

club

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

TORQUE



INTERSTATE CHALLENGE

CLUB TRACK DAY

2013 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

ALSO 2013 NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

MX-5 CUP ANNOUNCED

FEATURE!

SUMMER 2014

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club TORQUE

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

SUMMER 2014



TIMOTHY
HEPPELL



ANDREW
LORD



From the Torque Bunker.....

Have you heard the news? Have you read the papers? Have you streamed Al-Jazeera? Wherever you look, current affairs are pointing us in the direction of freedom. Time to stop fighting those early year holiday hangovers and take some inspiration from some of the world's top stories.

Make like Schapelle and prise your way out of your confines to sample some resort style living. Get yourself and your MX-5 to some idyllic coastal getaway and enjoy some time away from your cellmates sorry workmates before our balmy weather deserts us.

Take a lead from the English cricket team and pay scant regard to your day job and schedule some holidays to see the sights. MX-5s are a wonderful way to travel like a tourist in your own state as you sample delights from valleys lush and to ranges vast. Be safe in the knowledge that your driving couldn't be any worse than the English top order's efforts.

Derive some inspiration from the French Prime Minister and try something new. Perhaps it's a road you've been meaning to explore. A new polish you've been meaning to apply. A line into a corner you've been daring to risk. Whatever your choice, make it an affair to remember.

To get you started, we've included a few hints over the next 30-odd pages to whet your appetite.

Best,

The Torque Team

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NSW MEMBERSHIP REPORT

CURRENT
MEMBERSHIP



We are still mopping up the membership renewals from the October – November period. Please check your membership card to see if you are still financial, if not please renew or contact membership@mx5.com.au

-Keith Monaghan

NEW MEMBERS Welcome!

Oke Acton
Bill Adams
James Alcorn
Thomas Battisson
Damien Battisson
Andrew Boydell
Michael Brandwood
George Brech
Annette Brogan
Jason Brown
Meredith Buining
Barry Byerley
Sean Byers
Neville Candy
Celso de Souza
Rhonda Evans
John Finch
Stephen Fisher
Jacob (Jay) Flak
Hazel Gibbs
Sandra Grob
Andy Harris
Russell Harris
Chris Henwood
Warren Hotz

Tammie Hotz
Jennifer Hyde
John Hyde
Anny Jacopetti
Janet Jasinski
John Jasinski
Denis Kasza
Carolyn Lindquist
Cillum Lindquist
Janet Long
Jamie Martin
Mitchell Moar
Benjamin morrison
Richard Nicholls
Luke Otten
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Rosa Silivinec
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PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

BY BRYAN SHEDDEN



Marulan. Welcome aboard Michael and Daniel.

We have launched a series of MX-5 only races for 2014. This series is called the MX-5 Cup and consists of five races to be held at Wakefield Park over the year. Our website has all the up-to-date information regarding the MX-5 Cup Racing Championship such as the calendar of race meets, rules & regulations, and the entry form.

The last few months have seen a swag of awards being presented. Here are the highlights:

The CAMS Awards Presentation in November celebrated the 60th anniversary of CAMS. Our Club received a CAMS 20 Years Club Award that was accepted by Competition Secretary, David Lawler. Also present for the awards night were David's wife Gaynor, Life Members Jean Cook and Mike & Cobie Hicks. Mike Hicks was also honoured with a CAMS Service Award in recognition of his service to our Club and CAMS. The service award is for CAMS members who have demonstrated diligent service to the sport by being involved in motor sport activities on a continual basis and by the display of a high level of dedication to the sport over a long period of time. Mike is the first member of the MX-5 Club of NSW to receive a CAMS award. Congratulations!

Paul Beerworth is our new Life Member of the MX-5 Club of NSW. I announced Paul's award at the Canberra Chapter Christmas Party on 15 December. Paul becomes only the ninth person to receive our Club's most prestigious award, the

first in eight years, and the first from our Canberra Chapter.

Congratulations to Graham Fletcher and Gillian Fletcher who are the highly deserving winners of Member Of The Year and New Member Of The Year for 2013. Runner-up awards were also presented to Ken Keeling (MOTY), John Morgan and Jodie Carty (NMOTY). These awards are aimed at acknowledging and further encouraging individual member involvement in Club activities. This is the first year in which all events across the entire Club have been included, so the competition was exceptionally strong. And what a massive contribution each of these members have made over the last year! Thank you.

As I write this, NatMeet is only eight weeks away and it's getting very exciting. Our Club has 53 members registered to attend, out of a total of 148 people (81 cars). The breakdown by Chapter is as follows: Hunter 14, Sydney 14, RPM 10, Illawarra 9, Canberra 4, and Mid North Coast 2. This is going to be a wonderful event, full of socialising, eating & drinking, laughing and fun times in our MX-5s. The track day at Lakeside Raceway will be brilliant too. I can hardly wait!



Congratulations to **Graham Fletcher** and **Gillian Fletcher** who are the highly deserving winners of Member Of The Year (MOTY) and New Member Of The Year (NMOTY) for 2013. Graham and Gillian were presented with their trophies on Australia Day at the Cordeaux Dam BBQ. These awards recognise the wonderful contribution they’ve made over the last year via participating in and organising runs for RPM & Sydney Chapters and the BreakFast Club, in addition to providing material for Club Torque. Graham also helped out as an official at the President’s Picnic and a club track day at Sydney Motorsport Park. In accepting his award, Graham said:

“Gillian and I were very humbled to receive these awards. It has been an absolute pleasure being involved in all the events that we have participated in. All the members of the MX-5 community are a great bunch particularly those in the RPM Chapter. This is a direct reflection of yours and other members enthusiasm when organising the events.”



Runner-up MOTY is **Ken Keeling** from Canberra Chapter. Ken has made a wonderful contribution to organising runs for

the Canberra Chapter over the last few years, and is highly deserving of this recognition. Ken was presented with his trophy on 19 January by Bob Judd.

Runner-up NMOTY was actually won by two people as they finished on equal points. The first recipient is **John Morgan** from Hunter Chapter. John joined the MX-5 Club in late November 2011, and has only just



completed his first full year of membership, thereby qualifying for this award. John has been an exceptionally keen participant in Hunter Chapter events, helped out with organising a run and contributed material for Club Torque. He was presented with his trophy at the Hunter Convenors BBQ on 19 January.



The second Runner-up NMOTY is **Jodie Carty** from Mid North Coast Chapter. Jodie has been a fantastic addition to this new Chapter, participating in most runs and organising a few events too, including a fun day of Go Karting. Jodie’s achievement is all the more remarkable because she only joined the MX-5 Club in April and had only seven

months to clock up all those points! Well done. Jodie’s trophy is on it’s way to Port Macquarie and will hopefully be presented by Peter Rodgers at the next chapter run on 8 February.

Congratulations to all the award winners.

2013 MEMBER OF THE YEAR
TOP 20 POINTS SUMMARY

MEMBER	CHAPTER	PTS
GRAHAM FLETCHER	RPM	103*
KEN KEELING	CANBERRA	84
PETER BATTISSON	CANBERRA	74
GUY COLES	SYDNEY	55
MARK GRAY	HUNTER	53
JOE KOVACIC	SYDNEY	50
JEAN COOK	RPM	48
GILLIAN FLETCHER	RPM	48*
MARK SANDO	SYDNEY / ILLAWARRA	46
ADAM WALKER	SYDNEY	45
TONY MCDONALD	CANBERRA	40
DIANA KEELING	CANBERRA	40
WENDY PARSONAGE	HUNTER	40
JOHN MORGAN	HUNTER	40*
JODIE CARTY	MID NORTH COAST	40*
IRIS MCDONALD	CANBERRA	38
DAMON MULLER	CANBERRA	38
LIA BATTISSON	CANBERRA	38
PHIL REID	ILLAWARRA	38*
JULIE SANDO	SYDNEY / ILLAWARRA	36
* ELIGIBLE FOR NMOTY AWARD		

Committee members and their partners are ineligible for MOTY awards and are not included on the points table. Guy Coles (Sydney Chapter Convenor) and Adam Walker (BreakFast Club Coordinator) joined the Committee very late in the year and therefore are listed above.



