

TOPDOWN

2020

Issue 2

From 1960 to 2020

PLUS: KIWI
LIFE DURING
LOCKDOWN

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
THE MX5 CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND
www.mx5carclub.co.nz



WHAT WE DID BEFORE THE LOCKDOWN

**You have to love the stunning weather lately –
Top Down weather at its most glorious best.**

For the January Saturday Kaiarau run we had 29 cars come along, with one each from Waikato and Pauanui. The feedback was awesome. Really good to see prospective young member Jax on an “L” plate drive it with his Dad. Manual NA too. ●

Northern / Auckland

**Report by Allan Boot
Photos by Liely Faulkner**



CONTENTS

MARCH–APRIL 2020

Contributing Guidelines

Feel free to submit articles via email. Articles should be no longer than 900 words.

Include your name (and the article author's name if different), contact details and use full names in text.

If you submit an article, you agree to have it edited as the Editor sees fit.

The NZ MX5 Club does not pay for submissions.

If the article has been published before in any form, please indicate.

TopDown is read by all ages, so take this into account when considering subject material and language.

No article which the Editor or the NZ MX5 Club deems to encourage breaking the law, either directly or by inference, will be printed.

Picture Guidelines

High resolution JPEGs are preferred. (300 dpi). The preferred method for submission of images is by email. 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.

Please Note: The Editor cannot guarantee a date for publication. The above are guidelines only, and may be varied in exceptional circumstances. THE EDITOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.

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4 Club Committee & Regional Co-ordinators

4 Warm welcome to our newest members

5 President and Membership updates

6 Rotorua Vintage Car Show – Bay of Plenty

7 Aero Club & Cape Egmont – Taranaki



8 Little Did We Know – Kapiti Coast

10 “International” MX-5 Run – Waikato



11 Special Guest Run Report – Bay of Plenty

Photo Credits
Front Cover: Mazda

12 Amazing East Cape Run – Combined Regions



17 East Cape Lighthouse – Combined Regions

18 Miata Offroader – USA Correspondent

19 From 1960 to 2020 – Mazda



20 Six Decades of Milestones – Mazda

23 MX-5 Trike – Guest Correspondent

24 2020 Update for Club Merchandise

22 Club Sponsors and “Trade Off” Classifieds

Mazda has started production of the all-new Mazda MX-30, the company's first all-electric vehicle. The MX-30 has been created in response to the increasingly high demand for Electric Vehicles amongst the environmentally conscientious in Europe. It is equipped with e-Skyactiv1 – Mazda's new electric drive technology. The front-wheel-drive powertrain combines a 107kW (145PS) AC synchronous electric motor with a 35.5kWh lithium-ion battery, equipping the new SUV with a driving range of approximately 200km.



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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

A warm welcome to our newest members

Northern / Auckland

John Heaslip
Brian & Jill Spooner
Alex Douglas-Monks & William Kendrick

Waikato / Hamilton

Richard & Maxine Bojars

Hawkes Bay / Napier/Hastings

Nigel Carr & Mary Kane

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Charles Thompson
Jack Steer

Marlborough

Dave Lawrence

Otago

Neil & Letitia Roberts

From the President

I hope you have all kept well during the last few months and not been too frustrated by the lockdown.

Fortunately New Zealand has been able to handle the COVID-19 crisis much more successfully than many other countries. I have relatives in the UK and friends in the USA, and have been finding it difficult to talk about things, with them being in a far worse position than us.

As I write this report we are making good progress in Alert Level 2, with every expectation that the numbers allowed for gatherings will be increased to a point that we can have normal sized runs. In the interim I know that some regions are planning multiple small runs finishing with picnics which comply with the social distancing rules.

With the uncertainty around gatherings, the Committee has delayed arranging a date for the Annual General Meeting. Normally this would be held at the end of June, but the Constitution requires that a minimum of 42 days notice is given to members. As soon as we are sure that the meeting can be legally held, we will advise all members by email.

Just before the Alert Level 4 lockdown was announced I was working on plans for this year's



Driver Training Day. As the event was held at Manfeild last year, we have been looking at the possibility of holding it this year at Hampton Downs and two options have been considered, the National track or the Club track. Expressions of Interest were sought from members and the only economically viable option seems to be the Club track. At this stage I have provisionally booked the track for 3rd October and the registration fee should be around \$150 per driver. More details will be included in the next issue of TopDown with confirmation of the date, cost and details for registration, which will be through the website.

Drive safe and enjoy your MX5.

– **Keith Jones, President**

Membership Update

Hi all from the membership team. This last year we have been using a cloud based membership database and after sorting out the snags have got it running quite well.

For most of you this is a 'so what', but for us it reduced the work load by about 50%. It also allowed the Regional Coordinators to see up-to-date membership details of their regions, and enabled us to take data with us wherever we go as we could access it from a smart phone or tablet.

