

# mxtra

11/2014  
mx5vic.org.au

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

## 25 years young!



Find us at:



MX-5 Club  
of Victoria



mx5vic.org.au

### In this edition:

**Another podium at Winton  
Nic Bodey's Dargo birthday bash!  
MX-festivities from Adelaide to the UK**



# LEGENDARY.



*THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING TWO-SEATER SPORTS CAR  
MEETS VICTORIA'S NO.1 SELLING MAZDA DEALER.*

*GET YOURSELF A LEGENDARY DEAL.*

## MAX KIRWAN MAZDA

*MAZDA MASTER  
DEALER SEVEN  
YEARS RUNNING*

**Genuine discounts for genuine members.**

Discount applies on presentation of membership card, conditions apply. See in dealership for details.

With decades of experience and a 100% commitment to customer satisfaction, Max Kirwan Mazda is the only choice for MX-5. As a Mazda Master Dealer we strive for excellence. Our technicians are factory trained and use the best and latest diagnostic technology, M-MDS. To help make sure your Mazda runs its best, visit Max Kirwan Mazda.



GOOD ONE MAX!  
**MAX KIRWAN** LMCT 1293  
 **mazda**  
[www.maxkirwan.com.au](http://www.maxkirwan.com.au)

**120 Bell Street PRESTON**  
**9480 3555**  
After Hours: **Pierre Caruana 0411 117 038**

# contents



## Your Committee: 2014-2015

### President

> Don Nicoll | (03) 9437 2787 (ah)  
 e: [president@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:president@mx5vic.org.au)

### Vice President / Communications

> Murray Finlay | 0416 247 677  
 e: [editor@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:editor@mx5vic.org.au)

### Secretary / Public Officer

> Peter Dannock | 0408 522 093 (ah)  
 e: [secretary@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:secretary@mx5vic.org.au)

### Treasurer

> Dave Collins | (03) 9755 2167 (ah)  
 e: [treasurer@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:treasurer@mx5vic.org.au)

### Club Captain – Motor Sport

> Tim Emery | 0424 091 167 (ah)  
 e: [captain@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:captain@mx5vic.org.au)

### Assistant Club Captain – Motor Sport

> Randy Stagno Navarra | 0409 210 872  
 e: [captain2@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:captain2@mx5vic.org.au)

### Club Captain – Social

> Cary Warren | 0418 368 246 (ah)  
 e: [social@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:social@mx5vic.org.au)

### Assistant Club Captain – Social

> Alex Hailstone | 0414 155 383  
 e: [social2@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:social2@mx5vic.org.au)

### Social Media

> Ben Sale | 0434 906 673 (ah)  
 e: [facebook@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:facebook@mx5vic.org.au)

### Membership

> Will Campbell | (03) 5261 4816 (ah)  
 e: [membership@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:membership@mx5vic.org.au)

### Merchandise

> Bruce Gray | 0478 219 856 (ah)  
 e: [merchandise@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:merchandise@mx5vic.org.au)

### Points

> Coral Campbell | (03) 5261 4816 (ah)  
 e: [points@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:points@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - Central

> Geoff Roche | 0409 039 867 (ah)  
 e: [central@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:central@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - Eastern Victoria

> Alan Laine | (03) 5195 5375 (ah)  
 e: [eastern@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:eastern@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - North-Eastern Victoria

> Ron Gillick | (02) 6033 0253 (ah)  
 e: [north-eastern@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:north-eastern@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - Western Victoria

> Ian Bradshaw | 0407 556 135  
 e: [western@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:western@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - Northern Tasmania

> Bruce Harvey | 0438 562 224 (ah)  
 e: [northtas@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:northtas@mx5vic.org.au)

### Chapter Captain - Southern Tasmania

> John Waldock | 0409 658 716 (ah)  
 e: [southtas@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:southtas@mx5vic.org.au)

## Regulars

- 4** President's page: *Don's Drive(I)*
- 5** Scene About
- 6** Membership
- 7** Track Torque
- 8** Midnight MX-press ... *get ready to make history*
- 8** UK Owners Club ~ *20th anniversary and National Rally*
- 9** MX-5 Club Grill ... *meet Geoff Roche, Central Chapter Captain*
- 10** Favourite Roads ... *in northern Tasmania*
- 28** SA Club celebrates *the MX-5's 25th birthday in style*
- 30** The road trip ... *north from Gippsland*

## Chapter chatter

- 12** Eastern Victoria: *Happy father's day!*
- 14** Central: *High Country run*
- 16** Eastern Victoria: *The Dargo Birthday Bash*
- 20** Southern Tasmania: *Tops Down for Breast Cancer*
- 20** Southern Tasmania: *Southport Safari*
- 22** North-eastern Victoria: *The "Not the Jingellic Run" run*
- 24** Northern Tasmania: *Magical Mystery Tour 2.5*
- 26** Western Victoria: *The Brisbane Ranges run*

## Motor Sport

- 18** The 2014 Winton 6 Hour ... *on the podium again!*

*Cover image:*

Nic Bodey's beautiful 1989 Classic Red NA turned 25 in September, and 16-year-old Nic (17 this month) led his first Club run to Dargo to celebrate ... L-plates and all!

*Photo: Alan Laine*



Find us at:  
**MX-5 Club of Victoria**

**mxtra** is the monthly newsletter of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania Inc (#A0021659A). PO Box 7438, Beaumaris VIC 3193. Registered for Print Post: 100018450

All contributions are welcome: please send articles and photos to the editor, **Murray Finlay**:

- e-mail: [editor@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:editor@mx5vic.org.au)
- post: **mxtra**, Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania, PO Box 7438, Beaumaris VIC 3193

Photos supplied for **mxtra** will also be uploaded to the Club's online gallery. Copyright will remain with the photographer, and the Club undertakes not to use them for any other purpose without express permission.

### DISCLAIMER

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania Inc., its Officers and Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in articles, reports, notices, advertisements, comment and advice of events that are published in **mxtra** in good faith. It should be noted that the publication of an advertisement, or expression of views in articles and reports, does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Club of the advertised product or service or the views expressed in any articles or reports published in **mxtra**.



# Don's Drive(l) ...

■ Don Nicoll – President [president@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:president@mx5vic.org.au)

**Welcome to another busy month.**

**Great news on the motor sport front** at Winton, as you will read, and lots more to keep you entertained.

**I have a good Italian friend** who just loves poking fun at his mother country. His latest tease concerned the naming of cars and the potential for misinterpretation.

In the days before the open European borders, five Germans in an Audi Quattro rolled up to the Italian border. The Italian guard took exception to the fact that there were five Germans in the car. "Quattro means four," explained the guard, therefore it was impossible to allow five people into the country. The German driver patiently replied that this was just the name of the car and had nothing to do with the load carrying capacity. He even offered to show him the handbook which had a picture of three people sitting in the rear seats. The Italian guard was unmoved and refused to change his observation that Quattro meant four. In desperation the German driver asked to see the guard's supervisor. This was politely declined as the supervisor was rather busy with two people trying to enter the country in a Fiat Uno.

