

# mxtra

8/2015  
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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

# 25 years up!



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MX-5 Club  
of Victoria

**In this edition:**  
Nic Bodey's personal ND test drive  
25th anniversary apparel ready to order  
Chapter Chatter

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8/2015



# contents



## Reports and thoughts

- 4** President's page: *Don's Drive(I)*
- 5** Scene About
- 6** Membership
- 7** Track Torque
- 8** The all-new ND is here ... *Nic Bodey gets a first look*
- 12** MX-5 Club Grill ... *meet Jenna Perks, Eastern Victoria*
- 13** Drive for Life ... *a great drive for a great cause*
- 16** 25th anniversary merchandise ... *order by 31 August*
- 24** Tech Talk ... *a box full of neutrals*
- 29** Favourite Road ... *Yarra Junction to Trafalgar*

## Chapter chatter

- 14** North Eastern Victoria: *Tintaldra run*
- 18** Central: *The "I'm Too Old for This Stuff" run*
- 20** Western Victoria: *Christmas in July in Berringa*
- 22** Southern Tasmania: *The "She'll be Apples" cider run*
- 24** Northern Tasmania: *The Bracknell and Back run*

## Motor sport

- 26** City Mazda Sprint Championship – Rd 4 ... *Phillip Island*

**Cover image:**

*Can you believe the Club is 25 years old?*  
Our mosaic cover features members' shots from down the years, laid over a new ND.



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

*Thanks to Andrea Stagno Navarra for the inspiration.*

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# Don's Drive(l) ...

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



**Mazda MX-5 Club  
of Victoria & Tasmania**

*For your diary ...*

**See the full calendar for details**

## August

- 12 Club: Annual General Meeting
- 16 Eastern: Tarra Valley run
- 22-23 Western: Lake Eildon weekend
- 23 Central: Great Ocean Road dawn run
- 23 NE Vic: Scavenger hunt
- 29 Sprints 2015 Rd 6 + NSW/Vic-Tas Interstate Challenge: Sydney

## September

- 5 Sprints 2015 Rd 7: Sandown (Sat.)
- 19 Western: Forrest run
- 20 Central: Yarragon run
- 20 Eastern: Dargo run
- 27 NE Vic: Mt Buffalo run

## October

- 4 Eastern: Licola run
- 10 Sprints 2015 Rd 8: Calder Park (Sat.)
- 13 Eastern: Lunch & Lies #2, Noojee
- 17 Central: Trentham run
- 17-18 2015 Winton 6 Hour: Winton
- 18 Western: RAAF museum/air show
- 25 Eastern: Khanacross, Bryant Park
- 25 NE Vic: Dinner Plain run

## Mark those corners!

**Please remember, on social convoy runs, to mark the corners for those following.**

It's very simple: when you get to an intersection or a point where the route of the convoy might be unclear to the car behind you, please wait at the corner until you're sure the following vehicle has seen you.

If it's unsafe to wait at the corner, please wait in a visible position nearby.

*You won't get lost because, if everyone complies, the car you're following will be waiting for you at the next corner!*

### Welcome to the August edition of *mxtra*.

Another packed magazine for your enjoyment.

**At the July Committee meeting** we finalised plans for the Club's 25th anniversary event in Victoria on Saturday, 8 August. By the time you get to read this it will be history, but we hope those who attended had a great time and enjoyed checking out the ND.

One day later (Sunday, 9 August) our Tassie Chapters met up in Swansea on the east coast for their own celebration of the Club's 25th anniversary. We hope it all went well too. I had the pleasure of taking over some material for the Tassie event (I just happened to take a holiday there for a week at the end of July) and found it quite difficult to let go of the main prize, a Samsonite carry-on bag for those flights to the mainland and beyond. I hope the lucky winner was happy. We have Mazda to thank for the prize.

**Geoff Roche, our Central Chapter Captain,** deserves a mention as he has successfully arranged a communal breakfast at the RSL in Apollo Bay for the end of this year's early morning run down the Great Ocean Road on 23 August. Over the years that we have organised this event, there have been many comments about the fact that we all go our separate ways when we get to Apollo Bay. Well, this year we have not only somewhere for us all to eat together, it is also at a price which is very competitive with the local fare. So a big thanks to Geoff for pulling this together.

**The AGM will also have happened,** or will be very close to happening, when this edition lands in your email inbox or mailbox. At the time of writing, there have been no nominations for the Committee beyond those who are already current position holders.

It would be great to have some competition for positions, but it doesn't seem the way that our Club works – the majority are more than happy to spend their time behind the wheel rather than getting involved in the organisation. This is all perfectly understandable but we need to be aware that the current Committee needs new blood to both spread the load and inject new ideas. If you are interested please let me know.

**During my recent trip to Tassie,** I took the opportunity to take a look at the NatMeet venue and to talk to Bruce Harvey (the Northern Tasmania Chapter Captain) who is looking after the Launceston end of the organisation. The venue looks excellent and the accommodation is perfect for a Club event, as we get to park our cars by the units. Bruce has made great progress with organising the runs and the most important feeding arrangements. Dave Collins and Bruce Gray, who are the Victorian end of the organising Committee, have also done some great work with the planning. There is a lot going on in the background so my thanks to everyone involved in making this a truly memorable event.

**Finally a request for ideas.** We have just completed our last three-year plan as I've reported previously. We now have the task of preparing the next three-year plan for the Club. If anyone has particular thoughts on directions that we should consider taking, please let any member of the Committee know (see page 3 for contact details) or you can use Facebook to feed in any suggestions.

That's it for this month. Spring is just around the corner and before you know it we'll be putting on the sunscreen again.

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

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

*Don*





# Scene about ...

■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche, Marg Gillick, Lockie Story, Karen Bradshaw, Alan Bennett





# Membership

Current membership count:

**480**

and growing!

