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6/2017
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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

Track time!



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MX-5 Club
of Victoria

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Inside:

**Another record membership
The shed every bloke wants!
Chapter and motor sport news**



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Cover image: President Pete hits the track at Sandown in Round 5 of the Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship.
 Photo: Gavin Newman



Find us at:
MX-5 Club of Victoria

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Pete's Perspective ...

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

The Social Calendar is chock-a-block for the next two months.

Across all the Chapters, we have 14 events scheduled for June and July. Conventional wisdom says that a convertible loses too much heat through the roof during winter and you may find many MX-5s hibernating during the winter.

So, what makes an MX-5 the perfect winter car?

- » Many more MX-5s are being sold with hardtops and heated seats, providing greater insulation and protection from the cold of winter.
- » There's something special about winter air. Even though it may be fresh and crisp, you are still able to get the roof down for open access to that bracing air.
- » The cabin area is small and only takes a short time to heat up. The heater is more than capable of keeping you toasty, even when driving top down.
- » A great performer in poor conditions and retains good traction in snow and slippery conditions, when needed.
- » Even with the roof up, the MX-5 remains one of the most fun cars to drive on the road.

Unlike other countries, we don't have to deal with lots of snow and too many days of below-zero temperatures, so why not get out in the winter to enjoy a Club event? There is no shortage of them during winter!

How safe is the new MX-5?

I watched a very interesting video on YouTube recently, where ANCAP (Australasian New Car Assessment Program) crash tested a 1998 Toyota Corolla with a 2015 model, in an offset collision to show how much safer newer models are. In particular, it showed how the 'safety cell' structure of the cabin and the airbags protect the occupants far better than they did 20 years earlier

(NB: If you want to see the video, search 'ANCAP 1998 Corolla crash test' on YouTube).

We can all feel reassured that cars have become safer, and the all-new Mazda MX-5 is no exception. After testing the ND, ANCAP gave it a score of 35.7 out of 37, a **Five Star Safety rating**, the highest rating that you can get. This is a pleasing result for a soft-top roadster, which many people may perceive as less safe. Compared to some other high-powered sportscars that have not fared as well in the ANCAP ratings, the MX-5 continues to improve in *all* areas, including safety. So, if you want to see how safe the new MX-5 is, search 'ANCAP MX-5' on YouTube.

New Members' Night

The Club prides itself on welcoming new members, but we have been a little remiss by not holding a New Members' Night for quite some time. This event provides new members an opportunity to hear about the Club and meet other new members and key people from the Committee and Chapters. I think the last New Members' Night was back in mid-2015, so it is great to announce that our next New Members Night is set for **Wednesday, 28 June**, at **Essendon Mazda** from 7.30pm.

Thanks to Daniel White and his team at Essendon Mazda for offering to host the night; they hope to have an **MX-5 Global Cup** car there, as well as an ND RF for you to check out. There will also be some short presentations on what the Club offers, followed by some refreshments.

The evening is a key event for new members. An RSVP will be required to ensure we cater for the right number of people, so if you joined the Club in the past two years you should have received an email with a link to respond. If not,

For your diary ...

See the full calendar for details

June

- 18 CEN Fish'n'Chip run to San Remo
- 18 STas Ausmas run
- 18 NTas Hooked on Kouklas run
- 20 NEV Tuesday run - King Valley
- 25 EV Grand Ridge Road run

July

- 9 NEV Walwa run
- 16 CEN Switzerland Range run
- 16 WV Sunday roast run
- 18 EV Yarram Yarns Yearly Yack (midweek, overnight)
- 23 NTas Mystery Tour Part V
- 30 EV West Gippsland run

August

- 6 Club Annual Awards Day
- 9 Club 2016-17 AGM
- 10 Club 27th birthday [no event]

please email Richard Acfield, our Club Captain – Social, at social@mx5vic.org.au and he will set you in the right direction.

We look forward to seeing all new members there on the night.

Annual Awards Luncheon

The Annual Awards Luncheon is always a good opportunity to get together in the colder months and celebrate the achievements of Club members over the past year. This year's function will be on **Sunday, 6 August**. The venue is yet to be confirmed but, like last year, it will be at a Melbourne location.

Annual General Meeting

The 2016-17 AGM will be at the Albert Sailing Club at Albert Park Lake from 7pm on **Wednesday, 9 August**.

Put both dates in your calendar and keep an eye out for more details to follow soon.

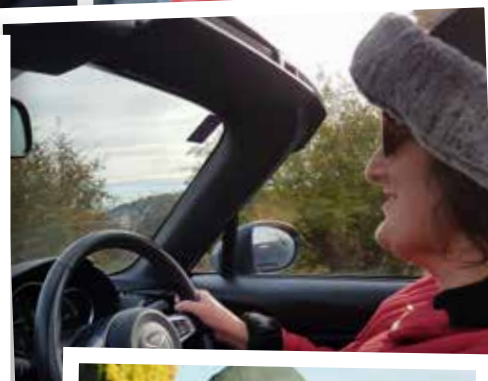
**Remember ... leave sooner,
drive slower, live longer.**

Pete



Scene about ...

■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw , Kathy Wood, Mary Carroll, June Teeuw, Russell Shiels, Clark Menze, Katrina Palmer, Leanne Evans, John Waldo





Randy's Rant ...

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



Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship ~ Rd 5, Sandown, 13 May

Part of our double-header at Sandown, we were yet again blessed with amazing weather. I didn't compete, but really enjoyed doing the rounds and chatting to everyone. It was great meeting a few new competitors and seeing them enjoy themselves.

Yet again there was lots of spirited banter and the competition was as fierce as ever. One highlight was seeing Neil Choi, AROCA Competition Secretary, hitting the track in his mate's NC. I think it is fair to say he is now hooked and a convert to the MX-5.

Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship ~ Rd 6, Phillip Island, 1 July

Hosted by AROCA, entries are already out for this event so get in quick. It's our first visit to the Island for the year so I'm sure everyone is keen to get down there. **Remember that this event is on a Saturday.**

Phillip Island 6 Hour ~ 29-30 July

We have two teams entered. The *Clippers* and *Cutting Edge* (a prize to anyone who can see the significance in the names). We could still do with a few volunteers so please let me know if you're available to help out. Even if you can only make it there on one day it would be great having you along.

Motor Sport Dinner ~ 15 June

Seeing as we don't have any motor sport this month, I thought it would be great to have a dinner and a chance to share a few war stories amongst ourselves in a nice relaxed atmosphere. So if you are free on Thursday the 15th, come down to the **Bells Hotel, 157 Moray Street in South Melbourne** at 6.30pm. Partners are very welcome. Please let me know beforehand as I'll have to make a booking (contact details on page 3).

2018 Interstate Challenge ...

Last month I wrote about possibly having the 2018 Vic-Tas/NSW Interstate Challenge down in Tasmania. Unfortunately it seems that idea may be dead in the water as it would cost the NSW guys a fair bit for the weekend, especially as most of them trailer their cars. I'll decide later on in the year where we will host the Challenge.

