

TOPDOWN

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
MX-5 CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

ISSUE 1 - 2017

MAGAZINE

THE NEW MX-5 RF
ARRIVES IN NZ!



WWW.MX5CLUB.ORG.NZ



SIGN ME!

In 2016, the One-Millionth Mazda MX-5 began its journey around the world and in February 2017 reached its last stop – New Zealand, where it made its debut at Leadfoot Festival on the Millan Ranch at Hahei, on the Coromandel Peninsula. Club President, Brenda White was there to check it out.

Over Waitangi weekend I ventured down to Hahei to my very first Leadfoot Festival (an excuse for a whole lot of crazy people to race crazy cars up the craziest driveway in NZ).

I checked out the 1 millionth MX5 to be produced, which has been touring the world gaining signatures on its paintwork.

I felt it nothing less than duty to sign on behalf of members of our New Zealand MX5 club, but have to admit that writing on a lovely car's paintwork does not come easily!!!

Thanks to Glenn and Tim at Mazda for flying the flag high again, needless to say that Mad Mike and his Mad Skills were once again a highlight for this "leadfoot". 🌀

PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE / MAZDA



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MR GOOGLY EYES...



THE LITTLE CAR THAT COULD...



ONLY IN IRELAND...

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- » No article which the Editor or the NZ MX5 Club deems to encourage breaking the law, either directly or by inference will be printed.

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- » 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.

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HI EVERYONE

Sunshine....Day off work....

I'm supposed to be writing bits for the Topdown and keeping up with the Kapiti National's paperwork but.....

Way too many distractions.....like that little MX5 sitting in the garage, she definitely needs a vacuum and I could start some serious cleaning in preparation for next weekend's Classic Car Show, the Concourse de Elegance in central Auckland, but the ideal use of time today would be out round the coast, topdown, and some serious tunes, quite loud.

I shouldn't feel hard done by though..... a couple of weeks ago I ventured to Hamilton to witness one of our members picking up a very beautiful Fastback, complete with unveiling in the showroom by the guys at Fairview Motors, Te Rapa.

I managed to get down to Hahei on Saturday, to the Leadfoot Festival, including getting the opportunity to sign the 1,000,000 MX5 produced - on behalf of the club. The drive, at 6am was cold with the topdown, complete with low lying fog – there was something eerie about driving

along in the dawn by myself and to be honest I'm still getting comfortable driving my new MX. The change from NB to NC has brought up several differences to me, I seem to have lost a little of my confidence but am seriously trying to make up for it with a few little cosmetic tweaks to her shiny black exterior. Add to that change in confidence, a road rage run in on the southern motorway, and it's been a pretty interesting few months.

To top it off, sitting at Mag and Turbo on Friday afternoon waiting for my latest 'tweak', the lady next to me (a truck driver) pulled a funny face when the guys brought my car round the front and a



MRS PREZ SEZ



discussion ensued about wheels/tyres (to come) and general MX5 banter. She looked at me and said "how can you be the petrol head in your family"well I don't know about petrol head, or leadfoot, but I am proud to say I'm an MX5 driver, maybe not your stereotypical sportscar fanatic but wow, I love these cars, don't you?

I hope you are getting out and about – looking forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones at the Nationals in Kapiti, early March.

Keep safe

BRENDA WHITE, PRESIDENT



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FROM THE EDITOR

HI EVERYONE

Summer has provided some great top down driving weather, so I hope you have all been making the most of it.

It's great seeing so many little MX-5's on the roads over the holidays and I especially love the camaraderie amongst the drivers - several times while driving in the Lake Tarawera area we had other drivers waving out. These drivers must have seen the meme doing the rounds saying "Not waving back at fellow MX-5 drivers is now illegal."

We've got a report from Tim Nalden, Product Planning Manager at Mazda NZ on the new MX-5 RF, as it has now arrived in New Zealand. Seems there might already be at least one club member that is a proud owner of the new model. The rest of us may have to wait until our lotto numbers come up!

The club trip reports are starting to flow in now that the new year has started. If you're a new member be sure to contact your local co-ordinator and join in with the next run - you won't regret it. Loads of fun with some great people.

