

TOPDOWN

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
MX-5 CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

ISSUE 4 - 2018

MAGAZINE





THE ASTON MARTIN DB7 AND MX-5 NA SHARE ONE IMPORTANT PART

The DB7 played a big role in revitalising Aston Martin in the 1990s, and I think it's shaping up to be a modern classic. It was developed on the cheap though, a necessity due to Aston's less-than-robust finances in the day. Ford owned Aston Martin at the time, and much of the DB7's components came from the corporate parts bin. Its platform was related to the old Jaguar XJ's, and both its inline-six and V12 had Jag-origins, too.

Ford also owned Mazda in the 1990s, which lead to the DB7 getting a tiny, but important, piece from the Miata: the interior door release.

It's probably the only part for an Aston Martin you can buy from a dude parting out his ratty NA Miata drift project on Craigslist.

And once you see this, it looks so out of place in the otherwise-opulent interior of the DB7. There's all sorts of leather, piping and wood here...and a cheap plastic door release. For later DB7s, Aston replaced this with a chromed piece that looks somewhat more appropriate, but it seems the Miata part was used well into the production of the V12-powered DB7 Vantage.

Parts sharing isn't uncommon in the automotive industry, so it's not surprising to see a Mazda



part in an Aston made when both had the same parent company. It is amusing, however. As an NA Miata owner myself, it gives me a tiny bit of satisfaction every time I open my door, knowing that DB7 drivers do the same.



Source: www.roadandtrack.com

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- » No single image should exceed 8 MB.
- » All photographs must be submitted with the permission of the photographer.
- » Vehicle registration numbers will be shown unless removal is requested.

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Membership subscriptions - \$70.00 per car, per year for full membership, including Topdown magazine. For membership application forms, visit our website or email the Membership Co ordinators - Murray & Donna Lee on murray.lee@xtra.co.nz

NEW MEMBERS

KAPITI COAST

Alan Butler, CARTERTON

James & Carmen Arthur, UPPER HUTT

NORTHERN

Michael & Melanie Morales, TUAKAU

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

BOP

Ronald & Marion Jones, ROTORUA

WAIKATO

John Smith & Maree Aitkenhead, TAIRUA

Martin Douglas & Ngaire Finlay, TE AROHA

MANAWATU

Chris Rhodes & Judy Lewell, FEILDING

Nick & Lois Cheer, FEILDING

New members should start receiving emails from their regional co-ordinator regarding details of upcoming trips. If you are new to the club and coming along for the first time, please make yourself known to the event organiser.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As this is my first Pres Says as the incoming President, I would like to introduce myself to those that don't know me. I joined the MX5 Club in 2003, have been on the National Committee for about the last 10 years and have been running the annual Driver Training Day since 2011. I have had a long relationship with Mazda, having worked for them in South Africa over 40 years ago and have owned about 10 Mazda vehicles, including four race cars, since that time.

The structure of the MX5 Club of NZ is similar to many clubs that have members nationwide in having Regional Co-ordinators to facilitate activities in their particular area. However, this doesn't mean that members should expect their co-ordinator to

come up with ideas for events all the time. If you have a suggestion for a run or other type of event, let your co-ordinator know. I'm sure they will be only too pleased to work it up (speaking from experience as the current Northern Region co-ordinator).

Preparations are well under way for the 2019 Nationals, being hosted in March next year by the Northern and Waikato Regions at the Airport Hotel and Conference Centre in Hamilton. A choice of four runs are being offered for the Saturday, with a mass run on the Sunday. This format has worked well in the past, so as they say "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". More details about the event are in this issue of TopDown.

The MX5 Club of NZ has had many outstanding Presidents over the past 26 years. I look forward to doing my bit to support and grow the Club as we continue into the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions that you think might help either Club activities in your region or the Club as a whole.

KEITH JONES
PRESIDENT

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks everyone for sending in the great trip reports. Thought I'd share some writing tips I found

1. Avoid alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
5. One should never generalise.
6. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Sentence fragments? Eliminate.
9. Exaggerations are a billion times worse than understatement.
10. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
11. Who needs rhetorical questions?
12. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
13. Don't use commas, that, are not, necessary.
14. Don't never use no double negatives.
15. And always be sure to finish what

VICKY POWELL, EDITOR

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THE MX-5 FILES

Over the next few issues we'll be interviewing new members to the MX-5 Club Committee, so you can get to know and perhaps recognise them at the next club run. This month in the spotlight we welcome Keith as the incoming President, Donna & Murray Lee who have taken on the role of membership co-ordinator and new committee member, Graeme Banks. More new committee members will feature in the next issue.

NAME: KEITH JONES

AGE: Just heading into my eighth decade

MX-5 REGION: Northern

DAY JOB:

Anything that takes my fancy now I'm retired from real work. Managing a car racing series, racing and maintaining my two race cars, bowls and tennis, along with my MX5 Club stuff, seems to fill up my day.

CURRENT MX-5 (MODEL/YEAR):

2015 ND and 1989 NA race car

EVERYDAY DRIVE: BMW 320i wagon

ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO YOUR MX-5?

The ND is bog standard as it's Sandra's daily driver. The NA - there isn't enough room on the page to list them all.

WHY AN MX-5?

I got fed up with my race RX7 and wanted something I could use on the road during the week and go racing in at the weekend. An MX5 seemed ideal; open air motoring with excellent track handling. The road driving lasted about two years before it became a stripped out, trailer only, 250bhp race car. So I had to go and buy another one for the road. In total we've had four NAs, an NB and the ND.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CLUB? Since 2003.

FAVOURITE CLUB RUN?

I don't really have one favourite. Over the years there have been many runs that have been good for different reasons.

FAVOURITE DRIVE ON NZ ROADS?

Anything in the South Island. It's lovely driving on uncluttered, flowing roads.

FIRST CAR OWNED?


Austin Healey Sprite Mk1. I got into topdown motoring early in life.

DREAM CAR?

Good question. I think for road use it would be Porsche 997 turbo, but I'd love to get my hands on a Ferrari 250LM. Unfortunately I don't have a spare \$20M.

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DRIVE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD? Hillman Minx

WHAT IS THE BEST CAR MAINTENANCE ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED?

Always do as much as you can yourself, but also know what you can't do. 

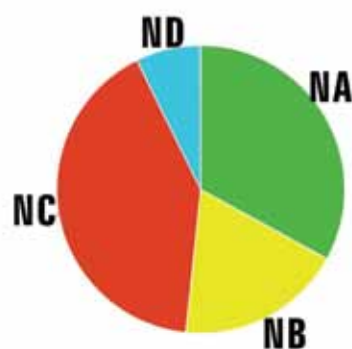


A big thank you to the MX-5 club members that have renewed for the current year.

The club has over 400 members throughout New Zealand encompassing the full range of MX5 generations.

We thought we'd share some statistics on the different numbers of models within the club.

Great to see the NA holding it's own!



