

# TOPDOWN

2022

Issue 1



**EVERYONE'S GOING TO KAIAPU! FOR GOOD REASON!  
AND THAT PLACE WITH THE LONGEST MAORI PLACE NAME  
OR DEVIATING AT THE 9TH EXIT  
AND WILL YOU BE DRIVING AN ELECTRIC NE SOON?**



**Official Magazine of  
THE MX-5 CLUB  
OF NEW ZEALAND  
[www.mx5carclub.co.nz](http://www.mx5carclub.co.nz)**

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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

### Northern / Auckland

Karen Aw Yong  
Sarah & Ross Bradley  
Greg Austen  
Richard Foulkes and Samantha Lynch

### Waikato / Hamilton

Jack & Marion Schulte  
Gary & Tracey Olivier  
Coby & Tennille Nisbet

### Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Tania Helms

### Marlborough

Amy Chilton

### Otago

Joe and Rob Hay

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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**JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2022**

## 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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## 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 THE FUTURE AN ELECTRIC ONE?

**Mazda has revealed a major push into EVs over the next nine years. And the new models will start arriving as soon as next year, with Mazda embracing full electrification, plug-in hybrid, hybrid and mild-hybrid tech across its entire line-up.**

It forms part of what Mazda calls its **Sustainable Zoom-Zoom 2030 roadmap**, with the brand to unveil SKYACTIV Multi-Solution Scalable Architecture next year that will grow to five hybrid models, five plug-in hybrid models and three new pure EVs by 2025.

The next stage will see more products shifted to SKYACTIV Scalable EV Architecture, with the brand promising that “100 per cent of our products will have some level of electrification, and our EV ratio will be 25 per cent by 2030”.

The extent of electrification is still unknown for our roadster, but Mazda’s official statement says:

“Mazda is seeking to electrify the MX-5 Miata in an effort to have all models feature a form of

electrification by 2030. We will work hard to make it a lightweight, affordable, open two-seater sports car in order to meet the needs of customers.”

Although there are electric roadsters on the roads today, the MX-5’s lightweight nature has always been a huge part of its appeal, and its handling. The electrification batteries will add weight, so whether the future is hybrid or all-electric, there will surely be an increase in overall weight.

Commentary has been saying 75 percent of Mazda’s 2030 lineup will offer hybrid power. It’s thought while a combo powertrain adds weight, it wouldn’t be as much as going fully electric.

Whatever the case, Mazda may have another opportunity to creatively design a new electric roadster to take the MX-5 further into the future.

They’ve revived the car before and in almost every case, the improvements have been exactly that – a car that improves on its original intent without losing the thrill and uniqueness of the original design and handling. ●

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## From the President

### Hi fellow MX-5 enthusiasts.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder and having just arrived back home after 9 weeks at the bach in Northland I have to confess I enjoyed the sight of my BRG NA sitting there all nice and shiny.

Indeed it was out that same afternoon on a range of "important" visits and there's something magical about returning home on a beautiful night at 10.30pm on some nice country roads with the top down and all the sounds and smells that go with it.

Love it.

Regions have events underway including our own here in Auckland and fingers are crossed for a dry top down run this Sunday out west. I see some regions have carried on – despite the weather –

showing what a hardy bunch most are.

Damned Covid is certainly making its presence felt (12k cases today!) so that will affect things in some way, shape or form. For now we continue to follow the government's guidelines with insisting on covid passports and, like everyone, hope that this will be a thing of the past in the not too distant future. We have lost a small handful of members over the covid policy so a massive thankyou to those that have stuck with us.

As a club we want to give back more "value" and hopefully very soon you will see an announcement on a gift for members.

The Mini National is coming up at the beginning of April in Taranaki and we have capped the numbers at 90 for now (there are only a few spaces available at writing). If a couple of days in Taranaki exploring different roads and places appeals, feel free to talk to your local regional coordinator.

