

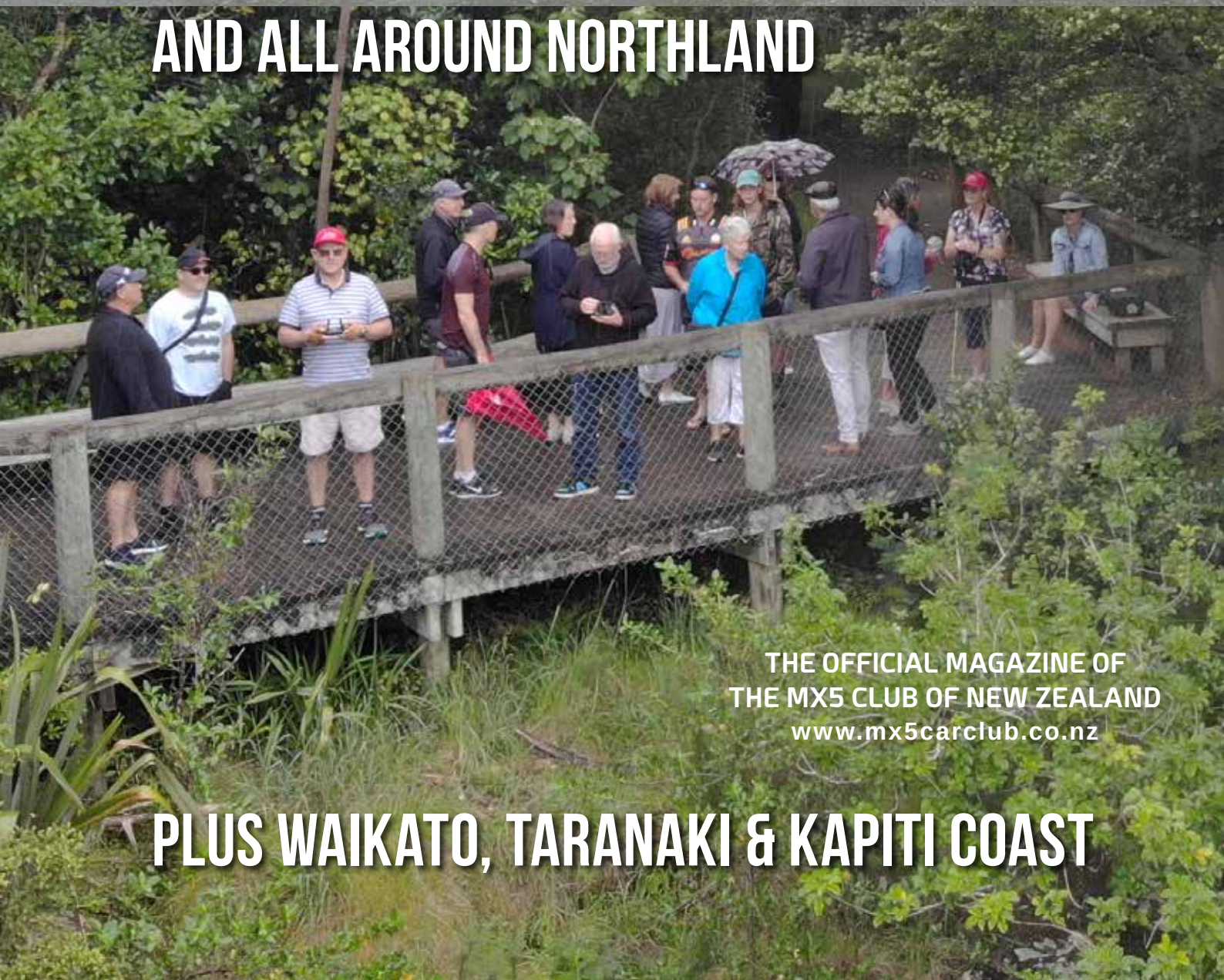
TOPDOWN

2020

Issue 5



**FROM CAPE REINGA TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS
AND ALL AROUND NORTHLAND**



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

PLUS WAIKATO, TARANAKI & KAPITI COAST



TOPDOWN AROUND ‘PINETREE COUNTRY’

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2020

It was a lovely sunny topdown day for our country run, starting from the “Bunnings” (now closed) carpark in Te Awamutu.

We had a great turnout of 20 cars (6 NA, 2 NB, 5 NC and 7 ND) with a number of new and prospective members taking in the sights of some country roads not travelled before.

Out of the carpark we travelled along the main street before heading out west to the Pokuru area, circling around Kakepuku Mountain and on through Te Kawa West, Tihiroa and a short stretch of SH31 Kawhia Road, before turning into Turitea Road.

This took us out into the back country with some great views from high up in the hills near Honikiwi and Te Raumauku, on some great twisty roads. Down out of the hills we joined SH39 for a short run into Otorohanga and to our middle of the run stop. Here we had some top class toilets available, and time to check out the “Sir Ed Hillary Walkway” going through to the main street.

Otorohanga is the “Kiwiana Capital” of NZ and the displays feature all sorts of articles and themes from the good old days. The Everest conquest, Aunt Daisy, Anzacs, Buzzy Bee, Ches n Dale, Kiwi (birds and blokes), School milk (remember it in bottles!!),

Report by Ken Brown

Photos by Denis Crossman

Waikato

Bruce McLaren, Pavlova, Music and Marmite are among the 26 beautifully crafted exhibits. Lots of memories brought back! Google it.

