

MAZDA MX-5 CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA NATMEET X

CANBERRA, EASTER 6-10 APRIL 2012



CLUB TORQUE
SPECIAL EDITION



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COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE

NatMeet Committee Retrospective

• Words: Peter Feutrill



As the Chair of the NatMeet Committee it gives me great pleasure to report that NatMeet X was a *HUGE* success!

The feedback that the Committee received during and post NatMeet tells us that we did a good job in providing an event that gave all attendees an opportunity to interact,

relax, participate, compete and generally just to enjoy themselves without having to think too hard about it. The success of NatMeet X was a reflection of the hard work put in over the last two years by a “tight” committee who were all highly motivated to deliver a great event.

We thought that the following worked really well:

- ✓ A small Committee who all took on key roles and were able to make decisions quickly.
- ✓ Members of the Committee had NatMeet experience.
- ✓ Everyone stayed at the one location where we held some functions to minimise travel.
- ✓ Organised buses for functions at other locations.
- ✓ The local chapter took responsibility for runs.
- ✓ The program provided some free time.
- ✓ The scoring system did not make people feel obliged to attend every activity.
- ✓ There was a mixture of competition and fun events.
- ✓ The decision to exclude R-spec tyres for the track day was fairer for interstate competitors.
- ✓ The track day was superbly organised by Mike and Zan.
- ✓ The dinner at the **Australian War Memorial** was our sensational signature event.
- ✓ The cost for drinks at most events was included.
- ✓ There were alternate events for those who were not interested in the motorsport day (the WOW bus tour).
- ✓ The **National Film & Sound Archive** was the perfect backdrop to our Stars of Stage & Screen fancy dress night and the participation was out of this world.
- ✓ The final evening was a celebration night shared with friends.

It is history that the weekend weather was perfect and we joked how the weather was the one thing we organised and the rest was pure luck! I think that the Queenslanders who are hosting NatMeet XI in 2014 were in awe of how high the bar was set. We had to laugh when Peter Phillips spoke on behalf of the Queensland Committee late on Monday evening and announced that it had just started to rain.

The theme that developed over the weekend was about the MX-5 “family”. This was evident in stories where people had assisted others with their troubles, even lending them cars for the weekend. Pam Estreich’s words about her granddaughter’s battle with cancer touched everyone present and the committee was pleased to announce that the chosen charity for NatMeet X will be the **Westmead Children’s Hospital**. As soon as we finalise the finances we are confident we will be able to make a healthy donation to this worthy cause.

Thanks to our sponsors particularly Mazda Australia who were just fantastic. They sent Mike Dawson, Business Development Manager NSW, as a representative to assist with presentations on Monday evening and Mike has since indicated how much he enjoyed the enthusiasm and the energy in the room. He has promised we will be the first to know when the ND model MX-5 is confirmed with front wheel drive, 800cc hybrid powertrain and CVT gearbox!

I would like to express my personal thanks to my friends on the Committee for their untiring work, particularly: Phil Ashton for all the concours and show & shine organisation and the overall point scoring system, Cheryl Ashton for functions, catering and the WOW bus tour, Keith Monaghan for signage, trophies and the contents of the welcome packs, and Paul Beerworth for the organisation of the runs and the local chapter helpers. Thanks also to our respective families for their support and understanding during the last two years.

NatMeet X has been such a part of our lives that it seems surreal that it is over. A lot of work – sure – but our reward has been sharing the success with our NatMeet “family”.

Finally, you would recall Pam Estreich’s heartfelt talk regarding her granddaughter’s battle with cancer. We’re pleased to report that NatMeet X has donated \$1500 to Westmead Children’s Hospital on behalf of you all.

See you at NatMeet XI – you’ve gotta be there! ■

*Six states and one territory ...
it must be NatMeet!*





Bryan Shedden - Fastest Standard NA6



Glenn Thomas - Fastest Standard NB



Robert Pimm - Fastest Standard NC



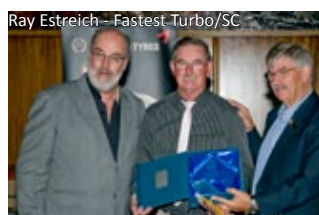
Phil Mayo - Fastest Modified NA6



Greg Bunn - Fastest Modified NB



John Toomer - Fastest Modified NC



Ray Estreich - Fastest Turbo/SC



Phil Ashton - Winner Regularity



Helen Mayo & Jen Boyko - Funkhana



Phil Mayo - Show & Shine Best NA



Mark Gray - Show & Shine Best NB



David Collins - Show & Shine Best NC



Colin Caldwell - Best Standard NA6



Dave Perin - Best in Show, Champion NA



Damon Muller - Best Standard NB8A



Paul Young - Best Modified NB8A



Keith Monaghan - Best Standard NB8B



Keith Greenlees - Champion NB



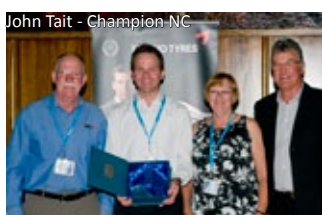
Simon Corston - Best Modified SE



Gary Moss - Best Standard NC



Dianne Byers - Best Standard NC RC



John Tait - Champion NC



John Toomer - Winner Reverse Concours



Phil Mayo - Photo Comp. Judge's Choice

National Champion



MX-5 Club of NSW

Individual Champion



Phil Mayo (Hunter Chapter)





Concours d'Elegance

• Words: Phil Ashton

The 10th NatMeet Concours d'Elegance was held on the **Patrick White Lawns** overlooking Lake Burley Griffin, on a beautifully fine Saturday morning. The threat of light rain posted by the Bureau of Meteorology a few days earlier failed to eventuate, thank goodness.

The previous day's hive of activity in the car park of ANU was there on display for all to see. Some couples spent almost all of Friday detailing and preparing for the event. Wheels were taken off to be cleaned on the inside, touch up paint dabbed on the odd stone chip picked up on the way to the event, and the exteriors polished to a mirror finish.



This NatMeet saw the introduction of Show & Shine for those attendees who thought their MX-5 didn't "cut the mustard" under the bonnet with the Concours cars. From what I saw in the car park, there were probably a lot of people who thought they had made the right decision by entering Show & Shine. But did they?