Over the long summer break it was rewarding to see the value of a club come to the fore with a number of members contacting me thanking the club for such services as helping people sell a car/buy a car/fix a car. Within our team of 350 there is a wealth of knowledge and somebody will know the answer you are looking for.

With everything going on in the world today my personal philosophy remains the same: Live every day to its fullest and grab any opportunity to be with friends family and MX-5 enthusiasts. Say Yes not No and opportunities to smile are waiting for you.

**Allan Boot**  
Zoom Zoom



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# KAIAUA, GODWITS AND CAMARADERIE



**28 NOVEMBER 2021**

**On a partly cloudy yet hot Sunday morning, 19 MX-5s and their devoted occupants met at the Rototuna Shopping Centre car park for our run briefing. Heightening the excitement of the first run in some months was a raffle of two \$20 petrol vouchers kindly supplied by the MX-5 Club. Congratulations to our winners: Ken Brown and Suzette van Zyl.**

With Andrea Bocelli belting out from our stereo system, my darling Peter drove as we departed at 10h50. Our tradition is he drives there, I drive back – we do both have to have a turn on the runs! Our convoy consisted of various models of all four MX-5 generations. Along the way, we received friendly waves and smiles from locals and cyclists as we meandered along the road surrounding Lake D. A thrilling experience as our beloved purring mechanical babies hugged the lake's curves and coils as we zoomed onward.

A bend here, a hill there and hey, presto we were traversing through Taupiri and saying “hello again” to the Waikato River. We looped around the dead quiet round-about where one usually will find a

## Waikato / Hamilton

### Report and Photos by Karin Merrifield

melee of vehicles escaping from, or venturing to, the metropolis of Auckland. And, you guessed it, all the while Andrea's still singing away – now crooning the age old hit, “Bésame Mucho” (kiss me much), first penned in 1940 by Consuela Velázquez from Mexico. Adding to the ballad's romantic mystique and atmosphere is the rumour that Consuela had never been kissed by the time she'd written the song because she'd heard that kissing was considered a sin... Obviously Consuela had hidden depths and a vivid imagination!

I don't know if it's the way the light fell on the landscape, or the exotic and romantic music that suddenly made me feel nostalgic for a place I've never been to, but wish to visit one day – Miataland (<https://www.miataland.it/>). I dream of a future when international travel restrictions will ease sufficiently for my pilgrimage to this idyllic Italian resort where,





for everyday of your stay, you can drive a different Miata! I'm surely not the only MX-5 fan(atic) who believes this holiday destination is not only an aspiration, but a must for the bucket list.

How wonderful an experience to be driving in this long line up of the 19 MX-5s on our run the first run Peter has done with me in over a year. He has unfortunately been battling health ailments which precluded us from attending many runs. We hope that things are turning a corner now for the better.

Yonder were swathes of forest land, only interrupted by one denuded hillside sticking out like a sore thumb in an otherwise pretty landscape. The countryside roads swept us along – up hills, down hills and around bends – rejuvenating us with feelings of “miles of smiles” – a stirring one can only get from the magnificent and iconic MX-5.

The Kaiua/Miranda area is a great place for fishing, the beach, hot pools and bird watching. Located nearby is the Pūkoro Miranda

Shorebird Centre, open 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm. Here you can learn more about our feathered friends. Back in 2002 in our first year in New Zealand, Peter and I were fortunate to attend a lecture-style-talk with the Glenfield Rotarians (where we lived before moving to Hamilton). The talk was about the various species of bird life who reside here, both temporarily and permanently. You can see 1000s of shorebirds on the tidal flats and shell-banks at Pūkoro.

Some species such as the Godwit do an annual migration between New Zealand and the Arctic. Imagine flying all that way on your own steam! What about the slightly less adventurous family members like the South Island Pied Oystercatcher and the Wrybill who merely migrate within New Zealand. Sharing the shoreline are some real home-bodies who only reside in the Miranda area: Pied Stilts, New Zealand Dotterel and Variable Oystercatchers. It's worthwhile visiting this centre – from the





amateur-avian-watchers amongst us to the keen-and-earnest-twitchers.

