

mxtra

5/2016
mx5vic.org.au



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

One Million BC*!



** Best-selling convertible!*

In this edition:

**A three-peat at the RACV show'n'shine
The livin' is easy in the north-east
Berries all round in Tassie**

Find us at:



mx5vic.org.au



MX-5 Club
of Victoria

Print Post Publication: 100018450



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

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

Your Committee: 2015-2016

President

> Peter Dannock | 0408 522 093 (ah)
 e: president@mx5vic.org.au

VP / Secretary / Communications

> Murray Finlay | 0416 247 677
 e: secretary@mx5vic.org.au

Treasurer

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

Club Captain – Motor Sport

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

Club Captain – Social

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

Assistant Club Captain – Motor Sport

> Randy Stagno Navarra | 0409 210 872
 e: captain2@mx5vic.org.au

Assistant Club Captain – Social

> Alex Hailstone | 0414 155 383
 e: social2@mx5vic.org.au

Social Media

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

Membership

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

Merchandise

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

Points

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

Committee member

> Richard Acfield | 0488 747 755 (ah)
 e: racfield@bigpond.net.au

Chapter Captain - Central

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

Chapter Captain - Eastern Victoria

> Peter Ferguson | 0419 108 128
 e: eastern@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - North-Eastern Victoria

> Loz Thomas | 0409 639 718
 e: north-eastern@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - Western Victoria

> Ian Bradshaw | 0407 556 135
 e: western@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - Northern Tasmania

> Bruce Harvey | 0427 656 074 (ah)
 e: northtas@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - Southern Tasmania

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

5/2016

contents



Reports and thoughts

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 4 President Pete's Perspective | 5 Scene About |
| 7 Track Torque | 8 Membership |
| 7 Mazda's produces the 1 millionth MX-5! | |
| 9 Grill: meet Ian Schofield ... 11-year member | |
| 30 Tech Talk ... New deal on welding gases | |

Chapter chatter

- 10** North-Eastern Victoria: *Tastes of the north-east*
- 12** Central: *The Two Spurs run*
- 14** Western Victoria: *The Two Spurs run*
- 16** Club: *Three for three at the RACV Classic Showcase*
- 18** Eastern Victoria: *That Dam MX-5 run!*
- 20** Northern Tasmania: *A Berry Good run!*
- 22** Southern Tasmania: *Lunch at Peppermint Bay*
- 24** Western Victoria: *St Mary's Winery & Muscle Car Show*
- 26** Central: *Tyrone's "I'm too old for this stuff" run*
- 27** Eastern Victoria: *Khanacross at Bryant Park*
- 28** North-Eastern Victoria: *Taking it easy on a Tuesday*

Cover image: Another year, another MX-5 ... and another Guinness World Record – one million cars young!
 (Photo: Mazda Corporation)



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 email articles to the editor, **Don Nicoll**: editor@mx5vic.org.au

> please email photos to **Murray Finlay**, secretary@mx5vic.org.au

• or 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**.



Pete's Perspective...

■ Peter Dannock – President president@mx5vic.org.au

The 22nd of April 2016 marked a milestone moment for the Mazda MX-5. This was the date the One Millionth Mazda MX-5 was produced at Mazda's Hiroshima plant in Japan.

It has taken 27 years, but, this moment is sure to entrench the MX-5 with the Guinness World Record for "the world's best-selling two-seater sports car". The One-Millionth MX-5 is a Japanese spec, 1.5-litre soft-top and will be displayed at fan events in Japan and around the world. Let's hope we get a glimpse if it comes to Australia.

See page 6 for more information.

You might also like to check out the following article which is part of the 'Live the Part' series from Mazda, celebrating "Life with a Pure Roadster": <http://allnewmazdamx5.com.au/live-the-part/one-million-reasons-to-celebrate>

NotMeet in WA?

Last month I joined the latest Presidents' teleconference for all of the MX-5 Clubs in Australia. This is an opportunity for the clubs to share key initiatives and information on what each club is doing, to ensure that the MX-5 clubs nationally continue to grow.

Again it was pleasing to get more positive feedback for NatMeet, however, the focus now moves to the next NatMeet in South Australia in 2018.

At this teleconference, the Western Australian club presented a proposal for an event called the '**Go West NotMeet**'. A NatMeet would require a minimum number of entrants (probably more than 60 cars and 100 entrants) to be successful

and it is unlikely that enough eastern State members would commit to travel to Western Australia for such an event.

This has not stopped the Western Australian club suggesting the '**Go West NotMeet**' as an alternative event. Designed to attract the eastern State member to the West, it could incorporate a wide range of drives exploring large parts of Western Australia over a four-week period or it could allow members to only concentrate on the south west of the State.

No dates have yet been set and it won't happen before the next NatMeet in 2018. But you might be interested in planning well ahead for a trip to the west, joining a number of like-minded members. We will keep you posted as more information comes to hand.

To run or not to run ...

Extreme weather events have always been a part of the Australian landscape and some would say that these events are likely to intensify in both frequency and severity in the future.

At the last Committee meeting the 'Extreme Weather Guidelines' for Club events were finalised. These guidelines are designed to assist event organisers about decisions that may be need to be taken if an extreme weather event occurs on or around a Club event. The guidelines provide all event organisers the opportunity to cancel an event if they believe an extreme weather events or incidents (including bushfire, floods, snow/ice, etc) could potentially expose members to harm.

Careful consideration is always given to whether an event is cancelled and we also rely on the local knowledge of our members when making such a decision. However, should an event be cancelled, every attempt will be made to inform members of the decision, via the Club's website, email and/or SMS.

Talking of the Club's website, there are some new videos uploaded to the home page. If you haven't visited the website for a while, I encourage you to return on a regular basis to see what's been added. And remember, the Club's online calendar will keep you up to date on all the upcoming events.

Closing on another record ...

We are close to the end of the membership year at 30 June, and we are approaching 700 members for the first time. This will set a new record for the Club, and though I am sure that the ND has helped boost the numbers in the last six months, it is also those members who renew each year that allow the Club to continue to grow.

Enjoy the month ahead. Even though the weather is cooling, there is lots of Club activity for members.

