

# TOPDOWN

2021

Issue 5

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



**EAST TO WEST & SOUTH TO NORTH — SPRING RUNS FOR SOME**





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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-ordinator – Ron Bol, membership@mx5carclub.co.nz

## A warm welcome to our newest members

### Twin Coasts / Northland

Drew & Susie Barlow  
Lianne & Nigel Goddard

### Northern / Auckland

Taumata Akutata  
Theo Pearce  
Oliver Cull  
Annaliese Boot  
Rachel & James Barker

### Waikato / Hamilton

Jayden Pennell  
Chris & Jennifer Vandy

### Taranaki

Garry & Monika Childs

### Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Dean & Helen Shuen  
Wayne & Pamela Johnson  
Brian Ritchie & Faye Hennessey

### Manawatu

Thomas Iliffe & Jeffrey Williams

### Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Karen Herbert & Jim Waayer  
Daniel Town  
Luke Young  
Rob & Navy Sinclair

### Otago

Paul & Helen Sibbe

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.

**MX-5 TOPDOWN MAGAZINE**  
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## 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.**

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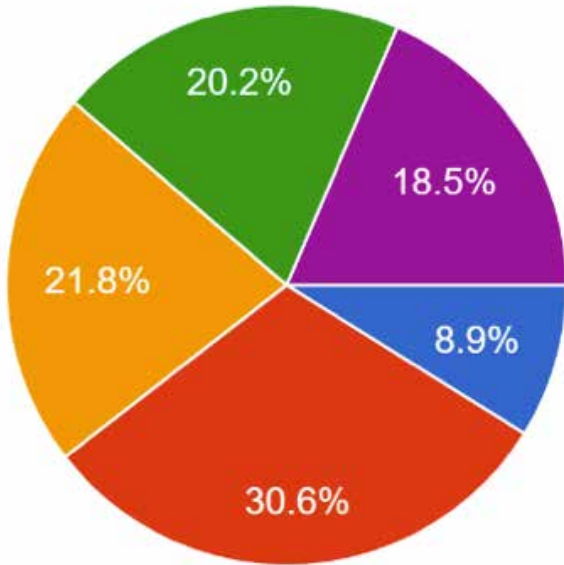
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## MX-5 Club of NZ Life Members

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	2010
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



# IS ELECTRIC THE FUTURE FOR THE MX-5?



- Count me in! I welcome our electric future.
- If it captures the "Jinba ittai" and is still a lively driver's car, I'll likely end up with one.
- I'm on the fence. Never say never.
- Unlikely you'll see me in one.
- Nope! That's not an MX5, and you won't catch me in one.

Recently we asked our members who are hard core enthusiasts what they thought about a future MX-5 being an electric car.

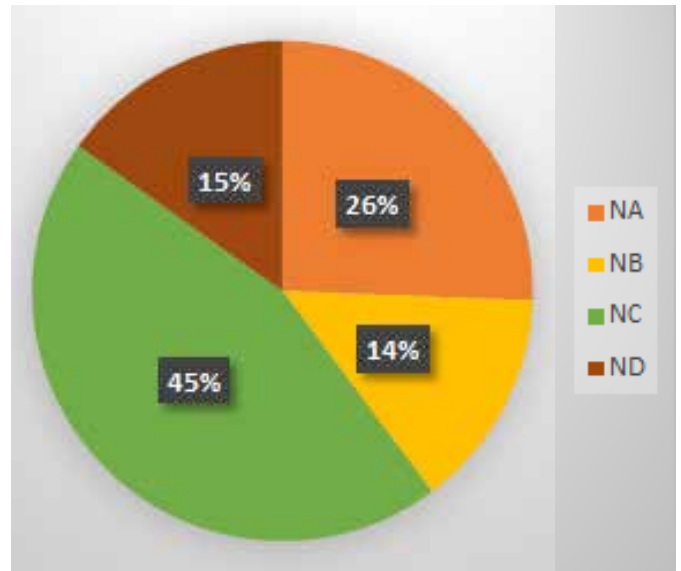
The results showed approximately 40% were likely to consider it and a similar amount unlikely. That leaves a further 20% sitting on the fence.

What an opportunity for Mazda – get it right and you will see a solid core of current owners possibly take up the opportunity. If not, then it's going to be a hard road ahead.

I guess one day in the not too far distant future a sporty petrol-fuelled car with 3 pedals and a gearstick, front engine and rear wheel drive will become a rarity ,,,

Until then let's keep enjoying the world's most popular convertible (when allowed) and listen to that Internal Combustion Engine making all the right noises with the "horse and rider as one" spirit. ●

Below: our current Club make-up of models:



Or maybe you'd prefer a custom MX-5 SUV?