It is with great pleasure that I announce the award of Life Membership to Paul Beerworth.

Paul becomes only the ninth person to receive our Club’s most prestigious award, the first in eight years, and the first from our Canberra Chapter. He joins the select company of Peter & Ruth Simpson, Jean Cook, Zan & Rod Menzel, Jeff Gehrig, and Mike & Cobie Hicks.

The Canberra Chapter of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW was formed in 1996 in response to our Club’s hosting of NatMeet II in Canberra over Easter of that year. Paul and Margaret Beerworth joined the Club in July 2002 and only five current members of the Canberra Chapter have a longer continuous membership.

In 2004 there was some dissatisfaction in the Chapter, with communication between the Club Committee and the Canberra Convenor being practically non-existent. The Canberra Chapter was at an all-time low point and there was talk of a breakaway club being formed. Paul took control of the Chapter and re-established a working relationship with the

Club Committee and, as a consequence of his sound management, the membership of the Canberra Chapter grew considerably.

Paul was Convenor of the Canberra Chapter for three years – from August 2005 to August 2008. During that time the Chapter established a relationship with its two original sponsoring businesses, Carco Exhaust and Automotive (now MX5 Solutions) and Rolfe Mazda. This coincided with the release late in 2005 of the NC model and the Chapter was invited to participate in a preview of the model, as well as to be present for the local release of the vehicle to the public. Rolfe Mazda provided free Club memberships to their new MX-5 customers, contributing to record growth in the Club: 181 new members in 2007.

Each year a major trip was planned for the Canberra Chapter, with visits to the coast and the Great Ocean Road being highlights. In May 2008, the Chapter undertook its second trip to Tasmania, with the purpose of following the Targa Tasmania roads around the Apple Isle. Each time, Paul organised a working group to plan and run the trip and these were all highly successful. Paul also fostered the relationship between Sydney and Canberra – in particular the Floriade weekend visit by Sydney members in Spring 2006 was highly successful.

Paul was the first member from the Canberra Chapter to serve on the Club Committee, fulfilling the role of Vice President for two years – from October 2006 to October 2008. The tyranny of distance made it difficult for Paul to attend monthly committee meetings, but he still made important contributions to management of the Club as a whole, and regularly made the trip for the AGM. Critically, he oversaw the increasing and long overdue presence given to the Canberra Chapter in our Club Events monthly newsletter, Club Torque magazine, and Club Website.

Paul was, and still is, an active participant in motorsport events including motorkhanas and club track days. Indeed, his little blue NB was ‘tweaked’ to help him in this field of endeavour. His current car, the silver NC, is still occasionally seen at the odd motorkhana. Paul is also accredited by CAMS as a Bronze Scrutineer, and has often officiated at club track days.

When the MX-5 Club of NSW was charged with the responsibility of running NatMeet over the Easter period of 2012, it naturally thought that Canberra was the best place to run such an event. The Committee called on Paul to join the organising committee, and he provided considerable assistance in the planning, organisation and implementation of this highly successful National event. Paul’s local knowledge and on-going assistance proved invaluable to the organising Committee – so much so that the MX-5 Club of Queensland have again sought his advice and assistance for the 2014 NatMeet in Caloundra.

With much credit to Paul, the Canberra Chapter is a vital part of the MX-5 Club of NSW, boasting around 100 members. It has been the model for development of regional Chapters in our Club, and many practices established in Canberra have been rolled out to other parts of the Club. For example, when the Hunter Chapter was launched in October 2006, they used the “Coffee & Lies” format on a Saturday morning, which was invented by the Canberra Chapter. “Coffee & Lies” was also poached for Sydney in February 2008.

Paul and Margaret are still active in the Canberra Chapter – sharing their spare time between the Club, their numerous grandchildren and a new love of cycling. Who knows where they will be when retirement finally comes their way.

SHOAL BAY

BREAKFAST RUN

10TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY CHRIS RHODES & KARL MITTMAN
PHOTOS BY GARY NOBREGA



Sunday November 10 brought much needed rain to the Sydney/Hunter region, but not enough to deter the hardy band of BreakFast Clubbers from an early run up the M1 to Peats Ridge. I then took the led to Kulnura, down Bumble Hill and the road through the Yarramalong Valley. Since the recent building of the Mardi to Mangrove pipeline this road has been resurfaced and improved almost to Victorian standards, nice smooth sweepers, lots of bendy bits complimented by pleasant rural valley scenes. A great stand alone day drive and our start for a good run to Port Stephens.

After a brief holdup following a horse float we then headed onto Hue Hue, Wyee then Mandalong Roads to re-join the M1 at Morisset, the route skirting the freeway on picturesque and interesting back roads. Anyone travelling north should explore this route as an alternative to the boring M1 especially early in the morning.

No time to waste on hitting the M1, we had

to pick up members of the Hunter Chapter at Tomago Road waiting with their roofs down all keen to go on the other side of the Hexham Bridge. The drive up to Nelson Bay always seems to conjure up the promise of holidays, sun, sand and good food even on a cloudy day. The Shoal Bay Resort turned on a hearty breakfast for 17 in their function room, overlooking the bay with a personalised menu under our club logo - very impressive. This gave us a good chance to sit and relax before Karl took over the lead for the return home. CR

My chance to lead a BreakFast Run came at Salt Ash with my lovely wife Julie and I accepting the role with great pride. This was my first time to lead a club run over roads that are in my backyard as we proceeded towards Raymond Terrace to witness firsthand the devastation caused by the recent fires.

The bush was completely burned out on both sides of the road from Campvale through

to Grahamstown Dam. The bushland was devoid of greenery displaying every shade of colour from brown to yellow with blackened tree stumps. It sure was a sight not forgotten easily. Very, very daunting indeed.

A quick run up to Seaham followed by a right turn onto Clarence Town Road for Butterwick and Dunns Creek, a road with good windy sections to satisfy the driver in each of us. We then drove on to cross the bridge near Paterson for Tocal to turn sharp right at Bolwarra Heights for Maitlandvale. All roads were well suited to MX-5s with my wife punching me in the ribs with delight as I led the convoy stretched out behind me. The route took us along lots of straights and plenty of twisties that allowed us all to enjoy the road if not the scenery.

From Braxton we took the tourist route past the North Rothbury and Lovedale vineyards to stop in Pokolbin Village for a well earned rest, coffee, cake and even “hot chips” for the Sydney guys. After some funny stories and experiences, it was sadly time to bid farewell to our brothers from the south as we escorted them through Cessnock, over Freemans Gap and a final goodbye wave at Freemans Waterhole. A great day was had by all.



MIDWEEK

BURGER RUN

4TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY ADAM WALKER & PHOTO BY GRAHAM FLETCHER

It's been two and a half years since the last mid-week burger run was held. The BreakFast Club reintroduced it as part of the Daylight Savings events.

Everyone turned up at various times due to heavy traffic. Paul's Hamburgers was

pumping out those burgers for all our hungry members. Around sixteen people took over the tables out the front for a great feed.

With appetites sated, it was time to jump in the cars and head south via The Royal National Park. We all had a pretty clear run

through there and onto Bald Hill for a chat as the sun disappeared over the west.

A great night was had by all. Peter Diven gets the award for the furthest travelled. He came all the way up from Ulladulla for a burger ... that's how good they are!



SOUTH COAST

VOYAGE

8TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY ADAM WALKER & PHOTOS BY JAMES TAYLOR

The final run this year for the BreakFast Club went off with a bang. Fourteen cars turned up at Heathcote Maccas and fuelled up with coffee for the run down to Robertson.