And remember ... leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.

Pete

MAZDA ROADSTER



Thanks a Million!!

累計生産100万台達成

Scene about

■ Photos: Ron Gillick, Bronwyn Roche, Karen Bradshaw, Rob Tanner, John Waldock, Geoff Roche





Track Torque

■ Tim Emery – Club Captain - Motor Sport captain@mx5vic.org.au

2016 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship – Round 3, Sandown

With both Rounds 3 and 4 of the Sprint Championship at Sandown, and only one week apart, numbers were down on the first of the two events on 30 April.

Hosted by the WRX Club, 18 MX-5s were entered to gain valuable points for the 2016 Championship. Once again we saw a couple of new members hitting the track for the first time with Steve Williams and Ian Mc Innes joining the Motor Sport Team and both with beautifully presented and prepared car. *Welcome to the team!* Sandown can be a daunting track for first-timers but both Steve and Ian were smiling all day.

Round 4 is back at Sandown on Saturday, 7 May, so we will see if a little practice the week before makes for some quicker times.

Starting out in MX-5 motor sport

Over the past 6-12 months we have had an increase in the number of new members wanting to try some motor sport in their MX-5s.

When Randy and I speak with these people, a lot of common questions come up: “What MX-5 should I buy?”, “Do I need a CAMS licence?”, “Can I get an instructor?” In our Club we have always tried to support new people taking the big step of putting their MX-5 on to a track.

The Club has a number of steps in place to make this leap a little less daunting. A lot of people starting out are concerned that

they need to have all the gear for their first event: helmets, tools, race suits, race seat, harnesses etc. are all great to have, but not all are required on your first event. The Club has loan helmets that can be used by new members just wanting to try a track day, to see if they enjoy it.

Likewise a few people ask, “Should I go and do an advanced driving course before I go on the track”. Again, if you are just wanting to come and have a try, then the Club makes sure we allocate an experienced competitor to sit with you for the first session on the track and help you through what, for someone who has never driven on a race track before, can be daunting.

So, if you are thinking of coming along and having a try here are my tips:

- » Don't rush off and buy an MX-5 that you 'think' you 'need' for motor sport – a standard MX-5 with basic safety checks, good tyres and brakes is a very capable car on the track.
- » Come along to one of our track days and introduce yourself, ask questions; our Motor Sport Team is a great bunch of people and they all started out once with their first day.
- » There's no such thing as a 'dumb' question. Randy and I are always on the other end of an email to help out with any information you need.

See you out there.

Tim

“The older I get, the better I was!”

Mazda produces 1,000,000th Mazda MX-5

Production of the Mazda MX-5 reached one million units on April 22, 2016. The milestone figure was achieved over 27 years, with mass-production of the MX-5 starting at Ujina Plant No. 1 in Hiroshima in April 1989.

As a way of expressing thanks to MX-5 fans and owners, the One Millionth MX-5 will be displayed at fan events in Japan and around the world. The tour began on 3 May at the Hiroshima Flower Festival where the car will participate in the Flower Parade.

The MX-5 is a symbol of Mazda's car-making philosophy and tireless pursuit of driving pleasure. Since its debut in 1989, the model has consistently offered driving fun that can only be experienced in a lightweight sports car and won the admiration of people from various

countries, cultures and age groups.

The MX-5 has held the Guinness World Record for the best-selling open-top two-seater sports car for many years.

The MX-5 is also critically acclaimed, with over 200 awards from around the globe ➤





Membership

Current
membership count:

698

and growing!

■ Will Campbell – Membership Officer membership@mx5vic.org.au

G'day again!

This month we add 21 new members to the fold! I wish a hearty welcome to:

Central Chapter

Cindy Au	1990 Classic Red NA
Christopher Betts	1990 Classic Red NA
Lee Bond-Kennedy	2015 Soul Red ND
Raphael Bonetti	1990 Lime Green NA
Gavin, Verity, Mietta and Jasmine Carson	2005 Winning Blue NC
Glenn Lawless	2007 Black NC
Mark Leenaerts	2016 Jet Black ND
Ross McKinnon	2004 Sunlight Silver NB SE
Robin Pearce	2016 Soul Red ND
George Santis	1990 Classic Red NA
John, Anne and Kelsey Towell	2015 Meteor Grey ND
John Veater	2002 Titanium Silver NB

Eastern Victoria Chapter

David Phelps	2001 Black NB
--------------	---------------

North-Eastern Victoria Chapter

Ross Dyson	1998 Mica Green NB
------------	--------------------

Northern Tasmania Chapter

Patricia Turner	2000 Blue NB
-----------------	--------------

Southern Tasmania Chapter

Elizabeth-Ann Egan	2006 Copper Red NC
--------------------	--------------------

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

Will

History of the MX-5 »

to its name. The fourth-generation model released last year has won a string of awards, including 2015-2016 Car of the Year Japan, World Car of the Year and World Car Design of the Year 2016 ... and **Wheels** Car of the Year (for the third time in four generations) here in Australia this year as well.

Masamichi Kogai, Mazda's Representative Director, President and CEO, said: "From the first generation through to today's fourth-generation model, the reason we have been able to continue selling the MX-5 all these years is due to the strong support of fans around the world.

"Mazda was founded in Hiroshima 96 years ago, and as we move toward our centennial year we will continue offering customers the joy of driving with this model, which has become a symbol of our brand. Mazda aims to create a special bond with customers and become a 'one-and-only' brand they will choose again and again," Kogai-san said. ■

Feb 1989	Original MX-5 debuts at the Chicago Auto Show
Oct 1997	Second-generation MX-5 debuts at Tokyo Motor Show
Dec 1998	10th Anniversary Limited Edition MX-5 launched
May 2000	Recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's best-selling two-seater sports car (531,890 units produced)
Jan 2002	Production reaches 600,000 units (Guinness World Record updated)
Mar 2005	Third-generation MX-5 debuts at the Geneva International Motor Show
Apr 2005	Production reaches 700,000 units (Guinness World Record updated)
Jul 2006	Retractable hardtop model debuts at the British International Motor Show
Jan 2007	Production reaches 800,000 units (Guinness World Record updated)
Jul 2009	20th Anniversary Limited Edition MX-5 launched
Feb 2011	Production reaches 900,000 units (Guinness World Record updated)
Apr 2014	25th Anniversary Edition MX-5 launched
Sep 2014	Fourth-generation MX-5 debuts
Mar 2016	Mazda MX-5 RF debuts at New York International Auto Show
Apr 2016	Production reaches 1,000,000 units

“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.

