

# TOPDOWN



2021  
Issue 2

## COUNTRY ROADS, HISTORIC PLACES & ARTEFACTS



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
THE MX-5 CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND  
[www.mx5carclub.co.nz](http://www.mx5carclub.co.nz)



# BRUNCH ... WITH SUGAR ON IT!

25 MARCH 2021

With Covid and lockdowns up here in the big smoke, getting out and about has been a bit restrictive and MX-5 runs on the lean side over the last year. Our trusty Co-ordinator Allan arranged a brunch at the Chelsea Sugar works.

So what was a great blue-sky day and ideal topdown for our lonely MX-5 we headed off to the works café for a get together at 11am.

As usual the traffic from Titirangi to the North Shore was rubbish and the guy that invented those plastic cones must be rather rich by now. However 45 mins later we arrived at the sugar works to a large car park that was pretty well full.

We were right on time and most of the 20 members were already seated on a deck outside the café. Lots of howdy dos and plenty of catch ups went on. Bunch was ordered and the selection was varied and turned out to be really nice.

The view from our table looked out over Chelsea Bay and across the Auckland harbour towards the bridge and city, what a great sight that was. The green in front was a gathering spot for a lot of mums and babies on bean bags. All in all nice to see such a friendly atmosphere in lovely grounds. The food was devoured and much MX-5 talk followed.

After an hour and a half it was time to go. Some took a Chelsea

Northern / Auckland

Report & Photo by Morrin Layton

factory tour and others went for walks in the attractive gardens. Some went to the counter and purchased some of the amazing cakes that were for sale.

Thanks to Allan Boot for arranging a great place for us with not much to do in the middle of the week. ●



# CONTENTS

MARCH–APRIL 2021

## 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 MX-5 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 MX-5 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.**

**Deadline for Next Issue:  
May 31st 2021**

Contents copyright © 2021

Design and Edit: Brian Thurogood

Printer: Brebner Print, Hamilton.

**Front cover: Member's photos**

Disclaimer: This magazine does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or the Committee of the MX-5 Club of New Zealand. It is intended to provide general articles and information only. While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains, neither the Editor, Committee or the authors can be held liable for inaccuracies, errors or omissions. Copyright is reserved throughout. No part of this magazine can be reproduced or reprinted without the express permission of the Editor. All information is current at the time of printing and the Editor takes no responsibility for any factors that may change thereafter.

**2** Brunch ... With Sugar On It!  
– Northern / Auckland



**4** National Committee & Regional Co-ordinators

**4** Warm welcome to our newest members

**5** President's Report  
– National

**6** Some of the Best Country Roads  
– Kapiti / Wellington



**8** Healthy Happy Body  
– Hawkes Bay

**9** Saturday Afternoon & Evening  
– Waikato / Hamilton

**10** Spanners in the Works  
– Northern / Auckland

**12** A Lake Taupo Eruption!?  
– Waikato / Hamilton

**14** Whanganui Market Run  
– Taranaki

**15** The Most Engaging Car Club  
– National

**16** Big Rigs, Great  
– Hawkes Bay



**17** Follow the Leader, Mostly  
– Northern / Auckland

**18** Ammo Bunkers & Albion Presses  
– Kapiti Coast

**20** Waitara Historic Train  
– Taranaki



**22** Driver Training Day 2021  
– National

**23** Club Sponsors and "Trade Off" Classifieds

## MX-5 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



## National Committee

### President

Keith Jones, 027 436 2568,  
president@mx5club.org.nz

### Vice-President

Allan Boot, 027 260 0667  
vicepresident@mx5club.org.nz

### Secretary

Marilyn Harp, 021 617 729,  
secretary@mx5club.org.nz

### Treasurer

Sandra Jones, 027 428 4606,  
treasurer@mx5club.org.nz

### Committee Members

Graeme Banks  
grabannz@gmail.com

Leon Barton  
mx5club@teh.geek.nz

Ron Bol, 021 068 7951  
ron\_shona@xtra.co.nz

Donna Lee  
d.lee@xtra.co.nz

Murray Lee  
murray.lee@xtra.co.nz

Barry Potenger  
b.potenger@xtra.co.nz

Jed Wieland  
jed@jwp.co.nz

Jenny Wieland  
jenny@jwp.co.nz

## Regional Co-Ordinators

### Whangarei / Twin Coasts

Terry Conaghan  
Phone: 09 437 0898  
Mobile: 027 237 0084  
Email: terelene@ultracom.co.nz

### Northern / Auckland

Allan Boot  
Mobile: 027 260 0667  
Email: allanboot@xtra.co.nz

### Waikato / Hamilton

Gary and Maureen Major  
Phone: 027 242 6783  
Email: waikatomx5club@gmail.com

### Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Karen Struiksma  
Mobile: 027 342 7189  
Email: bayofplenty@mx5club.org.nz

### Hawkes Bay / Napier/ Hastings

Mike & Rosemary Hurley  
Phone: 06 878 9265  
Mobile: 021 152 6573  
Email:  
hawkesbaymx5club@hotmail.com

### Taranaki

Nora Hunn  
Phone: 06 761 8864  
Mobile: 027 2160 608  
Email: norahunn@gmail.com

### Manawatu

To be advised.

### Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Sharon and Keith Ewing  
Phone: 06 379 7709  
Mobile: 027 274 4443  
Email: ks.ewing@xtra.co.nz

### Nelson / Tasman

To be advised.

### Marlborough

To be advised

### Canterbury

To be advised

### Dunedin / Otago

Clint Trewin  
Phone: 03 455 3246 (Work)  
Mobile: 027 435 8510 (A/hours)  
Email: clintsmotors@xtra.co.nz

### Southland / Invercargill

Peter Glover  
Phone: 03 217 7187  
Mobile: 027 634 3900  
Email: verglo@xtra.co.nz

### Mazda MX-5 Club of New Zealand Inc

PO Box 15551, New Lynn, Auckland

Email: admin@MX-5club.org.nz

[www.mx5carclub.co.nz](http://www.mx5carclub.co.nz)

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](mailto:murray.lee@xtra.co.nz)

## A warm welcome to our newest members

### Northern / Auckland

Simon & Lesley Dallaway  
Glenn Christie & Nicola Finlayson  
Caleb Parker  
Glen Dalby & Cherelle Te Kata

### Waikato / Hamilton

Craig & Lynne Sharp

### Hawkes Bay / Napier/Hastings

Debra Cummins & Paul Turner

### Taranaki

David Banham

### Manawatu

Kerry & Sue Gowan

### Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Tim & Christine Ongley

### Otago

Mike & Frances McElhinney

### Southland

Ben Knowles & Emma Gunn



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

We are nearly at the end of another financial year and planning is under way for the Annual General Meeting. This year we are holding it in Hamilton, at the Hamilton Gardens, on 20th June.

We hope to see as many members there as possible as this is the best opportunity you will have to discuss any aspects of the Club's operations or structure that may concern you. The formal Notice of the meeting will be emailed to all members in the next week or so

Included with the AGM Notice will be nomination forms for the National Committee. If you would like to make a contribution to the everyday running of the Club, please get someone to nominate you. Historically the Committee has always been made up of members from the Northern Region, due to the logistics of getting to the meetings. However, in these days of Zoom, distance is no longer an impediment, and we would love to have members from other Regions on the Committee.

Sandra and I recently had a holiday in the Waikato/BoP areas and went to the Hamilton Gardens for the first time. If you have never been there before, we would definitely recommend it if you have time after the meeting. It's a world class venue.



As I mentioned in my last report, the Committee has been looking into the Club membership structure. The sub-committee has put forward its initial thoughts and suggestions on the matter and we hope to have these finalised in time for discussion at the AGM.

Elsewhere in this issue of TopDown you will find the notice about this year's Driver Training Day, which will be at Manfeild Circuit Chris Amon on 18th September. (See page 22. – Ed.) We used this circuit in 2019 and it proved to be ideal for our purposes, with members' feedback being very positive. As in recent years, those members who have not been to a Training Day before will get preferential booking rights.

– Keith Jones, President

## Ready ... Set ...



## Go! ...





# SOME OF THE BEST COUNTRY ROADS

21 MARCH 2021

21 excited MX-5s and one Kia Rio along with their owners met up at the Everest Café in Featherston. After coffee, cheese scones and a quick briefing from Sharon and Les everyone left on the start of the day's adventures.

First stop was the outskirts of Martinborough where cars pulled over and waited for Sharon and Keith to lead everyone in procession into town, around the square and back out to Princess Street.

The journey then continued for 150 kms through some of the best country roads the Wairarapa has to offer:

Ponatahi, Gladstone, Te Whiti Rd beside the mighty Ruamahanga River. We emerged onto the Masterton – Castlepoint road and then turned off into Te Ore Ore – Bideford Road. Left into Whangaehu Valley Road and through to Alfredton. Left onto Pa Valley Road all the way to Kaitawa where we continued the journey through the back roads to eventually arrived on time at our lunch destination in Mangatainoka. No travelling on SH2 since leaving Featherston.

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Les,

Photos by Sharon and Les

Kate and the Tui crew made us feel very welcome and as soon as we all had purchased a beer and sat at our tables the food began to arrive. A lot of the meal preparation had been done in advance because we had sent through our lunch orders a





couple of days earlier.

The Fish n' Chips proved to be the most popular meal followed closely by the Wagu Beef Burger, Kumara and Orange Salad, Quesedilla and Pizzas. All the food was delicious and beautifully presented. After lunch we had time to shop at the store where our Salon Boys had their own beer label prepared.

And then it was time for the activities:

We then said our goodbyes to the Tui HQ before driving home after another enjoyable club event.

