. We thank everyone who joined us for their great company and their good humour (especially when we got to the dirt roads!).



Fish and Chip Run

CANBERRA 22 NOVEMBER STORY AND PHOTOS **MALCOLM BERNHARDT**

The SteamPacket is your atypical country pub, but their fish and chips lunches had been recommended, and they have an excellent outdoor beer garden. Plus, their resident show rooster is friendly. But not excessively so. A good venue for a quiet Sunday Club Run. And as there were other functions on the same day, our Run numbers would be quite small, or so I thought. So the busy Kings Highway and the equally busy Woodworks Café, Bungendore (for coffee) should be OK in the circumstances. Well, that was the thinking. However, 25 participants in 15 MX-5's rolled up on the day. Ohhh Lord. And my initial trepidation as we rocked in to the Woodworks Café was realised – the place was jam packed with customers.

Completely unruffled, our large, hungry group ordered hot scones, cakes and similar foodstuffs. 'Well, we aren't going to get out of here until next week', I said to myself. But, the Café was excellent in delivery, our orders were filled and we were fed, watered, bill paid for and back in our little machines right on time. The only delay was your writer who'd misplaced his CB radio. Bungendore to Braidwood was a pleasant country drive, the only thing worthy of note was volume of returning coast traffic and the police presence. The Kings Highway of a Sunday is no place for speeding. The section from Braidwood east still has extensive road works over about 15 kilometres to the top of the Clyde mountain. Police also patrol this area regularly on weekends, as well as the 70 kilometre limit downhill section. That part was steady but uneventful and we made the SteamPacket in good time for lunch.

Bowls of hot chips came to the tables as the luncheon plates were being prepared. Clearly, the Woodworks' hot scones were but a distant memory. I'd previously instructed Dennis W that I wanted fine weather at 21c. I think it may have been a little higher but it was pleasant nonetheless. It certainly didn't affect group appetites as the fish and chip lunch was devoured with enthusiasm. Around 2 o'clock we made our way back up the mountain. It was desirable to avoid the final onslaught of weekend traffic returning to Canberra plus there was coffee awaiting us back at Bungendore to conclude the day's outing.



Once again, the annual Marques in the Park (MITP) event was held in glorious Canberra early summer weather, with just a few clouds around later in the day to help keep the temperature down. MITP provides a stage for enthusiastic owners of vehicles of all types to show off their pride and joy to other car fanciers. While many car clubs were represented at MITP, a goodly number of vehicles were also shown by members of the public not affiliated with any club. By my estimation, this year's event attracted over 200 cars ranging from the exotics to everyday sedans to an aged house-moving prime-mover. The Canberra Chapter was represented by eleven gleaming cars (four NAs, three NBs, three NCs, and one ND) with, as for last year, all series on display. Jan Broughton's red ND certainly attracted a lot of admiration from the passing throng, as did the club BBQ trailer. Dave 'Bolts' Bolton's highly modified yellow NA attracted more than its fair share of attention, and he may have to be banned from future events so other MX-5s on display get a 'look-in'. One visitor also displayed his black NC with our group. The Club banner and the teardrop flag clearly indicated our site, and certainly provided a focal point for people interested in enquiring about the club's activities.

Unlike last year's MITP, we were far removed from the Porsches and Ferraris, so were easily able to outshine our more mundane neighbours! Over all, the generally high standard of display of golden oldies, exotics, super-modifieds, and muscle cars provided a wonderful spectacle (and some great photo opportunities) for those who attended the event. Our chapter members all enjoyed their time at MITP, and will hopefully volunteer as participants in next year's event.



Marques in the Park

CANBERRA 08 NOVEMBER STORY AND PHOTOS **TONY McDONALD**



Five Hills Run

CANBERRA 24 JANUARY STORY AND PHOTOS **NORM AND ROZ BARKER**

This was the first run for 2016, our annual Five Hills Run, on an overcast but warm day. Good conditions for the tops down on a cruise around Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin, going up and down five of the hills. There were 21 MX-5s and one Morgan (it did have an MX-5 gearbox) lined up in front of the Russell offices. After a briefing, Norm and Roz Barker led the group to the first hill, Mt Pleasant (Hill 1) which is in the grounds of Duntroon/ADFA. We had a short stop to take in the view and a chat. The convoy then continued to Mt Ainslie (Hill 2), which involved a steep climb on a winding road. Another short stop and the convoy attracted plenty of attention from others there. On the way down we had an encounter with an echidna crossing the road.