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

## G'day again!

We start the month with 20 new members, including the first in the Club with a new ND! I extend a very warm welcome to all:

### Central Chapter

Jan Cohen	1990 Neo Green NA
John Cook	1989 White NA
Andrew Douglas	1990 Classic Red NA
Dexter Eugenio	1993 White NA
Michael Graham	1998 Blue NB
Budiono Heng & Elisa Hanafi	1997 Silver NA
Richard Mark	1990 Red NA
Robert McFarland	2015 Pearl White ND
Ellie Minty	2000 Black NB
Nigel Morgan	1989 White NA
Ajith Perera	2005 Black NC
Travis Pike	1997 Green NA
Graham Rapson	2004 Titanium NB
Stuart & Susan Robertson	2000 Blue NB

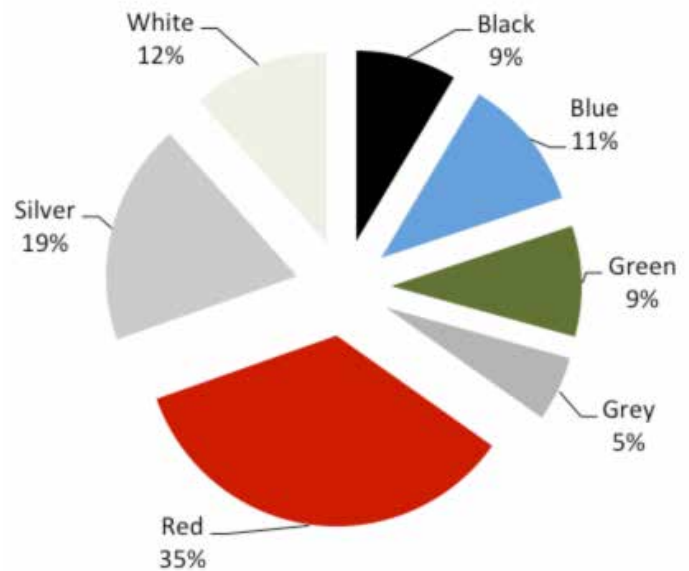
### Northern Tasmania Chapter

Steve & Triah Bence	1991 Neo Green NA
---------------------	-------------------

### Southern Tasmania Chapter

Shane & Wendy Burgess	2004 Ebony Mica NB
-----------------------	--------------------

Some more Club statistics – this time car colour. No surprises, with a clear win by red!



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

*Will*

## They're coming!

The all-new ND was being launched to Mazda Australia dealers in Noosa in the first week of August, and into showrooms around the country around 8 August.

Our spies in WA spotted these on the Fremantle docks, part of the first shipment of NDs to Australian shores.

With several on order for Club members, we'll see them around the traps very soon!



### 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)

## City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship – Round 4, Phillip Island

It was a wet and wild Round 4 of our Championship that saw the Motor Sport Team head to Phillip Island on Saturday, 4 July.

With 36 MX-5s entered our Club again represented over a third of the total entries for the day. The weather set the tone for the day and it wasn't until after 1pm that the track started to dry and the lap times started to come down.

We again welcomed some new members to the track. Although Phillip Island in the wet is a daunting enough experience for anyone, Dean Watchorn and Jarrah Pitt took it all in their stride and ended the day both with the trade mark MX-5 smile and lower lap times than they started with – and, let's face it, that's what it's all about. In Jarrah's case, not only was it his first time on a circuit, *but he doesn't even have his car licence yet!*

The full report of Round 4 is on page 26.

## AROCA 10 Hour Relay – Winton

During July we received our official invitation to enter teams in this year's AROCA 6 Hour Relay with the news that, to celebrate



the 10th anniversary of the event, this year it had become a '10 Hour'!

As regular readers of *mxtra* will know our Club has a long history with the event, having won it two years in a row with the *Flyin' Miatas* Team. We will again be fielding three teams in the event which with the extended time will be conducted with four hours on the Saturday afternoon, then another six hours on the Sunday. This will add another element to the event and definitely give our MX-5 teams the advantage of being able to run for long periods of time with consistent lap times. Although our teams never need any other motivation to perform well, there is a strong rumour that our friendly rivals from the NSW Mazda MX-5 Club have also entered teams in the event!

As always, to put 15 cars on the track for 10 hours and make sure our teams perform to their best ability, we will require some assistance over the weekend – 17-18 October. If you have a day or the weekend spare and would like to be part of our team please let me know. It is truly a great event and is a fun way to experience a weekend of motor sport.

## MX-5 NSW/Vic. Interstate Challenge

At last count we have approximately 15 cars travelling to Eastern Creek for our Interstate Challenge on 29 August. As the format is based on matching our 15 drivers with equivalent NSW cars, it's all about quality, NOT quantity, so hopefully in the next edition we will be able to report a victory to 'Team Vic.' *Stay tuned ...*

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




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*Always answer your phone ...*







*The all-new MX-5 ND – one of just two in the country at the time – made a secret trip to Bryant Park hillclimb track in Gippsland for a MOTOR magazine test drive and review ... and they wanted an original 1989 NA for direct comparison.*

*MOTOR called the Club, and Nic Bodey answered the call ...*

# A unique comparo ... original NA meets the

Words: Nic Bodey, learner driver in the Eastern Victoria Chapter ■ Photos: Cristian Brunelli, *MOTOR* magazine (used with permission)





# newest ND at Bryant Park



■ Thanks to **Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain Peter Ferguson** for organising the locals ...

*On 1 July, an important email came to me but I didn't know about it.*

A phone call was made to my dad, John, and he rang and texted me multiple times – I did not answer as I was working! What was so important that could not wait till I got home?

Well ... in two days' time, *MOTOR* magazine wanted to pay me to hire my original Classic Red NA MX-5 (the 38th built for Australia) for a photo shoot and drive comparison alongside a new ND MX-5 at a local race track.

I said "yes" – without hesitation. I would have done it for free!