Happy driving...

VICKY POWELL, EDITOR

Email: topdown@mx5club.org.nz



NEW MEMBERS

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

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Cherryl and Keith Waters, PAUANUI BEACH

Marlene Burrows, MT MAUNGANUI

HAWKES BAY

Paul Redman, NAPIER

MANAWATU

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NELSON

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Tony and Lorraine Frost, AUCKLAND

Arti Imandin, AUCKLAND

Giovanni Nustrini, AUCKLAND

Quin Powell, AUCKLAND

Rex Bennis, AUCKLAND

TARANAKI

Owen John and Judy Reid, NEW PLYMOUTH

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.



DEADLINE: FOR TOPDOWN MAR/APRIL ISSUE - 1 APRIL 2017

Keep up to date with the latest MX-5 news at:

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MX-5 BEST CONVERTIBLE - CAR BUZZ 2016

Of all the cars the team at Car Buzz test drove in 2016 the MX-5 was among one of the six they recommended purchasing.

by Michael Hines @ Car Buzz

We test drove a lot of cars in 2016. Some were great and some were crap. Of the cars in the former group, we'd recommend buying very few. Why is that? Well, living with a car for a week and owning it are two very different things. It takes a special car for us to recommend it as a purchase. We compiled a list of six such cars in six categories: best affordable car, best coupe, best convertible, best luxury car, best truck/SUV and the car you should buy if money didn't matter.

The Mazda MX-5 took out the 'Best Convertible' category. "We drove a handful of convertibles

this year, all with bigger engines than the Miata. However, none of them were able to slap a smile on our faces like Mazda's flagship. Its 50-50 weight distribution, slick six-speed manual, high-revving engine and convertible top are as potent a combo as ever. "

Why You Should Buy It:

The simplest way to describe the allure of the MX-5 is that it is a car you will rearrange your life for.

You'll ditch your friends (you can't fit them anyway), pack everything into a small backpack (there's no trunk space) and bundle up (it can get cold with the top down) all so that you can enjoy some time behind the wheel. 🌀

SOURCE: <http://www.carbuzz.com>

MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER LEFT TOPLESS AFTER ROOF STOLEN IN AUCKLAND

The 1989 Mazda MX5 Roadster's hardtop roof was removed and stolen in the middle of the night in Hillsborough, Auckland.

During the early hours of January 16, a man allegedly entered the Hillsborough Rd property and headed for Donna van Sambeek's Mazda MX5 hardtop.

Sambeek woke on Sunday morning to find the roof missing from her little red roadster.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Avondale Police on 09 302 6400.

- Stuff.co.nz

MX-5 NAMED IN 2017 CONSUMER GUIDE® AUTOMOTIVE BEST BUYS

Four Mazda vehicles took top honours in their respective categories on the US Consumer Guide® Automotive 2017 Best Buys list. A Best Buy represents the finest balance of attributes and value in its class, according to the editorial team at Consumer Guide® Automotive.

The following vehicles were recognised as Best Buys in their respective categories:

2017 Mazda3 – Compact Car Class Winner

2017 Mazda6 – Midsize Car Class Winner

2017 Mazda CX-3 – Subcompact Crossover/SUV Class Winner

2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata – Sporty/Performance Class Winner

All Best Buy vehicles were evaluated on price, features, performance, accommodations, fuel economy, reliability records and resale value. 🌀

<http://consumerguide.com/best-buys/>

CARS.COM AWARDS MAZDA MX-5 MIATA WITH 2017 PLAY CAR OF THE YEAR

The 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata has been recognized as Cars.com's 2017 Play Car of the Year in its annual awards program.

The world's best-selling roadster excelled in quality, innovation and value - the three key criteria that Cars.com experts used when evaluating the nominees. 🌀

www.cars.com



ALL-NEW MX-5 RF LOOKS STUNNING

Broadening the appeal of the world's number one selling convertible two seater sports car was the challenge faced by the Mazda MX-5 design team.