Big shout out to; Sharon who

mentored me through the process of organising this drive, everyone who turned out on the day and helped to make this a successful event, and to the awesome crew at Tui HQ who made us so welcome and fed us so well. ●



*The team goes cycling*



# HEALTHY, HAPPY BODY AND NATURE AT IT'S BEST



## Six cars lined up in Hastings on a typical glorious Hawkes Bay morning.

The planned outing was to go to a dairy farm near Waipukurau that sold unpasteurised milk direct to the public. The outing was promoted as a self-guided day at the farm.

After a very pleasant drive we arrived at the Lindsay farm together with quite a large number of the general public. We found that the farm owners had gone to some lengths to showcase their property and set up a big marquee (for shade), a water slide for the kids and a safe creek to paddle in, plus vendors caravans selling food and coffee.

They have a herd of 100 cows with 50-60 in milk production at a time. To maintain all year supply they have 2 cows calving each week and they are in production for a maximum of 8-10 months.

They run a closed system so all stock including babies are on farm and their herd is 100% A2. They have a mixture of breeds but mostly Jersey cows for their delicious creamy milk! They run a holistic pasture management programme encourage diversity and quality feed for the cows and builds

## Hawkes Bay

carbon in our soil. They're in transition with their organic certification with Biogro, to be certified in 2021. They do not use antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, herbicides, GMO's, or palm kernel.

They are passionate about producing the best quality milk possible for our children and grandchildren. So that they know they can offer the best milk and do it consistently, and make sure their cows are happy and healthy. They believe quality whole food is the key to a healthy, happy body and know that milk truly is nature at it's best.

Our group stayed for a couple of hours and then drove back to Waipukurau. Here we split – with some cars going back via Takapau to see where a big grass fire occurred a few days before. The rest of us had a lazy drive home. ●

**Story and Photos by  
Averil and Stewart Ford**

## PERFORMANCE AND HANDLING UPGRADES ALL MX5 MODELS | SPECIALIZING IN N.C.

ROAD AND TRACK PREPARATION

2.5 LITRE RE-POWERS

ROLL PROTECTION

TURBO AND SUPERCHARGING

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE BUILDING  
SCRATCH BUILT SPORTS CARS



**Redline Enterprises** LTD

KEVIN HUNT - 021619848  
www.redlineent.co.nz



# SATURDAY AFTERNOON / EVENING CRUISE



Waikato / Hamilton

**27 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Rather than our normal Sunday runs I decided to do a late afternoon/early evening Saturday run, firstly to escape the heat during the day and secondly to enjoy the top down experience in the early evening.**

This was the first run I had organised after handing the Waikato Coordinators role to Gary and Maureen almost two years ago.

Eight MX-5s arrived at our normal Rototuna Shopping Centre meeting location. It was a bit of an ND overkill, we had six NDs, one NA and one NB. However the NCs were still represented as two of these joined us at the Kaiaua Hotel including Heather and Lyn from Auckland.

Was great to welcome new members Milan and Gordana Miletic on their first MX-5 run in their 100th Anniversary ND .

After a chat and catch up we headed off (we had four white NDs together which would have been a first) past Horsham Downs and onto the old SH1 at Taupiri. Was very strange to see almost no traffic on this road as it's now all going along the new Waikato Expressway. From there we headed up Orini Road and then around the back of the lake (Lake Waikare) at Te Kauwhata. The lake was a

very strange reddish colour, guessing it was some sort of algal bloom due to the high temperatures. Lake Waikare is the largest lake in the lower Waikato catchment, it covers 34 km<sup>2</sup> of open water. It has an average depth of 1.5 metres and a maximum depth of 1.8 metres.

A slight detour was made into the Te Kauwhata township to check out the loo, then it was back down the way we came and onto SH2. Due to a vehicle accident the road I had planned to take that leads directly into Kaiaua was closed, so we took an alternative road which worked out fine. I always wondered where that road went, now I know.

The meal at the Kaiaua Hotel was excellent, the meals come out very quickly. Most people had fish which was superb – would put most high end restaurants to shame. We sat outside and it was very pleasant.

Around 7.30 we all headed off, a mixture of State Highways and back roads, almost no traffic. Was so nice tops down in the early evening, must do it again. A final stop in Gordonton Township to say our goodbyes and we all headed on our separate ways home. ●

**Report & Photos by Denis Crossman**





# SPANNERS IN THE (PLANNING) WORKS



Northern / Auckland

Report & Photos by Allan Boot







**21 MARCH 2021**

**Thank you to the 33 Cars that assembled on Auckland's North shore with the goal again to head to a west coast beach and then an east coast beach to fill a glass jar with Black and White sand.**

Having pre driven the route twice I was very confident in my instructions. Oops.

One of the early instructions (about no. 5!) I'd put the correct distance down and the wrong road name so that threw a real spanner in the works

That saw cars going backwards and forwards, round, and round roundabouts, waving at one another until most eventually nudded it out.