As I'm still on my L-plates I needed a supervising driver, so my dad came with me to Bryant Park, the Gippsland Car Club's tight and twisty figure-of-eight hillclimb track. There we met *MOTOR* magazine's editor Dylan Campbell and motoring writer Scott Newman – who drove both vehicles. Professional photographer Cristian Brunelli spent over three hours taking hundreds of photographs of the two cars.

Tony Mee, Mazda Australia's public relations specialist, drove a red NC ... and waiting on the truck, which had brought it in secret to this secluded track, was the ND. Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain Peter

Ferguson arrived in his NC "Pearl" and Rob Krygsman (pictured at left, with Nic) in his Velocity Red NB SE.

So, there was now a red NA, NB, NC and ND MX-5 at the track today.

The new ND looks like an NC that has been to boot camp to lose a few kilos – taking it back closer to its NA roots.

I felt like the most privileged teenager in Australia today as I drove my car alongside one of only two NDs in Australia around the track – many thanks to Peter Ferguson, Mazda Australia and *MOTOR* magazine for this amazing experience.

When we finished Scott took me for a hell-for-leather lap of the track as co-pilot – one I will not forget.

I felt that the new ND could be likened to the NA and much like a go-kart. Its fine-tuned suspension – providing a comfortable ride while not compromising cornering capability – a punchy and reactive driveline along with an exhaust note to please creates a memorable ride.

***The MX-5 is back, and better than ever. ●***



^ *Australia's luckiest learner – Nic Bodey*

**Watch out for the ND/NA comparison story in the next edition of *MOTOR* magazine, which will be on the stands on 3 September.**

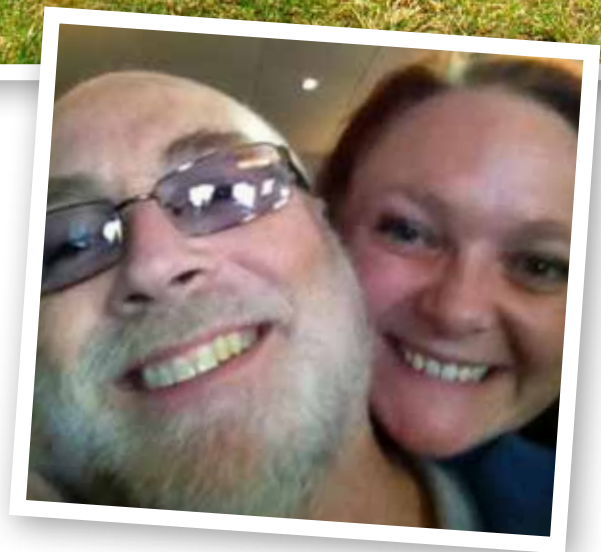
*The Club thanks editor Dylan Campbell for contacting the Club in search of a well-presented NA to take part in the compare, and Nic for making his immaculate little car available for the day.*



# Jenna Perks

### Eastern Victoria Chapter

- Name?** Jenna Perks  
**Age?** 37  
**Born?** Dandenong, Vic  
**Current abode?** Trafalgar, Victoria  
**Profession?** Consultant hygienist  
**Partner?** No  
**Pets?** King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and Kakariki Parrot  
**Fave food?** Thai  
**Can you cook?** The size of my waist says I can!!  
**Favourite tippie?** Bacardi & Coke  
**First drive?** Eight years old, steering from Dad's lap up to the Walkerville Lighthouse  
**First car?** 1976 Corolla; named her Rastas!  
**First fender bender?** 18 – traffic jam, someone ran up my rear  
**Everyday driver?** A plain old Toyota ute - company assault style!  
**How many MX-5s have you owned?** None ☹️  
**Current MX-5?** Dad's SECOND one!!  
**MX-5 improvements?** Get my own!  
**MX-5 dislikes?** That I don't have my own yet, grrrrr  
**Why an MX-5?** Seriously!!?! Ummm, wonderful to cruise in and AWESOME to corner  
**Fluffy dice?** God NO!  
**Passions besides the MX-5?** New experiences and my daughter  
**Favourite TV show / movie / book?** Spartacus / Warm Bodies / Crime  
**Dream wheels?** A nice new ND MX-5  
**Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong?** I'd give anything a test drive!  
**Favourite other Mazda?** Red CX-3  
**If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what?** Bah humbug!  
**How long in the Club?** Four years approximately  
**How many MX-5 Club runs or track events?** Lost count!  
**Favourite Club run/track?** Anything Gippsland! Awesome crew and fabulous roads – can't go wrong  
**Funniest thing seen at a Club event?** I laugh at every event, not sure when I laughed the loudest!  
**Have you been to DECA or NatMeet?** No  
**Ford vs Holden?** Holden  
**What's playing in your MX-5?** The sound and smell of the bush!  
**Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)?** Not interested, sorry (how un-Australian)  
**Final comments?** One of the best events EVER is the 'Three Peaks Run'. Lots of fantastic roads but mostly it's the relaxed atmosphere that enables us all to really get to know the other Club members. One or two nights (depending on what you can spare) that WILL NOT disappoint! I'm hanging out for the next one (November 21-23) – hope to meet you there! ●



^ Top: Jenna with daughter Lissie and "Max"; above: Jenna with her dad, Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain, Peter Ferguson



# Great drive, great cause!



Sunday, 27 September, 2015

Club racer Max Lloyd is urging Club members to turn out for the "Drive for Life" touring road event in support of suicide prevention education in September.



Organised annually by the **Drive For Life Suicide Prevention Association**, the 2015 event will run in two separate divisions using different roads for each division.

**1. Social Drive** for beginners and enthusiasts who want to take their car for a nice drive on interesting roads by following a simple set of directions (no traps).

There are no special requirements – just a current driver's licence and a passenger to read you the directions.