The route then took us past the Australian War Memorial and down Anzac Parade. At the bottom of Anzac Parade the group turned right and followed the lake along to Black Mountain (Hill 3). This is another steep and winding road but we didn't stop, just circled the car park with the leader meeting the tail end as they made it to the top. As it was a Sunday evening the roads very quiet and although it was a large convoy it was able to keep together, which made a spectacular sight going around the lake.

At the bottom of Black Mountain we made our way west to the National Arboretum and up to the top of Dairy Farmers Hill (Hill 4). As the clouds were looking threatening we didn't stop here.

We then drove past Canberra Zoo and across the top of Scrivener Dam, through Curtin and Deakin and up Red Hill (Hill 5). At the top the convoy formed up in the car park for some photos, which show three different MX-5 models lined up at the front and Barry's NB at the rear.

The convoy then proceeded down the hill to Melbourne Avenue around Parliament House via State Circle and to Lennox Gardens for a BBQ/picnic.



Shoalhaven River Cruise

ILLAWARRA 08 NOVEMBER STORY DI AND JOHN PULLEN
PHOTOS **BRENDAN BARR**



This was our first full run with the Illawarra Chapter. We had done some of the Joadja Winery Christmas drive, but then had to leave before lunch for a prior engagement; however we did meet some of the members and enjoyed the drive to the highlands. We experienced one Chats run for coffee early in the year and then left for six months caravanning in Western Australia. So, after being members for a year, it was time for a full day with the club. Sunday morning arrived, overcast but dry, and eight MX-5s and one Volvo assembled at Hungry Jacks, Haywards Bay where some coffee and breakfasts were enjoyed. The group travelled through Jamberoo, enjoying the smooth winding roads to Kiama for a stop at the Blowhole. From Kiama, roofs up for the rain, we headed south through the bends, at a controlled, law abiding pace. We left the highway at Gerringong and took the low road to Nowra, turned off at the helicopter and parked at the Nowra Steakhouse, where we were to enjoy our lunch following the cruise. Following a short walk to the boat, we boarded, checked out the choice of three viewing areas, location of the morning tea and took a seat ready for departure. Cathy and Neil had now joined us, minus the MX-5, as it was still in track mode. Plenty of chat going on ... Bob Collins related an interesting account about selling a Harley to a Rebels man named Alex (a nice chap he assured

us!). Luckily the deal was done without any standover tactics required by Bob. We motored up the Shoalhaven River, past the golf club, caravan park, zoo and adventure park, spotting birds, caves, tracks, wombat holes with a knowledgeable commentary along the way from skippers Michael and John. Morning tea of coffee, tea cake and biscuits was enjoyed for this hour long cruise up river.

By this time Bryan was looking a little lost surely this couldn't be? Peter Feutrill was nowhere to be seen and couldn't be blamed (this time anyway). Bryan's blue MX-5 jacket was missing! Gone overboard? Stolen by the First Mate? Left on shore? Check the photos to find the clues to solve the riddle! Once past the Shoalhaven Lodge site, we turned for the return trip downstream. Elvis was playing, but Jan and Gary wouldn't demonstrate their rock 'n' roll dance skills for us. Once tied up, goodbyes and thanks said to our skippers, it was off the restaurant for the anticipated lunch. Just in time too, as Alex had closed his e-book and was looking for food. Decision time! Entrée and main, OR main and desert? Oh! And what to drink? Great cruise, delicious food, friendly company and a good time getting to know everybody. Then it was off home with cars heading off in all directions. A big thankyou to Hella for her efforts in booking the cruise and the lunch venue. Well done.





Christmas Wrap

Just some of the highlights from our Chapter Christmas events



Hunter Show n'Shine

HUNTER 22 NOVEMBER STORY **PHIL MAYO** PHOTOS **PHIL MAYO PETER HILKMANN**



Show and Shine in the Hunter Chapter is gaining momentum as members get the clean and polish "bug" and has grown from a normal monthly run with a quick line up and assessment during lunch to some seriously prepared cars being properly judged and points allocated. This year's competition was held on Sunday 22nd of November. The event started at the usual place - Beresfield BP Hungry Jacks with an hour of "Coffee and Lies", briefing and then 18 cars headed off to enjoy a 100 kilometres of the Lower Hunter. Cloudy skies meant cool driving through Kurri Kurri, Maitland, Woodville, Clarencetown and then along the Williams River to Raymond Terrace.

