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





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Inside: Celebrating the Mazda MX-5 at Fan Fast 2016 Motor Sport Awards **Chapter wrap**





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Your Committee: 2016-2017

President

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

Vice President / Treasurer

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

Secretary / Merchandise

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

Club Captain – Motor Sport

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

Club Captain – Social

> Richard Acfield | 0488 747 755 (ah) e: social@mx5vic.org.au

Assistant Club Captain – Motor Sport > Gavin Newman | 0403 809 515(ah)

e:captain2@mx5vic.org.au

Assistant Club Captain – Social

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

Membership

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

Points

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

Social Media

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

Assistant Merchandise

> Cary Warren | 0418 368 246 (ah) e: cary warren 01@hotmail.com

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

2/2017

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Cover image: ... that would be the 447 MX-5s that turned out at Fan Fest on 21 January! Main photo: Vicki Jones Photography (www.vjp.com.au)



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Peter Dannock – President president@mx5vic.org.au

A New Record at the MX-5 Fan Fest!

With 447 cars on the track for the parade lap, it was the biggest collection of MX-5s ever in one place in Australia and, for that matter, the Southern Hemisphere.

It was a great celebration of the MX-5, with the opportunity to sign the one millionth MX-5, plenty of on-site activities and a great display of the cars, including the Global MX-5 Cup cars and the new Mazda MX-5 RF.

When the invitation went out to all the MX-5 Clubs across Australia to get involved, yours truly jumped at the opportunity to involve our Club in any way we could. Motor sport, show 'n' shine, parade lap and the huge task of parking all the cars were the key tasks we committed to. And then, as if that wasn't enough, I also suggested we have a run on the Sunday to show some of our interstate guests great Victorian roads.

Leading up to the day, it appeared we may have bitten off too much. Randy Stagno Navarra (Club Captain - Motor Sport) and Gavin Newman (Assistant Club Captain - Motor Sport), along with Neil Choi and his team from the Alfa Romeo club, were given the task of organising the on-track activity. This included the Sprints, speed comparison and passenger laps in the Global MX-5 Cup cars.

For those who participate in our regular Club sprints, you will know what a great job these guys do to organise a track day, and the organisation at the MX-5 Fan Fest was no different. The day ran on time and there were no major on-track incidents to slow the day down. I don't know how they did it, but they also pulled off the biggest task of the day – getting all the cars on, around *and off* the track for the parade lap. MX-5s as far as the eyes could see, occupying the full length of the straight at Sandown Raceway. A huge effort that was well done.

Out in the car park, there was just as much activity. A big thank you to David Collins (Vice President) and an army of volunteers from the Club who helped in parking the cars, judging the show 'n' shine (almost 300 cars to judge) and the marshalling of cars in and out of the car park for the parade lap. Wondering how we were going to get all the cars parked, a good plan meant that it all went without a hitch. I must also commend all the MX-5 drivers on the day for their cooperation in the car park. Everyone followed the volunteers' instructions and remained patient and courteous as we slowly moved cars on and off the track. Thank you and well done.

It all didn't end on the Saturday. As | mentioned earlier, we also had a Sunday run. With 120 cars and 200 people, this run was going to be a little bigger than our usual Club run ... it was more like a NatMeet run. I must thank Peter Ferguson (Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain) who, along with David Collins, hatched a great plan that had cars start at two different locations, with three different start times, to have all cars end up at Lardner Park near Warragul for lunch. Of course, the plan wouldn't have worked if we didn't also have another group of Club volunteers to lead the runs or to be tailend Charlies. So again, thank you to all those who helped on the Sunday.

If you participated in all or part of the weekend activities for the **Mazda MX-5** *Fan Fest*, then I'm sure you would agree that it was one of the best experiences you'll ever have with your MX-5. The weather was perfect and, along with the activities, it was a great celebration of a great little roadster.

The initiative for the Mazda MX-5 Fan

For your diary ... See the full calendar for details February

| LGI | ruary | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 18 | WV | Twilight run to Curdie Vale | | | |
| 19 | STas | Derwent Bridge lunch run | | | |
| 19 | NTas | On the Beach at 41° South | | | |
| 25 | CEN | Twilight run (Saturday) | | | |
| 26 | EV | Khanacross at Bryant Park | | | |
| March | | | | | |
| 4 | STas | Twilight putt putt golf run | | | |
| 5 | NTas Chasing the Worm | | | | |
| 8 | EV | Lunch'n'Lies at Walhalla | | | |
| 10-1 | .3 Clui | b Grampians Discovery (joint Vic-Tas/SA event) | | | |
| 11-1 | 2 NEV | ′ Snowy Mountains w'end | | | |
| 19 | EV | The new Gippy run | | | |
| 19 | STas | Dover run | | | |
| 19 | NTas | Heading for a Hot Finish | | | |
| 26 | CEN | Navigation run | | | |
| 26 | NTas | Devonport Motor Show | | | |
| 28 | NEV | Taking it Easy on Tuesday - Wallace Hut | | | |

Fest came from Mazda Australia, with the timing of the event centred around showcasing the one millionth MX-5, which was on its Australian stop of a world tour. A big thank you to Mazda Australia for putting on the event and allowing the MX-5 Clubs across Australia to be a big part of it.

I can't wait for the next big event, whenever that might be.