NAMES: Donna & Murray Lee

AGE: Donna: 52, Murray: 56

MX- 5 REGION:

Donna: Northern

Murray: Northern, but born and raised in Rotorua

DAY JOB:

Donna: House wife (Murray says 'Home executive')

Murray: Train Driver (Auckland Toasters)

CURRENT MX-5:

Donna: 2003 NB 1.6 Auto

Murray: 2003 NB 1.6 Auto (so Donna can drive it)

ANY IMPROVEMENTS:

Donna: My husband behind the wheel and a new softtop

Murray: Nut behind the wheel and a new canvas softtop

EVERYDAY DRIVE:

Donna: Toyota Fielder

Murray: AM Class EMU and ADL Class DMU (Look it up on Wiki)

WHY AN MX-5:

Donna: Enjoy the freedom

Murray: Cool car and more reliable than a Spitfire or MG

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CLUB: 2 Years

FAVOURITE CLUB RUN:

Donna: Taupo Track Day

Murray: Taupo Track Day weekend

FAVOURITE DRIVE ON NZ ROADS:

Donna: Anywhere Winding

Murray: Any Long and Winding Road

FIRST CAR OWNED:

Donna: Mitsubishi Mirage

Murray: 1965 Morris Mini 850cc (in 1979)

DREAM CAR:

Donna: ND

Murray: Aston Martin or as Donna informs me an ND

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DRIVE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD:

Donna: Hillman Avenger, Nissan Sunny, Nissan Sentra

Murray: Ford Cortina Mk 2,3,4,5, Falcon, then a pile of Mitsubishis, but now own a Mazda.



WHAT IS THE BEST MAINTENANCE ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED:

Donna: Get Murray to look after it.

Murray: Pay someone else to do the work, but I ignore that.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST ROADIE STORY:

Donna: The same as Murray's comment as we always travel together.

Murray: Watching club members take the wrong turn off and not following them (hope I'm right,I was).

ANYTHING ELSE?:

Donna: Cool Club to be involved in.

Murray: My wife still loves me. 🌀

NAME: Graeme Banks

AGE: Have had a Gold Card for a while

MX- 5 REGION: Northern.

DAY JOB: Semi Retired Accountant

CURRENT MX-5:

2006 NC and selling 1998 NB

EVERYDAY DRIVE:

Electric Nissan Leaf. Audi A4

WHY AN MX-5:

Have owned many sports cars and found the MX5 ticked all the boxes.

PERSONALISED PLATE:

Have GRA3M3 on my MX5, GEEBEE on my Audi A4 SW and MG1964 AND 1500TF on two of my MGs

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CLUB: 2 years

FAVOURITE CLUB RUN: Leadfoot

FAVOURITE DRIVE ON NZ ROADS:

Actually on my Suzuki Boulevard motorbike from Christchurch to Tekapo.

FIRST CAR OWNED:

1934 Austin 7 Nippy Sportscar. Actually bought it back many years later but have since resold it.

DREAM CAR: Maserati Ghibli

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DRIVE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD:

1934 Riley that I have recently found, Jowett Javelin, Mk1 Zodiac, Fiat, Alfa Romeo

WHAT IS THE BEST MAINTENANCE



ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED:

Check tire pressures and regular oil changes.

ANYTHING ELSE?:

Life member and former President of Sports Car Club of NZ, Member of MG Car Club, Branch Delegate of Vintage Car Club, Board Member of Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association. (LVVTA). One of those rare Car Crazy Accountants. 🌀



Ross Vaughan at Taupo

25 COOL THINGS TO DO WITH A 15 YEAR OLD MX5

BY REX ODDY

NO. 14 - WIN A NATIONAL MOTORSPORT CHAMPIONSHIP

You must have looked sideways at a Ferrari, a Porsche, a Lotus and other cars of their ilk and wondered how your MX5 stacks up against them. Well, as we all know the MX5 is the world's best fun car, so the answer is of course, surprising well.

If however you were to go one step further and put your car on a race track in a serious motorsport event against the same machinery, the answer to the same question is also, surprisingly well. We are not meaning chequebook racing where the biggest budget produces the most horsepower and the most wins. We are talking about the driving, where the quality of the driving is the most important issue. We are talking time trials that are better known as Classic Trials.

A Classic Trial is an event where the driver selects their own lap time and the driver who gets closest to their own time over the course of the trial wins. You don't have to be the fastest to win but you do have to be very, very consistent. An average of half a second per a lap variance for the whole season is what is required to take out the championship and that's not easy. Four times in the sixteen years that the Classic Trial Championship has been running, the championship has been won by an MX5 driver. Paul Couper won three and Ross Vaughan won one championship, both driving pretty standard NA's. Porsche drivers have won three, Lotus and Mini two, nothing else has come

close.

Although you need to have a classic car, Classic Trials are open to all types of drivers but it is particularly suitable as an entry level motorsport event although most who start trialing, stay trialing. Some experienced drivers compete including a few who race internationally and this is usually because they have a special car they want to run without scratching or breaking it. Interestingly eight women drivers have registered for the 2018-19 season. Previously the most female drivers in a single motorsport series in NZ was five.

Technically trials work like this. At the beginning of an event there is a practice session, this gives you the chance to see how you are going on the day. Conditions vary and temperature does have an effect. You look at all your lap times from practice and decide what time is best for you and having set that time you have to live with it for the rest of the meeting unless the meeting is affected by weather and then you get another choice. The starting procedure is two cars at a time in speed order, with the faster drivers going first. If everyone is performing well, this means there is very little overtaking. The winner is the driver who gets closest to their nominated lap time, the first lap isn't counted. At most meetings there are three



Paul Couper sitting at the front of the dummy grid at Hampton Downs

trials and the best two results count. The championship, and not all drivers compete for the overall championship, is held around the North Island. Mainly Hampton Downs but also Pukekohe and Taupo.

Oh yes, why a fifteen year old MX5? This is because Classic Trials are most regularly competed for in the classic side of motorsport in New Zealand, hence the name, and there are age restrictions applying to the cars. The minimum age of a car able to compete is fifteen years applying from the date the model was first sold to the public. This means an NB less than fifteen years old can be trialed and NC's can't until late 2020 with the NC facelift model not becoming eligible until late 2023.

There is a three step approach to getting involved. Step one, for more information go to the Classic Trial web site www.clublotus.org.nz/classictrial. Step two, contact the Classic Trial Director by making an enquiry via the web site. Finally have fun. 🌀

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

MX5 members from around NZ gathered at Mazda NZ HQ in Auckland recently for the club's AGM.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: BRENDA WHITE

Welcome to the 2018 AGM of the MX5 Club of NZ.

Thank you for coming along this morning and a special thank you to those people who have made a big effort and travelled a long way to be here from our other regions, I really appreciate it.

I would like to begin by thanking some people that we can't function without — firstly Glenn and the Mazda crew for their hospitality today and throughout the year, and of course their unfailing support and generosity to the club. They continue to support us both financially with sponsorship of National Events and on a personal level too. I will miss Glenn calling me "boss" whenever we have met at Mazda for our monthly meetings.