So ... I've been chatting to Robin from the MG Car Club in Tassie in regards to us having a round of our Sprint Championship there during the Melbourne Cup weekend in 2018. He is really keen to help us out again.

The idea is to have two track days in two days. Or, seeing as it's a long weekend (and if we can make it work), would you prefer two track days in *three* days ... have a day of rest and a leisurely drive from one side of the island to the other? I'd be interested to hear *your* ideas on the matter, guys. I'm planning well ahead so I'm really hoping that everyone can make it there.

I don't want to disadvantage anyone who can't make it, so these two track days will be scored as *one round*. I was lucky enough to be at Baskerville a few weeks ago and the new surface is sensational. I can't wait to take the MX-5 down there.

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

Randy



Visit the Club merchandise online shop ...

... for a great range of Club- and Mazda-branded merchandise:

mx5vic.org.au/clubroom/merchandise



Club event photos

Have you taken some good photos on a Club run?

Are you willing to share them with the rest of the club?

You can!

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania has a SmugMug Gallery at mx5vic.smugmug.com

Email them to your Chapter Captain, or centrally to smugmug@mx5vic.org.au (Bob de Bont), so they can be added to the event gallery.

Please remember to include your full name for credits.



Membership

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

Current
membership
count:

755

and growing!

G'day again ...

The Club is again in new territory with a membership count above the magical 750 for the first time, and we still have a couple of weeks to go!

At this time last year, the count was 708.

The record number has been reached with the help of the following newcomers to our ranks:

Central Chapter

Hung Do	2006 Blue NC
Andrew Durrant	2017 Machine Grey RF
Ashley Piper	1989 Classic Red NA
Monique Spinley	2016 Soul Red ND
Ian Trezise	1993 Classic Red NA
Michael Weber	2016 Soul Red ND

I extend a hearty welcome to you all.

All members will soon receive either an email or a letter concerning the process for membership renewal. The rates for the 2017-2018 membership year are as follows:

	Printed <i>mxtra</i> magazine (one per household)	PDF <i>mxtra</i> magazine
Full member	\$122.00	\$66.00
Family Membership	\$156.00	\$100.00
Friend Member	\$39.00 <i>Note: Friend members do not receive mxtra magazine</i>	

As in the past, you have the choice of paying by cheque or money order, although we encourage you to use our secure online payment system where you have the option of paying by Visa, MasterCard or PayPal. The process is relatively simple and will only take you a minute or so. Of course, if you have any difficulties in navigating the system, please call me on 0413 066 093.

Whilst preparing for the new membership year, I noticed that a number of Online members have elected not to receive emailed information from the Club. This generally happens because the "unsubscribe" button on a previous Club email has been hit accidentally. If you are not receiving emails from the Club and this is something you did not elect to do, please let me know immediately and I'll remedy the situation.

On that note, that's it for another month ... indeed, for another year!

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

Will

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Peter Lawson-Gillies

The MX-5 Club Grill

Central (and honorary Eastern Vic) Chapter

Name? Peter

Age? 78

Born? UK

Current abode? Wantirna South

Profession? Retired

Partner? Sue, my wife of 45 years

Pets? No

Fave food? Curry

Can you cook? Yes

Favourite tipple? Shiraz

First drive? Hillman

First car? Allard Cadillac

First fender bender? While driving down the freeway in my Allard, the long-nosed bonnet lifted and wrapped around the windscreen ... and I ended up on the grass verge

Everyday driver? My MX-5 NC

How many MX-5s have you owned? Two

Current MX-5? 2005 NC

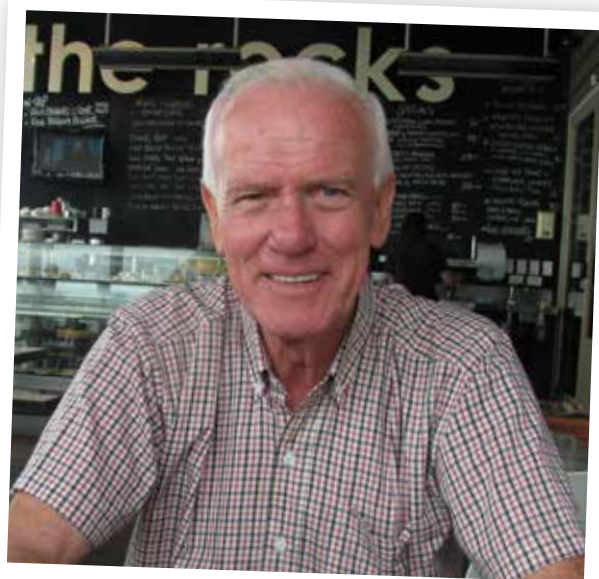
MX-5 improvements? Brakes and lowered

MX-5 dislikes? None

Why an MX-5? Fun to drive

Fluffy dice? No

Passions besides the MX-5? Reading



Favourite TV show / movie / book?

TV – Mash; Movie – Lord of the Rings; Book – anything by Wilbur Smith

Dream wheels (money no object)?

Audi R 8

Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong? Never!

Favourite other Mazda? Never tried one

If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what?
Audi R 116

How long in the Club? Three years

How many MX-5 Club runs or track events? Every possible run I can get to!

Favourite Club run/track?

Healesville to Mansfield, over the top

Have you been to NatMeet? No

Ford vs Holden? Ford

What's playing in your MX-5?
Cold Play

Favourite holiday destination?
Penang, in Malaysia

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

Final comments? I look forward to going on as many Club runs as I can. I love the driving, I love the laughs I have with my friends and it's so well organised. Just a lot of FUN!





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Chapter chatter ...

6.5.17 | Western Victoria ■ Words: Kathy Wood ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw, Kathy Wood, Mary Carroll ■ Organisers:

Change can be good, and for the Western Chapter the changing of the run date from Sunday to Saturday meant that we awoke to a beautiful Autumn morning.

We gathered at *The Provedore* on the Western Highway for coffee and a chat. It was great to see that the group included Ron Diprose from Melton, Lockie and Tracey Story (now from Tasmania) and new members John and Cheryl Paul from Bendigo. We also welcomed Robert and Lyn Goon as prospective members in their NC.

The run was planned to take us through the goldfields to the huge granite boulders that make up the Melville Caves. Members were given a brochure which highlighted interesting facts about the townships we would pass through along the way (Hepburn Springs, Guilford, Fryerstown, Castlemaine, Maldon, Tarnagulla, Moliagul, Dunolly, Newstead and Creswick).

Thirteen shining MX-5s, all with their rooves off, set off at 9am and worked their way through the countryside towards Daylesford. We turned to take a back road to Hepburn Springs, to get a better view over Daylesford and the magnificent colours in the autumn trees. All was going well until a kangaroo decided to jump in front of John and Noellene's car; luckily Skippy only wrecked their number plate ... not so lucky for Skippy.