Catch you next month ...

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





Scene about ...



Photos: Geoff & Bronwyn Roche, Bruce Harvey, Alana McDougall, Karen Bradshaw, Rob Tanner, Bob de Bont, Lisa Burge, Vicki Jones





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

What can I say about the Mazda MX-5 Fan Fest that hasn't already been said?

It was a brilliant day. It was great to see the months of planning come to fruition.

The parade lap was incredible to see and to be a part of ... 447 Mazda MX-5s on track at the same time is a sight that we will probably never see again.

As for the track day, it ran like clockwork. As always it was great to catch up with all the interstate competitors and for them it was an opportunity to experience a track that they wouldn't normally get a chance to visit.

There are loads of people I'd like to thank. Special thanks to Gavin Newman, Peter Dannock and Neil Choi for all the organising of the event. A big thank you to all the officials, marshals and volunteers who helped out with the running of the event. *Without them we could not enjoy our time on the track*.

Being a non-Championship event, we decided not to do a write-up for the **Fan Fest** event. But please sit back and enjoy the images of the day in this edition of our Club magazine.

Essendon Mazda Sprint Championship ~ Rd 1, Broadford, 15 January.

This was held just the week before the Fan Fest, so quite a few competitors opted out of the event.

We still had 16 competitors make the short trek north from Melbourne. What we missed out in numbers we made up with quality on track with some excellent times being posted.

We have a short report on this outing further on in this *mxtra*.

Essendon Mazda Sprint Championship ~ Rd z, Winton,5 February

This was the first of two back-to-back rounds at Winton. After the fun of Fan Fest it was back to business as usual for all the sprint guys. No more Mister Nice Guy for the guys competing against each other. We'll have a report on this in the March *mxtra*.

Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship ~ Rd 3, Winton, 11 March

The second of our back-to-back Winton rounds. Entries are now open for this event so get in early not to miss out.

This round is being run by the WRX Club and I have to say I'm sure we will shock a few of them with our times at the circuit.

As always I encourage our "social members" to come up for a nice drive and support our boys and girls. I'm sure you saw at Sandown how much fun we have out on track and in the pits. So come and join all the friendly banter that occurs.

On a personal note I'd like to thank Lisa Burge who gave up her time, and endured the long drive to Melbourne, to take photos of the **Fan Fest** sprint and parade lap. If any competitors would like to view the images of their cars just email me your race number and I'll pass it on to her.

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



Photo: Lisa Burge

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Fan Fest merchandise now at the Club's online shop ...

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mx5vic.org.au/ clubroom/merchandise

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Cash Meetmached May The approximation of the American of the American of the Cash Spectra Cash Spectra (Cash Spectra (Cash Spectra Spectra (Cash Spectra

See the flyer in this edition for the Fan Fest merchandise!



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

Gʻday again ...

This month heralds a Club record, with 32 new members! Again, NDs are popular, now making up around 10% of the fleet;

- » NAs 30%
- » NBs 35%
- » NCs 25%
- » NDs 10%

All the very best to those listed for a fruitful and enjoyable time in our Club.

Central Chapter

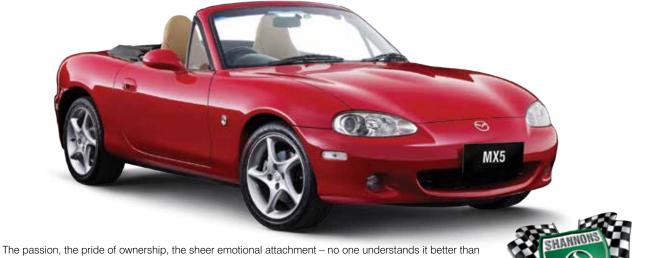
| Julie Bertisen | 2016 Jet Black ND |
|--|---------------------------|
| Elaine & Anton Johnson | 2016 Soul Red Metallic ND |
| Graeme & Wendy Keating | 2016 White Pearl Mica ND |
| John Lawson & Helen Freeman | 2003 Silver NB |
| Andrew Jackomos | 2006 Black NC |
| Andrew Meldrum | 1991 BRG NA |
| Derek Pickard | 1989 Classic Red NA |
| David Soon | 2016 White Pearl Mica ND |
| Keith & June Teeuw | 2007 Copper Red NC |
| John Vaughan | 1998 Green NB |
| Conor Wainer | 2016 Soul Red Metallic ND |
| Michael Williams & Christine Beckinsale | 2002 Silver NB |

| Eastern | Victoria | Chapter |
|---------|----------|---------|
|---------|----------|---------|

| 2006 Winning Blue NC | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| North-Eastern Victoria Chapter | | | | |
| 2006 Black NC | | | | |
| 2010 Black NC | | | | |
| 2016 Soul Red Metallic ND | | | | |
| 2016 Soul Red Metallic ND | | | | |
| Western Victoria Chapter | | | | |
| 2016 Soul Red Metallic ND | | | | |
| 1998 Green NB | | | | |
| 2002 Cerion Blue NB | | | | |
| Northern Tasmania Chapter | | | | |
| 2016 Blue Reflex Mica ND | | | | |
| | | | | |

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Current membership count:

and growing!