The judges toiled throughout the morning going over the cars from top to bottom finally finishing just before the field was due to head off on the afternoon run.

With all the results in and tallied the most outstanding Concours MX-5 went to Dave Perin from NSW with his Mod NA, taking out the Best in Show, the Champion NA, Best Mod NA, and Peoples Choice, by amassing 395.98 points, 27.13 points clear of Queensland's Mark Seville in another NA.

The biggest surprise of the event was reserved for Damon Muller, the Canberra Chapter Convenor, who won his class with one on the lowest scores on the day. Damon took his dog home halfway through the event and the car was only partly marked. Unknown by Damon, all the other cars of his model had entered Show & Shine, leaving Damon as the sole entrant and winner of his Concours class! The shocked look on his face at the presentation night was priceless. ■

Concours d'Elegance Winners

Category	Winner	State	Car
Best in Show	Dave Perin	NSW	2
Peoples Choice	Dave Perin	NSW	2
Champion NA	Dave Perin	NSW	2
Champion NB	Keith Greenlees	SA	37
Champion NC	John Tait	QLD	70
Standard NA6	Colin Caldwell	NSW	1
Modified NA6	Dave Perin	NSW	2
Standard NA8A	Chris Ward	QLD	19
Standard NB8A	Damon Muller	NSW	47
Modified NB8A	Paul Young	QLD	29
Standard NB8B	Keith Monaghan	NSW	31
Modified NB8B	Keith Greenlees	SA	37
Modified SE	Simon Corston	WA	46
Modified SP	Peter Howe	WA	46
Standard NC	Gary Moss	NSW	54
Standard NC RC	Dianne Byers	NSW	51
Modified NC	John Tait	QLD	70

Show & Shine Winners

Category	Winner	State	Car
NA	Phil Mayo	NSW	6
NB	Mark Gray	NSW	53
NC	David Collins	VIC	76





Concours d'Elegance Results

Name	Car	Category	State	Score
Dave Perin	2	Mod NA	NSW	396.0
Mark Seville	12	Mod NA	QLD	368.9
Chris Ward	19	Std NA8	QLD	343.9
Keith Greenlees	37	Mod NB8B	SA	334.9
Colin Caldwell	1	Std NA6	NSW	333.9
Paul Young	29	Mod NB8A	QLD	327.7
John Tait	70	Mod NC	QLD	323.6
John Brown	33	Mod NB8B	NSW	322.6
Brian Hegerty	11	Mod NA	QLD	321.1
Dianne Byers	51	Std NC RC	NSW	320.7
Gary Moss	54	Std NC	NSW	320.0
Arthur Smith	13	Std NA6	QLD	316.3
Rita Davis	5	Std NA6	NSW	315.2
Rob Jones	15	Std NA6	SA	314.8
Ken Edwards	14	Std NA6	SA	313.2
Peter Feutrill	53	Mod NC	NSW	311.2
Philip Ashton	50	Mod NC	NSW	305.0
Neil Sivyer	69	Std NC RC	QLD	303.6
Ed McCaul	16	Std NA6	SA	298.2
Henri van Roden	71	Std NC	QLD	294.6
Steve Chell	34	Mod NB8B	QLD	292.4
Kevin Barnes	63	Std NC	QLD	291.6
Amy Perin	17	Mod NB8A	NSW	288.2
Simon Corston	46	Mod SE	WA	283.6
Tom Dressler	64	Mod NC	QLD	281.4
David Bolton	4	Mod NA	NSW	281.1
Annette Taylor	58	Std NC RC	NSW	276.7
Stuart Lutz	45	Mod SE	QLD	274.9
John Toomer	78	Mod NC	QLD	272.6
Paul Beerworth	60	Mod NC	NSW	263.8
Jean Cook	52	Std NC RC	NSW	262.4
Robert Pimm	57	Std NC	NSW	253.1
Greg Bunn	21	Mod NB8A	NSW	247.6
Peter Phillips	67	Std NC RC	QLD	246.7
Neville Fair	65	Mod NC	QLD	245.0
Mark Robertson	73	Std NC	SA	243.9
Keith Monaghan	31	Std NB8B	NSW	237.3
Annette Roberts Wilde	5	Std NA6	NSW	233.6
Ron Tito	28	Mod NB8A	NSW	232.1
Glenn Thomas	32	Std NB8B	NSW	230.3
Greg Charnley	36	Std NB8B	SA	225.6
Allen Weber	42	Std NC	SA	224.7
Rick Fischer	7	Std NB8B	NSW	219.1
Peter Howe	40	Mod SP	NSW	189.2
Matthew Wilmot	59	Mod NC	NSW	173.4
Damon Muller	47	Std NB8A	NSW	138.0
Russell Battisson	18	Mod NA	NSW	94.1

Show & Shine Results

Name	Car	Category	State	Score
Mark Gray	23	NB	NSW	249.3
David Collins	76	NC	VIC	248.7
Wendy Parsonage	25	NC	NSW	247.0
Bruce Gray	74	NC	VIC	243.7
Phil Mayo	6	NA	NSW	236.6
Ian Leyton-Grant	62	NC	NSW	236.4
Peter Hilkmann	30	NB	NSW	231.4
Murray Davies	41	NB	QLD	230.2
Jen Boyko	20	NB	NSW	225.5
Raymond Estreich	43	NB	NSW	220.9
Paul Byers	22	NB	NSW	219.0
Fay Esau	72	NC	SA	216.6
Ian Goldney	66	NC	QLD	212.5
Nils Powell	75	NC	VIC	211.9
Elizabeth Rankin	77	NC	QLD	211.6
Dolores Perry	56	NC	NSW	206.1
Rachael Eggins	27	NA	NSW	192.3
Craig Armstrong	35	NB	QLD	190.3
Bryan Shedden	9	NA	NSW	184.4
Robert Kai	8	NA	NSW	159.9
Phillip Roberts	3	NA	NSW	138.0
John McNair	26	NB	NSW	132.8

Award winners highlighted in blue



Eat, Greet & Be Merry

• Words: Dianne Barry



Whoohoo hooo, NatMeet is here again!!!!

