

mxtra

1/2015
mx5vic.org.au



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

Zoom-zooming into a new year!

In this edition:
Christmas in the Chapters
The long drive: Australia, toe to tip



Find us at: mx5vic.org.au



MX-5 Club
of Victoria



LEGENDARY.



*THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING TWO-SEATER SPORTS CAR
MEETS VICTORIA'S NO.1 SELLING MAZDA DEALER.*

GET YOURSELF A LEGENDARY DEAL.

MAX KIRWAN MAZDA

*MAZDA MASTER
DEALER SEVEN
YEARS RUNNING*

Genuine discounts for genuine members.

Discount applies on presentation of membership card, conditions apply. See in dealership for details.

With decades of experience and a 100% commitment to customer satisfaction, Max Kirwan Mazda is the only choice for MX-5. As a Mazda Master Dealer we strive for excellence. Our technicians are factory trained and use the best and latest diagnostic technology, M-MDS. To help make sure your Mazda runs its best, visit Max Kirwan Mazda.



GOOD ONE MAX!
MAX KIRWAN LMCT 1293
 **mazda**
www.maxkirwan.com.au

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

Your Committee: 2014-2015

President

> Don Nicoll | (03) 9437 2787 (ah)
e: president@mx5vic.org.au

Vice President / Communications

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

Secretary / Public Officer

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

Treasurer

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

Club Captain – Motor Sport

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

Assistant Club Captain – Motor Sport

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

Club Captain – Social

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

Assistant Club Captain – Social

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

Social Media

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

Membership

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

Merchandise

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

Points

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

Chapter Captain - Central

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

Chapter Captain - Eastern Victoria

> TBA
e: eastern@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - North-Eastern Victoria

> Ron Gillick | (02) 6033 0253 (ah)
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 | 0438 562 224 (ah)
e: northtas@mx5vic.org.au

Chapter Captain - Southern Tasmania

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

1/2015



contents



Regulars

- 4** President's page: *Don's Drive(I)*
- 5** Scene About
- 6** Membership
- 20** Track Torque
- 7** MX-5 Club Grill ... *meet Karen Bradshaw, Western Victoria*
- 8** The Long Drive ... *Australia, toe to tip and back*
- 22** Favourite road ... *Myrtleford-Stanley-Beechworth*
- 22** Mazda6 ... *production reaches 3 million units*

Chapter chatter

- 10** Northern Tasmania: *a northern Tassie Christmas*
- 12** North-eastern Victoria: *Christmas in Whitfield*
- 14** Central: *annual CFA run*
- 16** Western Victoria: *Christmas in the West*
- 18** Southern Tasmania: *merry Christmas in Hobart*

Motor Sport

- 21** City Mazda Sprint Championship – Rd 6 ... *Broadford*

Cover image: Small cars among the tall trees on the annual CFA run. *Photo: Bronwyn Roche*



Find us at:
MX-5 Club of Victoria

mxtra is the monthly newsletter of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania Inc (#A0021659A). PO Box 7438, Beaumaris VIC 3193. Registered for Print Post: 100018450

All contributions are welcome: please send articles and photos to the editor, **Murray Finlay**:

- e-mail: editor@mx5vic.org.au
- post: **mxtra, Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania, PO Box 7438, Beaumaris VIC 3193**

Photos supplied for **mxtra** will also be uploaded to the Club's online gallery. Copyright will remain with the photographer, and the Club undertakes not to use them for any other purpose without express permission.

DISCLAIMER

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania Inc., its Officers and Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in articles, reports, notices, advertisements, comment and advice of events that are published in **mxtra** in good faith. It should be noted that the publication of an advertisement, or expression of views in articles and reports, does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Club of the advertised product or service or the views expressed in any articles or reports published in **mxtra**.



Don's Drive(l) ...

■ Don Nicoll – President president@mx5vic.org.au



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

Welcome to 2015, a special year for our Club.

On 6 May it will be 25 years since 130-plus MX-5s gathered at the Old Cheese Factory in Berwick at the invitation of Mazda Australia. The Club was born at this meeting and became formally incorporated in August. We plan to celebrate both events during the year. Stay tuned for more information.

The 2015 calendar, which all members should have received by now, has been something of a hit judging by the positive responses we have received. It was originally conceived as one way we could mark the Club's 25th anniversary. However there have been many strong suggestions that we repeat the idea for 2016. Something for the January Committee meeting.

I trust you all survived the Christmas and New Year festivities without too much damage to the wallet, purse or liver. And, hopefully, nobody suffered the indignity of a bulging disc in the lower back as did "she who must be obeyed". New Year was very flat, literally for Linda. However things are on the improve and decent food may be on the plate soon.

The Club run to the Strath Creek and Reedy Creek CFA attracted a group of 19 cars as you will read in Alan Bennet's report. Thanks to the Club's cheque for \$250 and the amazing generosity of run participants (including one couple who were unable to attend), we raised a total of \$473 for the brigade which, as always, was very much appreciated. From the brigade's viewpoint our run was a little close to Christmas and the fire season, which meant that many of their members were unable to attend. Something to consider for next time.

Leaving home in Research, the circuit up to Kinglake and across to Healesville via Myers Creek Road followed by the return up Chum Creek Road has become something of a stress release trip for me. I've done the trip at all times of the day and evening, but I have to say that the road from St Andrews to Kinglake is rapidly becoming a cyclists' domain, regardless of when you use the road. Those of you on the CFA/Christmas run will have experienced a taste of this phenomenon.