I would like to thank the committee for their tireless efforts in being the driving force of the club. Without these people giving up their spare time the club wouldn't exist. A special thank you to Trish for filling the role of Treasurer in recent times and to Willie Williamson who has decided after many long years of being our Membership co-ordinator, that it's time to hang up his hat.

We have several committee members standing down today and I would like to thank them for committing to the club and giving up their time and energy.

I would like to once again congratulate Vicky Powell for the high standard to which she produces the Topdown magazine. It seems to improve with every issue. The Digital version of Topdown is proving popular with members with approx. 7% of renewed members foregoing their printed copy. I would now also like to thank Paul Donovan for hosting the digital magazine through his company at no cost to the club.

My thanks also goes out to all our Regional Co-ordinators who give up their time to organise events for all

of us. We couldn't do it without them. Also, to the National Conference committee hosted by Denis Crossman and Keith Jones who have a busy few months ahead of them organising this joint event, which will be amazing.

I hope that you all have had a chance to view and use the new website, my apologies if things aren't always perfect — that is actually my fault — anyone with any expertise in this field will be welcome to give me some assistance. The goal is to get it to the point where all registrations for events can be completed online and also so that photos and information can be more easily shared between members.

Over the last year, as you will know from reading your Topdown from front to back, we have participated in many and varied events and continued to travel the length and breadth of the country, raising money for charity, raising hell at other times. Our membership continues to be steady at approx. 412 cars nationwide, which hasn't fluctuated greatly for the last few years. We have continued our membership with the Federation of Motoring Clubs who have been instrumental in the implementation of the health and safety upgrade that we have been working on and improving over the last 18 months or so.

Some particular highlights for me personally in 2017/2018 were winning 2nd place at the Classic Car Show in Ellerslie, with our dress up as WW2 mechanics albeit in the pouring rain. And of course the BoSITT tour around the bottom of the Sth Island for 2 weeks in April and in general getting to know a lot more of our members from all over the country. This did bring up a few issues, one of which I have put on the agenda for discussion today, how can we strive to keep our South Island counterparts on a level playing field regarding National Events.

I have always been proud to belong to this club and to have served as

your President since 2012. I will miss working with everyone who has been on the Committee at different times. I've tried to work to a "continual curve of improvement" theory — always looking forward and striving to set up the inner workings of the club so that with changes to committee the focus is not lost but instead can be carried on with, seamlessly and professionally, and so that, for committee members — the roles they take on are not so onerous.

It's time for some new blood and a new outlook for the club and I'm quite sure everyone's sick of hearing from me so you will find me in the background from here on in. I have loved every minute of it. I would especially like to thank a few people for their unfailing support and friendship over the last 8 years in the club, 7 of which I've been on the committee even though in the beginning I don't think I even had speaking rights.....but you can't keep a bossy woman down for long...look where that got memy special thanks go out to Morrin and Hutchie, who have always been my stand-in dads with their very sensible outlook on all things and for keeping me on an even keel when things got a little tricky. Also, Frank for his sense of fun and for also being another sensible/guiding influence for me when I probably could have chucked it all in and of course the divine Miss M, whose laughter, friendship and advice I will treasure.

We have another exciting year coming up with the Driver Training weekend on the 6 Oct.... always a fun and educational weekend enjoyed by national members, and of course the Nationals in March next year, which will be updated by Denis Crossman in General Business later in the meeting.

BRENDA WHITE, PRESIDENT
(OUTGOING PRESIDENT)

The remaining AGM reports will feature in the next issue of TopDown.

THE STARS...

WORLD FAMOUS IN THE MX5 CLUB ...

BACK UP THE BUS (OR SHOULD WE SAY MX5) TO 21/4/2001

BY NIGEL EVERY

It was interesting to read the article in a recent edition of Topdown about Hutch's car being used in an Advert.

Back in 2001 we were approached to provide MX5's for the making of a Gregg's coffee Advert to be filmed in the Manukau Mall carpark.

The story line was that a driver was patiently waiting for a car that was reversing out of a park when a Blonde (Shortland Street Actress) in a red MX5 pulled into the park. The irate lady that had been waiting then proceeded to drive into the back of the MX5 sending it forward out of the park with a now very mangled rear end.

To achieve the result as per the story line meant that we needed to provide two identical MX5's and parts from a written off third car. The day started off very early with us leaving Hamilton in the two cars along with all the extra bits and pieces.

On arrival at Manukau we had to remove the boot lid, rear bumper and lights from the second car and replace them with the mangled pieces from the 3rd car to make it look like it had been rear ended.

The filming took the whole day and to ensure continuity, the carpark was closed for the day and all spaces were filled with cars. A whole days filming for an advert, how do they film three-hour epic films?

At the end of filming, we then had to revert the rear end of the second MX5 back to original so we could drive home without drawing the attention of the boys in blue.

As mentioned in the article about Hutch's car, it was amazing to be part of the day and see just what has to go into making an advert and the masses of people involved.

For a bit of nostalgia, you can have a look at the advert on Youtube www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEwV5pmPpQQ or just search "Greggs coffee advert" 🌀



SMILE....



MAKE-UP...



OOPS...



THE OTHER CAR...

TARANAKI REPORT:

YOU WILL SEE RED

TARANAKI RUN: 10 JUNE
2018 // REPORT AND PHOTOS
BY KAZ BRUCE // RUN
LEADER NEIL GOODWIN

Neil always manages to find yet another unique collection in the 'wilds of Taranaki', his only clue this time "You Will See Red".

Sunday Morning we all met at the 'Inflame Café' on Main Street, Eltham at 9.30ish for morning tea and a chat. After an hour or so 16 MX5's moved off and followed Neil through the countryside to Hunter Road and the "all things Fire Brigade Collection" of Denis



Lined up @ Stratford while lunching



Thou shalt never be eaten

Alexander. Denis had spent a long career in the NZ Fire Service and had started his collecting from childhood. It was very interesting browsing around his vast collection. He even has the cake that was made for his retirement (a Red Fire Engine of course) and NO it will never be eaten. When we had our fill of 'RED' Neil continued leading us out and about on the country roads of



Our Leaders RED MX5

South Taranaki, something you can never tire of in an MX5. We had our own two fire engine RED MX5's there on the day, Neil's NC and Raewyn's NA.

Our destination for lunch was the MITRE 10 Café in Stratford, good hot drinks, yummy food and good company after a winter mornings jaunt, which once again we were fortunate to be able to do 'Tops down'. 🌦



KIHIKIHI SPACE CENTRE

TARANAKI RUN: 10 JUNE 2018 // REPORT BY GRANT ROE // PHOTOS BY KAZ BRUCE // RUN LEADER GRANT ROE

Leaving New Plymouth on a showery Sunday morning 12 cars headed northwards to Mokau for our morning tea stop at Whitebait Inn. After a quick coffee and cake we once again hit the road north. At PioPio we turned off the main highway and travelled on some more interesting tarmac than SH3. These roads were made for our fantastic handling cars, just a pity the roads were damp.