15.1.17 | Western Victoria Words & Photos: Karen Bradshaw Organisers: Ian & Karen Bradshaw, Jeff Woolfe

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It was the 15th January and we were off to Shannon's All Japanese Car & Bike Show & Shine (what a mouthful!) at the Ballarat Show grounds to show off our cars.

Woolfie was there bright and early to save our spot along the fence next to our good friends the Japanese Vintage Motor Bike Club. I drove our MX5 – a rarity – while Ian rode his Kawasaki ZR1000.

What a beautiful day to spend relaxing by our cars, showing off said cars and socialising. We met prospective members (some who have since joined) and introduced many others to the MX-5 ... we made quite an impression with 14 MX-5s and one Abarth Spider 124, all lined up in a row!

There was a variety of Japanese cars to look at, of course, including lots of Datsuns which seemed to take out most of the prizes *again* this year.

There was also the Trash and Treasure market next door to spend time at, not just for the women but the men too! Lunch was a picnic under the gum trees and of course the regulation *chit chat* that goes with it. Entry was a gold coin donation to the worthwhile charity, Dragons Abreast.



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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.



15.1.17 Southern Tasmania Words: Don Nicoll Photos: John Waldock, Rob Tanner Organisers: John Waldock

Ten cars met at the usual starting point, Rosny Bowls Club for the Southern Tasmanian Chapter's run to Strathgordon and Lake Pedder.

It was a cloudy, cool day with no rain forecast, but heavy cloud a distinct possibility on the higher parts of the run. All rooves were down in the expectation that they would only need to be raised when the cars were parked at coffee and lunch stops.

The briefing was just that, *brief*, although our fearless leader did take time to welcome Mitchell and Chris Rowe, recent immigrants from Warrnambool (to be fair, Chris was returning home, Mitchell was the immigrant). With that the convoy headed off towards the only road into the south-west of the State.

First stop was in Granton, not long after lan and Carla Long joined the convoy. The CC's pleas for a five-minute potty break were duly respected and we were soon on the road again to Maydena. On the way we passed the hop centre of Tasmania, maybe even Australia. They were in splendid green rows a couple of metres tall, giving Glenora a very spring-like appearance against the drying grasses of the surrounding pastures.

Maydena's Adventure Centre was the scheduled coffee stop. The only adventure appeared to be the murals on the wall, although it was an adventure of a different kind when one traveller (the writer) was confronted with his partner's request to pay for a ring she had just found in a display cabinet. The café owner did herself proud supplying the 19 of us with coffee, tea and the odd late breakfast. Obviously brought up to recognise an opportunity, she was quick to check if we would need sustenance on the return.

It took a little herding but we were eventually back on the road. This is no ordinary road; it was constructed in the '60s in preparation for work on the Gordon dam. It twists and turns its way through heavily wooded hills and valleys followed by a section over high plains near the Needles and other appropriately named craggy outcrops. For some of the road we were in the clouds while at lower altitudes we were treated to the occasional warming sun.

It's only 66km from Maydena to Strathgordon and another 12km to the dam wall ... but it felt longer. Maybe the isolation and the incredible horizons of mountains and valleys, plus the concentration needed to extract the most fun from the road, all contributed to the feeling that this was a long trip.

Strathgordon is now almost a ghost town compared to its heyday in the '70s when it was the construction headquarters for the dam wall. One of our happy group was David Pitt who, despite his young looks, was a Hydro employee and regularly drove the road in his Valiant to deliver the payroll for the construction workers. At one point on the road you pass a sign claiming that the annual rainfall in the area is about 190cm. One day, David was driving the trusty Valiant when a fair percentage of that rainfall was descending in torrents. The wipers were set at their fastest when the driver's side wiper decided that enough was enough and promptly flew off into the rain. He survived but I'm assuming pays were delivered late that day.

First stop after driving through Strathgordon was the viewing point at Lake Pedder, followed by the dam wall at the end of the road. Some fit members of the group walked down the steel grating steps to wander along the dam wall. Not recommended for those afflicted with vertigo. The dam is about half full reflecting the heavy rains that have fallen since it got down to circa 12% full at the end of last summer.

Lunch stop was the quaintly named Ted's Beach. It too has a history. Ted Hofto was the chief engineer of the Gordon dam and correctly predicted that, if an area was cleared by the side of Lake Pedder, the erosion of the shoreline would create a sandy beach. At the time there was some scepticism and so the name was more derisory than recognition for Ted's vision. Today it was overcast and cool and much of the sand has since disappeared from the beach but it was a great lunch spot once our invasion had frightened off some others making use of the shelter.

The return trip was made in less cloudy conditions giving us much clearer views of the wilderness. Arriving back in Maydena we discovered that the *Adventure Café* owner closed at 4pm.However, she kindly let us know that Michael Watt had passed through earlier but couldn't wait and had headed home ... the country grapevine at work in lieu of the lack of mobile coverage! I'm not sure how many managed to persuade the lady to produce more drinks as we drove on, latched on to the tail of David Pitt's NB and enjoyed a trip down the east side of the Derwent. Thanks David.

Thanks also to John for organising the run and to all who participated in a fun day. We hope Mitchell and Chris enjoyed the trip and feel inspired to join more of our runs.

Being recent immigrants ourselves we are still constantly amazed at everything this fabulous part of Australia has to offer. *But don't tell anyone!*



Strathgardon mn ...

