Over the Christmas holidays I suffered the unnerving experience of a cyclist coming around a blind corner in the

opposite direction, running out of road and deciding to use the *passenger* side of my car (ie, the "drop" side of the road) to avoid a head-on collision. No damage was done, words were exchanged but I was left with the distinct impression that I had no right to be using the road at that time of the morning.

Those of you who use Beach Road at the weekend will be very familiar with the challenges of sharing the road with cyclists. Having raced a bike in my youth, I have no particular issue around this sharing, but we may well be approaching the time when we need to take a hint from the French. There are roads in Paris and several of the major French cities which are closed to vehicles early morning over the weekends, giving cyclists the chance of a car-free experience. I read somewhere that this is being considered for Beach Road. May be there is a case for something similar on the St Andrews-Kinglake road. Knowing the way Nillumbik Council works, I won't be holding my breath as they are just as likely to put up 30kmh speed restrictions to solve the problem, which will not please anybody – drivers and cyclists alike.

There must be something about accepting the *El Presidente* role in this Club, as a quick check of the foregoing paragraphs would suggest that I seem to be getting grumpier. I was looking in back copies of this magazine for inspiration for my monthly rant and, to my surprise, found that Murray was also wont to "have a go". Maybe it's the prospect of these words appearing in print, or maybe it's the fact that it's nudging 40 degrees as I type ... or maybe it's age. I would like to think it's age as it is the one thing I can't do anything about (the numbers at least). But I do have a New Year's resolution hanging over my head which says that I need to fix the things which can be fixed and leave those which can't. With that in mind I'll take the family car to the carwash and leave the mowing until winter when there might be the odd blade of grass in need of a trim.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, healthy and happy 2015.

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

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

Don

For your diary ...

See the full calendar for details

January

- 18 *Western: Car & Bike Show*
- 18 *NTas: Post-Christmas blowout*
- 18 *STas: Twilight run*
- 24-25 *NE Vic: Australia Day weekend*
- 25 *Western: Australia Day run*
- 31 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 7: Phillip Island*

February

- 8 *NE Vic: Mitta Mitta run*
- 14 *Central: Two Spurs run (joint)*
- 14 *Western: Two Spurs run (joint)*
- 14 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 8: Sandown*
- 15 *NTas: Roger's Roaming Ramble*
- 28 *NTas: Cranbourn Airfield Fly-in*

March

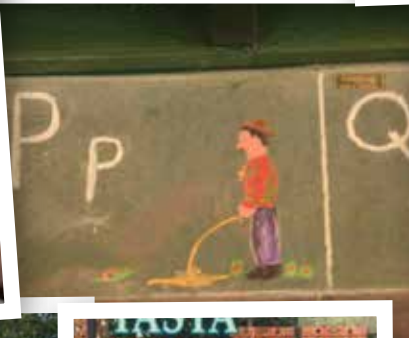
- 6-9 *South Australia/Vic-Tas biennial weekend, Robe SA*
- 7-8 *NE Vic: Snowy Mountains run*
- 8 *NTas: Driver training, Baskerville*
- 21 *Central: Midnight MX-press GOR run*
- 22 *NTas: Devonport motor show*
- 29 *Sprints 2014-15 Rds 9/10: Winton – Double Header!*

April

- 4 *Central: Bendigo run*
- 12 *NE Vic: Tastes of the North-East*
- 12 *NTas: Kelly's Ladies' Day*
- 12 *Sprints 2015 Rd 1: Calder Park*
- 17-20 *Central: 4-day high country run*
- 25-26 *NTas: West Coast Overnighter*
- 27 *NTas: Targa Tasmania - optional viewing trips*

Scene about ...

■ Photos: Bruce Harvey, Kelly Berggren, Ron Gillick, Bronwyn Roche, Randy Stagno Navarra, Rob Tanner





Membership

Current membership count:

541

and growing!

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

G'day – and welcome to 2015!

Membership continues to grow steadily but, whilst an increasing membership base is a good indicator of an organisation's health, a club is all about participation.

In the past year, most members attended a number of events and enjoyed the ensuing fellowship. I encourage you to continue this fine tradition and take pleasure in all that the best and most affordable sports car in the world has to offer.

With this in mind, I welcome the following enlightened folk who have joined our ranks since my December report:

Central Chapter

Glen Burgin	1990 White NA
Martin Butyn	1989 Classic Red NA
John and Rosalie Cooper	2008 True Red NC
John Hassell	1989 Red NA
Robert Hayley	1990 Green NA
Ian Lane	2004 Silver NB
Richard Rogers	1990 Red NA

Ben Smillie 1999 Silver NB

North-Eastern Victoria Chapter

Kenny Bailey and Rosemary Black	1989 Red NA
Susan Swingler	1989 Red NA

Northern Tasmania Chapter

Kathleen Farr 2001 Blue NB

Southern Tasmania Chapter

Nigel Honey	1995 Red NA
Lynsay Millar	2006 Copper Red NC

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

Will

Trading Post



For Sale 2008 Stormy Blue NC retractable hard top

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

Burson automotive products at trade prices



Current financial Club members can purchase automotive parts, tools, accessories and car care products at trade prices from **Burson Auto Parts** stores.

Simply ask for your discount when you purchase, present your current membership card and quote account number **112558**.