As I write this I see that the Post Office is going to put up the prices of postage again as they have done last year. We made a decision last year to send out a welcome email instead of a letter with a back copy of Topdown. This as well as holding off until we have everything to send at once has cut back a lot on postage. Covid-19 has of course

put the brakes on in a big way as we were unable to process anything, but hopefully that is now behind us and it is business as usual.

Of course it is now the new financial year and subs are due (\$70 per membership again this year). Please use the website membership renewal system and please remember to pay into the bank using your membership number. That remains the same even if you change cars.

If you can't remember your number (lost your membership card perhaps) then either contact us for it or supply as much info on the bank payment as you can. If your name is not completely unique (ie Jones) then just your name on the bank statement is almost worthless and untrackable. Please remember to update us with any changes.

Looking forward to more trips and hopefully meeting more of you this year.

Happy Zoom Zooming.

– **Donna and Murray, Membership Team**

First, a big thank you to all the contributions to our Lockdown Digital Updates, and to the many kind words about them.

The internet certainly proved to be a valuable communications medium during the lockdown,

From the Editor

and the many examples of companies repurposing their sales channels highlighted the agility of many Kiwis.

No matter how good the

alternatives – for example virtual racing on Gran Turismo, or chatting over garden fences – there will be a huge sigh of relief from me when I can move on from the personal and geographical bubbles.

– **Brian Thurogood, Editor**

Bay of Plenty

We then convoyed towards Rotorua where Peter and Phyl merged into the convoy like a zip as they came from Whakatane (perfect timing).

We parked at the Pig and Whistle restaurant which was to be our place for lunch after we saw the 300 classic cars on display at the waterfront. ●

JANUARY 19TH, 2020

Theo and I decided to go to Rotorua to the Vintage and Veteran Club show to see the classic and collectables cars on display at the Lakefront in Rotorua.

As we hadn't had a run since early December we invited our club members along.

ROTORUA VINTAGE & VETERAN CLUB SHOW



**Report & Photos by
Karen Struiksma**

Theo and I met the Tauranga/ Katikati members at the Tect Park for a brief chat then continued along Pyes Pa Road to Te Waerenga Road (a road Ross Mitchell has never travelled before lol) and on to Hamurana reserve for morning tea as we knew it would be too busy to park together at the lakefront.



STRATFORD AERO CLUB AND CAPE EGMONT

FEBRUARY 23RD, 2020

An early start heading to the Stratford War Memorial Hall car park to gather the 13 cars on the day's run. In fairly cool conditions, we welcomed two new members, Jayden who had been with us on a couple of previous 'trial' runs, and Garry and Robyn who have an NA in superb condition.

From the meet point, Grant T led us around some rarely travelled back streets of Stratford, to the Aero Club. While this may be the only airfield in the world that you access by crossing a farm cattle race, it does house the aero club, the sky divers, the gliders and the remote controlled model aeroplanes clubs.

First off was morning tea with very substantial scones, jam and cream of course. Following this the club's instructor gave us a run-down on activities there. Currently there are 8 students undergoing pilot training with the club.

The instructor who is also a retired aeronautical engineer, also occupies a hanger where he builds planes from kitsets, suitable for pylon racing. He currently has 5 planes under construction. These

**Report & Photos by
Jock Sutherland**

are roughly third scale in size, can be modelled on famous planes (e.g. the Spitfire) and depending on the engine size chosen can be had for around \$100K. Prospective owners can opt to assist with the construction. The visit concluded with 2 of these planes giving a couple of demonstration fly-pasts.

Back in the cars, Alan led us off towards New Plymouth, sticking to back roads as much as possible. Veering off and heading over Carrington Rd via the pass between Mt Taranaki and the Pouakai Range, past Pukeiti, we headed down to the coast at Cape Egmont. Parking initially on the backyard cricket pitch (it was a bit rough at sea for the boaties), before relocating, we enjoyed a very nice lunch at the boat club. Some took the opportunity to visit the lighthouse museum.

With the afternoon sun now shining and the wind abated, we concluded a really interesting run and headed our separate ways. Thanks to Grant and Alan for organising a great day. ●



Taranaki



LITTLE DID WE KNOW ...

MARCH 15TH, 2020

Cars met at Manor Station Car park then drove over to Carterton and met Wairarapa cars at Wild Oats.

After a Coffee and chat we handed out drive sheets, to head on our way. Firstly heading to the Paua Shell factory shop to have a look. Some did shopping.

Then we headed out the back of Carterton,

Kapiti Coast

Report & Photos by Sharon Ewing

joining back on SH2 at Wangina then heading out back of Masterton joining back onto SH2, then turning off to Mauriciville then a loop to cross over SH2 going around back of Eketehuna before joining SH2 again to drive through Pahiatua then turning off SH2 to head out to Pongaroa.