We lunched at O Café in

Otorohanga. The staff were very obliging and served delish food in a timely manner. A quick walk through the Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway and we were once again heading north to the Kihikihi Space Centre just south of Te Awamutu.

The Space Centre is located in an old church building on SH3 and is open most weekends. This Centre was set up several years ago by Dave, who has the same passion

for all things Space and astronomy that we have for our MX5's. The exhibits and interactive displays will keep anyone visiting the Centre enthralled for hours.

When everyone had had their fill of the Space Centre we headed towards home, stopping for a last Coffee at Stoked Eatery in Te Kuiti. Couldn't do much about the weather, but otherwise a grand day was had by all. 🌦



Enjoying Space in 3D

BOP REPORT:

JUNE RUN

BAY OF PLENTY RUN: 10 JUNE 2018 //
REPORT BY GLENYS FENTON // PHOTOS
VIA FACEBOOK

On Sunday 10th June, 14 cars met at the Western Bay Council carpark for an excursion over to Te Aroha to visit Adrian Worsley's Gallery.

On the way we picked up Jeff & Chelle's pink MX5 at the bottom of the Kaimai's.

We travelled along Highway 27 for a short distance turning onto Old Te Aroha Road. Our first stop was to view the Kaimai Tunnel Disaster Memorial. Work began on this Railway line 2nd October 1965 linking the Waikato to the Bay of Plenty. Sadly four men lost their lives whilst working on this project. The line was formally opened on 12 September 1978 by the then Prime Minister R.H Muldoon.

A short distance along we stopped at Gordon to view the NAC- DC- 3 Memorial. This disaster happened on the 3 July 1963 - where 23

passengers and crew were killed in what remains the worst air crash within New Zealand.

From here we travelled along the countryside on a rather bleak day into Te Aroha where we had arranged to visit Adrian Worsley's Gallery. On arrival we were swamped by Mustang cars, but luckily, they moved on to their next adventure.

Adrian had parked outside his building on a trailer his creation of 18 months – a full sized bull. One had to see this bull to admire Adrian's talents. The bull was created using a huge variety of metal parts. These parts came from a very extensive collection of metal parts that Adrian has

carefully stored in this building. The parts range from vehicle parts through to old farm machinery of days gone by, including some household items, bikes, lawnmowers and tools. It was very interesting viewing his huge collection of metal items. Inside he had another creation – a horse yet to be fully completed. He has an artist working alongside him who has also an amazing talent.

After spending sometime at the Gallery we had lunch at Austins Bar and Bistro in Te Aroha where everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. ☼





The True Colours Children's Trust has been chosen as the Charity to support as part of our National Rally. The Trust is a Waikato based health care organisation funded entirely by community generosity. The dedicated and compassionate staff at True Colours ensure that the right mix of care is provided to support children and families through chronic, life-limiting or life-threatening illness.

DETAILS

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH – MONDAY 11 MARCH 2019

Jointly hosted by Northern and Waikato.

Registrations will open on 31st August 2019 on the MX5 Club Website. An email will be sent to all members advising that registrations are open.

The price has been set at \$250 per person, this includes all meals and activities for the weekend. Accommodation and drinks are in addition.

All activities will be based at the Hamilton Airport Hotel and Conference Centre.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY : 3.30PM REGISTRATION

Registration, Meet and Greet followed by drinks and a light meal

SATURDAY :

Four runs to choose from. All these scenic routes with spectacular scenery, awesome MX5 roads

1. **Kaiaua** (On Firth of Thames) Great drive of approx 250km through North Waikato, lunch at Bay View Hotel Kaiaua, return more interesting roads

2. **South Waikato**. Interesting drive through the South Waikato Backblocks of around 215km on some quiet roads going as far south as Piopio, lunch at Waitomo Club Te Kuiti, chance to view Colin Meads Statue in Te Kuiti.

3. **Nikau Caves**. Approx 170km Drive to Caves which are situated south of Port Waikato. Lunch at the Nikau Café. Visit to the Caves optional at extra cost.

4. **Okoroire/ Hobbiton Run**. Drive of approx 220km heading south and arriving at Okoroire Hot Springs Hotel for lunch. Return to Hamilton Airport Hotel via Hobbiton. Visit to Hobbiton optional at extra cost.

Dinner and Entertainment Saturday Night at Vilagrad Winery, Bus Transport from Airport Hotel and return.

SUNDAY : Mass Drive to Leadfoot Ranch at Hahei

Dinner at Hamilton Airport Hotel followed by Auction

MONDAY : Breakfast and Farewells

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been arranged for those who require it at the Hamilton Airport Hotel and Conference Centre 201 Airport Road Hamilton that will be the Headquarters for the event.

» Bookings will open on **31 August 2018** the same date as Registrations.
» Bookings will be able to be made by email to : reservations@hamiltonairporthotel.co.nz or

Freephone 0800 10 66 79, mention Mazda MX5.

The following rooms are available:

- » Std Studios (30 Available) \$105 p/n
- » Exec. Studios (20 Available) \$120 p/n
- » 1 Br Apartment (4 Available) \$120 p/n
- » 2 Br Apartment (3 Available) \$130 p/n
- » 3 Br Apartment (1 Available) \$180 p/n

CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE: WWW.HAMILTONAIRPORTHOTEL.CO.NZ





NELSON/TASMAN REPORT:

TREASURES IN OUR BACKYARD

NELSON & TASMAN RUN: 24 JUNE 2018 // REPORT BY GAYLENE ST JOHN // PHOTOS BY HAROLD MASON //

When we gathered at WOW, there was a rainbow in the sky to match the rainbow colour of cars (13 in total). What an amazing morning. We did indeed find “treasures in our backyard” and it’s fair to say the time we spent with Bob Wagner was mind-blowing!

We saw planes he has constructed (from kitset) or restored. His mechanical hands-on expertise and skill in finding solutions was the classic equivalent to the Kiwi attitude of using No.8 wire. Also, his determination in working through bureaucratic bump to acquire the best deal was inspiring and amusing. One example of his tenacity and research skills was finding the best wood (spruce v western hemlock). He talked with a dry sense of humour and what came through was his knowledge and experience that he willingly shared.

Thank you Jill and Kevin for organising this event and

revealing the treasures we have in our community. We sincerely thank Bob for spending time to “show and tell”. He was quick to say he didn’t want anything from our group as a thank you and suggested a donation to the local Alzheimers Society, would be appreciated.

We then drove through heavy rain for lunch at the Tapawera Pub. It was great to see the regenerated community support for this central venue. We would certainly recommend you list the Pub on your “places to go to”, especially for the choice of \$8 meals (or specials at \$16), plus the quick and friendly service.

We dodged the heavy rain and puddles to head out to the Gallery owned by Ann & Paul Daniels. They had amazing lego examples, witty art work (wooden plaques quoting “some things don’t get fini....”), and impressive



photography. The photos and lego work on Adrian Barbour’s website www.bm-mocs.com show why the visit was very worthwhile.

