

2022

Issue 6

# TOPDOWN



**PUKEKOHE PARK RACEWAY**



**SHOW N' SHINE 2022**



## MX-5 LIFE



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





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## A warm welcome to our newest members

### Northern / Auckland

John Milsom  
Aditya & Helen Maharaj  
Elijah Zanchi-Mabey  
Lucas Betts & Isabella Pickering  
Emma Steven  
Nicki Whittaker & Allen O'Regan  
Reuben Ferguson  
Cheryl & Jordan Reidt

### Waikato / Hamilton

Nikolai Mucznik  
Eileen & Brian Bowell  
Samantha Cutler  
Gaylene & Nathan Francis  
Josiah Walters

### Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Elizabeth Amoore & Sonja Kent  
Paul & Angela Moselen

### Kapiti Coast / Wellington

James & Regan Taimana

### Nelson / Tasman

Marty & Carol Armstrong

### Marlborough

Michael Dorreen

### Canterbury / Christchurch

Jamie Polaschek  
Connor Argyle & Amy Jones  
Jamie Moore

### Otago / Dunedin

John Boyd  
Alf O'Sullivan  
Braeden McIntyre

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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NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 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	Date Awarded
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 Wilkin	Central Plateau/Manawatu	2010
Peter Glover	Southland	2019
Sharon Ewing	Kapiti Coast	2019
Morrin Leyton	Northern	2019
Brenda & Martin White	Northern	2019
Keith Jones	Northern	2022



# KAPITI GOES “GLADDY”

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2022

A typical spring day dawned in the Wellington Region, sunny and calm with a bit of a chill in the air. Thirteen light and agile MX-5s gathered at Wild Oats café in Carterton where the Kapiti club met for coffee and bite to eat.

As the sun breathed some warmth into the morning it was time to scan QR codes for today's route, hand out written instructions for those that prefer going 'old school' and a quick briefing before beginning the drive. Then we were off.

Leaving Wild Oats, we headed Southeast for Ponatahi, and wound our way through farmland to the western side of Martinborough. Here we turned west and cruised to Featherston, a small country town tucked under the eastern side of the Remutaka Range. If you are after a good book, then consider a visit to Featherston. It has a small well-read population because it has at-least five good second-hand bookstores.

After passing through the town, we turned south and drove down the western side of Lake Wairarapa. In Te Reo Wairarapa means “glistening



water” and as we passed by, the lake surface danced joyfully in the sunshine.

From the southern end of the lake, we turned east and travelled across to Lake Ferry Road where we turned north, once again heading towards Martinborough. This small town was originally designed in the shape of the Union Jack. Radiating from the central square, the streets were named after prominent people or places its founder, John Martin, had visited on his overseas tour in the late 1800s.

The town became a borough in 1928 and since



## Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Les Jones

Photos by Sharon Ewing

the 1970s, the area around Martinborough has developed a thriving viticulture business. There are about thirty vineyards and one brewery within walking distance of the town centre, and it has become a popular weekend venue for Wellingtonians who come out to sample the wine and food from the region.

Here on the outskirts of Martinborough with the temperature now climbing towards the high for the day, the front runners pulled over to let the rest of the group catch up. Then in convoy (led by Sharon and Keith) we cruised into Martinborough, around the famous Square before turning left onto Oxford Street and driving Northeast towards Hinakura.

At the bottom of a bushy gully, we turned hard left on to Longbush Road and continued for another 25 kms along more superb Wairarapa

roads, where we reached our destination, the Gladstone Inn (affectionally called “The Gladdy” by the locals). Here we met up with six members from the Manawatu club who, led by Guy, had driven over from Palmerston North.

The Inn was already full of patrons and buzzing when we arrived, but the Gladstone staff were expecting us. We had the dining room all to ourselves and our meals were not far off. It was time to relax and socialise for the next couple of hours.

During the day we covered 145 kms of fun-filled country roads and passed: two magnificently mountainous Conservation Parks, one international recognised wetland, one mushroom farm, and twelve beautiful boutique vineyards. Not bad for one of the club's shorter outings.

A big shout out to the staff at Wild Oats Café and the Gladstone Inn for making us so welcome. ●

## From the President

### Seasons Greetings and we are now well into the summer of sensational top down driving weather.

Don't know what you do but I always try to drive my MX-5s with the top down unless its absolutely weather prohibitive. For a start, that's why I bought the car and it makes the whole experience much more sensory – wind, sounds, smells (what beats freshly cut paddocks?).

Of course there's that fabulous other advantage of being able to communicate so easily with other MX-5 users via a big friendly wave or being able to clearly articulate via ones fingers what you think of other non-MX-5 driving behaviours... Thumbs up of course.