One look at the All-New Mazda MX-5 RF (Retractable Fastback) and it becomes abundantly clear that the MX-5 designers have succeeded in creating a stunning looking vehicle that will appeal to drivers who want the fun of open air driving combined with the feeling of being wrapped in a luxurious cabin.

Andrew Clearwater, Managing Director Mazda New Zealand, says he continues to be amazed by the ingenuity and skill demonstrated by the Mazda design team.

“The MX-5 RF will, like other models in the MX-5 lineup, put a smile on people’s faces as soon as they get behind the wheel and experience the thrill of driving this vehicle.”

When the roof is closed the MX-5 RF presents a beautiful silhouette achieved through the rear roof side sections sloping towards the rear which tuck into the sides to create the perfect teardrop shape for the cabin. The designers also put considerable effort into creating fine parting lines to make the roof and body appear as a single piece that further enhances its unique fastback styling.

In New Zealand you can experience four seasons in one day. The MX-5 RF enables drivers to quickly adapt to changing weather by a simple press of a switch located below the air condition dials. The roof opens/closes in approximately 13 seconds, the fastest of any retractable hardtop on the market and is displayed on a LCD screen allowing the driver to check on the progress of the sequence without having to turn around.

Space has not been sacrificed in the development of the MX-5 RF. It still offers the same boot capacity as the soft top model while the overall length and wheelbase remain the same as the MX-5 soft top with the only change being the 5mm increase in the height of the roof. The designers took great care to minimise the weight of all the parts needed to change the vehicle to a hardtop and as a result the amount of weight added over that of the soft-top was approximately 47kg.

Drivers of a closed top sports car expect a greater level of quietness and the MX-5 RF delivers this using urethane noise absorption

in the roof and the placement of noise absorption materials around the rear housing and trim, centre tunnel, instrument panel and floor.

The interior of the MX-5 RF is like that of the soft top model but with a few changes. These include all RF models having a full colour LCD screen, a larger wind blocker to suppress rear wind swirl, and the addition of Nappa leather for the special launch edition model. The result is a quality cabin environment that further enhances the driving experience.

As with all Mazda vehicles, driver/passenger safety is paramount and the MX-5 RF carries over the use of i-ACTIVSENSE advanced safety technologies and passive safety features including Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), High Beam Control System (HBC) and Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS).

Six exterior colours are available that further enhance the stunning looks of the vehicle: Crystal White Pearl, Ceramic Metallic, Soul Red Metallic, Blue Reflex Mica, Jet Black Mica and Machine Grey Metallic. 🌀