We parked among the historic shop fronts and walked to the Junction Inn to have a nice pub lunch looking over the Hunter River. It was a short 5 kilometre drive to Finnan Park on the bank of Grahamstown Dam where we had a nice grass area to line up, sort of, in model order for the Judging.

Bob Pimm judged the only NA and went on to help Rachel Crawford Judge the NBs and Peter Hilkmann and I judged the NCs and the sole ND. The quality of car preparation was exceptional for a majority of the cars. And a lot of the members could be seen doing their own judging for the peoples choice award. After the judging we headed off through Medowie and past the Williamstown RAAF Base to Stockton on the Newcastle Harbour for afternoon tea and presentation of prizes. The winners were: NA – Phil Mayo NB – Helen Green NC – Ray Noonan NB – David Gazzard People's Choice – Stephen Carter (Kountry Kousin) with a close second – Ray Noonan. A marvellous MX-5 day and voted the "Best Hunter Show and Shine Eva".

Hunter Mid Week Run

HUNTER 14 JANUARY STORY AND PHOTOS **KARL MITTMAN**



This Mid Week run was the BEST EVA to date. 18 Members in 13 MX-5's is a great turn out in anyone's language especially being a Thursday whilst most people are at work. Lots of new faces whom I hadn't met as yet but knew they were going to be friendly and fun. Welcome to the Hunter Chapter Mid Week to Clive Jones, Bill Douglas, Val Stewart, Liam Price, Jonathan Davies, Christopher Breen, and David Gazzard. Some are long term members of the MX-5 Club who we haven't seen for a while so welcome back guys. Usual mix of NA's, NB's, NC's and 2 Brand New ND's made up the convoy. We Left Beresfield and travelled along the Hunter Expressway to depart onto the Golden Highway just before Singleton. It was a sight to see; massive open cut coal mines for miles and miles. One comment on the CB was, "Not very pretty is it?" And I agree. Hopefully one day it will be back to the pretty pastures we once had out this way. A 10 minute convenience stop and leg stretch in Jerrys Plains and we were off again.

Onward Ho to the settlement of Denman and Historic Sandy Hollow then through some fantastic mountain bends to Muswellbrook which was our choice for a relaxing, laid back talkative Lunch at the local RSL Club. Cold Beers on a 39 degree day are somehow, Just Magic and the mix of Aussie & Chinese menu satisfied everyone.

After much talk and waiting for Barry to finish his Coffee (LOL), our next leg of the run was onto Singleton via the New England Highway/Way and onto Queen Street. This is where the fun factor came into play.

Anyone that has driven the Gresford-Road, Elderslie, Stanhope, Maitland-Vale Roads knows what I'm referring to here. Its an insanely well sealed, not much travelled road (which is a good thing) as you can really loosen the reins and Drive your MX-5 as it should be driven - somewhat spirited. Some took advantage of this offering whilst others just enjoyed the sensational scenery. We re-grouped in Bolwarra-Heights to say our farewells to the BEST EVA, Mid Week run to date, oh did I say how hot it was? Thank you one and all for being a part of this most successful day doing what we all love to do.

Getting Their Backsides Trackside

HUNTER 19 JANUARY STORY AND PHOTOS **GRANT WEBBER**



The Hunter Chapter's first social night of the year found us heading toward Trackside restaurant in Gosford. Seven cars with twelve people met at Morisset straight after work in perfect MX-5 summer weather; the end of a hot day with the sun still up but no longer melting faces! A 7.30pm booking necessitated a reasonably straight run down the Pacific Motorway, with a short detour via Ourimbah and Lisarow to put us on to Manns Road and on to Trackside, where a couple of Central Coast based members met us.