**2. Championship course** for those competing in the HRA Touring series and Standard Car class championships. This is a challenging tulip route course for CAMS-affiliated club members. A CAMS Level 2NS licence or better is required. Licences at this level can be purchased from the CAMS website ([www.cams.com.au](http://www.cams.com.au)) or applied for on the day.

No experience is necessary to enjoy this event and you won't be alone as a new starter.

All you need is a registered road car, a licensed driver and a passenger who can read and interpret basic route instructions.

**Please note:** this is NOT a speed event. All Victorian road rules will apply.

The event starts in Eltham and tours through the picturesque Yarra Ranges and Yarra valley areas. It will take approximately four hours in total to complete the event, including a rest stop. A BBQ lunch is available at the finish destination. It's a great way to spend your Sunday with family or friends.

We are expecting a capacity field this year, with places allocated on receipt of official entry.

**Are you up for the challenge? Don't miss out, book now!**

Visit [www.driveforlife.net.au](http://www.driveforlife.net.au) for more details and entry information.

All funds raised go towards funding suicide prevention education through Rapid Response Ministries.



.....

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# Chapter chatter ...

5.7.15 | North Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Elaine Hines ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw, Marg Gillick

*Mid-July in north-eastern Victoria and – who new? – it was a very clear and chilly morning ...*

... so cold that visiting Western Victoria Chapter Captain Ian Bradshaw, who hails from the, er, *sunny climes* of Ballarat, even wore long pants! (Those of us up north are experiencing a *real* winter, similar to those of long ago.)

Our nine cars with 16 members (and one visitor) departed our starting point at the Wodonga McDonald's car park about 9.30am. The day did improve, and all tops were down not long after we took off.

Our first stop was a quick look at the newly re-opened *Ettamogah Pub*, then on to the submarine at Holbrook for a coffee break. We then took to the hills after a bit of highway travel through the Little Billabong country to Rosewood, then to Mannus, Jingellic and Tintaldra.

The road through these hills and valleys is extraordinarily beautiful and well suited to the handling ability of our cars.

After lunch at the Tintaldra hotel we had a pleasant drive along the banks of the Murray river – we could see the actual river with the Hume Dam extremely low. Then it was back to our starting point at Wodonga for afternoon tea and a debrief.



This run was significant for our North Eastern Victoria Chapter as it was the first "official" duty for our new Chapter Captain, Loz Thomas (left), and she took to her new role expertly.

**Our thanks also go to our outgoing leaders, Ron and Marg Gillick, for all their efforts in keeping our Chapter running smoothly with a lot of very enjoyable and interesting runs over the past eight years. ●**





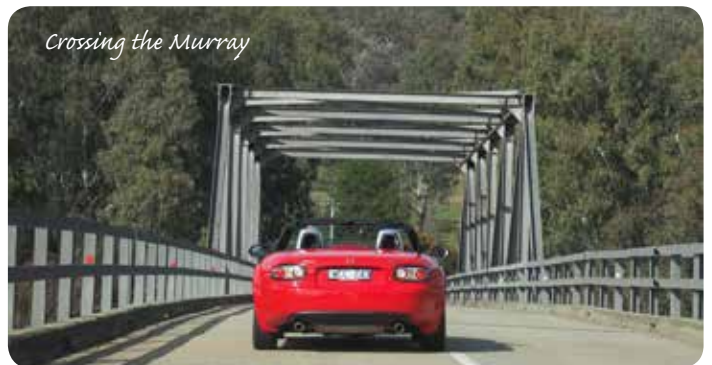
Organisers: Bill & Elaine Hines



^ L-R: Peter Doyle, Gerry & Ellen Engwerda, Ron & Marg Gillick, Elaine & Bill Hines, Katherine Hayton, Gerald Gill, Loz & Shane Thomas, Roger Cowie, Pam Bown, Tyrone Dark and Ian Bradshaw at the Tintaldra hotel



The Hume Weir is very low!



Crossing the Murray



Arriving in Tintaldra



Big sky!



# Celebrate our 25th with ...

... stylish Club clothing

Long sleeve (PS70)  
sizes 8-24



**\$40**

Short sleeve (PS74)  
sizes 8-18 only

**\$38**

**\$40**

Long sleeve (PS69)  
sizes XS-5XL



**\$38**

Short sleeve (PS73)  
sizes S-5XL only

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Navy/white, silver/red embroidery. 60% cotton/40% polyester. UPF 30+. Ladies' sizes are "tight" fit.

Size	8	10	12	14	16
Half Chest (cm)	43.5	46	48.5	51	53.5
Length (cm)	60	62	64	66	68
Size	18	20^	22^	24^	
Half Chest (cm)	56	58.5	61	63.5	
Length (cm)	70	72	74	76	

^ Sizes 20, 22 and 24 are for long-sleeved polos only

## Men's polo: short- and long-sleeve

Navy/white, silver/red embroidery. 60% cotton/40% polyester. UPF 30+

Size	XS^	S	M	L	XL
Half Chest (cm)	51	53.5	56	58.5	61
Length (cm)*	67.5	70	72/72.5	74/75	76/77.5
Size	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	
Half Chest (cm)	63.5	66	68.5	71	
Length (cm)*	78/80	80/82.5	82/85	84/87.5	

\* dual measurements indicate lengths of short- / long-sleeve polos

^ Size XS is for long-sleeved polos only



Men's & Kids' (3FJ)  
sizes S-5XL

**\$50**

Ladies' (3FJ1)  
sizes 8-24

## Full zip Polar Fleece Jackets

Navy, silver/red embroidery. 100% polyester 290gsm.

Men	Size		S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
	Chest (cm)		55	57.5	60	62.5	65	67.5	70	72.5
	Length (cm)		72	74	76	78	80	81	82	83
Kids**	Size		4	6	8	10	12	14	**Kids' sizes: \$45	
	Chest (cm)		37.5	40	42.5	45	48	51.5		
	Length (cm)		49	53	57	61	65	68		
Ladies	Size	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
	Bust (cm)	49	51.5	54	56.5	59	61.5	64	66.5	69
	Length (cm)	61.5	63.5	65.5	67.5	69.5	71.5	73.5	75.5	77.5

## Cap - Legend

Navy. 100% cotton.  
One size fits all.



