

mxtra

9/2016
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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

2016 Club award winners



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Cover image: *The new Mazda Australia head office was a magnificent setting for the Club's 2016 Awards lunch. (Photo: Karen Bradshaw)*



Find us at:
MX-5 Club of Victoria

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Pete's Perspective ...

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

Annual Awards

The club recently celebrated the achievements of members in the past year, with our annual awards luncheon. Held at the Mazda Australia's new head office in Mulgrave, we were able to mingle amongst Mazda's heritage collection of cars and received some great insights on the history of the MX-5 from Mazda Australia Managing Director, Martin Benders.

The new head office is an impressive building that showcases the success for Mazda in Australia and highlights the heritage of the early Mazda models. It was great to see the first rotary car on display, the 1967 Mazda Cosmos 110S, as well as the 250,000th MX-5, a 1997 red NA. Thanks to Murray Finlay for putting up a display of Club memorabilia on the day. It is not very often that it sees the light of day, so it was great to see some of the older copies of *mxtra*, merchandise, books and previous awards from the 25-plus years of the Club history.

Scroll through *mxtra* to see the names of all the worthy recipients of awards for the past year and congratulations to everyone on another great year.

MX-5 Fan Fest

For those who joined us at the annual awards luncheon, you would have heard Steve Maciver from Mazda Australia talk about their plans for an *MX-5 Fan Fest* on 21 January 2017 at Sandown Park Raceway. The one-millionth MX-5 is doing a tour of the world and it will be in Melbourne in January for this event. In addition to the one-millionth MX-5, there will be lots of activities, including on-track activities and displays, show and shine and much more.

We are expecting a big turnout and it will be a great opportunity to promote the Mazda MX-5, so put this event in your calendar, bring your family and friends and come and join the fun. Keep your eye on *mxtra* for more details.

Discover Tasmania

Tasmania would have to be one of the most beautiful places in Australia to both visit and drive an MX-5. In the last weekend of August, I had the opportunity to visit Tasmania for the second time this year. Catching up with members from both the Northern and Southern Tasmania Chapters, I enjoyed some great roads, met some terrific people and had a fantastic drive. Starting at Georgetown in the north, I travelled through some of most picturesque mountains on my trip down south. I have been to Hobart quite a few times before, but have never experienced the great roads and views you get south of Hobart driving through places like Woodbridge, Cygnet and Huonville. Finishing my weekend with a trip up Mount Wellington provided a great view of Hobart.

As well as the scenery, I enjoyed meeting many members of the Club for the first time. Some were new members, others have been with the Club for many years. Thanks to my hosts, Bruce, Cheryl, John and Michelle for a great weekend and all the members who made me so welcome. A special thanks also to Michael Lindsay and John Waldock for letting me drive their cars – it was great fun.

The Annual General Meeting has come and gone

In the past month, the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been held. Key business at the meeting was the presentation of reports by the President, Treasurer and Club Captain - Motor Sport, as well as the election of Committee members. Three members of the Committee – Bruce Gray, Dave Collins and Richard Acfield – stood down and all were duly re-elected. Tim Emery also stood down and chose not to be nominated again. I would like to thank Tim for his

For your diary ...

See the full calendar for details

September

- 17 STas Don's drive to Oatlands
- 17-18 NTas Lake Pedder weekend
- 18 CEN Mini navigation run
- 24 WV Wings & Wheels
- 25 NEV Mt Buffalo run

October

- 2 EV Licola run
- 9 CEN President's run to Yarragon
- 15 NEV Walwa run
- 16 WV Kyneton run
- 21-14 EV 3 Peaks run
- 23 STas Strathgordon run
- 25 NEV Cope/Wallace Hut run

November

- 6 CEN Great Ocean Road dawn run
- 13 EV Khanacross, Bryant Park
- 15-18 NEV Summit to Sea
- 20 CEN Trentham run
- 20 STas Rob Tanner's run
- 22 EV Lunch & Lies, Noojee

efforts on the Committee, including two years as Club Captain - Motor Sport.

Welcome to Gavin Newman who has joined the Committee for the first time. Gavin brings a wealth of experience to the Committee, as both a motor sport participant and a highly-experienced CAMS official.

Having now visited the two Chapters in Tasmania, I plan on getting to the four Victorian Chapters for a run before the end of the year. So I look forward to meeting more members soon.

**Remember ...
leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.**

Pete



Scene about ...

■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche, John Waldo, Jill Steer, Loz Thomas, Karen Bradshaw, Elaine Marshall





Randy's Rant ...



■ Randy Stagno Navarra – Club Captain - Motor Sport captain@mx5vic.org.au

A big hello to all you motor sport competitors.

For those of you who are unaware, Tim Emery has stood down as Club Captain – Motor Sport after two years at the helm and, before that, one year as Assistant. This is part of the succession plan that we had implemented back under Robert Downes.

I firstly want to thank Tim for his great efforts as Captain. He organised the biggest motor sport event the Club has ever held: two track days in two days in Tasmania. Those who attended would appreciate the work carried out and the unique experience that we all enjoyed. As well as organising the change of motorsport to a calendar year. Tim will still be around competing and I hope he will allow me to pick his brains when it comes to

organising events.

Gavin Newman has now come onboard as the Assistant Captain. Apart from being an avid MX-5 Sprint Championship competitor, Gavin does a lot of work in various roles at national CAMS events such as V8 Supercars. So he brings with him a wealth of knowledge and new ideas.

So between the two of us we hope to ensure that everything runs smoothly and everyone can enjoy their track days.

*AROCA 10 Hour
~ 15-16 October*

So far we have 12 confirmed competitors so we will be

running three teams again. They are *Flyin' Miatas*, *City Mazda Motorsport* and *Team Mx5 Motorsport*.

If each team could let me know who their team manager is I can email all correspondence to them.

If any members would like to help out with any of the three teams please let me know. Plus, if any of you *veterans* have any advice for us, please feel free to contact me. I want to ensure that the event is a success for all of us.

*Phillip Island 6
Hour ~ 30-31 July*

We managed to get one entry into this great event.

There is a full report in this month's *mxtra*. For those who haven't done this event, it is fantastic and easily rivals the AROCA event at Winton. It would be great to get a couple of teams together for next year's event. The NSW Club regularly has five teams entered in this event, so we will have plenty of rivalry.

MX-5 Sprint Championship Rules

This November the two-year rule freeze expires on the Championship rules. Later this month (if I haven't already by the time the September *mxtra* is printed), I'll send out an email asking all participants for any ideas or changes you would like to propose.

I stress any proposal should be to improve the running of the Championship. All correspondence will then be assessed by a small group of your peers and the results will be made known to everyone before the start of next year's Championship.

I look forward to seeing you all at the track.