DUNLOP
MOTORSPORT

DIREZZA ZII★

Revised compound makes the
Z2 Star Spec the **FASTEST** road tyre



DIREZZA ZII★
Fastest Road Tyre



DIREZZA 03G
Fastest R-spec Tyre



STUCKEY TYRE SERVICE

828 Sydney Road Brunswick Victoria 3056

Phone (03) 9386 5331

www.stuckey.com.au



**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
YOUR
PASSION**



**Special offer for members: Contact
info@softtopsonline.com.au or
1800 028 822 for more details.**

Ian Schofield

Central | 11-year member

Name? Ian Schofield (aka Flipper)

Age? 60

Born? Melbourne

Current abode? Leopold

Profession? Payroll Manager

Partner? Lyndell

Pets? Huskies (Nunook & Midori)

Fave food? Veggies

Can you cook? Yep

Favourite tipple? Corona

First drive? Hillman Minx

First car? 1968 Hillman Arrow

First fender bender? Ran into my sister in her Morris on a wet day

Everyday driver? VF Commodore wagon

How many MX-5s have you owned? One

Current MX-5? 2003 NB

MX-5 improvements? 2½ inch induction, interior chrome accents, Factory body kit, after-market alloys, grill, stainless roll bar, gauge rings.

MX-5 dislikes? No height adjustments for the seat or steering column on the NB

Why an MX-5? Jinba Ittai

Fluffy dice? No thanks

Passions besides the MX-5?

Customised 1965 Hillman Minx

Favourite TV show? Big Bang Theory

Dream wheels (money no object)?
Porsche

Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong? If I had to ...

Favourite other Mazda? Mazda6

If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what?
Toyota 86 or the Subaru BRZ

How long in the Club?

Coming up to 12 years

How many MX-5 Club runs? Lots

Favourite Club run? Great Ocean Road

Funniest thing seen at a Club event?

The look on a Volvo driver's face when five of us flew past him on the Great Ocean Road

Have you been to NatMeet? No

Ford vs Holden? Going to Barbagallo in May to cheer on the Volvos ... but if I am pushed, it's Holden!

The MX-5 Club Grill



What's playing in your MX-5?

Flight Facility, Grimes, Eels

Favourite holiday destination?

Solomon Islands

Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)?

Hawks & Storm



Chapter chatter ...

9.4.16 | North-Eastern Victoria

■ Words: Marg Gillick ■ Photos: Loz Thomas & Ron Gillick ■ Organiser: Marg Gillick



Tastes of the North-East ...

A run on a Saturday? No golf for me! I was the only one who cared as the sun was out, the sky was blue, it was another beautiful day and the motorbike riders in our group had their fun planned for tomorrow.

Seven cars gathered in Corowa. The first "taste" was morning tea at *The Wicked Virgin*, a small olive grove and winery on the outskirts of Rutherglen. We welcomed Greg and Kerry from the Central Chapter and spent a while catching up on who had been on a trip and who was planning a trip while sitting in the sun enjoying coffee and cake.

We toured to the other side of town to *Stanton and Killeen*, who specialise in fortified wines for which Rutherglen is famous. *Renaissance Chocolates* was next, a B&B and café in the middle of the bush where they use "high quality couverture to make unique handmade chocolates".... they are very, very nice!

Our next stop was Australia's smallest registered brewery: *The Buffalo Brewery* at the Boorhaman Hotel. They are famous for their ginger ale and make several other award-winning beers, so some samples were purchased.

To get to the lunch stop we needed to cross the Ovens River; one way is to go through the Wangaratta shopping centre (boring), the other is to cross at Peachelba. We had spread out a bit and two cars missed the tiny sign to Peachelba! A quick phone call and the convoy waited ... far too close to a huge cattle feed lot (*pee-ew ... and the flies!*).

We drove beside the river then over The Warby Range, the only piece of truly MX5-type road for the day, then along the other side to *Baileys of Glenrowan*, an historical winery where delicious pizzas, share plates and cakes are on the menu, and there a heritage museum to explore. We enjoyed our lunch, and plenty of chatting, sitting in the autumn sun in a lovely native garden.

We drove to Glenrowan to purchase homemade jams and chutneys from *Smith and Sons*, a local orchard where a variety of fruit is also available in season ... quince and persimmon today.

The run ended at *Snow Road Produce* in Milawa. They stock a huge selection of all kinds of local products, smoked meats, ice cream, wine, cheese, cordials, nuts (even pickled walnuts for Bill), herbs and spices, candles and beauty products. They also serve lovely coffee and homemade biscuits; peanut butter and choc chip. Peter bought extras, he enjoyed them so much!