Thanks Ann and Paul for your hospitality at the Gallery and your company at Toad Hall, Motueka where we enjoyed afternoon tea. Here there were organic vegetables, choices of slices, cakes or real ice cream to tempt. Although it rained mightily the deluge was a good reason to enjoy talking to each other in the covered outdoor area that overlooks a playground. This will be a very popular space for families and groups, no matter what season. 🌀

MIDWINTER CELEBRATION...

12 MONTHS OF ROADSTER FUN

TARANAKI RUN: 28 JULY 2018 // REPORT BY KAZ BRUCE //
PHOTOS BY LYNDA BELL // RUN LEADERS KAZ BRUCE &
GRANT ROE

The Taranaki Region has once again wrapped up another 12 months of enjoying driving our iconic Roadsters.

As our members are spread all around Taranaki a group of us departed the outskirts of New Plymouth in the morning and drove down Surf Highway 45 to Opunake where we met the South Taranaki members for morning tea at 'Headlands Cafe' and a chinwag. We had time to spare before lunching at 'Colonel Malone's Cafe' in Stratford so for the next hour and a quarter Grant Roe led 14 cars on a spontaneous drive around our marvellous south Taranaki roads so wonderfully suited to our favourite car. Once

again we were able to drive tops down with beautiful views of Mt. Taranaki to enjoy. A couple of our members met up with us at lunchtime. We were also able to celebrate four birthdays.

This is the end of my third year as coordinator and I am pleased to report that for the last 12 months the Taranaki Region has had 12 Day Runs, 2 Weekenders, a couple of cars went on a South Island trip and we had one car go up to the AGM in Auckland.

We are all looking forward to the next twelve months worth of adventures in our MX5's. So following our lunch with lots of good cheer and friendship we



headed off in various directions home. 🌀

MX5 TOUR TO AND FROM THE NATIONALS

4TH MARCH 2019 TO 14TH MARCH 2019

Format.....

Monday 4th March.....Arrive in Masterton.....Buffet Group Dinner that evening

Tuesday 5th.....Masterton to Napier

Wednesday 6th.....Napier....Free Day

Thursday 7th.....Napier to Awakeri Springs....via East Cape or Waioeka Gorge

Friday 8th.....Awakeri to Hamilton for the Nationals

Saturday/Sunday.....**NATIONALS**

Monday 11th.....Hamilton to New Plymouth...via Tauramanui and Whangamomoana

Tuesday 12th.....New Plymouth.....Free Day

Wenesday 13th.....New Plymouth to Kapiti Coast.....Final Dinner Night

Thursday 14th.....Head Homeward



Please register if you are interested in doing some or all of this tour by email to Glyn and Cathy Clements...(email cbz1@xtra.co.nz) and we will put you on the mailing list for accommodation and updates as they come to hand.

MARLBOROUGH REPORT:

RUN TO PORT UNDERWOOD

MARLBOROUGH RUN: JULY 2018 //
REPORT & PHOTOS KINDLY SUPPLIED
BY NELSON HEYWOOD

The July Run was planned for Sunday 1 July, with a run to picturesque Port Underwood and back to Picton for lunch and a chat. The route directions were planned with Quiz questions to answer along the way. You just needed to be careful of the "Dad Joke" questions. Thinking of the answer may distract you from the next question. "What do corduroy pillowcases make?"

Well the weather in July can be a bit challenging. On the Sunday 1 July the weather was gloomy and rainy. A few responders thought the following weekend looked more favourable, so I agreed to re-run the run on Saturday 7 July. Because cars might be planning to run on 1 July but hadn't responded, I intended to do the run on both Sunday 1 July and Saturday 7 July.

Sunday 1 July. One bright yellow NA, driven by Des, turned up in Blenheim for the run. So, Des and I trundled off to Picton in our cars to see if we could snare any others crazy enough to join us. Sadly, there was no-one. Des and I set off, with Des answering Quiz Questions about things you see along the road to Port Underwood. (How many children did Queen Charlotte have? 15!)

The weather was drizzly and even became foggy in one part. The road was quiet as most sensible people were doing other things. After getting to Port Underwood, there was only a couple of questions remaining. Des, how many corners are there between Port Underwood and the Waikawa Reserve??

The Quiz Master insists that applying opposite lock to the steering when you are having "a bit of a go" does not count as another corner. 236! The Quiz Master thinks you were straight lining some of the wiggles.

Saturday 7 July. The weather was still threatening, but we still managed to assemble a small convoy. My NB, Dick and Annie in their NC and Ivan & Shirley preferring a Highlander to their NC, heading to Picton where we were joined by Stan and Nola in their NC and Allen in his recently acquired NB.

Unfortunately, Allen was looking for a part for his caravan, and had to go to Blenheim to find it instead of joining the run. We sheltered under a veranda at the Mariners Mall for the briefing and to hand out the Quiz. We agreed that the weather was not encouraging, but we were going anyway.

The photos tell some of the story of the weather and the days. At Port Underwood, one of the questions was about the electricity transmission lines that go over the valley on their way from Benmore in Otago to the submarine cable crossing to the North Island. It turns out that Annie's father was part of the transmission line construction management team. Annie shared with us that, as a child, she was required to assemble many sets of a bolt, a



washer and a nut. And then there were copper tubes which needed to have screws fitted to threads through the side of the tube for joining the cables end-to-end. It was wonderful to hear of her part in constructing this piece of major infrastructure.

We returned to Picton, counting corners along the way. We met for a pie, a coffee and a chat in the Bakehouse Café in the main street of Picton. All 3 of those things were good. The Quiz Master checked the answers and chuckled to himself at some of them. It was fun to hear us light-heartedly arguing about the answers of the quiz. Was that door on the shed at Rapid 271 yellow, cream, brownie-yellow?

And the big question of the day "how many corners are there between Port Underwood and the Waikawa Reserve?? Well, the Quiz Master's Official Answer is "I lost count. Somewhere about 250".

And those pillowcases make Headlines. And corduroy underwear makes Bottomlines!

Many thanks to Nelson for organising another fun quiz run. 🌀

KAPITI REPORT:



MIDWINTER MULLED WINE SUNDAY

KAPITI REPORT: 22ND JULY 2018 //
REPORT BY MARK TREVEAN //
PHOTOS BY GAYE FORSTER //



Nine MX5s and a Jaguar XK8 turned out for a mulled wine and BBQ meeting at Ceinwen and Godfrey's Place. It was a chilly yet clear day which started at the Ground Up Café in Pauatahanui with all of those there happy to enjoy the camaraderie of another Kapiti club day out.

Brisk on the outside of the Café, but too hot inside, twenty intrepid MX5ers well wrapped up in their outdoor jackets headed for a tour around to Titahi Bay beach and environs. The tour included some very rudimentary pot holed roads alongside a windy but clearly unpolluted coast line.