After some great memories, we were back into our roadsters (and RFs), back out onto SH31, and into Waitomo Valley Road. This is a popular road for us, but this time we turned off into Haurua Road, winding up the long hill and back down to the Waitomo Caves Road, through the SH3 Hangatiki roundabout, then left to follow Old Te Kuiti Road back into Otorohanga. A right turn into Otewa Road took us through another loop up some rolling hills then into Barber Road in a big loop that becomes Rangitoto Road and leads us into Te Kuiti to our lunch stop.

Tiffany’s Café had a great selection of cabinet food available, and meals were available to order if desired. They had set out a loooong table out the back for our group, and looked after us very well. After our lunch and a good chat, every one was free to head off home in whatever direction they chose, with most passing the Colin “Pinetree” Meads statue on their way.

My thanks to everyone for making it such an enjoyable day. I might have some fun trying to top this run next year! Cheers. ●



MX-5 TOPDOWN MAGAZINE
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NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 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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MX5 Club of NZ Life Members

Name	Region	Awarded Life Membership
Bob McCaulay (deceased)	Northern	
Howard Fox	Northern	
Larry Young	Northern	
Lawrie Copp	Kapiti Coast	
Gary Wood & Alison Harold	Waikato	2001
Willie & Anne Williamson	Northern	2007
Kevin & Glenys Everitt	Hawkes Bay	2008
Nigel Every	Waikato	2009
Bronwyn Upfold	Central Plateau/Manawatu	2010
Peter Glover	Southland	2019
Sharon Ewing	Kapiti Coast	2019
Morrin Leyton	Northern	2019
Brenda & Martin White	Northern	2019

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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

Neil Cameron
Gavin & Vanessa Cochius
Jonathan Mayo
Chris & Liam Mullins
Rob & Dale Greer
Adam Farmer & Scott Curtis
Steven Koch & Jenny Bower
Mike & Rachael Saint
Sean & Greg Allen
Peter Webster
Carol & Peter Crighton
Alan Shaw

Waikato / Hamilton

Douglas Boucher & Shahadah Ismail
Oliver Richards & Ben Sandbrook
Bebbie & Faye Shaw

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Samantha Denize & Justin Ansell

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Mike Hansen

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Manawatu

Ron & Dianna Mercer

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Peter Chung
Paul Chip
Natalie Thomson & Reimer Freitag
Clive & Christine Newman
Melanie Matthews
Omar Aziz

Nelson / Tasman

Reece & Lynne Samuels
Cameron & Trudi Gow

Otago

Neil Webster
Barry & Cilla Jeffrey

Southland

Shane & Jane Pleasance

From the President

Well, with many people putting fingers to keyboards following their runs, we have received enough reports to squeeze in another TopDown before the end of 2020. Thanks to Brian for being able to put it all together so you get it before Xmas.

2020 is the 30th anniversary of the formation of the MX5 Club of NZ, and to celebrate this event, a special run of windscreen stickers has been produced, based on the original sticker from the 1990. You will find a sticker for your car with this copy of TopDown.

A new addition to Topdown is a list of those Club members who have been awarded Life Membership over the years. In compiling the list we tried to include the years in which they received the award, but for some of the earlier awardees, their memories were a bit hazy on the matter. If any of the more long standing members can fill in the gaps for us, we would be obliged.

Preparations are under way for the 2021 Driver Training Day, and it looks likely that this will be at Manfeild Circuit Chris Amon on 18th September. If you were thinking of coming, put the date in your diary now. Registration will not open until probably June next year, but we will keep you advised of



progress in future issues of TopDown.

In my last report I mentioned the status of the 2021 Nationals and that Rydges Rotorua is currently being used as a managed isolation facility. We had hoped that this would finish at the end of 2020, but unfortunately for us they are continuing on this role with no end date in sight. As there is no other suitable venue the decision has been made to postpone the event for the time being. Hopefully, with the good news of a COVID-19 vaccine being available next year, it won't be too long before we can set a new date.

My best wishes to everyone for great Xmas. Drive safe and see you in 2021.

– Keith Jones, President

Membership Update

The national committee hard at work on filling envelopes for the mail out of TopDown.



A PLETHORA OF MX-5S

Kapiti Coast



OCTOBER 11TH, 2020

We met at Aston Norman Café in Kaitoke for Coffee, and some enjoyed breakfast.

We headed off about 10.15am, out through Whiteman's Valley down to Silverstream, then over Moonshine Hill Rd coming out at Judgeford. Through Whitby and Ascot Park before heading to Porirua through Tawa to Johnsonville then heading out to Makara.

On arriving at Makara we went up to the

windmills. Surprise, it was very windy. I guess that is why the windmills are there.

Some braved the walk up to the first windmill. Then we drove back down the hill to the beach.

Some braved the wind and sat on the footpath to have our picnic lunch. While most had a quick look around then headed off for lunch somewhere else.