Great day for a drive with tops down. Had lunch and a chat at the pub, before heading home.

Little did we know that our April drive was going to be cancelled and in about ten days our world was going to be different.

Hope everyone is staying safe. We will really appreciate our freedom when we get it back, we take so much for granted.

Driving our lovely cars with all that beautiful scenery and meeting all you wonderful people. Look forward to seeing you all again soon. Stay safe, do your bit and hopefully will be over soon. ●





MARCH 15TH, 2020

Another lovely fine Hawkes Bay day finds us at the Aquarium of New Zealand on the Marine Parade in Napier, ready for a 9.30 start for a meander around the local MX roads. These are roads we have been on before, but hey, good roads are good roads!

Four cars, with one meeting us on the road. We set off tops down and toured down the main road to Clive, veered off to do a round-a-bout way of going through Whakatu industrial area and on out to the Tuki Tuki valley. No other traffic, no cyclists (we must have just been a tad too early), for a nice cruise on Tukituki Rd to catch up with our other car at the Waimarama Rd intersection.

Heading back towards Havelock North and go past the Craggy Range Winery. It's like driving through a tunnel with large trees each side of the road, very pretty. They obviously irrigate the grounds at the Winery, the contrast between the grounds and the surrounding hills is like black and white, or, green and very brown!

Meander our way through the village and head off onto the country roads which sees us do the odd un-expected detour and wander our way around to end up at Bridge Pa. Hang a left onto Raukawa Rd and head for the hills. We get onto

Hawkes Bay

Report by Mike; Photos by Trish

Whakapirau Rd, which most hadn't been on before.

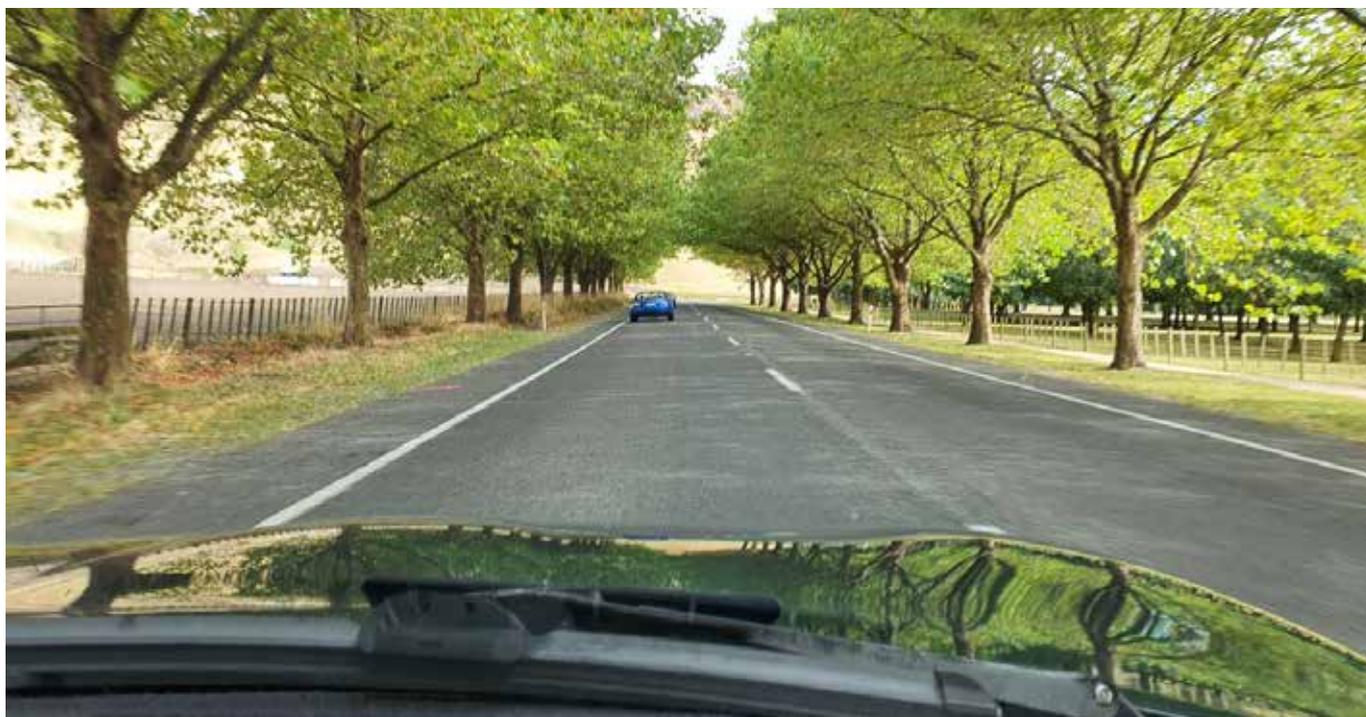
Quite steep downhill, lots of tight bends, and even a couple of Beagle dogs in the middle of the road – which apparently they think they own!