## From the President

**The COVID restrictions have really put a damper on events particularly in Auckland and latterly Waikato, both of whom have been cancelling events. We are looking unlikely to have much before Xmas.**

The National event of Driver Training Day has been postponed to May 2022-and whilst most have reconfirmed their attendance already, there are spots available so jump in and grab a couple.

The other more fortunate regions have been able to hold events and the Kapiti region along with Taranaki have been quite active with what look like excellent and well attended runs. I've already grabbed Kapiti's notes for their excellent coast to coast run and will slot that into next years calendar for Auckland and others.

The National Executive have also recently put a few initiatives into place including:

- Obtaining and distributing fire extinguishers and superior first aid kits to all Regional Coordinators.
- Signing off on at least one member from each region having a St Johns certificate course.
- In our quest to provide greater value for members: each monthly run any region has, they will receive a \$40 petrol prize for a giveaway to some attendee (a few conditions apply).

- Having talks with several South Island regions to look to rejuvenate the membership there.
- Constitution changes allowing for Associate members to be registered now, ideal if you want to belong but no longer have an MX-5 or are planning on getting one.
- We have trialled a new communication system called "Discord" which makes online meetings and having attendees from around the country included – nice and easy. We are looking at ways to use this platform as a private group for members and that work is underway now.
- A "mini national" is planned to be held in Taranaki on the first weekend of April 2022.

For the go faster brigade we are looking into organising other track days both on our own and in conjunction with other clubs with our goal of a couple per year spread around NZ.

Meantime membership is steadily increasing, as a team we are ticking off a few items in our quest to make things better than before and our club remains in a healthy position albeit some of us really feel the effects of lockdowns.

Stay safe, wave vigorously to all MX-5s out there and above all use and enjoy that MX-5. They truly are the best bubble to be in!

Zoom Zoom.

**Allan Boot – President**





# A SPIRITED RUN ... BUT NO PICNIC

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

Bay of Plenty dropped to Covid level 2 on the Tuesday night so Jo and Steve got to organising a short notice run to Rotorua for lunch on Sunday.

Karen promptly sent out an email to all BOP members and we had 11 cars confirm.

Due to the fact that the bars/cafe's could only seat 50 people and therefore reluctant to take bookings, we decided a picnic at Lake Tarawera would be the easiest if the weather played ball.

On Saturday, it was blowing a gale and COLD so we changed the plan and decided we could all finish up at "Eat Street" in Rotorua and perhaps break up into smaller groups to get into various bars for lunch.

We all met up to start the run at Te Puke on Sunday morning and cruised out to Paengaroa and travelled Old Coach Road until we met State Highway 2 again just out of Matata. After a coffee stop at the roadside caravan in Matata, we enjoyed a "spirited run" over Manawahe Road to the South end of Lake Rotoma. This is an excellent 30 km road for our cars and is used as part of the course for the Targa Rally of NZ.

We regrouped by the toilet block and there was another car club there that had just finished coming over the same hill. They had all sorts of cars from RS2000 Escorts to Porsche 911s, Jaguars, Lotus etc and they called their club ARTDI (A Reason To Drive It) and they were based in Rotorua.

From there it was a short run on the main road into Rotorua. We found a bar that could accommodate the whole lot of us and we enjoyed a great lunch and an ale.

## Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Report by Steve Wiles, Photos by Steve Wiles & Dorothy Locke

So far we have travelled 135km with 55 of them being on Back Country roads

After lunch we all made our own way home, some of us decided to take more back roads just to make the day last a little longer.

All in all a great day with great company and enjoyed by all after spending two weeks in Lockdown. ●





# A WHITEBAIT RUN POST-LOCKDOWN

25 SEPTEMBER 2021

With the weather looking good for the start of the day, 16 cars gathered at Big Jim's Garden Centre café for morning coffee. Luckily the car park has been extended because post-lockdown the place was pretty busy.

After the usual greetings and stories (tall and otherwise), of doings since our last run, we headed north. Coming out onto the New Plymouth to Waitara section of SHW3, the traffic split up our line of 16 cars. As we all know, cars are gregarious, and with not too many trucks to deal with, we all arrived in Mokau surprisingly close together.

Whitebait season, and the Whitebait Inn does a good whitebait fritter I'm told. I can't quite get my head around the eyes, but that's just me. Anyway, a

Taranaki

Report by Jock Sutherland  
Photo by Lesley Sutherland

good lunch was had by all and so we moved off to the cemetery.

Well, it has a nice grassy area looking out over the sea which makes for a nice photo.