We headed out west and as ever it gets hard to find new roads of interest but I did find a couple and eventually the group came out in the back residential parts of Helensville before heading

to Muriwai. Many missed an instruction (which was correct!) so came into Muriwai a different way to that planned but hey it's the journey that's important.

Then it was through old familiar ways to then choose an east coast beach before arriving at The Silverdale Adventure Park for the finish. Make a note to avoid this place – it's in it's death throws of survival and the food and attractions are .... (rhymes with rap)

That didn't stop some good natured banter and plenty of organiser eating humble pie (me) and whilst there weren't anything like 33 cars at the finish most had a great day out with tops down.

My daughter Annaliese drove my green NA on her own and thoroughly enjoyed blasting about roads and areas she had never been and then enjoyed the company of several of our new younger members. That's what it's all about. ●

# CITY GARAGE

C  
I  
T  
Y

**Full mechanical & auto electrical repairs;  
WOF's, tunes, lubes, brakes, clutches  
Carried out by expert Mazda trained technicians**

G  
A  
R  
A  
G  
E



10% discount to  
club members

**Supporting the MX5 Club with a 5% rebate**

16 Waverley St, Auckland

Phone 09 379 5649 Email: [citygarageltd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:citygarageltd@xtra.co.nz)



# ANYTHING OTHER THAN A LAKE TAUPO ERUPTION!

18 APRIL 2021

**Please forgive me – I've been out of touch with all things MX-5 since March 2020 for one reason and another – life gets in the way sometimes. But, I'm back, although my writing skills are probably a bit corroded by that absence!**

MX-5 runs are great for so many reasons. You get to head out for a blat in your racy little motor – loads of fresh air with dashes of fun, speed and excitement all blended in with the camaraderie of seeing familiar faces and getting to know new faces too.

Increasing our run-fun-factors were some fellow MX-5ers who joined the run from the BOP, Thames, Waihi and Whitianga (apologies if I've missed anyone). Jinba ittai (...be at 1 with your MX-5 and the road).

My lifetime co-pilot, my dear Peter, is recovering from shoulder surgery so Sue, a workmate of my friend, Suzette (also a member of our MX5 Club), filled in as my co-pilot. Chatting a hind leg off a donkey, the miles and scenery whizzed by in a blur, until we zoom-zoomed around a bend and, boom, the stunning silver waters of the Coromandel coastline came into view.

But, I'm rushing ahead of myself. The bulk of our group of 32 cars gathered at the Rototuna shops from 9.30am. Time for hellos/how-are-ya's and then the run briefing by Gary in time for our 10am

**Report & Photos by Karin Merrifield**



departure. I think we caused quite a cheerful stir, as I spotted out the corner of my eye the smiling faces of onlookers as well as one stander-by filming our magnificent departure on his phone.

Some say the suburb of Rototuna was built on a tiny remainder of the ancient lake bed of Lake Tunawhakapeka which is to the north in Horsham Downs. Lake Rototuna was considered as "ornamental" back then and had been drained for the most part by 1919. The whole of the Waikato including this area would've been flooded by water and covered in ignimbrite debris from Lake Taupo approximately 22,000 years ago. Look, I'm so glad I'm alive today! I mean give me a global pandemic and lockdowns and stuff like that to cope with, anything other than a Lake Taupo volcanic eruption!





We went to the El Dorado (it has gold mining history, not just all therapeutic waters and fizzy drinks!) town of Paeroa – land of mineral springs, L&P and a rich and diverse history.

The lords of the internet tell me that Paeroa has been nicknamed the “Events Capital of the Coromandel” – it had boasted a national reputation for horse racing until the race track closed in 2014 due to financial issues by the managers of the track. My co-pilot, Sue, harkened by her Scottish heritage, mentioned that there’s a “Pipe Band Tattoo” held here.

I looked it up and discovered that the “Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo” and the “Battle of the Streets” motorcycle race were usually held in February. Both events attracted participants from New Zealand and abroad. I’ve transited through Paeroa many times over the years, all that time I was ignorant of its interesting history and the events held here.

The Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo was last held on 13 February 2021 and continues to be an event run by a group of dedicated volunteers who believe in paying it forward to their community.

The thought of that “Battle of the Streets” Street Circuit will probably interest a lot of us MX-5ers – it was a hacksaw shaped [temporary] street racetrack on which speeds could reach between 220-280 km/h along the main straight. Pfwarrrr, imagine that! This race was the brainchild of 3 wise men (Bob Jeffrey, Sharland Waikato and

Colin Lynch) sharing beersies at the Paeroa RSA in the early 90s. Unfortunately the race has run its course, coming to an end in 2018 due to lowering spectator numbers versus rising costs.

Next stop Kopu and having collected some more MX-5ers on our 2 brief pit-stops, we made our way to the Pepper Tree Café in Coromandel Town for a lovely lunch.

The name Coromandel dates back to 1820 when the HMS Coromandel sailed into port. This was once upon a time a major port serving gold mining and kauri logging industries. Today the main industries are tourism and mussel farming. The irony being they must be all farmed out – the Pepper Tree manager regretfully informed our lunch party that they were out of stock.