It's been busy around the country with runs aplenty and lots of choices. Those who like to go fast had the great experience of Pukekohe – an absolute highlight for many – and those that like to slip and slide had grass gymkhanas, and those that like to cruise and socialise amongst like minded folks have also been well catered for.

I'm pleased to advise 6 months on from our AGM that the club is continuing to really grow and remains in great shape. We have appointed new Regional co-ordinators to both Manawatu and Christchurch, which are seeing real benefits already. Our latest Sponsorship with Garage 5 is proving beneficial with members taking advantage of their offers and Garage 5 promoting the club strongly.

In the Northern (Auckland region) we have been seriously busy with events every weekend in November and 3 planned for December.

We got to hold our Show n Shine at last in Auckland. The weather played its part as we dodged torrential hail and thunderstorms – we were beyond lucky. It was bigger and better than before and had

an amazing total of 151 MX-5s attend, which meant we made a donation of \$1500 to the Helicopter Trust.

Check out the pictures and links in this issue. Isn't it fantastic to see and celebrate everyone's individual taste in an MX-5 and, whilst we had some formal judging, it was about being part of an iconic car's community and a true success for all..

The Merchandise area is getting an overhaul and we are trialling a more modern club logo – check it out. We are always looking at ways we can help our Regional co-ordinators more, so there's no shortage of stuff to do.

If your lucky enough to be having a seasonal break, enjoy it and stay safe.

If you are making new year's resolutions here's a couple to maybe add in.

"I will use and enjoy my MX-5 at every opportunity."

"I will support at least 4 events the club runs every year."

"I must not collect anymore demerit points for speeding."

"I refuse to live my life in a state of passionate indecision."

"Tomorrow may never come so I will live today and always be present in the moment."

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

– **Allan Boot (Booty) Zoom Zoom**

President and Northern Region Co-ordinator



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# LOOK OUT KAWHIA... HERE WE COME

**Nineteen cars assembled at our usual meeting place at the Rototuna Shopping centre.**

It was fantastic to see 4 of our new MX-5 owners .... One so keen to join us he turned up in his Subaru. We have Ben working real hard to encourage younger MX-5 owners to join us and it is paying off. The talk by them when we arrived at Kawhia was ... gee you don't muck around do you.

On of the NAs was an absolute credit to its owner and got a lot of attention to the point of... WOW. The younger MX-5 enthusiasts certainly spend lots of money in modifying and restoring their NAs.

An uneventful trip to Kawhia followed with one exception. There would be very few runs we have organised where Tops stayed up for the majority of "there and back". Suffice to say the weather for the

## Waikato / Hamilton

### Report & Photos by Gary Major

into the two Fish and Chip shops that were open. These cafes must surely boast the largest and freshest fish servings around. Maureen reminded me that dinner would be very light ... fresh air on toast maybe?

Kawhia when translated to English means an abundance of everything, and is best known as the birthplace of the famous Maori Chief Te Rauparaha.

If you haven't driven to Kawhia in an MX-5 then you are missing out on a spectacular drive. There is your challenge. Whilst there you might like to soak



best part of the day was stink.

Our first stop was at Pirongia and mainstream was chock full of various car club runs from Vintage to Hot Rods. Main Street parking was at a premium and the toilet lock was doing a roaring trade.

Pirongia is an interesting little settlement. It is reputed to be gateway of some of the best walking tracks there is and is the home of the oldest Horse Racing Club in NZ. The annual New Year's day race meet attracts a huge crowd.

Off we go to Kawhia and if you haven't been to this little town take it from me ... the views driving out are spectacular.

We reach our destination with our convoy of 19, which was like a swarm down the main street in a sleepy town that hadn't yet woken up.

Almost all of us descended

in the hot water springs on Ocean Beach when the tide is out. Not many know that these hot water pools even exist.

As seems to be the case on a lot of our runs, our 19 cars on the way home dwindled to about 12. All in all a great day in the world of MX-5s. ●



# LIFE BEYOND THE MX-5 ...

We have been owners of an MX-5 and members of the Kapiti MX-5 club since 2008, so that makes us rather experienced members.

Sharon asked us to do a profile of the other things in our lives, as it has come up that many people have more to their lives than just MX-5ing.

We must say though that our experiences with the people in this club have always added fun and pleasure and we can only express our delight at the outings and friendships that have come from being an MX-5er. We have owned 3 MX-5s, one 1996 NA special with an 1800 motor, one NC 2006 soft top and our current NC 2011 hard top.



Wonderful times with the club have involved: Nelson MX-5 20th Anniversary in 2009, the SITT, the first Taupo training day, and Mark and Lorraine's beer tasting and car gaming day. We have also enjoyed helping to organise Nationals in 2017, a very wet weekend coinciding with the opening of the Wellington motorway. We have enjoyed having club members stay, meeting new MX-5 friends up the road, and visiting the many and varied car collections that this country has to offer. Recently a Manfeild training day was undertaken with good friends who are also members of the Tauranga MX-5 club.