After that it's just a quick stop at the Mokau Butchery for some GF sausages for the mother-in-law, and some others with blue cheese flavouring, and pork with apple and maple syrup. Yummy. A nice end to very pleasant day's run. ●



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# WE WENT DOWN THE HOBBITON TRAIL

19 SEPTEMBER 2021

With the weather forecast looking real bad it was with some trepidation that we started off our Sunday morning with the intention of taking in some of the best roads in the south east Waikato area.

We had scoped out the run the Tuesday before and planned which were the best MX-5 roads to eventually end up in Matamata for lunch. At that point it was planned to disperse as a group through the many cafes in town because of Covid restrictions.

During our scoping run to check roads, and possible roadworks, and suitability for a group of Mazdas, we discovered we were right beside the Shires Rest, part of the Hobbiton complex.

This place is huge with a car park possibly bigger than most found at a Supermarket. Eerily, it was almost empty as was the big Cafe when we ventured inside. Six other people were enjoying lunch in a Cafe that conservatively could sit 200.

The decision was made there and then that this would be the place to stop for lunch on our run. We ordered our meals and very quickly they were served. They were big meals and well priced, so our decision to come back was a good one

Without overseas tourists this brilliant, internationally recognised tourist attraction is "bleeding". 360 staff is now down to 60 and the 9 large Hobbiton buses that ferry down the tourists to the Hobbiton Film Set are now sitting idle. Usually 1 bus leaves the Shires Rest fully laden every 10 minutes when at the peak of the tourist trade. While we were lunching there was 1 very small bus went down the short journey and we were at the Shires Rest for at least an hour.

Sunday comes and back to the weather. While it was threatening rain, 15 of the 16 cars turned up at our meeting point and all present were mad keen for another cruise. Unfortunately 2 members in the 16th car had called in on Saturday pulling out due to ill health.

After the usual instructions off we went driving through almost deserted City streets to the City

## Waikato / Hamilton

Report by Maureen Major, Photos by Gary Major & Graeme Denton

boundary on Matangi Road where we regrouped.

First stop was the Lookout on Mangakawa Hill, sometimes referred to as Sanatorium Hill, located just south of Cambridge. What a spectacular view all over the Waikato from all points of the compass.

Sanatorium Hill used to be a Hospital for Tuberculosis patients who were convalescing. From 1902 up to 60 patients were housed in dormitories and single bed shelters. The Army took over the Sanatorium during WW1 for convalescing Servicemen. In 1922 it was sold and demolished as it was too expensive to maintain. All that remains today is one small outbuilding and many foundations where buildings used to be. Some of the old shelters were renovated and taken to Cambridge and the old Band Rotunda is now in the grounds of the Waikato Hospital.

Off we go again over glorious back roads and only overcast weather to end up at Hobbiton, which was even emptier of people than on our scoping run.

After a leisurely lunch break and many comments as to how huge the meals were, we set off to Matamata and parked at the Firth Tower museum. If you haven't been to this museum in the past it is well worth a visit.

Firth Tower museum occupies a remnant of the former Matamata estate (1865 to 1904) of some







56,000 acres established by Aucklander Josiah Clifton Firth.

As well as the 120 year old homestead and it's 1881 Tower this historic precinct preserves another dozen historic buildings in parklike surroundings.



Josiah Firth had the massive 13 metre 3 storey tower built in 1881 mainly as a status symbol so he could look over his extensive estate. Cost? £1600 or in today's money \$3200. It is one of the very earliest reinforced concrete buildings in NZ and is a category 1 listed building. One confusing aspect of this Tower is the numerous Gun Ports on all 3

levels. People can park Motorhomes in the grounds or the car park, for the princely sum of \$15 per night including power.

After a good look around we headed back to Hamilton and I hope our 15 car lineup was impressive as we drove through the Main Street of Matamata.

Throughout our cruise the displays of literally hundreds of Cherry trees on the sides of the roads and in driveways was spectacular. Absolutely in full pink blossom.

We stopped at a point on Matangi road on the outskirts of Hamilton and had a good chat and said our goodbyes.

Some good feedback was given to us as to what members would like to do in future months:

- meet at a Cafe for a chat and meal
- mid-week runs
- dinner on a Friday night

Thanks to Kathy and Murray for sponsoring this months lucky draw (a bottle of Wine) and congratulations to Wendy for your win. Leave the cork in and you know where we live. You should, as we are related .... sister!!