As a the new driver of a recently

acquired Jaguar XK8, my great disappointment was that it did not have four wheel drive, nor the agility of my usual MX5 (which of course I have retained!) Still it was fun negotiating a bit of "rough road" which we all managed as shown above. People were happy with the beach view and day's outing.

We then continued on to the top of the hill site where the old National Radio New Zealand Transmission Station was. Unfortunately, the building is no more and we were all parked on the old foundations.

A climb to the top on the left of the picture above allowed good views of the Kapiti coast line and

on a clear day, Kapiti Island can be seen from there. This was an invigorating walk given the chilled wind and we were happy to return to our vehicles tops up or down!

We then continued on to Ceinwen and Godfrey's place in Papakowhai. We all had a late lunch and enjoyable BBQ with superb mulled wine which had been carefully prepared over a hot stove, to warm the cockles on a winters day!

Thanks to Ceinwen for organising the day out and to Gaye for providing the photos.

The day was a great success, everyone had a wonderful time. 🌞

BOP REPORT:



TIRAU MUSEUM AND LUNCH

BAY OF PLENTY RUN: 8 JULY 2018 // REPORT BY DOROTHY LOCKE // PHOTOS VIA FACEBOOK

Sunday the 8th July seven cars meet at The Funky Lizard Cafe. The morning was fresh, but a warm log fire welcomed us.

We ordered coffee and while waiting for service were able to view the various local artworks.

With coffee consumed and time ticking by we headed off to meet the four cars waiting for us at the Hamurana Reserve.

Loo stop for some, chatting and welcoming new members Ron and

Marion Jones from Rotorua. Then off to The Tirau Museum taking a back road or two.

Owned by Goeff and Robyn Ernst it began over 50 years ago as a hobby for collecting, now grown into a display filling more than 13000sq feet of buildings.

We spent a while wondering and viewing the large collection of history items from Shop displays, Machinery, Housewares, Agriculture, Local history and

much more.

The Ladies began to feel the cold, so it was time to head off to the warmth of our Lunch stop The Okoroire Hot Springs Hotel.

On arriving while waiting for our table there was more time for socialising. Lunch was bar meals served in their lovely old Dining Room.

Thanks to the 21 members who joined in our History Day. 🌀



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ART DECO TOUR



HAWKES BAY: 17 JUNE 2018 // REPORT BY MIKE HURLEY // PHOTOS BY ROSEMARY HURLEY

Sunday 17th, fine but a bit cool. Today we are meeting up at the Aquarium of New Zealand on the Marine Parade in Napier for a mystery tour organised by Tim and Elaine. All we know is that it will be "local", as against a long drive somewhere. This should be interesting!

Elaine sets the mood with a short briefing telling us that this morning we will be touring the Art Deco area of Napier looking at wall murals, and that some walking is involved. That had us thinking??!!

During 2016 the Napier City Council commissioned some local and overseas artists to paint murals on selected buildings, with the theme of sea scenes, calling it seascape.

We haven't even got out of the carpark and we are off on our first short walk to inspect the outside

of the aquarium building and the octopus and fish scenes depicted on it, some being several metres high.

Then into the cars and off for a drive around back alleys and car parks looking at these fantastic murals. A few short walks included, then it's off up Bluff Hill to the lookout for a coffee and a natter.

After a short break it is off back down the hill and around into Port Ahuriri with more back alleys and carparks. These murals have to be seen to be believed. Then it's off through Westshore, a couple more murals then hit the road heading up the SH5 Napier to Taupo Road. I wonder where lunch will be at? Can't be going through to Taupo, can we?

No, top end of the Esk valley and stop at the Deco Café. My

memories of this place are from a couple of years back and are not too flash, so there is a wee bit of uneasiness in the tummy dept. No need to worry, the name change heralds that it has recently changed hands and has been upgraded.

A nice meal, much nattering and then on the road again for a long meandering country road's detour which returns us back to the Napier foreshore again. Here we split up to make our own way home.

Just goes to show you can have a really good day without having to clock up heaps of k's. Some of us didn't even know there were so many of the murals around the city centre.

A great time doing something different, thanks Elaine and Tim. 🌟



KEVAN DUDSON CAR COLLECTION

KAPITI RUN: 17 JUNE 2018 // REPORT BY
CEINWEN AND GODFREY

About 10 cars met at the Hutt River carpark on a chilly morning. Mark drew our attention to the sheen of his paintwork after treatment with last month's car products.

A pity we all had to drive through full potholes to reach the car park!

We met more folks at Wild Oats in Carterton, where we occupied most of the upstairs area.

After a short drive around some of Carterton's back roads, 15 cars reached the Kevan Dudson Car Collection. This large warehouse is home for a splendid range of classic and collectible

cars, beautifully restored. It is a family concern now after the passing of Kerry, and is now run by his son Kevan and daughter Tracey.

We were encouraged to open car doors and have a good look inside.

A group of ladies seized the opportunity to sit in a Morris Minor, declaring "I want one". Perhaps we need a sub section within the Club for ladies and their Morris.

A bit early for lunch, we set off



for another back road spin, and reached the Greytown Working Men's Club for roast dinner or fish and chips. This was carefully organised by Sharon and the staff, so all our meals were pre ordered and ready for serving, in a heated dining room just for us. Great job for 30 or so diners.

Thank you Sharon for a most enjoyable day out, well done. 🚗

WHICH MX-5 MODEL HAVE I GOT ?



Model	Model Code	Production Dates	Main Distinguishing Features
Mk1	NA	1989 – 1998	Pop up head lights
Mk2	NB	1998 – 2000	Fixed headlights
Mk2.5	NB-FL	2001 – 2005	Openings for fog lamps in the front bumper
Mk3	NC	2005 – 2008	Complete redesign with the car being longer and wider
Mk3.5	NC-FL	2009 – 2013	Larger grille opening and "leaf" shaped fog lamp openings
Mk3.75	NC-FL2	2013 – 2015	Even larger grille opening and squarer fog lamp openings
Mk4	ND	2015 on	Awesome new looks

SOURCE: www.mx5parts.co.uk



MANAWATU REPORT:



UPUK RUN

MANAWATU RUN: JUNE 2018 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY DENISE AND PETER GRIFFITHS // RUN BY SUE AND GREG COLLIER

In spite of the cold forecast we had seven cars lined up in Feilding before heading off at 9am to Upokongaro for a coffee and regroup. Joy and Rod phoned to say they were delayed a little (something to do with sleep). Any way we all met up with Trev and Jac at the 4Forty4 Café in anticipation of improving weather to start the run.

Sue and Greg handed out our instruction sheets, we left a few minutes early to see if we could get a few nice photos as the sun looked like it may just make a small appearance as the day progressed. We headed up SH4 to Raetihi then turned towards Pipiriki for a comfort stop.

Pipiriki is a settlement on the east bank of the Whanganui River, due west of the town of Raetihi and 79 kilometres upriver from Whanganui. There is much history around the use of paddle steamers to traverse this river.