Bad pun run report titles aside (with due apologies/ acknowledgement to Mike Raymond!), Trackside is an excellent place to visit for the motoring enthusiast. The owner has a long history in Australian motorsport and the interior of the restaurant is full of memorabilia and even full size race cars. The display vehicles change over time, with the current collection boasting a Group A Ford Sierra Cosworth from the British Touring Car Championship, a very pretty little (original) Mini Cooper, a Fiat 500 Abarth from a recent Bathurst 12 Hour campaign and an open wheeler in McLaren-esque livery from Mika Hakkinen era; though as it was not moving it was easy to mistake for a 2015 McLaren-Honda! Trackside is easy to access on the corner of Manns Road and Central Coast Highway, and the surrounding large shopping precinct means parking of a night-time is easy.

After a fantastic meal and a few tall tales it was time for the run home, taking in some more MX-5 friendly roads. A quick left at Narara put us on to Mangrove Road and a great uphill blast toward Strickland State Forest. After crossing the M1 Motorway at the top of "Ourimbah Hill" we turned right on to Dog Trap Road for the downhill mogul-run in to the back of Ourimbah. From here we followed the old Pacific Highway through Kangy Angy to Tuggerah, then Old Maitland Rd, Hue Hue Rd and Wyee Rd to Morisset. The cooler air and the darkness provided the perfect setting for a short but enjoyable drive.



Sounding Up

STORY AND PHOTOS WARREN LEWINGTON

“Kermit”, a 1998 NB, recently demanded a speaker upgrade. Some JL Audio C5650X 6 inch Coaxial Speakers from Soundmaster if you please. And for owner Warren Lewington (aka Mr Magoo) - what Kermit wants, Kermit gets.



Removing MX-5 door trims comes with the old “screw hidden under the armrest carpet trick.” That solved, the auto electricians tricky-plug on-the-tweeter curse was experienced. Kermit unceremoniously dummy-spat the old tweeters from the door trims, and the door-mounted speakers.



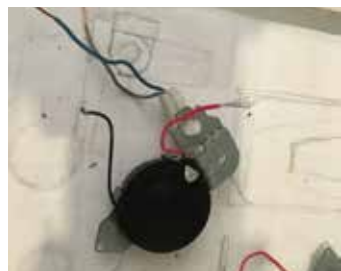
I re-used the OEM tweeter plugs and some of the original looms. I soldered standard speaker wire (monster cable is unnecessary) from the OEM door speaker feeds, and soldered the new door speaker connections. I created neat looms to the splitter boxes, and checked the new looms wouldn't foul window movement.



The old door speakers were carefully divested of their mounting blocks with a chisel. The tweeters original brackets were kept.



Door holes? They were already there! Thanks MAZDA engineers. Then there was splitter unit bracketry.



Mounting the new tweeters onto the original brackets. I used gasket silicone - crude - but effective on several counts: it sticks stickily, has high frequency vibration absorption effect (crucial to speakers), mounts compactly, and, well; it was all I had available.



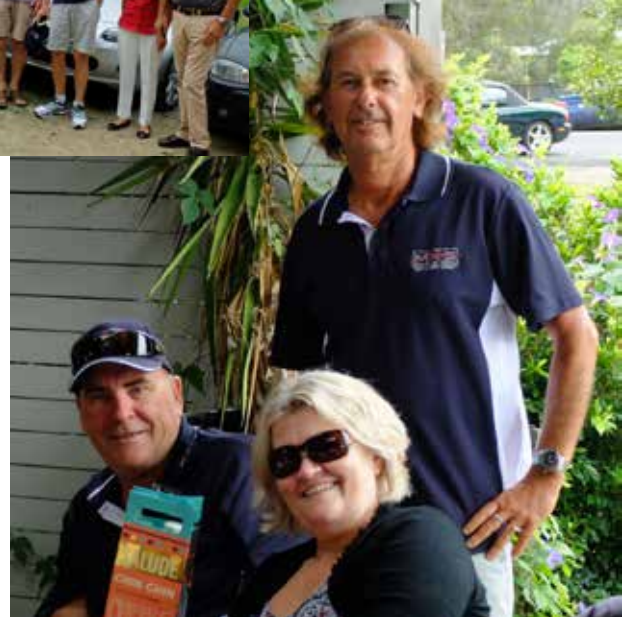
I developed a cunning plan: Bunnings® aluminium, cut, drilled and bent with g-clamps on my makeshift bench. Oh Magoo, you've done it again!