Meanwhile Waikato will continue to seek sponsorship from Club members and so far we are covered until Xmas. All in all a great run with very enthusiastic Club members. ●





# WHO NEEDS INSTRUCTIONS WRITTEN OUT ...



**19 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**We started with about 15 of us having breakfast at Everest Café in Featherston**

Then at 10.15am went to Featherston Public toilets to meet the rest, bringing our tally to 22 cars.

Great turn out, but being Level 2 it was a bit different. Everyone was wearing masks and the QR code was scanned.

I changed the start of the drive from our usual cross over SH2 to get to SH53. It was drive SH2 for 800metres and turn right onto Boundary Road.

Well the first car went straight over SH2. Everyone followed. We pulled out about half way through the cars and turned on SH2 to go 800m, but still everyone went the other way.

## Kapiti Coast / Wellington

**Report and Photos by Sharon Ewing**

Who needs instructions written out when they know their way.

So we headed out to Kahutara around to Lake Ferry Road, then headed back to White Rock Rd and out to the Hau Nui Wind Farm. Photo shoot. Was a very cold wind.

Then headed back into Martinborough toilet stop if needed, do a lap of the square, then out Cambridge Rd, then head out Ponatahi Rd, over Millars Road onto Longbush Rd, then up Admiral Rd.







This was a good climb and we turned around at the top and had great views of the valley heading down.

Down through Gladstone over to Waihakeke and back onto SH2 heading to Greytown.

At Greytown Park we had a picnic lunch.

I think the wind got too cold for most, so headed home.

Thanks all for attending the drive, great day. ●





# GENTLE ANNIE RUN 2021

## Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Report & Photos by Dorothy Locke

24–26 SEPTEMBER 2021

With amazing weather in our favour, nine cars and 16 people meet on the Friday afternoon at Parklands Motel Turangi .

We sat outdoors enjoying the late afternoon glorious weather with refreshments and sharing catchup stories.

On Saturday morning in clear and sunny weather, we headed off to Taihape for morning tea.

We stopped for a photoshoot at the photographic spot on the Desert Road with the mountains so clear and showing off the snow cover.

As per normal us BOP Crew use any time available to chat.

My coffee is waiting in Taihape so we are on the road again.

We had coffee, browsed the shops and picked up a snack to eat ready for the lunch stop on the road to Havelock North via the Gentle Annie.

The sealed winding road, amazing weather and landscape made for a

perfect drive.

We found a historic Bridge so we stopped to explore the bridge and river.

Back on the road to the lunch stop at the DOC camp at the Waiwhare Forest .

Then the final leg to Havelock Motel for the





night through farmland and Vineyards.

We had happy hour drinks together and then headed out to a Pub for dinner and to watch the All Blacks.

Sunday morning was another beautiful day, after breakfast we said our goodbyes, some heading home and others staying on .

Thanks team for making it an amazing weekend. ●





# A NICE SURPRISE AT WAVERLEY

17 OCTOBER 2021

With heavy rain and strong winds forecast over Taranaki, it was good to see that those who had registered for our October run showed bravery and commitment.

However, those that knew the route for the day would have been watching the rain radar.

After assembly at Stratford's Ink Pot Café, we headed south past Eltham and turned towards Ararata and the hills that allowed our group a different view of Taranaki, not often enjoyed.

We then headed, via Ohangai, to the highway southeast towards Waverley. We took a detour out to inspect the new Waipipi Wind Farm which opened about a year ago. It has 31 turbines each 95 meters high.

Following a track from the farm towards Waverley caused some confusion, meaning the group arrived at Waverley from different directions, but we had promised a comfort stop there, and everyone arrived fairly quickly.

That stop delivered another surprise as a group from the Kapiti Coast group had the same idea at the same time. They had stayed in New Plymouth the night before and we're on their way home. NICE SURPRISE and good to meet some new MX-5 fans.

From Waverley we steered towards Whanganui, and after a short run, headed off the main road, heading towards the coast, on a road that few had come across before.

This took us to Kai Iwi Beach where we found a spot that was shielded from the wind. Allowing lunch – bring our own lunches – backed up with

Taranaki

Report by David Banham  
Photos by Lesley Sutherland



beef sausages and patties cooked on a BBQ.

What started with doubt, ended with a happy group finding their way home. ●





# MX5 East to West

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Mike Dennehy,  
Craig and Michelle Stricker.  
Photos by Club Members.