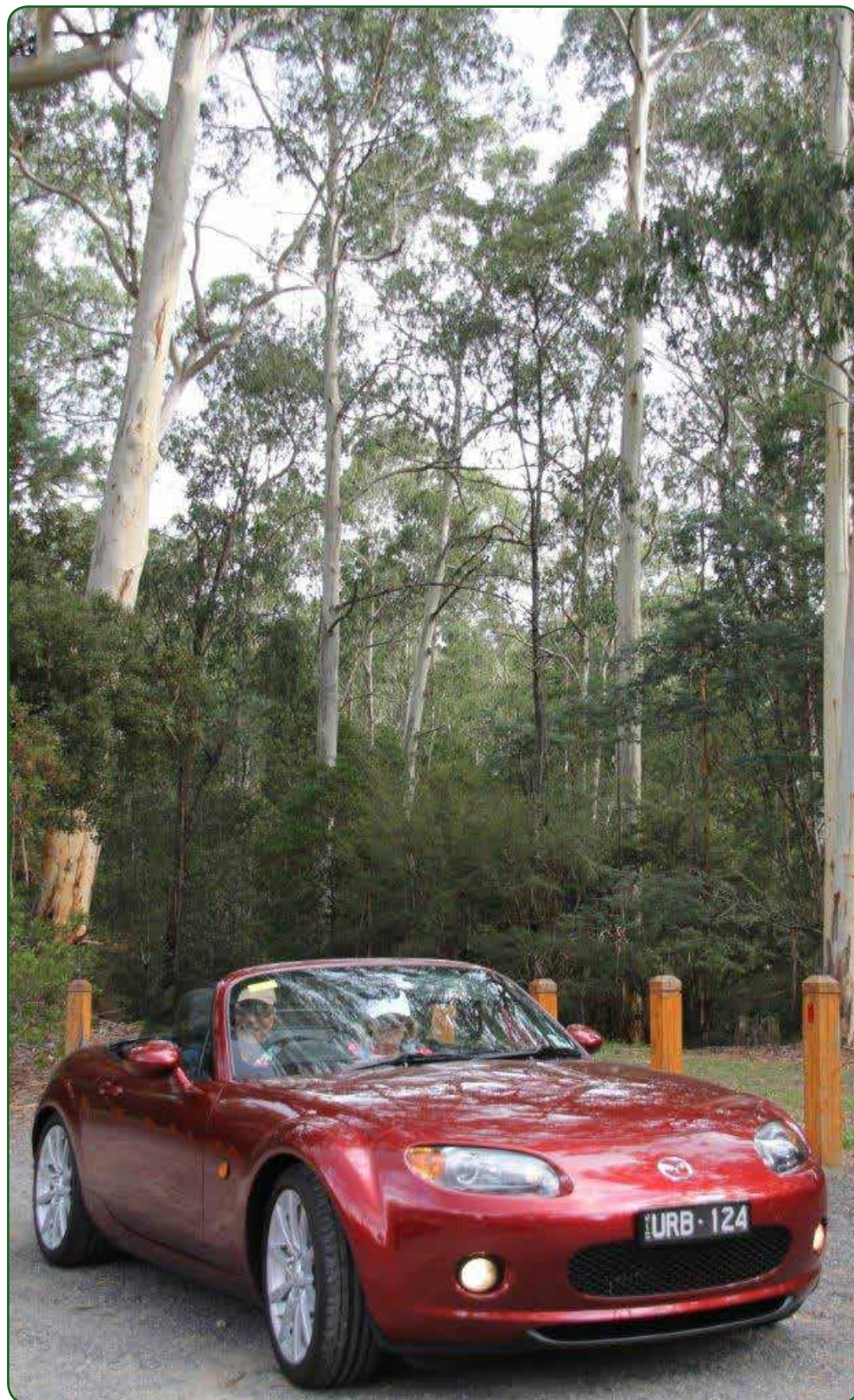
We could feel the late afternoon chill as the sun sank lower, so we said our goodbyes and turned towards home to enjoy all our goodies. ●

Chapter chatter ...

16.4.16 | Central

■ Words: Stuart Ball ■ Photos: Stuart Ball, Clark Menze, Bronwyn Roche ■ Organisers: Geoff & Bronwyn Roche

Central ...



Well, a beautiful morning greeted us as we met at Doncaster East for the Two Spurs run, led by Geoff and Bronwyn Roche.

Our Tail-end Charlie – Mark and Helen Lehman – did a great job keeping an eye on us all. We headed off through Kangaroo Ground, negotiating the cyclists and slower vehicle traffic. An old 4WD flashing its lights as it came towards us through St Andrews kept us on our best behaviour, but it soon became obvious that it was just a local waving to some other random local!

The Kinglake Road is always good fun, but another motorcycle fatality since our run reminds me that *this is a road we must always treat with respect*, for our safety and others.

Once we had gathered with the Western Chapter members at Kinglake, we had a total of 32 cars, although quickly lost one: Geoff Cooney to a flat tyre in the Kinglake Pub carpark. Geoff was in his very lovely Classic Red NA – so sad to see a flat tyre on such nice wire wheels. The space-saver just didn't fit the look so that was his run over very early.

As we headed off from Kinglake and along the Myers Creek Road (always a favourite) the group spread out a bit, but a very slow logging truck eventually saw the group brought back together as we hit the Warburton Highway junction.

Mt Donna Buang was our lunch spot for the day. As I stopped to mark a corner half way up, I could hear that magical sound of the next group of MX-5s coming up the road and around each corner long before they came into sight!

At lunch Peter Ferguson and I got talking about the benefits

^ Lori and Mary Mercieca



Two Chapters on a Two Spurs run!



of a group run like this – a run I have done solo previously. Apart from the obvious social benefits, the real benefit is the safety of having other cars in front of you that really allows you to concentrate on your driving, be less concerned about directions and other distractions and also provides you with warning of any hazards.

After our gourmet picnic lunches (in my case, left-over pizza from the night before), the afternoon saw us head up the Reefton Spur and around to Marysville. What a hoot! The line of MX-5s of all ages, drivers of all ages and cars in various states of tune, all enjoying the corners and hills. Peter Bosanko gave his new wheels and tyres a good test and, pleasingly, they passed! Quietly, one car had an impromptu stop for passenger comfort ... good thing they hadn't been eating my pizza!

It was only my second run with the Club, but once we parked in Marysville it really struck me that there's nothing like sharing your passion with others of the persuasion. It totally enhances the MX-5 ownership experience.

We finished up at the Healesville Beechworth Bakery, having had a great day. Thank you Geoff and Bronwyn. ●



^ Nice table! Picnic lunch at Donna Buang

Chapter chatter ...

14.4.16 | Western Victoria ■ Words & photos: Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Ian & Karen Bradshaw

Two Spurs run – Western

It was an early start for us to be at Lucas Shopping Centre by 7.45am!

There were five MX-5s leaving from Lucas. The early starters were Lucas from Maryborough and his niece Annabelle; Drew, a possible new member from Bendigo; Stella and Greg “Slipper” from Geelong; the Everetts; Jeff Woolfe ... and us, the Bradshaws (*Ed. I made that six but who’s counting*).