(4289)



See the order form in this month's **mxtra** for ordering details.

**Please note:**

- ▶ All garments will bear both the Club's 25th anniversary logo (in silver) and Mazda's "4 Generations" logo (in red). Embroidery shown is indicative only.
- ▶ **Closing date for orders is 31 August, 2015.** Delivery will be approx. 4-6 weeks from 31 August, 2015.
- ▶ Postage is additional; please see order form for details.



(3R)  
sizes S-5XL

**Men's Rugby Top**

Navy/white, silver/red embroidery. 65% cotton/35% polyester. Not available in ladies' sizes.

Men's Sizes	S	M	L	XL
Chest (cm)	57.5	60	62.5	65
Length (cm)	72	74	76	78
Men's Sizes	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest (cm)	67.5	70	72.5	75
Length (cm)	80	82	83	84

(CJ0315)  
sizes S-3XL



**Reversible Jacket**

Navy/gold. Removable hood and sleeves.

Men's Sizes	S	M	L
Full Chest (cm)	118	124	130
Length (cm)	70	73	76
Men's Sizes	XL	2XL	3XL
Full Chest (cm)	136	142	148
Length (cm)	79	82	85

**Polar Fleece beanie**

Navy. 100% polyester. One size fits all.



(4292)

**Fine Chambray Shirts**

55% cotton/45% polyester., silver/red embroidery.

Men's Sizes		S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Collar (cm)		38	40	41.5	43	45	47	49	51
Chest (cm)		59	61	63.5	66	69.5	72.5	75.5	78.5
Length (cm)		81	83	85	86	87	88	89	90
Ladies' Sizes	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Bust (cm)	49.5	52	54.5	57	59.5	62	64.5	67	69.5
Length (cm)	67	69	71	73	73	74	74	75	75

Men's (4FC)  
sizes S-5XL



Ladies' (4LSL)  
sizes 8-24

# Chapter chatter ...

12.7.15 | Central ■ Words: Alan & Jenny Bennett ■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche, Alan Bennett

*Soothsayers look for and interpret signs. I did too (as you may regret soon) but I didn't look at all the instructions and ended up sipping coffee at the wrong Maccas, wondering why everyone else was late.*

Ah well, luckily we realised the silence was deafening and zoomed slightly east to join Pam, Tyrone and everyone else warming up on the wettest day in Melbourne for 25 years – and the coldest for 15.

Some say (that's you, Pam!) he's too old for this. Others disagree and look forward to his next run.

We just have to remember the prophetic words: "You don't have to be old to go slow and you don't have to be young to go fast." A run for everyone – well, the 13 cars, drivers and passengers assembled ...

Signed in, run notes (must remember to wait at intersections)? Check. Heater on? Check. Lights on? Check. Wipers on? Check.

Off we go into the precipitation on the last day of school holidays – looking forward to caravans and traffic snarls. However in three hours of driving the only hiccups were three cows which refused to cross at the *Watch for Cattle* sign and an occasional 4WD without effective lights, indicators and accelerator pedal. That and some rain. All right, a lot of rain. Roof up? Check!



^ Pam & Tyrone with Geoff Roche at Mirboo North, on Tyrone's "last" run as leader ...

*Too old for this stuff?*

The signs were good, and so were the omens. They did require some interpretation though:

- » slippery when wet (*just keep your hands off my car*)
- » rough surface (*free suspension check*)
- » low tree branches (*MX-5s can ignore*)
- » reduce speed (*see previous*)
- » windy road next 15km (*only 15??*)
- » concealed entrance (*didn't see it*)
- » rumble strips (*rumble is too warm*)
- » traffic hazard (*non-MX-5 car ahead*)
- » one way bridge (*we only need one way*)
- » no passing (*refer convoy rules #5 & #6*)
- » give way to stock (*didn't bring anyway*)
- » watch for entering traffic (*gold after 25 years?*)
- » crest (*it's all downhill from here*) ...



^ Gippsland sunshine!





.....  
 ■ Organisers: Tyrone Dark & Pam Bown



With a break for morning tea at Loch there was more rain than stress and an abundance of corners, twists and turns to keep everyone busy.

Then, 'lunch' at Mirboo North. The bakery was closed. The shops were shut. The only open restaurant was full to the brim with Holden Club drivers. Smart Club members had *BYO'd* and shared what they had as the rest of us lingered. It rained some more so we opted to take our chances and picked up some hot pies

at the local IGA before heading off slowly towards home ... the long way, of course.

We drove past the Lyrebird Walk (still raining) and kept a lookout for "the world's tallest tree" – which turned out to be a sign for where a 114.4m mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) stood up to 1888 when it was cut down by a farmer. Perhaps the sign is the tallest one for a tree ... ?

Further on we stopped at a lookout on



*VP Murray presents Pam & Tyrone (above) with their 15 years of membership pins and (below) Ian McInnes with his 10-year pin.*



the Strzelecki Road and admired the view in between raindrops and lightning.

**Finally, heading home, the stereo drowning out the gently falling rain with *Love is all Around* by, you guessed it ... *Wet Wet Wet*. ●**



^ High and dry ... for a few minutes, anyway. The group at Korumburra ... back row: Rob, Ken, Helene, Petra, Arthur, Bronwyn, Jenny. Middle row: Johannes, Mark, Ian, Geoff, Geoff, Peter. Front: Joan, Tyrone, Pam, Murray, Phillip and Diana. Alan Bennett took the photo.