16–17 OCTOBER 2021

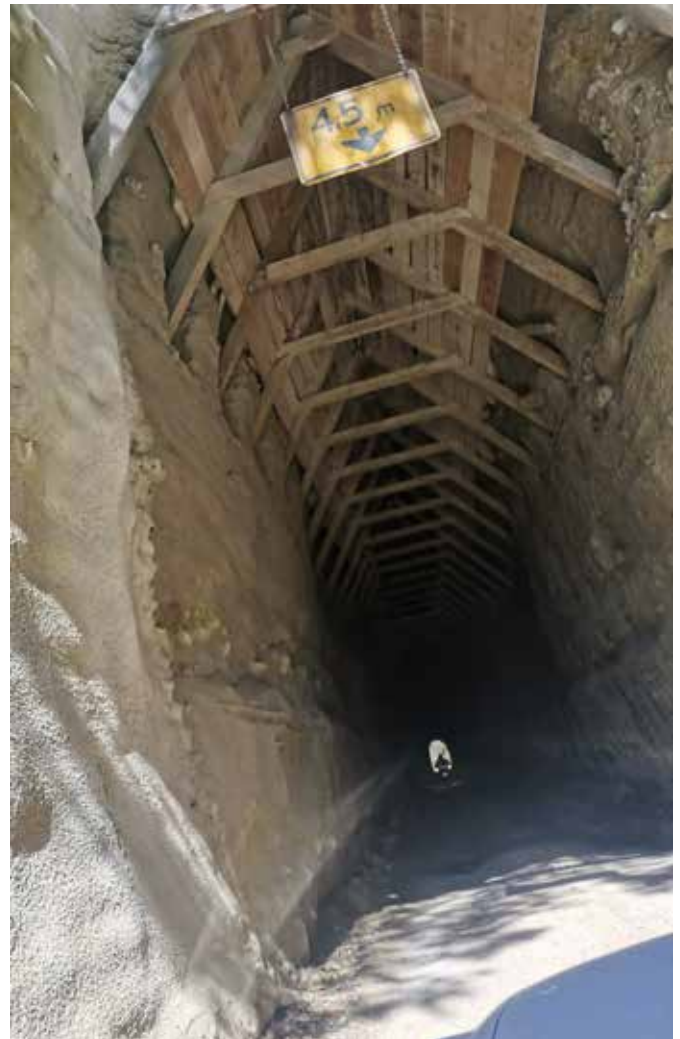
The Kapiti region has been going from strength to strength of late, so when Sharon proposed a run from the East coast to the West coast in one day to watch the sun rise and set, I'm sure she was blown away to have 28 cars with 53 MX-5ers on board. Even the sun gods came out to play on Saturday for our approx 460km marathon.

Everyone travelled at their leisure to Napier on the Friday before and stayed overnight at the Kennedy Park Resort. It was an excellent venue to cater for the numbers and had a bar area where those who wished to, gathered for a catch up.

Saturday morning we all met at 6.24am on Marine Parade in Napier to watch the sun come up over the ocean. It was truly magical.

Soon after we all made our way to Cafe Adoro for our pre-ordered breakfasts. Considering the numbers they were dealing with, it all seemed to run like clockwork. But hey I'm sure it's not every day that this little cafe in downtown Napier would get 53 hungry punters at 6.30am on a Saturday!

Back in the cars and we hit the road with full tanks and tops down with The Gentle Annie Highway in our immediate sights. Originally a Maori track but is now a fully sealed road with endless twists and turns, rolling farmland with numerous sheep and cattle stations, hillsides covered in native forests and superb scenery. Snow covered Mount Ruapehu kept teasingly coming into view as we snaked our way towards SH1, eventually popping out near Waiouru.



Across to Ohakune for a quick toilet, fuel or coffee stop then on to SH4 through National Park towards Taumaranui to the start of SH43 – The Forgotten World Highway.

Reputed to be the oldest heritage trail and one of the most scenic drives in NZ it is also rated by the police as one of the ten worst roads, due to the 12km slippery gravel section of the Tangarakau Gorge.

I'd say this was the most challenging section of the trip from a driver's perspective. We passed a field of lavenders and dense forest unique to the area as we made our way along the narrow winding road.

The single lane Moki Tunnel is affectionately known by the locals as 'The Hobbits Hole'. Built in the 1930's it is 180 metres long and was originally 5 metres high. However the floor was lowered in 1985





to accommodate the introduction of stock trucks and trailers. Did you all have time to look up at the amazing roof structure?

All the cars arrived at the Whangamomona Hotel covered in dust ready for the welcome pre-ordered lunch.

The staff of the Whangamomona Hotel did not disappoint with the lunch that they provided for our members. Savouries, sandwiches and scones (with the options of jam and cream) were made available along with coffee and tea. Some also chose to grab a refreshing beer from the well-stocked bar to wash down the trail dust of the last twenty or so kilometres, although many, aware of the driving yet to come, decided to wait until journey's end before indulging.