See more photos at mx5vic.smugmug.com



15.1.17 | Northern Tasmania 🔳 Words & organiser : Bruce Harvey 🔳 Photos: Alana McDougall & Bruce Harvey

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OMG ... a run for the Northern Tasmxnia Chapter where over half the run was on a divided dual lane highway – well, as the old adage says, "good roads are always worth the drive".

The good roads in this story were the Hellyer Gorge prior to lunch, then following lunch at Waratah, a return trip to Savage River – a town built to support iron ore mining.

Sixteen MX-5s and 23 people assembled in Devonport for the official start point, however it should be noted that many from the greater Launceston area had already had an hour's drive just to get to there.

McCoffees in, a briefing was held and the importance stressed of not only being responsible for your own driving but also the habits of interstate visitors who, when confronted with Tasmxnia's roads, were often using all the available space. At this time Sami and Rosh Dhillon also requested that they would attempt to make a video so if we could all keep in the left lane they would come by and capture the moment. *(See Rosh and Sami's video of the run on the Northern Tassie Chapter page, under "About" on the Club website.)*

The town of Wynyard was a chance to "scratch the sandbox", but we were soon approaching the base of Mt Hicks – a nice way to get the arms and legs loosened up for the Gorge. Passing through Yolla and Henrietta it was not long before the gradual descent to the bottom of the Hellyer Gorge began. A large number of our group (writer included) have made a small modification to their cars in the form of an aftermarket exhaust so, even though we were maintaining a good two-second gap between cars as requested, the sounds could be heard bouncing between the bank on one side and the wall of mature trees on the other. This was especially so once the bridge over the river at the bottom was crossed and the climb out began.

A light misty rain began as we headed towards the town of Waratah, but we found a shelter to have lunch in ... we also attracted possibly *all* the locals who came to look at the cars and pick a favourite.

With the light drizzle, care was urged for the afternoon drive to Savage River, but it was only a few kilometres before we drove through the cloud; the roads were dry again and we were able to enjoy this magnificent road that, for a few of us, was the first time ever travelled. We then got to drive the road again – albeit on the other side where, as we all know, the corners and conditions are totally different.

This run may have had a big touring component but without any doubt was worth it just to drive the 120km of roads that the engineers knew would be enjoyed by the MX-5 owner.



MX-5 Fan Fest – Celebration of the Roadster

21.1.17 Words: Peter Dannock Photo: Lisa Burge (lisaburge@bigpond.com)

The weather was perfect for the MX-5 Fan Fest Day at Sandown Raceway on Saturday, 21 January 2017.

Mazda Australia had invited over 2,000 MX-5 owners, drivers and enthusiasts to partake in a range of activities to celebrate the world's best-selling sports car. Invitations for the Fan Fest were extended to members of MX-5 Clubs across Australia, with some people travelling from Western Australia and Queensland to take part. With all clubs involved and represented, it truly was a national event.

As the cars arrived, they were parked in the area behind the pit buildings, some cars grouped into their respective show 'n' shine sections, others lined up ready for the Parade Lap. Though over 600 cars were expected, 447 cars were parked comfortably in the car park ready for the day.

On display was a sample of each

model of MX-5, including the 250,000th MX-5, an NA model from 1997 owned by Mazda Australia. Also on display was the new Mazda MX-5 RF. Due for release in the following week, the Fan Fest was one of the RF's first public outings, allowing many people the opportunity to see for the first time how the roof folded. For some, the RF is not a true roadster, but it sure had its fans at the Fan Fest.

Built in April 2016, the one millionth MX-5 was on a world tour and the Fan Fest was its one stop in Australia. Throughout its world tour, thousands of signatures had already been added to the exterior of the Soul Red roadster and now it was the opportunity for 700 people in Australia to do the same. The queues were long, but people were patient to get their turn at adding their signature. Once the exterior of the car is covered in signatures, it will become a museum piece for Mazda in Japan.

n the entertainment ar

there was food, a DJ and live interviews with a range of guests, including our very own Murray Finlay and Malcolm Brand, who as Foundation Members talked about their long association with the MX-5 and the Club. Interviews with Mad Mike Whiddett, the MX-5 drifter from New Zealand, and Takeo Kijima from Mazda Japan, the suspension engineer for the NA and Program Manager for the NB and NC

models, were also highlights.

The on-track activity started right on 9am and it was non-stop all day. With many competitors travelling from interstate, it was their first opportunity to get on the track at Sandown. Though fiercely competitive, they circulated in the attempt to be the fastest in their class for the day. Demonstrating the reliability of the MX-5, there were no breakdowns or incidents on the track, with the recovery crew having a very quiet day.

Also on the track were the Global MX-5 Cup cars. The Global MX-5 Cup is a motor sport series in USA, based on the ND Mazda MX-5. The two Global MX-5 Cup cars were imported from the US for this event, and provided passenger laps for the people whose names were chosen.. A great experience for the lucky few.

Like the speed comparison at the Melbourne Grand



Prix, an on-track speed comparison was held between a Global MX-5 Cup car, a Club Motor Sport ND and a roadgoing ND. With the slower road-going ND heading off first, the other cars were released strategically a few seconds later, with the aim for all three cars to cross the finish line after one lap at the same time. As it turned out, that's exactly what happened – a great spectacle.