What of our other hobbies?

Well, these comprise other car stuff such as the Jaguar Driver's Club, with our purchase of a Jaguar XK8 in July 2018.



Our next project on the car front will be restoration of an Austin Healey with our son Matthew (a panel beater who likes to restore old

cars). There is much work to be done.

The non-car stuff includes the many other things we get involved with. Lorraine knits very good craft baby clothes and blankets with her twin sister. This is called Twin Yarns and there are items for sale in a local pharmacy.

We have four grandchildren, two local, the daughters of our middle son, a primary school principal and a son and daughter of our eldest son, a flight lieutenant in the Air Force at Ohakea.

Mark's other hobbies include Barbershop singing.

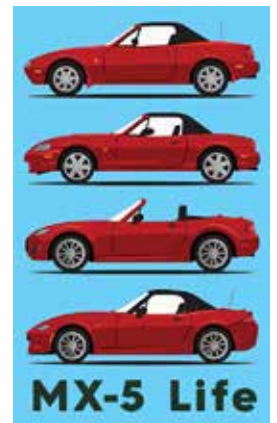


Mark has also been brewing beer since 2003 and is treasurer for his local Probus club. Lorraine helps with the care of her mother who is now 96 years old.

So, apart from also keeping contact with school friends from down south, we are mostly retired, although Mark still works part time as a pharmacist at Lagan's pharmacy in Upper Hutt and at the Lower Hutt after Hours Pharmacy. He is Chairman of the board of directors for his sins.

Life is for living, so let's be in it. It would be a good idea we think for a novel MX-5 meeting to bring your other car, as there are many out there who have hobbies and activities at least as diverse as ours. ●

– Mark and Lorraine Trevean





# SHOW N' SHINE 2022 – “INCREDIBLE”

An incredible turnout of 151 MX-5s at Auckland's North Harbour Stadium saw this event eclipse all others.

Whilst there can only be 5 overall winners on the day (picture A), everyone was a winner with their eyes feasting on so many different, unique and personalised creations.

From absolutely mint to absolutely used and abused – it didn't matter – it was an MX-5 and we just all enjoyed the visual overload and the fun that comes from owning one of these.

Every colour was catered for including the outstanding Candy Apple Red of Ella Cockburn's incredible NA which took out Best Modified and Peoples Choice convincingly (picture B).

When I had the pleasure of welcoming Ella she originally wanted to park her car with the NA group as she didn't think her car worthy of being in the modified section. I convinced her otherwise and the rest was history. Ella had travelled up with a large contingent – The Waikato Roadsters – and a few are club members. What a great bunch of people.

In terms of people travelling some distance the furthest was the president of Perth MX-5 club, Barrie Parker, who was staying with Glenn and Linda Campbell and used their car. He got our latest cap as a memento.

There were people who had driven from Taupo and Rotorua as well as the Waikato, a few from BOP, and one guy who had coincided a trip up from Christchurch in his MX-5 to Auckland and wanted to attend.

Garage 5 came up from Christchurch and their stand was busy all day. Benny was overwhelmed with all the MX-5 questions (picture C).

For something new and innovative we ran a few information sessions and Ron showed people how to maintain the roof drains of NCs and NDs and that went great. There was a run on trombone pipe cleaners in Auckland later that day!!

Our very own Frank who had both his beautiful yellow hardtop NB and Shelly's Mazdaspeed NB on display (both past winners) did a fantastic presentation on where you can source cool parts for MX-5s, using his network of suppliers around the world (picture D).

We had some of the new merchandise on display and David and Dee did an outstanding job of selling items and taking orders (picture E).

Our judges – including Barry from The Auckland Regional Helicopter Trust and Masashi from Mazda NZ – had their work cut out. In fact they had to choose best NA/NB/NC/ND and Modified and it was a credit to them that when we had a tie in the people's choice it was between the NA and Modified they had selected as class winners.

The crowd then were asked to decide and the overwhelming majority selected the Modified of Ella.

## Northern / Auckland

Report by Allan Boot; Photos by Neville Lambert & Brenda White







A team makes this event happen but a huge thank you to Ron and Marilyn who together with myself did the heavy lifting of ensuring this year lived up to the motto of better than before.

The coffee cart was busy, the raffle prizes well received and lots of new club members as well as

some of our silent majority turned out.

We made the most of the luckiest break in the weather you could imagine.

If you missed it, come along next year and help us make it even better.