The expectation of the next few days was easily met at the Friday night Welcome BBQ at ANU University House Common Room. Greeting old friends and making new ones brought back wonderful memories of previous NatMeets. And what a posh evening it was. I'm sure I have never been to a white linen BBQ before – good food and wonderful company really set the tone for the weekend ahead. A lovely touch were the decorated cakes each member had at their seat.

Saturdays dinner at the **Australian War Memorial** raised the bar somewhat. A number of us decided to experience the pre-dinner tour, so after a big day in the cars – rush home, quick shower, shave and shampoo, dress in one's best bib and tucker, board the buses and off we went. The guides gave great insight into Australia's participation in a number of wars. A very humbling tour.

Then, onto the main event, pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres started this very elegant affair. The beautifully dressed dining area under "G for George", set the tone for a memorable evening. Red roses as the centrepiece, white linen and black chairs, everyone dressed to suit the occasion in this spectacular setting. Good food, stimulating conversation with great company, how can you miss!

A very thoughtful touch was the place card, the name on the front (in case you forgot who you were) and the name on the reverse side so you could address everyone by name. All of the small thoughtful things helped to make this a superb evening.

Sunday night was another story altogether. Not a lot of elegance, except for Sir Les Patterson of course. Another resounding success, with everyone participating. Some imaginative costumes provided terrific entertainment. A touch of genius, was to have a cocktail party – not seated, so everyone mingled, or were molested, by one who shall remain nameless. The night rounded off with a film of the history of car racing in Australia.

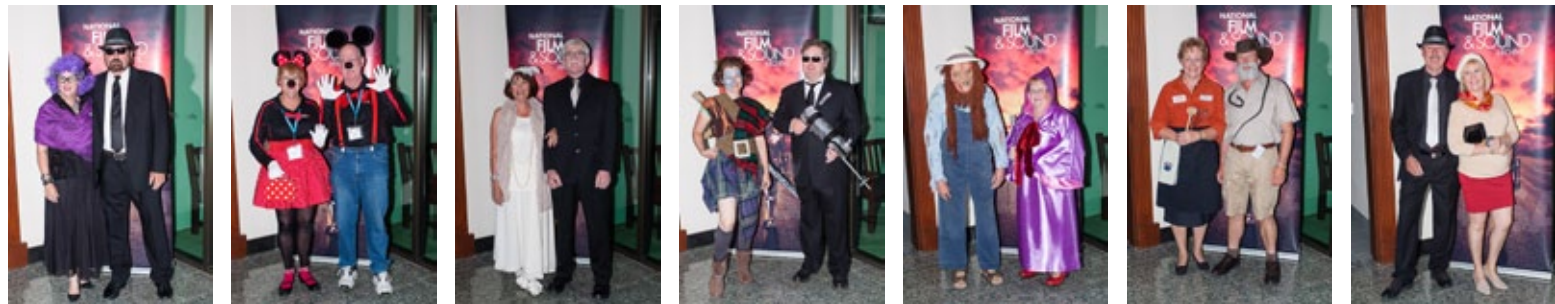
Mondays dinner was the culmination of the whole weekend. Another very enjoyable dinner in the Great Hall, the centre of which was a beautifully decorated NatMeet cake. Another of those touches, which enhanced the entire weekend.

The main event had arrived! Who would win??? The judges had made their decisions. Numbers were tallied, votes counted, everyone on the edge of their seats. THE WINNER IS ... NSW, hooray, hooray. But if you are from the Hunter Chapter, as we are ... we won it!

Lets not forget "Bruce", the one man entertainment package, who had most up either dancing or performing, finishing off the weekend on a high note.

Congratulations to everyone, because we were all winners after all. To the NatMeet Committee – take a bow – you have set the bar high for Queensland. Two years to go (but who's counting), see you there. ■





Stars of the Stage & Screen



Food Glorious Food

• Words: Cheryl Ashton



Oh my goodness, how our Caterers excelled!

Our *Welcome BBQ* on **Friday** night commenced with Pre Dinner Drinks on the **University House Terrace/ Common Room** overlooking the fish pond and lush green quadrangle. We dined on Sirlion Steak, Sausages, Atlantic Salmon accompanied by delicious Salads, following by a divine Dessert Buffet. Tables were decorated with amazing individually boxed Cup Cakes iced with the two NatMeet 2012 Logos (baked in Sydney at 5am that morning by Sonia from Cup Cake Confidential).

Old friends reunited and first time NatMeeters were warmly embraced and welcomed into the fantastic NatMeet family!



Saturday's day-long grazing started with Breakfast in **Fellows Cafe** at University House, then a Picnic Lunch of Sandwiches, Salads, etc was delivered to Concours at Patrick White Lawns by **Food On The Run**. Saturday night's Dinner at the **Australian War Memorial** was truly one of life's most memorable experiences ~ not only the venue, the private Tours before Dinner, and Audio Visual Displays, but the magnificently set tables under "G" for George! We dined on Entrees of Prawn Martini or Salad of Coconut Poaches Chicken with Avocado; Mains of Eye Fillet of Beef or Fish with Herb Crust; and Desserts of Orange Scented Brulee Tart or Chocolate and Hazelnut Cake with Bitter chocolate Mousse, together with wonderful wine provided by Hudson's Catering. After Dessert we went to the Gallery above "G" for George and enjoyed Coffee, Tea and Petit Fours while watching an Audio Visual on the Lancaster Bomber.



Sunday morning had people heading in different directions for a range of activities ~ a Country Run, Motor Racing and Funkhana at Wakefield Park and the WOW (Wives of Wakefield) Bus Tour. Dinner Sunday night was held at the **National Film and Sound Archive**, just a few minutes' walk from University House. What a sight we were, all dressed up in our "Stars of Stage & Screen costumes". Dinner was a wonderful array of Cocktail Finger Food which allowed everyone to mingle freely to admire and guess the identity of the person wearing the costumes. The vibe of the night was tremendous, so much so that when the Head Caterer visited the event mid-way through the evening, he initially had serious concerns about the amount of alcohol consumed. He was assured by the Head Waiter that there was no question about the Responsible Service of Alcohol – everyone was just having an absolute ball! Of course a night at the National Film and Sound Archive wouldn't be complete without the old movie favourites of Jaffas and Fantaes!