Burson Auto Parts have more than 100 outlets on the east coast. Check out the range at www.burson.com.au

Repco VIP Club retail discount



Financial MX-5 Club members may join the **Repco VIP Club** for 10% off full retail at any time, and up to another 30% off full retail with advertised offers.

Enter your details at <http://vip.repco.com.au/registration/register/1160>.

You'll receive a temporary "VIP" card via e-mail, with a plastic barcoded card and key tag following within 14 days.

Repco will e-mail you online catalogues and offers.

AutObarn Eltham 9/256 Bolton St, Eltham



... are proud to offer all Club members a big discount (up to 15%) off their full range of merchandise.

For info or orders, please contact Peter Rutherford* at autobarn-enquiries@mx5vic.org.au or phone 0414 630 024 or 9439 1466.

This offer is exclusive to AutObarn Eltham.

Please identify yourself as a Club member to obtain your discount.

*Note: only Peter Rutherford or Hayden Dally are authorised to offer Club discounts in-store.



Car care products - member discounts

Waxit Car Care in Tullamarine is offering Club members 12.5% off all products (*excluding already-discounted kits and the following brands/products: Polishangel, Vikan, Flex and Concours 900 Polisher*).

Check out the Waxit range and order online at www.waxit.com.au. Our Club coupon code is **mx5club**. Please add your Club membership number to the "comments" section of your order.

Karen Bradshaw

The MX-5 Club Grill

Assistant Chapter Captain - Western Victoria

Name? Karen Bradshaw

Age? Too far back to remember – ageless!

Born? Hamilton, Victoria

Current abode? “Silverhill”, Wallinduc

Profession? School Business Manager at Skipton Primary School

Partner? Ian – some of you may know him as Captain Little Sh..t

Pets? Two cats (who barely tolerate each other), two dogs, one Quarter Horse (retired)

Fave food? Salmon, sticky date pudding

Can you cook? Yes – someone has to ...

Favourite tippie? Kahlua & Coke

First drive? My Dad’s Ford ute but I can’t remember what model – too far back

First car? Holden Sunbird

First fender bender? In a Commodore – hit a sheep

Everyday driver? Magna 2003 – knows its own way to Skipton

How many MX-5s have you owned? Just the one

Current MX-5? 2001 Black NB Series 2

MX-5 improvements? Spoiler kit, Hot Dog, grill

MX-5 dislikes? Don’t get to drive it enough – always the navigator!

Why an MX-5? Have MX-5, will travel

Fluffy dice? Not on your nellie

Passions besides the MX-5? Photography – the camera is an extension of my arm!

Favourite TV show / movie / book? NCIS and similar shows, Chick Flicks, Australian romance

Dream wheels (money no object)? An MX-5 for each day of the week

Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong? Dergh NO!!!!

Favourite other Mazda? We have a very trusty Bravo Ute that I used to tow the horse float

If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what? Porsche Boxster

How long in the Club? Five years



How many MX-5 Club runs or track events? Lots – given up counting. Every one of them has been fun

Favourite Club run/track? Falls Creek-Mt Hotham Loop (left)

Funniest thing seen at a Club event? Dawn Everett locked out of the motel in Jindabyne and then, when she finally got back in, hubby Alan had locked her out of the room! Needless to say he was in big trouble!

Have you been to DECA or NatMeet? Been to DECA – to take photos

Ford vs Holden? Holden

What’s playing in your MX-5? Cher’s Greatest Hits – “Turn Back Time” is a favourite

Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)? AFL St Kilda – they will come marching in one day!

Final comments? Ian and I have made some great friends who all have great MX-5s – the perfect combination for loads of fun! ●

The long drive: Australia – toe to tip & back

■ Words & photos: Gordon Cox, Southern Tasmania Chapter

You're going where, in what and for how many days?

That's the response I received from friends after telling them I was driving my MX-5 from Hobart to Tallebudgera, on the Gold Coast in Queensland, for the Pan Pacific Games and then on to Hervey Bay.

Total distance return, including side trips and return boat journey: 5500km.

Northbound was via Melbourne, Cootamundra, Gunnedah and Ballina. After competing in the target archery at the Games it was on to Hervey Bay to my sister's place via Brisbane, Gympie and Maryborough.

For my first long drive I was pleasantly surprised at how comfortable the MX-5 is for long distance travel. (Melbourne to Gold Coast: two days). The car was fully loaded, had a boot full of archery gear, and front footwell and passenger seat holding all my luggage in three soft bags.

One item on my needs list for future trips would be cruise control ... right foot on throttle for long periods can be tiring.

The return trip was via Brisbane, Coffs Harbour, Sydney, Eden, Lakes Entrance and Melbourne. On the way home I was fortunate to be in Melbourne for the 25-year celebration at Sandown Park. It turned out to be one of the best gatherings it has been my pleasure to attend, and the great barbeque lunch was a bonus.

Laps of Sandown Raceway were another highlight, including entering the left hander into the back straight too quickly and having the rear tyres making noises I don't usually hear on a normal day. Many thanks to all concerned for organising such a great day. I felt privileged to represent the little island.

For those with a statistical bent, my trip included 10 main driving days, 5541 km, 389L fuel at a total cost of \$657.00. Fuel consumption averaged approx. 7L per 100km.

In conclusion, as my first long trip in the MX-5, I'd recommend it to any owner. It's one of the best cars on today's roads.

Cheers and safe and happy motoring to everyone. ●



^ The big whales ... Hervey Bay



◀ The big prawn ... Ballina

✓ The big view ... lookout, south of Sydney



^ The big show ... gathering of the faithful at Sandown Raceway

The big lap ... the finishing straight at Sandown >



Zoom-Zoom with confidence!