Enough words – enjoy the pictures. ●



**Awards for the Show and Shine 2022**  
 NA – Carl Macaulay – RX549  
 NB – Gary Osborne – DSB868  
 NC – Samantha Lynch – PEP481  
 ND – Bruce Bycroft – NRG893  
 Modified – Ella Cockburn – UW1821  
 People's choice-Ella Cockburn – UW1821  
 John Cox Memorial Trophy for Best Overall  
 – Bruce Bycroft – NRG893

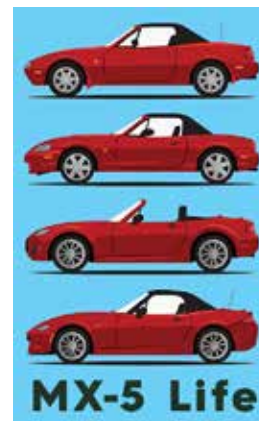


# WAIKATO ROADSTERS SURPRIZES

Despite a notification on Facebook that this meetup of MX-5 enthusiasts was postponed due to an unfavourable weather forecast there was a meetup with over 17 NAs and one NB.

Coby Scott who is the brains behind the Waikato Roadsters had personally invited me to their meet. Coby is also a member of our MX-5 Club.

I gathered up all the TopDown mags I had at home and took our stock of "You have been spotted" cards with Maureen's phone number on them. I offered all that were at the meet there the following offer ... Join the NZMX5 Club prior to the end of the year for \$40 and get a free drink Flask.



cleaning regime. He was a bit gobsmacked to learn that his NA would fetch somewhere around \$10 to \$12k in its present presentation. Tony originally purchased it as a hedge against tax as his accountant had told him that he needed a private vehicle in his garage.

For those of you who don't know Tony, he and wife Jane own a business called Lorimers Honey. If you are looking for real quality Honey in your

Now we wait.

I was supported by NZMX5 Club members Ian Potts and Tony Lorimer. Ian's NA VR LTD Combination A attracted a huge amount of attention as he has converted it to the PIT CREW image at a lot of expense. This car is immaculate.

Tony's car is a blue NA and he is the first to admit that it is not pampered and needs a more regular

Supermarket then I can personally recommend it.

I was taken aback a bit to see how much money these guys (and girls) spend on their cars with all sorts of modification ... turbo fittings and suspension modifications seeming to be the most favoured.

The cars were immaculate in presentation in most cases. I was also assured by Coby that there is not a lot of tolerance for the "boy racer" attitude and that any of their members that demonstrated that, were immediately spoken to and dealt with. He said that their public image had to be one of Car enthusiasts rather than boy racers.



The establishment of a properly set up group was a "work in progress". I have offered my support in doing this but at the end of the day my target is to get them as members of our club too, which will offset the age creep within our ranks. ●

– Gary Major



# MANUKAU MEANDER ... AND ICE CREAMS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH

The weatherman was warning of heavy rain, but that didn't stop us. We saddled up, dropped the lid, and headed South over the Harbour Bridge.

We had some rain just south of the CBD, but we kept the lid down and just sped up to stay dry. Thankfully, the rain didn't hang around and we had clear skies for the rest of the drive to the meeting point.

There were already half a dozen cars at 10am when we met up with the run organizer, Sandra Jones at the Kentish Hotel in Waiuku. We were joined by a few more members, with 9 MX-5s heading off for the run at 10.30am.

We were treated to some stunning "B" roads, windy and narrow (all sealed) as we zig zagged, weaved and Zoom Zoomed our way from Waiuku up the Manukau Peninsular, finishing up at Coulthard Reserve at Wattle Bay – Manukau Heads, a beautiful spot for our picnic lunch. After lunch and some good yarns, we headed our separate ways.

Karan and I had planned to head further south "over the boarder" to join the Waikato Roadsters "Mega Meeting" at 3pm in Hamilton, however, this was postponed due to the bad weather forecast. So, we made the most of stunning weather we actually had and carried on exploring the region ourselves.

Sandra recommended we check out the Manukau Heads Lighthouse, so we headed across, and stretched our legs. In addition to learning a bit more about the Orpheus ship wreck, the Lighthouse was open for public to go up and enjoy the stunning views over the Manukau Harbour. We then headed across to Big Bay for an ice cream, and Grahams Beach before heading home.

Thank you Sandra for arranging a fun drive, and keeping the rain away too. ●

Northern / Auckland

Report by Neville Lambert (CASPER)

Photos by Karan Lambert





# COMMITMENT IS WHAT PUKEKOHE REWARDS!



The news that Pukekohe Park Raceway would be closing in 2023 was a real blow to the whole New Zealand petrolhead community, so when Keith Jones floated the idea of a MX-5 club track day there, the spots quickly filled up and 26 cars with their willing drivers assembled!

Playday on Track run fantastic events at Pukekohe and Manfeild regularly, and we were given our own grid for the day. This was brilliant as it meant we all got used to each other's speeds and natural groups soon formed – without being held up by slower cars – or more likely being blitzed by some Flash Harry in his 911 Turbo!