"If you have everything under control, you're not moving fast enough!"

Randy



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

MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER

Gravity didn't come from a meeting. Neither did the Spitfire. But most cars today come from meetings, and as a result they're almost all yawn-mobiles. Not so the Mazda MX-5, though. The old model has been the world's bestselling sports car for about 25 years, thanks to its combination of low price, ease of use and a smile-a-minute factor that's up there alongside a game of naked Twister with Scarlett Johansson and Cameron Diaz. The new one is better than ever. Because it's so organic and raw and simple, it feels how a sports car should. It sings and fizzes and jumps about. It feels eager and sprightly, and that makes you feel eager and sprightly too. It's a cure for depression, this car, it really is. You just can't be in a bad mood when you're driving it. **From \$34,990**



◀◀◀◀
What Jeremy Clarkson said about the all-new Mazda MX-5 in his wrap of the 10 best cars of the past year (Weekend Australian "Life", 3 September 2016)



Membership ...

Current membership count:

558 ..

and growing!

■ Dave Collins – Acting Membership Officer membership@mx5vic.org.au

Hi everyone!

Will is still no doubt having a great time. He will be back for the next report, so this will be my last report ... ahh!

A mixed month with regards memberships; new members exceeded last month, but renewals have slowed, with just 18.

There are still over 150 members who have not renewed, so if you happen to see someone with an old membership card or sticker on your next run, please give them a gentle reminder.

With spring just starting what better time to get out and enjoy the drive and experience the many hidden gems of roads less travelled and visit those townships you have seen on the map but not been to.

Top the ride off with a coffee or lunch with fellow Club members ... how much better can it get?

Welcome to this month's new members:

Central Chapter

Peter Whitaker	2005 Black NC
Alan & William Satalich	1997 Silverstone NA
Scott Newman	1998 Black NB
Benjamin Ong	2009 True Red NC
William Malkoutzis	1990 Classic Red NA
Lynn Harry	2005 True Red NC
Susan Deprost	1995 Classic Red NA
Jon Waters & Michael Johnson	2011 Crystal Pearl White NC

North-Eastern Victoria Chapter

John Hillard	1991 Crystal White NA
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Western Victoria Chapter

Greg & Sharon Moran	1999 Silver NB
Sandra & Daryl Domaschenz	2002 Blue NB
Mark Brown	2002 Titanium NB
Colin Goldsmith	2008 Black NC

Southern Tasmania Chapter

Stanley Rimon	2015 Soul Red ND
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Northern Tasmxnia Chapter

Richard Wassom	1992 Classic Red NA
Glenda Leeson	2003 Classic Red NB

Enjoy, have fun, and be safe

Dave

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President Pete's meet & greet ... in Tassie

27.8.16 | Northern Tasmxnia

■ Words: Bruce Harvey ■ Photos: Alana McDougall, Cheryl Murray, Bruce Harvey, Jill Steer ■ Organisers: Bruce Harvey

The last few days of winter, real warmth from the sun, members with legs exposed plus two Chapter runs in six days – does life get any better?

Club President Peter Dannock was in Tasmania for the weekend and Saturday was our day to impress him before he travelled to our southern mates in Hobart.

A dozen cars assembled in Longford and, after the obligatory caffeine refresh, Peter delivered a short address on some future events and collaborations as well as passing on all the positive feedback the Club had received regarding NatMeet – especially the role played by Northern Tasmanian members (See *NatMeet Heroes* in April *mxtra*).

The first section of road to cover was the 120-odd kilometres to Bothwell via Poatina and Mt Blackwood. This section of road is on a par with the famous Sideling and is also a popular route with fisher-people as it provides access to a number of highland lakes. To allow efficient traffic flow, the road has numerous areas set aside where slow vehicles can let queued-up traffic past ... *providing the offending driver has enough spatial awareness to realise that they holding up over a dozen other cars!*

After a stretch and break at Bothwell, everyone was keen to show Pete the less-travelled parts of Tasmania, so the next section from Parattah to

Runnymede beckoned. Until now Peter had been a passenger with Michael Lindsay (*Kochie*) but Michael generously offered to swap sides and Peter took over the reins. Now I have strict orders along the lines of “*what happens in Tasmxnia stays in Tasmxnia*” but I have to say that true meaning of *Jinba Ittai* became obvious very quickly and the convoy was stretched a bit more than usual. With lost time now recovered we were soon at Orford ordering lunch.

After lunch Peter presented the Chapter Champion awards to joint winners Alana McDougall and Cheryl Murray for their efforts during the previous 12 months, plus a Club “appreciation award” to yours truly for my role in helping to organise the successful NatMeet XII.

When Peter's ride to Hobart arrived and had him loaded, our group dropped the rooves and took off to complete the loop back to Longford and home, this time using the Lake Leake Highway.

It was pleasing to see that some of the cars that have tended to linger at the rear of convoys took the initiative and moved to the front to see what all the fuss was about ... and had a great time to boot – as did all of us. ●





The "Cygnet Loop" south of Hobart is a bit of a favourite amongst many of the Southern Tasmanian Chapter members.

It consists of some lovely driving, a great variety of scenery and a good lunch destination.

This time we were fortunate to have Peter Dannock along for the run – a first for Peter and a great chance for him to meet many of the Chapter members.

We had a good turn-up of 17 cars on Sunday morning – and this despite a few die-hard members being out of the state travelling. The weather was good, not perfect but the sun did occasionally poke its nose out and bless us on a few occasions.

We departed pretty much on time, the drive slow at first as we made our way through Hobart and what seemed like a million traffic lights. Once the road opened up and we formed the convoy we were able to enjoy the driving and the wind in our hair. The first part of the drive followed the river, affording lots of views of the water and Bruny Island.

Our first stop was a long one, with plenty of time to chat and catch up with what the members have been up to lately. Allan Pryer was very proudly showing off photos of his new Bug Eye (Sprite), which looks to be a very interesting project, and Dave Pitt showed a few of us photos of his very reasonably-priced NA which joins his new Titanium acquisition.

We headed out for the drive to lunch, the roads becoming more enjoyable as they wound and undulated past the mouth of the Huon River. Lunch was a simple counter meal – most enjoyable, as was the company. It was nice to chat to two of the Chapter's new couples and hear their enthusiasm for their cars and their enjoyment of our day.

After lunch we headed back to Hobart, with a side trip to the top of Mt Wellington (below) where we were able to see a little snow.

Thanks to all for a really enjoyable day and Peter D especially for giving up his time to share the run with us. ●



⤴ *President Pete (left) with Southern Tassie Chapter members atop Mt Wellington*

Chapter chatter ...