Seventeen members, some familiar and some new faces blasted down the Old Princes Highway and down the back of Mount Keira (what a bumpy road that is) to the highlight of the day - a freshly resurfaced Jamberoo Mountain Road!

Breakfast was served by the plateful at Chat's Cafe and enjoyed by all.

The return run had members running the tourist routes driving some of the best roads in the state.





The weather forecast had promised a wet weekend but as we gathered the sun was shining. We left Blamey Square at 8:15 with 10 cars, via Bungendore to Braidwood for a short stop. The road

beaches, lovely farmland and forests. It is a good MX-5 road with many twisty bits. We all stopped at Tathra for some whale spotting but no luck again. The locals all said, "you should have been



"Should have been here last week," the refrain from the locals. Giving up on the whales, we drove around the bay to Boydtown and had morning tea at the newly renovated Seahorse Inn. Lovely

SOUTH COAST CRUISE AND WHALE WATCH

9TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY NORM & ROZ BARKER

was not busy and the sun followed us so tops were down for an enjoyable drive. Onward down the Clyde on the Kings Highway to Batemans Bay, stopping for morning tea at Malua Bay. Coffee was great and some indulged in some wonderful looking cakes. No whales spotted so far and the story seemed to be "you should have been here last week".

We followed the coast around through Broulee, along the Moruya River and back onto the Princes Highway. Heading south through Narooma to Bermagui, still being followed by blue sky, we stopped for lunch. Still no whales with the same story, "you should have been here last week". Barry Matson kept the leader informed of the progress at the back of the pack.

All well fed, we drove the scenic route along the cliffs and then the coast road to Tathra which goes past some isolated

here last week", so afternoon tea at the wharf seemed like a good idea. Off we then went to Merimbula via the Sapphire Coast Road. We all stayed at the Fairway Motor Inn, with dinner at the Pambula-Merimbula Golf Club.

Next morning at 8:30, the group headed south to the lookout at Eden. A few people spotted a plume near the horizon but we didn't really see any whales.



morning tea and beautiful location for a return visit some time.

Continuing south to the Imlay Road, we followed the road to Bombala and on to Cooma for an excellent lunch at The Lott Restaurant. After lunch it was an individual run home. As always the company was great and we all had a most enjoyable weekend together.



CANBERRA CHRISTMAS PARTY

15TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY BOB JUDD
PHOTOS BY TONY MCDONALD

43 members and 5 guests attended the Canberra Chapter's annual Presentation and Christmas Lunch in mid-December at Grazing Restaurant, Gundaroo. On a brilliant Canberra summer's day, in what is fast becoming a club tradition, long-time member Paul Beerworth (dare I call him 'Club Stalwart?') led a convoy of members over the 50 km or so to Gundaroo in time for the festivities. No problems with 'roofs down' this year!

For such a large group, we were able to secure the best room in the house, which meant we had privacy for the day and didn't have to deal with interruptions from the general public. Just as well, as the noise generated by our group can, sometimes, be quite daunting! The usual Christmas crackers greeted the diners, which always starts the conversations going with their 'hilarious' jokes and looney paper hats to bring people together. Bricet also provided little gift packs of home baked gingerbread and rumballs for all to take home as a memento.

We were graced this year by the presence of a visibly less-hirsute Club President, Bryan Sheddon, and his family, Fiona and Alex, who came along to enjoy the occasion and make a special presentation. Unbeknownst to both the recipient and the multitudes, our Club Stalwart (yes, I can call him that!) Paul Beerworth, was presented with Life Membership of



the MX-5 Club of NSW for his lengthy service and dedication to the Club. Paul becomes the first, and only, Life Member from our Chapter. Congratulations to Paul from every member in Canberra, both past and present! It was also an appropriate occasion to present local members with their Tenure Badges. Both 10 year and 5-year badges were presented by Bryan, and a big 'Thank You' was given to local club sponsor, Peter Battisson, whose donation made the badges possible.

After enjoying a 3-course meal of a very high standard, the serious business of speeches began. Members who had taken the time and made the effort to organise one of our many runs for the year were presented with a bottle of wine as recognition and encouragement to do the same again in the future. The Motorsport Member of the Year trophy

was presented to Ed Cory, who had an eventful and very successful year on the track. In a case of deja-vu, the Member of the Year Trophy went to Ken Keeling, but this year he had to share it with his lovely partner Diana. Ken and Diana not only organised the entire year's run calendar, they also took groups away to Noosa, the Snowy Mountains and the Dubbo Zoo.

After devouring the last of the cheese platters and final drinks, the group wandered off home sated, and happy in the knowledge that the Canberra Chapter continues to thrive and prosper





5 HILLS RUN

19TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY NORM & ROZ BARKER

The year started with this run around Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin going up and down five of the hills. The group gathered for the start at Blamey Square at Russell Offices with some heavy clouds in the distance. Sixteen cars and the club's trailer made up the group and after a briefing and presentation of the member of the year trophy to Ken Keeling, Norm and Roz Barker led the group to the first hill Mt Pleasant (Hill 1) which is in the grounds of Duntroon/ADFA. There was a short stop to take in the view and a chat.

The convoy then proceeded to Mt Ainslie (Hill 2) a steep climb on a winding road. We drove around the top and down again. The route then took us past the

Australian War Memorial and down Anzac Parade. At the bottom of Anzac Parade the group turn right and followed the lake along to Black Mountain (Hill 3). Another steep and winding road and no stopping but many admirers of the long line of MX5s. Sunday afternoons at this time of the year are very quiet and the convoy was able to keep together which made a spectacular sight going around the lake.

At the bottom of Black Mountain we turned right and headed around the lake again to the National Arboretum and up to the top of Dairy Farmers Hill (Hill 4). Here we all parked and took in the view back across the lake to the city. After

some further chatting and some photos we formed up and left for the last hill.

The route took us past the Canberra Zoo and across the top of Scrivener Dam (forms Lake Burley Griffin), though the suburb of Deakin and up Red Hill (Hill 5). On the way up Red Hill it started to rain so it was form up in the car park at the top and tops up. Some photos were taken and then down the hill to Melbourne Avenue to Parliament House, around State Circle and to Lennox Gardens for a BBQ/picnic. Luckily the rain wasn't serious and stopped by the time we all arrived at the park. We all had a great drive and picnic although we missed the sunset due to the clouds.

NATIONAL PARK RUN

17TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY PHIL MAYO
PHOTOS BY PHIL MAYO & GARY NOBREGA

The November run for the Hunter Chapter was planned to drive past five National Parks and several State Forests, which should have meant lots of corners with the tops down, taking in the bird calls and bush smells as well as exhaust notes, to finish at Wisemans Ferry.

However the weather forecast, as the working week drew to a close, was not good – Sunday – “heavy coastal showers with thunder storms in the afternoon.”

Saturday's rainy weather brought out lots of emails and Facebook posts on Sunday morning early. “Is it on?” An early look at the weather radar showed it was coastal and we could do the first 120kms of the planned run relatively dry so it was decided to give it a try.

Five cars turned up at the usual Beresfield start venue, so after a coffee and another check of the radar, we started on a back road path through Mulbring, Quorrobolong, Millfield to Wollombi - about 120km.

At Wollombi Park we were able to all fit under a shelter shed to share our morning tea delicacies with the rain starting to sprinkle. Down towards the south, where we were supposed to go looked very dark and stormy so it was decided to head north away from the weather.

One thing rain does – it keeps the motor bikes at home, so we had a relatively clear run to Broke and then into the vineyards having the road to ourselves.

Just short of Pokolbin we turned north again to arrive at Greta and it was decided to have lunch at the Greta Workers Club.

Having a small group (8 people) allowed us to all fit around one large table and hear the discussion. The comment was made “it reminded us of when the chapter first started with only a few cars.” Shortly after we left the club we drove into torrential rain on our separate ways home.