A great variety of vehicles, from Harley's freshly-turbo'd NA to Everard's MX-5 Cup Car and Benny from Garage 5's drift car, there was a real mix of vehicles and drivers and it was great to see where everyone fell. I'm proud to say I am solidly mid-pack!

Pukekohe is old school – you hear it talked about on Supercars broadcasts, with big deals made of the tight tolerances and small runoff areas – but let

## Northern / Auckland

Report by Kingsley Hockley

Photos by Raceway Participants

me tell you, until you're coming up to the curve onto the front straight in your own car, you don't know the half of it. It feels like the concrete walls close in on you as you approach, and any mistake can be very scary! Don't expect big gravel traps and run-offs like you see at Hampton Downs.

From the main straight there is a quick left-right kink before the tight right hander onto the back straight. Speeds here varied but I personally saw approx. 180km/h, while Adam's NB race car was north of 200km/h there.

At the end of the back straight a right-left complex was added about 10 years ago. This was the scene of a few spins (not naming any names)







during the day, before the tight hairpin and back towards the main straight.

I gained an appreciation for the professionals who race this track with supreme confidence and commitment – and commitment, we all learned, is what Pukekohe rewards! Trusting the car and hanging on through the high speed sections definitely paid off – even if it got the heart rate going a bit!

We had 3 fantastic morning sessions in the dry, with everyone picking up the track and getting faster – a shoutout to Nigel who was quick in his NC from the get-go – before our first session post lunch was very wet – however a brave contingent went out anyway, braving the conditions and in Thomas's 100th Anniversary ND, not afraid of a few spins!!

A fairly serious accident on the back straight from someone driving a Commodore SS reminded us of the very real dangers of even amateur track days (the driver was fine but the car almost certainly a write-off), before it was time for one last session –

in what felt like a typhoon!

The rain was absolutely chucking it down and rivers of water were forming on Pukekohe's soon to be torn up surface. I decided to crawl around in my ND, although aquaplaning at 160kph at the end of the front straight was enough for me to reel it in and cruise round for the last few laps of the day, once or twice testing the grip and getting a little slide going out of the tighter corners.

It was a fantastic day and yet another great way to enjoy our little sportscars – I remarked to Allan as we left how fantastic it is to drive to the track, bash around for the day, and then simply drive home – no fuss, just fun and enjoyment.

An enormous thanks to Keith for organising the day, and to the organisers at Playday on Track who run a fantastic day that's easy to get involved with.

There are still dates at Pukekohe before it closes, and Manfeild too, so check out <https://www.playdayontrack.co.nz/>. ●

**Saturday dawned a beautiful day as I headed down to Pukekohe for the 2nd round of the Auckland Car Club Gymkhana. I arrived to find 26 cars of various makes and models, including minis, MX-5s (great to see 6 there), 4 wheel drive Imprezas and a couple of classic cars.**

After the briefing we walked the 3 morning courses (rather strange to see everyone walking around the cones in the grass paddock). We then split into groups and off we went trying to remember how to navigate the courses correctly, and not go round the cones the wrong way.

All the MX-5s seems to want to group together – no competitiveness of course. With a bit of dew on the ground there was a very distinct lack of grip. Consequently getting off the start line was quite a challenge and much fun, with a lot of slipping and sliding round the cones.

## Report by Glen Dalby

There was a lot of laughing and talking between the drivers about how hard it was to keep the car in a straight line. Eventually the sun dried the grass and we had more control, sort of.

While breaking for lunch, 3 new courses were set out. Although the grass dried out after lunch, everyone seemed to give up trying to keep a straight line and just enjoyed sliding round the courses.

A great day was had by all who attended and I am looking forward to the next one on 21 January. Definitely recommend anyone who wants to have a fun day to come along, you won't regret it.

This is a very fuel efficient event, with no wear on your tyres, and an opportunity to learn a few car control skills along the way in a safe low-speed environment. ●



# TOKOMARU STEAM ENGINE MUSEUM

20 NOVEMBER 2022

Amidst a grey drizzle a small group of cars met in Waikanae behind the town centre. A quiet drive took us up SHW1.

Some of us took our usual inland sideroad through the Waitohu Valley, which is a fun drive even if the Wet Rags have reduced the speed to 60. Rumour has it that Waka Kotahi wants to reduce the speed through the Remutaka Hill to 60 as well. How boring!

SHW57 took us through Shannon to Tokomaru, just 10 minutes further north, where we met up with other cars from the Wairarapa and Manawatu areas. This small village has had this large collection of steam engines for decades. I recall visiting the museum in the 1980s! It fell into disrepair until it was purchased by

Kapiti Coast / Wellington

Report by Charles Thompson

Photos by Sharon Ewing



a keen engineer/farmer, Colin. He and his family are bringing it back together with support from the community and it's looking great.