7.8.16 | Central ■ Words: Dianne Lindner ■ Photos: Goeff & Bronwyn Roche, Randy Stagno Navarra, Bob de Bont

It was a pleasant start to the day and that's how it continued. Twenty-five cars and one SUV arrived for our 26th anniversary run through the Dandenongs.

On the road our convoy headed up past Ferntree Gully and the crowded 1000 Steps that saw cars lined up Mt Dandenong Tourist Road. Past the cars and back on to a clear road with only a few cyclists to navigate around, we wound our way through Sassafra and into Olinda passing beautiful little cafes, a multitude of nurseries and some beautiful scenery.

Around 11am we pulled up in Monbulk for a coffee break and were slightly spoilt by the number of cafes and bakeries to choose from.

Quite often when we head out on our Club runs we turn a few heads as we pass with our tops down (soft tops that is) and our revs up. But today we turned someone else's head. At our Monbulk stop a lady came over to us and said her husband was on permanent oxygen and confined to a wheelchair and rarely got out. *She wanted to thank us for bringing a car show for him to admire from his verandah!*

Before continuing on our drive there were congratulations to be made by Murray, (then) Club vice president, as badges were handed out to Dave and Gail Collins, John Hayhurst and Peter and Anita Silva for reaching five years as Club members. There was a special mention too for Brian and Sandra Jackson for reaching their 15 years ... but as they were surprise participants on the day Murray didn't have their badges.

Coffee and cake consumed, we continued on our way for the second half of our run, a pretty straight forward run, or so we thought, until four cars, including us as tail-end Charlie turned on to the freeway instead of the South Gippsland Highway. There was no need to panic as a quick U-turn saw us back in the right direction and minutes away from our destination, *Fat Bob's Bar & Grill*, Moorabbin.

If you love burgers and fries this is the place to go. Juicy burgers, delicious fries and ice cold drinks in a fab American-style diner.

A great bit of banter amongst a great group of people was a fantastic end to a nice little outing amongst the Dandenongs. ●



^ *It wasn't that long a drive, was it?*



^ *You can get anything you want at Fat Bob's Restaurant (sorry, Arlo!)*



Organiser: Murray Finlay

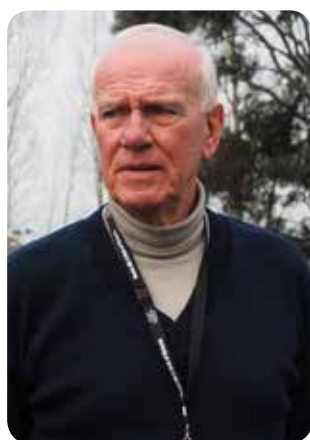
✓ The car show that came to Monbulk!



Chapter chatter ...

7.8.16 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Adrian and Linda Weedon ■ Photos: John Poletti, Karen Bradshaw, Peter Ferguson

On Sunday, 7 August, 25 people in 13 vehicles assembled under clearing skies at the Moe McDonald's for the relatively short run via Newborough, Tyers and Rawson up to the Erica Pub for lunch before finishing back down at Trafalgar.



Although members ventured from as far afield as Ballarat to enjoy the day, none was more keen than Peter Gillies who had arrived at the start point a full week early to ensure his prime spot directly behind run

Where is everyone??

leader, Captain Peter Ferguson. Who can argue with that level of dedication? (Of course, he then arrived in the correct week as well!)

Leaving Moe, the convoy headed south of the Princes Freeway on the Coalville Road, bending eastward along McDonalds Road before heading north back over the freeway and past the Yallourn power station with its customary cooling tower drizzle. Continuing along the Glengarry Road we next turned left on to the sweeping curves of the Walhalla-Tyers Road.



^ No love if you're not an MX-5



^ John Poletti, from the back seat ...



■ Organiser: Chris Iddon

✓ *Lunch, without the lies this time*



For 25 kilometres this road carves its way through tall forests as it climbs to Rawson, sitting proudly on the shoulder of Mount Baw Baw. On this section several of the crews had to deal with some poor chap in a Hyundai ix35 who obviously got caught up in the emotion and spirit of an MX-5 run, but he really just got in the way. At Rawson it was a quick left hook and just a few kilometres to our lunch spot in Erica.

Our entire group lunched at the pub where we significantly swelled the number of patrons and no doubt added to the stress levels in the kitchen, despite Captain Peter's best efforts to advise them of our impending arrival.

After a very social two-hour lunch where the Erica Burger was a clear favourite and plans for future runs discussed, the group wound its way back into the heart of Gippsland through the Moondara State Park, across to Willow Grove, then back to the finish at Trafalgar for a lengthy coffee for those who had the time to hang about.

As new members to the Club, there could be no greater example of the sheer joy of driving the most accessible, dynamic and fun car on the road than the time spent with our new-found 'community in convoy' on this run. We were warmly welcomed and engaged by our fellow members and enjoyed checking out the other vehicles as well as talking about our own. We also scored a two-way radio to be entertained by the on-road banter of 'Tail-end Trish' and 'Titanium Man' and learned how this communication helps to keep everyone on the same run.

There will be many more runs for us with new roads to explore and no doubt more stories to tell. ●



^ *Chicken parma again, Alan ... ?*

^ *Very civilised!*

Chapter chatter ...

7.8.16 | North-Eastern Victoria ■ Words & photos: Ian “Watty” Watt ■ Organiser: Loz Thomas

Hi all. This is my first report for the Club, so here goes ... this is my perspective of the weekend at the Winton Festival of Speed.

I had put my name down for the event, but Loz let me know that there were no takers for the trip to the Winton – so I was considering going myself as I have a lot to do with restoring an old GA Galant ex-race car for a friend.

Then out of the blue I was contacted by Stephen Whyte who runs two HQs and was asked if I could prep the cars and be part of their team for the weekend. I said ‘yes’, only then to find out that the second driver was Phil Brock. The cars had been painted in the old livery of the *Team Brock* Toranas from 1976 when Phil and Peter finished Bathurst in third position (from memory) and, as you can see by the photos, they looked great!

On the Friday we arrived and set up in the marquee

allocated for us and I did a final check over of the cars. When it came time the guys went out and Steve’s car ran faultlessly ... but after about three laps Phil returned to the pits with a bad miss in the motor. So we put it into the marquee and went to work diagnosing the problem which turned out to be a faulty needle and seat in the carby. I changed it, and the plugs as they were fouled up, and put a smaller main jet in. We then had to wait for the next session and out they went ... both cars were fine and then we just concentrated on fine-tuning the suspension.

For Phil and Steve it’s all about the fact that it’s 40 years since Phil and Peter raced together in the same team all year, and it’s 10 years since we all lost Peter. It’s their way of



celebrating his life in a good positive way that Phil is really enjoying.