... with iTPMS 8886
tyre pressure monitoring system for iPhone

Driving on a flat or rapidly-deflating tyre can severely damage your expensive tyre, your car ... or worse.

Even under-inflated tyres can place up to 10% strain on a vehicle's drive, and use 10% more fuel.

The Davies, Craig iTPMS 8886 is a unique DIY electronic safety system which monitors tyre pressure and temperature, instantly warning of any problems.

Simple screw-on sensors monitor the pressure and temperature inside each tyre. This vital information is transmitted wirelessly to the in-car sensor plugged into your cigarette lighter and to the app on your iPhone or iPad.

With any marked variation in tyre pressure and/or temperature, an audible alarm sounds, the in-car sensor flashes red and the iPhone display tells you which tyre has the problem.

Each purchase earns money for the Club.



iPhone/iPad and mount not included.

\$129 off*

for MX-5 Club members

Contact John Benson† to order.
*RRP

†John Benson – Davies, Craig:
(03) 9369 1234, ext 204



DAVIES, CRAIG PTY LTD.

INNOVATION - QUALITY - RANGE

Member price: **\$199.00** inc. GST + freight

*RRP = \$328.90

Compare that to the cost of replacing a destroyed tyre!

For full details, see the Davies, Craig website:
www.daviescraig.com.au



“NO ONE KNOWS YOUR PASSION LIKE SHANNONS.”



The passion, the pride of ownership, the sheer emotional attachment – no one understands it better than Shannons. So when it comes to insurance for your special car, daily drive, bike or even your home, there's only one person you should talk to – a fellow enthusiast at Shannons. And remember, you can pay your premium by the month at no extra cost.

So call Shannons for a quote on **13 46 46**.



SHARE THE PASSION

INSURANCE FOR MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS | CALL 13 46 46 FOR A QUOTE | SHANNONS.COM.AU

Shannons Pty Limited ABN 91 099 692 636 is an authorised representative of AAI Limited ABN 48 005 297 807, the product issuer. Read the Product Disclosure Statement before buying this insurance. Contact us for a copy.

Chapter chatter ...

7.12.14 | Northern Tasmania ■ Words: Bruce Harvey ■ Photos: Bruce Harvey, Kelly Berggren

The Northern Tassie Christmas party had been much anticipated this year mainly because Karin and Michael were the hosts. They have a wonderful property in a secret valley nestled in Tasmania's north east near Lilydale.

The day started for most of us at the regular meeting point ... the *Blueberry Barn Café* on the Frankford Highway ... with a coffee and in some cases a light breakfast to relieve the excesses of a Saturday night work get-together. We were also able to welcome some first-timers ... Dennis and Marti Twibell who we expect to see regularly in the new year.

The route to *Christmas Central* was only a matter of getting to and across the Tamar River and then heading further north-east and the secret valley. The roads in this area are excellent for the MX-5 but on this Sunday the "Ride for Amy" cyclists were out in force so, instead of zoom zoom it was toot toot, flash flash and wave wave.

Michael and Karin had been busy that morning and had installed a beautifully-crafted series of road signs at strategic intervals to guide the convoy right to the door.

This really is a magical place to live and, even though the day had been windy and unpleasant at the meeting point, it was perfect once we turned up the road to Michael and Karin's.

Karin had been quietly organising this day for quite a few weeks and had contacted every Chapter member and sorted the catering so each

person knew what to bring – so a veritable feast emerged from the boots of our MX-5s. Naturally Michael and Karin had put a lot of time into setting up and the deck was all ready to go with long tables, white table cloths and a real Christmas feeling.

If you want to quiet a noisy rabble, serve some food! Once Karin's lady helpers emerged with platter after platter of Tasmania's best, the queue was long and good natured. After a suitable amount of time another series of platters emerged, this time with the sweet offerings ... there are some talented people in our midst as these were not only "music to the lips" but works of art as well.

A third wave of volunteers had the mess cleared and hot drink orders were starting to appear. It was at this time your scribe was called front and centre. Not knowing what to expect it was humbling and unexpected to receive a presentation from the whole Chapter for what has probably been our most diverse and well-attended year of events.

A Chapter does not function without its members and I believe we are well positioned to continue the momentum into 2015. If the effort put in by Michael and Karin is any example, we will certainly excel. ●



^ A sumptuous spread!



^ Alana and Cheryl get the cakes sorted



^ Alana, Ken, Michael, Roger, Peter and Jill pretend they're not interested in dessert



A northern Tassie Christmas

■ Organisers/hosts: Karin & Michael Stosh



^ Brent, Keith, Sandra, Michael, Rob, Alana and Anna



^ Karin – hostess with the mostess



^ Parking a-plenty at the Stosh ranch



^ Bruce with his, er, mystery gift



^ Kelly pretends she's putting the whipped cream down



^ Stand back, boys!
Cheryl's in charge.



^ Trevor, enjoying dessert

Chapter chatter ...

13.12.14 | North-Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Loz Thomas ■ Photos: Ron Gillick, Loz Thomas ■ Organisers: Maree Con

The North-Eastern Chapter capped off a great year with our Christmas run through the beautiful King Valley.

For something different, this was an afternoon/evening run held on a Saturday, and we could not have ordered more perfect weather – a brilliant blue sky with a slight breeze.