We departed the hospitality of the Republic of Whangamomona and headed off west along SH43 to Stratford; there we joined SH3 and continued to New Plymouth. Around about Normanby we encountered the first of several long stretches of roadworks, causing significant delays to our journeys. Once past Inglewood things sped up to something like normal highway conditions and we all arrived safely at Asure Abode Motel in New Plymouth in the mid-afternoon.

An informal Happy Hour took place in the communal courtyard of the motel; lots of chat about the day, the running gear of one or two of the more interesting cars (one word, quick), and a general catching up with each other. It's been observed that

the group is attracting some younger enthusiasts in recent times; our club is taking on a more eclectic image these days which is good to see.

After Happy Hour most walked to the New Plymouth Club to see the sunset and have dinner. Early nights followed for many as it had been a longer day than some of us are used to these days.

On the Sunday morning the camp was mostly stirring by about 7-30 am; some of us headed off slightly in advance to get fuel on our way to breakfast; this was held at the Pukeiti Rain Forest Eatery which lived up to its name with a gentle drizzle slowly intensifying as we arrived top down.

Sharon had chosen a superb venue for breakfast, with the design and layout of the facility giving an impression to me of being in a giant tree house. The sights and sounds of the native bush were an impressive reminder of just what a great country we live in; add to that the fun of our particular means of transport to get there, combined it made for a special experience for the group.

After a relaxed breakfast we all commenced the journey home to our various domiciles. There was quite a bit of rain on the way back south but we managed to drop the roof from Sanson back to Kapiti.

This was a superbly organized run for the club; the amount of toil that Sharon put into making the weekend the success that it was earned the well-deserved gratitude of all those who participated. ●







# THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE CUSTOMISE

**Curated by Gary Major**

**Mazda's Build Your Personal MX-5 Program allows you to customize the 2021 model year MX-5 to your liking by choosing among different exterior colors, interior trim, soft top or retractable fastback, and even transmissions.**

A total of 78 combinations are possible when customers pre-order the roadster.

Apart from allowing you to choose between a 6-speed manual and automatic transmission, you can also choose a new Deep Cherry Red soft top, as well as a new Crystal Blue Mica paint finish.

Meanwhile, the interior trim can now be had in Red Nappa or Premium Black Leather. The vehicle can also be specced with a 9-speaker



Bose sound system.

But as Gary's photos show, people's ideas of customising go far beyond the standard when they start stretching, panelbeating and spraying. ●





# TAVERNS, PRIME FISHING SPOTS, WINERIES AND WIDE OPEN VISTAS ON A NORTHERN TOUR

After being frustrated by a Covid lockdown during a Northern Tour in August last year I decided it was time to try again.

At 7am I left Hamilton in rain and fog, hoping for better in the north. But first navigate the horrors of Auckland traffic on a Monday morning. Add nearly an hour to the expected time to Albany.

Lunch with friends in Kamo, and on through Opuia and Paihia to Kerikeri. I called to see a friend at Quail Lodge Lifestyle Village. What a great way to live on the outskirts of Kerikeri.

North of Waipapa on SH10 I stopped at a picnic stop to be surrounded by the biggest, scariest roosters I have ever seen. After escaping "the mob" it was on through – Kaeo, Mangonui, Cable Bay, and Taipa – to Coopers Beach where I stayed with friends. A magnificent home overlooking the Bay.

Next morning the curtains were opened to a cloudy, windy day, but no rain. It was off north to Awanui and a right turn on to SH1. At Waipapakauri, near the Tavern, there is a mounted aircraft propeller, in memory of the Air Force Base that was in the area in World War 2. I understand that it was used by American Bombers.

In the Pukenui area there is turn off to Houhora Heads where there is a Motor Camp, the now vacant Waganer Museum, and a view across to Mt Camel. Around the top of Houhora Harbour is Henderson Bay, with a long stretch of white sand and a DOC motor camp with one occupant. In the west of this area is the Aupouri Forest but in the vicinity are producing Avocado orchards. Thousands of acres of Avocados have recently been planted in this area which will become a major producer in years to come.

A stop at the Te Kao store produced a rough

## Multi-Region Solo Run

### Report & Photo by Graeme Denton

lunch which was consumed at Taputoputo. This picturesque beach is down a steep, loose metal road to a DOC camping ground only a few kilometres from Cape Reinga. As I was about to leave this beach a Tour bus arrived for their picnic lunch. This was good luck as one of the passengers found my car keys on the edge of the sand dunes. I knew they would be in an area of about 200 square metres but it could have taken a while to find them. Luckily I was the only Mazda in the area!