It would be nice if the motor sport enthusiasts of this Club could get together later on this year and attend the HQ Enduro in support of what a small group of people are doing to remember and celebrate the life of Peter Brock.

The other categories there on the weekend were well supported. The Group N races were fantastic with Les Walmsley’s Valiant Charger out-running the V8 brigade of Mustangs, Camaros and XW/XY GT Falcons. The Group A/C race was another good race as well. Tony Alford in the ex- Mark Gibbs/Rohan Onslow



▲ Top: Ian “Watty” Watt (right) trackside at Winton with Phil Brock (blue driving suit). Above: the gleaming Team Brock cars.



Nissan Skyline R32 GTR won all four races, just beating Carey McMahon in the 1988 Bathurst-winning Tony Longhurst/Tomas Mezera Ford Sierra with David Towe in the ex- Jim Richards/Tony Longhurst JPS BMW M3 and Mark Eddy in the ex -Gibson Motorsport Nissan Skyline R31 sharing third overall for the weekend. These were the main groups that appealed to me – and the only ones I got to see with my other duties taking up much of my time.

As you can see by the pictures it was a brilliant day weather-wise and crowd-wise and there were plenty of car displays and trade sites. All-in-all a great day!

Thanks for allowing me to contribute to the magazine. ●



Historic action at the 2016 Winton Festival of Speed

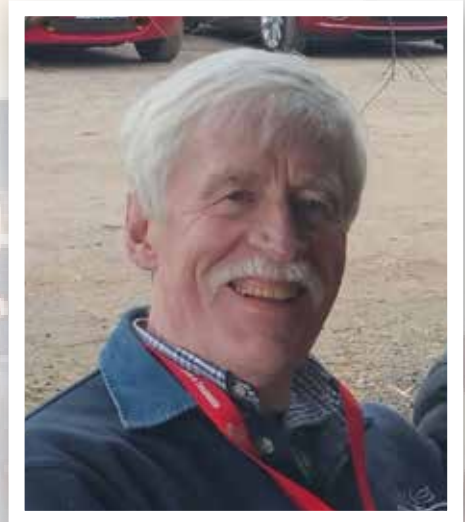


2015-2016 Awards presentations

■ Photos: Alan Bennett, John



« Karen Bradshaw (left) receives the 2015-2016 "Mike Quist Award" for Club Champion from Mazda Australia managing director, Martin Benders. Karen is the first Club member to go back-to-back in the Club Championship.



≈ 2015-2016 Jimba Ittai Award winner, Dave Collins

» Peter Ferguson (right) receives the 2015-2016 mxtra Award from editor, Murray Finlay



« Dawn Everett, Western Victoria Chapter Champion, with Ian Bradshaw



« 2015-2016 New Member Champion David Evans (Eastern Victoria, left) with Peter Dannock

≈ Rob Tanner - Southern Tasmania Chapter Champion



» Bob de Bont (left), Central Chapter Champion, with Geoff Roche



« Cheryl Murray (left) and Alana McDougall - joint Chapter Champions in Northern Tasmania



» Rob Krygsman - Eastern Victoria Chapter Champion



« Marg Gillick - North-Eastern Victoria Chapter Champion

14 August, 2016

Poletti, Bronwyn Roche, Karen Bradshaw



≈ President Peter Dannock (right) presents Karen & Ian Bradshaw with the 2015-2016 Teams Champion Award ... another back-to-back effort!

Years of Membership

20 years

Chris & Kaylene Biffin

15 years

Grant Butler | Peter Corkran | Keith Staite

10 years

Robert Boucher | Geoffrey Brown
 Steve & Debbie Dunlop | Rob & Ros Eastwood
 John Hadrill | Stuart James | Rob & Margaret Jewell
 Trudie Orchard | Grahame Smith | Ian Williams

5 years

Michael & Sonya Barr | Dave & Gail Collins | Alan Conrad
 Tony Colson | Robert Davies | Ron & Debbie Diprose
 Mark Fitzgerald | Paul Frank | Jeremy Fredersdorf
 Renee & Andrew Goodly | Alex Hailstone | John Hayhurst
 Andrew & Margery Johns | Peter Lawrence | Ian Long
 Dean Monik | Dave Moore | Brian Mutton
 Frank & Paula O'Connor | Gwenda Parkinson
 David Pitt Gary Prescott | David Ralph
 Justin Schweikert | Peter & Anita Silva
 Jeff Smith | Caz Timbrell | Graeme White



≈ The memorabilia table



« Peter Dannock presented Bruce Gray (left) and Bruce Harvey with "In Appreciation" awards for their efforts with NatMeet XII



Meet the 2016-2017 Club Committee ...

Peter Dannock

President / Club Permits Officer
2001 Silver NB &
2008 Stormy Blue NC



I have thoroughly enjoyed the nine years I have been in the Club. Over that time, it has been a great privilege to be on the Committee, serving six years as Secretary and now in my first year as President.

I have owned three MX-5s over the journey: a 1991 White NA, a 2001 Silver NB and a 2008 Stormy Blue NC with a retractable hardtop. All three cars have given me the opportunity to participate in some great activities with the Club, including social runs, functions, motorsport and a lot more. The NC is my favourite to drive and remains my daily driver.

My wife (Jane) and two daughters (Melanie and Georgia) are also members of the Club, through our Family membership, and enjoy being involved in many of the Club's activities.

It is great share my interest with so many like-minded people and it is terrific to see so many actively involved, making my role on the Committee so much easier.

I look forward to supporting your passion for the roadster we all love.

* Club Life Member † Past President

Dave Collins

Vice President / Treasurer
1999 Grace Green NB &
2010 Metropolitan Grey NC



I am now in my sixth year of the unpaid, and over-worked, time of life.

I am enjoying the opportunity to keep the grey matter active, with Club committee activities, volunteering for RFDS and looking after a small website, all in the hope of fending off the onset of, 'why am I here, and who are you' that seems to be the norm as we get older.

Gail and I love a coffee, movies, local theatre, dining, socialising, flying and being grandparents.

We enjoy participating in the many events our Chapters put on, especially those mid-week.

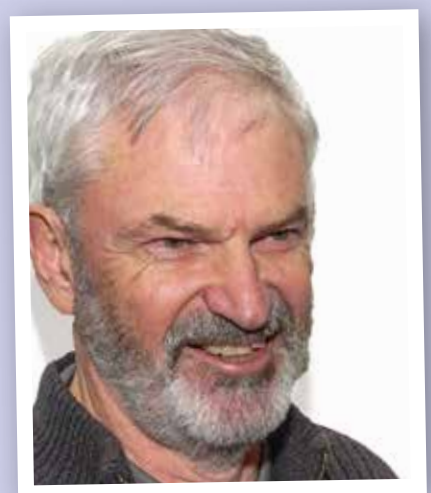
The Committee are enthusiastic and very committed to ensure we continue to keeping the Club something that we all enjoy being part of. Come join us – you will enjoy.