Meeting time was 3.30pm in Beechworth, which allowed plenty of time beforehand for browsing the eclectic array of shops unique to this beautiful historic town, or to sit and relax at the *Beechworth Bakery* (actually in Beechworth!) with a coffee and one of their famous beestings.

Time to hit the road, and six cars headed off toward the King Valley passing through small townships such as Everton, Milawa – the *culinary crossroads of Victoria* (well, that is what the sign says) – and Oxley. We then took a left turn, and could be forgiven for thinking we had been transported to the picturesque hills of northern Italy. Passing wineries such as *Dal Zotto*, *Pizzini*, *La Cantina* and *Politini*, it's evident that first-, second- and third-generation Italian migrant families are continuing the family tradition, tending to the vineyards and making beautiful Mediterranean-inspired wines.

And so it was with great anticipation that we reached our first stop at *King River Estate* winery. It was here that Shane and Loz joined the run (someone had to work ... *and it wasn't Shane*). Winemaker Trevor welcomed us warmly and presented complimentary gourmet pizzas and cheese platters which included his delicious homemade salami. We sampled cool, crisp white wines and savoury spicy reds while Trevor explained his philosophy – “to make wine using traditional old-world winemaking methods, wild yeast and biodynamic practices”. It works a charm ... if the number of brown paper bags filled with wine bottles that made their way to the boots of the waiting MX-5s was anything to go by.

It was then time to continue on our way to Lake William Hovell. It's hard to put into words how beautiful the scenery was and how wonderful the roads were to drive on. Winding roads alongside the gin-clear waters of the King River, past rows of grapevines, rustic tobacco drying sheds, rambling cottages, old churches, raised water tanks covered with climbing roses, sun glistening off full dams, and black Angus cows and calves briefly pausing to watch the cars speed by.

All too soon we were at the dam which, at full capacity, looked stunning. We enjoyed more conversation whilst some paddled their feet in the cool water. Before leaving, Maree presented home-made Christmas goodies to Kerry and Diana for the best-dressed car and to Ron and Marg for another fantastic job organising our Chapter's activities in 2014.

It was then on to the *Whitfield Hotel* for dinner. Great food, along with some local grape juice, great company and great conversation (and some card tricks by Brian) made the evening fly. All too soon it was 8pm and time to head home before the night life came out to play. Some had the right idea and stayed the night!

Thank you to everyone who donated presents for the Giving Tree appeal. And last but not least to Brian and Maree for organising such an enjoyable run. ●



^ “Now listen ... I'm Santa, OK?!”

Christmas in Whitfield





◀ *Cooling their heels ...
Stuart, Loz, Maree and
Sue take a paddle at Lake
William Hovell*

▼ *Kerry & Diana (left), and
Ron & Marg, with their
home-made Christmas goodies*



^ *Yeah ... thanks for organising, Brian!*

Chapter chatter ...

14.12.14 | Central Chapter

■ Words: Alan Bennett ■ Photos: Bronwyn Roche, Alan Bennett ■ Organisers: Don & Linda Nicoll



✓ The fire chief's helmet ...
... donations welcome



A month later than usual, the annual Country Fire Authority run to Strath Creek and Reedy Creek was held in December so as to avoid a clash with the incredibly popular Sandown event.



Twenty-eight people assembled with 19 cars, including two new members and two prospective members, to listen to our President Don Nicoll give us the briefing and an overview of the run standing in glorious sunshine outside the shops at Research.

"The run notes will save you," he claimed boldly. "I strongly recommend them to you." A couple of points from the ever-vigilant **mxtra** editor re. waiting at turns so as not to lose the cars behind you (often repeated, not always adhered to) and a reminder that we would be asked to donate some hard-earned cash to help the CFA in their quest to protect 3.3 million people and a million homes and properties (no, the *whole* CFA does this ... Strath and Reedy are busy but not that well-funded).

First we put our donated toys in the cavernous boot of Don and Linda's other car, to be ushered later in the day to the Salvos. And then we were off at a clip for morning tea in Healesville!

The fabulous weather drew out patches of cyclists and other keen motorists such as a BMW motorcycle club and a Subaru club as well. Ironically at Pantom Hill we had our convoy interrupted by not one but two local CFA trucks meandering at walking pace, thankfully just for a couple of k's. Then the normal twisting-turning-braking service was restored, spoiled only by some bright spark who thought putting up an extended sequence of 60km/h signs in the middle of some delicious bends would enhance our day; wrong.

Regrouping after our well-earned break we retraced our tyre tracks away before diverting to Strath Creek and then Reedy Creek – the two CFAs were merged in 1965.

All too soon the run was over and, although a few raindrops convinced most of us to put the roof up, that was it as far as dampening the dry neighbourhood down. Eric Smith from the CFA said a few kind words and made us feel welcome. Don presented him with a cheque on behalf of the Club and the fire chief's helmet was passed around as well. After some more sandwich and sausage munching we started to drift back from whence we came, thankful for volunteers that comprise the CFA and hoping for a not-so-hot summer to come.

The CFA have one of the hottest jobs in the state – especially at this time of the year! The CFA is one of the largest fire fighting services in the world, covering outer metropolitan Melbourne and the state of Victoria. After the devastating fires that swept parts of Victoria in February 2009, the Committee decided that the Club should make an attempt to give something back to the CFA. Avoiding the high-profile areas that were splashed across the TV screens, the Club chose to visit and donate to the Strath Creek and Reedy Creek CFAs and in November 2009 the first annual run was made.