However, they still managed to serve us a yummy lunch over our marvelous nattering (gosh it was noisy). After lunch some went to support local businesses with shopping, others headed home and the rest of us stopped in at the Kopu Pub for refreshments. Thanks to Gary and Maureen for organizing a fabulous run enjoyed by everyone. Till next time, cheerio! ●





# WHANGANUI MARKET RUN

27 FEBRUARY 2021

**What an amazing day for a run. Sun shining, clear skies and very hot.**

A small group all meeting at Hawera, due to many of our members being overseas (South Island) unable to join us. A quick chat and on our way, venturing down state highway 3, south to visit the Market day on the banks of the Whanganui river.

Six cars traveling in convoy stopping for a needed relief stop in Waverley before continuing.

Arriving in Whanganui to have a good look around the market stalls, including a look in the boat sheds. So many goodies in the many stalls, home baking, clothing, artists, metal, wood sculptures, plants to name a few and many different types of food stalls as well as the fruit and vege market. Their weekly market is a very busy place.

A couple of us enjoyed a coffee before strolling around the many stalls. A hat was purchased and a cabinet maker's plane as well as a few sweets, so they didn't make millions from us today but an

Taranaki

**Report by Nora Hunn  
& Photo by Jock Sutherland**

interesting outing all the same.

The market is right beside the riverside walkway which features a number of quirky 'art' pieces (such as a half-buried railway engine made of bricks) and well worth a stroll.

We then gathered together for a chat on the water's edge, so tranquil, before leaving for our lunch date at Caroline's Boat Shed, booked for 1.30pm.

Back in our cars for a short ride, we followed the river to the restaurant to enjoy a drink and tasty food. All very relaxing and it was hard to move on for our journey back home.

Thank you, Grant and Allen for organising a lovely day out, getting those MX5 wheels turning again. ●





# “THE MOST ACTIVE AND ENGAGING CLUB”

So far in my 27 years I've never had the opportunity to drive on a track (or the machinery to do it justice) so I jumped at the chance to stretch my RF's legs at Hampton Downs.

Coming out of the pit lane onto the course took my breath away and I spent the first two laps just in awe of being on a real track. As a lifelong motorsport fan, finally experiencing the corners, looking for the brake markers and the apexes, took my full attention (and amazement) before I got a bit more confident in the last three laps and started pushing the car harder.

My partner Ash had been told to expect 80-100kmh speeds and sure enough the 'hand on the thigh' brake pedal came out as we touched 140kmh on the straight on lap 4. On that lap the first corner came up bloody quickly!!

What struck me was how much more you must contend with when driving on the track – judging your braking and gearshifts especially. I've learned to rev match on the road but can't really heel and toe properly so looking forward to refining this as time goes on! When can we go again?

A massive thanks to Keith and Allan for organising this. I have been part of car clubs before but this is by far the most active and engaging club I've come across. MX-5s are great for any age of driver and it shows in the club. ●

Report by Kingsley Hockley  
& Photos by Club Members





# BIG RIGS, GREAT. BIG IDIOTS ON THE ROADS, NAH!

28 MARCH 2021

On an impulse, I decided at pretty short notice to go down to the Tui Truck Show at Mangatainoka, near Pahiatua. So I sent an email out to the local group giving a bit of info and where I would leave from, not expecting too much response at short notice.

Departure time, 3 cars, so let's go.

Nice leisurely drive south on the main road, following a vehicle that only does about 75-80 on the flat, but on the first uphill passing lane is capable of over 100! Don't you just love that!

So up the passing lane, me being in front booted past them, followed by the long long train of cars behind. And where is the Cop sitting? Two-thirds of the way up the hill. No good trying to stop us – simply too many cars! I hope he did something about the slow vehicle.

A quick stop in Woodville for the compulsory coffee and a snack and on to Mangatainoka. We didn't really expect the amount of people and cars, so parking was a problem, sorted eventually by an obliging resident letting us park on the front lawn.

We wandered around the brewery grounds making suitable oohs and aahs at all the flash big rigs. By crikey, some of these working trucks are cleaner than my MX-5. The drivers certainly lavish some TLC on them. Trucks with over a million k's on them, cleaner than my car!

We spent a couple of hours there, had some very expensive chips for lunch and then headed for home.

A short way back towards Woodville, we had

## Hawkes Bay

Story by Mike & Photos by Trish

a graphic example of how quick things go wrong on the road. Thee of us tootling along at a good 100k, a milk tanker coming the other way, when a car came out of the side road right in front of the tanker. Good driving by the tanker driver averted a



catastrophe, as we had nowhere to go except into a deep ditch. I'm sure the tankers have cameras, so no doubt they will follow up on it. Certainly makes the heart race a bit.