Skirt around the outskirts of Hastings to Fernhill. Here we should have headed for a long loop off the Taihape Rd, but we cut it short as we had a booking at a Café and couldn't afford to be too late. (Bit of a time error in the planning.)

Out to Puketapu and then heading for the hills again. Take in a big hill, then a hard right-hander to head towards lunch. Through Bay View village, and then try and turn right onto the main highway – seemed like the longest part of the morning!

A short way up the highway and we are at Snapper Café for lunch, and we find Ann and Noddy waiting for us. They would have been on the run except for the knee op Ann is still recovering from. Still, we can pretend the van is a "5" in disguise.

A great meal, a long natter (as you do) and its home time. ●



WHAT WE DID ON OUR "HOLIDAY"



We hope you all stayed safe during the lockdown period. As far as the Waikato members are concerned we don't envision any runs until NZ is down to level 1.

So lots of idle time on our hands. We talked about an International MX-5 run so floated the idea through the Internet.

Got 1 reply from New Zealand and the other 5 were from the USA .. Mexico .. Ireland .. Germany .. and England with a promise to attend. Funnily enough when they arrived all their name badges were the same .. TY.

We had asked them to come in an item of clothing that depicted what Country they were from. Of course TY from USA went overboard. We lined up 5 MX-5s and a Nash Metropolitan which happens to be the first car we jointly owned.

The cars and the run was supervised by Constable Laugh who is seconded to us for ongoing security throughout the lockdown period.

After the usual briefing by Gary under the watchful eye of Our Dog, the 6 cars lined up for a trip down to the gate and back. On the way back we passed the largest sundial we have ever seen.

All roads that we went on were smooth and empty of traffic. To finish off our run we enjoyed a picnic as the photo shows.

The Beer was well received and comments were that the provided Cornish Pasties were the largest they had ever seen.

Then we had a problem ... repatriation Flights seemed to have ceased and we had another 6 in our bubble. Fortunately we have a large double bed that the TYs had to share.

The Irish TY is drinking us dry ... the Mexican TY is openly doing drugs ... the UK TY sits around watching Coronation St all day ... and if TY from Germany doesn't stop playing that Tuba from dawn to dusk ... and the USA TY needs to shut up and stop politisizing everything that is going on at the moment. ●





Bay of Plenty



MARCH 8TH, 2020

It's Saturday night. I'm in the garage. He's checking my tyres. He's checking my oil. He's checking my coolant and brake fluid. All this means only one thing: I'm out on the road tomorrow.

I do hope we're going out with the club. It's more fun when I'm out with my friends.

There are bound to be corners, ... and knowing him, probably lots of corners. He likes corners. Snickety snick through my gearbox. When he gets it right it feels great, when he doesn't, I let him know.

I feel sorry for all those SUV's wallowing around: automatic gearboxes that randomly change, steering as numb as ten minutes in an ice bath. Where is the fun in that?

Looks like we're heading to a café to start. I'll be able to catch up with my friends and find out all the goss since our last run. We have all generations present: NA, NB, NC and ND. It's nice to see everyone has turned up shiny and clean. Our owners must love us.

We're heading through the Waioeka Gorge between Opotiki and Gisborne. Predictably lots of corners. Some smooth, some bumpy, with a few rocks to make things interesting.

Manganuku Bridge is here. The bridge was part of the State Highway from 1929 to 1965. It looks a bit rough to me. Probably better suited to those SUV types (ah – so that's their purpose?).

Our owners have re-fuelled and are ready to go. I hope they had as good a time as we did. ●





For Hugh and I this amazing weekend started on the Friday in a normal workday manner. Breakfast in bed followed by me walking the puppies. By the time I returned Hugh had loaded the car and we were off.

After the usual hour plus to clear Auckland we were finally on our way. Let's take the direct Waikato route, says Hugh, so we can go on the new motorway. Epic fail – it was closed and we ended up taking a very drawn-out, roadwork-riddled route but hey ho, it was lovely and fine and with the top down, we didn't really care.

We didn't go straight to Whakatane because

my Mum lives in Kawerau, so we called in there first to catch up before carrying on to arrive at the Cortez Motel to find fellow MXers out in the courtyard enjoying a few well-earned drinkies. Hugh and I had to wait to check in because a rather snooty lady had turned up about 15 minutes before us, took one look at the lot of us and decided she did not want to stay! She said to the poor woman on reception she hoped she wasn't near any of us to which she was promptly told we were all around her!

About 12 brave souls ventured out to the local Cobb&Co for dinner and the verdict was nope, not doing that again.