The Cape was just over the hill, and a spectacular sight it was. It was quite a walk from the carpark to the Lighthouse. It was fine but very windy and the meeting of the Tasman and Pacific was putting on a good show.

Returning south, a stop at Te Paki stream was a must. This is where tourists stop to slide down the sand dunes on Boogie Boards and Tourist Buses travel down the stream to Ninety Mile Beach. The MX5 was a bit close to the ground for this!

Passing on through Waitiki Landing the heavy rain started and a decision was made to stop at the Pukenui Pub for a coffee. The rain kept on falling while a side trip to the Houhora Pub was made. This is no longer operating but used to be the northern most Pub in NZ and popular with Tourists, Drivers, and Stock Agents.

Back on to SH10, a left turn was taken on to Karikari Peninsular. This leads to several beautiful remote beaches. Rangiputa is at the entrance to Rangaunu Harbour. There are two motels and very

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***A dirty MX5 looking from Omapere to the Sand Dunes of Northern Hokianga Heads.***



nice holiday homes. A great fishing area. Karikari Beach, Whatuwhiwhi, and Tokerau Beach are all great beaches in this remote area. Carrington Golf Resort and Winery are worth a visit on a nice day, but it wasn't!

Returning to Coopers Beach just after 5pm it was time for drinks before dinner at the famous Mangonui Fish shop. Sitting out on the deck, over the water, with a heater on, I have never before been offered Battered Hapuka fillets. Yum!

AND THEN COVID STRUCK AGAIN. I was given 2 days to get home!

I decided to continue my tour and come home to Hamilton via the Hokianga and Dargaville.

The trip was via Kaitaia, for petrol, and then turn south at Ahipara. Near Broadwood I had to creep slowly through a mob of cattle on the road being driven by an old time drover on horseback. A nudge from a big cattle beast would not have been good for an MX5. Nothing was moving at Broadwood or Kohukohu.

After 2 hours driving I drove on to the Hokianga Ferry with 10 minutes to spare. A toilet stop was relatively urgent but the ferry crew told me the toilet was locked and I was required to stay in

the car. Because of the difficulty in paying the fare, the trip was free. The toilets were open in Rawene! Not far on from Rawene is Opononi and then Omapere where I stopped at a picnic area for lunch. Great views of the Hokianga Heads and the huge sand dunes.

From there it was great driving down through the Waipoua Forest to Dargaville where the town was closed down except for the supermarket where I got supplies for dinner. Heading East towards Whangarei I branched off at Maungatapere to my accommodation at Waipu. This was strange as the Motel was organised by my daughter over the phone and I never met the owners. They were happy to accept payment by internet once I got home.

From Waipu I had an easy drive down the Coast through Waipu Cove, Langs Beach, Mangawhai, and Warkworth to SH1 and on to Hamilton. I have never seen the Southern Motorway with such little traffic

Hopefully this story may encourage others to travel the Far North in better times when we are able. There is much more that could be added to this trip without the restrictions of Covid. ●



# CELEBRATING YOUR MX5

## 50 Reasons what and why ...

# MX5 CLUB



1. Go Kart Handling – cornering becomes fun
2. Dependable – I always get home
3. Environmentally friendly – low carbon emitter
4. Cost effective – impressive fuel economy
5. Wind in your hair – don't need a blowdryer
6. Affordable – within reach for everyone
7. Customisable – unlimited options to personalise, which are celebrated not frowned upon
8. Fun looking – no one can resist smiling when you see one or more
9. Conversation starter – gives you and your hairdresser something in common
10. Makes proper Car noises – non electric
11. Minimalistic – can't take the kitchen sink
12. Dog friendly – never see an unhappy dog in an MX-5
13. Classic Set up – front engine/rear wheel drive
14. Perfect Balance – weight distribution 50/50
15. Parkable – fits in any garage
16. Clubbing – Best NZ Car club as judged 2020 Ellerslie Car Show
17. Design – Jinba ittai – oneness of horse and rider
18. Sign Language friendly – can instantly communicate your feelings using fingers
19. Lifetime value – cheap to run/insure and easily sellable
20. Cool – especially in winter with top down
21. True Collectable Classic – original now over 30 years old
22. Anyone can drive – manual/auto/tip tronic
23. Sensual – see the stars/smell the forests/feel the wind/taste the freedom/hear the cicadas
24. Adventurous – you want to travel the roads less travelled
25. Hat Friendly – no limits on what size or type of hat
26. Practical – carry more than a motorcycle but less than a truck
27. Gender Neutral – anyone and everyone can own/drive one
28. Transplant Friendly – bigger 4s, v6s ,V8 – all been done
29. Family Heirloom – kids clamour to have left to them
30. Real not fake – suntan that is
31. Prevents unwanted children – no backseat
32. Weight Watchers approved – in 30 years only put on 19kg
33. Covid Friendly – your bubble is 1 other
34. Escapable – proper Handbrake Turns are easy
35. Bullet proof reliability
36. Praiseworthy – Winning car magazine awards for 30 continuous years
37. World Record holder – Best selling 2 seater convertible ever; as at 2016 over 1 million sold
38. Bladder friendly – doesn't leak fluids or leave nasty stains
39. Time Friendly – takes but a moment to wash and wax
40. Intimate – just the 2 of us
41. Used, not stored – average ODO is 120,000km on club runs
42. Timeless – ages with grace and style
43. Rarity – like a book/wine/man/woman – the older they get the harder to find a goodie
44. Law abiding – going Topless won't get you arrested.
45. Orgasmic Driving Experience – get a lovely rhythm going, smooth entry, hit the right spot, smell that burning rubber, exit cleanly and repeat till satisfied
46. Variety – MX-5/Roadster/Eunos – NA/NB/NC/ND – Soft top/ Hard top/Manual/Auto/Tiptronic
47. Hot – especially in Summer stuck in traffic
48. Core workout – getting in and out keeps your joints and muscles moving
49. Drivers Car – move your mind, body and spirit – any car will get you from A to B but MX-5 prefers A to Z
50. Impulsive – see a fine day and you just want to hop in drive it