Thanks all for coming out, some great roads we drove. Good turn out with about 26 cars. ●

Report & Photos by Sharon Ewing





LAKES & MOUNTAINS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Twelve cars met in Stratford for a nice cup of tea and brief, then off we all went on a mystery tour on a perfect day for top down motoring. Pleasantly warm, with virtually no wind and no sign of rain.

We traversed some interesting rural countryside, with dairy farming, sheep farming, dry stock grazing and oil wells. We passed Lake Ratapiko, a large and beautiful lake mostly used for jet boating and water skiing, and made our way down into some picturesque valleys, and back up to the ridgelines, on some narrow winding roads.

A leisurely pace was maintained to soak up the ambience of rural living from the comfort of our convertibles. A fantastic way to remind ourselves how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful country with such quiet isolation only a few Kms from the main highway. Over the 2 hour journey we only encountered 2 other cars on the road. Fantastic!!!

We made our way to Lake Rotokare, and in pairs

Report & Photos by Mike Powell

negotiated our way through the double entry gates designed to keep the whole area predator free. This lake has been fully predator-free fenced by a very enthusiastic group of volunteers in the Rotokare Trust. In the 5 or 6 years since it was completed, numerous species of once rare birds have returned, and lots of endangered flora has been growing enthusiastically, giving a quite unique and beautiful look and feel to the entire area. So inviting is it now, that we had a gaggle of black geese happily resting until our past co-ordinator, Kaz, ventured forth to say hello, only to return to us very quickly with mother goose in hot pursuit!

Then it was on the road again, heading up under the mountain, to the Kaponga Tavern for a wonderful lunch and natter before heading our separate ways home.

We all had a great day. Thanks to organisers Mike and Cristina. ●

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ELECTION DAY RUN

All cars, drivers and passengers met for a pre-run coffee and get together at the Casa Penquena Coffee Lounge and Restaurant in Stratford.

At 10.30am all 12 cars in attendance, shining and ready in the sun for a busy day ahead, hit the road heading south before turning inland. Stu and Allen took us over some very narrow winding roads, made for MX-5s, up and down valleys and around many very blind corners. Our drivers loving the challenge.

Several passengers hanging on for grim death, with our eyes closed, we made our way to Te Wera Lodge and camping ground for a much needed (anxious?) toilet stop and chat.

Such an awesome place, with an adventure playground. It is used by many Taranaki area schools as the base for their yearly adventure camps. Some of our members challenged themselves to walking

the plank, adding fun and laughter as well as a nice stroll around the grounds.

Moving on with a similar but more acceptable winding roads (a centre white line at least suggesting a two-way road), to Whangamomona for lunch. This small village was buzzing with people. Lots of motor bikes and a hot rod club were also visiting. Fortunately we were booked in for our lunch so no problems there. After a nice relaxing and filling lunch, we convoyed back to Stratford, saying our farewells before heading out in all directions to our respective homes.

After a forecast promising showers, the weather turned out to be extremely kind, allowing us to have the tops down all the way. Thanks to Stu and Grant for organising a pleasant day out. ●

**Report by Nora Hunn
Photos by Lynda Bell**



NORTHERN TOUR REPORTS NOVEMBER 2020

Planning started in February and lockdown really threw up hurdles but 279 emails later the 4 day tour is over and done.

As an organiser you are always on edge because pleasing 23 cars occupants for 4 days is no mean achievement. Nevertheless, it worked!

Wanting to make this a bit special and different I created a small 8 page booklet as a keepsake that had the route and suggested itinerary along with little items to watch out for along the way. It was put together in a conversational style that should anyone want to do a run like this again in the future they could simply pass the notes on, be they locals or overseas guests. If you want a copy simply ask.



In addition, to commemorate attendance I had some badges made for everyone that came along.

Quick summary: We headed north on the Friday, eventually arriving in Waitangi after regathering as a

group at The Whangarei Falls, visiting a number of lovely east coast beaches including stopping for a break and photo shoot at our Holiday home in Oakura.

Some had taken the challenge to witness "Moby's dick" at the **Hikurangi Pub** along the way and others still were meeting us in Waitangi.

Unbeknown to me and to everyone's absolute horror the gorgeous winding roads had been resealed in the last 2 days and we had to endure over 30kms of freshly sealed roads which meant lots of brake calliper noises, and people cringing at the sheer volume of stones being flung around. Imagine owning a less than 1000km 100th anniversary ND and having to endure this (poor Ron and Shona). This is where the value of protective film that a few of us have really came into its own.

The tour format allowed people to pick and choose what they wanted to see and do with a suggested route and itinerary as a guide. Several people went and made the most of being in the area of old friends and others formed small groups and did things together. For ourselves we and a group of about 12 cars enjoyed the Makana chocolate shop in Kerikeri, the **Rainbow Falls** (a little hidden gem also in Kerikeri) before embarking on



Northern / Auckland

Reports & Photos by Club Members

the roads to gorgeous **Matauri Bay** (pic top right). A little inside for you. There's a straight that's about 4km long and it goes up and down and you can see for miles.

Yours truly thought he might just step the pace up a bit here but quickly thought Yeah/Na, let's get off the gas and travel a bit more sensibly. Pretty soon the MX-5s bunched up behind and lo and behold, after about 1.5km Mr Plod comes towards us. Waves with a grin and left us alone... I think they are a little more tolerant in the far North..