**You do have to feel** some compassion for the poor folk in car companies who are charged with the responsibility of dreaming up names for their new cars. Most of the good words have probably been used up long ago. Those companies like Mazda who have tried to keep it simple with 2, 3, 5 etc are not free of the problem. Each new model of an existing series is often larger than the previous (except for the new MX-5, I hear you say); this certainly applies to the 3 which seems almost as big as an early 6 and the new 2 is definitely nudging the original 3. So if Mazda bring out a new small car, presumably it will be a 1 and in time it will grow to the size of a 2. So what will succeed the 1? *I guess they have a bit of time to think about it.*

Some of the great names could be re-used perhaps; *Triumph Stag, Hillman Hunter, Jowett Javelin* are some that come to mind. Stag, Hunter and Javelin don't go so well with Mazda. *Minx* might

just make it, but even that sounds old despite its fit with the *soul of motion* idea. Maybe going back doesn't help, so where do you go? I've been reading a book by an advertising guru working for an IT company. His belief is that, in the absence of suitable words, you invent new ones or use acronyms ... and guess what's the most prolific source of acronyms? *Texting by the under 30s.*

Receiving a text from my 18-year-old can be intellectually challenging until you have had a few lessons in text-speak, but there is a rich source of totally unintelligible words which may fit the bill for the car companies. For example: *cbs* (pronounced ceebs), *tinkin of chillin with a frothy bro*. This was in answer to the question: would you like a cup of tea? I'll translate in a second but a *Toyota Tinkin*, a *Chevrolet Chillin* or a *Ford Frothy* may have some potential ... in China? And what did the text mean: "Can't be stuffed, thinking of relaxing with a beer my friend".

**And what is the Pres on about** this month, you may well ask? I think authors call it "writer's block". Bad case of it this month. October was a busy month and somehow most of it seemed to pass me by.

All, that is, except for Alex and Ben's high country run: 60km of constant twists and turns on the Jamieson-Eildon road left a smile on the dial which lasted all the way home from Mansfield. My co-pilot for the day was a dog-walking mate who fancied a drive in the country. We meet about three times a week to walk our Labradors; he has two as do we. It is now nine walks since the run and he's still talking about it!

Sometimes it takes an interested bystander, like my co-pilot, to make us realise just how lucky we are to enjoy driving these little cars and to have the roads to drive them on. What's more, the car's name is perfect; you can make what you like of it but it still only takes two. So the Italian border guards should have no problem with that.

Must go – the driver's seat is getting cold!

**Remember ... Safety ~~fast~~ first!**

Don

*For your diary ...*

**See the full calendar for details**

## November

- 15-16 NEV: Omeo Gold weekend run
- 16 Eastern: Mt Worth run
- 16 NTas: Ken Beaton's Big Day Out
- 16 STas: Cavorting to Carrick run
- 23 Central: 25 years of MX-5 Sport
- 23 Western: 25th anniversary run
- 23 Sprints 2014-15 Rd 5: Sandown – celebrating 25 years of MX-5s in motor sport

## December

- 7 NTas: Christmas gathering
- 13 NE Vic: Christmas run
- 13 Sprints 2014-15 Rd 6: Broadford
- 14 Central: Annual CFA run
- 14 Eastern: Social night
- 14 Western: Christmas run
- 20 STas: Christmas run

## January

- 11 Central: Grantville run
- 25 Western: Australia Day run

## February

- 14 Central: Two Spurs run (joint)
- 14 Western: Two Spurs run (joint)

## March

- 6-9 South Australia/Vic-Tas biennial weekend, Robe SA
- 23 Central: Midnight MX-press GOR run

## April

- 4 Central: Bendigo run
- 17-20 Central: 4-day high country run

# Scene about ...

Photos: Rob Tanner, Marg Gillick, Karen Bradshaw, Stephen Gallagher, Lockie Story





# Membership

Current membership count:

508

and growing!

■ Dave Collins, for Will Campbell – Membership Officer [membership@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:membership@mx5vic.org.au)

## G'day!

A hearty thank you to Dave Collins for so ably looking after Membership for the last two months. With responsibilities as the Club's Treasurer, as well as being the chair of the planning group for NatMeet 2016, he was still only too happy to take on this additional role in my absence.

With a steady stream of newcomers (as well as a trickle of renewals), the Club's membership continues to grow. I extend a big welcome to all of those listed below – I trust you will enjoy all that our great Club has to offer.

### Western Victoria Chapter

Brian and Mary Carroll	2005 Black NC
Lucas Fitt	1990 Classic Red NA
Willy Koenders	2014 White NC

Enjoy your MX-5 and I'll see you out and about ...

*Will*

### Central Chapter

Richard Barker and Claudette Dubois	1990 White NA
Stuart and Lisa Butcher	1990 Neo Green NA
Kirsten Engelhardt	2010 Green NC
Mike Gabriel & Dot Schuster	2006 Black NC
Peter Georgey	1997 Green NA
Peter Hosken	2006 Black NC
Barry Kelly	2002 Silver NB
John Kleine	1989 White NA
Robert Neighbour	1990 Classic Red NA
Nam Phan	1989 Classic Red NA
Stuart Wittick	2001 Classic Red NB

## Trading Post



**For Sale** Personalised plates ... ideal for a 1.6 NA

For details of this and other items to buy, swap, sell and borrow, see the "Trading Post" section in the "Clubroom" section of the Club's website, [mx5vic.org.au](http://mx5vic.org.au)

### Burson automotive products at trade prices



Current financial Club members can purchase automotive parts, tools, accessories and car care products at trade prices from **Burson Auto Parts** stores.

Simply ask for your discount when you purchase, present your current membership card and quote account number **112558**.

Burson Auto Parts have more than 100 outlets on the east coast. Check out the range at [www.burson.com.au](http://www.burson.com.au)

### Repco VIP Club retail discount



Financial MX-5 Club members may join the **Repco VIP Club** for 10% off full retail at any time, and up to another 30% off full retail with advertised offers.

Enter your details at <http://vip.repco.com.au/registration/register/1160>.

You'll receive a temporary "VIP" card via e-mail, with a plastic barcoded card and key tag following within 14 days.

Repco will e-mail you online catalogues and offers.

### AutObarn Eltham 9/256 Bolton St, Eltham



... are proud to offer all Club members a big discount (up to 15%) off their full range of merchandise.

For info or orders, please contact Peter Rutherford\* at [autobarn-enquiries@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:autobarn-enquiries@mx5vic.org.au) or phone 0414 630 024 or 9439 1466.

*This offer is exclusive to AutObarn Eltham.*

Please identify yourself as a Club member to obtain your discount.

\*Note: only Peter Rutherford or Hayden Dally are authorised to offer Club discounts in-store.



### Car care products - member discounts

**Waxit Car Care** in Tullamarine is offering Club members 12.5% off all products (*excluding already-discounted kits and the following brands/products: Polishangel, Vikan, Flex and Concours 900 Polisher*).

Check out the Waxit range and order online at [www.waxit.com.au](http://www.waxit.com.au). Our Club coupon code is **mx5club**.

Please add your Club membership number to the "comments" section of your order.



# Track Torque

■ Tim Emery – Club Captain - Motor Sport [captain@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:captain@mx5vic.org.au)

## 2014 Winton 6 Hour

Another great result for our teams at the Winton 6 Hour with two teams in the Top 10 and the other painfully close with a 12th!

I know I harp on about it but this is a truly amazing effort based on the level of competition from other teams and clubs.

If our aim in the event is to ensure that the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania is considered one of the most competitive car clubs in motor sport in Victoria, then we have once again achieved that.

With *Flyin' Miatas* coming a close second to a team of race-prepared BMW E30s with experienced race drivers at the wheel, and then our teams driving their cars home, that's impressive!

As Club Captain – Motor Sport I am always proud to be associated with a club that not only takes its motor sport seriously but also provides such a great culture and friendly environment. It was great to see our team garages at the 6 Hour full of wives, partners, brothers, kids, grandkids, mates – you name it!

The *Team Emery* family alone had three generations represented, *Team Murphy* also had the same. *Team Lloyd* had Lesley and Vanessa at the track, *Team Heritage* and *Team Cole* both had sons trackside and *The Meaden Brothers* – NO not the 'Madden Brothers' – (Tim and brother James) made up part of *Team MX-5 Motorsport*.



I would personally like to thank everyone for helping out over the weekend; our team volunteers and families made the event another one to remember. Read Robert Downes' full report on page 18.

*City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - Round 5 / 25 years of MX-5s in Motor Sport - Parade Laps, Sandown*

Hopefully you will have seen some of the information about the Sandown event on 23 November.