One last thing: given this is the season of good will, please remember those less fortunate than ourselves ... you know, all those WRX drivers, the Toyota 86ers, the Alfa drivers etc. **Take care on the roads this summer.** ●



^ Goliath and David ... Strath Ck/Reedy Ck CFA leader Eric Smith (left) with Club prez Don Nicoll



◀ The new Reedy Ck memorial, showing the 2009 fire area



Chapter chatter ...

14.12.14 | Western Victoria ■ Words: Chris Van Velzen ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw, Lockie Story

Fourteen cars assembled at the Gleesons' for the run, on a day that looked dark and threatening at first, but Met predictions of being a sunny hot day.

Members from central joined us for the start of the run in Ballarat. (One of our members had a sunscreen incident prior to the run ... *who could that be?*)

Heading on our way to Daylesford via Springbank, one of the farmers was kind enough to offer a car wash in the warm conditions. However, the volume of water spuming across the road from one of his irrigating sprinklers was just a tad more volume than the *spritzing* required to cool the skin, or gently wash the travelling dust off the duco, and so a queue of vehicles formed, waiting for the sprinkler to *cshh ... cshh ... cshh* its way off the road before we resumed our journey.

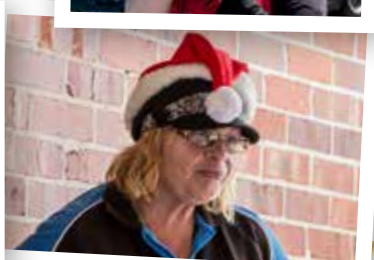
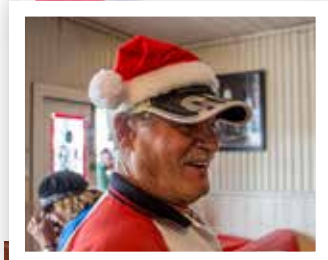
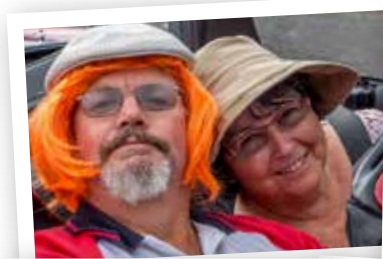
Driving through to Daylesford via Spargo Creek and Sailors Falls we enjoyed a leisurely cruise through forest and tree lined roads. Skirting Daylesford, we drove through the Wombat State Forest to Trentham for morning tea, where we were joined by Haig Becker who hails from Daylesford and Warwick and Jill Gibbon from Bendigo.

After a half hour of "networking", we continued our trip on the winding roads through Blackwood and Greendale to Ballan. From Ballan we drove through Mt Egerton and Navigators to return to the Gleesons', who once again were very kind in hosting the Christmas BBQ.

Many a conversation over a cold beverage and a sausage ensued. The joy of Christmas evident, with a great group of people, enjoying great food, after a terrific morning drive through some of the great roads in western Victoria ... what better way to start the festive season?

Many thanks to John and Noellene for their fantastic hospitality.

We hope all members had a happy and safe Christmas, and we look forward to sharing the road with you all in 2015! ●





Organisers: Noellene & John Gleeson



Chapter chatter ...

20.12.14 | Southern Tasmania ■ Words: John & Michelle Waldock ■ Photos: Rob Tanner, John Waldock

It's so hard to believe 12 months have passed since our last Christmas BBQ.

We all gathered at our usual meeting place on a typical Tassie December morning; clear cerulean skies sprinkled with white clouds, a sure sign of warm weather. It was great to see so many members, with 18 cars, over 30 drivers and their co-drivers attending the day.

Keen to get to the *business end* of the day (ie, the food), our group went for a short (speedy but safe) drive around some of our favourite haunts on the Eastern Shore, notably the endlessly satisfying

curves of Grass Tree Hill and Fingerpost Road.

The group arrived nicely at Tolosa Park for our get-together, having booked a BBQ and hut so we could be comfortable for the day. The weather remained sunny as we finished our lunch and followed up with a lucky prize draw.

Of course, there was a variety of things to win, from car-themed items like Club number plate surrounds and key rings to

the more traditional prizes of chocolate and wine.

Warm thanks go to *MX5 Mania* and Chapter members Garry and Maureen Whittle for donating some of the prizes. Other thanks go to Michelle, who organised the day and also to John Hadrill and Jo Hirst, our Assistant Chapter Captains, for all of their work in 2014.

Happy new year to all – here's to a great 2015! ●





Organiser: John Waldock





Track Torque

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



CITY MAZDA

What Drives You, Drives Us

MX-5 Sprint Championship



It's 2015 and we are straight back into it!

Hope you have all enjoyed a break over the Christmas-New Year period.

For our Motor Sport Team there is not much of a break as they will all be ready to get back out on the track for Round 7 of the City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship at Phillip Island, on Saturday, 31 January.

As I have mentioned before, to ensure we get the right number of Sprint Championship rounds and a good mix of tracks this year, we will be joining the WRX Club for a few rounds.

The Phillip Island event will be one of these and Grant and his team at the WRX Club are looking forward to seeing us back at their events.

I have had some great feedback about this year's Calendar and, although it's a busy year, it will give us a chance to kick off 2016 with fresh start and more traditional January-December season. This year will also give us a chance to compete at some new tracks.