The full run is planned for September 2014, hopefully the weather will be more suitable for MX-5s.



XMAS SCAVENGER HUNT

15TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY BOB PIMM



The weather was fine and the attendance was great for the Hunter's Xmas Scavenger Hunt held on Sunday 15th December. This was nothing like a normal club run with contestants trying to find 17 items of wildly varying types from flower to rock to feather to bus ticket and more! A time limit was set to find all items and be at the rotunda in King Edward Park no later than 5.30 pm. This would allow me time to return home and collect the BBQ and goodies

and beat the scavengers to the park.

Would you believe I miscalculated and most had arrived at the rotunda before me! Maybe I should have made a longer list of items or something harder to find like road kill. Anyway, as everyone who participated had found all items, prizes were awarded from the time of arrival. With the BBQ fired up, we enjoyed good company, food and Xmas cheer.

MIDWEEK MADNESS NIGHT DRIVE

30TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT BY MARK GRAY

Something that Hunter hadn't done for a few years is to have a true Coffee & Lies. So the New Year was upon us and the hot days still beaming more than 30 Celsius temperature so interest in having a night drive was high. What a great return of Coffee & Lies for a Midweek Madness run through the back hills of the Hunter Valley to Singleton.

A great back drop was seeing the sun set with the shadow of the mountains. As we approached the mining town we found our way to our destination for a refreshment and cake. A total of twelve MX5s and eighteen people enjoyed the night. We even had a birthday cake for Phil & Helen Mayo and sang happy birthday in McDonalds for them.



CONVENER'S BBQ RUN

19TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY PETER HILKMANN

With the preparation and organisation completed we were ready to open our Wine Barrel Inn to friends of the MX-5 Hunter Chapter on 19th January.

A warm Sunday afternoon and the scene was set for a short drive from Beresfield to the historic Kearsley Hotel, built in 1922. Twenty one MX-5s and forty people made the trip to the pub for a refreshing drink as well as surprising "Fletch" the barman, who hadn't been briefed about our arrival, but he handled the peak hour rush well.

After a short stop we headed out around some of the Hunter's winding back roads en-route to the Wine Barrel Inn. Our quiet street was transformed into an MX5 parking lot (lucky the neighbours were warned) but everyone arrived with

smiles ready to enjoy Hunter hospitality. Tables and chairs set, nibbles ready to go and with the hot sun disappearing over the roof everyone settled in for a drink, a chat, BBQ dinner and desserts before the presentation of the 2013 MOTY awards and tenure badges were given out.

The first award of New Member of the Year unfortunately couldn't be presented in person as the recipient was confined to a hospital bed but a quick phone call to Karl Mittmann and the verbal award was complete. Our next award was Hunter Chapter Member Of The Year for 2013 and our popular member, John Morgan took out the prize. For the last award, our unrecognisable Club President, Bryan Shedden was on hand to present the Runner Up New Member Of The Year award for the entire Club to a well

deserved and surprised John Morgan.

After a great afternoon/evening with friends, goodbyes were made and life at the Wine Barrel Inn returned to normal





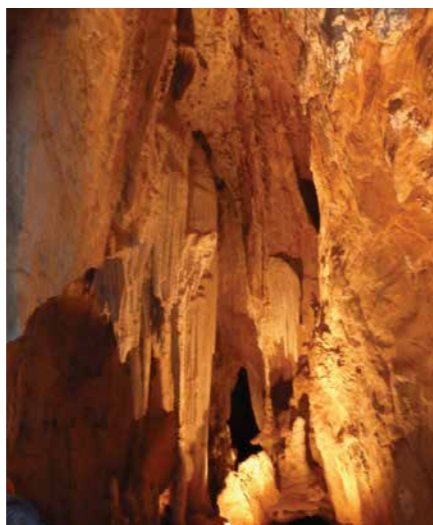
MARK & HELLA'S DARK DAY OUT

24TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY MARK & HELLA UNDERWOOD

We all enjoyed a great run in beautiful weather for our trip to Taralga for lunch and then onto Wombeyan Caves for our tour. After an excellent run up Jamberoo Mountain Road with no slow coaches in front of us, we were joined by new members Ivan & Belinda Harris at Bundanoon. Lunch was at the very popular Taralga Pub where we met the RPM chapter after their own run. All the food was excellent and the serving sizes were huge! Even the 'light' options were of a very generous size. Definitely worth the drive there just to eat!

After lunch, only six hardy souls braved the dust and continued onto the caves. The road has recently been graded and was actually worse than when we did the test run 5 months ago. Just 20 minutes of it, but enough to warrant a full wash and detail when we got home! With only 2 staff members on and a problem with some dogs stuck in a creek, we decided to forgo the guided tour and do the Figtree self-guided cave to allow the staff to attend to the stranded dogs and man the office. The cave was beautiful, we had a great time and even got home early to clean the cars.

Another great MX-5 day!



BAREFOOT BOWLS & CONVENER'S AWARDS

8TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY PETER FEUTRILL
PHOTOS BY PETER FEUTRILL & BRYAN SHEDDEN

What do 22 MX-5 enthusiasts and lawn bowls have in common? Well very little as it turns out! The day was fine but very windy and that caused some problems as we were about to find out.

Our instructor Brett from the Figgy Bowlo was very welcoming and gave us the teams (to our horror he had paired up couples – we thought that might be a bad idea) and some instructions on how to bowl into and with the wind. How much weight to give and how much

green to take – bring back changing brake pads - we thought as it sounded simpler.

Well away we went for a pair's tournament over 18 ends. Now this was not the time to invoke the 1 drink per end rule. The styles ranged from thumpers (dropped from a height), wrong un's (wrong bias's) googlies (Mark S) and the occasional great bowl that ended up jack high. Many however just found their way to the ditch. After many laughs we

finished our bowls with a 'spider' where everyone bowls at the same time. Many prizes were awarded.

Then it was time to present the Illawarra Chapter's Member of the Year to Mark Underwood and New Member of the Year to Phil Reid – well deserved both! We finished with finger food from the bistro and a fun afternoon was had by all.



It's 9am, the weather is cloudy with a chance of showers, but all us MX-5ers have our roofs down. We know it's going to stay dry.

All the Illawarra members were getting ready to leave at 9.20am when we welcomed MX-5s from the Sydney chapter. It swelled our numbers so much we had to leave in 2 groups!

We enjoyed a very pleasant drive up Mt Kembla and along Harry Graham Drive with plenty of beautiful greenery to admire. The road is pretty good now as it was resurfaced 18 months ago, but it still requires a slow and steady pace to avoid



the small group in our shed away. They didn't stay long after that. I can't think why?!

Fiona and Alex start a cricket match with just the 2 of them, but before long they had a full team enjoying themselves.

The number of MX-5s were counted a few times. It started at 29 but after a few drinks the number seemed to be 32. Not sure if they were breeding but it certainly was an MX-5 invasion.

Everyone enjoyed a great Australia Day, catching up with old friends from other chapters, and being in the great outdoors after a run was wonderful change.

A DAMN fine day at Cordeaux DAM!!



AUSTRALIA DAY RUN CORDEAUX DAM

26TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT BY MARK AND HELLA UNDERWOOD
PHOTOS BY HELLA UNDERWOOD & KEITH MONAGHAN



colliding with oncoming 4WDs who like to drive in the centre on the road!

We arrived a few minutes after the opening time of 10am. Lucky for us only a small group was occupying one of 'our' tables in the covered hut. Our large group certainly added a bit of noise to their peaceful outing.

Our second group of cars arrived 5 minutes later, along with Paul Byers and his magic 'sand pit' covered BBQ trailer. We were all fascinated by his invention and it turned out to be a wonderful BBQ, cooking our lunch to perfection. We appreciated Paul bringing it along - thanks Paul!