I had a year as Club Captain – Social and I'm into my third year as Treasurer and working on a new Club database and online accounting system ... no time to put the feet up!

I hope to see you out there enjoying the ride!

Bruce Gray

Secretary / Acting Merchandise
2007 Copper Red NC



Jenny and I have now owned our NC for nine years (the longest I have ever owned a car!) and I have been a Club member for nearly the same time span.

Whilst four NatMeets have certainly been among the major highlights of this time and playing a role in our successful Tasmanian NatMeet XII gave a tremendous amount of satisfaction, it is the camaraderie between all Club members that is the greatest driver of my ongoing involvement with the committee.

After the past three years as Merchandise Officer I have now taken on the role of Secretary, look forward to sharing the workload with my fellow dedicated committee members and playing a more significant role in the running of our great Club.

It's all about the car....and the people!

Contact details for all Committee members are listed on page 3 of each edition of *mxtra*.

Randy Stagno Navarra

Club Captain – Motor Sport
2016 2.0L ND



Well, not only am I back on the committee, but I'm now also the Club Captain - Motor Sport. What was that rule about not volunteering?

I joined the Club in 1999 and I haven't looked back. As most people know I'm very passionate about both the Club and the MX-5 in general. I've met some of my closest friends thanks to my involvement in motor sport and in a way get to live out my boyhood dreams. I remember when there would be only five or six of us competing when I first started and now it's great to rock up to a track day and see around 30 guys all set to enjoy their track day. Be great if we can see a few more social members come out to the track and cheer the lads on. I guarantee you'll enjoy yourselves.

I am a serial MX-5 owner and have been lucky enough to have owned 11 of them. Currently I'm the lucky owner of an ND. These cars are all about fun and I can honestly say I've had lots of fun with them over the years.

I'm hoping that whilst on the committee I can help improve not only the motor sport side of the Club but also the Club in general.

Stay on the black stuff!

Richard Acfield

Club Captain – Social
2005 Velocity Red NC LE



My wife Lorraine and I bought our mint condition 2005 NC Limited Edition in Velocity Red only last November.

We joined the Mazda MX-5 Club immediately as we had both been on Club runs with our son, Simon, who owns an NA (and was already a Club member).

We really enjoy the Club runs and have already met some very nice people (aren't all MX-5 owners nice?). I went to a committee meeting in November to get a better idea of how the Club operates and found myself volunteering to fill a casual vacancy on the committee.

At the recent Annual General Meeting I was re-elected and subsequently accepted the position of Club Captain – Social.

As a retiree I am able to devote quite a bit of time to the role and hope to live up to the high standards set by the previous incumbent (Cary Warren) who unfortunately is not well.

Will Campbell * †

Membership
2004 Velocity Red NB SE
& 1999 Innocent Blue 10AE



I have been a sports car fanatic since my youth, my first car being a Triumph Spitfire.

However, all good things must come to an end, and so the Triumph was traded for a more family-friendly vehicle when my first child arrived.

It was to be 25 years before I was again able to entertain the thought of a sports car when my wife, Coral, and I purchased a 1989 White NA advertised in our local paper.

Buying the car was one of the best decisions we have made, although it has since been replaced and we now have four MX-5s - an NA, a 10th Anniversary NB, an NB SE and an NC!

We enjoy driving all four although the oldest, our '91 NA is the daily drive.

I joined the Committee in 2000 and after serving a three-year stint as President, I now look after Membership.

I thoroughly enjoy my involvement with the Club and hope it continues for many years to come.

Your 2016-2017 Committee (continued)

Gavin Newman

Assistant Club Captain – Motor Sport
1998 Black NB



Having been with the Club for just over two years, I am a relative newcomer when it comes to committee members.

In that time however, I have been very impressed with the structure of the Club and the friendliness of its members.

I purchased my MX-5 and joined the Club for the sole purpose of getting on the track, and both the car and the Club have proved a perfect way for a newcomer to experience motor sport at relatively low cost and low stress. I can't recommend the car and Club highly enough.

As well as driving, my association with motor sport comes from many years working as a motor sport official in a variety of roles around pit lane, the grid, the starter's box and the course car. As such I have a fair idea about the 'behind the scenes' work that goes into making a motor race happen and the enthusiasm of volunteers in a club like ours is crucial to this process. So I was happy to agree to be one of those volunteers and contribute to the Club in the motor sport team.

I'm sure there are Club members who would love to get their cars out on track but are daunted by the requirements or fear of breaking their car. I hope to help a few social members overcome that and have a go – even if it is only once!

Alex Hailstone

Assistant Club Captain – Social
1995 White NA



Hey everyone!

I'm sure you all know too much about me now; I'll save the boring details for another day.

In an unofficial capacity I have been involved with MX-5s through the *mx5cartalk* forum, social groups and friends since 2005. I finally got around to buying mine at the end of 2010.

So after being a member of Victoria/Tasmania MX-5 Club for five years now, and previously working closely with the NSW MX-5 Club, I'm happy to contribute back to the culture that has given me so much.

I'm excited to see what the future holds as a new generation of MX-5 owners discover the drive.

Catch you on track, or on the road!

Murray Finlay * †

Communications
2004 Velocity Red NB SE



I've been in this fantastic Club for all of its 26 years, and it just keeps getting better! It's amazing what a positive impact this simple little sports car has had on so many lives.

Having served as President for six years and Vice President for another 12, my current focus is on Club communications – *mxtra* and the website. I also serve as the national liaison person with Mazda Australia on behalf of the five state clubs. My Velocity Red NB SE is my second MX-5, which I bought 11 years ago to replace the Classic Red NA I bought in March 1990 and drove almost every day over 15 years and about 240,000km.

I love being involved with this Club and the Committee, and I'm grateful to my wonderful wife Alyssa (herself a 20-plus-year member) who gives me the freedom to stay so deeply involved.

My motivation is always to try to make this the sort of club that I would like to join and participate in at any time

I hope that we on the Committee achieve that goal, and I think the constantly-growing numbers and high membership retention suggest that we are doing most things right.

Ben Sale

Social Media
1990 White NA



It's amazing to think that I have been a part of this Club for eight years now ...

In the time I have spent here I am very thankful for the friends I have made and the great opportunities being a part of the Club has created for me.

Every time I get behind the wheel of my little NA I'm reminded that these cars are all about raw, unfiltered fun. The great thing about this Club is that the mantra behind the car is the backbone of the Club's philosophy. The demographic mix is wide and the people attracted are an eclectic bunch ... however, everyone is here for the same reason: to enjoy these great little cars!