But, I digress – back to a more important topic, we arrived at our lunch stop at the Bayview Hotel at 12h45. By now we were well and truly ready for our “fush and chups” and great times spent in camaraderie chats with many familiar faces, and some new ones too.

The once famed “best fish and chips in New Zealand” spot is at Kaiaua, next door to the hotel. Still some of the fame and tasty goodness surely has rubbed off on the hotel's version of the good

staple pub meal of fish and chips!

You just can't beat the fun and fellowship experience of an MX-5 run! After lunch some of our party made their own way home while the rest travelled in convoy to Hamilton. That was until some seemed to take a different turn and were separated from the convoy. I'm sure all knew their way home and no-one got lost.

All in all, it was a fantastic run and great day out socialising and having fun in and out of our cars. Thanks to all who participated on the day for another superb Waikato MX-5 Club Run. ●

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# THE PLACE WITH THE LONGEST MAORI PLACE NAME

16 JANUARY 2022

We had three meetup points for this run. The usual Manor Park spot for Wellington people, Everest Café in Featherston for those having breakfast there, and Masterton for a few locals.

This was our third attempt to run the trip, with the first Covid lockdown and a weekend of simply appalling weather postponing the first two.

The weather gods were very kind this time turning out a very sunny day. We had thirteen cars in total, with only the MkII or NB not represented in the lineup. Great to see a number of Mk I / NA out there, and not all of them were red.

We had a couple of unscheduled side trips. One road by Henley Lake Park was closed so there was some walking and detour required to meetup with those that had followed the instructions.

We also got to see some of the Wairarapa through the eyes of the logging truck drivers, with a missed turn throwing us onto a gravel road for 20-30 Km.

The camber and the central gravel “hump”

## Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Matthew Underwood

and Photos by

Rob Jones and Charles Thompson

thrown up by the logging trucks on that road was challenging for the low slung MX-5's and a few rattles and scrapes were heard.

Back on the seal and it was a pleasant roll out to the longest place name, and back to the Herbertville Pub for lunch. We had a look at the beach before returning home, keeping an eye out for unusual surges from the Tonga eruption.

Coming home was the usual free for all and a couple of us headed through the sealed curves to Dannevirke before rolling down SH2.

Thanks for organising it all Charles, it was a pleasure to do a longer trip and burn a tank of gas with you all. ●





# KAIAUA COASTAL RUN ... & CHOCOLATE SUNDAES

**23 JANUARY 2022**

**January 2022 our first run this year, lets hope the bug stays away so we can have more .**

Woke up to a stinking hot day – better get the sun lotion out. Her who navigates and I headed off to Barry Curtis Park out east Auckland for the 10.30am meet. Just a short one hour drive from home in Titirangi.

We always seem to get lost out east Auckland, however seeing Barry and Sue next to us at the lights, and turning right, gave us a clue as to which

**Northern / Auckland**

**Report by Morrin Layton and  
Photos by Barry & Sue Potenger**

road to follow. At the park 23 cars gathered, looking all groomed up for the day. After the usual meet and greet Barry gave us the orders for the day and signed us in. A raffle was drawn and Ray Sangster went home with \$40 petrol voucher.



The first part of the run took us out of the housing area to Maraetai beach. The tide was in and with blue sky and blue water with the islands across the harbour in the background, one does not have to travel overseas – we have it all right here.

From there we went down the coast and then headed inland to Clevedon, then left on to the road to Kawakawa – another beautiful spot with lots of people swimming. From there we followed the Pacific Highway to the Bay View Hotel for lunch.

The pub must be the place to go if you have a motor bike – we had a collection of some neat machines to look at. We had a huge fish and chip and chocolate sundae for lunch, and of course a little liquid. We were spread around the outdoor area behind the pub. Everyone had searched a shaded spot.