Monday's breakfast in the **Fellows Cafe** was followed by a country run ending at **Grazing Restaurant** at Gundaroo where we were treated with amazingly fresh produce and heavenly Lamb and Beef Roasts. Monday night's Presentation Dinner began with Pre Dinner drinks in the Foyer of **The Great Hall**. Dinner, in the Great Hall, was intermingled with Presentations before "Call Me Bruce" entertained us with great music and dancing ~ a wonderful opportunity to work off the kilos that have been gained over the last 4 days! Tonight we dined on Antipasto Platters, Chicken Breast Filled with Preserved Lemon & Thyme or Roast Rack of Veal with Crisp Bacon Rosti followed by Lemon or Hazelnut Frangipani Tarts.

Literally the "icing on the cake" for the evening was in the form of another fabulous creation by Cup Cakes Confidential – a huge red cake complete with black/white checked flag border and an MX-5 on top – amazing in design and so so yummy!



For those who partook of these amazing feasts, Weight Watchers can be contacted on 131 997 – maybe we can get a group discount!

WOW Bus Tour & Funkhana

• Words: Cheryl Ashton, Gary Moss



While the boys & girls were playing on the track, most NatMeeters chose a more relaxing option of either the "Wives of Wakefield" Shopping Bus Tour, or a run to Goulburn with an optional Funkhana for bonus laughs.

"Wives Of Wakefield" Bus Tour

When I was asked to write this article I was betwixt and between ... because *what happens on Tour stays on Tour* ... albeit a single day Bus Tour, it was primarily shopping, so must be classified as Secret Women's Business. So I've written an expurgated version suitable for the menfolk:



After a lovely sleep-in and full breakfast, our day started at 9:30am with our entertaining Chauffeur, Stuart, collecting us from University House and taking us on a drive around the Parliamentary Triangle and Canberra sights.

Then it was full steam ahead to the **Bus Depot Markets** where Stuart sat patiently in the WOW bus awaiting our return ... oh what a man! The Markets offered a huge range of gourmet food and produce, clothing, art, craft, shoes, cards, handbags, leather goods, clothing, oh - did I mention jewellery?

We were then chauffeured to the trendy suburb of Manuka where we had lunch at **Caph's Cafe** - great food and great service! After recharging our batteries with a little food and wine, we had a browse around the beautiful boutiques of Manuka then boarded our WOW bus to **DFO** at Fyshwick, where the serious Secret Women's Business really came into play. So as to safeguard my membership in the Sisterhood Fraternity my lips are sealed, zipped, closed, under lock and key!

Suffice to say all our lovely WOW girls wrote their name on the back of all their receipts for the day, proving the ACT economy had had a healthy boost! Sue Jones from South Australia was the winner of the WOW Lucky Dip - a lovely Intimates Bag and Bras & Things Gift Voucher. Congratulations Sue!

Our darling Stuart chauffeured us back to University House to rest our weary feet (and credit cards) before we transformed ourselves into "Stars of Stage and Screen" for our evening at the **National Film & Sound Archive**. ■ CA

Funkhana

When it comes to motor sports, there are those in the club who would lead you to believe that the true test of motoring skill is on the track. Not so my friends. I doubt that even one track competitor dared to compete with their spouse in the car. I am certain that not one track competitor would trust said spouse sufficiently to permit them to steer their precious MX-5 from the passenger seat.

Funkhana, my friends, is the real test of both motoring **and** life skills. As was ably demonstrated by our intrepid teams at NatMeet X. Now, to be fair, not all teams were made up of married couples. Some friends teamed up to compete. Afterwards, some of those teams were still on speaking terms.



Who could resist with such silly events as:

1. WHO SCRAMBLED MY EGGS? (Shamelessly cashing in on the Easter theme here, we unapologetically added a bonus egg & spoon Le Mans start).
2. VORTEX OF TREPIDATION (aka ELMER'S WABBIT WEVENGE - beating the Easter theme to death).
3. TRUST (with bonus points for nearest to the pin)
4. BOOT BALLOON CRAM

Honestly, it's hard to drive when you are laughing that hard. While the field was small in numbers everyone had a ton of fun!

Special thanks to Kevin Barnes from Queensland who helped out organising the event and to all the helpers and participants. They are all MX-5 drivers. Good sports with sports cars.

Hooroo! See you all at Natmeet XI. ■ GM

Track Day at Wakefield Park

• Words: Mike Hicks

• Photos: Tiit Saul



A 6am departure from ANU University House after a most enjoyable evening at the War Memorial under “G for George” the night before was not something everybody was looking forward to. Nevertheless this was the penalty paid by those competing at the Track Day at Wakefield Park on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately the 26 entries from NatMeet registrants was a little disappointing. Another 24 members from the NSW club made up the balance of the field.

The NatMeet competitors were broken into seven classes. The first three for standard NAs, NBs and NCs respectively, the next three classes were for modified cars in the same categories, whilst class 7 was for all forced induction MX-5s. Under NatMeet Rules all these cars were to run on standard street tyres, which created an extra challenge for those more familiar with running R-spec tyres. Following registration, scrutineering and the drivers briefing, proceedings were underway by 9.30am with familiarisation and driver training before commencing the six-minute supersprint sessions. Five groups of approximately ten cars competed. The first two were NatMeet competitors, Group 3 was a mixture of NatMeet competitors and NSW members, with the final two groups made up of NSW members.

Each group completed four runs before breaking for lunch. During the lunch break the NatMeet registrants that arrived at Wakefield Park on the organised run from Canberra were taken for a few laps around the circuit behind a pace car. After lunch the “NatMeeters” were broken into three groups for an eight-minute regularity run. This was then followed by a further two supersprint runs before calling a halt to the days proceedings just before 4:00pm. The weather had been ideal as it had been all weekend. A big thank you is extended to the NSW members who assisted by acting as officials.

Trophies were presented to the NatMeet class winners at the closing dinner on Monday evening. The class winners were Bryan Shedden (1), Glenn Thomas (2), Robert Pimm (3), Phil Mayo (4), Greg Bunn (5), John Toomer from Queensland (6), and Ray Estreich (7). For the regularity winner, the trophy was a set of road tyres for his MX-5 that was donated by Kumho Tyres – a big thank you to Kumho for their generous support. The regularity was calculated over six laps and



the winner was Phil Ashton with a time variation of only 0.92s. Second place went to Glenn Thomas (1.90s), third to Keith Monaghan (1.99s), and fourth place to Peter “Sir Les” Battisson (2.51s).