We have had some great interest so hopefully we will see lots of cars there on the day. As we need to plan the day from a timing point of view, if you are thinking of coming along, please let us know via the normal channels for your Chapter. It will be a great opportunity to come along, see some MX-5s in action and have a chance to drive around the circuit.

*OK, so it's not an MX-5 ... BUT!*

It's not very often one of your mates calls you and asks if you are interested in co-driving in an endurance race in a BMW race car!

Well, a couple of weeks ago that happened to me, and it didn't take long for me to say yes ... just after I asked my wife!

The Valvoline Winton 300 is one of the biggest events in amateur motor sport in Victoria. It's an endurance race over 300km (approx. 100 laps) of Winton, requiring all the strategy, fuel stops, driver changes etc of larger endurance races – and it has TV coverage on SBS.

Although I will be driving a non-MX-5, the chance to compete in race-prepared BMW E30 is too good to miss. I have driven a similar car at Winton before and couldn't believe how similar to the MX-5 it was to drive – just with more power!

*Tim*

*"The older I get, the better I was!"*



## Vale Christine Galbraith

Club members will be saddened to hear of the passing of Christine Galbraith, who was a member of the Eastern Victoria Chapter.

Christine, 57 (pictured right, at Lake Wellington near Sale), died peacefully at home in September after a battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, David Crouch.

With David, Christine was the owner of a much-loved 2011 Aluminium NC. They joined the Club in 2011, and thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent together on Club activities.

David will continue his membership of the Club. ■



## When was the last time you made history ... ?

Your family, friends and work colleagues will think you're bonkers (it doesn't make sense), but cast your mind back to the reasons you bought an MX-5 in the first place – ah yes, when there were numerous more sensible options available.

Imagine 50, 60 or more "classic" Mazda MX-5s lining up to take on the "classic" Great Ocean Road (GOR) to Apollo Bay.

We'll gather at dusk at Anglesea, receive the official address and then, as the general banter turns to anticipation and excitement, it'll be all about keys in the ignition, lights on and radios off ... *let the Midnight MX-press begin!*

Once we get rolling you will be free to cast off the *brum-brum* of city and freeway driving, the distraction of the radio and be *1-Ji* (at one) with your vehicle ... *zoom zoom!*

The time has come to etch yourself into the history books of this great club by attending the inaugural GOR Midnight MX-press run on Saturday, 21 March, 2015.



Let's light up the GOR together and create a truly great memory.

*Till then ...*

*1-Ji*

## UK Owners' Club's 20th anniversary & National Rally



Those who came on the impromptu post-Christmas run last December will remember Paul and Sandy Clifton of the Northamptonshire chapter of the UK MX-5 Owners' Club.

Paul has kept in touch with us since then, and recently sent some photos of the UK club's 20th anniversary celebration and national rally at the British Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon in Warwickshire in the West Midlands.

They enjoyed a massive turnout of **more than 1,770 MX-5s** (from a total UK membership of about 6,000).

It was Europe's largest MX-5 event, with a spectacular NA 25th anniversary display of almost 200 cars – sorted and displayed in colours!

If you're interested in seeing more of the event, there's a great 16-minute video online: <http://vimeo.com/107564012> ●

*~ Murray Finlay*





# Geoff Roche

## The MX-5 Club Grill

### Central Chapter Captain

**Name?** Geoff Roche

**Age?** 55

**Born?** Trafalgar, Gippsland (son of a dairy farmer)

**Current abode?** Elsternwick

**Profession?** Insurance Risk Appraiser

**Partner?** Married to Bronwyn for 27 years

**Pets?** None

**Fave food?** Too hard – too many

**Can you cook?** Basic things, yes

**Favourite tippie?** Coopers Pale Ale or a full-bodied red

**First drive?** 1955 David Brown tractor, at a very young age

**First car?** Austin A55 (paddock wagon at the age of 14). First road car: purple Ford Escort XL1300 two-door

**First fender bender?** Rear-ended in a six-car pile-up. Fortunately I did not hit the car in front of me. This happened after having the car back from the repairer's for only six weeks after Bronwyn had left the handbrake off and it ran backwards down the driveway into the neighbour's place!

**Everyday driver?** Company-supplied Honda Accord Euro

**How many MX-5s have you owned?** Two; NB and the current one

**Current MX-5?** 2006 NC hardtop. Manual, of course

**MX-5 improvements?** Heated seats (the best thing), otherwise just a few bits of bling, really

**MX-5 dislikes?** Lack of spare wheel in the NC. I carry Bronwyn's Mazda3 spare ... hope she never needs it because it won't be in her car!



**Why an MX-5?** Purpose built; reliable, affordable

**Fluffy dice?** Nope

**Passions besides the MX-5?** 1965 Valiant ute, photography, travel, bicycle riding

**Favourite TV show / movie / book?** Australian Story; Classic Restos; Gavin & Stacey

**Dream wheels (money no object)?** If money were no object, I would have a fleet of them – nothing really exotic but a range of restored classics that would include an E-Type Jaguar roadster, 1965 Jaguar MK2, 1955 Riley, 1960 Mini 850, 1959 Bentley Continental and for something modern ... an Audi TT quattro and Aston Martin DB9

**Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong?** Only if the Trabant was not available

**Favourite other Mazda?** Bronwyn's Mazda 121 bubble car (way back when)

**If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what?** Refer "dream wheels", above

**How long in the Club?** Coming up five years

**How many MX-5 Club runs or track events?** Quite a few over the years

**Favourite Club run/track?** The high country Jindabyne and Mt Hotham runs; Symmons Plains; Licola ... the list keeps going

**Funniest thing seen at a Club event?** Ian and Karen Bradshaw's matching ear-flap hats

**Have you been to DECA or NatMeet?** DECA – yes; NatMeet – not yet

**Ford vs Holden?** Same Same, but Holden I guess

**What's playing in your MX-5?** Mumford and Sons; Highasakite; First Aid Kit; Weddings Parties Anything; Saw Doctors

**Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)?** Not really fussed about any of them, but when pushed I have to own up to Essendon

**Final comments?** Great club and great people that have taken us along some wonderful MX-5 roads and shared some good times. ●



Geoff with Bronwyn;

Honing skills at DECA



# My favourite MX-5 road ...

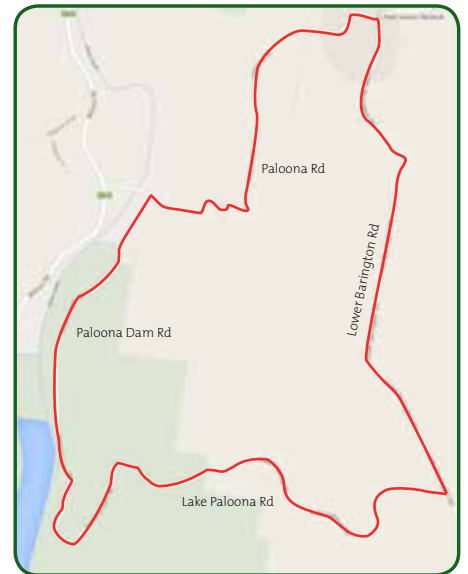
■ Words, photo: Kelly & Carl Berggren, Northern Tasmania

*We have many, many great roads in northern Tassie, but definite stand-outs are the Paloona Dam circuit and the Sideling ... both nice and curvy with enough challenge to make the drive interesting.*

## Paloona Dam Circuit:

This is – of course – part of a Targa Tasmania race stage. We usually start it from the bottom of the Paloona dam road and drive uphill to the 'T' with Lower Barrington Rd, hang a left and follow down through crop land (stunning views over the Forth Valley) to the 'T' with Paloona Road, turning left again to head back to the start via a cut-away hill and more tight turns through the bush.