We zoomed off at 8.10am – spent too much time chatting – *not like us at all!* We travelled through Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Toolern Vale, Diggers Rest, Bulla, Donnybrook and Whittlesea then Kinglake. I think we need to find a new route to Kinglake – that little nasty man with the 80kmh speed signs has been everywhere!

At Kinglake we met up with Pauline and Peter (new members), Tony and Pam, Marg and Bob de Bont and of course our many friends from the Central Chapter. The men just had to check out what was under Drew’s bonnet that makes it sound so cool – the best and loudest zoom in the group. His extractors are the culprits!

Before we knew it, it was time to pack up the cakes, slice and biscuits and the morning tea things as Geoff Roche was on the car horn rounding us all up for the great little spurt to Healesville via Myers Creek Road, then up the curvaceous roads to Mt Donna Buang. A quick trip up to the top and back down to the lower car park for lunch and more slices and biscuits and, of course, more chit chat.

Once again Geoff rounded us up with the car horn and we were off to experience the corners of the Reefton Spur to Marysville for a regroup/toilet break. The way down Mt Donna Buang was spoiled by some interstate clown in a 4WD who thought it was a good idea to go down the mountain at 40kmh. We were stuck behind this ignoramus until we turned on to the road to Marysville; needless to say we made up for it on the Reefton Spur.

Marysville was very welcoming with the warm colours of autumn on the trees. Then it was time to traverse the Black Spur through to Healesville for afternoon tea at the *Beechworth Bakery* – yum, yum ... *scrumptious Bee Stings!*

All too soon it was time to say goodbye to our friends of Central Chapter and head home. Just another great day with our fantastic little cars and great friends – and the weather was good too! ●

^ Pam and Anthony Stoffels, leaving Marysville

Background image: early morning over Lucas



^ The early risers: Lucas, Drew, Alan, Dawn, Jeff, Ian, Stella and Greg



◀ The boys check out Drew's engine



Chapter chatter ...

10.4.16 | Club ■ Words: Alan Bennett ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw & Alan Bennett ■ Organiser: Cary Warren

Back at Flemington Racecourse this year the 'Classic invites entries from British, European and Japanese cars. With back-to-back MX-5 wins in the best Japanese open sports car section, eight spotless MX-5s rocked up to represent our club and have a go at a three-peat.

Our Club members had taken out the Best Japanese Open Sports Car award at this show for the last two years running – Cary Warren in 2014 and Bruce Gray in 2015 – and we wanted more!

Our ever-smiling Club Captain – Social, Cary, was hobbling around after going to Japan for a break and getting one that has him moving more slowly than usual – *on crutches*. He directed us on to the plush members' car park lawn and we settled in for the day – sitting and talking, wandering around looking at the hundreds of cars on display, browsing through the pop-up shops and regularly raiding the coffee caravan. Will Campbell bought the only model MX-5 available to add to his collection.

We had lots of people wander by and make appreciative comments, several with specific questions (what's the wheelbase of an NA?) and others looking for information or advice.

MG and Mercedes dominated the event again with car numbers, variety and their concours. Mercedes won the car club display award.

Too many cars and makes to list but a few caught my eye: there was a *Joyful* and convertible Morris 1000, a sole DeLorean; a very expensive looking Mercedes-Benz McLaren SLR; lines of MGs; a Morgan Plus 8; a bright red Cortina that won the Car of the Show award and a superb Fiat Balilla (best pre-1939 European Vehicle).

The judge came and stayed for quite a while, "could we open this/that/who owns this one/what colour is that"; wrote hieroglyphics on his pad; chatted, nodded and smiled a lot, seemed pleased with his task and reluctantly left us to report back his findings. And so it came down to the moment we had all been bracing ourselves for ...

... new members Lori (far right) and Mary Mercieca brought home the three-peat with their low-ks Copper Red NC – in fact we cleaned up and took the top five places! Roll on next year. ●





Going three for three at the
Classic Showcase



Chapter chatter ...

17.4.16 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Peter Ilijash ■ Photos: Peter Ferguson ■ Organiser: Peter Ferguson



^ Top: Blue Rock Dam
Above: Group pose at the Trafalgar Motor Museum



^ Guess who (Alan) with guess what (parmigiana!)



^ Dave Moore eyes a steak



^ Lunch at the Erica pub ...

Wow what a glorious day, high broken cloud clearing, no rain, no wind and a forecast of 20 degrees.

Today's meeting for the **Three Dams run** was to be at the Trafalgar Holden Museum. Participants started arriving and numbers soon swelled to 34 people and 19 MX-5s.

Discussion and greetings over coffee included commentary on David and Leeanne's car bra to the 19 cars and of course the Museum vehicles. Many thanks to the Museum's obliging management.

A few *must-mentions* include John Moore who is as busy as a one-legged frog in a snake pit: he has two NAs and, after much coaxing, arrived from Leongatha. Another couple also new to the area were Andrew and Linda who recently moved from Tasmania and now reside in Traralgon. They have an immaculate NB. Another mention is *Wrong Town Laurie* and friend George. Laurie, from the Central Chapter, was so keen to attend that he overshot Trafalgar and ended up in Traralgon, adding another hour to his travel time. I guess the town names can look similar.

Prior to the designated start time, Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain Peter assembled the throng for a briefing of the day's run, some 230km, after which it was "*ladies and gentlemen, start your engines*".

The cavalcade of cars headed in a westerly direction then turned left into Sunny Creek Road to head south into the rising hills and twisting road towards Childers. The road can best be described as a very upset rattle snake on heat. We traversed through the best potato and farming country in the land.

Must be something in the air when farmers stop their tractors, wipe the brows and wave to passing MX-5s. Women holding young children stand by the road-side and wave.

We soon passed through Childers then crossed Thorpdale, continued on through the hamlets of Narracan and Coalville maintaining a spirited pace. Moe was next on the horizon and we slid into there like a sled on greased rails. Manoeuvring through Moe's Sunday morning hectic traffic was handled with care. By-the-way, Moe is no longer known as *Moccasin City*; that title now goes to Wonthaggi, known as *Moe-by-the-Sea*.