19.7.15 | Western Victoria ■ Words: Lockie Story ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw, Lockie Story  
■ Organisers: Karen & Ian Bradshaw

## Christmas in July!

*Well, I have to say it is nice to be able to get out on a run again. Life sometimes gets in the way.*

In this Chapter you never know what you are going to get. This time we were treated to a *Sub-Arctic Winter Wonderland Experience*. (If they hadn't discovered gold, it would still be a swamp, methinks.) The recorded low was *minus 6°C*.

Tracey and I arrived in Ballarat on Saturday night and thought it was a bit chilly. We stayed with my daughter Emma and upon awakening found the world had turned white. One of the most awesome frosts I have seen in years. No water, pipes frozen ... *oh!*

After Bobby finally got the water flowing, a hot shower and brekky.

I went out to prepare *Milly* and could not fold down the roof for fear of breaking it – it was frozen solid. Could not hose it down – hose frozen. OK. So I started her and turned the demister on full and went back inside to have breakfast.

By the time we were ready to go the roof had melted (enough) and the windscreen was clear.

Off we trotted to Lucas where we met the rest of the gang. We had 24 people coming in 14 cars. This included Tsumugi Okubo from Japan who was there with Lawrie and Virgie Hocking.

Ian and Karen did a wonderful job of extending a half-hour boring drive into a two and an half hour adventure. We experienced every entry and exit road in Buninyong. views of Mount Buninyong from all points of the compass and some really fun roads. Eventually we arrived at Moondallah café at Berringa where we sat in great comfort on a cold winter's day and had a delicious hot Christmas roast followed by plum pud and custard. Coffee and lounging around and catching up.

Not a huge audacious feat of driving, just time with Tracey in my favourite car, time with friends I really care about, a fun drive, and a delicious and convivial meal.

*Does it ever get better than that?* ●









# Chapter chatter ...

**19.7.15 | Southern Tasmania** ■ Words: Michelle Waldock ■ Photos: Rob Tanner ■ Organiser: John Waldock

*Ahhh, winter in Tassie; crystal clear mornings followed by crisp days ... and zero temperatures. (Well, you can't have everything!)*

Sixteen examples of the world's best sports car converged at the usual meeting point for a run and a cider tasting. We welcomed new members Shane and Wendy in their lovely Ebony Mica NB as well as Ayrton, who at the tender age of 21 already owns two red NAs!

Tasmania makes some of the best cider in the world (naturally) and members were keen to sample the delights of not just apple cider, but cherry, pear and blueberry as well.

The route took the group along one of the Chapter's favourite loops, beginning at Margate and following the coast beside the Huon River through Woodbridge and Snug, stopping briefly at Gordon then on through Verona Sands to arrive at Pagan Cider just outside Cygnet.

Pagan Cider is a relatively recent business who are creating a loyal following by producing softly sparkling ciders that have more complexity than usually seen in this type of beverage.

The group piled into the tasting area and sampled the wide variety on offer, from a nearly transparent pear cider to a bright pink strawberry and a deep red cherry/apple variety. The owners were kind enough to let the group sample their newest product,

a blueberry variety, not yet available 'on tap' but released from the bottle just for us. All were delicious and members hurried to make purchases before we clambered back into the cars and headed toward our lunch venue.

Cygnet was bustling with its monthly Sunday market when the convoy cruised down the main street, exciting plenty of interest as usual.

Our lunch stop was The Lotus Eater's Café, a tiny café where all items on the menu are made fresh to order from local produce. (Cygnet is also home to the South's only 24-hour emergency butcher, a fact proudly emblazoned on his front window.) *[Could be Australia's only 24-hour emergency butcher! - Ed]*

The management had kindly set aside their whole front room for us, but due to an unexpected increase in attendees for this run, some members opted to sit in the café's outside area and enjoy the midwinter sunshine.

**Lunch over, the convoy made its way back to Hobart by travelling the 'reverse loop' through Nicholl's Rivulet in the gentle light of a late winter afternoon. ●**







^ L-R standing: Di Tanner, Susie & Allan Dear, Maureen Whittle, Ian Long. Sitting (L-R): Wayne Kelly, Diane Van Harteren, Michelle Waldoock, Carla Long, Robert Tilley (back to camera), Shane & Wendy Burgess, Jill Tilley.





# Chapter chatter ...

19.7.15 | Northern Tasmxnia ■ Words: Michael Lindsay ■ Photos: Jill Steer, Cheryl Murray, Coreena Lindsay



## Icicles in Bracknell

*Wow, what a fantastic run!*

We had a stunning 17 MX-5s leave Deloraine at 10.50am and proceed via the old Bass Highway to Exton before turning right via Quamby Brook Road towards the Golden Valley. These are fantastic winding roads, single-lane bridges ...

We headed up the mountain and hit a lot of bad patches of black ice, white ice, and snow on the road sides. I was pleased that Rodger, who was behind me, knew the road extremely well and was able to give me great advice in these hazardous conditions on the UHF radio.

Nearly at the top of the mountain we noticed a Nissan XTrail with mainland number plates that had lost control, suffered bad damage in the right-hand front guard and was abandoned.

We proceeded as far as we could on this road and stopped at a scenic outlook to take in the view. Some members took photos; some threw snowballs!

We headed back down the mountain but stopped only a few kilometres into the descent for a photo with our cars as, in the background, the lake was frozen! *Wow, what a sight that was!*

After getting back down the mountain we wound up at the Bracknell Pub for a hot, hearty counter meal.

Around 2.20pm, for those of us who wanted to continue the run, we ended up – via *many* winding roads – through townships of Longford, Evandale, White Hills and St Leonards. Then it was back to my place for afternoon tea.