Often we do multiple circuits! Since it's only five minutes from our house (on top of Buster Rd, part of the same Targa stage!) *we often take the long way home.* 😊



## The Sideling:

One of northern Tassie's best known and loved roads, this is a very curvy section of the Tasman Highway. Running between Launceston and Scottsdale, it cuts through State Forest between Mt Arthur and Mt Barrow. It has some really tight turns with a few unexpected camber changes to kick the adrenaline in and keep you focused!

Again, it's a Targa stage and multiple runs up and down are necessary! There is a lookout picnic spot at the top, half way through, which has a lovely northern outlook. ●



*Christmas is early!*

**20 ROADS FOR 20 YEARS**  
VICTORIA | TASMANIA

**MX-5**  
Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria Inc.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA

**Great news!** Our merchandise people have found a stash of the last copies of our much sought-after 20th anniversary publication, *20 Roads for 20 Years*. They're just \$16 + postage, available through the merchandise page on the Club website. But these are definitely the last. Once they're gone, they're gone!

If you have a favourite MX-5 road, you're welcome to submit a short description (150 words) and a photo to [editor@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:editor@mx5vic.org.au) and share it around!

# Zoom-Zoom with confidence!

**... with iTPMS 8886**  
tyre pressure monitoring system for iPhone

Driving on a flat or rapidly-deflating tyre can severely damage your expensive tyre, your car ... or worse.

Even under-inflated tyres can place up to 10% strain on a vehicle's drive, and use 10% more fuel.

The Davies, Craig iTPMS 8886 is a unique DIY electronic safety system which monitors tyre pressure and temperature, instantly warning of any problems.

Simple screw-on sensors monitor the pressure and temperature inside each tyre. This vital information is transmitted wirelessly to the in-car sensor plugged into your cigarette lighter and to the app on your iPhone or iPad.

With any marked variation in tyre pressure and/or temperature, an audible alarm sounds, the in-car sensor flashes red and the iPhone display tells you which tyre has the problem.

**Each purchase earns money for the Club.**



iPhone/iPad and mount not included.

**\$129 off\***

for MX-5 Club members

Contact John Benson† to order.  
\*RRP

†John Benson – Davies, Craig:  
(03) 9369 1234, ext 204



**DAVIES, CRAIG** PTY LTD.

INNOVATION - QUALITY - RANGE

Member price: **\$199.00** inc. GST + freight

\*RRP = \$328.90

Compare that to the cost of replacing a destroyed tyre!

For full details, see the Davies, Craig website:  
[www.daviescraig.com.au](http://www.daviescraig.com.au)



“NO ONE KNOWS YOUR PASSION LIKE SHANNONS.”



The passion, the pride of ownership, the sheer emotional attachment – no one understands it better than Shannons. So when it comes to insurance for your special car, daily drive, bike or even your home, there's only one person you should talk to – a fellow enthusiast at Shannons. And remember, you can pay your premium by the month at no extra cost.

So call Shannons for a    quote on **13 46 46**.



SHARE THE PASSION

**INSURANCE FOR MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS | CALL 13 46 46 FOR A QUOTE | SHANNONS.COM.AU**

Shannons Pty Limited ABN 91 099 692 636 is an authorised representative of AAI Limited ABN 48 005 297 807, the product issuer. Read the Product Disclosure Statement before buying this insurance. Contact us for a copy.

# Chapter chatter ...

7.9.14 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Jenna Perks ■ Photos: Jenna Perks, Peter Ferguson ■ Organiser: Alan Laine

# Happy Father's Day!





*What a fantastic Father's Day for a run for Dad (Peter Ferguson) and me!*

Couldn't have gotten him a better prezzie either: a *Navig8r* (similar to a *GoPro*).

And, once again, with no great surprise, the weather was perfect – thanks Alan, *LOL!*

We met in Traralgon and were a little concerned at the show of only two cars – where were all the dads? We waited a little longer and things became right with the world again as four more cars arrived.

With a lovely 'Sunday Drive' for the lead up, we wrapped around Lake Glenmaggie and headed into the hills behind Heyfield. Gorgeous winding roads with stunning weather and views, you really couldn't ask for anything more; but wait, there's more! We stopped in the heart of Licola to enjoy our lunch on the bank of Macalister River.

I believe we stayed longer than planned as we all enjoyed sharing stories, including the fact that Nic's sister had fit into the boot of his NA, just that morning, even testing that the lid could be closed! This game girl is clearly not a sufferer of claustrophobia!

It's not often you find the right environment for so many different characters to really enjoy each other's company but this day certainly had the spark!

Now, I know you're all wondering, with us not eating at a pub, how did Alan survive without his chicken parma? Well, I have to tell you guys, this man is a Boy Scout and he was prepared! *BYO Subway chicken parma roll! What a genius our #1 man is!*

Enjoying the beautiful roads back down the hill and across to the Weir Bridge (where we took some lovely photos *ON* the bridge); all seemed perfect. Unfortunately, things were about to turn sour at the Glenmaggie Weir lookout.

***CAR DOWN, CAR DOWN, NOOOOOO ....***

*MX-5s don't break down!* Well I'm sad to say that this was exactly what happened to Arthur and Helene with what turned out to be the final breaths of their fuel pump.

With full confidence that their insurance would save the day and transport both them and the car back home to Launching Place, they insisted that the rest of us continue home as planned. Of course, one should not make assumptions! The car was only transported to Heyfield and they needed to call a friend to come all the way out to pick them up and take them home – we are so sorry, guys.

Arriving back at the Traralgon McDonald's, it was a nice surprise to find that Rob (Krygsman) had finally joined us! OK, so that was a complete fluke, a nice one. A coffee and a re-cap on the journey was the perfect way to end the (almost) perfect day.

*Till next time ... ●*



*Gippsland*  
**You've done it again!**  
*Alan*  
**Your runs never fail to impress, keep it up!**  
*All Club Members*  
**Join us on future runs – I guarantee you won't be disappointed.**



# Chapter chatter ...

11.10.14 | Central ■ Words: Ben Sale ■ Photos: Stephen Gallagher ■ Organisers: Ben Sale & Alex Hailstone



*It was early on a bright, crisp Saturday morning that we gathered at Croydon McDonald's, freshly caffeinated and with animated faces.*

MX-5s of all colours gathered ready to explore the rugged high country of north-eastern Victoria, a region laced with the roads and switchbacks of Targa fame.

Drivers were at the ready after a short drivers' briefing and supply of a road book; trip meters were zeroed as the crew snaked their way on to Maroonah Highway.

Sun shone, rooves were down and smiles were on for the picturesque trip up through Black Spur. Smiles widened as the corners tightened, traffic was sparse and the smell of damp rainforest soaked the air.

Upon congregating at the first rest point, conversation and further caffeine were exchanged, locals gawked and travellers crooked their necks. The sun was warming the road and a faint mist was visible on the horizon, calling our MX-5s onward. After a short trip up to Alexandra, we arrived at the Eildon National Park and the road danced through the hills with breathtaking views on all sides.

Skyline Road disappoints neither driver nor passenger, with the view from either seat simply dramatic. Drivers are presented with a seemingly endless ribbon of tar lined with trees and interspersed with varied corners urging you to push chassis dynamics. Those in the silly seat are graced with views out over the valley, taking in the splendour of Lake Eildon, dashed with boats basking in the early morning sun.

After taking in the sights, we broke next to Lake Eildon, again attracting local attention and exchanging caffeine. The next stage would be the most challenging – TS11 Jamieson Stage, Eildon-Jamieson Road ... 53km of calculated switchbacks, sweeping corners and merciless hairpins, not for the weak-bellied. Roads like these were forged to create the bond between driver and car, and the MX-5 is the perfect vehicle for this experience.