The next morning we were all up and rearing to go at 8:45 for our run brief by Sandra. Basically

THE AMAZING EAST CAPE MX-5 RUN



Combined Regions

it was to be a nice relaxed run with various sightseeing or points of interest options open to us along the way, as took our fancy.

The first group stop was to be Opotiki for morning tea and a group photo at the Opotiki Wharf and boat ramp. Hugh and I opted to check out the Nukuhou Salt Marsh which had a lovely little bush boardwalk – it was very interesting and I never knew that salt marshes acted as a filter system for the waterways.

Next we stopped at Cheddar Valley Pottery which was set up in what looked like the original dairy factory. I was sorely tempted by the pottery but Mr Meanie said no room for the Utensil jars I had my eye on.

Opotiki is a typical little NZ town, rather tired but

due for a major facelift in the next 18-24 months. It would be worth a revisit when all the town revamping is done.

Hugh took great delight in getting his latest toy out at the wharf and got some excellent drone footage of us all assembled on the wharf with our cars. Then it was back on the road heading to Pacific Coast Macadamias at Whanarua Bay for lunch. This was a lovely place to stop and the owner Graeme Dempsey very kindly gave us a talk about growing and processing macadamias.

The original trees were planted 35 years ago and they are the third owners of the farm. They manage it themselves and have learnt the best way to harvest the ripe nuts is when they fall from the trees. The season runs from July to



Opotiki wharf 'hero shot' courtesy of Hugh's drone camera.

September as they have 10 different varieties which all drop at different times. This makes it easier as the harvest is spread over a period of time.

The soft green outer flesh is removed by a grinding machine and the nuts are air dried for 5 to 10 days to drop the moisture content from 75% down to 30%. Then they are warm-air dried to get down to 10% moisture. The nuts before drying are



Macadamia nut farm presentation.

East Cape Run 2020

soft and pulpy, very much like fresh coconut. Once dried they have the nice crisp crunch we are used to. Macadamias have the highest oil content of any nut at 85% and, being a healthy oil, it can help reduce cholesterol.

Then it was back on the road with Hicks Bay being the destination for the end of the day's run. The scenery en route was stunning and so different to other parts of New Zealand.

It was very much like stepping back in time to a slower pace of life. A set of advertising signs tickled my fancy as they were uniquely kiwi – a sign advertising a pig dog training school with an advertisement for a book binder right underneath it. Who knew there were pig dog training schools?!

And I think we were all wide eyed at the huge congregation of Mongrel Mob members attending a funeral and a little further on we came across an accident on a one way bridge between a Tesla and another car. How that happened is anyone's guess but we heard Sunday morning that the car that had been left there overnight had been totally picked clean. Imagine what would have happened to our little cars if we had left them there!

Hick's Bay Motel and Lodge overlooked Hick's Bay and had truly stunning views. Some brave mad souls with too much energy tramped down to the beach and back again while the more sensible ones stayed put, supping on beers and wine and brandies! Hugh was happy because he got to play with his drone again and even managed to crash it into the concrete water tank – much to our amusement!

Next came drinks and dinner at the bar and this is where a shout out goes to the wonderful staff. Probably about ¾ of us had preordered the roast lamb but come 6pm it wasn't even half cooked despite being in the oven since 2pm.

The staff took it in their stride and offered herbed crumbed pan fried fish or beautiful thick scotch fillet steaks with mushroom sauce as an alternative. And in truth I think we all enjoyed this much more!

Sunday morning saw us up and assembled in formation for another drone shot and photo shoot at the staff's request, then we were off with the lunch stop at Te Puka Tavern in Tokomaru Bay as our first group port of call.

Along the way were lots of points of interest to investigate – Hugh and I checked out the East Cape Manuka Visitors centre and Café where they made a very nice coffee. Very friendly and relaxed



Earnest discussion after a great days driving – Hicks Bay

laid back staff made this a very pleasant stop.

Others decided to do the 130 km run out to the light house at East Cape – the thought of 700 steps to the light house put me off that option.

Then we opted to see Te Wada o Rerekohu which is the largest pohutukawa tree in the world. It is over 350 years old and is MASSIVE. And yes, Hugh got his drone out because it was so huge there was no way to truly appreciate the size of it any other way.

After encountering a typical rural roadblock aka a herd of big black cows and calves and working dogs (there's a real step back in time – nowadays most places have the underground tunnel system to get stock from one side of the road to the other) we pulled into Te Puia Springs for a comfort stop and catch up with some other MXers. And ooh and ahh over the cutest litter of kittens.

At this point Hugh and I had the decision to

Te Wada o Rerekohu



East Cape Run 2020

shoot on through to Gisborne as Kathmandu had a sale on and we wanted to get a couple of 60L cargo bags for the MX trips. Hugh and I were struggling with a conventional hard suitcase when Murray and Donna showed us what they used. Soft bags that held heaps and were squashable! Why hadn't we thought of that?!