**I must say thank you to my darling wife Coreena for arranging such wonderful hospitality! ●**







Organiser: Michael Lindsay



*Still life ... Coreena Lindsay passes the frozen lake*



*Warm and dry - lunch in the Bracknell Pub*



*View from the top ...*

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# Dark and stormy at the Island



## 2015 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship | Round 4 ~ 4.7.15

■ Words: Noel Heritage ■ Photos: Vanessa Macaulay, redbookphotography.com.au

*Pile out of a perfectly comfortable warm bed in the middle of the night to drive to Phillip Island in the cold and rain for the fun of lining up in the dark, ready for the gates to be thrown open at 7am. Nothing like it, and I wouldn't miss it for quids.*

Round 4 of the Club Sprint Championship is on, and it's another chance to run on one of the great circuits of the world. In my overseas business trips many of the people I deal with are petrol heads of the nicest kind. All talk about two Aussie circuits: Bathurst, and "the Island."

The Island's track surface is excellent – how often does one get the chance to get (legally) almost to the rev limiter in 6th in a NB88 (albeit with 4.3:1 diff ratio) and then have that added exhilaration of going through Turn 1 with only a slight lift and no touching the brakes?

All the usual bandits where on deck and there was a higher than normal hire of pit boxes as the weather was extremely inclement, with much rain to add to the fun of the seeming sub-zero temperatures. Hence shelter was the order of the day.

Unload all the gear, sign in, get car though scrutineering, pay attention to the drivers' briefing ... and then we're away for the first practice session.

Wet track and not the time to be playing heroes – a point reinforced in the drivers' briefing by the Clerk of the Course who pointed out that, typically, they have more spins and associated misdemeanours in the supposed 8/10ths practice sessions than in the later, deadly serious, sessions.

True to form, some did not disappoint and very soon there were some very



*A gaggle of angry MX-5s*



*John Reid*



*Fabian Mastronardi*



*Tim Emery keeps Robert Downes honest*



*Gavin Newman*

## 2015 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - results for Round 4 | Phillip Island - 4.7.15

Results - Round 4	1st		2nd		3rd	
Standard NA	Robert Downes	» 2:03.3233*	---	---	---	---
Standard NB	Peter Dannock	» 2:03.9018	Geoff Sanders	» 2:06.9607	Simeon Ouzas	» 2:11.3408
Standard NC	Alan Conrad	» 1:58.9352*	Ian Vague	» 2:07.4691	---	---
NA Clubman	Tim Emery	» 2:03.1991*	George Vellis	» 2:13.7575	---	---
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage	» 2:02.1649*	Max Lloyd	» 2:02.2097	John Reid	» 2:07.0988
Modified	Dean Hasnat	» 1:58.4966	Gavin Newman	» 2:00.0380	Leon Bogers	» 2:04.4005
Super Modified	Colin Denman-Jones	» 1:54.1402	Robert Parr	» 1:57.6599	---	---
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith	» 1:51.0533	Fabian Mastronardi	» 2:03.1850	---	---
Open	---	---	---	---	---	---

\* New Club lap record

# Dark and stormy at the Island ... continued

impressive (and long) divots in the grass areas bordering many of the corners.

A *High Merit* in the divots department must go to whoever went off on the inside of Turn 2 and speared across the track in Southern Loop, taking all the mud with them! The *Highest Distinction*, however, must go to the unknown punter who had a very impressive high-speed off in the kink on the back straight and somehow survived to tell the tale. That place is a potential car wrecker and the outside wall regularly displays a multitude of automotive colours left by errant motorists. The trail of torn-up grass and mud everywhere told the tale of what must have been a very exciting ride.

Miraculously the weather improved and, as the track dried out, the lap times started to tumble. The pressure was really on, so much so that by the end of the day three existing class lap records had been well and truly broken and a very impressive new first time Lap Record for NA Clubman was also established.

Well done to:

Class	Driver/New record time	Previous
Std NA	Robert Downes – 2:03.3233	2:03.7490
NA Clubman	Tim Emery – new Class benchmark of 2:03.1991	---
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage – 2:02.1649	2:02.3400
Std NC	Alan Conrad – 1:58.9352	1.59.1444

It was also great to see some new faces joining our ranks – a special welcome goes to Jarrah Pitt plus Ibrahim and Allison Rafel (apologies if we missed anybody). Ibrahim and Allison had previously attended a track training day at Winton and, after some excellent tuition on that day, have hopefully well and truly caught the bug. I hope he doesn't mind, but I would like to make special mention of Jarrah. He's 17 years old (in other words, does not have a road licence yet) and the proud owner of a very nice NB8A. It's great to see a young bloke having a go and improving his driving skills on the track.

As usual, the sledging in the pits was in overdrive with much laughter and good comradeship. We'd do almost anything to beat (kill?) each other on the track, but we also do everything to help each other in the neutral zone of the pits.

Special mention must go to Robert Downes for what must be in the running for the "Save of the Year" award. Turn 12 on to the main straight is typically taken flat out and is not the place to find yourself suddenly heading for what the Clerk of the Course



Max Lloyd



George Vellis



George Fury



Paul Ledwith

## 2015 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship standings after Round 4 | Phillip Island ~ 4.7.15

(corrected points)	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Overall Champion</b>	= Paul Ledwith, Alan Conrad, Robert Downes » 40		
Standard NA	Robert Downes » 40	---	---
Standard NB	Peter Dannock » 37	Simeon Ouzas » 28	Ben Mott » 19
Standard NC	Alan Conrad » 40	= Lindy Anderson, Ian Vague » 7	
NA Clubman	Tim Emery » 30	George Vellis » 21	---
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage » 33	Max Lloyd » 31	John Reid » 12
Modified	Gavin Newman » 34	Tim Meaden, Leon Bogers » 24	
Super Modified	Russell Garner » 30	Robert Parr » 14	Colin Denman-Jones » 10
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith » 40	Fabian Mastronardi » 7	---
Open	Dave Moore » 30	---	---





would call “a meaningful discussion” with the rather solid concrete pit wall. We can chalk that one up as a “near miss” that had the full attention of everybody who witnessed it – especially Robert, who had a front row seat.

Meanwhile, in the “we are not competitive” NB Clubman class, “young” Max Lloyd has henceforth been re-christened as Max *Mille Mille* Lloyd. For further details, contact the author.