Whilst not part of the NSW Championship, new class records were established for 2011/12 by Bryan Shedden in class 1 (1:16.36), Jean Cook for ladies in class 3 (1:25.18), and Deen Hameed in class 6 (1:12.69). Fastest time of the day was won by Mark Hellmund (1:10.41) from Andrew Irwin (1:10.46) and Steve Green (1:10.95). A full set of results are on the motor sport page of the club website. ■

NatMeet Track Results

Class	Place	Car No.	Driver	State	Best Time
1	1	68	Bryan Shedden	NSW	1:16.36
	2	55	Peter Battisson	NSW	1:19.29
2	1	4	Glenn Thomas	NSW	1:16.26
	2	35	Keith Monaghan	NSW	1:17.85
3	1	6	Robert Pimm	NSW	1:15.70
	2	18	Neil Sivyer	QLD	1:22.66
	3	31	Peter Phillips	QLD	1:22.81
	4	25	Henri van Roden	QLD	1:24.08
	5	47	Allen Weber	SA	1:25.08
	6	1	Jean Cook	NSW	1:25.18
4	1	56	Phil Mayo	NSW	1:17.13
	2	28	Mark Seville	QLD	1:21.55
	3	153	Rob Jones	SA	1:22.89
5	1	43	Greg Bunn	NSW	1:19.56
	2	611	Paul Byers	NSW	1:21.03
	3	46	Brian Hegerty	QLD	1:21.41
6	1	53	John Toomer	QLD	1:13.14
	2	3	Phil Ashton	NSW	1:13.39
	3	16	Matt Wilmot	NSW	1:13.78
	4	72	Peter Feutrill	NSW	1:14.75
	5	11	John Tait	QLD	1:17.55
7	1	38	Ray Estreich	NSW	1:15.12
	2	88	Stuart Lutz	QLD	1:15.45
	3	7	Simon Corston	WA	1:17.23
	4	2	Dave Perrin	NSW	1:17.64
	5	888	Lisa Capamagian	QLD	1:24.16





Out for a Drive

• Words: Paul Beerworth



We have some brilliant roads around our Nation's Capital, particularly those that bring out the best of the MX-5 and drivers. And so, daydreaming during the long drive across the Hay Plains after NatMeet IX in South Australia, I came up with a great selection of runs visiting Bombala, Eden, Yass, Galong, Harden, Boorowa, Crookwell, Gunning, Breadalbane, Cabramurra, Khancoban, Jindabyne, and Cooma.

Sadly the cumulative distance of these "little" drives amounted to some 1,600 km, and unsurprisingly, the Committee thought that was a bit over the top.

So, when I returned to Canberra, in the real world and mindful of the other events to be conducted at NatMeet X, it was time for a rethink. In the end it was easy. Some of our best roads right are on our doorstep.

Friday. Canberra Chapter members escorted NatMeet X visitors on our *5 Hills in a 5* run. A short introduction to our fair city from the hill tops – Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie, Mount Pleasant, Capital Hill and Red Hill. Great hill climbs, within the speed limit, and the views show Canberra off to perfection. Just enough roundabouts to whet the appetite!

Saturday. Right in our backyard and running due north for 65 km from Tharwa is the *NASA Run*. This run links Tidbinbilla Road, Paddy's River Road, Brindabella Road, Urriara Road and Coppins Crossing Road. Tharwa is the oldest official settlement in the ACT, proclaimed in 1862. The Tharwa Bridge crossing the Murrumbidgee River was opened in March 1895.

The run included a visit to the *Tidbinbilla Deep Space Tracking Station* (the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, one of three in the world) – the NASA connection – which was officially opened in March 1965. Our visit appeared to have overwhelmed the *Moon Rock Cafe*.



Sunday. For those drivers not participating in the Wakefield Park Track Day, or the WOW Bus Tour of Canberra, there was a 160 km run to Goulburn via the Old Hume Highway from Gunning to Breadalbane. From the University, we took the "new" GDE to the Barton Highway, then the Namina

Road to the Sutton to Murrumbateman Road and then the Gundaroo to Gunning Road. One of the highlights was seeing entrepreneur Dick Smith's property at "Bowylie" near Gundaroo, complete with a nice airstrip and hangars.

The Old Hume Highway from Gunning through the Cullerin Range is "bliss on a stick" for MX-5 drivers, a sharp contrast to the days when it was the main road to hell, or Sydney (take your pick)! From Breadalbane, we headed north again into the hills to approach Goulburn from the north west, and after a slow pass through the city centre, onto the Braidwood Road to Wakefield Park. The return drive took in Tarago, with its iconic *Loaded Dog Hotel* and Bungendore at the southern end of Lake George.



Monday. After a late-ish start, a full complement of participants and cars headed off on a relaxed drive to Bungendore past the faux squattocracy's rural estates of Wamboin to Bungendore for coffee and a wander through the Wood Works Gallery and leather shop. Leaving Bungendore we climbed through Smiths Gap to the Federal Highway. A sharp crossing and, for some, a brief sprint along the old Federal Highway before turning onto Shingle Hill Road to Gundaroo and lunch at *Grazing Restaurant*, located in the Royal Hotel, built in 1865.

The roads, the weather, the company, in MX-5s, in autumn, in Canberra - awesome! ■



Tales of a NatMeet Junkie

• Words: Elaine Caldwell



Elaine Caldwell is a veteran of all ten NatMeets. Let's relive the previous nine with her highlights.

In 1989 Mike Quist was head of Public Relations at Mazda Australia. Sue Ransom, as deputy PR Manager, was responsible for the launch of the MX-5 and formation of Clubs around Australia. Sue brought all the State Presidents together at Daylesford, north-west of Melbourne, Victoria, in March 1993. It was during this time the concept was proposed for a biennial NatMeet be held over Easter. Grant George, SA President, put up his hand up for the Adelaide Club to run the first national get-together, setting the high standards and basis for all subsequent NatMeets.