In the 1840s Pipiriki was a large stockaded settlement, the second largest on the Whanganui River, consisting of eight pā with a total population of 250–300. Wheat was a major crop from 1848 onward, and the water-powered Kaukore flour mill was built in 1854. In 1865 three redoubts across the river were besieged for several weeks by Pai Mārire warriors.

Pipiriki was an important part of the riverboat trade in the 1890s–1920s, marking a major

stop for paddle steamers making the 11-hour journey from Whanganui

We stopped a few times to get photos, the scenery in this part of NZ is wonderful, so much raw native bush and history.

We headed south along the Wanganui River Rd which runs along sides the river giving wonderful views along the way. There were a couple of sections of road works where recent flood damage was being repaired, those that went too fast had a big job cleaning their cars when they got home. The river was a little dirty due to the recent rain. Thanks Greg for the loan of your water blaster.

Along this road you travel through Jerusalem, named for the Biblical Jerusalem (in Māori, Hiruhārama), a settlement 66 kilometres up the river from Whanganui. Originally called Patiarero, it was one of the largest settlements on the Whanganui River in the 1840s, with several hundred Ngāti Hau inhabitants of the iwi Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī. Unlike other Whanganui River settlements given transliterated place names by Reverend Richard Taylor in the 1850s, Jerusalem is usually referred to using the English version of its name. It grew into several small settlements, including Roma (Rome) and Peterehama (Bethlehem), founded by the remains of Taylor's congregation after the majority

converted to Catholicism when a Roman Catholic mission was built in 1854.

Jerusalem was the isolated site where, in 1892, Suzanne Aubert (better known as Mother Mary Joseph) established the congregation of the Sisters of Compassion. They became a highly respected charitable nursing/religious order. A convent remains on the mission property, as well as the church which replaced the original building destroyed by fire in 1888, and Sisters of Compassion still care for them.

New Zealand poet James K. Baxter and many of his followers formed a community at Jerusalem in 1970, which disbanded in 1972 after Baxter's death. Baxter is buried there.

We found a great spot with views of the river and only had to wait about five minutes before the first of the cars came though by now the day was becoming quite pleasant although still chilly.

We all meet up at the Avoca Hotel, Upokongaro where a very welcome roaring fire, good food and some refreshments awaited us.

A great big thankyou to Sue and Greg for this run, it would also be an exceptional run to do in early Autumn with the leaves changing and of course on a typically gorgeous Manawatu day. 🌻



Lotus Cortina and 315 Consul Capri Coupe.



The replica Cortina GT 500 race car.

FORDS AND DONUTS

NELSON/TASMAN RUN: 21ST JULY 2018 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY ASH PRICE //

A mid-winter run to organise. Even in sub-tropical Tasman, there was a good chance of wintry weather, so what to do? Eating, drinking, perhaps a car collection to visit – well that sounds like a plan. All indoor activities, so even if the weather plays up, all is not lost. All MX-5s are waterproof, as we know.

So, on a Saturday for a change, 12 cars gathered at our usual meeting place in the WOW carpark, under grey skies. No rain yet, despite the forecast! Two crews - Nelson, Karen & Simon – had already encountered rain coming over from Blenheim. “Not in Nelson” we over-confidently said.....

Ash & Sandra led the convoy through the Moutere Hills to Motueka. First stop was a real taste treat – the famous donuts at The Smoking Barrel cafe. Around 20 flavours, and all freshly made that morning – only 3 couples had tried them before and everyone else was surprised and delighted. While we were enjoying our coffee break, the threatened rain showers finally arrived, though this didn't damper our spirits as we drove the 3 km to our next stop – Richard Horrell's impressive collection of British Fords in 3 very large sheds on his rural property.

Richard has been amassing these Fords for nearly 30 years -it all

started when he modified Anglias and Cortinas as a teenager with his brother. His collection now amounts to over 70 cars, he is frequently offered more cars to buy, from contacts around NZ and in Australia. Most are in very good shape, though Richard has at least 2 cars at a local panel shop at any one time, being restored to top condition. Business pressures means that the cars are tightly packed into sheds and most have gathered a layer of dust, though there are plans to address this soon, with a new shed soon to come, to allow more space for the collection.

He regularly drives his Fords on classic car rallies in NZ, Australia and Europe; he believes that cars need to be driven, and intends to ultimately have all his cars fit and ready for the road.

Richard's cars include: 100E Anglia, 105E Anglias, Escorts Mk 1 & 2, Cortinas Mk1 – 5, including 3 Lotus Cortinas, 3 GTs, a 1600E and a rare Crayford Mk 3 convertible, Sierras including an XR4Ti and an RS Cosworth, Zephyrs & Zodiacs Mk1-4, a range of Granadas, Capri Mk 3, various Corsair 1600s & V4s, including a GT and an estate, Consul 315 2 & 4 doors and a 315 Capri Coupe. More unusual cars include a South African Sierra-based P100 ute, a V8 Pilot, Transit

van, a Paul Radisich special Telstar V6, even a 1960 German Ford Taunus 17M Turnier Estate in right hand drive! Another German Ford is a late 60s Taunus 20M hardtop.

Richard is also building up a replica Cortina Mk 1 GT500, similar to the one which won Bathurst's Armstrong 500 in 1965. (Cortina GTs also won the Armstrong 500 in 1963 and 1964.) Oh, and Richard also has an NA MX-5 in the shed, plus a collection of 25 old Massey Ferguson tractors, which are all regularly used in Richard's orchards each season!

Still staggered at the size of what is probably the largest private Ford collection in New Zealand, we drove off, back up the Moutere Valley to the Moutere Inn, one of the oldest pubs in the South Island, and a regular lunch stop for many of us. Their great chef always provides much more than just regular pub meals, to go with their selection of nearly 30 craft beers on tap.

Yes, it was still raining when we emerged for the drive home, and no, it didn't bother us at all. As always, the monthly drive was a great excuse to meet up with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy our wonderful MX-5s, whatever the weather. ☀

NORTHERN REPORT:

TARGA TOUR THOUGHTS

NORTHERN RUN: 29TH JULY 2018 //
REPORT & PHOTOS BY ALLAN BOOT //

As a club member for about six years at least, but having only attended a very small number of events, my interest was really piqued when I saw this run advertised. "Come experience some of the roads used in the Targa rally in South Auckland."

I'm in.

I'd purchased a fairly new RF about 10 days prior and haven't decided what to do with my NA so it was a great opportunity to offer it to a good friend and his wife (Rob and Rosemary) to come and join us. Robs an ex-rally whiz from Australia and had last driven an MX5 25 years ago. My partners not really a "car girl" but I convinced her that it would be fun.

It was!

I messaged friends – also a club member (Avon and John) and on the day they said yep they were in too, so I printed some more instructions for them and we off.

Like a lot of things much of the fun is the anticipation and planning and we rolled up into the BP at the allotted time to see a carpark full of gleaming MX5's of all different varieties and lots of happy smiling faces. The weather hadn't been great, but it looked like a window where we could go top down (even in an RF) and we were blessed. The rain came as we sat down for lunch at the end.