At this point I can't say much about the various points of interest like the 660m wharf at Tologa Bay because I made the executive decision that we wouldn't backtrack to meet up with everyone as we have the long haul back home the next day. Instead we checked into the Captain Cook Motel, went and had lunch, got fuel, visited the Cook's Landing Historic Reserve, then went back to the motel to relax.

Well I relaxed – Hugh washed the MX and then got to enjoy the look of envy on everyone's faces when they arrived later with very dusty, bug-splattered cars!

I must admit I was disappointed not to see Tologa Bay though because (I thought) there's a song about Tologa Bay and when I mentioned this to Hugh he looked quizzically at me. On cue I sang 'Sitting on a Tologa Bay' to which he snorted and said it was supposed to be 'Sitting on the dock of the bay'. Who Knew?! I'd been singing it wrong all my life...

Nice relaxed predinner drinks followed, then we were off to the Tatapouri Sports Fishing

Club for dinner with the Gisborne and Hawkes Bay members who had joined us on our run. The Captain Cook Motel staff were brilliant and shuttled many of our group to the club so that folks could drink without driving (then for a small donation the club shuttled folks back again afterwards).

We all had a wonderful evening swapping trip stories and generally chilling out as only MXers know how to do. Of note were the impressive fish mounted all round the club rooms – I can imagine the stories that went with the catching of them!

The next morning Hugh and I were up and on the road by 7:30 and finally were home by 3:30 to be ecstatically greeted by our 3 mini schnauzers. They tried to make us bad for going away but in truth I know for a fact they had a great time with our son and his girlfriend.

Many thanks to Sandra and Keith for doing such an amazing job of organising this trip for us all. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend away and Hugh and I especially liked the way it was so relaxed in its structure.

Everyone did their own thing at their own pace and we spent the weekend mixing and mingling in a way we don't normally do. Here's to more MX runs like this one! ●



East Cape Lighthouse Trip

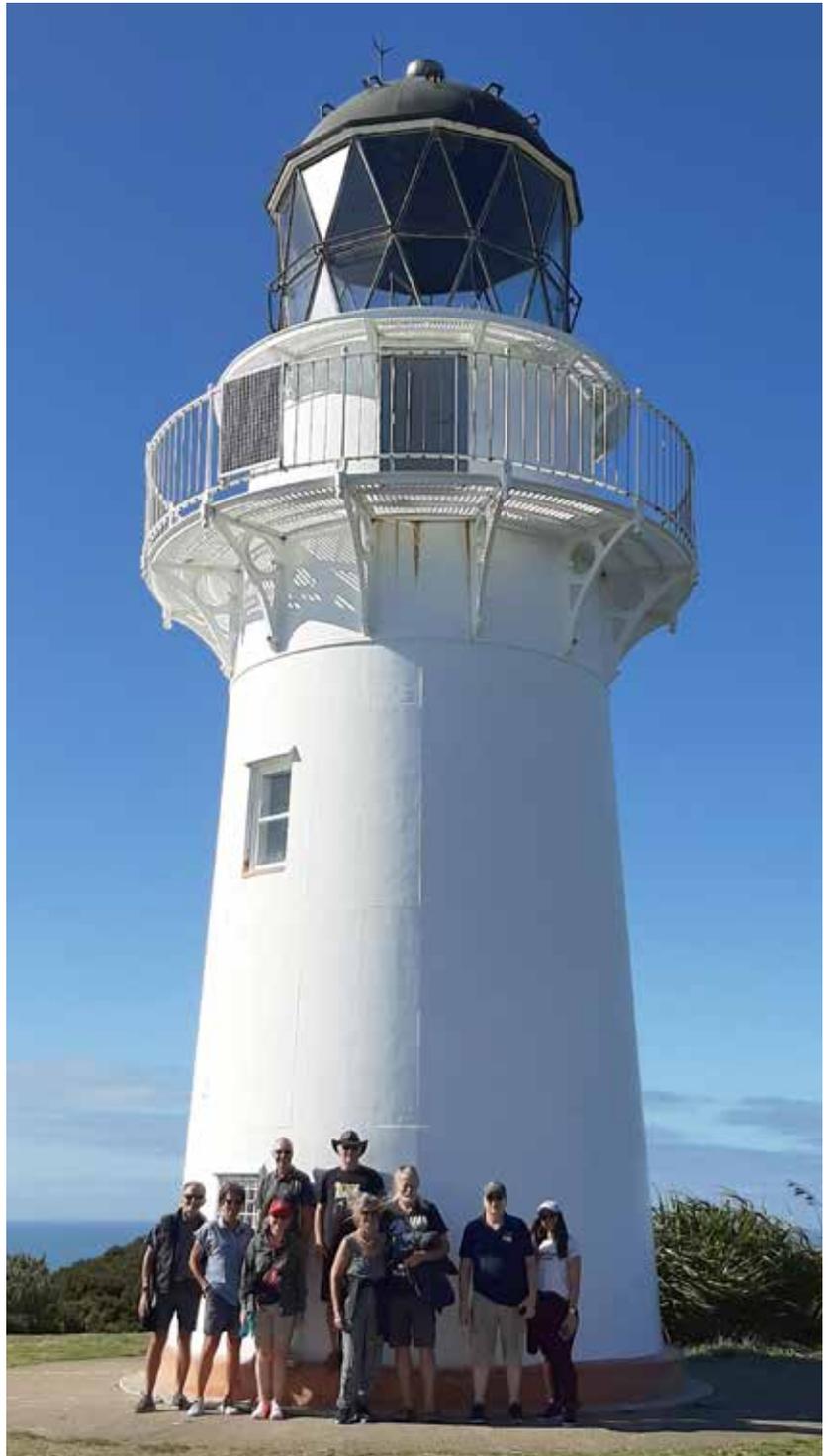
While the majority of the group headed direct to Tokomaru Bay for lunch, a small party of six cars, four from Northern and two from Hawkes Bay, braved the 20km gravel road from Te Araroa to the East Cape lighthouse.