We ended up at a private tour of a whaling museum which was in a drop-dead gorgeous location and it really relaxed those that went. So much so there was a unanimous call to

head into **Mangonui** to the Pub where people really relaxed, enjoyed the antics of a sometimes not-too-friendly McCaw before heading north to Kaitaia.

I'd organised a dinner for all and enjoyed surprising everyone with a few large gateaux to feast upon. Somehow my memory from that night has holes in it which I'm told has a lot to do with massive consumption of Malibu.

Sunday it was the **Cape** for those that wanted to. We went in 2 groups, an early and a late. We were in the latter and had a lovely drive over awesome roads, stopping at an amazing container café north of Hohoura that served delightful food: Paua pies,

steak pies and oyster pies being specialties along with real fruit ice creams.

About 3kms before the Cape, the fast group was coming towards us at great pace. It's always cool to wave to other MX-5s and those that could had tops down and were waving furiously. Everyone commented on just how wonderful it was to have the Cape to ourselves without tourists and their buses.

After a visit to the **Te Paki sand dunes** and another stop this time for ice creams at our



new best friend café it was back to Kaitaia. I marvelled at how someone as tiny as Daniella could put away a huge paua pie, a bottle of coke and a large boysenberry ice cream in one sitting. Top effort.

Onwards out to Ahipara and then off down to catch the ferry that left on the hour to get across to **Rawene**. Great roads but quite damp, but we managed to stay top down on the entire trip until we hit the ferry.

We laughed at those that just made the ferry and I managed to get the guy to give us a Northland discount. I would suggest his mother asks for his school fees back because Maths wasn't his strong suit.

Omapere is a particularly beautiful place and people kicked back in rooms/bars before we hit the iconic **Opononi** pub via free shuttle buses for dinner. Lots of laughter and people really in lovely relaxed mindsets revisiting the glorious vistas and roads we had been on.

The hotel threw in a cooked breakfast and then like all last days of these sorts of trips, some want/need to get home in a hurry. Others including us meandered on through and revisited



Tane Mahuta, had lunch in Dargaville and then headed home.

Memories: I love the far North so enjoy being up there. It's very relaxed and without the tourists it was even better. The Cape and its roads were better than I remember.

Our cars are ideal for these roads-pure driving fun. We did 90% with top down and dodged a few weather systems through pure good fortune.

People make a good tour and there were very few grizzles and lots of compliments so a huge thank you to everyone for really throwing yourselves into the right spirit.

– **Booty – zoom zoom**

Northern coordinator/Club Vice President



NORTHERN TOUR REPORTS NOVEMBER 2020

After the constrictions of COVID we were eagerly looking forward to the Northland trip over the weekend of 6-9 November. Allan Boot had put many, many hours of work into preparing the trip, including some highly frustration times dealing with accommodation providers who seemed to be changing staff by the day, with the right hand not communicating with the left.

Sandra and I left home on Thursday ahead of the main group, intending to spend some time walking in Tawharanui Regional Park. Unfortunately the weather gods decided we weren't allowed to do this, and shortly after crossing the Auckland harbour bridge the heavens opened. We therefore made our way slowly to Matakana for lunch at the Morris and James pottery. It's a good thing MX-5s only have a small boot, even more so when it's packed with clothes for a five day trip, because it stops you spending a fortune on their beautiful pottery ware.

Not long after leaving Morris and James the weather started to ease and we continued our leisurely drive up the coast to **Waipu** where we checked out the museum for the first time. This was very interesting, giving a detailed account of the adventures of the first settlers, from leaving Scotland in 1817, to Nova Scotia, to Australia, to Auckland and finally Waipu in the 1850s.

As part of the organisation for the trip it had been suggested that for Friday night dinner in **Paihia**, we eat at Jimmy Jacks Rib Shack. By coincidence,

Northern / Auckland

Reports & Photos by Club Members

the only other site for Jimmy Jacks was just a short walk from where we were staying in Whangarei. So we had to try it out so we could report to the group ahead of Friday night's dinner! Definitely recommended if you are in Whangarei.

On the Friday morning, after a very pleasant hike in Bream Bay Scenic reserve, we made our way north to meet the rest of the group at Allan Boot's place at **Oakura**. From there we all took the scenic route round to Opua for the ferry trip across to Paihia and our accommodation at the Copthorne Hotel.

On the Saturday morning, while most of the group checked out the Keri Keri markets, Sandra and I headed for **Rangihoua Heritage Park** (pic below) north east of Keri Keri. This was the highlight of the trip for us. I had never heard of it, and I'm sure many other New Zealanders haven't either, but it is the site of probably one of the most important times in NZ history.

The park was opened in 2014, the 200th anniversary of the landing of the first Pakeha missionary settlers in NZ. Through numerous information panels, it tells of the various people, both Maori and British, who lived and worked together in those early days. It was at Rangihoua that the first European school was built, the first



book on te reo Maori was prepared and the first Pakeha child was born.

In the afternoon we did another first for us and drove up the Karikari Peninsula, home of several very nice wineries. Fortunately the MX-5 boot was just big enough to accommodate a couple of bottles.