People made us very welcome and we met more old friends whom we didn't even realise had an MX5.

Briefing was done nice and professionally and then we were

off, and I mean off. We sauntered back to our two cars and by the time we had done seatbelts up we were the last to leave with Keith tail end Charlie. With around 35 cars it was a great turnout.

We soon caught up to others and overtook quite a few as they made errant navigational errors and eventually got into a really nice group of 5 or 6 travelling at the same pace.

Exploring winding back country roads with good elevation changes, the top down and the smells of cows, sheep, sileage wafting around, whilst making sure we kept up with those in front was real fun.

I'm told there were lots of lambs sprongling around and some great vistas but my eyes were glued to the road and watching the various chassis work on the cars in front and my old NA right behind. I found it fascinating and started to get to grips with how this new car went vs my old one.

Have to say I was very impressed with the RF. Also have to say I still love my old NA.

The tulip diagrams were excellent and really there was no excuse for getting lost was there...

Some of these roads were completely new to us and isn't that the great thing about club runs, you go places you wouldn't normally and experience some real NZ.

After a very satisfying blast around



at speeds that wouldn't likely cost you your licence but were guaranteed to put a smile on your dial we arrived at the Mercer destination where we had lunch.

Judging by all the laughter and smiles, we weren't the only ones that loved it so a very well done to the organisers.

Rob and Rosemary bought raffle tickets as did our friends Avon and John and couldn't believe our luck with all 3 couples from the same table winning prizes. I think I'm going to keep both cars for now so we can continue to share the club environment with others. I might have to fight Rob and Rosemary off as they had a great time.

A quick look at a couple of very well presented MX5's before the rain came and then the slog back up the southern motorway, why oh why does it come to a stand still at 3.00pm on a Sunday afternoon?

Its time for us to do more club events so if you're like us and haven't been for a while, make the commitment.

I'm pleased that we are already registered for the Taupo Drivers Day and im looking forward to watching Kay get a huge smile driving the RF. 🌟

MINI TARGA RUN

NORTHERN RUN: 29 JULY 2018 // REPORT
BY AVON AND JOHN HANSEN- BEADLE //
PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE

Picture it; a 'sunny' Sunday morning, masses (multitudes?) of multicoloured MX5s parked in rows outstaring the adjacent cluster of chromium classic cars with the same idea - head off into the wild blue yonder. Waikato here we come.

Hot tip for newbies/ pick a red car to follow - easier than relying on instructions or speedo.

One benefit of the excursion; you take roads you'd never usually consider ('the road less travelled?').

32 cars yep, we counted them - set off on a sunny Sunday morning heading into the Great Unknown. HINT (trap for young players: make sure you calibrate your speedo to zero - we couldn't find it as we zoomed off).

Tops down - heater on full blast to stave off the cold, we skirt the mighty Waikato, heading in the footsteps of those hardy pioneers who might have been a tad surprised at the onslaught of sleek and shiny MX5s. Past verdant fields of brachia (broccoli).

Avon said to mention the lambs already gallivanting in the fields, an early sign of spring.

Past the Rural Support sign we road relentlessly forward, ever in pursuit of the others.

Past Shuggs Landing - this is a boat ramp on Lake Whangape - One source said the name - Whangape translated to 'a large sheet of water' another that it was a chief's name.

From the 1860s the catchment has lost most of its forest cover and the lake has changed from clear and rich in aquatic vegetation to a murky, algal lake.

Oops missed the next turn - yes that was the turnoff at Rotongaro Road - bummer..we missed it!! Do a u turn and there's Keith waiting for us..whew..

And past the sign advertising the Boar and Stag competition..?!? (the mind boggles)



Past the sentinel-like a row of bluegums.

Avon points out - one of the most picturesque drives we've ever done - is this a speciality of a Keith-planned drive?

We thoroughly enjoyed the run especially the views and that's why we were last again. Many thanks to Keith for shepherding us along the way.

Lunch and raffle at the Muddy Waters and our table won three of the four prizes..Happy travellers 🍷

HAMILTON TO WAIHI BEACH FOR LUNCH

WAIKATO REPORT

WAIKATO RUN: 29 JULY 2018 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY GRAEME DENTON (DENTO)

Sunday 29th July was fine but cool and cloudy in Hamilton with rain predicted. However at 10.30am 13 cars headed off East with tops down.

As we went down Puketaha road the joys of open top motoring soon became apparent. The rural smells of fresh silage and cowshed urine certainly cleared the sinuses.

As we proceeded through Morrinsville, Kiwitahi, Walton and Manawaru we passed a red Skyline on the side of the road with all its wheels missing and another small car totally upside down. Obviously, a bad Saturday night for some.

At Paeroa we stopped opposite the L & P bottle and met up with two cars from Thames and two from the Hauraki area. Some time

was spent at Paeroa catching up with old and new friends, comparing cars and having a general chin-wag.

Lunch was booked for 1pm at the Waihi Beach RSA and we headed in that direction via Waihi town and the Golden Valley Road. A total drive of 140km from Hamilton.

At the RSA we met up with Steve and Dorothy who had come through from Tauranga to be with us. Great to see them.

As usual the RSA was very busy, but we had a great buffet meal and they coped with us easily.

After lunch we made our own



Compare ND wheels



MX5s as far as you can see.

ways in various directions after another great MX5 day out.

Thanks to Claude and Lenva for being our Tailenders. 🌀

RUN TO LAKE ARGYLE

MARLBOROUGH RUN: MAY 2018 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY CARYL SIMPSON //

10 cars, 9 MX-5's plus a Corvette, lined up for May's run to Lake Argyle (a small Trustpower hydro-electric storage lake). Despite discovering the gate at the beginning of the road leading around the lake to the picnic area had been locked, we decided to drive up there anyway.

It was a great day for a top down drive up Wairau Valley to the lake. We climbed up the dam at the lake's end and, although the wind was a bit sharp, there was a lovely view up the length of the lake.

After a good look around we headed further up the road to Karen Gonzales' food caravan, a favourite with travellers on the alternative route while the Kaikoura coast road was closed. With plenty of room to form an impressive lineup of cars, and tables and chairs to sit on, it

was a great place to eat. A line quickly formed and orders given for hot food and delicious coffee. After everyone had their meals, Karen came over with an extra free one to share. Since nobody particularly wanted more (they were very filling) but I had forgotten my wallet, they gave it to me. She also came over with a few muffins fresh from the oven ("They are very good. Recipe from Edmonds book!" she exclaimed) and sliced each into 4 to hand around, again for free. She was excited to see the cars lined up and took some selfies with them in the background.

There was a single, flushing, toilet up behind the food caravans. It had



no door but a wide view of the hillside. You either wanted someone to stand guard, or you needed to whistle or sing loudly to warn others when the facility was occupied.

We sat in the sun and happily chatted for some time before individuals headed off, one by one, back home again having had a very enjoyable day out. 🌀



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