We made our way to the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens for morning tea. Taking a detour past the Old Gaol we resisted the temptation to off-load Captain Ian. There was much discussion about the great weather, the magnificent autumn trees and their colours. All agreed that the perfect way to enjoy all of this was in a Mazda MX-5.

Autumn leaves gave way to open paddocks, then tree-lined back roads with some interesting rock formations. We continued through Maldon, had a quick look at Cairn Curran reservoir, then on to Tarnagulla. We had a brief stop and then a quick tour around the quaint little town that is famous for having had one of the richest deposits of reef gold found anywhere in the world.

We reached the Melville Caves Lookout and went straight to the top to take in the spectacular views. We could see the flat plains to the south over which we had just driven.

A short walk revealed the caves that the huge boulders had created – the adventurous squeezed through the opening into the caves for a closer look. Captain Melville, the bushranger, is thought to have used the caves as a camp and a vantage point. After the 'family photo' we headed back down to the picnic ground for lunch and a cake to celebrate the Western Chapter's (and Graeme's) birthday. Ian and Karen, John and Cheryl, and Lockie and Tracey said their farewells, as they were not going all the way back to Ballarat.

After lunch we headed south via Moliagul, home of the 'Welcome Stranger' gold nugget and then on to Dunolly. Along the way there were reminders and remnants of times gone by. We continued driving the length of the Cairn Curran reservoir on our way towards Newstead. Kingston, with its beautiful Avenue of Honour, is always worth a drive through at this time of year.

Just short of 400km the run ended in Creswick at the *American Hotel*, where the chef of the hotel couldn't wait to tell us that he also owned a MX-5. We finished a fantastic day with a few drinks and a chat around a massive square table.

Thanks to everyone for making the day so zooming enjoyable. ●

PS: Ian and Karen would like to thank Kathy and Graeme Wood for organising this fabulous, enjoyable run and even making and providing the informative flyer. You guys put a lot of hard work into this run and it was appreciated by everyone.

Also, many thanks to Pam Stoffels for the Chapter's birthday cake, which had been in the freezer since our cancelled April birthday run

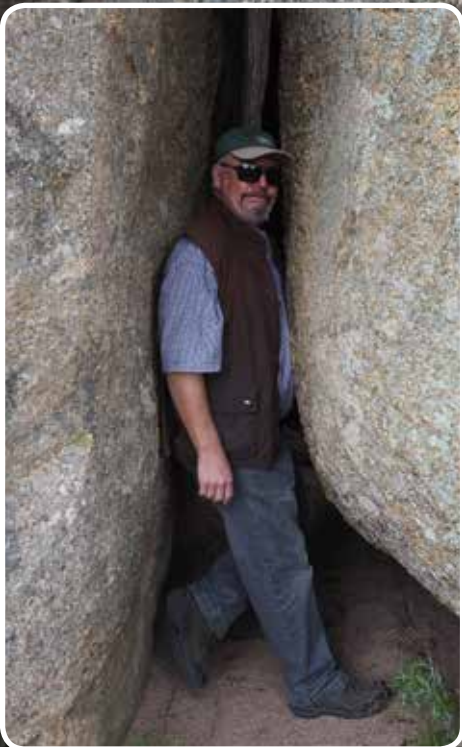
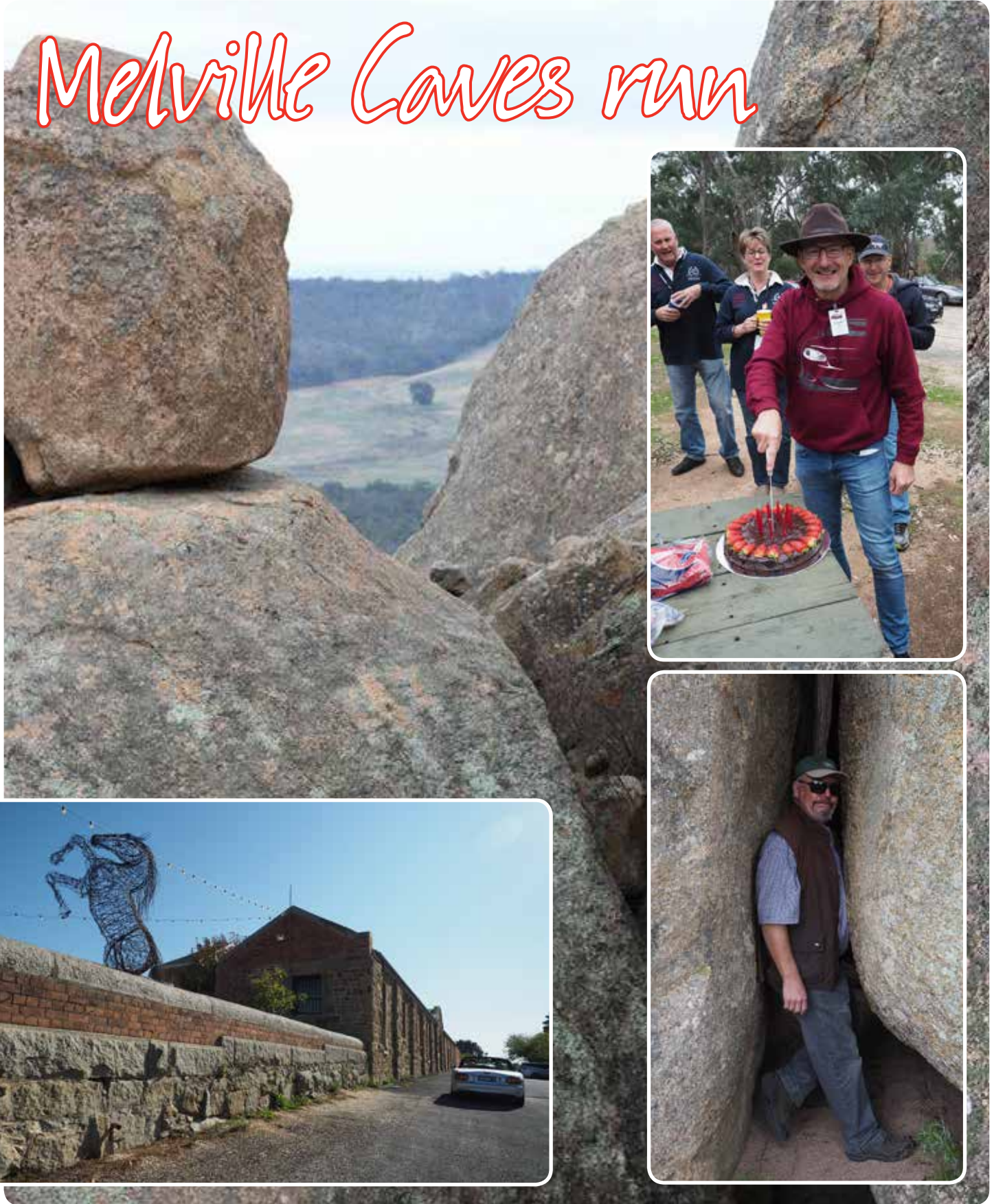


^ The Chapter's Phamily Foto



Kathy & Graeme Wood

Melville Caves run



^ Clockwise from background: Captain Melville's vantage point; Graeme Wood cuts the birthday cake; Lockie story shows the advantages of the Tassie diet; Daylesford's Old Gaol (and new Chapter headquarters – at least that's what we're telling Captain Ian, where we've booked him a permanent room!)