An uneventful trip home from there. Except for the two vehicles that just had to pass the sports cars come hell or high water. Why? One even slowed down in front again. I guess most of us have seen it. ●





# FOLLOW THE LEADER - MOSTLY



Northern / Auckland

**21 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Covid reared its ugly head again and what was planned to be a breakfast together in Karaka and then a run out to do a few parade laps of Hampton Downs got scuttled.**

Unfortunately for a brand new member Hayley she didn't get the change of plans memo, but to her credit came out and met us at the finish after a phone call. Thanks and great to meet you and your immaculate green NA.

Skies were picture perfect and we had some new (Laurel joined on the day) and many regulars. We even had a Waikato member join us. Fantastic.

I'd set a route that took us over some roads made for MX-5s and it was great to hear a few of the experienced crowd say it was the first time they had been on those roads. Heading out of Auckland has limited options so it's always a challenge to come up with something different..

Styled as a 'follow the leader' I handed out instruction sheets to about 5 cars only, which meant a nice amount of keeping an eye out for one another at intersections.

I took up tail end Charlie in my trusty Green NA and whilst i did spy a couple of cars (Rex) doing a hurried trip back onto the correct course, everyone made it to the finish. I did zip past all those stopped at Te kauwhata so I could get to the finish not too far behind the quick crowd. I was still well back.

On this spectacular day the views over the Waikato region/looking back into Auckland from up high and the mirror calm lakes that exist in the middle of nowhere were sensational. I can also report the cicadas were in full song all day..

A bonus for me was letting my 32 year old stepson Reuben have the use

**Report by Allan Boot &  
Photos by Sue Potenger**

of my modified ND. That was a pure leap of faith as he is into drifting as a racer and afterwards his mum Kay said "that there's no way she would have lent him her car!" Now you tell me!

He was nice and responsible and had a really enjoyable time settling in with the spirited bunch up the front. He thought MX-5s were ideal for the roads we were on. Seemed to use quite a bit of fuel though. Hmmm.

I'm glad I had pre run it on the Friday as a road I had picked turned to gravel after about 4kms and I decided it wouldn't suit a lot of people so made a few changes.

A quick picnic together in the sun and sharing stories and then with lots on in Auckland everyone departed, many to watch the final 2 races of the Prada cup.

Thanks and see you all soon. ●





# AMMO BUNKER, AN ALBION PRESS AND 14 MX-5S

21 FEBRUARY 2021

Fourteen MX-5s met up at the California Garden Centre in Waiwhetu Lower Hutt. After coffee and bite to eat, Ceinwen handed out excellent instructions on how to get to our destination for the day – the Print Museum in Mangaroa Valley, Upper Hutt.

Newbies 'Salon Boys' Harry and Cody keen to leave for the day's drive.

As soon as we departed from the Gardens and despite the clear instructions, MX-5s headed off in all directions. But on that Sunday all roads led to the museum. After a pleasant drive through the Hutt

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Les Jones &  
Photos by Les and Gaye

Valley, up Blue Mountain Road, through Whiteman's Valley and over to Mangaroa eventually all MX-5s arrived at the destination.

The Print Museum is housed in what was an old Army camp, using the concrete ammunition store to house many of its items. The camp had a railway station and the museum also utilise part of the station building.

We received a very warm welcome from Michael Curry and Dan Tait-Jamieson. After being given some history about the Museum we split up into three groups and were given an interesting tour of the museum and the precious artifacts that have been saved for posterity.

This Albion Press is hand

Left: Michael Curry and Dan Tait-Jamieson welcome the club

Top right: The Albion Press used in 1864 to print the first Evening Post.

Middle right: John Nixon shows how a page of a newspaper was laid out.

Bottom right: After the tour, a picnic lunch on the grounds of the Museum.



**Does your MX5 hood need replacing or repairing?**  
Then contact us... your convertible hood specialists

2006 onwards

Canvas MX5 hood with HEATED GLASS REAR window \$1780\* plus GST  
Supplied & fitted. Black or Tan

Vinyl MX5 hood with HEATED GLASS REAR window \$1550\* plus GST  
Supplied & fitted. Black or Tan

1989 - 2005

Canvas MX5 hood with HEATED GLASS REAR window \$1600\* plus GST  
Supplied & fitted. Black or Tan

Vinyl MX5 hood with HEATED GLASS REAR window \$1400\* plus GST  
Supplied & fitted. Black or Tan

**TROTSKIES**  
AUTO UPHOLSTERY LTD

Ph: 021 365 116

PLEASE NOTE: NEW ADDRESS

30 Limerick Place, Dannemora, Auckland

Email: colin@trotskies.co.nz

www.trotskies.co.nz

With over 30 years experience, we do all makes and models of cars, vans, trucks, boats and caravans. We do everything, from repairing ripped seats, dropped roof or door linings, carpet replacement, squabs to complete car re-trims. For more information, contact Colin Trotter. \*Pricing subject to change depending on NZ dollar.



operated. Three pressmen could print 200 copies an hour. Pages were set up using the metal type in the Case alongside the press. Each letter was individually picked by hand and put in place. In the four pages of the first Evening Post there were about 76,000 individual characters.