The MX-5 truly comes into its element on roads like these; the road speaks and is translated through the directness of the steering. The tyres squeal notes of joy as they grip the tar, the compound lays a trail, making its mark on the MX-5's territory, the open road.

The barrage of abuse doesn't phase the MX-5's torquy little engines. *They crave it.*

After a divine encounter between road and MX-5, the congregation headed back in to Mansfield to fill bellies.

The conclusion of the run saw an extended farewell, with some companions travelling on for a meal in town, whilst other bid adieu. Those few most devout followers, made the return pilgrimage via the route just travelled.

The day's adventures bought joy and built relationships; cars, drivers and co-drivers were in their element.

**With any luck there will be a few more pilgrims at future events as drivers continue to expand the relationship with their Miatas. ●**





# High Country run



# Chapter chatter ...

28.9.14 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Jenna Perks ■ Photos: Jenna Perks, Peter Ferguson, Alan Laine ■ Organiser: Alan Laine

## Happy birthday MX-5s!

NAs – you are now officially a Classic and no-one can argue it!!

So now the race is on ... who will be the first to get their 'Club Plates'?

I implore you all to email a photo of your car with your new plates to [editor@mx5vic.org.au](mailto:editor@mx5vic.org.au)

~ Jenna

## Happy Birthday MX-5 ...

... and so started the *Dargo Birthday Bash* in Stratford at 9am. The run was organised by our prized Eastern Victoria Chapter *L-plater* Nic Bodey with the assistance of his dad, John Bodey.

What a fabulous turn out it was too, especially considering how many of the cars were from the Central Chapter (and here I was winging about an early start!!) – 19 cars in total, with a whopping 13 of them being NA6s.

The run notes were the most impressive, I believe, that ANY of us had ever seen! Prepared by John Bodey, they included directions and distances and pictures. If there's an award for run notes, I think the rest of us may as well give up now!!

As it had been my birthday the day before (unfortunately I was a little older than 25!), Dad let me have my first drive with the Club in his NA. Easy for him, of course, as he had his new baby NC to drive also; too many toys, poor man!

This arrangement worked quite nicely for my six-year-old, Alyssa (left, with me), who was happy to car hop all day. I'm going to tell you right here and now, *I was nervous as hell*. I have given these boys so much stick verbally over the years that I was deserving of a good amount back and this was a perfect time for it!

Needless to say, I hung with *Tail End Charlie* for the first part of the day. This was Rob and Mel, and I knew she would injure him if he was nasty to me – *we girls gotta stick together!*

Finding the groove turned out to be relatively easy. With absolutely amazing weather and 101 questions being fired at me by a six-year-old, I had no time to get uptight anyway.

Our first stop was at Briagolong. It was here that I was ditched by my daughter because I was coming last and Pa was second, "*so he must be going much faster and I want to be in a fast car Mum*" – so much for girls sticking together!

While enjoying the leisurely toilet stop we were passed by a large convoy of Harleys which pulled up around the corner.

Nic continued to impress me when he pushed his sleeves up and waltzed up to the *biker crew* ... to find out if they were headed to the same lunch destination as us and to ensure that we didn't all land on their kitchen all at once. Finding this to be the case he also got us back on the road quickly to avoid being caught behind them.

Aside from the occasional strong essence of *road kill*, the weather and roads could not have been nicer. The warmth and the







✓ Nic, his NA and his L-plates;  
Alan gets his essential chicken parma



# the Dargo Birthday Bash

*celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Mazda MX-5*

flow were, at times, somewhat hypnotic and I had to turn some music on to avoid being lulled too far! As was to be expected with such a big group, by the time we reached Dargo we had quite a large gap between a *front team* and a *follow up team*. We finally started to hear the radio calls, from the front team, as we parked at the pub. Sounding extremely relieved we were advised they were waiting for us to do the last *fun bit* before lunch.

By this time I was a lot more confident and over being at the back so I took off like a rocket behind Peter Shinn to catch them (within the legal speed limits of course).

Heading up an incredibly steep incline it wasn't long before one of the cars decided to overheat. A couple of support cars pulled over to help as Peter and I took off up the mountain, free at last! Thank you so much Peter! He drove hard, allowing me to follow his driving lines, watch out for his gear changes and, most importantly, blow those damn cobwebs out of the exhaust.

I've not felt so exhilarated in a LONG time – I love driving hard! Unfortunately we had to stop and turn around about 15km on as the bitumen ran out. But the drive down was almost as good when I positioned myself as about the fourth car back and played with those I have always

considered *The Big Boys* who know how to drive really hard! I think I could get the hang of this, Dad ... *want to sell your car?*

Well, despite Nic's efforts, we and the Harleys arrived on the Dargo Pub at the same time! Credit where credit's due though: the staff presented lovely meals, of great size, in record time – I couldn't believe it. Those guys have got their stuff together!

After lunch Nic gathered the chassis numbers of all the NAs involved in the run so we could wish a happy 25th birthday to:

100038	Nic Bodey (Oz build no. #38)
100041	Jeff & Cindy Isaac (Oz build #41)
100051	Peter Ferguson (#51 etc ...)
100143	Victor Lao
101360	Ron Diprose
101846	Travis McInnes
103065	Peter Shinn
200356	Ian Sonderhof & Jan Cohen

*(Ed: There were six other early NAs on the run too, but they aren't Club members.)*

Quite a few teams broke off from the run after lunch to shorten the long trek home. Thankfully by this time I had convinced my daughter that I could drive fast enough to be graced with her presence and she again joined me as my co-pilot. Those of us who stayed on were not only spoiled by the glorious roads back to Stratford but also a local wine and coffee bar with a relaxing beer garden where we gathered to recap the day's adventures.

Thank you Nic (and your ever-trusty assistant, John) for an amazing run and the perfect way to celebrate the 'Classic' birthday of the MX-5!

I look forward to seeing everyone on the next run too! ●

# Winton 6 Hour: On the podium ~ again!

18-19.10.14 | Motor Sport Team

■ Words: Robert Downes ■ Photos: Tim Emery, Vanessa Macaulay (Red Book)

*A significant event on the Club's motor sport calendar is the AROCA six-hour regularity event at Winton in October each year.*

We were blessed with warm weather all weekend with a full field of more than 40 teams featuring over 20 makes of cars and over 60 models. It differs from the *normal* track day where mainly MX-5s are grouped together and drive against the clock to achieve each individual driver's best single lap time in multiple 10-15 minute sessions and, where possible, away from other cars to avoid interference and aid safety.

The Winton 6 Hour involves sharing the track with over 40 cars with different "nominated lap times" and a diverse range of performance capabilities – some are *all go*, some *no cornering*, some *poor braking* and of course, a broad spread of driver experience. This mix adds to the intensity, skill and concentration required to achieve a good result.

Saturday practice provided an opportunity for our teams to spend some time on the track getting used to the traffic. After all our teams cars were through scrutineering it was then a full day of seven practice sessions giving everyone plenty of time to get their eye in.

With Saturday over without a hitch it was off to *The Northo'* in Benalla for our traditional Team Dinner (below). It was great to see all 33 of the team, wives, partners, kids and even some parents, enjoying plenty of stories and predictions for the next day. A big thanks once again to Tony and Helen at the North Eastern Hotel for looking after us.

**On to the big day and, as a car club, we should be thrilled that again we produced two Top 10 finishes in the Winton 6 Hour.**

The *Flyin' Miatas* finished second to the Team E30 BMWs under the control and support of Bell Motorsport – congratulations to them. The *Flyin' Miatas* were endeavouring to make it three in a row, following back-to-back wins in 2012 and 2013, and a second place in 2011.

An extremely good drive came from Stephen Downes with 34% of his laps in the *bonus zone* (not counting safety car laps and discounting for breakout laps), particularly considering he has been out of the race car for a full 12 months.

**Team MX-5 Motorsport finished eighth** and follows their Top 10 finish last year. On examining the results carefully, they were only two laps from finishing sixth.