The door speaker mounts required Dremel® surgery and my late Dad's tin-snip and tucks. The new door speakers screwed perfectly into the surgically corrected mounts, which thereto properly screwed the doors.



It was appropriate these awesome speakers first played Supertramp's “Take the Long Way Home” – which was where Kermit's next hop, skip and jump took us!



Rollands Plains Run

MID NORTH COAST 12 DECEMBER STORY **GREG COX** PHOTOS **KEIRAN RODGERS**

Seven MX-5s departed the Rivermark Cafe in Port Macquarie for our pre-Christmas lunch run to Rollands Plains. Driving north up the Pacific Highway, we turned off at Telegraph Point and travelled west on the winding back roads through lush dairy farming country to the small village of Rollands Plains. After a short break and photo opportunity, we returned to the Pacific Highway via a different route, then south to Port Macquarie for lunch at the Rivermark Café.

A long lunch was enjoyed by 13 members and friends capping off a great year of runs and social activity for the Mid North Coast Chapter. Thanks to Peter Rodgers our Chapter Convenor for his efforts this year, and our chapter sponsors including Port Macquarie Mazda and Rivermark Café. During lunch, Peter presented chapter awards to Mike Walkden-Brown for organizing our popular overnight weekend runs, and Kevin and Carole Attrill for the highest number of runs attended. Our lunch host Ian Caldwell received his 5 year membership pin, and Greg Cox was presented with a plaque recognising him as Mid North Coast Member Of The Year. We look forward to gathering again in 2016 for our first run in January.



Gingers Creek Run

MID NORTH COAST 14 NOVEMBER STORY **GREG COX** PHOTOS **PETER RODGERS**

With storms and heavy rain threatening, our contingent of 7 cars departed the Port Macquarie service centre for a short run to our morning tea stop at Byabarra. We were pleased to welcome new MNC chapter member Graham Rochester and his new white ND to the group. Barry and Jenny Luttrell from the Hunter chapter also joined us, who are becoming welcome regulars to many of our events.

After some congestion leaving the car park, we cruised west to Wauchope, then up into the hinterland and through to Blue Poles café at Byabarra.

This is one of our favourite dining spots, where we sit outside on a large balcony enjoying sweeping views down a valley and out to mountain ranges in the distance. Our host Ian and staff served their usual selection of tempting treats that were hard to resist.

Appetites satisfied, we then travelled back to the Oxley highway, where we turned west and climbed into the mountains to enjoy the tight winding road through to our lunch destination at Ginger's Creek Roadhouse. Our only delays were some roadwork stop lights that afforded us the opportunity to raise our tops as light rain was starting to fall, and a low loader carrying earth-moving equipment that kindly pulled over to let us past. Upon reaching Ginger's Creek, 4 cars continued along the highway for a short run to enjoy the winding road before turning back to join the remainder of the group at our lunch venue.

After a leisurely lunch over good conversation, we departed Ginger's Creek to travel back down to the coast, and make our separate ways home. The weather remained on our side with only a few showers on the return trip, completing another enjoyable run.



Christmas Bells Run

SYDNEY 27 DECEMBER STORY **GUY COLES**
PHOTOS **ED CROWLEY ADAM RUMJAHN**

“Shall I organise a run between Christmas and New Year ?” I said to Steph. “Yes”, she said, “but we won’t get many people coming – that’s family time.....”

So I posted the run up on the club website, printed out a dozen or so run sheets at work and thought nothing more of it. I figured a nice quiet run from Richmond along the Bells Line of Road would be a pleasant day finishing up at Blackheath for a Pub lunch could be a bit of fun.

You can imagine my amazement when I arrived at Richmond McDonalds to find FORTY THREE cars waiting! The car park was utterly full with all models present. This was going to be a logistical nightmare just to get out of the car park and through the traffic lights.

We set out in staggered groups due to the traffic flow but regrouped in Bilpin to let the back markers catch us. Here the true enormity of the numbers hit us, a total of 40 MX-5’s along with 3 other cars and 3 motor bikes. It was a truly remarkable turnout.