THE HISTORIC FIRST NATMEET 1994 – SOUTH AUSTRALIA – ADELAIDE 31 March to 5 April (88 participants)

We were all greeted with great warmth and hospitality – most of the 88 participants travelling long distances (SA–37, WA–14, Vic–10, NSW–23, Qld–4). What an amazing site with 50+ MX-5s every time we set out.

Good Friday saw a cavalcade to Goolwa where we left our very precious new cars in the Church of Christ car park - some owners experiencing anxiety attacks for the first time! We bravely boarded the Cockle Steam Trail (Special MX-5 Carriage) for a scenic coastal ride to Victor Harbor and a seafood lunch. Concours was held at the famous National Motor Museum, Birdwood, which meant frantic washing of cars at the motel, with only one hose. During our stay we visited many wineries and a very successful race day was held at Mallala.

The grand finale was a dinner at the Ramanda Grand with personalised engraved trophies waiting at the tables, "Inaugural National Meeting – Adelaide 1994". Wow! Presentations and awards, then we danced the night away – an amazing 1st NatMeet – and the MX-5 NatMeet Family was born.



The five state presidents of the Mazda MX-5 clubs with the "historic" 250,000th MX-5. Clockwise from left: Lea Finley (NSW/ACT), David Verna (Qld), Grant George (SA), David Henry (Vic/Tas) and Peter Randall (WA) (kneeling).

1996 – NEW SOUTH WALES – CANBERRA 31 March to 5 April (84 participants)

Staying at the Sundowner Village with Concours at the Ginninderra Village with Arts & Crafts for the ladies. Travelling on great roads to the Top of Australia, we rode the Ski Tube from Bullocks Flat to Blue Cow - the largest rack railway in Australia, 2000 metres above sea level. Very cold with fantastic views – then lunch at the lovely Crackenback Resort. Other events included a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin after breakfast at the Canberra Yacht Club. Race day was at the new Wakefield Park, purpose built in 1994 for sports car events. The famous Lobby Restaurant, venue for our presentation dinner, intimate and perfect what a great finale.

A large group of Queenslanders came via the Great Ocean Road taking an extra 9 days. They called themselves TORTOISE TOURS, and even had T-shirts printed with their names on the back! What fun.

1998 was to be WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Many hours of trying to go west by road, sea or rail didn't work – even with the Western Australians offering to house us in their own homes to defray costs!

1999 – QUEENSLAND – BRISBANE 1 to 6 April (74 participants)

Bardon Conference Centre was the venue. Southbank Parklands for Concours, in front of the Performing Arts Centre – superb weather and such a magic spot beside the river with lunch close by. Spectacular drives, breathtaking views, twists, turns, rainforest, beautiful valleys and lunch at Riva's on the Noosa River with time after to explore Noosa. Race day at Darlington Park Raceway, Ormeau (closed in 2005). One of our NSW members had a roll over and over, but got away without even a bandaid! These MX-5s are very hardy. The car needed to be towed home.

Presentation dinner at Snug Harbour. Dockside after an exhilarating run to the Gold Coast hinterland with spectacular views of the McPherson's ranges and a group photo. Fond farewells on Tuesday.

2000 – VICTORIA – BALLARAT/MELBOURNE 21 to 26 April (91 participants)

Held one year later to get us back on track, and included two guys from Texas. Ballarat chosen for the fascinating history of the gold rush days, the venue Blythwood Grange.

Arriving at Ballarat with our 'not so clean' cars! We discovered Water Restrictions – NO WATER. Off to Easy Wash – great activity and camaraderie. A very noisy Quiz was held after our Welcome Dinner in the Chapel. Concours on the banks of lovely Lake Wendouree followed by lunch in the Old Castlemaine Gaol, then a "Get-Out-Of-Gaol" navigation run back to Ballarat.

Sovereign Hill – we all dressed for the occasion, dinner and the Light & Sound Show – fantastic. Early start off to

Melbourne along the Great Ocean Road, with fabulous scenery and roads built for MX-5s. Lunch at Wayne's Bistro, Apollo Bay.

Twilight sprint meeting for the keen motor sport fraternity at Calder Park Raceway, with the rare opportunity to drive on the Thunderdome plus the extra excitement of racing with the approaching darkness!

Sensational MX-5 roads through the Yarra Valley with brunch on the banks, wine tasting and afternoon tea before heading home for the presentation dinner at The Point, Albert Park Lake. The evening began with a bus ride from the Carlton Crest via the famous Grand Prix track – what a buzz. Wednesday found us all sad to say goodbye and face the long trip home. Another successful NatMeet and great fellowship.

2002 – SOUTH AUSTRALIA – CLARE VALLEY **29 March to 2 April (80 participants)**

The 5th NatMeet and back where it all started, renewing old acquaintance and meeting new friends at Clare Country Club. Concoors was held on the picturesque golf practice fairway. Then a superb very clean car convoy to historic Martindale Hall, Mintaro for lunch and tour. An SOS went out for as many cars as possible for a photo shoot and some to “ribbon up” for the wedding of Mike and Teresa Stafforth (who was from the Mazda Design Centre, Irvine, California) at Martindale Hall a little later in the day – of course we all agreed! Navigation run to Burra, picnic lunch provided at time and place of your own choosing. Eight of us never got to Burra – we decided to join together and do group answers. “Team Australia” was formed. 1 couple from each of the 4 states – lots of fun and crazy answers. Collingrove was the venue for the Hillclimb with the lovely old homestead for the girls to visit. Back home to glam up for the Presentation Dinner and Awards. Surprise, surprise they had a sneak preview of the Titanium NB8B on show – what a treat.

2004 – NEW SOUTH WALES – LEURA **8 to 13 April (108 participants)**

Ten years since the first fabulous NatMeet in Adelaide in 1994, and this time we had participants from Denmark and UK.

Stage One: Wakefield Park, Goulburn, for the racing fraternity with 33 enthusiastic entrants completing a variety of events and activities.

Day two, a drive to the Blue Mountains to join the MX-5 family at the Mecure Resort, Leura. The “M” themed Welcome BBQ found us mixing with a Magistrate, Medic, Monk, Mother Superior, The Mafia family and the Mini Minor Major and Major Elite Morris family, with lots of Magicians granting wishes. Scenic World, Katoomba for Concoors on the lawn – great spot (lots of interest from the public) with the scenic railway or sceniscender cable car to ride and explore the valley below. Lunch and movie at The Edge – giant screen (6 storeys high) experiencing waterfalls and towering cliffs close up.