As Sandra had said “We can’t come all this way without going to the lighthouse”. Actually the road wasn’t nearly as bad as we had expected. About one third of it was sealed, and the remainder was in very good condition except for a short stretch just before the lighthouse.

The lighthouse, which is 15m tall, was originally constructed on nearby East Island, just off the Cape, and was first lit in 1900. However, because of earthquakes and land slips on East Island it was relocated to the top of Otiki Hill, in 1922. Getting up to the lighthouse, which is at 154m elevation, involved climbing 700, rather uneven in places, steps. However, given that Sandra and I were going to be going the Tongariro Crossing on our way back to Auckland, the climb was good training.

Once at the top we were treated to sweeping views of the surrounding area. Fortunately the wind, which had been strong when we arrived at the hill, was actually calmer at the top. After getting the obligatory group photo we made our way back down the hill and on to Tokomaru Bay to join the rest of the group. ●

Report by Keith Jones
Photo by Lee Keighley



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MIATA OFFROADER

There's a small off-road gathering that takes place every year in the dry lakebeds of central Oregon.

By small, we mean 5,000 people driving 2,500 cars of the most unlikely designs, conquering lake beds in Oregon's high desert. It's called the Gambler 500, and could be the pinnacle of fish-out-of-water automotive events in the entire world.

Case-in-point is this first-generation Mazda MX-5 Miata, which was built specifically for this celebration of dirt, desert, and inexpensive automotive tomfoolery.

Full details can be found on motor1.com:
<https://www.motor1.com/news/401814/mazda-miata-unlikely-off-road-hero/>

Thanks to Ash Price for the tip. ●

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FROM 1960 TO 2020

The 2020 MX-5 special edition models use a white-and-burgundy two-tone colour coordination, symbolic of the R360 Coupe.

The special edition models were prepared to show the company's appreciation for all those who have supported Mazda since the launch of the R360 in 1960, the company's first passenger vehicle.

David Hodge, Managing Director Mazda New Zealand, says while today's line-up of Mazda models have come a long way since

then, it was driven by the same design, driving technology and challenging philosophy we see in current Mazda vehicles.

"It had a futuristic design and unique technologies including a four-cycle engine, automatic transmission and extensive weight reduction to make it more nimble on the road.

"It was designed for people who wanted to fulfil their dream of owning their own car and enjoy the thrill of driving. This still drives Mazda today," he said. ●

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MILESTONES OF MAZDA THROUGH THE DECADES

The way from cork products to the first mass-produced passenger car was long – but 40 years after the founding of Toyo Kogyo, the R360 Coupé left the factory floor to conquer the streets. It was an instant success.

The launch coincided with a boom in the Japanese economy, making car ownership more widespread across the country.



The R360 is a microcar, or kei car as they are called in Japan. Although it can seat four, it is ideally suited for two people.

The Cosmo Sport holds a special place in the hearts of Mazda and motorsport fans. As the first dual-rotor rotary engine car on the market, it launched Mazda's successful line of rotary racing cars.

The successful use of a rotary engine in a production car was a turning point for Mazda.

Among connoisseurs, the RX-4 is still considered one of the most beautiful hardtop coupés of the 70s. It came with exceptionally low emissions to meet strict regulations introduced in Japan in 1973. And had enough space for the whole family.