There are so many unique items in the collection, including the oldest (1869) and largest steam engines in NZ. We weren't lucky enough to enjoy the sight of a steam engine being brought up to speed, but Colin showed us an electric model that demonstrates the mechanism. Most people don't realise that steam was used mostly to power farm and forestry equipment (like sawmills) along with the trains we are mostly familiar with.

For me, the highlight is the magical miniature railway display (HO scale, I think), complete with lots of tiny houses, people with their pets, shops, etc. A whole, complex village. And of course, an electric "steam" train running around the tracks. I believe some of it came into the museum's possession recently, as its previous owner had financial difficulties.

The drizzly day persisted, so we enjoyed our picnic lunch indoors, sitting on old railway carriage seats in the main hall. After a wonderful chat, we made our separate ways home. Luckily, there were patches of dry – even sunny – weather so we did get a chance to put the tops down for a bit. Lovely! ●









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# Garage5

MX-5 SHOP



# GROWING UP IN AN MX-5 MAD FAMILY

**I grew up around MX-5s with my grandad teaching myself and his other grandkids to drive a manual in his '94 British racing green Eunos Roadster.**

My dad (Allan Boot) now has this beauty as part of his collection, and it remains one of my favourite cars to date. My dad has continued to be extremely supportive of my petrolhead tendencies and I've been lucky to have been to multiple track days and car cruises over the years, which over time has helped fuel the passion.

A little about me – I'm a geologist for an engineering consultancy and after starting my career in 2020 in Auckland, I transferred down to Christchurch in mid-2021. This is when my personal MX-5 collection began.

I bought my first MX-5 with the help of my dad in October 2021 and haven't looked back. After picking this beautiful 1996 SE Limited MX-5 (1.8i NZ new, 1 of 25 satellite blue mica) off the car transporter thanks to Frank Willet, I was instantly in love. The tan leather interior and incredible satellite blue mica paint finish had me sold. The SE as it's now nicknamed gets a lot of love, being cleaned and polished regularly. It was needing some paintwork when I got it, but I didn't mind at first.

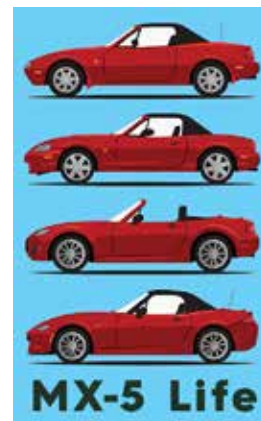
I started joining in with some Canterbury Car Club events as we headed into summer, competing in Motorkhana and Autocross. I loved the events, and loved driving the SE. I finally got the SE painted over the Christmas break of 2021 and returned after Christmas to a new-looking car. I completed most of the event season in the SE and really enjoyed it.

As we moved into 2022, and MX-5 values

started to grow, I started to appreciate the special nature of the SE and I began to think about owning a second MX-5. I casually browsed for a while and all of a sudden an awesome deal popped up. I rushed off to Ashburton the very next day, armed with the battery out of the SE, my pink tool bag and my flatmate in my daily driver a Hyundai Elantra. We arrived in Ashburton and met the lovely lady who was selling what now is my second MX-5, called Peach. She told me all about how she had owned it for 20 years and cherished it, only taking it on weekend drives. It even came with a barely used hard top. I popped my battery in, and she started first try. I was already sold just by the custom purple paint job (which is very similar to the VR limited colour), number plate "PCH99" (peach and 1999 – the year I was born) and, hard top. The Peach is a 1.6i Eunos roadster and I knew that I was going to use it as my "racecar".

The Peach has had a few cosmetic modifications so far comprising a roll-bar, lighter battery, new steering wheel, and shifter. On the cards is a suspension upgrade and lowering springs (in the very near future), a bucket seat, and some fresh tyres. I finished the 2021/2022 Canterbury Car Club season with two trophies and three certificates – 1st female Autocross, 1st junior Autocross, 2nd female Motorkhana, 3rd junior Motorkhana and 3rd overall 13-01-1600cc Autocross.

Since the beginning of the 2022/2023 season I have been competing in both Motorkhana's and





Autocrosses in the Peach along with my very first Drift School thanks to Drift South at Ruapuna. This season there is also an MX-5 championship courtesy of Garage5 for the Motorkhana and Autocross events with the Canterbury Car Club and I'm aiming for a somewhat competitive finish! To anyone considering getting into cars I have

found these wee things extremely reliable given their age, a lot of fun and easy to learn about with so much information around. I am lucky enough to have made so many friends due to the MX-5 community and am so lucky to have Garage5 just 10 minutes down the road. ●

– **Annaliese Boot**





# AWARD-WINNING HAMILTON GARDENS

After attending the MX-5 AGM in July at the Hamilton Gardens, I thought it was a good idea to make this one of our monthly runs.