Annual Club Motor Sport Meeting / review of Sprint Championship rules:

With only a few more rounds until the end of the current Championship, we will again be planning an Annual Motor Sport Meeting. As per last year we will conduct the 2015 meeting prior to the annual awards night

This year marks the end of the two-year "freeze" on our Sprint Championship rules being changed. Over the past two or three years the we have seen a growth in competitor numbers, more new competitors to motor sport, a change in the "mix" of MX-5 models of competing, and, as in all clubs, the ongoing "churn" of competitors.

To make sure our Sprint Championship continues to grow, but also maintains its fun, safe and competitive culture, we will be looking at the rules over the next few months to make some recommendations at the motor sport meeting. Randy and I, along with a "sub-committee" of competitors from a mix of classes will meet during January and February to discuss the need for any revisions to the current rules.

Again we will not be looking to make wholesale changes as I am a great believer in *if it ain't broke, don't fix it* but we will be looking at:

- » Class structure
- » Number of classes
- » Parity of models

2014-2015 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship Awards Night:

After the great success of last year's Sprint Championship awards night, we will again be having an event to award trophies for the Championship. With growing numbers and a few people missing the event last year's event, this year we will be looking for a larger venue. The format will be similar to last year and I will let you know details as soon as possible. Potential dates for the event will be Friday, 3 April or Saturday, 4 April. Stay tuned ...

Tim

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



**Brakes
- member discounts**

Need a brake upgrade?

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

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



2014-15 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship | Round 6 - 13.12.14



■ Photos: Red Book Photography

Scenes from Broadford ...

Clockwise from below:

- » Noel Heritage finding the weeds ... "trying a little too hard"
- » Noel of firmer ground
- » Max Lloyd (blue NB) leading Robert Downes
- » Leon Bogers
- » Leon showing the way through the esses.



City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - Round 6 | Broadford - 13.12.14

Results - Round 5	1st	2nd	3rd
Standard NA	Robert Downes » 1:14.4350	---	---
Standard NB	Dean Hasnat » 1:13.4837**	Ben Mott » 1:14.1592	Jeremy Fredersdorff » 1:37.5637
Standard NC	Alan Conrad » 1:12.4315	---	---
Clubman	Noel Heritage » 1:12.6281**	Max Lloyd » 1:14.2557	Leon Bogers » 1:14.4342
Modified	Ray Monik » 1:11.4878	Jason Chuc » 1:11.7383	Gavin Newman » 1:13.7007
Super Modified	Colin Denman-Jones » 1:30.1176	Robert Parr » 1:32.7520	---
Restricted Open	Brendan Beavis » 1:06.9829**	---	---
Open	---	---	---

** New Club lap record

City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship - 13.12.14

(corrected points)	1st	2nd	3rd
Overall Champion	Ray Monik » 60	Dean Hasnat » 52	Russell Garner » 50
Standard NA	Robert Downes » 50	---	---
Standard NB	Dean Hasnat » 52	Jeremy Fredersdorff » 37	Peter Dannock » 32
Standard NC	Alan Conrad » 50	---	---
Clubman	Max Lloyd » 45	Noel Heritage » 44	Peter Phillips » 36
Modified	Ray Monik » 60	Gavin Newman » 31	Daniel White » 21
Super Modified	Russell Garner » 50	Robert Parr » 41	Colin Denman-Jones » 10
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith » 47	Brendan Beavis » 27	---
Open	Dave Moore » 20	Mike Kirby » 10	---

My favourite MX-5 road ...

■ Words: Gerry Engwerda, North-Eastern Victoria Chapter

Myrtleford – Stanley – Beechworth

Any visit to Myrtleford has to include a visit to the Red Ramia store and the *Café Fez*. Even better however is the leaving of it.

The road through the Stanley State Forest begins some 14K north of Myrtleford along the Myrtleford-Yackandandah road.

As you turn left towards Stanley you start the climb with plantation pines on your left and regenerating bush on the right. It is really dense bush country that suffered badly during the 2009 fires, traces of which are still clearly evident. The newly-resurfaced road is in excellent condition despite the fact that it only has centre road markers, but you do have to be careful of some potential rock slippages along the way. On the plus side traffic is almost non-existent and what little there is, is easy enough to spot at a distance.

The 16km hike to Stanley is a great mix of good constant radius corners and some lovely sweepers providing some exhilarating bits and a chance to look outside the car as well. It's so good it could well have been designed as a slightly more comfortable MX-5 test track. As you get closer to Stanley the bush gives way to European style open forest with apple and chestnut orchards on either side of the road and lovely wide nature strips that set off beautifully manicured gardens. It is a great autumn drive,



with lunch at the Stanley pub a must.

The last 9km section to Beechworth is a little more straightforward giving you more of a chance to appreciate a very picturesque countryside.

Total time from Myrtleford to Beechworth: 35-40 minutes. ●

If you have a favourite MX-5 road, you're welcome to submit a short description (150 words) and a photo to editor@mx5vic.org.au and share it around!

Mazda6 global production reaches 3 million units

Total global production of the Mazda6 reached three million units at the end of November 2014.

The milestone figure was reached in approximately 12 years and nine months after production of the first-generation *Mazda6* began in February 2002 in Yamaguchi, Japan. It is the second fastest time for a Mazda model to reach three million units of production, following the *Mazda3*.

Since the first generation, the *Mazda6* has stayed true to its original aim of offering driving pleasure, and along with Mazda's

Zoom-Zoom brand message has been leading the company's product lineup since its introduction. The model is currently produced in Japan and China. Local assembly takes place in Russia and Vietnam.