After the tour, talks and demos we had a delightful picnic before heading back home.

A big thank you to Ceinwen and Godfrey for organising the outing and to Dan, Michael, John and Kevin generously giving up their time to show us around and talk about the history of print and the work of the museum. ●

For more information visit [www.theprintingmuseum.org.nz](http://www.theprintingmuseum.org.nz)







Taranaki

## TRIP TO, AND TRIP ON, WAITARA HISTORIC TRAIN







**21 MARCH 2021**

**After a late night at The Bowl of Brooklands for the Crowded House concert, the alarm on Sunday morning was necessary if perhaps not all that welcome. A quick run to the Stratford Mitre 10 café, The Ink Pot, for a bit of socializing before the planned 9.45am departure.**

Grant R had organised this run and while still a coolish breeze the day ahead looked clear. Our first destination was to be Waitara via some of our great eastern Taranaki MX-5 roads. A safety briefing from Grant and then 11 MXs and one Yellow Mini (although not a real Goodbye Pork Pie one) set off. Superb drive through lovely countryside, untroubled by other traffic.

Our destination was the Waitara Railway Preservation Society which runs a restored diesel train between Waitara and Lepperton return, twice on every second Sunday during the summer. The first run of the day at 11am and our advice was that it was first come first served but 5 minutes before departure would be fine. Arriving half an hour ahead we found that the 60 person capacity was already on board.

Plan B then. Can we change the time of our lunch booking? No. Any other eateries close by that can accommodate us? Not initially but the Waitara District Services and Citizens Club, a short walk away, said 'yes they could'. And so they did, dragging in the Manager early, we were seated by 11.30am and enjoyed a very nice lunch. No need for a big evening meal after that.

**Report by Jock Sutherland &  
Photos by Lesley Sutherland**

A short stroll back to the 'station' in ever improving temperatures, and on to the train in good time for the second run of the day. There are 2 carriages, one open and standing only, and the other enclosed with seating (intended for the elderly no doubt). Our group split itself as appropriate and off we went. Every road crossing greeted with the train's hooter. The locals must love it, but running on such a little used redundant line, an essential warning for unsuspecting motorists.

Interesting views over the back fences of the town, including a very fashionable scarecrow, as we headed up one of the steeper railway inclines in NZ, as we climbed up out of the river valley. Originally built to move freight from the freezing works to the port, the current 'boutique works' moves its product by road. On through the countryside to an audience of cows, the low point would have to be the aroma from the pig farm on the route.

At Lepperton the line meets the main network line from Wellington to New Plymouth and our journey ended before that junction. Well the first half anyway as the ride took us back to Waitara on the same track. Off the train and now basking in a lovely warm sunny afternoon, there was time for a photo shoot before we all headed our different ways.

Thanks Grant for a very enjoyable outing. ●



# DRIVER TRAINING DAY 2021

**The Mazda MX5 Club's Driver Training Day will be held at the Circuit Chris Amon at Manfeild, Fielding, on 18th September 2021. This is a National Event, all members are welcome.**

This is a great day out to let you really find out how much of a fun car the MX-5 is to drive (if you didn't know already) through a series of events designed to test and improve your driving skills.

In the morning there will be four different events: gymkhana, braking, cornering and slalom. In the afternoon, after a classroom instruction session, there will be time on track in safely sized groups.

The first sessions will be limited to a maximum of 100km/h, with a final period where you can go as fast as you like. This final period will require drivers to wear a racing helmet and will only be open to those who have either done a Driver Training Day before or who have track day driving experience.

Registration will be on-line through the Club web site <https://www.mx5carclub.co.nz/>. The registration fee is \$120 per driver.

Registration for those who have not been to a Training Day before will open on 1st July 2021, and for those who have been to one before, on 22nd July. Registration numbers are limited to 50 drivers.

## National

You must be a current financial member of the Club and you will be required to sign an indemnity form indemnifying the Club against any mishap or injury. Your car must be registered and have a current Warrant of Fitness.

As this is an off-road event, even though it is not racing, you may not be covered by your normal vehicle insurance policy in the event of an incident. If this is of concern to you we would recommend that you check with your insurer before registering.

Options for accommodation are being investigated and these will be advised to registrants separately.