After a very convivial group dinner at a local restaurant in Kaitaia on Saturday night, Sunday dawned dry and clear, perfect top down weather for a trip up to **Cape**

Reinga (above). It was so different to be there without all the overseas tourists. You could actually get a car park without walking for miles. On the way back to Kaitaia we had to call in to the roadside container food stall. On the way up some cars had stopped for their advertised pies and were raving about the quality. While paua pies weren't exactly on our list of must haves, we did enjoy a good coffee and excellent fruit ice cream.

The remainder of the day was spent heading south to catch the ferry from Kohukohu to Rawene. We decided to stop in **Rawene** to have a look around and found Northland's first (and probably only) Puzzle Museum run by local identity Louis Toorenburg. In addition to selling many very unusual puzzles, the museum is full of the puzzles Louis has collected over the years.

Our accommodation for the last night of the trip was the Cophorne Hotel at **Omapere**, which, like its partner hotel in Paihia, has a fantastic beach front location, ideally suited to show off the beautiful Hokianga harbour. In the evening we headed back down the road to the **Opononi** pub for another lively group dinner. Fortunately the pub owners put on transport for us in both directions so drink-driving wasn't an issue.

On Monday morning people said



their farewells and headed back home, wherever that was. On the way back Sandra and I stopped to have a look at the Kai Iwi lakes and the Te Pahi sand dunes (both also firsts for us). Stopping for a coffee at Matakohē at lunch time we met several others from the group who were visiting the Kauri Museum. As we had done this on a previous trip, we didn't go in again, but can recommend it if you are looking to kill several hours.

Sandra had to have her shopping fix, so we called in at Dress Mart in Onehunga on the last leg home. After getting used to the relatively traffic free roads of Northland it was a shock to the system to be back in Auckland.

Our thanks to Allan for organising a very enjoyable run and allowing us to see several places we hadn't been to before. Also to the other club members for making it a very entertaining weekend.

Roll on the next one.

– Keith Jones



NORTHERN TOUR REPORTS NOVEMBER 2020

I must admit I hadn't got too excited about this weekend as we have had so many things cancelled this year due to Covid-19, I didn't want to get my hopes up only to have them dashed – again. However, as the week of the run went by, we were thoroughly looking forward to it. Not least to show off my new 100th Anniversary MX5. It was 2 and a half weeks old and I am sooo happy with it!

We were met at the BP on the Northern Motorway on an overcast morning by an enthusiastic Allan Boot, our organiser for the weekend. He gave us all a bag of lollies to sustain us for the journey ahead, and a wee badge for our caps. The plan was to drive up State Highway 16 to Wellsford, then onto Whangarei Falls for a regroup.



We were meeting at Allan & Kay's bach in Oakura at 2.30pm for afternoon tea and a photo.

Ron & I, however, were heading up State Highway 1 to Langs Beach to friends to show off my shiny new car! These friends bought my first Silver NA 14 years ago, and we have kept in touch ever since, through to my now 4th MX-5. After soaking up the view from their deck and a cup of tea and scones, we headed north again.

We decided to bypass the Falls and head straight to **Oakura**. As we turned off State Highway 1 we saw about 4 Fulton Hogan trucks coming the other

Northern / Auckland

Reports & Photos by Club Members

way, which was an ominous sign. We struck our first bout of "new seal" half way in. We slowed right down and eventually I got so stressed that I handed the driving over to Ron. Then we got a stone stuck in the wheel, which sounded dreadful. We limped into Oakura squealing as we pulled onto the grass. Ron had to take the wheel off to get the stone out, while I de-stressed with a bourbon and coke!! He had no shortage of "helpers" as he worked!

Unfortunately, the worst was still to come. We had two more bouts of "new seal" so we limped along at 5KPH pulling over every time a vehicle came the other way and waving on cars as they came up behind us. Everyone agreed it was the worst new seal we had ever seen. Tiny sharp chip that was so loose on the top it sounded like you were driving through water.

We arrived in Russell around 5pm and headed to the Duke of Marlborough for a wine. We found some others had the same idea! We headed over to **Paihia** on the ferry around 6pm and to our accommodation for the night at the Copthorne Waitangi.

The morning briefing took place around 8.30am with Allan outlining key times for the day. The idea for this weekend was to have an outline of what there was to see and do, but the day was ours to make our own way. But we did travel in small groups most of the time which is one of the best things about going on a weekend away. So a group of us headed over to Kerikeri to the Makana Chocolate Factory and to **Rainbow Falls**. Ron & I agreed that we had not been there before and it was a pretty waterfall. When we got home though, I checked our photo albums and found that we had been there before – before we were married 22 years ago!! This is what getting old is about!

At 1.30pm we were booked in for a private tour of a Whaling Museum and cottage at **Butler Point** (pic below). It was a lovely spot including giant Pohutukawa trees (largest circumference in NZ at 12m+) and an orchard. We learned all about how





campervan trip.

We made our way back down to Kaitaia making sure to fill up on the way through and stopped at Ahipara for lunch. After deciding getting onto Ninety Mile Beach with the new MX-5 wasn't an option, we found a picnic table to have lunch.

For some of us it started to rain as we left Ahipara for Kohukohu for the car ferry to Rawene, so we had the top up for this part of the journey. It

whaling worked in the early 1900s and the hard life it was, both for the whales and the whalers.