Rather than talk about myself too much, I would like to use this short profile to ask everyone reading to take whatever chance you get to become involved where possible – come to events, try motor sport and *most of all have fun!*

After all, it's what the car, and the Club are made for ...

Coral Campbell *

Championship Points
2005 Galaxy Grey NC
& 1991 White NA



Back in 1998, Will and I bought our first 1989 white MX-5 and joined the Club.

We have never looked back. We have attended eight NatMeets and have been on so many Club runs that I have lost count.

We have had many hours of great fun, meeting new friends, travelling to parts of Victoria previously unseen (and Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, England and America). We have four MX-5s – a Crystal White 1991 NA for daily driving, a limited edition Innocent Blue 10th Anniversary (Will's 60th) a Galaxy Grey limited edition NC (my favourite) and, most recently, a 2004 Velocity Red NB SE (Will's new favourite).

I have held various positions on the committee over the years (secretary, merchandise, NatMeet committee), but my role since 2007 is that of Points recorder.

I encourage everyone to get involved with the Club and help make it even better than it has been to now.

Cary Warren

Assistant Merchandise Officer
1990 Classic Red NA



I bought my first 1990 Classic Red NA in 2011 as my Sunday driver. Five years on and I still get that great sense of excitement every time I turn the key.

Having completed 12 months as Club Captain – Social, I am constantly amazed by the dedication of our Club Chapter Captains and members, from deep down south of Tasmania, or to the top end of Victoria and southern NSW, who don't let any good road or race track escape from a good *zoom zoom!*

My aim? To share this great car club with as many MX-5 owners as possible.

Unfortunately ill health has slowed my Club involvement a little for now, but I hope to back in full swing soon as Merchandise Officer.

Spread the word ... we guarantee addiction!

* Club Life Member † Past President

Chapter chatter ...

21.8.16 | Western Victoria ■ Words & organisers: Tony & Pam Stoffels ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw

Fourteen cars lined up in the Crown Hotel car park Buninyong for a 9.30am start. The weather wasn't in our favour but we were still going to have a great day.

We were joined by two cars from Melbourne, one potential new member from Geelong and Daryl and Sandra from Ballarat in their beautiful NB.

Coffees were bought from the local cafés before Ian's pre-run briefing and report on the Club awards lunch the previous weekend. Congratulations to Karen on the Club Championship, Dawn on Chapter Champion and Gwenda on receiving her five-year badge. Well done to all.

We were ready to start our run but a few co-pilots insisted on tops up and no zoomy zoomy today, the weather was not improving.

We headed up the Midland Highway turning at the Mt Buninyong Road and following the Australian road bike course around Mount Buninyong, then on to the back roads through Yendon, the old Melbourne Road through Dunnstown, Gordon and into Ballan where we picked up Brian and Mary.

As we headed along the road to Greendale and Blackwood, we scared a new Mustang and an MG, who both wished they could join the cool gang.

Morning tea was at Trentham under the shelter as the rain would still not stop. Mary noted that even the ducks weren't out today.

Onwards to Tylden, Woodend, Macedon and up the mount to the Memorial Cross, The fog had set in now to add to the misty rain. Some members had lunch in the café while others braved the cold conditions under the shelter. Fortunately the rain stopped enough for a group to walk out to the Memorial, but the thick fog prevented any views.

After thawing out in the café we headed down the mountain to Woodend, along more back roads and past Woodside Park horse stud; what an impressive property that is, with its mansion, stables and white farm fences. Along the Spring Hill Kyenton Road past the Upper Cooliban Reservoir where the call came over the UHF: "Karen wants a photo".

Well, it wouldn't be a Western Vic run without at least one 'U' turn. Laughs all round with the comments of "You've made it as a run leader if you've made the mandatory 'U' turn".

Ian and Tony braved rooves down for about 10 minutes before the rain started again.

Back on more country back roads through Spring Hill, Little Hampton and into Daylesford. Gwenda made the great suggestion to finish the run at the Swiss Mountain Hotel instead of competing with the crowds in Daylesford.

Some had coffees whilst others enjoyed a cold drink around the fire in the restored old hotel.

What a way to finish off another great run even though the weather wouldn't let us get our tops down.

Great company, great cars and great roads. ●



Naughts and crosses ... Crosses: one – Views: naught



^ No ducks, but a bedraggled magpie ...



✓ Mt Buninyong ... no, really!

Pam & Tony's Mount Macedon run



^ Which way to where ... ?



^ We reckon it's this way ...

Chapter chatter ...

21.8.16 | Northern Tasmxnia ■ Words & organiser: Bruce Harvey ■ Photos: Jill Steer, Cheryl Murray, Alana McDougall

The Rio Olympics were all about colour, competition and reward for effort ...

Our Olympic tour had the colour; the effort was there for all to see but the competition was confined to lively radio banter.

Seventeen cars were on time, lined up and ready to go in the car park beside the Elizabeth Town Café and all the colours of the Olympic rings were represented in their glossy polish.

A few first-timers were able to make this trip so we extended a warm welcome to Glenda, Darren and Richard. Coffee and briefing finished, a conga line of finely-tuned athletes' cars exited the car park to start the first of a series of loose loops that could represent the Olympic rings.

The first of these took us around Christmas Hills through Weetah, emerging just up the road from where we started at Elizabeth Town. From here we staged a *Sprint* around and through Montana, emerging at the Highland Lakes junction just a short distance from the start of this ring. This was followed by the *Steeplechase* through Golden Valley, Quamby Brook to Osmaston again not far at all from the last junction.

Heading downwind from Osmaston to Westbury completed another ring. Once at Westbury, legs were stretched, and warmups performed in readiness for the *Marathon*, finishing at Exeter. From Exeter the *Salom* led over the Batman Bridge and then downstream to the Mount Direction turn. *Synchronized Wrestling* soon had the conga line passing through Bangor, Lebrina and ultimately on to the coast at Bellingham for our picnic lunch.

Team Northern Tasmxnian have again punched way above their weight and delivered the gold, silver, bronze, red, white, blue, green, yellow and black and all shades thereof. ●





The Olympic tour



Chapter chatter ...

30.8.16 | North-eastern Victoria ■ Words, photos & organiser: **Loz Thomas**

One of these days our run is going to coincide with some beautiful sunny weather but alas today was not that day!

It was yet again another overcast day but hopes were high that we would get through the run before the forecast rains arrived.

Milawa bakery was the meeting place for our 'Taking it easy on Tuesday' run. Gerald was back in the driver's seat for the first time since breaking his ankle back in January. It was great to see Lori Mercieca from the Central Chapter make the journey north again along with Darryl and Judy Owen (also from Central Chapter). Also joining Shane, myself and Roger were new members Ian and Jenny and Peter and Pauline.