Chapter chatter ...

7.5.17 | Eastern Victoria

■ Words: Kaylee Doyle

■ Photos: John Poletti, Kaylee Doyle, June Teeuw, Peter Ferguson

We met at Moo's at Meeniyah for coffee, ready for a 10am start to our day trip to Wilsons Promontory.

The weather had started off showery, but by the time we hit the road the skies had cleared, so it was tops down for most of the 14 sporty little numbers, which included four NAs, one NB, six NCs, two NDs and one ND RF.

We motored up and down some great MX-5 roads, with fabulous views of the undulating countryside, through Foster and Fish Creek, stopping at Yanakie for a small break and photo opportunity before heading on to the Prom.

The road into the Prom has some great twists and turns and the cars just loved it. Glimpses of Bass Strait came into view and, further on, the iconic Mt Oberon.

Once at Tidal River we parked opposite the café and headed over for lunch. Afterwards we all spent an hour exploring the camping area, Norman Beach and the river before saying farewell to this beautiful part of Victoria.

We hit the bitumen again and wound our way back to Meeniyah to say goodbye until the next fun day out with this great group.

This was our first trip with the Club's Eastern Victoria Chapter, and we'd like to thank John for organising a terrific day. ●





.....

■ **Organiser: John Poletti**

Wilson's Prom run



Chapter chatter ...

14.5.17 | North-Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Stuart James ■ Photos: Loz Thomas, Stuart & Sue James ■ Organisers:



Up at Tumba-bloody-rumba, shootin' kanga-bloody-roos – nah, just kidding ... but a great drive to Tumbarumba for lunch at the pub!

Firstly, thanks to Bill and Elaine for organising this great run. Due to a recent health issue on Bill's part, they were unable to make it for the day; best wishes to Bill for a speedy and full recovery.

A hearty bunch (given the threatening skies) of 13 people in eight cars gathered at the usual meeting point in Wodonga – ie, mid-way between Maccas and SCA (coffee and car parts – all bases covered!) – on Anzac Parade for a 10am start. What a great sight; sports cars, motorbikes and a diverse collection of collectable cars, all setting off for their respective runs and leaving from the same spot!

Loz and Shane, Roger, Gerald, Peter, John and Joslyn, Ian and Jenny, Phil and Kylie with Sue and Stuart hit the road, heading up the Murray Valley Highway ... some with the roof down and some, sensing rain, with roof up.

So much for my mantra of "no rain, no roof".

We joined the latter group and reaped the benefit around the Tintaldra area! My navigator was right again!

The drive around the Hume Weir, over Shelley with a stop at Lawrence Lookout, took on a special feeling with ominous weather, clouds and changing light. Shame about the poor visibility but a good stop with glimpses of the beautiful Upper Murray.

It's always a great feeling driving into the mountains and I am reminded of the quote by John Muir (American Naturalist and conservation advocate): "The mountains are calling and I must go".

After a short stop and photo opportunity we headed deeper into the mountains, crossing into NSW and stopping at the memorial

to the wreck of the *Southern Cloud* which, in Australia's first airline disaster, went missing in 1931 and was not found until 1958. Reminiscent of the day it was lost, the weather had closed in further and the spectacular view hid behind the fog. A pity for those that had not been there before, who had to shift their imagination into overdrive, assisted by the interpretive boards and commentary from those who had been there before.

Descending out of the fog we ran down through Tooma, Paddys River and Henry Angel reserve before rolling into Tumbarumba for lunch at the pub. The pub staff turned on a great lunch and made us feel very welcome. Most of us bought tickets in the Mother's Day raffle, but no luck there!

Lunch was a great chance to catch up with old faces and some new "old" faces who recently joined the NE Victoria Chapter – a very leisurely experience that I hope everyone enjoyed as much as we did. The antique shop next door was closed so we got away in a timely manner.

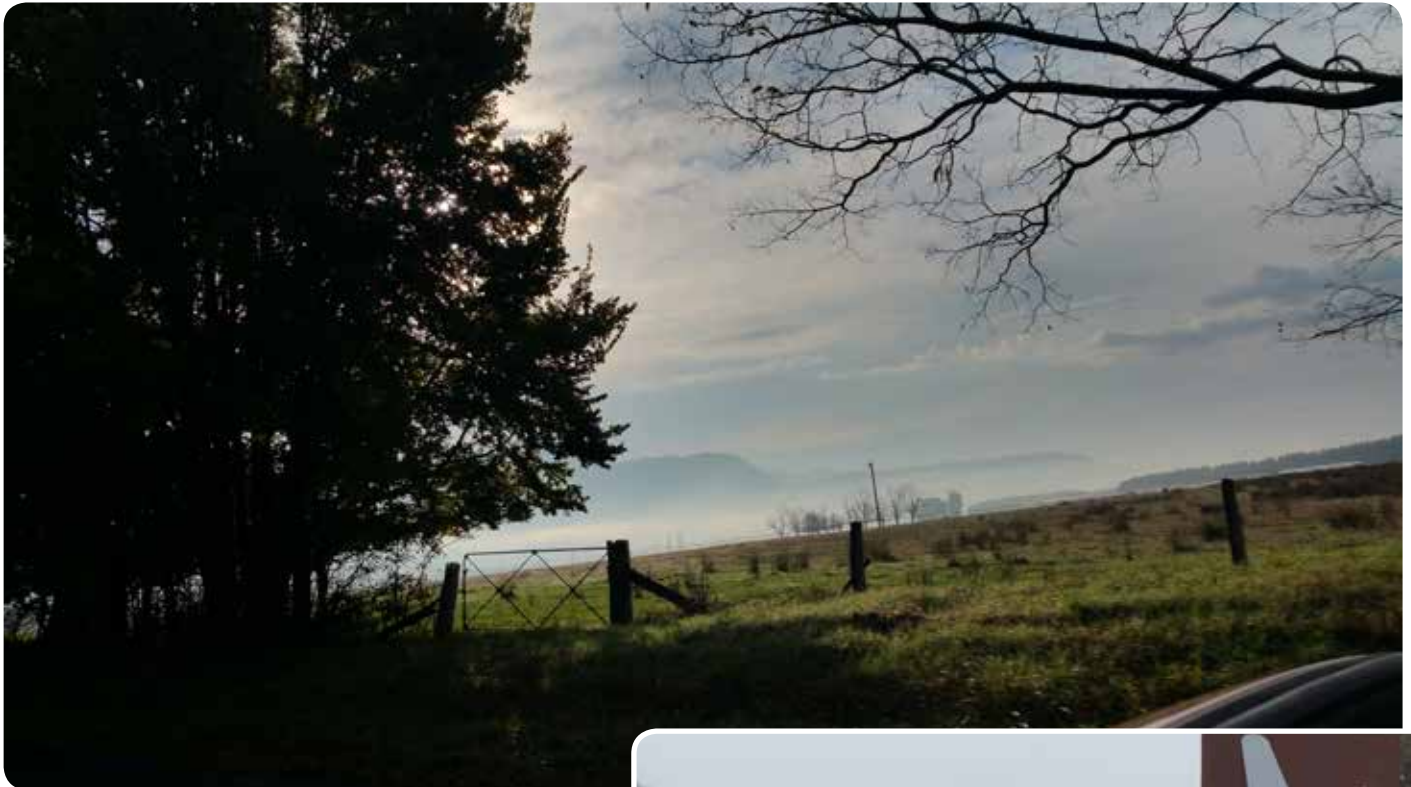
The "home" run took us past the Mannus Correctional Facility on the way to Jingellic, where we swung west and skirted around the Murray arm of the Hume Weir (as opposed to the Mitta arm on the morning stage), over the Bethanga Bridge to complete the loop at Bonegilla. Back to Maccas/SCA where more coffee was consumed ... but alas, no car parts bought, as SCA was closed.