Mount Panorama / Bathurst: Cars were in coloured groups, so when we lined up on The Grid we looked spectacular – as we do! Every boys dream to ‘do’ a few laps of the famous Mount Panorama Circuit (is McPhillamy Park really that steep?) – what a blast! Lunch at the Goldfields Mine just off Conrod Straight, ending with a visit to the National Motor Racing Museum.

Italian themed dinner – everyone entering into the spirit of red and green. Many twists and turns to Jenolan Caves with a super tour of the oldest cave, and lunch in the Historic Cave House.

Presentation dinner at the Mecure with Bob Hall our Patron handing out the awards and trophies after a very interesting and amusing speech.

2006 – QUEENSLAND – KOORALBYN **13 to 18 April (67 participants)**

A much anticipated event. Track day at Queensland Raceway and exhilarating and challenging day. Simon Corston was the only Western Australian to attend – he drove from Perth to Kooralbyn and returned via ‘The Top’ – his detailed journey is a must to read!

The welcome pack included a tropical shirt with red cars hiding in the flowers, the group photo of NatMeet Queensland is fantastic. The jungle themed Mystery Dinner was exciting. On the buses to the venue, we had Tarzan & Jane, monkeys, tigers, hunters, park rangers, zebras, plus a very sad Kokoda Veteran with his fuzzy-wuzzy angel. We arrived at Dream World on the Gold Coast, a very informative talk on the rare tigers – wonderful specimens. We rode the dodgems and other rides. Buffet dinner and dancing – what a wild night!

The Aussie Muster Show was the next event, the following day. We participated in trying our skill at boomerang throwing, whip cracking (it's not so easy), riding horses, and milking Daisy – followed by tea and damper.



NatMeet veterans were reunited for the tenth time at Canberra in 2012 (left to right): Colin Caldwell (NSW), Elaine Caldwell (NSW), Ed McCaul (SA), Jean Cook (NSW), Dave Perin (NSW), Rae Edwards (SA), Ken Edwards (SA)



Beautifully decorated tables for the Presentation Dinner, a cute red – zoom (noise) car for everyone. Henri's race car and Peter & Ruth's Titanium car on show in the ballroom.

**2008 – VICTORIA – BEECHWORTH
21 to 25 March (126 participants)**

Our venue the La Trobe Conference Centre (it used to be the Lunatic Asylum) with various levels of accommodation. The photo competition – to bring a small photo of yourself, around the legal driving age 18yrs. Was a great idea and lots of laughs.

Concours on the front lawn after frantic cleaning the day before. Fresh muffins and coffee, MX-5 camaraderie whilst the judging went on, then a scenic and steep climb to Mt Beauty with lunch at Annapurna Estate Winery. The themed Bush Ranger Dinner with two roving Bushrangers – quoting bush poetry and singing bush songs full of legends. We all sang along and had a bush bashing time.

Day three dawned very early for the track tragics to leave for the famous Winton Raceway with a planned programme of exciting and varied events to enjoy. The NatMeet group photo at Bright Pioneer Park, cars and people – what a shot – then the testing, twisting invigorating roads to Mt Hotham for lunch.

Presentation Dinner at La Trobe with motor sport and Concours awards plus some humorous awards – “Garage Queen”, “In Need of Extreme Make-over”, and “Best Number Plate”. ‘Ghost Tours’ after dark, travelling back to the days of the institution in the 1860s – the living conditions and the jobs of the inmates.

**2010 – SOUTH AUSTRALIA – McLAREN VALE
2 to 6 April (136 participants)**

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the MX-5 Clubs in Australian with a Welcome Address from Mayor of Onkaparinga.

An exciting programme of social and sporting events – gourmet BBQ, premier wines, local produce, picturesque townships and great MX-5 roads. The Sea & Vines Dinner Dance had us dancing with pirates, seaweed, kings & queens of the vineyards, sun seekers with buckets & spades, and Ruth & Wanda covered in grape coloured balloons! What a fun night and lots of laughs.

Hillclimb at Old Willinga Road a popular stage of the Classic Adelaide Rally. All NatMeet attendees lined up on the grid for a photo shoot (70+ cars), then another group shot on the bends, MX-5s filling the corner two & three deep. Top Shot.

Middlebrook Winery for dinner and show - seafood platters and a wonderful gourmet dinner. The Door Mats entertained us, three guitar playing and singing guys who changed costumes to finish as the ‘straight’ Uncles. Hilarious.




Octopus throwing was part of the beach activities at Aldinga beach. Six cars took up the offer to drive and line up on the beach – what a sight.

Glitz and Glamour was the theme for the presentation dinner. Everyone looked fabulous, amazing what you can fit into an MX-5!

We always had an immense amount of fun travelling to the various states for NatMeet, but the best thrill was to meet up with the MX-5 ‘Family’. Sadly Mike Quist passed away last year and will be sorely missed.

**NATIONAL
MX-5
MEET**

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Australia held its inaugural National Meet in Adelaide at Easter. The biggest one-model car club in Australia ran a number of social and competitive activities for the fifty cars and their owners who came from all states of Australia. The Mazdas cruised through the Barossa Valley's wine-making areas among other activities. The highlight of the weekend was a Super Sprint at Mallala Motor Raceway. The fastest time was a 1m:38.8sec recorded by Rob Lontis



in his modified 1600. As a comparison Falcon driver Glenn Seton qualified on pole with a 1:08.68 lap in the Shell Australian Touring Car Championship round at Mallala last year. For more info on the SA club call Scott Treloar (08) 296-7699, or (08) 384-6644. National enquiries can be directed to P. Oglesbee (03) 510-3071.

Julian Edgar

Extract from Fast Fours & Rotaries, July 1994

A long way from WA

• Words: Simon Corston



Attending NatMeet from WA seems to be too much of a challenge for most club members. This is my *third* and on my first back in 2006 I circumnavigated Australia in my MX-5 SE. NatMeet X was a more modest Perth—Adelaide—Canberra—Melbourne—Adelaide—Perth.

The first leg of my journey was to Adelaide, which I reached after a leisurely three days. To keep things safe and because I was on my own (no room for a passenger), I only drive in daylight and stop to refuel the car and feed myself. Day one I reached Balladonia (900km). The second day I stayed at Ceduna (950km) and then reached Adelaide after about 780km.