The same year as the momentous victory at Le Mans, Mazda launched the third-generation model of the RX-7 – the ultimate rotary sports car. The extremely sporty look of the RX-7 is familiar to every driving video games fan.

A sports car for everyone, combining the joy of driving a roadster with the reliability of Japanese engineering – that has been the recipe for success for the MX-5 from the beginning.

What did come as a surprise was how active the fan community turned out to be: from the very beginning, MX-5 owners and admirers have been establishing clubs, attending events, setting world records – and going for drives together to celebrate the roadster lifestyle.

One of the biggest owner clubs in Europe is the Registrato Italiano Mazda MX-5 with over 5,000 members.

Ever since its establishment in 1995, it has organised 78 regional and national rallies and supported events of foreign MX-5 clubs, in cooperation with Mazda and the Italian dealer network.

MX-5 NA



What About The Future?

Mazda has announced the release of its virtual racing car, the RX-Vision GT3 Concept. Jointly developed with Polyphony Digital, it is now available for download in Gran Turismo Sport.

The RX-Vision GT3 is the newest race car in the PlayStation®4 simulation title.

Mazda New Zealand Managing Director, David Hodge says the lock down under COVID-19 has resulted in several racing competitions developing a virtual online series featuring top names in

motorsport racing.

Gran Turismo enthusiasts can also choose from the Cosmo Sport, 2nd and 3rd Generation RX-7s, and the 4th Generation Roadster, ND5RC.

Players who use Mazda vehicles will automatically be granted seed rights to participate in the FIA certified Gran Turismo Championship (world tours) to be held in 2020.



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CLASSIC COVER INSURANCE www.classiccover.co.nz 0800 456 254	Motor vehicle insurance	10% on premiums. Must give Club membership number when obtaining quotation.
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SCREEN WIPER SOLUTIONS 9/90 Elizabeth Knox Pl St Johns Auckland 1072	Silicon wiper blades retail for \$69.95 but SWS offer them to MX5 club members for \$39.95. Available to all cars, not just MX-5s.	Major discount for Club Members. To order, go to sws.co.nz and select the model you need. Enter the promo code MX5 and your club membership number.
WANGANUI MOTORS 82 Ridgeway Street Wanganui Ph (06) 349 0930	The Mazda Dealer to see in Wanganui	10% discount on parts.

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Do you have a trade, job or skill that you think others may want to use? **Trade Off** is exclusively for Club members, and it's free to list! Simply email your BRIEF ad (up to 50 words) to topdown@mx5club.org.nz and put **Trade Off** in the subject line.

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MX-5 TRIKE

A friend of mine stopped at a cafe at Omarama (in the MacKenzie Country down in the South Island) recently and sent me these photo's.

A motor bike club also stopped at the same

cafe. He spoke to the owner who built the trike and took these photos. It has a Lexus 4-litre V8 engine! There is an after-life for old MX-5 after all.

Thanks to Newton Joe for the details. ●



2020 UPDATE FOR CLUB MERCHANDISE

Start Membership Regions and Events TopDown Magazine Merchandise For Sale Photo Gallery Contact

EXCLUSIVE CLUB MERCHANDISE



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30th Anniversary Polo - Women \$40.00	30th Anniversary Polo - Men \$45.00	30th Anniversary Club Cap \$25.00	Geneva Jacket 2020 - Women \$90.00
			
Geneva Jacket 2020 - Men \$90.00	Hype Polo Long Sleeve 2020 - Women \$45.00	Hype Polo Long Sleeve 2020 - Men \$45.00	Hype Polo Short Sleeve 2020 - Women \$46.00
			
Hype Polo Short Sleeve 2020 - Men \$48.00	Merino Zip Polo 2020 \$125.00	Puffer Jacket 2020 \$100.00	Transition Top 2020 \$65.00
			
Club Beanie 2020 \$25.00	Club Cap 2020 \$25.00	Club Badge 2020 \$12.00	Mazda MX5 Club of NZ 2008-2009 \$15.00
			
			Number Platte Surround - Silver Fern \$15.00

The Club is pleased to announce we have a new range of 30th anniversary clothing available.

The first item is the Short Sleeve Polo In Black Or Navy Blue.

The shirts are made of a premium antibacterial BIZ COOL fabric, 100% breathable, with moisture wicking properties.

The Polo features the **30th Anniversary logo** especially developed for this occasion.



All details of sizes for men and women, and prices, are on the updated **Merchandise** page on the website.

The second item is a matching Club cap with the same logo as the shirts.

All other current Club merchandise is listed on the website, with detailed instructions of how to order and pay.

Once ordered you will receive both an online and an email notification.

You'll also notice a Shopping Basket icon on the header of all website pages, which enables you to check status at any time.

Happy motoring, and happy purchasing.

Webpage link:

<https://tinyurl.com/sbonxpf>