Our beloved Club Motor Sport Captain, Tim Emery, had the "best drive of the day" with an equivalent 44% – truly an outstanding effort. Although Paul Murphy and Fabian Mastronardi had been out of the race car for some time, they both put in solid performances with the two Johns (Reid and Downes) helping the team to their second Top 10 finish in two years.

**Team City Mazda Motorsport finished 12th** – a very credible performance. It had a serious setback when Jeremy Fredersdorff's MX-5 failed to start back in Melbourne on the Saturday morning and Kim Cole experienced supercharger belt problems on the Sunday after doing over 60 laps of trouble-free practice on the Friday. In addition, drivers Alan Conrad and Peter Dannock were making their 6 Hour debuts and, as they say, *will be better for the run next time*.

A close examination of the results and individual lap times reveal what *could have been* or *should have been* or *if only ...* but we need to learn from this experience and return and bring every bit of knowledge from what we did or didn't do well to next year's events.

On behalf of the driving teams our thanks to:

- » AROCA (Victoria) and all officials for an extremely well-organised event
- » our Team Managers, volunteers and supporters
- » our sponsors including:
  - City Mazda
  - Arma Window Tinting
  - Safe Pack Packaging Solutions
  - Brimarco
  - Espresso & Coffee Solutions
  - "Northo" Hotel – the North Eastern Hotel, Benalla
  - Executive Hideaway Motel in Benalla. ●

*The Flyin' Miatas finished on the podium for the fourth time in four years, for two firsts and two seconds since 2011*





Photography – [www.redbookphotography.com.au](http://www.redbookphotography.com.au)



- Clockwise from top:*
- > Another great result for our three 6 Hour teams
  - > Looking sharp in our team uniforms
  - > Peter Dannock (#213) put in great performance in his first 6 Hour
  - > Max Lloyd (#194) 'in the groove' during his session
  - > Princey and Pam need a bigger trophy cabinet
  - > One of the 'annoying BMWs' putting a passing move on John Reid (#205)

# Chapter chatter ...

## 11.10.14 | Southern Tasmania



### Tops down for breast cancer

■ Words: **John Waldock** ■ Photos: **Rob Tanner**

*October in Hobart can be a chancy time weatherwise, but as luck would have it we were greeted with a lovely day for the annual Shannon's Tops Down for Breast Cancer car show.*

We assembled, a mixture of MX-5s with two interloping Sprites to add some old-world charm.

Arriving at Parliament House, we were directed to our parking spots where we settled in for a morning of conversation, food and the chance to wander around Salamanca Market (an expensive day as my wife spotted some jewellery!)

There was a great mixture of cars, ranging from a lovely 1930s Riley to Ferraris and modern cars like our MX-5s.

I would like to thank those who came along and shared the day, helping to raise money for breast cancer research and also promoting the Club and our wonderful cars.

*It was also cool to see ourselves for three seconds on the local news that evening ...*



## 19.10.14 | Southern Tasmania

*The day dawned reasonably fine, but with a forecast of showers and 19° for our Safari to Southport.*

Meeting at the Rosny Bowls Club car park at 9am, we had an excellent turn up of 12 cars – including Ian and Karen Bradshaw from the Western Victoria Chapter, who were on holiday, cruising our great state in their NB, and Lindsay, who has just moved to Tassie with her beautiful NC.

A warm welcome to them was extended by all, and we hope they enjoyed our run. Also great to see Steve Mannering and his wife, whom we haven't seen on a run for a while.

After the usual chit chat, we headed off across the Tasman Bridge, via Hobart city, and on to Ferntree in the Mt Wellington foothills, down through Lower Longley, and up to Vince's Saddle, a fantastic 25km section of MX-5 winding black top.

Turning right on to the Huon Highway, we headed down through Huonville, and on to the *Petty Sessions* café at Franklin for a much-needed pit stop, and morning cuppa.

Back on the road again, heading south on the Huon highway, the forecast rain duly arrived, and continued intermittently through Geeveston, Dover, and all the way to Southport.

We rolled in to the Southport Hotel, Australia's southern-most pub, for a very enjoyable lunch, and a couple of hours of socialising. The pub is a very modern building, with a great restaurant and fantastic meals.

From Southport, the only road further south is a gravel road of about 40km down through Lune River, Ida Bay (home of the famous Ida Bay Railway), Catamaran, and Cockle Creek, which is Australia's southern-most settlement – a very popular camping and fishing spot in the summer time.

Unfortunately, during lunch, the rain set in, and we had a rather damp run back to Dover where we turned right on to the Surveyors Bay-Police Point loop which is a run of about 20km of brilliant tight winding MX-5 road, with little or no traffic – and, on a fine day, brilliant coastal views. The rain slowed things a bit, but it was still lots of fun.

Back on to the Huon Highway, and on to Geeveston, where we stopped at the local café for a coffee, a bit more chatting, and then back on the road to Hobart.

A great day was had by all, with great food, great company, and, despite the rain, *those fantastic Tassie roads.* ●





Words: Rob Tanner ■ Photos: Rob Tanner, Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Rob & Dianne Tanner



# Chapter chatter ...

## 19.10.14 | North-Eastern Victoria

■ Words: Ron Gillick ■ Photos: Marg Gillick ■ Organisers: Bill & Elaine Hines

*Until very recently our run was to be Bill and Elaine's annual Jingellic Run along the banks of the Murray River, with lunch at the picturesque Jingellic pub.*

However, based on some recent personal experience and reports from others, it seems that the pub no longer offers the same enjoyable experience that it once did.

So, a late decision was made to change the route to travel along some of the lesser-travelled roads through southern New South Wales just north of Albury. This region is not noted for its winding roads, with good reason, but Bill and Elaine did find some for us as they took us to some of the area's local attractions.

With two visitors from Eastern Victoria Chapter, Peter Ferguson and Rob Krygsman (*see their story on page 30*), Ian and Yvonne Huggins on their first run and Keith Thompson along as a guest hitching a ride in a couple of vacant passenger seats, we set off from Wodonga with seven cars on a warm North East morning.

Our first stop was at the iconic *Ettamogah Pub*. Anyone old enough to have grown up sneaking a peek at *Post* magazine when their parents weren't looking would remember the cartoon in each edition. Well, someone was silly enough to build a real version; it's closed at the moment, but is said to be re-opening soon.

Our next stop was *Morgan's Lookout*, a pile of rocks on a small hill in the middle of a mostly flat area. The story is that it was used as a lookout by the bushranger "Mad Dog" Morgan and afforded him uninterrupted views in all directions.

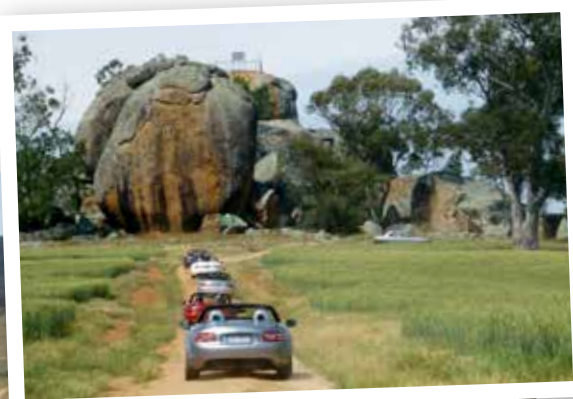
Back on the road and we found ourselves in Holbrook looking at a submarine *with no ocean within several hundred kilometres in any direction*. There is a long story about why it's there but I won't bore you with it now. It has been there for many years and was a compulsory stop on any trip up the Hume Highway before Holbrook was recently by-passed by the Hume Freeway.