Almost 300 cars entered for the show 'n' shine, with the best car from each model being selected. With so many cars, the judging took quite a while to complete. With Takeo Kijima as the special guest judge, the four winners were great looking cars. However, I did wonder if it was just a coincidence that all four winners were Victorian cars.

Without a doubt the biggest event for the day was the parade lap. The 447 MX-5s were ushered on to the track and, once assembled on the main straight at Sandown, formed the biggest collection of MX-5s ever in Australia ... in fact, the biggest collection in the Southern Hemisphere. All credit needs to go to the volunteers who coordinated the parade lap. From the car park to the track and back again, it was a slow, but well-organised, procession. Credit should also go to all the drivers on the parade lap for being ready and patient and ensuring that it went smoothly. No doubt this was one of highlights for the day, with the photo of all the MX-5s on the main straight at Sandown being just spectacular.

When Mazda Australia proposed the MX-5 Fan Fest, they wanted to create a celebration of the MX-5. From the feedback received from people after the event, there was no doubt that the Fan Fest was a huge success and we all can't wait for Mazda Australia to do it all again (hopefully soon).



Wilson Security

THV 6JA



The Club's own Fan Fest badge Photos: Geoff & Bronwyn Roche, John Waldock, Bo de Bont, Alan Bennett, Vicki Jones, Lisa Burge



Sandown Raceway, 21









Ester

See more photos at *mx5vic.smugmug.com* and *www.vjp.com.au*



anuary 2017













Top: 447 MX-5s, all in a row.

Centre (L-R): One down ... 400 to go; Luke Huysmans of Mazda Australia interviews Club Foundation members Murray Finlay and Malcolm Brand; Bob and Dave judging the NAs; the madding crowd; s ign here ... the one millionth Mazda MX-5.

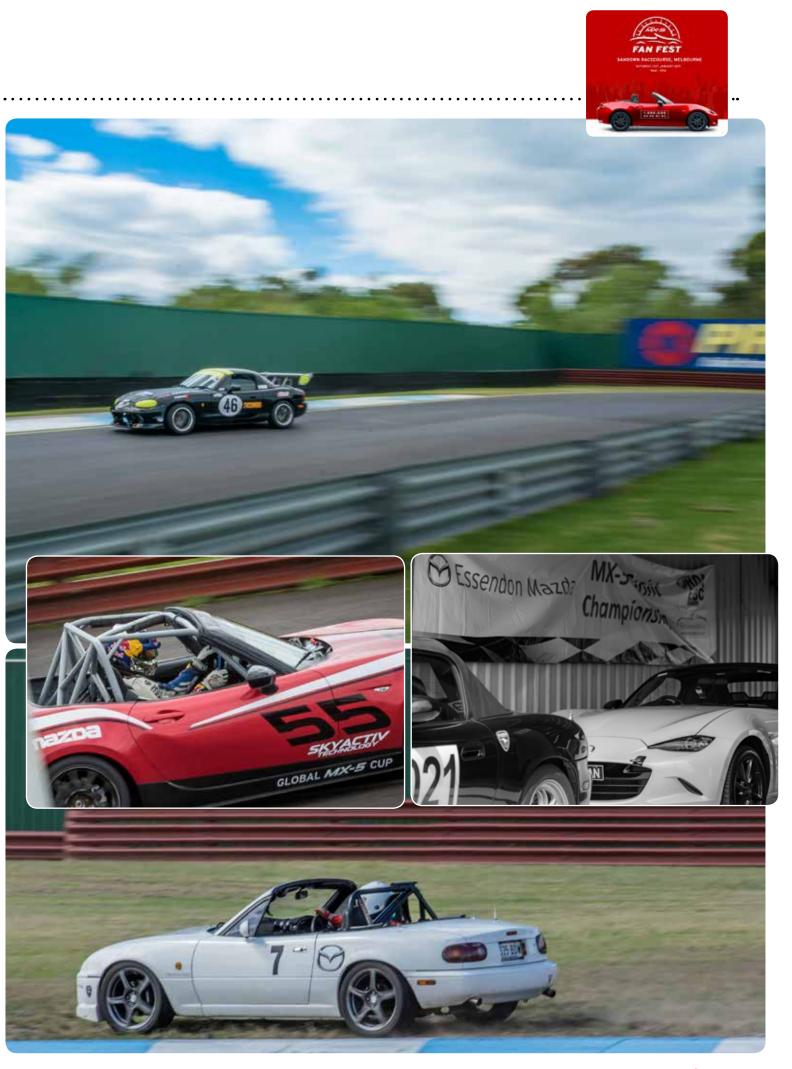
Left: One traffic jam we were all pleased to be a part of; the Southern Tassie Chapter contingent; John Poletti of the Eastern Victoria Chapter; the parade lap.



Motor sport at Fan Fest ...

Photos: Lisa Burge (lisaburge@bigpond.com)





When too much Fan Fest is not enough!

Words: Lori and Mary Mercieca Photos: Dianne Lindner, Geoff & Bronwyn Roche, Bob de Bont, Vicki Jones, John Duke



The weather for the Fan Fest Drive Day on 22 January was spot-on perfect.

I need to add *"of course"*, as Peter Ferguson was the overall coordinator, along with his able assistant David Collins – and when the Eastern Chapter organises a run there is always help from the man upstairs.