Thanks to all the participants who made for a very pleasant day out and Loz for stepping up in Bill's absence to herd our rabble around the north-east.

Another great MX-5 day out. ●



.....
 Bill & Elaine Hines



^ See that? Neither did we!

^ The mob at Lawrence Lookout

Chapter chatter ...

21.5.17 | Central ■ Words (and map): Ian Argall ■ Photos: Clark Menze, Katrina Palmer, June Teeuw, Ian Argall ■ Organisers: J

The Seven Shires Run was only my second run with the Club, and it was a beautiful day for 22 MX-5s to go for a drive through the Dandenongs and Yarra Ranges as far as Blue Rock Lake.

This was a wonderfully chosen route for this sort of car. Unfortunately my co-pilot bailed out with a cold, but a solo run was just fine – just put on some blues and turn up the sound (*unless you have a CB radio and tune into the convoy banter ~ Ed*).

It was great to see some beautiful cars covering the entire history of the marque. Very shiny and a tribute to some proud owners. It was great talking to a very friendly bunch about our shared interest.

There were some wonderful winding roads through tall-timber country and farmland, enough to give a real taste of second- and third-gear cornering in a wonderful sports car.

I was put to a bit of a test keeping up with even some of the older cars, which shows I still have a bit to learn. Fortunately, there was plenty of friendly advice for a novice such as me and I think this is the real value of a club such as this.

Thanks to John and Katrina for organising this run and for their usual hospitality and efficiency. Just enough breaks and plenty of good driving.



And thanks to all those who contributed biscuits etc to keep us all going. Looking forward to the next run. ●

PS: The app used to track the route (below) is called MapMyDrive.



John & Katrina Palmer



Who's having fun?



Waste of a good hairpin!



At the Blue Rock Lake



All the seasons ...



THAT's a tree!

Seven Shires run

Chapter chatter ...

21.5.17 | Tasmania Chapters ■ Words: John Waldock ■ Photos: Bruce Harvey & John Waldock ■ Organisers: John

It's that time again; the annual Ross Picnic and all the car enthusiasm that goes along with it.

Organised by the Post-Vintage Car Club of Tasmania, this annual event brings out cars and owners of all shapes and sizes.

Originally the event was held in the township of Ross itself, which made for a terrific atmosphere, but for the past few years the event has been moved to the football oval on the outskirts of town.

It can be a risky prospect holding an outdoor event in Tassie during May, but luckily the morning greeted us with mild and sunny weather. It was an earlier meeting time of 8am, as we had to get to Ross and join up with the Northern Tasmania Chapter on the northern approach to the town.

So, after a few words of caution about road conditions and a presentation to John Hadrill (a *Hot Wheels* ND to go with his real one), we headed north on Mud Walls Road and the mighty (boring) Midlands Highway to our meeting point. Happily we were there right on time, quickly followed by our Northern friends who followed us on to the Ross oval.

After parking up, members of both Chapters caught up and chatted, which is always enjoyable. We also had a chance to check out a red ND RF, on loan from *Launceston Mazda*. The retractable roof was the cause of many *oohs* and *aahs* from the 'Ladybrake', but more dubious noises were made about the upholstery colour. Luckily the dealer had provided brochures, affording an opportunity for mix-and-match upholstery/body colour selection.

After thoughtful deliberation, my wife assures me that the RF will be replacing her Beetle in the near future (*a big call, as she loves the Beetle!*).

There were a few lovely old cars to check out and then a chance to stroll the streets of Ross and enjoy the autumn vistas which provided many photo opportunities.

We all waited eagerly for the annual lucky door prize but, with no luck this year, the group dispersed back south. ●



^ Plenty of admirers ... the RF that Launceston Mazda loaned for the day, along with plenty of merchandising material. Michelle Waldock (red jacket) admired the folding roof, while Alana McDougall (white jacket) was the lucky pilot.



.....
Waldock (Southern) and Bruce Harvey (Northern)



^ Dull skies, but the MX-5s still sparkled ...



^ Ross put on a fine display for the annual picnic

Chapter chatter ...

24-25.5.17 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: LEEANNE EVANS ■ Photos: LEEANNE EVANS & JUNE TEEUW ■ Organisers: David &

Our Mid-Week Marysville Madness Run started at Obsessions Café in Trafalgar with nine cars not bad for a mid-week run!

The run leader for the next two days was David Evans, and LEEANNE gave a quick briefing session prior to our run to our first stop – Noojee.

As you all know, our roads are the *best* and we drove with all our tops off. Arriving for lunch at Warburton we met up with another three cars ... total for the first day now 12 cars – *not bad at all*.

After lunch we headed to Lake Mountain. There were plenty of twisty, tight corners as well as a few hairpin bends but of course our cars just loved it. Luckily Mary and Mel took their pills before the drive!

At the start of the climb to Lake Mountain, Steve and Ruth took the lead and we didn't see them again until we were at the top! The road to Lake Mountain is just fantastic, but

we were driving most of the time in fog! *Lake Mountain Bistro* opened just for us and they put on a grand afternoon tea for all of us. We said farewell to Steve and Ruth, so we were back to 11 cars.

We left Lake Mountain in the fog and drove to Marysville, where it *wasn't* raining ... just cold. After settling into our cabins, we went for a walk to work up our appetites for nibbles and drinks before dinner at the *Duck Inn* in Marysville. Thanks, Mary and Lori for letting us into your cabin before *and* after dinner.