Ten minutes later the RPM chapter arrived and I think we almost frightened





As you can see from the photo, Kevin is the only one with food in front of him at our lunch. This is because he made sure he got to the front of the queue this time. He says he was making up from last month's run when he and Carole ordered when most of us had already finished our lunch - we did wait for them before driving home!

Also unlike last month's run, Kevin and

also provided a bit of exercise walking up the hill to the lighthouse at the top. After Smoky Cape we stopped off at Arakoon to view the old gaol (only from the outside as hunger pangs and thirst encouraged us to move on to the South West Rocks pub and lunch).

Lunch was a particularly convivial affair, though one or two male members (names deleted to protect them from potential



SOUTH WEST ROCKS RUN

9TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY PETER RODGERS
AND PHOTOS BY KIERAN RODGERS

Peter managed to stay with the rest of us, rather than inadvertently turning off to explore the countryside!

So, after some initial fortification and conversation at the Rivermark Cafe, fourteen of us in eight cars, including a Merc and MR2 drove a mixture of twisty roads and highway out to our lunchtime destination of South West Rocks. Of course we didn't take the most direct route up the Pacific Highway but instead took the scenic route along the Macleay River via Kempsey and Gladstone.

We detoured to take in the view from the Smoky Cape Lighthouse, which

spouse retribution) became somewhat distracted by a young lady in high heels and a short orange dress - must be because all of the MX-5s were parked around the corner and out of sight!



ROLLAND PLAINS & CHRISTMAS LUNCH

15TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY PETER RODGERS
PHOTOS BY KEIRAN RODGERS



This was our second run out to Rollands Plains this year with Kevin and Peter restoring their navigational credibility by not going out exploring on their own this time. Even though Rollands Plains is relatively close to Port Macquarie, it is not only a beautiful area but quite a fun drive with a variety of hills, bends and fast straights. Also the odd pothole or two.

On returning to the Rivermark Cafe in Port Macquarie, we found a few more cars and familiar faces waiting to join us for our Christmas lunch. Not only was the company excellent, together with the food, but also very easy on the pocket with sponsorship from Port Macquarie Mazda and the Rivermark Cafe filling the gap between the Club subsidy and our appetites.

Your chapter convener was having such an enjoyable time at lunch that he forgot to take photos of the happy event.





PORT TO PORT VIA DORIGO

18-19TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT BY MIKE WALKDEN-BROWN
AND PHOTOS BY KIERAN RODGERS

What a great MX-5 Club drive and weekend away! Saturday was fine, warm but not hot and our group of eleven people with six MX-5s set out from the Port Macquarie Service Centre for our first stop, Captain Cook Lookout, Nambucca Heads. Sleepy Nambucca Heads is my home town and I'm always happy to show people the natural beauty of this coastal village. The view from Captain Cook Lookout is one of the best in Australia and well worth a stop to enjoy an unobstructed, spectacular view up and down the coast. After enjoying the view we stopped at Bellwood Park before continuing to Bellingen. The drive these days on the Pacific Highway with multiple speed restrictions and speed limits is a trial and I'm sure we were all happy to arrive at Bellingen where our weekend really began.

Bellingen was a hive of activity, lots of stalls selling interesting wares. If you do visit Bellingen on market day expect

lots of people and parking at a premium but a visit is not a visit if you miss the markets and the Federal Hotel in the main street as it serves a really good lunch.

Due to the numerous alternatives, our group split up to allow choice and freedom to explore Bellingen and then met for dinner at our overnight digs, The Heritage Hotel Motel Dorrigo. The accommodation, service and facilities were excellent and the hotel was a good choice. The meals were terrific and I have no hesitation recommending the hotel for an overnight stop at Dorrigo.

We awoke Sunday to find a perfect summer day. After breakfast and saying goodbye to Michael and Rhys who had decided to return, five MX-5s and nine people set out for Ebor Falls, the next stop on our journey. Ebor Falls did actually have Falls and we spent some time enjoying the view from the lookout

before continuing our journey to Uralla for lunch. Some cattle grazing by the side of the road slowed our pace at times but this is to be expected these days on country roads.

We arrived at Uralla and found the town inundated with bikies of numerous club affiliations who had occupied the pub next to the brewery, our likely lunch venue. As we were discussing our options, the bikies started their bikes and left town. Was our group of five MX-5s responsible for the bikies leaving town? In any case, we had our lunch venue and a clear run for lunch which again proved to be excellent.

After lunch we refuelled and continued along Thunderbolt's Way and the Oxley Highway to Ginger's Creek, our last stop before saying goodbye. My thanks to Peter Rodgers for his advice and support and to all who shared this weekend.



WE ARE OFF TO THE DARK SIDE

18-19TH JANUARY 2014 // REPORT BY SANDRA WILLIAMS
AND PHOTOS BY JASON BROWN



Our Taralga run started from the carpark in Glenbrook just behind the cinema. We did a quick sign on, a channel check and were back on the road to Medlow Bath to do a pick up of some other keen RPMers.

We wanted to show our support for our sponsors, Blue Mountains Mazda, by driving through and giving them a toot of our horns, but unfortunately it was a wee bit early.

The sky was blue and the temperature was just right for a great roof off MX-5 run. We stopped at Hartley Courthouse to grab a bite to eat, a coffee and a chat before heading off to Oberon. The road was as clear as the sky and we had a terrific drive.

We all caught up outside the Oberon Information Centre. Lesa popped in to see if there were any concerns on the road to Taralga where she was told that

it was echidna mating season so to be on the lookout. Lesa led the pack with everyone going at their own pace, we arrived at Taralga all agreeing that it was a top drive and we should do it more often.

The pub was brilliant and we caught up with a group of other people- they belonged to some club called the Illawarra Chapter? They seemed friendly so we decided to join them for lunch.

It was a lovely opportunity to catch up and have a chat, the food at the pub was excellent and the staff friendly. The publican used to own an MX-5 but he had to sell it as he didn't get much opportunity to drive it. He seemed a little bit envious and wished he could have joined in.



CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT BBQ

14TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY JAY FLAK

RPM were joined by Sydney Chapter for some festive cheer at Glenbrook Park. RPM did not have a “run” to the event, but dad still found some twisty back streets to get to there!

The weather could not decide if it was going to rain or not. There was a brief shower after which the weather held off for the remainder of the afternoon so we were able to enjoy a nice get together where tall tales and true were told over snacks and lunch.

A few members had done up their cars in a Christmas theme, and to a very high standard. I thought nativity scenes only fitted in the backs of Valiants!

Car of the day was Graham and Gillian Fletchers MX-5, I have never seen Christmas bush growing out of an exhaust pipe before, but the MX-5 looked quite content so who am I to judge? All of the decorated cars were done very well, so Lesa Bunn and her judges had a difficult time determining the best car.

It was a great day with lots of MX-5s to photograph and I look forward to many more events and photoshoots in the future with the Club!



MID WEEK FISH & CHIPS RUN

6TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY GUY COLES

Sydney Chapter had it's first mid-week “Fish and Chip” run with a total of 25 cars (21 MX-5s) and 32 people coming along. Starting on the harbour at Kirribilli, car after car after car filtered in until we maxed out the available parks and were forced to double park to fit people in.

From there we drove convoy style through Neutral Bay, Cremorne and Mosman to our final dinner destination at Bottom of the Harbour Fish and Chips on Balmoral Beach. It was only here that we realised the incredible turnout of cars as we took over all the available seating and flooded the kitchen with orders.

All in all a fantastic night with members from all over Sydney in attendance including Graham from the RPM Chapter making the effort to come down. A big thank you to everyone who came along on the night!



MONTHLY DINNER & TRIVIA

19TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY GUY COLES

Another fantastic Sydney Chapter get together! Fantastic turn out with Colin and Elaine Caldwell, Mike and Rina Kelsey, the Forsyth's and Jamie and Mel (potential new members) coming along. 13 people in total contributing to our first podium finish in the trivia night!