It was fantastic to have our interstate MX-5 Club companions along for the run and to show off our beautiful Victorian countryside.

As there were quite a lot of cars participating, there were two start locations – and each of those had three staggered start times, which worked perfectly. Our group had the obligatory U-turn and had a couple of stops where people had missed turns, but we all finished the run together. I'm sure everyone would agree that the roads in Gippsland are magnificent to drive our MX-5s on.

The run ended at Lardner Park (south of Warragul/Drouin) where we all joined up eventually for lunch, with the Lions Club from Yarragon and volunteers from Thorpdale Primary School cooking up a storm, and *Craig's Hut Coffee* serving up both hot and iced coffees. It was a wonderful time for everyone to sit and enjoy their lunch, catch up with other members and chat with our interstate participants.

After much eating and talking, we were ushered into the massive shed and out of the sun. Peter Dannock, the Vic/Tas Club President gave a wonderful speech, as did his counterparts from

New South Wales and South Australia. Then we had a wonderful surprise when the MX-5 RF was driven into the shed with Takao Kijima (opposite, top right) from Japan – the original suspension engineer who worked on the NA – and Steve Maciver from Mazda Australia who spoke about the new model. We were able to converse with him regarding anything we wanted to know about the new vehicle, as well as have a sit inside.

I'm sure everyone had a great day.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful time we had at Fan Fest the day before, especially being able to drive around the Sandown track and to be one of 477 beautiful MX-5s to gather together as one on the track. Our son and grandsons were in the grandstand and they said it was amazing to be able to see such a sight. It was also a privilege to be able to sign the one millionth MX-5; this is something we will never forget.

We are all very lucky to have such a wonderful Club with such fantastic people, especially Peter Dannock, Dave Collins, Randy Stagno Navarra, Gavin Newman, Peter Ferguson and others to organise events like Fan Fest and the post-Fan Fest run. It was obvious that a lot of work and organisation went into putting this on. I think I can say for everyone, *thanks a million*!

We hope all our interstate visitors went back home to tell everyone what a wonderful time they had in our garden state.

Till next time ... ZOOM ZOOM!





Organisers: Peter Ferguson, Dave Collins









17.1.17 | North-Eastern Victoria Words & organiser: Loz Thomas Photos: Marg Gillick & John Mauchline



The North-Eastern Victoria Chapter held its first "Taking it easy on Tuesdays" run on 17 January.

Eight cars with 15 enthusiats made their way from Corowa, Myrtleford, Bright, Yackandandah and Benalla to meet up at 10am for morning tea at the Beechworth Bakery. It was very pleasant sitting around upstairs on the verandah, overlooking beautiful historic Beechworth. Conversation flowed with stories of what everyone had been up to over the festive season.

After morning tea we all headed off with tops down towards Yackandandah. Trying to find different roads that we hadn't been on before, I had my run notes carefully organised. After almost turning off the main road one street too early in Yack (Gerald and Ellie assured us that we would have ended up at the nursing home where Gerald's mum is and were sure she would have the kettle on and some homemade biscuits ready) we turned into a shady, gently winding country road that led us through Osbornes Flat and Allans Flat to Tangambalanga.

We then turned off on another unknown road which led us to Bonegilla and then on to Lake Hume – which is still pretty much at full capacity and looks fantastic. We crossed over the lake at Bellbridge and followed the shores of the lake before ascending to Kurrajong Gap lookout. The views were amazing and the water looked very inviting as the temperatures started to climb into the mid-30s. From there it was just a short drive to our lunch stop, the Bethanga Hotel. For future reference ...only order one meal to share between two! The servings were huge!

Leaving Bethanga, with everyone putting their tops up and the air-conditioning on, we followed the northern shores of Lake Hume to Granya, where we had some fun on the tight twisties ... right up until we got caught behind a council truck! Luckily he didn't spoil *all* the fun for us, as he pulled off at the earliest opportunity.

Following Lake Hume's southern shores, we went through Tallangatta to Tangambalanga via Bryants Gap road and back to the endpoint for the day at Yackandandah.

Thanks to everyone for a great day. I was happy to hear that, after all this time of the MX-5 Club driving around the great northeast, I had indeed found some roads that no-one had been on before.















[▲] Captain Loz (centre) surrounded by Chapter faithful ...

26.1.17 | Western Victoria

🔳 Words: Karen Bradshaw 🔳 Photos: Karen Bradshaw & Bob de Bont 🔳 Organisers: Ian & Karen Bradshaw

Go Aussies!

Here we are again for our annual Australia Day Run — held on Australia Day, of course! What better way could you celebrate Australia Day than a car run around the Western District in your favourite car?

A big day was planned and some had a big day travelling from Melbourne; thank you to Peter, our Club President, and Bob de Bont, Central's Assitant Chapter Captain, for visiting us on such a great day.

The run started from Phoenix College Sebastopol and headed to Wallinduc Fire Shed with *Woolfie* leading ... would he make it this year without a U turn? Well, sort of -j ust a little diversion of a right-hand turn but technically not a U turn!

But Jeff still had the group at Wallinduc on time to meet the rest of us. We welcomed three lots of newbies for this run: Michael and Christine, Chris and Erica and Brian and Margaret.