Next day we left our accommodation and drove to *Bruno's Art and Sculptures Garden*. All we could hear from everyone was 'Wow'. If you ever visit Marysville, this is a must-see. After nearly 90

minutes there, we headed on to Steavenson Falls – just brilliant, and the subject of lots of our photos.

David and Chris Salter and Trish and Peter went back to Marysville for a coffee, so we met up with them again and drove to Healesville via the Black Spur. It had started to rain, so most of us drove with our tops up ... which was just as well, as we all got stuck behind a truck and no-one could go over 80km/h. Mary, Mel and Trish were happy, but June had trouble taking photos with the wipers, having to time each click of her camera between sweeps of the blades.

Lunch was at Healesville, with some going to *Beechworth Bakery* and others to the *Innocent Bystander* next door.

After lunch, David and Chris left us to go back to Marysville for another night! Our Central Chapter members – Ros, Rob, Jan, Bryan, Lori, Mary, Linda and Kyp – all left us here, whilst Alan and Trish were in no hurry to get home.

That left only five cars now for the run home! What we didn't know when we took our top off was that *we would spend the next 10km behind a blood and bone truck!* We just couldn't pass him and the smell was just horrific.

Our last stop was at *Gippy Goat* in Yarragon where we said our farewells to Rob, Mel, June, Keith, Neil, Peter and Tail-End Trish.

Everyone agreed it was a fantastic mid-week run ... maybe we'll do it again next year. ●

Mid-week Marysville Madness





.....

Leeanne Evans

✓ Rob shows Mel some wild life at Steavenson Falls



^ Roadster v Loadster ... Leeanne & David give this one some room

Chapter chatter ...

28.5.17 | Northern Tasmania ■ Words: Alana McDougall ■ Photos: Alana McDougall, Jill Steer ■ Organiser: Bruce

Having stressed for a few days about rounding up the troops and listening to the rain all night worrying if anyone would turn up, I arrived at our meeting point at Deloraine to find everyone ready to go.

We welcomed Lawrie, our new member, and welcomed a few others who had not been along for a while because of other commitments.

Down with the roof, hoping the rain had disappeared, and off we went. I had enlisted the help of my friend Daylene to navigate ... only to find that we went the wrong way at the first turn! So ... 14 MX-5s look great going around the roundabout they are not supposed to.

Our destination was Sheffield RSL for the \$10 roast lunch, but first we had to travel some of our best roads through Mole Creek – where trees grow in the railway line – Chudliegh, and over the Gog Range.

With everyone's hunger satisfied, it was time for my navigator's stress levels to rise again.

We said farewell to a few who had to leave early, and headed up over Mt Roland ... with only a couple of wrong turns or, in one case, straight ahead. Lots of chuckles from everyone, including the comments from our Tail-end Charlie Scott who just sat and waved as we went past him. When we were almost to the bottom, a voice came over the radio: "Oh My God this is soooo good!" I think Richard was enjoying his drive.

Regrouping in Mole Creek, a few went around Caveside while the rest made their way back to the '50s Diner at Deloraine for a milkshake or a spider. ●

Chapter Captain's note:

This run report shows we probably need to hold a map reading course soon – no wonder Alana's mystery tours are challenging!

~ Bruce Harvey



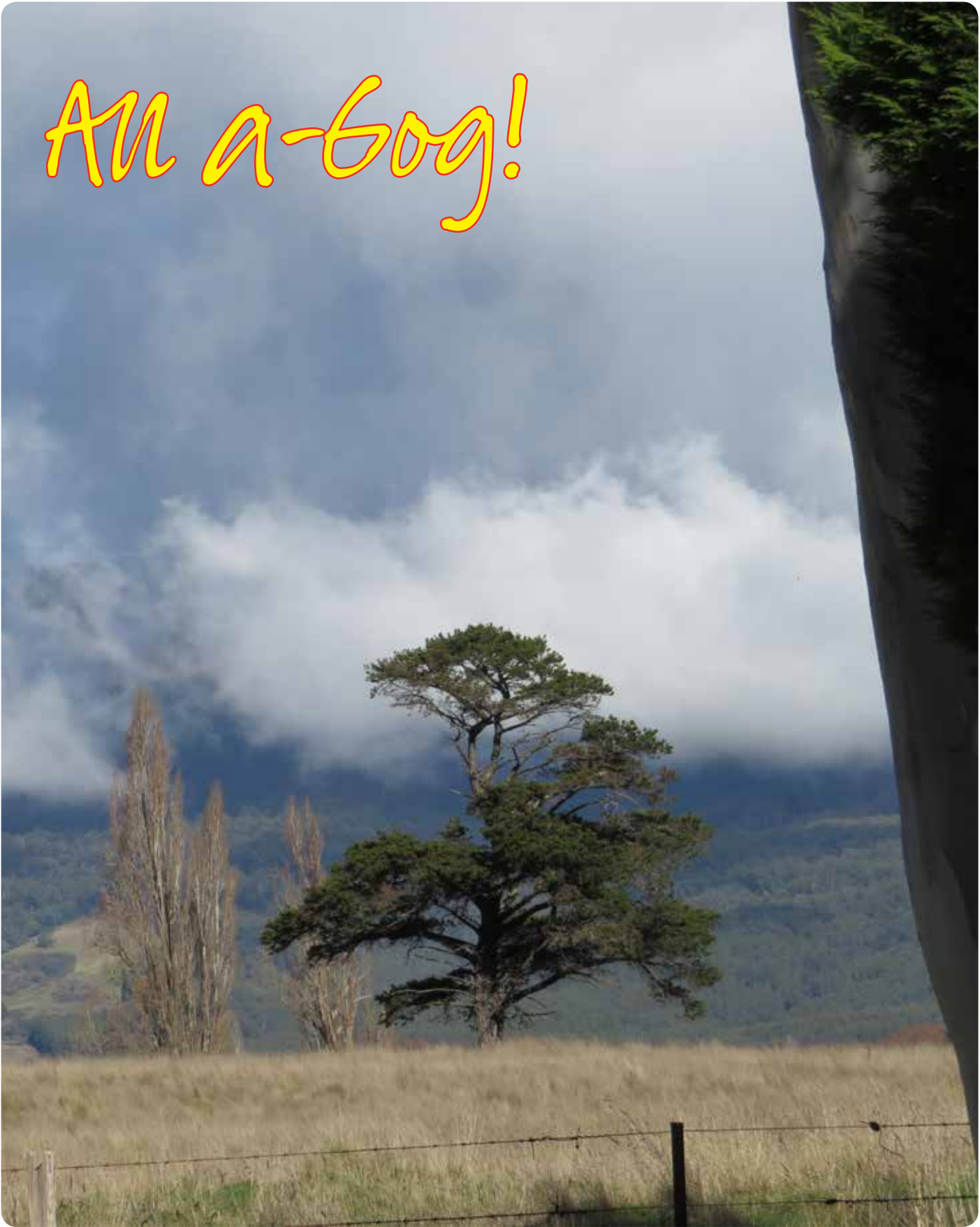
^ The Northern Tassie members make a perfect execution of the Western Vic Chapter's compulsory (patent-pending) once-a-run manoeuvre ...