A quick stop at the Monganui pub for a drink on the way to Kaitaia which was our stop for the night. After drinks in Lee & Grant's room and discussing the adventures of the day, Allan had booked a restaurant across the road for dinner where we wound down from the days driving.

The next morning we had the opportunity to go up to Cape Reinga. Both Ron & I had been there, but we couldn't remember if we had been together. It seemed like too good an opportunity to pass up seeing as we were so close. We left early at 8am with a group of about six cars and made good time getting up there in an hour 15 minutes. It was great as not only were there no overseas tourists there, and no Kiwis either, as we were so early.

Hugh Lemmon goes nowhere without his trusty drone, so he was on hand to get some shots of us all standing at the **lighthouse**. It was awesome to be standing at the top of the country where the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean meet. When we got back to the carpark we bumped into Elaine & Roger with a yellow NA called Tweety, who were doing a

rained quite hard as we made our way through the windy roads. Another ferry ride to Rawene and then onto **Opononi** and the Copthorne Omapere for the night.

Some MX-5ers had a leisurely drive arriving at the hotel early afternoon to sit and enjoy the sun and the view of the harbour. Ron gave our car a wash using the kettle to see how bad the damage from the new seal was. It didn't look good!

Dinner tonight was at the Opononi Hotel in their function room. A funny moment at our table when Marilyn informed the young waitress that she had Celiac and that she couldn't eat gluten. The waitress asked if that was her name!!

Monday morning and we were heading home. We shared the drive with Keith & Denise Dalby stopping at Tane Mahuta. It had been 22 years since we were here as well. The tree looked exactly the same. We looked older and with less hair (in Ron's case!) and the Kauri Dieback measures were now in place with disinfecting shoes as we came in and out. Oh, and the Covid QR code was in place too. On the way back to Dargaville, we stopped in at Kai-iwi Lakes for a look around. We

stopped in Dargaville at the Blah Blah Blah café for lunch. Popular spot as Allan, Kay, Alan & Yve strolled in just as we were finishing, then Mark & Daniela came in. Later in the day we learned that Lee & Grant and Mike & Barbara had also stopped in there for lunch.

Thanks to Allan Boot for his tireless work to put this together

PS: we absolutely love our new MX-5 and it's now back to immaculate condition.

- Shona Bol



TIKOKINO HOTEL FOR LUNCH

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2020

We met at Murrayfield Café for coffee at 9.15am. Departed at 10am with notes in hands.

We drove through to Pahiatua via the track, then headed south of Pahiatua then left taking us out the wonderful back roads following the river. Then we crossed over a bridge to head back down other side through Hopeland then back onto SH2 through to Dannevirke. After about 7km after Dannevirke we turned off heading out through Ormondville then Takapau, straight over SH2 on Burnside Road to meet up with Ashcott Road and to SH50 to get to Tikokino.

We are trailing to get to use Google maps instead of paper instructions. Did not work well this time. But have had a few suggestions for next time – hopefully will get it right some day. Also a few had a little tiki tour in Ormondville, they misread my instructions.

I did have one instruction wrong at Dannevirke though, but most worked it out.

So everyone made it to Tikokino

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Sharon Ewing
Photos by Gaye Forster

safe and sound. After all the great views and great roads we were ready for Lunch.

Forty-seven people for lunch – great work Tikokino for your service and wonderful meal.

Thanks all who came on the drive. It looked like everyone had a great day. ●



TARANAKI GARDEN FESTIVAL RUN

The weather during the Taranaki Garden Festival was quite variable, but the forecast for Saturday 8 November looked promising. With no run planned for the festival gardens, a very short notice run was put together and started in Inglewood with 4 cars.

First stop was a new garden in the town which featured an outstanding profusion of floral colour in a small urban space. A very impressive development in only 4 years. As the damp atmosphere started to turn to drizzle it was off to Egmont Village and a large sprawling rural garden. The paddock parking was certainly showing the effects of rain and lots of cars. We managed to find some accessible clean grass and the garden was worth the effort.

Back in the cars and the heavens opened. A quick decision to skip the next planned stop in New Plymouth and we headed direct to Oakura to two (indoor) art studios, conveniently located side by side. The first featured 'zendoodle', the second interpretations of old masters. Both quirky and a little curious in their own special ways.

Losing one car to other commitments but with the weather definitely on the improve, it was off to Opunake via the Wiremu Rd. Taranaki Coordinator, Nora joined us here for the next stop at the Lavender Farm in Pihama.

An array of local crafts and artwork in the shop and an opportunity to picnic in the courtyard (the roofless old dairy factory creating something akin to an old-fashioned walled garden).

From here we headed to our final garden of



Taranaki

Report by Jock Sutherland
Photos by Lesley Sutherland

the day in the environs of Okaiawa. Developed around a rural farmhouse the 'expatriate' Auckland owners have filled their section with arty curios, articles paying homage to their Croatian roots and interesting varieties of hens.

From here each went their separate ways, ourselves back to New Plymouth, completing the mountain circumnavigation.

Post Script

Whilst enjoying our lunch-time sandwiches, we were approached and questioned about the cars. The interest turned out to be from the local Life Education Trust Coordinator. It seems the open top car they had previously used to transport their giraffe, Harold, in the New Plymouth Christmas Parade, was no longer available to them and would someone from the club be interested in giving him a ride. And so we did. On a lovely sunny day, we joined the other floats and drove Harold, probably the biggest celebrity in the province amongst the younger members of the community. He got massive cheers, and the MX got some good feedback too, including an offer to buy it for \$10.00!