While coming 5th out of 8 teams at the half way point, the team pulled out all stops in the last 4 rounds to finish up a respectable 3rd with 84 points trailing the eventual leaders by 9 points.



TENURE AWARDS



PUTTY ROAD RUN LUNCH IN THE HUNTER

2ND JANUARY 2014 // REPORT BY GUY COLES AND PHOTOS BY LINTON JONES & GUY COLES

The Sydney Chapter set out for it's first outing for 2014 with a run along the Putty Road to Pokolbin.

After meeting at McGrath's Hill (and waiting for 2 cars that phoned to say that they were running late) a huge convoy of 19 cars moved off in convoy along one of Australia's best driving roads. After 2 stops to let the back markers catch the front runners we eventually made our way to Hunter Valley Gardens for lunch and a chat about all things MX-5.

Thank you to the 28 people and 19 cars that turned up including a LARGE number of potential club members that can now see the benefits of club membership.

BIG thanks to Graham Fletcher for his leading skills and also to Gary Nobrega for running sweep - great effort people !



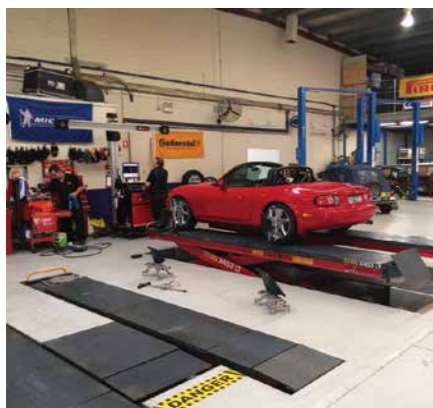


SPINNING WHEEL TECH DAY

16TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY MICHAEL SOULOS & PHOTOS BY VARIOUS

The Spinning Wheel has again the venue for one of the Club's most popular and well supported tech events on the second Saturday in November. The tech day was held at the Waterloo workshop of Spinning Wheel reputed to be one of the best wheel alignment facilities in Sydney.

Spinning Wheel generously allocated their premier computerised alignment hoist for the Club's use. Twelve new and old members secured a slot between 7.30am and 12.30pm to have their wheel alignment set by Stuart Daly, an alignment guru, to best suit the way each person uses and drives their MX-5.



To support the Club's event, the cost of the alignment was at a special reduced discounted price day of \$77.00. Spinning Wheel provides a discount to all our MX-5 Club members for wheel alignment at \$88.00 as opposed to their list price of \$110.00. Spinning Wheel also offers our member's discounts on suspension tuning, brakes and tyres being those areas of your MX5 where function and performance are critical for your everyday safety.

Twenty members were at the Spinning Wheel workshop by 12:30pm for the afternoon session. Everyone put in their \$5.00 for a smorgasbord lunch of 10 different pizzas and refreshments before Nick Vandam on brakes and tyres and Stuart covered alignment and suspension in their tech talk whilst taking questions from the floor. There is nothing Nick and Stuart are not across when it comes to the form and function of the four contact points where your car touches the road.

If you want to get an understanding of how different suspension and alignment setting impact on your cars handling or

what difference the rating and width of your tyre has on your car's performance and safety then take advantage of the next Spinning Wheel tech day later this year. As with each of these events, at every tech day that you attend you learn something new that could improve your car's performance and safety to increase your driving pleasure.

Thanks Fulvio Mammino for hosting the event with the Club extending a sincere appreciation to both Nick and Stuart for their time and advice.



RENTING AN MX-5 IN NEW ZEALAND

REPORT BY TOM WILDE

What better away to drive the scenic roads and explore the natural beauty of the South Island of New Zealand than with the iconic MX-5! We had booked a resort in Queenstown for a week and decided that the natural beauty of the South Island could only be appreciated with the top down, wind in the hair and the chuckability of the MX-5!

We contacted Ron Hazlehurst of MX5 Rentals but he has retired and sold his cars to Iain Ramsay of Abell Rentals in Christchurch. Ron assured me that Abell Rentals would provide the same great service so we contacted Iain and booked an NB. When we flew into Christchurch airport we were picked up by Abell

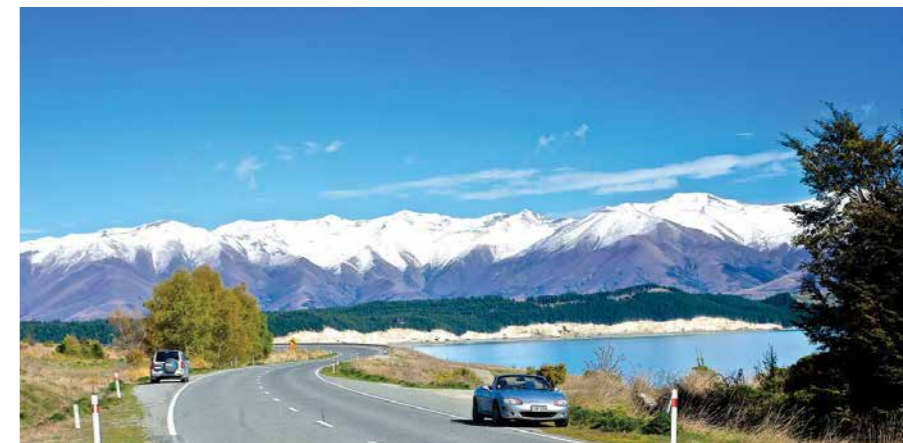
Rentals and driven to their car yard where we repacked all of our gear into soft bags to pack the MX-5. Our large airline hard cases were stored at the car yard for when we returned at the end of our trip!

Then the adventure began. The MX-5 didn't miss a beat as we cruised down the highway to Dunedin. For a small country, New Zealand has excellent roads that are well maintained and designed for spirited driving. The 6-speed gear box also helped with the fuel economy especially since the price of fuel is higher than in Australia!

From Dunedin we headed south before heading to Queenstown, the adventure

capital of New Zealand. This was our third visit to Queenstown and we had already done most of the "must do" activities, so this holiday was all about relaxing and exploring the region with the top down.

Queenstown is a great base to explore Fiordland and the West Coast. We went on day trips to Te Anau, Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound as well as north to Haast Pass and the glaciers. The roads around Queenstown are so good we found ourselves repeatedly driving them: the roads to Arrowtown, Coronet Peak and the crown range route to Wanaka. We also drove the road to Glenorchy and "Lord of the Rings" country!



INTERSTATE CHALLENGE CLUB TRACK DAY

3RD NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY DAVID LAWLER
PHOTOS BY ADAM WALKER AND BRYAN SHEDDEN



Another great track day by the MX-5 Club of NSW at Wakefield Park. The day dawned clear but cool, then quickly warmed to the mid 20s, although there was a strong gusting wind that got stronger during the day and brought a lot of dust. With 21 drivers attending from the MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania for the annual interstate challenge, the entry list had stretched to 86 drivers. Even with the long entry list, there were 7 runs available to drivers before the 4pm track curfew, which is a tribute to the organisation of Mike and the team.

With a number of drivers learning the track it is not surprising that there were a number of off track excursions, although you might wonder if the tongue-in-cheek advice of “no braking for turn 2” that some NSW drivers had given the Victorians at dinner the night before might have contributed to those offs! Luckily there was no major damage, although one of the Victorian cars had a turbo let go in a big way.

Track officials noted that there had been a great atmosphere, exemplary on track behaviour and cars well presented at scrutineering time.

There were a number of notable performances. Patrick Bramston was fastest on the day at 1:06.80, although he credited Mark Hellmund on giving the driving tips that Patrick needed to set his best time on the last run of the day, and so beating Mark on 1:06.93 into 2nd fastest. Ralph Thompson beat the 1:10 barrier with a time of 1:09.99, winning class 9.