After much chit chat and laughter and fuelling up on tea, coffee, scones with jam and cream, lamingtons, cakes and bickies, we headed off on our adventure ... stopping after about 10km to regroup (but really we were checking out the sheep in the paddock ... honest!) Then it was into Lismore for a fuel up – for the cars this time – before turning at Derrinallum to Vite Vite, Pura Pura, Nerrin, Caramut and Woorndoo.

Along the way we passed paddocks of newly-harvested crops, rolled hay waiting to be carted in and sheep along the road – not

L-R: Bob, Virgie, Ian, Jeff, Fiona, David, Kevin, Brian, Margaret, Graeme, Lawrie, Ross, Kathy, Peter, Brian, Mary, Chris and Erica ... atop Mt Leura to worry, though ... Ian didn't see them! We also saw a very long goods train heading over a bridge – didn't think it would ever finish, and glad that we didn't have to wait for it at one of the many railway crossings we went over.

At Woorndoo we didn't do the regulation U turn that we have become famous for, but instead did some circle work/loop de loop around a gum tree to get back on track. Our illustrious leader was not sure of the way, and we said *g'day* to Tail-end Charlie, Lawrie and Virgie, on the way round!

It wasn't long after that we reached our luncheon destination in Hawkesdale, a *long* way from where we had started the day. We parked the cars on the flat and headed to the rotunda for our picnic lunch and more chit chat about everything under the sun. Some dined in style with their own little table, table cloth and all!

After lunch we headed off towards Mortlake for a wee (little) break, where we said goodbye to some who had to leave the run early. It was then on to Camperdown via Lake Bullen Merri and then up Mt Leura – a great mountain climb to the top for a sensational view! The happy snappers were out in force. Here we said good bye to President Peter.

From Camperdown it was back to Lismore the long way round and then back to the Wallinduc Fire Shed for our BBQ tea and yet more chit chat, laughter and eating (and a little drinking) to celebrate Australia Day!

Thank you to everyone who bought morning tea, salads, desserts and munchies to make our day even more enjoyable, to Woolfie for leading the group out and to everyone who came along, just a fantastic Australia Day!





28.1.17 | Southern Tasmania Words, photos & organiser: John Waldock



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∧ I'll have what she's having ...

With another sunny day at hand, a group of 11 cars met and went for a short drive south, traveling through Ferntree, Lower Longley before heading back to Hobart for fish and chips for some and ice cream for those who enjoy a treat. It was a very relaxing way to finish the day.



▲ ... or maybe not!

Targa High Country ... a run for all seasons!

4-6.11.16 ■ Words & photos: David Salter

Targa High Country 2016 has been run and won.

This was a fantastic event ... not only did we get to drive around some beautiful, challenging roads but we also got to watch and admire a great variety of cars as well as stop and chat to some interesting competitors in a selection of old and new vehicles.

There were three days of driving, starting first thing on the Friday morning and finishing on the Sunday afternoon. It was made up of 18 sections of closed roads (or stages) totalling 278km, including two runs up to Mt Buller. It's all bitumen with more than enough corners to put a smile on any MX-5 driver's face.

My son Matt and I had driven up to Mt Buller on the Thursday for scrutineering, documentation and a competitors' briefing. The annual event takes competitors over the top of the mountain (almost) which makes for a great atmosphere. There are regulars like Jim Richards and Ed Ordinski, not to mention so many Porsche GT3s and GT4s you'll wonder who's left in Toorak!

We thought we were lucky to have a light dusting of snow for the start on the Saturday morning, but the Sunday was even better with enough for a snow fight! The roads were salted so we didn't have a problem with ice on the way down the mountain – and, anyway, it soon fined up as we came down off the mountain.

We travelled through some fantastic countryside around Violet Town, Whitfield, Jameson, Eildon and even Mansfield. The longest stage near Jamieson was 40km, where I managed to cook the brakes 10km into it ... *whoops!* The people of Mansfield even closed their town centre for half a day, had a carnival and sat by the road to cheer us on as we raced through.

There were three MX-5s from the Mazda MX-5 Club lined up at the start for the Tour on the Friday morning: my NA, an NB SE and a nice shiny new ND. The Tour included about 25 cars, consisting of everything from two hardy souls in a restored Lotus 11 *with an umbrella*, a twin-cam Escort, an old S-Type Jag (briefly ... until it broke down), BMWs, Nissans, a variety of Commodores, HSVs – and even an Aston Martin!

There were a few cars needing maintenance by the end of the first day and, sadly, that included me! I thought I'd gone over everything that needed servicing but the battery died when we got back to Mansfield; so, thank goodness for *RACV Roadside Assistance* and the nice people at *K&M Auto Electrics* who had me going again in no time.

So why did I bother with Targa when I can already go out for a bit of a squirt around some quiet windy roads on one of the Club's runs? I did ask myself how much better Targa could be. *The best way I can describe it is it's like a car club run on steroids!*

I'll be back again next year, perhaps I'll see you there.