From here we proceeded north along the Bells Line of Road and literally experienced 4 seasons over the next 105 kilometres with light rain, fog and sunshine – you would never have guessed it was summer in Australia. From Bilpin we proceeded through Mt Tomah and rather than turning left at Bell, we instead proceeded to Dargan and then Lithgow and then followed the Great Western Highway along to Blackheath.

Pulling into the pub at Blackheath we rapidly filled their car parking area and when we entered the bistro area to order our lunch, I thought that the publican’s eyes we going to pop out of his head and we entirely filled their outdoor eating area.

All in all a great day and a fantastic run and a big thank you to the RPM’ers for joining us on the day !



Drifting Away

MOTORSPORT 31 JANUARY STORY AND PHOTOS **DEREK MOCK**

In late 2015 an expressions of interest (EOI) was sent out to club members to see if anyone would be interested in a drift day. As soon as I read this I dropped what I was doing and sent an email immediately. It turns out, so did many, many people. To those who missed out – it was one of the most fun days of my life! But don't despair, it was such a runaway success the club will be looking into organising more in the future. Everyone who was fortunate (and quick) enough to respond to the EOI and make it on the day were equally beaming with a grin as big and goofy as that found on an NC2. The day started early for me as I woke whilst it was still dark. I was simply too excited to go back to sleep so I decided to get a head start on the 3 hour drive from Sydney to the Sutton Road Driving Training Centre just outside of Canberra. A stop at the golden arches provided breakfast which turned out to be a good thing as most of us did not bother with going out for lunch on the day for fear of missing out on a turn on the skid pan! Fifth Gear Motoring who ran the day provided plenty of snacks and drinks, which ended up being lunch for most.

The day was organised into eight lots of two drivers, or rather, at the beginning of the day – pirouettes! Yes, there were more spins than a backpacker's laundromat. However the lads from Fifth Gear provided expert tuition and with plenty of time on the skid pan each, even the most ham-fisted of us managed to look like Takumi Fujiwara (Google him if you don't know!) by the end of the day.

Apart from very spotty cars from the water flying everywhere, there was no damage to cars or humans. OK, maybe egos, but that's it. What we all did walk away with though was a greater understanding of the handling characteristics of our cars and how to greater control a car that is losing traction. I can honestly say that I am now much more confident of being able to control my car should I be unfortunate enough to be in an emergency situation where the car has lost traction. Should you see another skid pan or drift day on the club calendar then I thoroughly recommend you book yourself in, have an incredible time and learn more about car control at the same time. After I have booked in first, of course!





CAMS Supersprint 2015 Championship Round 8

MOTORSPORT 22 NOVEMBER STORY **DAVID LAWLER**
PHOTOS **DAVID LAWLER JOHN SMITH**

The 8th and final round of the NSW Supersprint Championship was run by NSW Road Racing Club at Wakefield Park on the weekend of the 14th and 15th November, in conjunction with the 2015 Australian Supersprint Championship.

The MX-5 Club of NSW was represented by 13 members, although with many regulars missing. It was the first event this season where the MX-5 Club members did not outnumber the drivers from every other club. Even so, we managed to come 2nd to ARDC, scoring 304 points to their 376 points. There were about 100 drivers in total, divided into 6 run groups, with up to 17 cars in each group. Drivers had the opportunity for at least 6 runs on each day.

The event was well run by NSWRRRC, with Tony King heard to complain he didn't get enough time between runs to get himself a coffee! Other than some drizzle mid Saturday which progressed to rain later in the afternoon, the weekend saw good conditions, particularly on Sunday. NSWRRRC successfully trialed a new "hot track" process, releasing each run group as the previous group cleared turn 4 at Wakefield, and it seems to work well. I expect we will see this same process applied at Supersprints in 2016, at both Wakefield Park and SMSP.

The results for MX-5 Club members were:

Class 1B - Stewart Temesvary 2nd

Class 1C - Phillip Donnelley grabbed 3rd

Class 2A - Scott McGarry and Tony Williams were 1st & 2nd

Class 2B - Derek Mock and Jonathon Fox were 3rd & 4th

Class 3B - Peter Browning came 3rd

Class 4B - Chris White was 1st, and David Lawler, Ed Cory and Ian Combes were 3rd through 5th

Class 6A - Tony King was 1st and Glenn Thomas was 3rd.