It was great that Colin and Marilyn from Thames joined us for lunch – we had a chat and a few laughs. It soon became time to head home so we kept the roof up or arms would be matching the colour the PM advised on the radio that we are all red now. By the time we got home we had knocked up 257kms on what I thought was one of the most pleasant drives in a while.

Thanks to Barry and Sue Potenger for a great day. ●





# WE WERE ALL VERY HAPPY TO BE GETTING ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Report by Karen Struiksma  
Photos by Dorothy Locke and  
Jo Wiles

30 JANUARY 2022

Theo and I decided to make an impromptu run to Kawhia as the MX-5 had not been out of the garage since early December.

We invited the BOP members to join us and 12 cars took up the offer.

Many of the members were also looking forward to getting on the road again and several new members had not traveled to Kawhia before.

We met at our usual meeting point, The Kaimai Cafe, for a quick cupa and chat. Heading off down the Kaimais we picked up Ken B from Rotorua at the bottom of the Kaimais, stopped at Arapuni for the loo stop, and found the





## Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

other Ken B from the Waikato at Kihikihi on the way through.

Turning off at Tokanui we headed out to the coast, great winding roads and very considerate traffic pulling over to let us pass when required.

We had a lovely picnic lunch on the waterfront under the trees.

Denis and Ken followed us back to Te Awamutu through Pirongia as they had a surprise 65th birthday for Don to attend.

Other members stopped at Pirongia pub for a cold brew and others for ice cream on their way home. Cheers to another great day out – lockdown free!! ●





# MAKING THE BEST OF IT, AND UP AND UP

20 FEBRUARY 2022

**Why is it that the last few weeks have been marked by beautiful summer weather during the week, then comes the rain on the weekends?**

Making the best of it, our club met up at the wonderful Aston Norwood Cafe at Kaitoke, a central spot for those coming from the Wairarapa, Kapiti and Wellington areas. As usual, the well-priced breakfast (now \$13 but still worth it) was great and the young staff did their best to help us get fed.

Time to leave, and off we went down a familiar route – turn left at The Plateau Dairy and up through Maymorn toward the Mangaroa Plateau. Some of us remembered the past visit to the Printing Museum nestled in this area.

Choosing not to go all the way through to Whiteman's Valley, we took the lovely twisty road down to Trentham via Wallaceville. Driving past all the major landmarks in the area, such as the Army camp, racecourse, golf course and prison, I was reminded of the huge amount of space in this valley.

A leisurely drive through the Upper and Lower

## Kapiti Coast / Wellington

**Report by Sharon Ewing**

**Photos by Charles Thompson**

Hutt neighbourhoods off the main highway took us to the Wainuiomata Hill. Up and up and up, raining ever harder as we climbed over the top and down into the town.

this time, the line of MX-5s has started to break into groups – not everyone was happy driving up that hill in the rain at speed! The long drive down from Wainuiomata town to the south coast is very picturesque, and I noticed a new Wainui Coast mural on a shed along the way (the photo was taken on a different, sunny day).

Just before the end of the road, right on the rocky Baring Head coast, the rain stopped and the skies cleared a bit – there was the sun up there somewhere. The group of red NAs got a chance to show off their round “eyes”.





But as usual, the Southerly wind was strong and we all decided after a short break that this was no place for a picnic lunch. A short while later, we met up at the Remutaka Forest Park–Catchpool Valley entrance. The car park there is large and was mostly empty due to the miserable weather. We found that the lonely shelter was perfect for our

lunch – many people had folding chairs which made the spot quite comfortable.

Lots of great conversation and friendship were enjoyed by about 15 people. It was especially nice to see our old friend Wendy join us! Looking forward to the next drive ... a long one up to the GodsOwn Brewery along SH 50 in Hawkes Bay. ●





# THE 9TH EXIT ... FOR A RIVERHEAD RAMBLE

27 FEBRUARY 2022

National committee member Leon had planned a nice 90km route which headed out West via the picturesque but cycle-infested Scenic Drive, then onto a walk on magnificent Piha Beach (no rescues needed today) and out to a beautiful pub at Riverhead (top of the Waitemata Harbour).