A timing glitch meant that John Karayannis was initially thought to have won the hotly contested “Clubman” class 4, but once that was corrected, the win went to Gus Elias with a time of 1:15.61. In class 3 there was an amazing tie for 1st between Luke Kovacic and Randy Stagno-Navarra (Vic) with Randy taking the trophy home to Victoria and Luke having to wait for a 2nd trophy to be



made. After a seesaw battle in class 1, Robert Downes (Vic) took the win by 0.16s from Bryan Shedden, which may have been in part caused by Bryan being distracted by being a movie star for much of the day, as well as by great driving by Robert.

The class results are: Class 1: Robert Downes (VIC) 1:16.83. Class 2: Keith Monaghan (NSW) 1:17.84. Class 3: Luke Kovacic (NSW) & Randy Stagno-Navarra (VIC) 1:13.75. Class 4: Gus Elias (NSW) 1:15.61. Class 5: Peter Browning (NSW) 1:14.84. Class 6: David Wilkin (VIC) 1:10.58. Class 7: Ralph Thompson (NSW) 1:09.99. Class 8: Cameron Macarthur (NSW) 1:07.64. Class 9: Mark Hellmund (NSW) 1:06.93. Class 10: Patrick Bramston (NSW) 1:06.80. Class 11: Phil Abraham (NSW) 1:09.78.

Officials’ awards were given to Joe Kovacic, Greg & Matthew Perry, Lindsay Burke, Robert Kai, and “Encouragement Awards” were given to Patrick Bramston, Brendan Beavis (Vic), Lindy Anderson (Vic), Melissa Keller and Mark Hellmund.

Of course, the most important result was that NSW with 158 points won the Interstate Challenge from the Victorians with 118 points. Bryan Shedden accepting the cup back on behalf of the MX-5 Club of NSW from Tim Emery, and declared that the NSW team will defend the title next year on a return visit to Victoria.

Thanks to Paul Grimshaw from Nulon Products Australia for their sponsorship of the event, including providing oil and other products as prizes. Paul also drove his Mitsubishi Evo in the day’s track sessions, and is reported to have enjoyed the day. Maybe next time we can get him in an MX-5?

The 2014 NSW/Vic Interstate Challenge will be held on Sunday 23rd March at Winton Raceway.

See the event calendar here for more information.



MX-5 CUP ANNOUNCED!

REPORT BY CRAIG DURRANT

The MX-5 Club of NSW is excited to announce the launch of a series of MX-5 only races for 2014.

This series is called the MX-5 CUP, and consists of five races to be held at Wakefield Park Raceway over the year.

The MX-5 CUP has been created to provide an annual competition featuring low-cost, competitive, good spirited MX-5 racing. It is intended to foster the development of MX-5 racing and encourage new entrants to the sport. Newcomers will be provided support and assistance, and competitors will be expected to adopt a gentlemanly approach to them under race conditions.

There will be up to 5 different classes in the competition. Points will be awarded for each round for placegetters from each class. The overall winner for the season will be the competitor who amasses the most points, hence he or she could come from any class.

We are currently finalising the classes

and regs for the Cup competition. I know many of you will be eager to see these, but we ask for your patience whilst we work out the details. We expect to have finalised docs for you in January.

This competition is open to all MX-5s that comply with MX-5 CUP requirements.

These will include:

- Hold current membership of the MX-5 Club of NSW
- Have paid the Cup championship annual entrance fee
- Lap Wakefield within the thresholds of 1:05 to 1:16
- Agree to abide by the Cup Code of Sporting Conduct
- Comply with all requirements of the motorsport licencing body, the racetrack operator, and the event promoter or owner

See more at: <http://nsw.mx5.com.au/news/launch-of-2014-mx-5-race-series-mx-5-cup>

THE 2014 MX-5 CUP CALENDAR

RND	EVENT	START	FINISH	LOCATION
1	WAKEFIELD 300	1 MARCH	2 MARCH	WAKEFIELD PARK, NSW
2	MOTOR RACING AUSTRALIA (MRA)	27 APRIL	27 APRIL	WAKEFIELD PARK, NSW
3	AASA NSW ROUND	17 MAY	18 MAY	WAKEFIELD PARK, NSW
4	MOTOR RACING AUSTRALIA (MRA)	24 AUGUST	24 AUGUST	WAKEFIELD PARK, NSW
5	AASA ACT ROUND	29 NOVEMBER	30 NOVEMBER	WAKEFIELD PARK, NSW

MIKE HICKS CAMS SERVICE AWARD

REPORT BY JEAN COOK
PHOTOS BY DAVID LAWLER AND CAMS

I had the most enjoyable honour of attending this event in December of last year along with David and Gaynor Lawler. Having been involved in the Mazda MX-5 Club since it inception and always having had the connection with CAMS, it has been only in recent years that I have also become more aware of, and involved in the activities of CAMS. I started by doing some admin work at Sydney Motor Sport Park and now have become an accredited Bronze level Steward and Club Chief.

It was a pleasure to find out that CAMS is at last recognizing the continuing connection between the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW and CAMS, and presenting an award to the Club celebrating 20 years of continuing affiliation.

The highlight of the night to me was witnessing the CAMS Service Award being presented to Mike Hicks. Mike joined the Mazda MX-Club during one of my times as President, and within a very short time became the Competition Secretary. As everyone knows from that time onwards the competition side of the club flourished and grew under his guidance and encouragement. It has been a pleasure for me to witness all this activity within the Club. His calm demeanour in spite of Murphy's Law sometimes appearing, and his quiet encouragement has made it a pleasure to have any dealing with him! It used to be that when I went to a race meet or sprint that I knew all the MX5 competitors in the event, but now there are so many MX5's at any given event, that I just can't keep up with everyone! My excuse is that when everyone is dressed up in race suits & helmets, you all look the same!

At the same time that the competition side of the club was growing rapidly, so was Mike's involvement in CAMS.

He became a panel member for the Supersprint Panel of NSW, then Secretary and finally as Chairman of the panel. He was also a member of the CAMS State Executive for a number of years. He has been appointed to the CAMS Australian Sports and Club Development Commission, including being the chair of the Speed Events Working Group. In between all that he has maintained his L2S license and has managed to compete in Sprints and Regularity events up to a National Level!

This award was well deserved and it is a pleasure to see all his hard work being rewarded.

Congratulations Mike on getting this award. Well done!



FOSC

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK

7TH-8TH DECEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY CRAIG DURRANT

Six of the twenty competitors in Saturday's 'Historic & Invited Sports/ Touring Cars' races on the South Circuit at FOSC were MX-5s, with some very fast cars turning up to compete. These included Matilda Mravivic, Daniel

Deckers and David Stone. The other MX-5s came from as far away as Port Macquarie. A number of competitors camped overnight at the circuit on Saturday with one waking up to find a hungry fox chewing on his toes!

On the track the pointy end was dominated by Deckers and Matilda on Saturday, whilst on Sunday Deckers remained on top with David Stone consistently placing third.

MRA ROUND 4

WAKEFIELD PARK

23-24TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY CRAIG DURRANT

10 MX-5s competed at Wakefield over the weekend, with a number of problems plaguing these competitors. Suffering ailments ranging from broken diffs to severe gastro, the one constant over the

weekend was Daniel Deckers who won all 6 races. The other 2 podium positions were shared over the two days by David Stone, Michael Hall, Scott Walker, Andy Harris and Carl Koustar. Needless to say

the racing was intensely competitive and good spirited.

WINTON 300

WINTON RACEWAY BENALLA

10TH NOVEMBER 2013 // REPORT BY CRAIG DURRANT

Fourteen of the forty-nine cars competing in the 2013 Winton 300 endurance race in Victoria were MX-5s. Nick Cancian,

with Rob Hay in a superb demonstration of skill and strategy, won the race in his MX-5, with MX-5s also taking places 8

through 10.