^ Lunch at Sheffield was a bit easier to navigate!

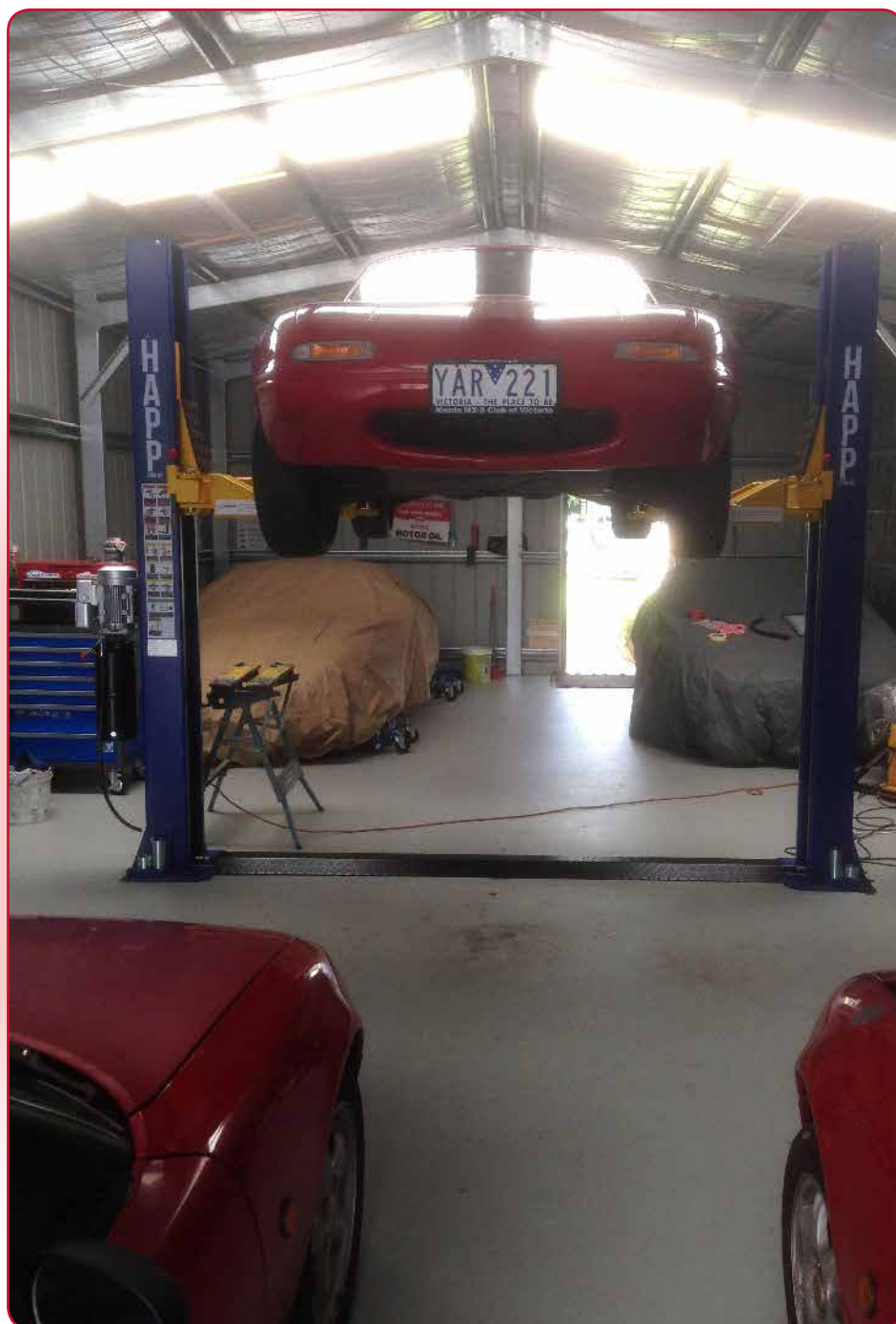


Harvey



What every shed needs!

■ Words & photos: Rob Krygsman, Eastern Victoria Chapter



Having found an opportunity to build a new shed, I was able to (a) make it high enough for a two-post hoist (three-metre-high walls) and (b) to make the concrete slab a bit thicker to handle the post bases*.

I then went hunting for a hoist and found a really nice unit from Happ in Thomastown, which cost \$2,255. There is a total of about 568kg involved, so having the new shed roof available to use a chain block to lift the pieces off the trailer and help erect the bits was a godsend!

Installation was fairly easy with all the fixings to the concrete supplied – I simply had to hire a decent hammer drill and wear some ear muffs. Getting the posts exactly level was a bit of a faff but I had them both in place in a few hours.

The installation instructions could be a little better, but once I called the supplier and asked a few questions – and got ‘em to send the missing half! – all went well.

The design I have is suited to domestic or VERY light commercial use, and has no top cross bar so suits a limited head-height shed. The lifting mechanism has a hydraulic cylinder on each side which operates a wire lifting rope, also on each side, all of which went together fairly easily. The 240 volt hydraulic pump mounts on one post. The only connection between the two posts is a low metal pressing at floor level which the car easily passes over.

The posts have a progressive set of safety latches that drop into place

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every 70mm as you lift (so even in the event of a broken rope or burst hydraulic hose, the car can't fall). To lower the car, the safety latches are held off on one side or the other.

Obviously, while working under the car, the safety latches are also in place.

The lifting arms have plenty of adjustment and it's pretty simple to set up each under an MX-5 and be ready for lifting. You can set top limits to prevent lifting too high if your shed is that bit too low. Total lift time is about 50 seconds.

At the time of writing I had only had the unit in operation for a week or so but I'm already convinced this is the ultimate addition to the shed – even for working on brakes and suspension, the car can be put at a height where you can sit or stand beside the car instead of kneeling on the cold concrete floor. I'm about to do a clutch job – get everything unbolted, lower the car till the gearbox is just above a mobile bench, pull the gearbox out and on to bench, then lift the car back up ... *too easy!*

If you have a look on *ebay*, you'll see there are several suppliers offering two-post hoists around the price I paid for mine, so it's a pretty competitive area and there seems to be a growing use of these in domestic (non-commercial) situations. So ... *when is yours coming? Father's Day?*

Here's a link to the unit I bought: www.happ.com.au

If you'd like to have a look at mine before getting one yourself, and fancy a trip to Traralgon to do so, give me a call 0407 852 671. ■

*(*Note that there are ways around the thickness issues for existing situations.)*



The perfect man cave, filled with goodies that every bloke wants needs: a car hoist (with hydraulic pump, above), and (below) other fun stuff ...



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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.

Chapter chatter ...

13.5.17 | Northern Tasmania ■ Words & photos: Alana McDougall ■ Organiser: Bruce Harvey

A last-minute invitation to Baskerville!