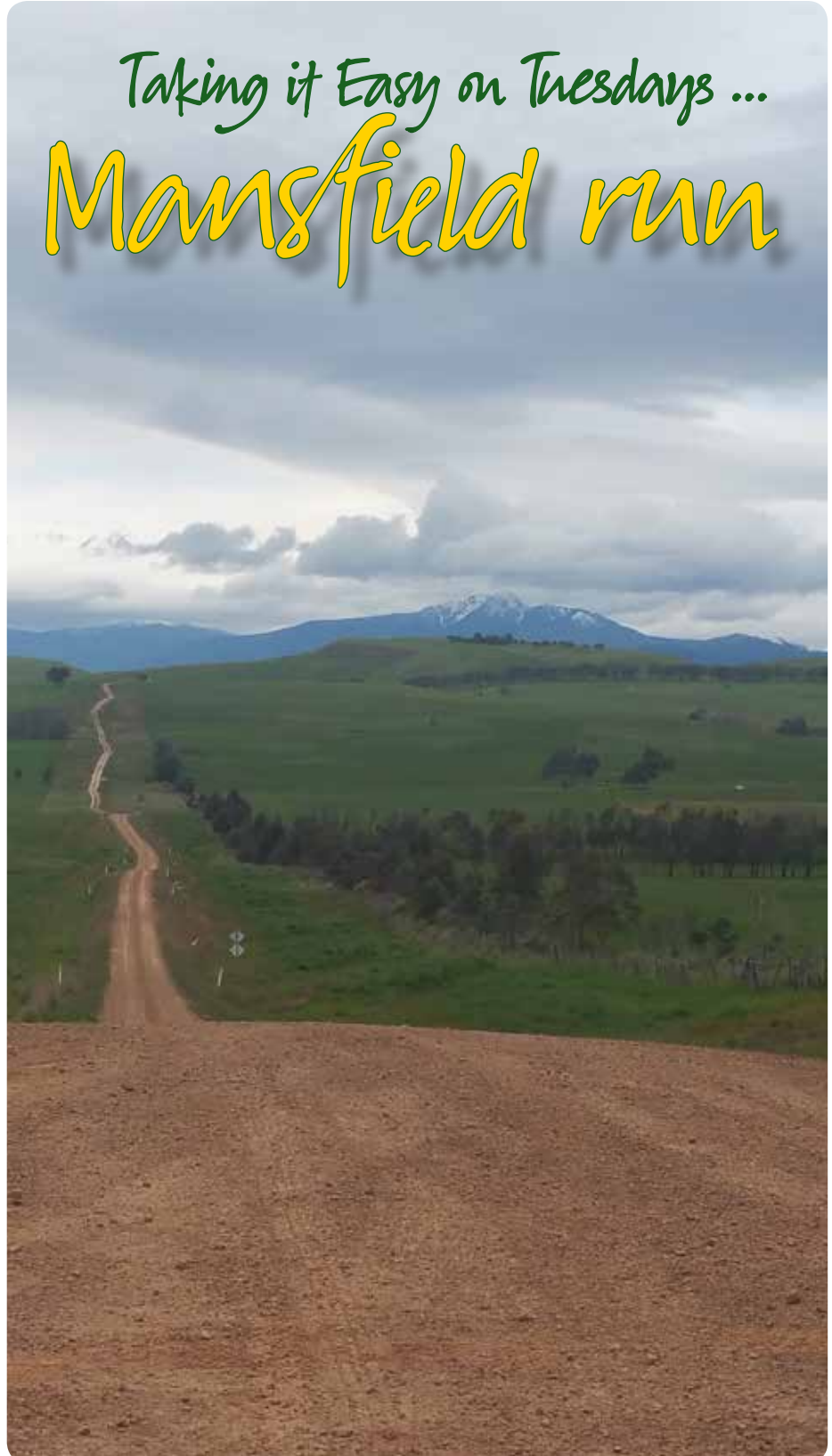
After morning tea and a chat, seven MX-5s headed towards the picturesque King Valley and Whitfield. With all the rain we've had this winter the countryside could not possibly look any more spectacular – rolling green hills, rivers rushing and fat happy cows grazing everywhere.

Once through Whitfield we drove over the gap to Mansfield. Some parts of this road don't see *any* sunshine for all of winter and this was evidenced by some parts of the road having a definite greenish tinge ... *that being moss!* Once in Mansfield we headed toward Mt Buller and our lunch destination, Delatite Winery. The cellar door has amazing views of the valley and the snow-capped Mt Buller. It was here that we met up with other Central Chapter members, Jenny and Bruce Gray and David and Gail Collins.

After lots of catching up and chatter we made our way inside to have a wine tasting (very nice!) and despite a warm inviting fire blazing inside we elected to sit outside under the verandah where we could enjoy the views of not only the snow-capped mountains but also the nine shiny MX-5s all parked in a row. We continued getting to know new friends and catching up with old ones. The skies were grey but thankfully the rain had held off.

All too soon almost three hours had passed and it was time to head home (some with a few bottles purchased for another day). Some headed back to Melbourne via Jamieson/Eildon, others back via Benalla and a few of us retraced our path back over Whitfield Gap. Unfortunately the rain came and the last hour was with the tops up and the windscreen wipers going non-stop.

Thanks to everyone that joined in on our mid-week run. We look forward to seeing you all again on our runs in the future. ●





^ L-R: Ian Watt, Jenny Palmer, Lori Mercieca, Roger Cowie, Loz & Shane Thomas, Dave & Gail Collins, Bruce & Jenny Gray, Gerald Gill, Judy & Darryl Owen. Loz Thomas was behind the camera.

The 2016 Phillip Island 6 Hour

■ Words: Randy Stagno Navarra ■ Photos: Lisa Burge

Most people in the Club have heard of the AROCA 6 – now 10 – Hour event, that the Club has competed in successfully for 10 years now.

Not many know of another six-hour regularity that has been run for quite a few years: the **Phillip Island 6 Hour**, also known as *'the Bathurst for amateur drivers'*. I'm lucky enough to have competed in this event twice before and have always been a strong advocate of it. Finally in it's 11th year we managed to enter a team on behalf of our Club.

So that is how Alan Conrad, Gavin Newman, Noel Heritage, Tim Meaden, Paul Ledwith and I ended up at Phillip Island on the last weekend in July.

The event is huge; 50 teams entered, coming from as far afield as Queensland. Even our neighbours from the NSW MX-5 Club, who have been competing in this event for many years, had five teams entered. A massive effort on their behalf that I have to say makes me quite envious. Strolling through the pits there was a huge array of cars competing ... but interestingly the humble MX-5 was the most numerous single make of car competing with about 30 present. In fact, the winning team had two MX-5s.