DRIVER SPOTLIGHT

ANDY HARRIS

REPORT BY CRAIG DURRANT

At 18 years of age Andy Harris – from Hilltop, a few kilometres south of Mittagong – has proven himself in the racing scene by placing 8th at the Winton 300 last November. This was a 300 kilometre enduro at Winton Raceway, with Andy in a rental race-car he had never driven before in his first outing at the track. In doing so he and co-driver Greg Quince bettered many very experienced and reputable teams from the field of 49 cars and Andy laid down some impressive lap times for the machinery at his disposal.

Andy only started racing in early 2013, with his first track day just a few months beforehand at Marulan. At 17 years of age, he began competing in the MRA and AASA races at Wakefield Park Raceway. He races hard but always fair and finished the year strongly, acquiring a number of trophies along the way and the respect of his competitors. His most notable achievement was without doubt the result at Winton.

The first words Andy uttered as a baby were 'Dad'. The second? 'Dicky', as in Johnson, trackside at the big race in Bathurst with his father Russell. The passion was born. Years of paddock bashing from the age of eight led him to buy a race ready 2003 NB MX-5 in 2012 with his father.

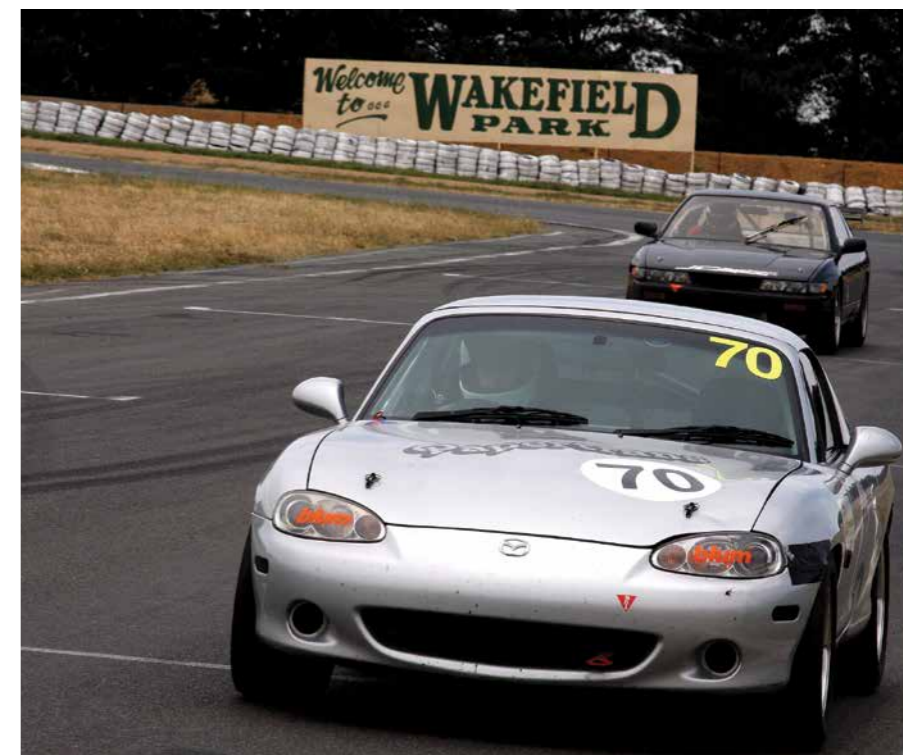
Russell and Andy have been standard fixtures at Wakefield ever since. Russell is without question the spanner man of the operation, and a better prepared one you will not meet. One of the leading MX-5 experts in Sydney was heard to growl, "Russell, you can service a car too much you know," as Russell detailed the meticulous preparation that goes into their car prior to a race weekend.

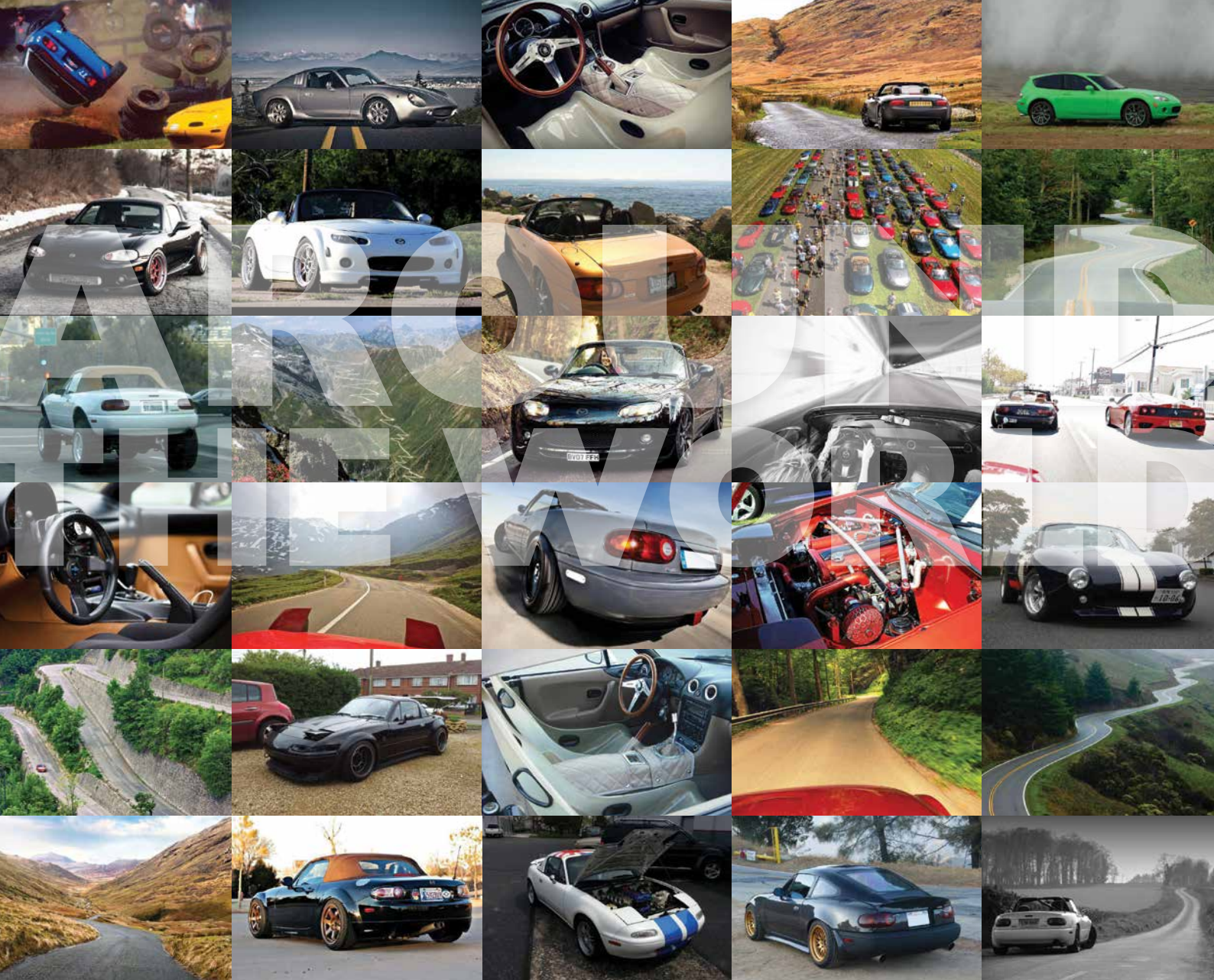
Russell is never trackside without a spare

for pretty much everything on the car in his kit and is always there to lend a hand if one of his fellow MX-5 racers is in a bind. In spite of Andy's protests, Russell is prepared to sacrifice his own seat-time in order to give Andy the racing opportunities he needs to continue to

develop as a driver.

No more rental race-cars for Andy - he has been asked to co-drive one of the Deckspeed/Hydrawash cars with Michael Hall in the Wakefield 300 in early March





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