All too soon it was over and time to pack up, with many a tired body dragging themselves home and counting the days to the next meeting at Winton on 2 August.

As usual, thanks to the AROCA team for running a great show. ●

## My favourite MX-5 road ...

■ Words: Peter Dannock, Club Secretary | Central Chapter

### *Yarra Junction to Trafalgar*

This 90-minute run from Yarra Junction to Trafalgar was one of my first social runs when I joined the Club in 2007. It’s an enjoyable drive that I have done a few times each year since.

If you’re coming from central Melbourne you’ll need to commit at least half a day to this run – there is a considerable drive to get to the start and return from the end point.

Leaving Yarra Junction, head south on the Yarra Junction-Noojee Road (C425). You will find the first 15 or so kilometres a sedate drive, with the speed limit changing between 60 and 80 km/h on a fairly straight road. Slowing to go through Powelltown, you will see the first of the number of sawmills in the area, so you will need to watch out for logging trucks further along.

You will now climb up into the state forest and, though the speed limit is only 80 km/h, the windy road provides a lot of fun. The road then starts to flow, allowing you to stretch the legs of your MX-5. The road is a little bumpy and does have some small pot holes so be careful not to hit

too many of them. You will eventually arrive at Noojee – a great place to stop for a coffee or maybe lunch at the Noojee hotel.

Leaving Noojee you will be on your way to Mt Baw Baw, but you’ll be turning right when you reach the Willow Grove road to Moe (C465). This road narrows considerably (no shoulders) and can be a little slippery if there’s debris and moisture on the road. You need to be careful in the dry, too – it’s tempting to get a little spirited along this road, but with quite a few blind corners you need to make sure you don’t meet a logging truck coming the other way.

You will reach Fumina South and from here you will get your first glimpse of the Latrobe Valley. Unfortunately, there is little room to stop to admire the view, but slow down and take in the view – you should be able to see a power station or two from here.

Continue driving until you reach Willow Grove, turning right to Trafalgar (C463) just as you arrive. The next 24km is a



flowing run down to Trafalgar.

Once you reach Trafalgar, you may wish to turn right and drive to Yarragon Village where you can enjoy a coffee or meal.

The drive home from here via the Princes Freeway is less rewarding though. Maybe it would be better to drive home via the same route in the opposite direction, one thing I am yet to do.

Enjoy! ●

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!

## A box full of neutrals?

Words & photos: Peter Ferguson, Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain

*I had an interesting issue in my NA 1600 recently that may also happen to others. It's worth passing on in case someone else has a similar issue.*

I was on my way home from the most recent Eastern Victoria Chapter Khanacross event at Bryant Park when the gearshift started becoming really vague, and it was difficult to select 5th and 6th.

I had to park somewhere before I got home and fortunately parked nose uphill ... because, when I came back to the car, I could not select reverse – but was able to roll backwards.

By the time I got home, the gearstick was “all over the place” and could be lifted UP a bit. *Strange ...*

Being an NA, it's a simple five-minute job (five screws) to remove the armrest section of the console, then another four 6mm bolts to remove the shift boot.

On removing the shift boot, I expected to see three 6mm bolts holding down the surround that locates the gear stick to the gearbox.

**Not this time!** Two bolts were *missing* and the remaining one was half way out – no wonder the stick was a bit wobbly!

It seems I was probably lucky to make it home!

Someone else fitted the six-speed gearbox for me and he clearly did not tighten these bolts properly! (they should not be over tightened as they go straight into the alloy housing)

I picked up some new plated M6 fine-thread bolts and put them in with spring washers. A five-minute job.

The other thing to keep an eye out for, if the gear stick has become really vague, is the plastic bush on the base of the gearstick. If this is broken or missing, you can still change gears, but it's not nice.

This is another dead easy job so, if your gear stick suddenly becomes very vague, there are likely two very simple solutions – but one of them (loose or missing bolts) may need some pretty quick action to avoid being stranded.

The plastic bushes (see photo) are available from many places, including online from MX-5 Mania. ●





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

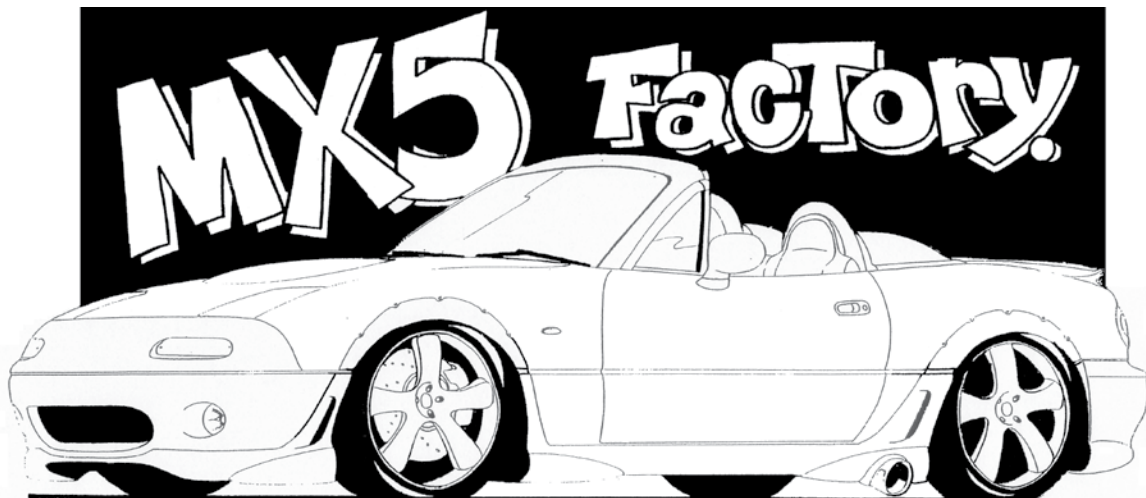
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