Eleven Cars met at our usual Coffee Club Cafe at The Crossing for a cuppa. Theo gave the safety briefing and we introduced two lovely new couples. The weather was marginal; but we headed off, tops down over the Kaimais.

We were supposed to meet Gary and Maureen from the Waikato region at Te Poi but unfortunately they had a family event to attend.

We turned off the state Highway at Chookys Garage and picked up two Rotorua members, then continued to drive the backroads through Hobbiton, Whitehall, French Pass and arriving in Cambridge for a toilet stop.

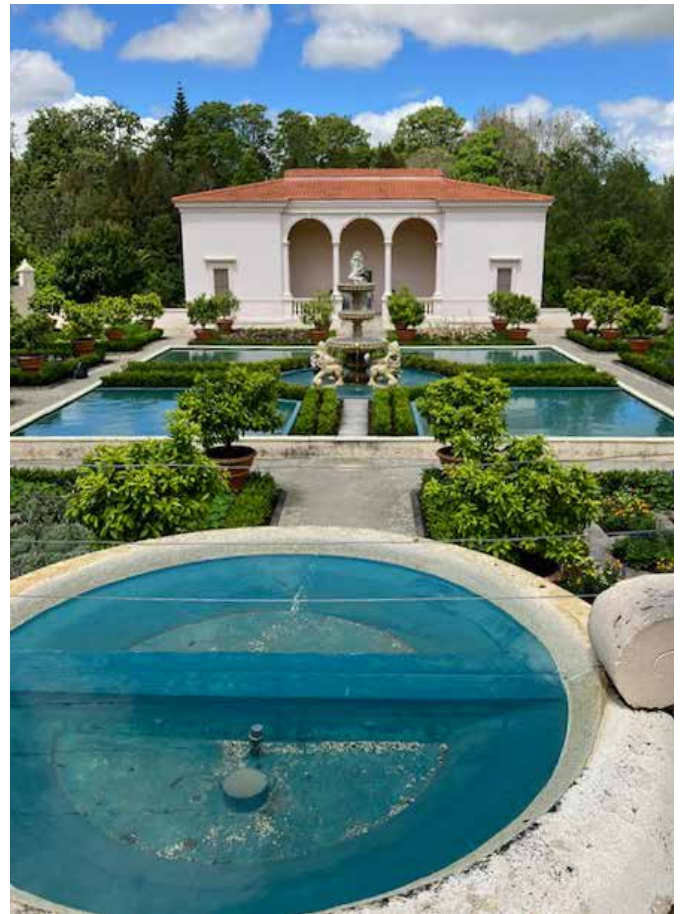


We continued through to Hamilton Gardens. We parked up in the top car park hoping to get a group photo of the cars, but alas that didn't happen. (Lesson, you must give everyone the details, never assume). The weather played a good part for us as everyone made their own way around the gardens. We met back at the Gardens Cafe for lunch at 1pm. After lunch everyone went their own way. Theo and Karen drove the back roads home followed by the new members from Te Puke. Just for the record Te Puke has four members now!



## Bay of Plenty / Tauranga

Report & Photos by Karen Struiksma



Today, the award-winning Hamilton Gardens has five garden collections with more than 20 themed gardens and is Waikato's most popular attraction with over a million visitors every year.

Japanese Gardens – Serene, carefully manicured traditional Japanese gardens were designed for peaceful refuge.

Chinese Gardens – A winding journey takes you over the seasonally blooming Wisteria Bridge, across the Island of Whispering Birds, past

the hidden philosopher, and through a lush grove to finally reach the Pavilion and its views of the Waikato River.

Ancient Egyptian – Each element of the temple court was symbolic. The massive walls on each side







of the entrance reflected the two mountains on the horizon between which the sun would rise each day, symbolising rebirth. The garden represented the land of Egypt, celebrating the annual harvest and flooding of the Nile. At the far end of the garden was the temple itself, with its sacred inner sanctum off-limits to all but the highest priests.

The Mansfield Garden represents the early



20th century New Zealand garden described in Katherine Mansfield's short story 'The Garden Party'.

Hamilton Gardens is home to Te Parapara - New Zealand's only traditional Maori productive garden. The garden showcases traditional practices, materials and ceremonies relating to food production and storage, drawn from the knowledge of local Maori which has been passed down the generations.

Under development at Hamilton Gardens is the Pasifika Garden, Medieval Garden and the Baroque Garden.

Hamilton Gardens are an amazing place to visit with forever changing garden themes, open every day of the year and at no cost to the public. ●

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# LEARNING DUNEDIN THROUGH MX-5 MEETS

Braeden and I met due to a mutual love and appreciation for MX-5s. To cut a long story short, essentially our first date was at a Garage5 MX-5 meet.

To find someone with such mutual love and understanding for MX-5s is pretty damn cool – even though he threatens to sell them sometimes and get “something with street cred”. I lived in Christchurch and Braeden lived in Dunedin and so began the back and forth, typically meeting at either Christchurch or Dunedin airport in an NA.