Lake Narracan, being only minutes away, was our first coffee break and pit stop. The size of our entourage must have scared the management ... hence no coffee. Travel so far was about 60km, taking one hour when we could have gone direct in 10 minutes. *Typical MX-5 run!* From Lake Narracan we proceeded past Yallourn "W" power station, through Yallourn North and at Tyers we turned left and started climbing again, heading for Rawson. The trip was sedate due to traffic congestion, however the forest looked fantastic.

Meanwhile, time was starting to slip away, so a radio conference was held between the travelling cars and a decision was made to have lunch first then continue on to Thompson Dam. All 19 cars rolled down the hill into Erica and parked very orderly across from the Erica Pub. Lunch options were a choice of two cafés, a picnic or the pub. *The pub won by a mile.* The choice and range of meals was fantastic. The stand-out meal had to be the sizzling huge steak served on hot stone with side salad.

Nicol Armstrong, our friend from Scotland (Rob's relative) said he'd never experienced anything like this. After lunch, time was against us so a decision was made to skip Thompson Dam and head South towards Moe then up to Blue Rock Dam. Which we did. We travelled across the wall then stopped in the car park and admired the surroundings. The guys formed in groups discussing cars, oils and the ELM 327 Diagnostic Analyser. The girls were also in a huddle and, to my horror, *they were discussing me!*

From Blue Rock Dam we headed north through Willow Grove, turned left heading south then right again on to Old Sale Rd, again passing pristine farming country. Eventually we turned left at the radio 3GG towers, then continued south to slip into Warragul for another coffee and debrief. Judging by the friendly banter and laughter everyone thoroughly enjoyed yet another successful MX-5 run.

Many thanks to Captain Peter for his organising and leading, and of course thanks to tail end Trish for keeping the rabble together. ●

Chapter chatter ...

17.4.16 | Northern Tasm^{mx}nia ■ Words & organiser: Bruce Harvey ■ Photos: Cheryl Murray



^ "Fearless Leader", Bruce Harvey



If this run was going to have a catchy title and draw you, the reader further into the adventures of the Northern Tasmanian Chapter, the obvious choice was the start and finish points whose names were connected by the second syllable.

Today we started at the **Blueberry** Barn Café and finished at the **Raspberry** Farm Café for lunch.

The aforementioned *Raspberry Farm* is a very popular destination and to fit our confirmed group of 26 people I had agreed to a late lunch time of 1.30pm. The later time enabled us to linger at the *Blueberry Barn Café* over lattes and muffins but still allow plenty of time for core business ... **the Drive**.

I should mention that the *Blueberry Barn Café* is on the old highway between Launceston and Devonport. To enjoy the drive to the start point, Club members often independently contact each other and form "mini convoys" and arrive in various sized groups depending on where they live and therefore started.

In my map book the two "Berries" are separated *as the crow flies* by 20km, but the actual drive took a solid two hours – maximising the fun and enjoyment of the world's best-selling sports car. As you will all know, Tasm^{mx}nia has arguably the best driving roads in the southern hemisphere and, being an Island of low population, is relatively free of traffic. Favourite sections of road were revisited, some sections were traversed in the opposite direction until ultimately we arrived at the *Raspberry Farm* for lunch.

True to their word two long tables were set and the wait staff were hovering eager to take food and drink requests. A good job was done to have all meals served pretty much simultaneously. As the organiser I had copped a little flak for the late lunch time but once the plates were delivered overflowing with food, all was forgotten and the plates were emptied in quick time.

As the GP of China was on around 4pm, once lunch was over our day too was finished. ●



^ Late but great ... lunch at the *Raspberry Farm* café.
Clockwise around the table, from left: Trish, Bob, Carl, Kelly, Bruce, Marti, Dennis, and ...



^ ... Cheryl, Roger, Alana, Michael, Keith, Anna, Sandra, Tim, Dot, Charlotte, Michael, Rob, Peter and Jill

Chapter chatter ...

24.4.16 | Southern Tasmania ■ Words & organiser: Linsay Millar ■ Photos: Rob Tanner & John Waldock

April 24th and Hobart turned on another "glorious day in Paradise" for an exciting day out zooming around Southern Tasmania.

The Club members hooked up at Rosny Bowls with the Shannons Car Day happening in the field next door, that made for quite a challenge.

However, 18 cars fronted up, including two beautiful new NDs: a blue and red one. We all swooned over them before leaving for a great day out, rooves down and lots of happy owners enjoying the sunshine.

We went around a lovely fresh mountain drive through Fern Tree and headed towards Lower Longley. Being stuck behind a campervan for part of the way made it a little frustrating for those of us who like to push our cars and enjoy the thrill of the amazing windy roads and lush scenery.

We then headed down the Huon Highway and into Ranelagh, through rolling countryside, a small section of dirt road and left at Judbury onto the wonderful Glen Huon Road with the stunning Huon River below us. We made a comfort stop at the Judbury Hall and enjoyed a chat while soaking up the fresh air.

From Judbury we headed over the Huonville Bridge and enjoyed a great drive to Cygnet around to Verona Sands and up to Birches Bay where we stopped for lunch at *Pepperberries Café*.

Being surrounded by wonderful scenery overlooking lovely gardens and Peppermint Bay, lunch was enjoyable, despite the wasps competing for our food.

As usual the friendship, and sharing the joy of our MX-5s made our run another fabulous day out. ●



^ The usual suspects at the usual starting point, Rosny Bowls car park



Lunch at Peppermint Bay



^ Top row: Allan & Stacey Pryer with Di; Tanner; Christine DeVilleneuve, Graeme Johnson and David Pitt; Susie & Alan Dear.
 Centre row: Michael Collinson, Cassie Cole, Lynsay Millar, Shane & Wendy Burgess and Carla Long;
 Wendy Burgess, Stacey Pryer, Carla Long, Michelle Waldock, Di Tanner and Tania McPherson.

Chapter chatter ...

24.4.16 | Western Victoria ■ Words & photos: Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Ian & Karen Bradshaw



This was a short-notice, quickly-organised, short morning run with the Victorian Japanese Motorbike Club, Western Region group.