The current, third-generation *Mazda6* was fully redesigned in 2012. Adopting the full range of SKYACTIV TECHNOLOGY and the *KODO-Soul of Motion* design theme, it became the second model to join Mazda's new-generation line-up. The redesigned model has received high praise in markets all over the world, including being named **2014 RJC Car of the Year** in Japan and nominated as a finalist for **2013 World Car Design of the Year**. By the end of October last year, it had claimed over 40 different awards globally.

An updated *Mazda6* is being rolled out to global markets from January 2015, with launches starting from Japan and USA. Adopting Mazda's latest ideas and technologies, the updated model offers new levels of depth and maturity.

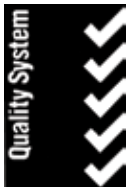
Moving forward, Mazda will continue to develop products which offer all customers driving pleasure and outstanding environmental and safety performance, with an aim of enriching people's lives and becoming a brand that builds a special bond with its customers. ●



A new option for the MX-5 owner

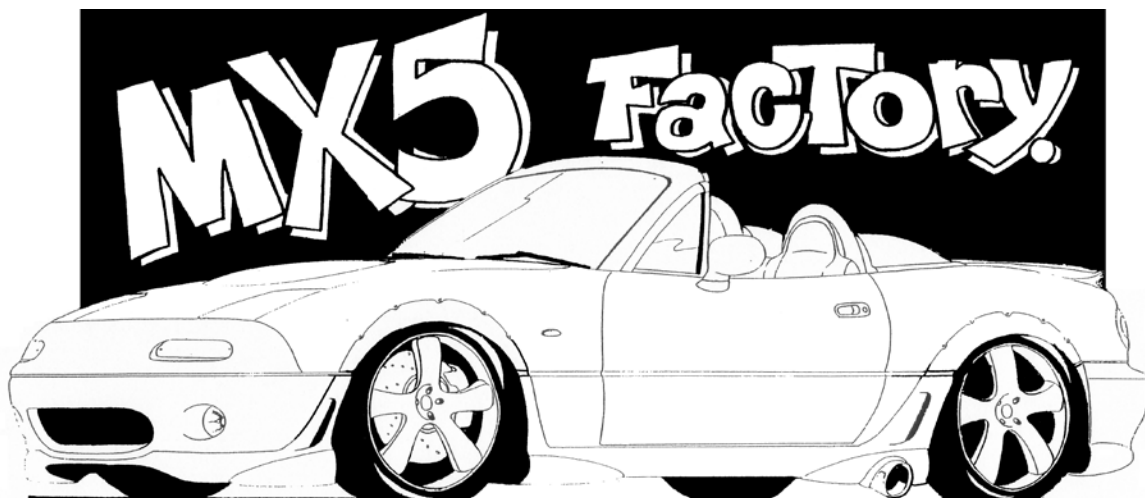
Oven Baked Enamel Services have taken the next step forward in service for MX-5 Owners, Lovers and Club Members.

We can offer a full mechanical and service department with specialist MX-5 mechanics and accident repairers working to factory specifications.



Quality
Endorsed
Company

- ◆ Full range of second hand mechanical body and trim panels available
- ◆ Suspension, exhaust and performance kits
- ◆ Fully equipped workshop facility
- ◆ Competitive rates on all work
- ◆ **FREE** towing for mechanical breakdown and collision
- ◆ Special rates to Club Members - Free loan car available to Members
- ◆ Contact Dick to discuss your mechanical needs



Oven Baked Enamel Services are a factory approved repairer with 20 years of experience on Mazda, your smash repair specialist

- ◆ Chassis alignment specialists
- ◆ Air conditioning and detailing
- ◆ Insurance claims, advice service
- ◆ Lifetime work guarantee
- ◆ All spray work in Seetal Low Bake oven

Contact - Dick Richey
FREE no obligation quote.

34 Molan Street, Ringwood 3134
Tel 03 9870 0520 / Fax 03 9879 6545



zoom-zoom-zoom



THE ALL-NEW MAZDA3 HAS ARRIVED AT CITY MAZDA

City Mazda is thrilled to welcome the highly-anticipated All-New Mazda3 onto our showroom floor. Experience the next great drive by booking an All-New Mazda3 test drive at City Mazda and see for yourself what all the fuss is about. The All-New Mazda3. City Mazda's Next Great Drive.

ASK ABOUT OUR QUICK-SMART MAZDA SERVICE GENUINE MAZDA SERVICE WHILE YOU WAIT

Quick-Smart Mazda Service fits car servicing into your schedule better than ever. Our technicians work to have your vehicle in top condition and you back behind the wheel within the hour.

Quick-Smart Mazda Service, applies to most scheduled services, so next time you book a service, why not give it a try?

**FREE COURTESY BUS TO CBD AVAILABLE, OR
HELP YOURSELF TO ONE OF OUR COURTESY BIKES!**



BOOK ONLINE



*Conditions apply. Limited to 1,000km, 10,000km, 20,000km, 30,000km Scheduled Mazda Book Services. Additional repairs required above service are limited to minor items such as wiper blades and globe replacement.

CITY MAZDA

VICTORIA'S LARGEST UNDERCOVER MAZDA SHOWROOM

14-28 Montague St, South Melbourne | **03 9329 2000**

www.citymazda.com.au | www.facebook.com/CityMazda