Lunch was our next stop and Bill and Elaine had kindly invited us to their home at Woomargama (near Holbrook) for a BBQ lunch. All morning I had been wondering how they were going to achieve this as they were at the front of our convoy and not at home cooking it. But it was all ready when we arrived thanks to their daughter Kathy, her husband Darren and their son Jeremy. Our thanks to them for doing the cooking and to Bill and Elaine (I suspect mostly Elaine) for the meal including the best lemon meringue pie I have ever eaten.

Dragging ourselves away from second helpings of said pie, we headed off to the Wymah Ferry to take us across Lake Hume for the most enjoyable run around the banks of the lake and back to Wodonga to finish with a coffee.

**Thanks to Bill and Elaine for a great day, and to our visitors from "down south". ●**

*Morgan's Lookout >*





# the "Not the Jingellic Run" run!



^ The pub with no ... anything, really. It was closed! From left: Marge, Andrew, Peter, Keith, Bill, Rob, Marg, Brian, Elaine, Yvonne and Ian

< Crossing Lake Hume



^ Gilligan? HMAS Otway high and dry at Holbrook



# Magical Mystery Tour 2.5

*Once upon a sunny October day in northern Tasmania where all roads were built for the MX-5, a group of eager MX-5 drivers and navigators met for what has become our annual Mystery Run devised by Alana and Trevor.*

With all participants having been forewarned to ensure their life insurance and pre-nuptial agreements were up to date, the argument (*instruction*) sheets were passed out at intervals and off they went – leaving Rocherlea Tavern, heading for Karoola and the unknown.

First hiccup was that a trucking company had changed its name in the past week, so that clue started the stress.

Bringing up the rear just to make sure all were OK, I came across Roger and Ted having to reverse because of not reading instructions ... only then to catch up with Bruce and Cheryl who were going only they knew where ... especially when their answer sheet told us that trees had been abducted by UFOs and the winery was sloshed. Other answers could not be published.

The object of the clues was that all cars had to be at Low Head Lighthouse at 11.45 because at 12pm every Sunday local volunteers run the machinery that operates the Type G diaphone fog horn. This is the only working example in the world; it is also the largest one ever constructed (it has a range of 32km). With our ears still ringing we headed to lunch at The Pier Hotel in Georgetown, operated by our members Robert and Yvonne.

It was now time to mark the argument sheets, do some marriage counselling and find our prize winners.

- » **Bruce and Cheryl:** money box so they can save for a Sat Nav
- » **Michael and Anna:** ball of yarn for the yarn he gave us about a clue not being right
- » **Karin and Michael:** navigator award (*Karin wants to swap drivers next time*)
- » **Peter and Jill:** torches so they can find their way
- » **Rob:** the fishing game (*hint to take up another sport – navigating not his forté*)

After a great lunch the party, all back on speaking terms, headed to the other side of the Tamar River for the family photo on the wharf at Beauty Point. Then off we went for a blast around some of our favourite roads around Beaconsfield and Howell Gorge, with the final destination being the Blue Barn Café for coffee and more tales and stories of the day we all had on our Mystery Tour. ●



# Chapter chatter ...



## 19.10.14 | Northern Tasmania

■ Words: Alana McDougall ■ Photos: Trevor Simm, Alana McDougall, Peter & Jill Steer ■ Organisers: Alana McDougall & Trevor Simm



# Chapter chatter ...

## 26.10.14 | Western Victoria

■ Words: Lockie Story ■ Photos: Lockie Story, Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Ian & Karen Bradshaw



*Well here I am on the second run since I broke my back.*

I decided that Molly needed a run and so I tidied her up, gave her a bath and some pampering and rocked up to McDonald's in Sebastapol for the start of the run. The car park was packed and the Maccas was flat out – a licence to print money. Even so, we managed to fit our 11 cars in, including a new recruit, Lucas (and, yes, someone said “Prince of Darkness”) and gathered around Ian to see what we were going to do.

As he stared at the map he suddenly had an epiphany and said “Change of plans, follow me!” Cool – as he is our new “Guvna”, he leads, we follow!



^ Change of plans ...  
Lockie, Ian and Brian

**So off we set.** Perfect weather for a run: warm but not hot, although the hills were very hazy. Drove past Sago Hill (now I know where sago comes from!). It was so nice to see some green after the various and interminable shades of brown at home. At least someone has had some rain.

Molly was burbling along nicely as we entered Buninyong, where they were having their fete. No wonder it was so quiet in downtown Ballarat – everyone was here! Cruising along we passed a dog looking for his tucker box (lost, obviously), and so many ride-on mowers and slashers that it must have been national mowing day.

We then moved on to Lal Lal, which was also having its fete. The road out of Lal Lal was so bumpy, I was glad I had exchanged Molly's seats with SE seats. We took a short break at Lal Lal Falls then went exploring the back roads around the area. Obviously there were many people who “didn't get the memo” that the MX-5 Club was out and about as there were dozens of cars coming the other way, forcing us off the road. How truly rude to disturb the MX-5s out on their jaunt! This created a lot of dust. *So much for washing Molly ...*

We found ourselves back in Lal Lal, then headed out the other side where sections of the road had been widened and resurfaced. One of the real joys of open-top motoring is that you can enjoy the sweet scents of fresh tar, cow poo and the pleasant waft of dead roo.

We passed Lethbridge airport (I remember when they were aerodromes) [*I love the smell of Avgas in the morning*] and then



*Lockie in his much-loved SE*

the Happy Hens Egg Farm ("From our family to yours" ... Hmmm!). Into Meredith, we settled at the Pioneer Park for lunch.

After lunch we headed over the Brisbane Ranges to Anakie and experienced some brilliant roads with a lot of steep switchbacks and climbs. We passed more and more mowers; perhaps I should have been home slashing.

At one spot some clever little chappie had *reversed* the chevrons on the blind corners on the Ballan-Meredith Road. *Now that is really smart.* I notified the council on Monday. Taking the "massage" section of Mt Egerton-Ballararat road, it was quite funny watching Tracey trying to take notes with the car jumping everywhere.

We drove through Mt Egerton (I'd never been there before) and on to Gordon where we wound up the run. Most of us stepped into the Gordon Pub and nearly gave the new owner a heart attack. He had only been there for six weeks and did not expect a crowd of thirsty MX-5ers descending on him all at once. With walls covered in history, the pub is worth a visit. An example was a picture of the Gordon Gold Mine "Above Ground" First XI and the "Below Ground" First XI. She was a big town once.

So, after a couple of quiet ones, we drifted away, fully satisfied with a brilliant day.

**Thanks to Ian and Karen Bradshaw for organising so much fun. Again. ●**

*Awaiting the Oracle: Virgie, Alan, John, Lucas, Brian, Lawrie and Jeff* ➤



*Lal Lal Falls* ➤



# SA celebrates the MX-5's 25th birthday

■ Words & photos: Ben Sale

*The National Motor Museum in Birdwood, outside of Adelaide, was an ideal setting for the Mazda MX-5 Club of South Australia's celebration of the MX-5's 25th anniversary.*

Cars from across the state made the trip and every version sold in Australia was included in the very impressive 121-car turnout.

South Australian President Des Long was kind enough to invite me to attend after my trip to California for the launch of the ND MX-5. Throughout the day I met many members and tried to fill them in with as many details about the new car as possible. *I even got to make a speech!*

A highlight was the presence of the first NA sold in South Australia along with the original owner, Philip Harding. Also present was the salesman who sold Philip the car, the technician who performed the car's first service and Philip's son who is the Classic Red NA6's current owner.

The event was held on a grassy area alongside the Museum and, with a food stand, coffee truck and large numbers of people, the event had a festival vibe. Inside the museum itself we set up a

projector screen playing photos and videos from the ND launch that MX-5 owners and general museum patrons enjoyed all the same.