Tony King set a new 6A class record of 1:09.643 breaking his own record from earlier in the year. As this was the first time the Australian Supersprint Championship has been held at Wakefield Park, Tony also gets the national record. Well done Tony! Chris White won class 4B, and so now has the national record for that class at Wakefield Park. Well done to you too Chris.



CAMS Supersprint 2015 Championship Wrap Up

MOTORSPORT STORY **DAVID LAWLER**



This has been a fantastic Supersprint year for the MX-5 Club, backing up our 2014 championship win with a record 10th NSW Supersprint Club Championship in 2015. The top 5 placings in the club championship were:

MX-5 Club of NSW
4,056 points
ARDC
2,981 points
HSV/HDT Owners Club of NSW
1,771 points
NSW Road Racing Club
1,601 points
Manly Warringah Sporting Car Club
1,440 points



The MX-5 Club had the greatest level of participation of all clubs in the 2015 championship, with 41 members contributing points over the year. We had the largest number of competitors at all but one round and also won the round point-scores at all but that same one event this year.

I want to make a special mention of Phillip Donnelly and Jon Fox, who both competed at all 8 Supersprint rounds this year. Phillip also had the highest individual contribution of points towards our club championship score. Thank you very much Jon and Phillip for going above-and-beyond.

Congratulations to the 41 club members who contributed to the 2015 championship win. Thanks to all of you for your efforts.

Phillip Donnelly
Russ Maxwell
Gus Elias
Scott McGarry
Chris White
Mel Keller
Tony King
Mike Hicks
Phil Munnings
Jon Fox
Matt Perry
Verne Johnson
Tony Williams
Keith Monaghan
Wade Jenkins
David Lawler
Cameron Williams
Andrew Fordham
Ed Cory
Stewart Temesvary
Craig Gartlacher
Ian Combes
Mike Kelsey
Peter Browning
Ralph Thompson
Greg Bunn
Dennis Chiswick
Mark Palmer
Greg Perry
Kevin Addison
Bryan Shedden
Steven Williams
Phil Ashton
Daniel Gardner
John Karayannis
Mitchell Bennett
Luke Kovacic
Derek Mock
Baden West
Phil Abraham
Glenn Thomas



Nulon Nationals

Round 1

MOTORSPORT 16 JANUARY STORY **STEVE GREEN**
PHOTOS **DAVID LAWLER**



Round One of the Nulon Nationals was run on a overcast Saturday the 16th of January on the wet skidpan at Sydney Motorsport Park. A mix up in the class structure for the series in the off season meant the clubs would be opting for varied strategies to try and walk away with the most points for their club.

Four of our members formed our team as we attempted to make the most of this event as it is the one that best plays to the strengths of our cars.

Todd Herring was driving his brother's NA6 turbo but struggled with understeer and a handbrake that didn't want to co-operate. In typical fashion, although in a very different discipline to his usual circuit racing, he was very entertaining to watch.

David Lawler returned in his raucous NB race car and would be our sole representative in the Naturally Aspirated class. David drove very well but an unfortunate wrong direction (or WD in the Motorkhana world) relegated him to fifth in class.

Verne Johnson drove a great event and was at the pointy end of the 2WD Turbo class all day. The practice Verne has got from the last few club Motorkhanas has seen his times improve a lot and with his increased experience, his speed has improved and Verne would grab 3rd in the class.

Scotty Gibbs was defending his 2WD title. After the first test of the day, Scotty lead the 2WD Turbo class and after a lot of to and fro with the leading 86 Club driver, took the class win and retained fastest 2WD Turbo honours.

This year's event was much tighter than last year's with massive improvements up and down the results page and every class being hotly contested. All of our drivers improved and were visibly faster than last year. It is quite clear that experience gets results as those with the most experience seem to get the good results. Good thing we have 3 Motorkhanas this year to build some more experience amongst our club members!

Round 2 heads to the mighty Mount Panorama for a two day Hillclimb event which promises to be amazing.



42 Club Torque



MAJOR SPONSORS



23 Kemble Court
Mitchell ACT
(02) 6262 2680



113 Fairford Road
Padstow NSW
1 300 669 620



PO Box 12
Hamilton NSW 2303
1800 028 822



mazda

www.mazda.com.au
1800 034 411

CHAPTER SPONSORS



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



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



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