We look forward to seeing as many new members at the Driver Training Day as possible.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

**Keith Jones**  
**MX5 Club Driver Training Day Co-ordinator/  
Chief Instructor**  
**0274362568 or [keith.jones1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:keith.jones1@xtra.co.nz)**





# SAVE UP TO \$10 PER \$100 WITH CLUB SPONSORS

Sponsor	Product/Service	Benefits to Club Members
<b>ALL CARE</b> 18 Arklow Lane Whangaparaoa Ph (09) 4241711 Mobile: (027) 283 7533	Specialist roof, interior, zip and plastic window repair and replacements. The best for MX-5 cloth and leather repairs	<b>Discounts to Club Members.</b>  Event Prizes.
<b>AUTOWAY SERVICES LTD</b> 123 Columbo St Frankton, Hamilton Ph (07) 847 5484	For all your Mechanical work, Tune-ups, Lubes, WOFs, Alignments and more!	<b>5% discount on Parts and Labour to members.</b>  Spotted Campaign Major Sponsor, Membership Card Sponsor 2001/2, Magazine Advertiser, Prizes.
<b>BROOMFISH AUTOMOTIVE</b> Internet sales only: www.broomfish.co.nz PH: 027 7337410	Mazda MX-5 parts. Ships nationwide.	<b>10% discount for Club Members.</b>  When ordering, use coupon code "MX-5CLUB" to get the discount.
<b>CITY GARAGE</b> 16 Waverley St, Auckland Ph (09) 379 5649 citygarageltd@xtra.co.nz	Full mechanical and auto electrical repairs; WOFs, tunes, lubes, brakes, clutches. Carried out by expert Mazda trained technicians	<b>10% discount to Club members.</b>  Magazine Advertiser 5% rebate to MX-5 Club
<b>CLASSIC COVER INSURANCE</b> www.classiccover.co.nz 0800 456 254	Motor vehicle insurance	<b>10% on premiums.</b>  Must give Club membership number when obtaining quotation.
<b>DENT MAGICIAN</b> NZ Wide Ph 0800 No Dents Ph 0800 66 33 68	Dents removed with no painting. It's fixed or it's free! Mobile service, approx 30 minutes per dent	<b>\$140 per panel retail.</b>  <b>10% discount for Club Members.</b>
<b>MAZDA DEALERS</b> Nationwide NZ		<b>10% discount for club members on parts</b>
<b>SCREEN WIPER SOLUTIONS</b> 9/90 Elizabeth Knox Pl St Johns Auckland 1072	Silicon wiper blades retail for \$69.95 but SWS offer them to MX-5 club members for \$39.95. Available to all cars, not just MX-5s.	<b>Major discount for Club Members.</b>  To order, go to <a href="http://sws.co.nz">sws.co.nz</a> and select the model you need. Enter the promo code MX-5 and your club membership number.
<b>WANGANUI MOTORS</b> 82 Ridgeway Street Wanganui Ph (06) 349 0930	The Mazda Dealer to see in Wanganui	<b>10% discount on parts.</b>

## FREE "TRADE OFF" CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS

### ACCOMMODATION: BAY OF PLENTY

2 bedroom Bach, backing onto Ohiwa Harbour.  
[www.holidayhouses.co.nz](http://www.holidayhouses.co.nz) (search: ohiwa hideaway)  
15% Discount to club members.  
Email: [nsl.me@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nsl.me@xtra.co.nz)  
Phone: 027 501 8748

### WELLINGTON REAL ESTATE

Got too many MX-5s for your current garage? Need a bigger home to store car parts? Call me if you are thinking of selling in the Wellington Region. Professional advice, excellent service and free market appraisals available for Wellington Western, Eastern, Southern and Northern areas. Call Katie Underwood on (027) 248 2061, (04) 894 3717 or email on [katie.underwood@raywhite.com](mailto:katie.underwood@raywhite.com)  
Licensed Salesperson under the Real Estate Agents Act 2008.

### POWER PROTECTION

For computers etc, Online Power Solutions. Supplier of APC by Schneider Electric, Socomec and Eaton UPSs (Uninterruptible Power Supplies), single and three phase, and Power Filters. Contact Willie Williamson on 021 WILLIE (021 945 543)

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@MX-5club.org.nz](mailto:topdown@MX-5club.org.nz) and put Trade Off in the subject line.



# 2021 UPDATE FOR CLUB MERCHANDISE

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for Start, Membership, Regions and Events, TopDown Magazine, Merchandise, For Sale, Photo Gallery, and Contact. Below the navigation is a large banner image of a group of people gathered around several red Mazda MX5 convertibles. The main heading reads 'EXCLUSIVE CLUB MERCHANDISE'. Below the banner, there is a call to action: 'Click on any item to view the full details. Any item can be added to your shopping cart, and you can return to add more items before checkout.' A note states: 'Note: all prices are inclusive of GST'. The merchandise grid includes:

- 30th Anniversary Polo - Women: \$40.00
- 30th Anniversary Polo - Men: \$46.00
- 30th Anniversary Club Cap: \$25.00
- Geneva Jacket 2020 - Women: \$90.00
- Geneva Jacket 2020 - Men: \$90.00
- Hype Polo Long Sleeve 2020 - Women: \$48.00
- Hype Polo Long Sleeve 2020 - Men: \$48.00
- Hype Polo Short Sleeve 2020 - Women: \$46.00
- Hype Polo Short Sleeve 2020 - Men: \$46.00
- 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 2008-2018 Number Plate 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/sbonxp>