**>> On 23 November the MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania is holding its own event celebrating 25 years of MX-5s in Motor Sport. The gathering at Sandown Raceway will feature a mix of social events, motor sport and even parade laps. Be sure to put it in your diary! ●**



**in style ...**



1<sup>st</sup> MX5  
Purchased in  
South Australia  
by Philip Harding

# The road trip ~ north from Gippsland

■ Words & photos: Peter Ferguson, Eastern Victoria Chapter

*Three of us from the Eastern Victoria Chapter in Gippsland decided we would attend one of the NE Chapter's runs and, as it was going to be a reasonable trip, we decided to add a couple of days to it and take "the long way round".*

So it was that Alan Laine, Rob Krygsman and I started planning.

At the last minute, a death in Alan's family meant he could not attend so it was down to Rob and me.

We set off on Friday and headed through Bairnsdale, Omeo, over Mt Hotham and down to Bright for the night. The run down Hotham was fabulous and the brake dust on the wheels was there to prove it!

Next morning, we took a quick trip up to Mt Buffalo (as you do!), had a coffee at the café called Dingo Dell about 3km on from the Chalet (we will definitely be visiting this café on next year's Three Peaks run), then back down Buffalo – more brake dust – and on to Beechworth, Yackandandah, Wodonga and Albury.

A quick wash was in order for the cars in Wodonga – especially important with Rob's SE as it is sporting new white wheels which contrast beautifully against the metallic *Velocity Red* on the body.

Sunday bought the run with the NE Chapter, including a magnificent BBQ lunch at one member's home – these guys do it in style!

We had a look at the Ettamogah Pub, and Morgan's (the bushranger) Lookout.

Part of the run saw us on a punt crossing Lake Hume – as it only takes three cars at a time, it took three trips to ferry all across so there was plenty of time for comparing engine bays, identifying MX-5 models and general chat.

After a coffee at the end of the run and thanking the NE Chapter for their great hospitality, Rob and I headed for an overnigher at Dartmouth Dam, but not without finding a really nice twisty *short cut* on the way – more brake dust!

Dartmouth had, the same weekend, celebrated 35 years since opening the dam and the pub had sold out of lots of its products – we still managed to find plenty to drink and the food was great, as was the local hospitality. Rob even managed to have a lengthy conversation with a four-year old boy ... with the boy making more sense than Rob did.

Monday morning saw us have an early start as we wanted to beat the bikes retuning from the motorcycle GP at Phillip Island. There were hundreds of them but we managed to have the best road – Dartmouth to Omeo – all but to ourselves. A brisk and satisfying run in the early morning with only two utes and a rabbit for distraction!

Coffee in Omeo, then the comment by Rob about how well everything had gone. Wrong thing to say before you get safely home, Rob!

Not 10 minutes out of Omeo on the road to Bairnsdale, we were tootling along on the speed limit (on cruise control no less) and ended up behind a ute which slowed at each hill. I passed the ute (briefly doing about 115km/h to do so) and at the next available short straight, Rob did the same ...

... only to see a police person sitting on his motor bike on the hill in front!

Rob got done for 115km/h and the cop agreed that, to pass someone safely, you sometimes **MUST** exceed the speed limit very briefly. He pointed out that police policy is *100km/h plus nothing*, so be warned ... if you are passing another car, forget about how unsafe it may be to hang out on the wrong side of the road!

All up we did 1350km, covering some of the best roads in Victoria and a few in southern NSW.

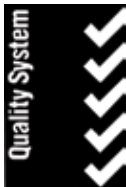
**A great way to spend four days – if you overlook Rob's booking. ●**



## ***A new option for the MX-5 owner***

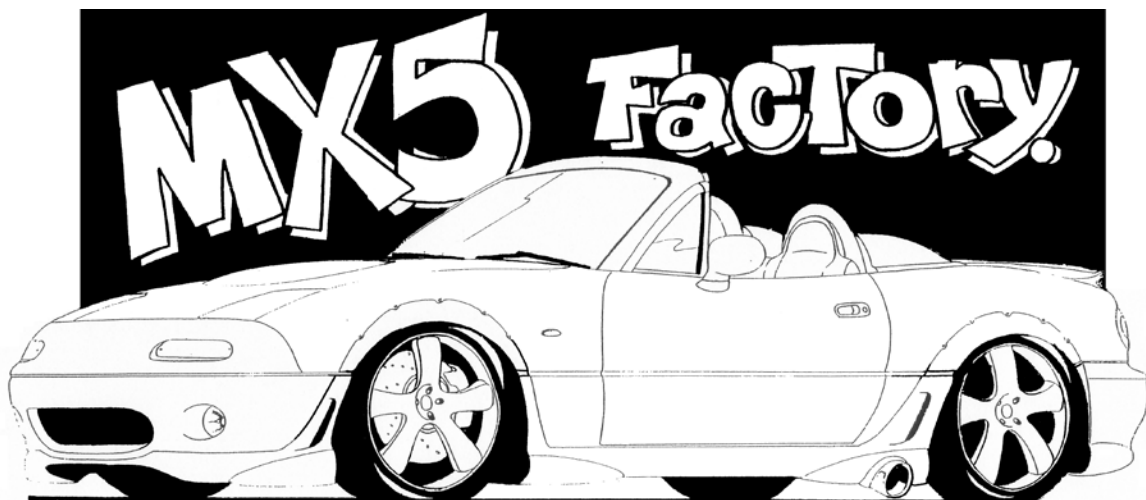
**Oven Baked Enamel Services** have taken the next step forward in service for MX-5 Owners, Lovers and Club Members.

We can offer a full mechanical and service department with specialist MX-5 mechanics and accident repairers working to factory specifications.



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

- ◆ Full range of second hand mechanical body and trim panels available
- ◆ Suspension, exhaust and performance kits
- ◆ Fully equipped workshop facility
- ◆ Competitive rates on all work
- ◆ **FREE** towing for mechanical breakdown and collision
- ◆ Special rates to Club Members - Free loan car available to Members
- ◆ Contact Dick to discuss your mechanical needs



Oven Baked Enamel Services are a factory approved repairer with 20 years of experience on Mazda, your smash repair specialist

- ◆ Chassis alignment specialists
- ◆ Air conditioning and detailing
- ◆ Insurance claims, advice service
- ◆ Lifetime work guarantee
- ◆ All spray work in Seetal Low Bake oven

**Contact - Dick Richey**  
FREE no obligation quote.

**34 Molan Street, Ringwood 3134**  
**Tel 03 9870 0520 / Fax 03 9879 6545**



mazda

zoom-zoom-zoom

zoom-zoom



# THE ALL-NEW MAZDA3 HAS ARRIVED AT CITY MAZDA

City Mazda is thrilled to welcome the highly-anticipated All-New Mazda3 onto our showroom floor. Experience the next great drive by booking an All-New Mazda3 test drive at City Mazda and see for yourself what all the fuss is about. The All-New Mazda3. City Mazda's Next Great Drive.

## ASK ABOUT OUR QUICK-SMART MAZDA SERVICE GENUINE MAZDA SERVICE WHILE YOU WAIT

Quick-Smart Mazda Service fits car servicing into your schedule better than ever. Our technicians work to have your vehicle in top condition and you back behind the wheel within the hour.

Quick-Smart Mazda Service, applies to most scheduled services, so next time you book a service, why not give it a try?

**FREE COURTESY BUS TO CBD AVAILABLE, OR  
HELP YOURSELF TO ONE OF OUR COURTESY BIKES!**



BOOK ONLINE



\*Conditions apply. Limited to 1,000km, 10,000km, 20,000km, 30,000km Scheduled Mazda Book Services. Additional repairs required above service are limited to minor items such as wiper blades and globe replacement.

# CITY MAZDA

VICTORIA'S LARGEST UNDERCOVER MAZDA SHOWROOM

14-28 Montague St, South Melbourne | **03 9329 2000**

www.citymazda.com.au |  www.facebook.com/CityMazda