There is a moral.

Listen to what your mother told you..... don't talk to strangers! ●



CROSS HILLS GARDENS AND COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday 21 November saw 9 cars meet opposite the golden arches in Hawera ready for an 8.30am departure to the Cross Hills Gardens near Kimbolton.

The weather was okay with good prospects for improvement on the journey. Getting underway on time we made our first relief stop in Waverley. The 10th car caught up to the rest here (alarm clock malfunction?) in time to join the line on down through Whanganui and on to Turakina where we left HW3 and headed to Marton for a coffee/brunch break at the Four Doors Down Cafe.

On the road again we headed to HW1 and turned towards Ohingaiti where we turned off to Pemberton, Peep-o-Day and on to the gardens, where we were greeted with 3 adjacent farm paddocks full of cars. Lucky for us our run organiser, Helen, had arranged for space for our cars right beside the main entry gates.

A vast array of craft stalls were spread around the grass areas of the gardens, offering food and furniture, pottery and plants, nappies and nougat, herbal remedies and the usual 'what the hell was I thinking' items.

Scattered amongst it all was the occasional

Taranaki

Report by Jock Sutherland

itinerant musician displaying their talents. Given the sun was now well out, the purveyors of ice cream and drink were doing a roaring trade. The garden nursery was also very busy.

After a good couple of hours and with the prospect of a longish run home ahead of us our group drifted away.

We had thought to head back to Hunterville and take the back road through Fordell to Whanganui. But having done that trip a couple of months previously and with a really unpleasant, blustery southerly increasingly taking the pleasure out of the top down, we decided to head straight to Cheltenham and join HW54 to Fielding.

From there we took the road through Halcombe, rejoining HW3 just south of Turakina for the run back to New Plymouth.

An excellent day's run. Thanks to Helen and Pam for organizing. ●

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2020 AGM

When I gave my report at the last AGM, no-one would have predicted the events that have taken place during 2020. The world is a very different place because of COVID-19, and, if we are to believe the medical professionals, will not be the same again for a long time.

Fortunately for us in New Zealand it has been possible to keep the virus under control, but it still impacted on our MX-5ing activities for quite a while. Runs, dinners and other activities were put on hold, and Zoom became our new friend.

I regrettably have to announce another victim of COVID-19, the National Rally due to be held in Rotorua next year. As the only hotel in Rotorua capable of handling a group our size, the Bay of Plenty organising committee had booked Rydges for our accommodation and events. However, since the booking was made in 2019, Rydges has become a COVID-19 managed isolation facility. There were indications that the government contract would finish at the end of this year, allowing the Nationals to go ahead in March, but a couple of days ago we were advised that Rydges would be continuing as an MIF. The decision has therefore been taken to postpone the Nationals for the time being. All the good work the BoP committee has done will not go to waste, however, and we look forward to being able to announce a new date, hopefully in the not too distant future.

That's enough of the bad news. On the good side, from what I have seen in TopDown, the regions continue to have diverse and entertaining events and membership continues to grow. At the end of the last financial year we had 380 members, which is up from the 369 of the previous year.

As I mentioned at the last AGM, when it comes time to renew membership, we have this cycle of around 25% to 30% of members who do not renew, but these are replaced by new members who join throughout the year. At our September National Committee meeting it was noted that, despite the impact of COVID on jobs, the economy and our ability to get out

and about, membership was around 4% higher than at the same time last year.

This year we held the Driver Training Day at Hampton Downs for the first time. When you go to a new venue there is always a degree of trepidation as to how things will work out – will the track be suitable for our programme, will the venue management be supportive? I am glad to be able to report that, just like last year when we went to Manfeild, the day was another success, with a full complement of 50 drivers enjoying a day of driving and socialising. There was only one minor mishap when an exuberantly driven NA got a bit too close to a concrete wall.

Earlier this year, Glenn Harris, who has been our main contact and supporter at Mazda NZ for many years, decided to make a job change and left Mazda to join the New Zealand Warriors. He did this about a week before COVID hit, which some might say was very bad timing. However, when I spoke to him recently, he seems to be enjoying the challenge. In recognition of his support of the Club over the years the Committee organised a small memento which we had hoped to be able to present to him today. Unfortunately he was unable to come, so we will do this some other time.

In closing, on behalf of all members, I would like to thank all those who have spent many hours of their time on Club activities over the past year; Brian Thurogood, our TopDown editor and webmaster, my colleagues on the National Committee, and most importantly the Regional Co-ordinators, without whom the Club could not function in the way it does.

Keith Jones

1 November 2020



Photo by Konstantin Kasabov

MAZDA MX5 CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 1 November 2020 at the Remuera Club

Present : 41 (individuals)

Apologies : 50 (individuals)

Minutes from the 2018 AGM :

No matters arising from the 2019 AGM minutes.