Back in mid-August, we held our first Dunedin MX-5 meet. Braeden and I coordinated this event, and we were impressed with the turnout of thirteen cars. We were able to get Braeden’s two stunning ‘90 MX-5s along: the BRG and R3D.

We had a range of cars from NAs to NCs, low to high kms and red definitely being the most popular colour. We all did a drive-by through the Dunedin City Ford and Mazda, where Braeden is a Ford mechanic and then headed up towards Orakanui. After this, the MX-5s took the road again in convoy down towards Port Chalmers and Aramoana. It was a great chance to regroup, and everyone enjoyed the scenic harbour front road.

We ended the cruise by parking up at Aramoana and handing out the six spot prizes thanks to Dunedin City Mazda, Garage5, and the MX-5



## Otago / Dunedin

### Report & Photos by

### Braeden McIntyre & Annaliese Boot

Club - with people walking away with prizes such as a Mazda Beanie, drink bottle and cooler bag, Garage5 shirts, and fuel vouchers. All those who attended were lucky enough to walk away with a Mazda Keychain as well. It was an awesome day and I certainly enjoyed meeting some new friendly faces and getting to drive Braeden’s mint British Racing Green NA. It was a great reminder that you don’t need much to have a good time, just a few like-minded people and some awesome wee cars.

We had our second meet on the 26th of November, twelve

MX-5s met up at the Taieri Plain Lookout. We again had a range from NAs to NCs, some familiar faces and some new, and even an MR2 joined in for a little bit. We headed down towards Outram, and up George King Memorial Drive which was a lovely windy road. After setting a good pace, we headed to Waihola for some famous fish and chips. After lunch a few people headed back to Dunedin via SHW1, while five of us returned

via Taieri Mouth and Brighton and enjoyed another scenic windy road – well suited to MX-5s. It was a great day out and the weather was kind to us.

Our last MX-5 meet for the year is going to be a Christmas run out towards Middlemarch, meeting on the 18th of December at 10.30 am along John Wilson Ocean Drive. We will have some spot prizes available and dress-up is highly encouraged (of yourself and/or the cars).

I have really enjoyed being able to explore Dunedin through MX-5 meets and am looking forward to more events in the South Island as we move into 2023. ●

## An MX-5 Love Story





# ARTHUR'S PASS AND CASTLE HILL



Throughout 2022 there has been a surge in MX-5 meets throughout Christchurch. A large thank you to Garage5 for their passion and desire to support the community. I have highlighted a few of the awesome events from the past 12 months.

Garage5 hosted an easter BBQ where we had over 50 cars turn up! Highlights include the factory Turbo NB and the coupe. It was a great opportunity for MX-5s from all over Canterbury to catch up, enjoy a BBQ and some baking, and admire some

## Canterbury / Christchurch

### Report & Photos by Annaliese Boot

cars. Big thank you to Les Hunter for the use of the property and Benny and the team at Garage5 for hosting.

Approximately 15 MX-5s met up at NPD Yaldhurst to head on a cruise out towards Arthur's Pass. We headed along the Great Alpine Highway-



Bealey Hotel for lunch

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West Coast Road and made our first stop at Castle Hill. It was a great chance to give the cars a break over the first piece of hills, and also admire the beautiful surroundings.

From there we headed towards the Otira Viaduct, whereafter crossing and coming back over we stopped at the lookout and were greeted by a kea. The weather was a bit hit-and-miss but as it started to rain we slowly made our way back to the Bealey Hotel for lunch, before cruising back to Christchurch.

Garage5 and the MX-5 club provided some spot prizes in the form of merchandise and fuel vouchers.

Everard summarised the trip with an awesome video available on the Garage5 Facebook Page and on YouTube. This included some drone footage of the cars crossing the viaduct and at various other points of the trip.

### **Garage 5 Motorkhana and Autocross Championship**

Garage 5 has been tracking the MX-5 competitors in both Motorkhana and Autocross events throughout the 2022/2023 Canterbury Car Club season.

This championship has incentivised a lot of people to come out and join in and has resulted in some impressive turn out of MX-5s at Canterbury Car Club events.

It has been so cool to see a lot of people try these events and have the opportunity to have a safe place to really play in their cars. It is a tight championship and will be interesting to see who comes out on top!

### **Garage 5 Christmas Meet**

The final event of the year on the MX-5 Calendar in Christchurch is the Garage5 Christmas Meet. This will be held on the 17th of December, and we are hoping to beat the turnout from the Easter event! All MX-5s are welcome! ●

**Garage5 Annual Catch Up**

**17th December**  
11am – 3pm

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# SHOW N' SHINE 2022 — "INCREDIBLE"

Photos by Neville Lambert & Brenda White