The morning started with Ian – “Captain Little Sh*t” – getting out the air compressor and no, it wasn’t to blow the tyres up, but to blow the dust off our pride and joy! No time to wash the buzz box this week!

We then proceeded to gather more dust as we went down the driveway and on to Ballarat. We arrived at Lucas Shopping Centre expecting to see only three cars and were impressed when eight turned up! Including Clarke Menze from Central, the Everetts, Woolfie, Kevin, Robert Neighbour and son David, Geoff Molloy and two new members – Ian Court and Sue Walpole.

We welcome Ian and Sue and look forward to seeing them on more of our runs. As it turned out Ian Court is also a very keen bike rider and fitted in both groups really well. An assortment of Japanese bikes also turned up and made for some great conversation between the two groups.

After much chatter we headed off in three different directions! The bikes decided to take two different routes from the one we had decided to take. We welcomed Pam Stork – wife of the VJMC Western Region organiser and “Saffron”, her much-loved Volkswagen (Pam is usually on one their many bikes) – into the MX-5 group. Boy was she smiling when we got to St Anne’s Winery at Myrning. Pam had no trouble keeping up to the MX-5s with her two-litre VW Bug and had a zoom of a time with us!

The first thing we did after arriving was to peruse the Classic Muscle Car Show. What magnificent cars on display and so, so many of them and so many different makes and models – Thunderbirds, Chargers, Toranas, Commodores, GTs, hot rods, Chevrolets, and even a gangster car. When we had had enough of gawking at the cars, we wandered over to the winery for lunch, live entertainment and wine tastings. St Anne’s make some of the best and varied ports and liquors around. The white port and the white chocolate port were two of the favourites. St Anne’s Winery is very much worth a visit with the impressive buildings, wines, wine barrels and vineyards.

Another great day had by all, great cars, bikes and people! ●



✓ On the road to St Mary's... and Bug makes three



Chapter chatter ...

3.4.16 | Central ■ Words: Kyp Kassabis ■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche ■ Organisers: Tyrone Dark and Pam Bown



Sixteen cars gathered at McDonalds Berwick (four from the Eastern Victoria Chapter and one ND belonging to new members John and Katrina Palmer) for Tyrone's "I'm too old for this stuff" Gippsland run.

Tyrone explained that the title was (almost) a quote from the movie, "Lethal Weapon".

Well I can categorically state that Pam and Tyrone are **not** too old as, right from the get go, they were setting a cracking pace!

Pam riding shotgun was providing a great commentary up front on the two-way radio along with Tail-end Trish (Stewart). Between the two of them they kept the convoy in great shape. Seriously ... if you do not have a two-way you should get one, as it adds to your safety and enjoyment of the run. You can also join in the banter, as Dave and Leanne Evans always do (you know them – they have the YELLOW MX-5).

First stop was the township of Loch for a coffee and comfort stop, where we gained one (Grant and Saeko from Eastern) and lost one. Yes, the 'Black Panther' had gone AWOL again!

Onwards from Loch now with PANTHA back in the pack, we left for a group photo in Leongatha. Then it was on to our final destination of Mirboo North for the ubiquitous picnic lunch and fellowship.

Pam and Tyrone mapped out some great twisting back roads for us to enjoy, and the whole run was a great success.

It is an emphatic plea from all of us that Tyrone does not retire and we do it all again next year. ●





24.4.16 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Janine Boyce ■ Photos: Gordon Robertson
■ Organiser: Peter Ferguson

Sunday 24 April saw Andrew and me heading off to our second MX-5 Club event (we are newbies) held by the Eastern Chapter: a Khanacross at Gippsland Car Club hillclimb track.

The preparation for this had taken the week prior, obtaining a fire extinguisher and bracket and making sure that all the tips Peter Ferguson (Eastern Chapter leader) had given us, to pass scrutineering, were complete.

As we headed off up the Princes Highway the weather was overcast and foggy and it didn't look like it was going to be a pleasant day; however the weather gods were good to us all and by the time we arrived the clouds had cleared and we were greeted by Peter F. and fellow MX-5 members David Salter, Peter Dannock, Rob Krygsman, Ryan and Mark Stackpoole, Ajith and Ashan Perera and David Phelps who had already passed scrutineering. My trusty little steed passed as well and we were all set to participate/learn what a Khanacross is. In total 35 drivers competed in a variety of cars, including WRXs, Minis, Datsuns and Hyuandis. We also had three visiting members being Peter Ilijash, Alan Stockwell and Ed Laine.

Once scrutineering and drivers' briefing had taken place, we got to drive a reconnaissance lap of the track where we all went out and followed a lead car through all the obstacles and did exactly what we were going to have to do on track ... only a lot slower and a lot more controlled.

The time came when we were all let loose, one at a time on the track, starting in the "garage" and negotiating our way through the course without hitting any cones or passing the obstacles on the wrong side. Each cone knocked over or obstacle completed incorrectly added time to your final score. Finally the course finished back in the garage where you had to ensure you came to a complete stop. We completed the short track in both directions and then we headed up to the car park.

In the car park we again started in a "garage" but had to drive around cones in a figure-8 which was quite tight but suited the MX-5 down to the ground. Once again we completed this in the reverse direction. This saw some of our members cut loose, with smoke from handbrake turns and going in the wrong direction quite common.

Then back out on to the track for the long course where again we had to face the cone challenges and make it back in one piece. Some of the cones weren't so lucky this time as confidence grew and boundaries were pushed as MX-5s took on cones.

After we had completed all five runs the times were added together and scores posted.

That was a wrap for our day and I came away with a new-found understanding of my car and what it can do ... and I can't wait for the next one.

So if you want to learn about how your car handles and improve your driving skills, give Khanacross a go! ●



Chapter chatter ...

26..16 | North-Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Loz Thomas ■ Photos: Ron Gillick ■ Organisers: Loz & Shane Thomas

The North-Eastern Victoria Chapter held their first Tuesday run on 26 April and, just as the title suggests, it was all about taking it easy, not doing huge miles and not doing them quickly ...

...enjoying the scenery and each other's company and trying out new places for coffee and a bite to eat. We all know how busy weekends can get and since most of our Chapter members are retired or work part-time I thought that it might be a good idea.