Accepted Murray Lee / Seconded Mark Brinsbury

Presidents Report : Included as a separate document

Treasurers Report : Sandra Jones presented her report and mentioning that as there was no National Rally in the near future, there had been no registration fees taken. She mentioned that Jenny Weiland had done a great job with the sales of merchandise during the year. The purchasing of envelopes and postage for the TopDown was a large expense, but more members are taking up the option of having a digital copy. The new membership packages were now being sent in digital form also. Balance of the cheque account is \$15,035 and savings account \$38,945 as at 31 May 2020.

Sandra proposed the membership fees for 2021/2022 remain the same as this year, \$70/car.

Proposed Sandra Jones / Seconded Graeme Banks

Correspondence : None to hand

Election of Officers : The election took place of officers and committee.

President : Keith Jones, Vice President : Allan Boot,
Secretary : Marilyn Harp, Treasurer : Sandra Jones

Committee : Ron Bol, Jenny Wieland, Barry Potenger,
Murray Lee, Donna Lee, Graeme Banks, Leon Barton, Jed Wieland.

Passed unanimously

Life Membership :

Following the discussion at the Annual Meeting in 2019, it was decided that the then incoming Committee should look at the suggestions made at that Meeting and report back to the AGM in 2020.

A Life Membership proposal was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. This was accepted by the Meeting with the following provisos :

- That nominations should be received by 31 March each year for the National Committee to review and bring nominations to the AGM.
- A reminder will be advertised prior to 31 March each year.
- The National Committee to select a maximum of 2 nominees.
- That life membership should be for 'exceptional service' not long service.

Motion : *If nomination is not accepted in any one year, the member needs to be re-nominated again next year, if they are still doing exceptional service to the Club.*

Proposed Brenda White; Seconded Lesley Sutherland

This amendment will now be added to the Constitution

National Events

National Rally 2021 – Postponed until further notice. A huge amount of work has been done already by the Organising Committee and they are hoping to move forward as soon as possible.

General Business :

- Graeme Denton (Waikato) asked for clarification regarding the car being the member of the club. Those who have one MX5 pay one membership, those who have more than one car also only pay one membership.
- At present one can only be a member of the MX5 Club if they own an MX5. Much discussion regarding this and whether there should be different membership tiers ie Active member, Associate member, social member.
- Change name to MX5 Owners Club.

Motion : *The Committee should review the membership to change to person/persons who own one or more MX5 and review associate membership.*

Proposed Mark Brinsbury / Seconded Brenda White

It was decided the National Committee should look at these ideas and circulate the thoughts to all members for their comments.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1200hrs, followed by lunch. ●



Mazda MX5 Club of New Zealand Inc.

PO Box 15-551

New Lynn

Auckland 0604

Statement of Financial Performance

for the Year Ending 31 May 2020

FY 2018 / 2019	Income	FY 2019 / 2020	
\$		\$	\$
24,938	Membership	22,123	
52,231	National Events	6,522	
0	Regional Events	0	
756	Merchandise Sales	2,298	
0	Donations	136	
588	National Raffles	363	
2,174	Advertising	1,304	
<u>80,686</u>	Total Income		32,745
	Cost Of Sales		
760	Merchandise	2,006	
8,186	Top Down Expenses	8,063	
2,266	Membership Expenses	1,298	
36,668	Event - National	1,552	
0	Event Regional	104	
12,185	Track Day - National	3,912	
<u>60,064</u>	Total Cost Of Sales		16,935
20,622	Gross Profit		15,810
	Expenditure		
272	Stationery	73	
0	Advertising	0	
8,827	Postage	7,734	
523	Bank Charges	411	
328	Website Expenses	131	
390	MYOB Online Software/Support	516	
882	Raffle Costs (includes unused prizes)	0	
593	General Expenses	231	
0	Sponsorship - National Events	0	
0	Donations	300	
1,071	Insurance	1,071	
200	Subscriptions - FOMC	200	
<u>13,086</u>	Total Expenses		10,667
7,536	Operating Profit		5,143
	Other Income		
67	Interest Received	53	
<u>67</u>	Total Other Income		53
<u><u>7,603</u></u>	Deficit/Surplus of Income over Expenditure		<u><u>5,196</u></u>

I certify that this Statement of Financial Performance has been submitted to and approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting held on 1 November 2020.

Signed:

Sandra Jones

Position

Treasurer

Mazda MX5 Club of New Zealand Inc.

PO Box 15-551

New Lynn

Auckland 0604

Statement of Financial Position

as at the 31st May 2020

Year 2018 / 2019			Year 2019 / 2020	
\$	\$	Assets	\$	\$
4,655		Cheque Account	15,035	
38,908		Savings Account	38,945	
0		Trade Debtors	0	
1,281		Stock On Hand	934	
4,967		GST receivable	324	
0		Prepaid Expenses	865	
	49,811	Total Assets		56,102
		Liabilities		
0		Accruals	1,343	
461		Membership Fees In Advance	213	
	461	Total Liabilities		1,556
	<u>49,350</u>	Net Assets		<u>54,546</u>
		Equity		
41,747		Retained Earnings	49,350	
7,603		Current Year Earnings	5,196	
	<u>49,350</u>	Total Equity		<u>54,546</u>

I certify that this Statement of Financial Position has been submitted to and approved by the members at a general meeting held on 1 November 2020.

Signed: Sandra Jones

Position: Treasurer

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\$25.00



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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.

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