Leon is a self-confessed IT geek and our amazing route instructions included a QR code that somehow linked to google maps and gave you the exact route. Those of us who are more like roadkill on the IT Highway tried to simply follow the written instructions – with varying success I might add.

In fact instruction 1 had us leaving the carpark and entering a large roundabout and needing to take the 9th exit. That saw cars going around and around and exiting at different points. Hilarious.

Out on the open road we were challenged with some cunning questions where, without a beady

Northern / Auckland

Report by Allan Boot and  
Photos by Neville Lambert

eyed navigator, you were stuffed. Those few on their own in cars simply enjoyed following the leaders. As per normal in our MX-5 we had to stop several times and “discuss” the instructions due to differing opinions as to what was required. Fortunately MX-5s don’t have room for a knife block so no harm came to humans involved in this production.

We saw cars darting off here and there but everyone made it to the final checkpoint ... although one car did come in about an hour after everyone else. When asked, “where have you been,” that old Selwyn Toogood line came out: “I’ve been everywhere man.” They were new members on the







run and everyone had a genuine ball.

Drinks and food flowed. It's interesting to see just how quiet hospitality sites are in this environment, but the laughter and fun coming from the group was infectious.

The \$40 voucher was won by Hugh and Fiona Lemmon with the highest score in the questionnaire. Surprising really because Fiona was nursing some strange strain of alcoholic flu from the night before.

Top stuff Leon and great to be out and about Top Down in summer. ●



# NO PICNIC, GOOD LUNCH, CYCLONE, POWER CUTS

13 FEBRUARY 2022

I had planned our annual picnic to Mangakino to give us chance to have a good chat up and natter.

We met at the Pacific Garden Centre in Papamoa for a morning cuppa before we headed away an hour later.

Due to the inclement weather we only had five cars turn up and the picnic idea was scrapped,

We travelled back through Te Puke onto Te Matai Road, State Highway 30, Jackson Road and arrived in Ngongataha. From there we headed to Mangakino, stopping at Lake Maretai for a toilet break and a look at how rough the lake was. There was one crazy wakeboarder out there doing his stuff.

We continued onto Tokoroa for lunch at a café. Lunch was lovely although a bit of a wait, but as usual we had no problem talking away the time.

Four cars conveyed home together. The weather improving all the way home.

Reaching the Bay of Plenty the cyclone wind was increasing and pushing a fair bit of debris in its path.

We had no power when getting home for 24 hours. Luckily we'd had a good lunch.

Thanks for those who braved the weather for another great day out in our MX-5s. ●

## Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Report and Photos by Karen Struiksma



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<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>

## FREE "TRADE OFF" CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS

### ACCOMMODATION: BAY OF PLENTY

2 bedroom Bach, backing onto Ohiwa Harbour.  
www.holidayhouses.co.nz (search: ohiwa hideaway)  
15% Discount to club members.  
Email: 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.

# 2022 MAZDA MX-5 ENHANCED HANDLING, FLASHY NEW FINISHING



**Mazda is preparing to roll out the 2022 Mazda MX-5 featuring enhanced handling and some flashy new finishes for the iconic two-seater's award-winning design.**

It's the carmaker's latest effort to perfect a package that has been engaging drivers for more than three decades with its direct response, ultra-crisp shifting, perfectly balanced front-engine, rear-wheel drive layout – and a snug interior that puts the driver at one with the car.

There's also Kinematic Posture Control (KPC), a new technology developed exclusively for the

MX-5, which recognises a difference in speeds between the back wheels while cornering, lightly applying the brakes on the inner wheel. This prevents lift, enhancing the characteristics of the MX-5's rear multi-link suspension, and suppressing body roll.

This stabilises the car, especially during hard cornering with high G-forces and on rough roads, making the MX-5's already legendary handling that much better while also improving comfort.

**New Zealand options are the Roadster GT and the RF Limited, both from \$54,990. ●**