The day started at 10am at *Beechworth Bakery* ... yes, the one in Beechworth! It was a beautiful warm sunny day and sitting on the top deck overlooking the historic township and the autumn colours, having a latté, certainly set the tone for the day. It was great to see Brian and Maree back after missing quite a few runs recently due to family reasons, and welcome Greg and Kerry from the Central Chapter who were enjoying a holiday in beautiful Bright and were able to join us for our inaugural Tuesday run. It looked pretty impressive seeing seven shiny MX-5s in the old streetscape.

At 10.45 we left Beechworth and drove through the gorgeous town of Stanley where their show of autumn colour was up there with the best of them, through Ovens and Myrtleford and then on to Milawa and Oxley.

We then turned left to head into the King Valley. There are lots of wineries to choose from but our choice for this day was Gracebrook Winery. This is a small family-owned and -operated vineyard, just before the town of Whitfield.

The table had been set up on the deck that overlooked the vineyard and valley beyond. It was really beautiful. After walking around the grounds and patting the little pigs in their pen, Roger ordered pork sausages and said that they were the best he had ever eaten! The menu was varied and the food fantastic. It was a great way to spend a couple of hours.

As we all left to make our own way home from Gracebrook, the general consensus was that 'Taking it easy on Tuesdays' was a fantastic idea and we are all looking forward to the next one. ●





Taking it easy on a Tuesday

King Valley



Trading Post

For Sale

1992 Classic Red NA
132,000km
Park Orchards



For details of this and other items to buy, swap, sell or borrow, see the "Trading Post" section in the "Clubroom" section of the Club's website, mx5vic.org.au



Brakes - member discounts

Need a brake upgrade?

RDA EBC Brakes offer all members discounted pricing on a range of rotors and performance / race pads for your MX-5.

For more information, e-mail:
rdaebcoffer@mx5vic.org.au.

New deal on welding gases ...

■ Words: Peter Ferguson, Eastern Victoria Chapter

While I had my own business, I was always able to justify having an oxy set and later, a MIG and TIG welder in my home workshop – made doing “odd jobs” and building stuff really easy (only THEN I could not find the time to use it!)

Now I’m retired, I can find the time, but the cost of bottle hire became so prohibitive that a few years back I sent back the bottles. I started using gasless wire in the MIG, and keep looking at my TIG welder wishing I could use it ... but it *NEEDS* gas!

I started seeing ads about where you could purchase bottles outright, at about \$450 per bottle plus refill and, although this is expensive, had resolved to myself I’d pay the one-time cost and at least have the convenience of being able to do jobs when I needed to.

I was about to take the plunge when I saw at Bunnings (*of all places!*) that they are supplying gas in another form: you pay a one-time *deposit* (which is refundable on return of the bottles) and then you pay for the re-filling in a changeover bottle, similar to BBQ gas. *Brilliant!*

The deposit on each bottle is \$200 – not cheap but you get it back as it’s only a deposit.

Re-fills on the bottles are also not cheap – \$99 for acetylene and welding gases and \$69 for oxy.

However, as there is no ongoing rent on the bottles, I’m happy to pay a premium price for the convenience of having the gear when I need it.

If you are in the same situation, nip down to Bunnings and get yourself organised. There MAY also be some other suppliers doing the same (deposit) deal. ●



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

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.



Breathe life into your convertible top

Renovo offers all Mazda MX-5 Club members a **10% discount** on all their products.

For more information, call **0430 164 123** or e-mail renovo@bigpond.com



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*).

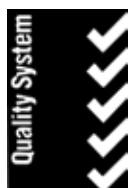
Check out the Waxit range and order online at www.waxit.com.au. Our Club coupon code is **mx5club**.

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

A new option for the MX-5 owner

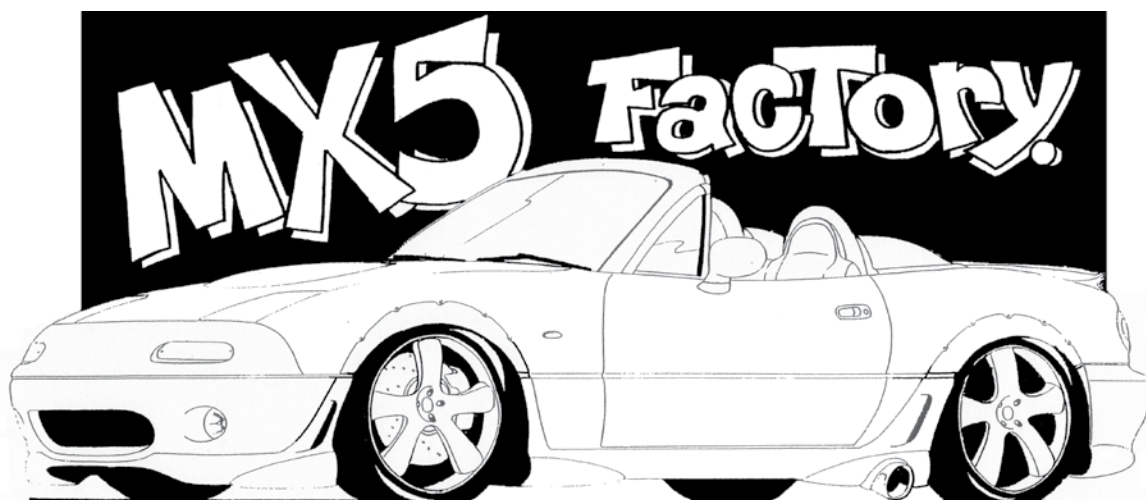
Oven Baked Enamel Services have taken the next step forward in service for MX-5 Owners, Lovers and Club Members.

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



CITY MAZDA
What Drives You, Drives Us

***WHAT DRIVES YOU,
DRIVES US...***



***PROUD SPONSORS OF THE
CITY MAZDA MX5 SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP***



CITY MAZDA
What Drives You, Drives Us

14-28 Montague Street, South Melbourne LMCT 7234

(03) 9329 2000

www.citymazda.com.au



**zoom-zoom
zoom-zoom
zoom-zoom**