In Adelaide I was fortunate to stay with Allen and Dianne Weber of the MX-5 Club of SA. From Adelaide I would travel with the SA club attendees to Canberra starting on the Tuesday. That gave me a day spare to visit some McLaren Vale wineries. A nice change of pace from driving long distances.

From Adelaide the SA group wanted to travel from the mouth of the Murray to Canberra roughly along the path of the river. The schedule was to take three days (it could be done in one) and stop at Tooleybuc then Rutherglen before reaching Canberra.

The most eventful part of this leg of my journey was Allen advising me that my front tyres were looking badly worn. I was very fortunate on contacting the Bridgestone dealer in Fyshwick (Canberra) to find they had two tyres of the type I needed left and fitted them immediately. How good was that?

NatMeet X was very well organised as per usual and involved a busy program of preparing the car for Concours, being part of Concours, excellent cruises, imaginative dinners and a brilliant track day at Wakefield Park.

Coming all the way from Perth I had already planned to make this trip a bit of a holiday as well. So after NatMeet I stayed with an old school friend who lives in Canberra and was able to catch up with a number of other old school friends, some of whom I had not seen for over forty years! What a buzz. Courtesy of my school friend I saw a lot more of Canberra than I have ever before.

After Canberra I was off to Melbourne to stay with an Uncle and Aunt who live in Mornington. I was able to take day trips to the Dandenongs as well as catch up with a number of cousins and their families.

While it is a long way home to Perth from Melbourne, I was on a driving holiday. So I headed south to Sorrento to catch the ferry across to Queenscliff and then drive the Great Ocean Road. Naturally, I was taking many photographs along the way as well as shooting video on my GoPro HD. This drive ended at Portland.

From Portland I made my way via Adelaide to Port Augusta with a short stop in the Coonawarra wine district. How could I resist?

On this return leg I had made plans to stop at a number of pre-planned locations along the Great Australian Bight to shoot some photos. An unexpected bonus was a brilliant sunset at Ceduna. The weather remained relatively clear when I drove from Ceduna to Norseman (1200km) with a number of photo stops. Because of the stops and distance covered the last 300km were in the dark and fortunately I did not see any roos or emus.

Finally, on my last day I drove from Norseman to Perth, arriving at about 3pm unscathed and with a car in desperate need of cleaning.

During the whole trip I had only seen a small number of emus and kangaroos during the day (apart from the road kill). My modified MX-5 SE ran like clock-work and the only thing I had to do was replace two brake light bulbs. Many people are amazed by my actions of driving my MX-5 long distances and I say to them it is the most comfortable car I have ever driven over long distances.

If you own an MX-5 then you really should think about using it to traverse this beautiful country of ours.



Other Results of Interest



National Champion Scores

NSW - 813.2

QLD - 645.2

SA - 259.4

VIC/TAS - 62.0

WA - 55.3

Individual Champions by State

Phil Mayo NSW 31

Wendy Ward QLD 26

Rob Jones & Allen Weber SA 19

Simon Corston WA 19

David Collins VIC/TAS 12

Funkhana

Jen Boyko & Helen Mayo

Photo Competition

Judges Choice: Phil Mayo

Peoples Choice: Sandra Wilmot



Phil Mayo - Judges Choice Photo



Sandra Wilmot - Peoples Choice Photo



Neil Sivy would probably rather forgot about his "roof incident" ... at least he had plenty of moral support!

SUNSHINE COAST QUEENSLAND 2014

COME TO THE SUN

MX-5 owners everywhere - get ready to play. Meet, compete and relax with friends new and old on Queensland's Sunshine Coast during NatMeet XI, Easter 2014. Then stay and play - make it a "Queensland in the sun" holiday. Go on, you know you want to!



Put your car into this picture. It'll fit.

QUEENSLAND

It's warm, it's seriously friendly and it's all about you.

"What's that I hear, Skippy?"

"It's a long way to go for a party", you say.

Hey! Sure you could go to Bali for the money. And the MX-5 could stay home. And you'd be warm. You would go surfing. You could do a bit of shopping. You could see places that you hadn't seen before.

But wait! Join NatMeet XI on the Sunshine Coast and you can do all of the above AND push the 5 around an iconic Track AND mix with very hospitable, like-minded MX-5 owners.

Best of all, boys and girls, it's your own National club's get-together, offering you competitions, trophies and memories. And a warm Queensland welcome.

So that's it then. Sunshine Coast 2014. Plan ahead. Booking and other details will go online later this year.



Lakeside? What do you mean: "Where's Lakeside?"



Glasshouse Mountains? All part of your NatMeet itinerary

We cannot wait to show you the superb mountain roads, the scenery and the ambience of our favorite part of Queensland. Think "Glasshouse Mountains". Think "Twisties" ... "Roads", that is, not "packets of." There will be the challenge of Track activities at the historic Lakeside track. Ah, memories.

We'll put the 'Fun' into the Funkhana events and the evening entertainment will be the stuff that happy memories are made of.

Swimming? Sure, why not? It's still warm water at Easter time and you'll need a little relaxation after each day's range of activities.

Social stuff? Well, there's singing, dancing and, oh yes! eating. Dress-ups for a theme night, formal for the prize presentations and casual moments of group get togethers.

ACCOMMODATION

RYDGES OASIS RESORT, CALOUNDRA

A 4 star full service hotel and apartment complex which is spread across 10 acres of landscaped palm gardens.

Your centre for relaxing and casual meetings will be at *Reflections at Golden Beach*, a stunning a-la-carte restaurant surrounded by a beautiful waterlily lagoon, complete with waterfall and fountains. And, naturally, a superb swimming pool.

The Resort is a short walk from the crystal clear swimming beach, Pumicestone Passage at Golden Beach. It's also close to the City Centre shops & restaurants and within easy driving distance to all of our standout Sunshine Coast attractions.

*Follow the link to the NatMeet XI WebPage via
<http://www.mx5clubqld.com.au>*



That's the 'Boomerang' Wing behind. We cocked off three floors. It's a NatMeet exclusive.



TEN DOWN ...
CAN'T WAIT FOR ELEVEN