# MAZDA NZ PARTNERS WITH MICHELANGELO



**Mazda New Zealand's support of the arts in New Zealand continues with its sponsorship of the Michelangelo exhibition in Auckland in January 2022, under licence from the Vatican Museums.**

**Michelangelo – A Different View** presents viewers with an up-close view of some of the artist's most famous works which have been photo-mechanically reproduced almost at original size. They are the most complete and authentic reproduction of Michelangelo's beautiful ceiling frescoes of the Sistine Chapel to be shown outside the Vatican.

During the exhibition, at the Aotea Centre from January 3–30, the public will be able to look down on 'The Genesis' that is enshrined in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel rather than looking up.

David Hodge, Managing Director Mazda New Zealand, says the company has been a proud supporter of the arts for many years and the Michelangelo exhibition will be hugely popular with

the New Zealand public.

"During these challenging times with restricted travel and Kiwis enjoying their own backyard more than ever, having the opportunity to see some of the most famous frescoes in Rome's Sistine Chapel up close and from a different view will be a fantastic experience. We are delighted to be able to assist in bringing a little bit of Rome to Auckland.

"The exhibition title also resonates with us as it is similar to the tagline for our recently launched first ever electric vehicle the Mazda MX-30 which is 'Welcome to Different.'"

Some 50 pieces, including an almost original size a 4.6m x 20m reproduction of The Genesis (which includes the Creation of Man) and a 3.8m x 3.8m version of the Last Judgment are just 1-2 metres away

More details about the exhibition can be found at <https://www.stetsongroup.com/michelangelo-a-different-view/> ●





# SUPERIOR SOUND FOR A SUPERIOR EXPERIENCE

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When it was first introduced in 1989, the MX-5 took the world by storm. From the get-go, Mazda engineers were bent on integrating the latest advanced technologies without sacrificing the sun-on-your-face, wind-in-your-hair fun of a simple sports car. Sound design was no exception.

When the third generation hit the roads in 2005, providing great sound quality for convertible cars when the top is down had been a challenge for OEMs and sound designers the world over.

The acoustic characteristics of the cabin change depending on the roof position, and with the top completely open, voices and instruments can get lost in the battle against wind and outside noises. The Bose and Mazda sound engineering team came up with two innovative solutions.

First, they implemented an EQ Equalizer switch to automatically adjust the sound setting when the top is down. Second, UltraNearfield speakers were embedded directly into the seat headrests.

Bose's AudioPilot Noise Compensation also compensates for increased road or wind noises in different driving scenarios, continuously monitoring the entire sound environment inside the cabin. ●



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<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>COOK STRAIT CROSSINGS</b> 021 726 711	Cook Strait ferry booking agent <a href="http://www.cookstraitcrossings.co.nz/">http://www.cookstraitcrossings.co.nz/</a>	<b>Lower crossing rates.</b>  15% to 40% discount depending on time of year.
<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>WANGANUI MOTORS</b> 82 Ridgeway Street Wanganui Ph (06) 349 0930	The Mazda Dealer to see in Wanganui	<b>10% discount on parts.</b>

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