➤ David and his son, Matt







🔨 Martin Scerri and navigator Gordon Ledwidge







Entries open soon for 2017, and there's a discount for early bird entries: targa.com.au/tc/page_standard.asp?asset_id=19235 David is happy to field questions: david.salter@melbournewater.com.au

2016 Motor Sport awards - City Mazda MX-

21.1.17 Words: Randy Stagno Navarra Photos: Ben Sale

2016 Motor Sport Champions : Russell Garner & Dean Hasnat

Sportsmanship Award : Russell Garner Rookie of the Year : Dean Watchorn

| Standard NB | NB Clubman | Super Modified | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1st Simeon Ouzas | 1st Noel Heritage | 1st Russell Garner | |
| 2nd Steve Williamsz | 2nd Max Lloyd | 2nd Dean Watchorn | |
| Standard NC | 3rd Peter Dannock | 3rd Robert Parr | |
| 1st Alan Conrad | Modified | Restricted Open | |
| 2nd Ian Vague | 1st Dean Hasnat | 1st Paul Ledwith | |
| NA Clubman | 2nd Gavin Newman | 2nd Tim Meaden | |
| 1st Robert Downes | 3rd Daniel Luong | Open | |
| 2nd Tim Emery | | 1st Dave Moore | |
| 3rd George Vellis | | 2nd David Wilkin | |
| | | | |



simeon Ouzas



Ian Vague



Noel Heritage



Alan Conrad



Robert Downes



Peter Dannock

After a busy 2016, it was great for the Motor Sport Team to come together for a "just for fun" noncompetition day at Fan Fest at Sandown on 21 January.

And what better time to present the 2016 Championship trophies?

Once the dust had settled on the sprint laps, the Global MX-5 Cup Cars, Mad Mike's drifting, the parade lap and the speed comparison ... it was good to take a breath and call the team together to recognise last season's efforts and to hand out the bling to the winners of class trophies and overall Motor Sport Champions.

The Motor Sport Champion title was tied: first-time winner Dean Hasnat joined Russell Garner, who was back for his fifth!

Congratulations to both for their dedication and persistence – and great driving.

In the classes there was a good mix of new winners and old stagers back to add more to their already extensive collections.

We also congratulate Russell on taking out the 2016 Sportsmanship Award, and Dean Watchorn for winning the Rookie of the Year title.

Special thanks go to **City Mazda** for their support of the Sprint Championship, the Motor Sport Team and the Club for the last four seasons.

With new members joining the Motor Sport Team in 2017, as well as a new sponsor for this year – Essendon Mazda – the 2017 MX-5 Sprint Championship season is shaping up to be another great year of MX-5 motor sport.



5 Sprint Championship





2016 Club Motor Sport Champions Russell Garner (black shirt) and Dean Hasnat receive their awards from Club Captain - Motor Sport, Randy Stagno Navarra (left) and Assistant, Gavin Newman at Fan Fest at Sandown.



Dean Hasnat



Dean Watchorn



Gavin Newman



Tim Meaden



Russell Garner



Dave Moore



Season opener at Broadford ...



Words: Ibrahim Rafel

The first sprint of the year came around fast, with Broadford giving us a beautiful morning to get proceedings started.

There was a relatively small field to open the season with our new Championship sponsor, **Essendon Mazda**, making their debut, but the competition was no less fierce.

It was great to see some new faces join the veterans and some returning drivers after breaks for silly things like year 12!

After the mandatory doses of caffeine and bacon rolls we got to try the new scrutineering system which went down a treat. Feedback was positive and, apart from hunting down the stickers, saved a lot of time for everyone.

Track times started off quick with cool conditions in the morning, but the heat and obligatory legion of Broadford flies came out by lunchtime and continued through the afternoon.

Apart from a few spins and mowing exercises everyone pretty much stayed on the blacktop ... with the one exception of a rampant bee attacking Noel and forcing him off the track entry road.

Everyone brought the cars back running and in one piece, with even Dave's *BARMY* putting stonking laps in all day! There were even a couple of new lap records, with Alan Conrad in the new NC/ND Modified class and the bee-assisted Noel Heritage in NB Clubman.

As always there was a great atmosphere, with people giving plenty of time and advice for the newbies and the rest of the runners whilst enjoying a laugh!

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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.

Hope to see you out there!

2017 Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - Round 1 | Broadford ~ 15.1.17

| | : | 1st | | 2nd | 3rd |
|-----------------|---------------|-----|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Open | Dave Moore | » | 1:07.1616 | | |
| Restricted Open | Tim Meaden | » | 1:09.6818 | | |
| NC/ND Modified | Alan Conrad | » | 1:09.7018* | | |
| NB Clubman | Noel Heritage | » | 1.12.2222* | Murray Seymour » 1:14.5002 | |
| NA Clubman | Robert Downes | | 1:13.3239 | | |
| Standard NB | Ibrahim Rafel | » | 1:14.0906 | Steve Williamsz » 1:14.2577 | Simeon Ouzas » 1:14.5002 |

* New Club lap record

2017 Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - after Round 1 | Broadford ~ 15.1.17

| (corrected points) | 1st | | 2nd | 3rd |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Champion | Too early to say! | | | |
| Open | Dave Moore | » 100 | | |
| Restricted Open | Tim Meaden | » 100 | | |
| | Alan Conrad | » 100 | | |
| NB Clubman | Noel Heritage | » 100 | Murray Seymour » 75 | |
| NA Clubman | Robert Downes | » 100 | | |
| Standard NB | Ibrahim Rafel | » 100 | Steve Williamsz » 75 | Simeon Ouzas » 60 |



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