Saturday was a practice day and thankfully it was dry for this time of the year, but there was an icy wind that I swear came straight from Antarctica! So this day was spent with all of our drivers and helpers getting used to how we were essentially going to run the Sunday. Firstly the drivers had to get used to setting a consistent time – which is hard to do

with the amount of traffic out on the track. Plus numerous red and yellow flag incidents hampered some of us getting enough track time.

As most motor sport competitors know it's nice to work out your rhythm when competing in a regularity, especially when it's your first time. Secondly the helpers had to devise ways of timing us as accurately as possible (which is not as easy as it sounds), and ensure that we, the drivers, are getting all the information we require. After a bit of trial and error I have to say that we got all that sorted. Next was organising the starting order and the hardest thing for the weekend ... nominating our desired times. I was "volunteered" to start and I have to say I was quite excited about that. Sunday at 2am I awoke to the sound of pouring rain. At 4am it was still raining. Now this is the stuff of nightmares. Starting first up, on a wet track, in someone else's precious car was not what I'd signed up for. Thankfully, by the time we got the cars on to the grid, the sun was out ... though for the first time that I can remember there was no breeze at the Island to dry the track.

The start is huge. You sit on the grid with your own thoughts while speeches are made. Prayers are said; these are much appreciated. The anthem is played and then two pipers stroll up the grid playing some jaunty tunes, including *Flower of Scotland*, on their bagpipes. It truly feels like you're in the big league. A quick look

to my left and I see that I have the ex-Group C Capri that Seton and Smith raced at Bathurst in 1980, so I am amongst royalty.

Finally all 50 cars take off after the safety car and, when that pulls into pit lane, *we are off!* With a rolling start, on a wet track and 50 cars heading into Turn One.

This is Nirvana for me. Having started on the 10th row of the grid it was nice to get amongst all of the cars in front.

The wet track claimed its first victim on the first lap. Thankfully that was cleaned up quickly and with the track drying out it was time to set some good lap times.

Before I knew it my time was up and I was back in the pits to let another team member have some fun. Same as on Saturday, there were a lot of yellow flag incidents, some requiring the safety car to be deployed, so yet again it was hard to get any sort of rhythm going. All I can say is that every one of us tried our best when we were out there.

Phillip Island is a menacing track at the best of times. Add 50 cars and life becomes interesting, especially with the differences in the speed of the cars and the competing drivers' abilities. The important thing is that all vehicles came off the track each time without a mark on them. Mind you, one troublesome ignition cut-out had to have a field modification done to it. We all had fun tales to tell of



▲ Bourke Street on Christmas Eve ... the starting grid



◀ Team MX-5 Racers (l-r): Rob Hart, Alan Senior, Tim Meaden, Alan Conrad, Gavin Newman, Randy Stagno Navarra, Noel Heritage, Paul Ledwith, Peter Stagno Navarra and Scott Baille.



^ Centre: Paul Ledwith on track. Above: Randy has company ...



different cars we had dived with out on the track.

Our final position doesn't reflect the great effort put in by all of us. We were leading for a couple of hours but inexperience within the team dropped us to 32nd before we fought back to finish 20th. We were amongst the top three for total laps completed, and easily in the top five for bonus laps. Just a few too many penalty laps held us back.

Not too bad for our first time out. We will definitely know how to attack the scoring system better next year.

As for every major event, none of this would have been possible without the help of individuals who do so much for we

drivers and who really are the backbone of every team:

- » Rob Hart, Kerry Reynolds, Alan Senior, Scott Baillie manned the pit wall or carried out the timing for the entire two days, with hardly a break.
- » Suzanne Newman provided excellent catering.
- » Peter Stagno Navarra, our team manager, made sure that everything ran as smoothly as possible.
- » Paul and Mairead Ledwith opened their home for us to stay at for the weekend.
- » Lisa Burge gave up her time to come out and take photos.

» Peter ("Princey") and Pam Phillips, Max Lloyd, John Poletti and Dean Watchorn drove down to say hi and offer their support. On a personal note I have to say it was great to see *Princey* at the track as he is missed by all of us.

» Hamish Carr from *Espresso Coffee Solutions* supplied us with a coffee machine that was very well used by the end of the weekend.

» Last but definitely not least, I thank Alan for allowing me to share his car so I could compete in the event. It was much appreciated and I really enjoyed being back in an NC.

So Team MX-5 Racers ... how about we attack the Island again next year?

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**.

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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.

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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*).

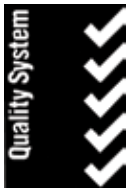
Check out the Waxit range and order online at www.waxit.com.au. Our Club coupon code is **mx5club**.

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

A new option for the MX-5 owner

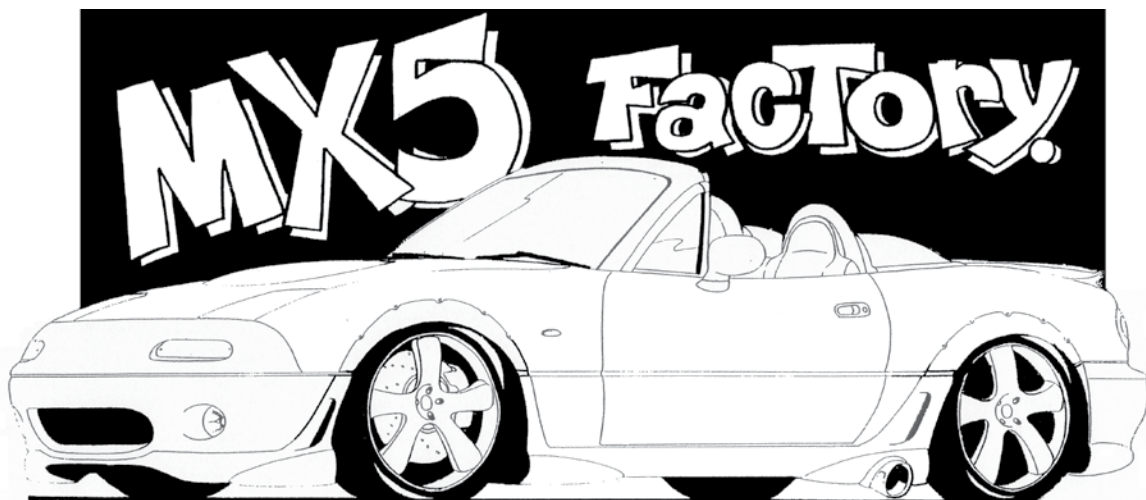
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Scene about ... at the awards

■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche, Alan Bennett, Karen Bradshaw

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