Are we here yet?



Gettin' ready ...

.....

Q. Who gets out of bed at 4.30 on a Saturday morning?

A. Eight crazy MX-5 owners!

Our Chapter was given a last-minute opportunity to take part in a track day at Baskerville Raceway, run by *Performance Driving Australia*.

We were offered *five* spots to fill the grid, but we managed to stretch it to *eight*.

The track has just been resurfaced, making a great track even better.

» **Richard** and **Tony** had never attended a track day before, and I think they are still smiling from the thrill they got of testing their '5s.

» **Trevor** and **Michael** (*Kochie*), after having some work done

to their engines, were keen to put their cars to the test and both were highly satisfied with the result.

» **Glen** and **Cherie** both had grins from ear to ear as well – not sure if it was the thrill of the track or that it was Glen's birthday!

» **Lachlan**, a new member on his provisional licence, took the opportunity to learn some new skills from *PDA* and some other drivers, but alas his car had some mechanical problems and ended up being transported home (thanks to James of the Subaru Club).

» That just left me ... **who also enjoyed the day immensely!** 📌



Richard Wassom waits for the starting signal



"Kochie" Lindsay ... raring to go



Another lap down!

Round 5, Sandown: Déjà vu, all over again

13.5.17 ■ Words: John Reid ■ Photos: Gavin Newman



Yet again we found ourselves at Sandown Park to take on the latest round of our Sprint Championship, which was hosted by AROCA (the Alfa Romeo Owners' Club of Victoria).

Twenty-six intrepid MX-5 competitors enjoyed the mild temperatures and dry conditions, which helped most of us claim Personal Best lap times (but no new lap records) and a great day was had by all.

Dave "Barmy" Moore had an interesting day – first having his braking capacity severely tested by a 911 GT3 RS at the dreaded sweeper at the end of the back straight, then losing a grub screw from his gear linkage which curtailed his day. At least in between all this drama Dave had set some blistering times in his turboed Silver Streak.

There were also a few first-timers out on track, as well as an old Alfa racer who has now converted to MX-5s. As always the camaraderie amongst the Motor Sport Crew was ever present and all the 'newbies' were made welcome and given hints on how best to negotiate the changing surfaces of Sandown Park. Judging by their smiles at the end of the day they all had a great time and will all be taking part in future rounds.

Standard NB is certainly the hot class to be in at the moment with all three competitors pushing each other all day, and only 0.4 seconds separating Simeon and Gareth at the end of the day.

An unexpected highlight of the day was watching Neil Choi, AROCA's Competition Secretary, borrow the newly-acquired NC belonging to his mate and fellow competitor, Hung Do, just for a session. I know Neil definitely enjoyed over taking his son's Alfa during the session; *he's now a convert and on the hunt for an NC of his own.*

Our next event is on Saturday, 1 July, at Phillip Island. There is also a Motor Sport dinner on 15 June at the Bells Hotel in South Melbourne for those who can get there. ●

Ian Vague

John Reid



Steve Williamsz



Greg Whyte



Gareth Pedley



Fred Robertson (NSW Club)



Mike Graham



AROCA's Neil Choi falls in love with the NC



Round 5 results / Championship standings

2017 Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - Round 5 | Sandown - 13.5.17

Long Track	1st			2nd			3rd		
Open	Dave Moore	»	1:24.9630	---			---		
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith	»	1:26.8947	---			---		
NC/ND Modified	Alan Conrad	»	1:30.9964	---			---		
NA/NB Modified	Leon Bogers	»	1:35.5549	---			---		
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage	»	1:35.8688	Peter Dannock	»	1:36.0103	---		
NA Clubman	Robert Downes	»	1:37.0571	---			---		
Standard NC	Ian Vague	»	1:37.1330	---			---		
Standard NB	Simeon Ouzas	»	1:35.5926	Gareth Pedley	»	1:35.9553	Steve Williamsz	»	1:36.6280

2017 Essendon Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - standings after Round 5 | Sandown - 13.5.17

(corrected points)	1st			2nd			3rd		
Overall Champion	Alan Conrad	»	515	Robert Downes	»	395	= Dave Moore/Noel Heritage	»	390
Open	Dave Moore	»	400	---			---		
Restricted Open	= Tim Meaden/Paul Ledwith	»	200	---			---		
Super Modified	Dean Watchorn	»	100	---			---		
NC/ND Modified	Alan Conrad	»	500	---			---		
NA/NB Modified	Leon Bogers	»	200	= Daniel White/Gavin Newman	»	135			
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage	»	400	Peter Dannock	»	250	Murray Seymour	»	210
NA Clubman	Robert Downes	»	500	George Vellis	»	75	---		
Standard ND	Randy Stagno Navarra	»	200	Tim Edwards	»	100	---		
Standard NC	Ian Vague	»	100	---			---		
Standard NB	Simeon Ouzas	»	365	Gareth Pedley	»	340	Steve Williamsz	»	330

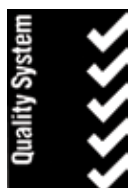


^ Steve Williamsz (NB) and Robert Downes

A new option for the MX-5 owner

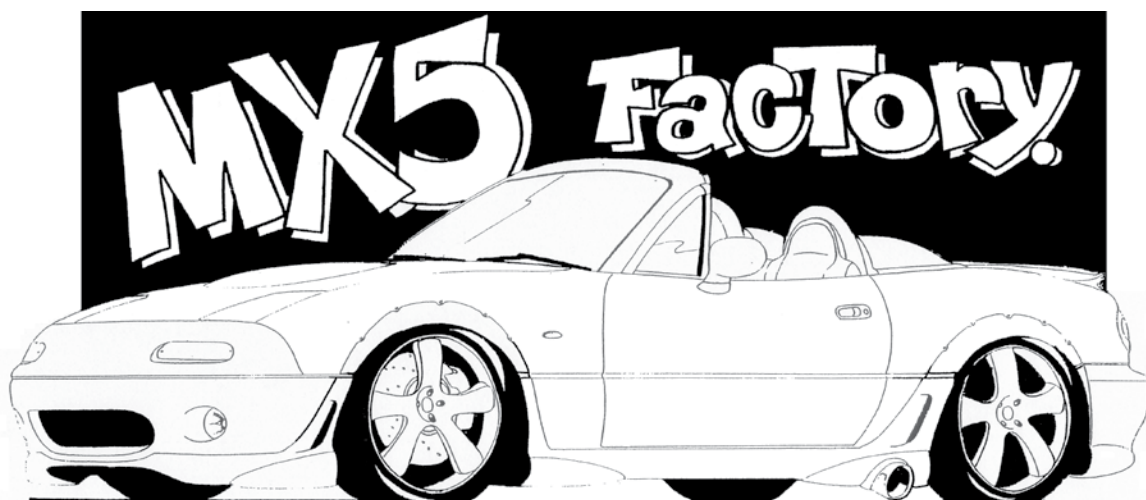
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