MX-5 RF ARRIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

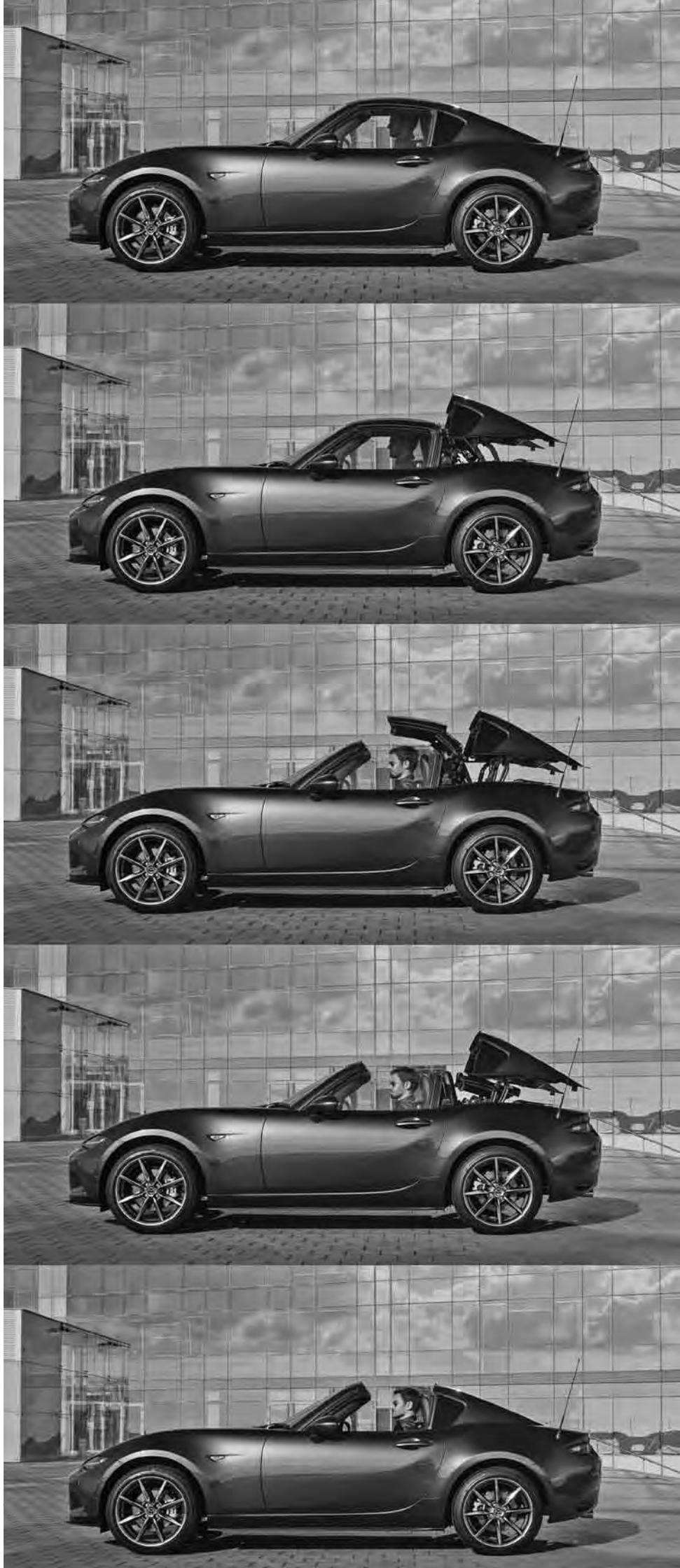
BY TIM NALDEN, PRODUCT
PLANNING MANAGER,
MAZDA NZ //

After its world premiere at the New York Motor Show last March, the All-New Mazda MX-5 RF has finally made its way to New Zealand shores.

The RF moniker is an abbreviation for Retractable Fastback, combining fastback styling and an electronic retractable hardtop. Its stunning new design will attract a new breed of MX-5 enthusiasts, who will soon experience what New Zealand MX-5 Car Club members know already! With the roof up the RF takes the form of a hard-top coupe, while the side buttresses cleverly provide a targa-top like design with the roof open.

The roof only adds 47 kilograms in weight over the soft-top Roadster, yet still delivers the MX-5's legendary 50:50 front-rear weight distribution, agile dynamics and responsive handling. And thanks to the clever 3-piece roof design, boot volume is on par with the Roadster. The roof's operation is also fast and easy - using only a single button, it only takes a mere 13 seconds and can even function at vehicle speeds up to 10 km/hr.

The MX-5 RF is powered by the 2.0L SKYACTIV-G petrol engine. The range starts with the GSX-grade 6AT at \$48,495 and is accompanied by two Limited-grade models - the 6MT at \$51,495 and the 6AT at \$52,995. Also, the RF range debuts with the RF-S special launch edition 6AT model at \$54,995 (15 units only), which adds an auburn Nappa Leather trim, a Piano Black roof, Machine Grey Metallic paint, bespoke branding and a certificate of authenticity. All models are supported by the mazdacare programme, which offers a 5 year warranty, 5 years roadside assistance and 3 years of genuine Mazda scheduled servicing. 🌀





THE GOOD OIL

A MX-5 club member (thanks Morrin) has provided the following information which was shared with him recently when he went to replace the oil in his 54 MG. Owners of MX5s over 50000kms should consider what oil they use, in particular NAs and high mileage NBs. You can find the link to the rest of the information on the MX-5 Blog: <http://mx5club.org.nz/blog/>

WHY DO HOBBY CARS NEED SPECIAL ENGINE OIL RATHER THAN THE LATEST PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET?

Modern engine oils are formulated to meet the requirements of the latest designs and also the fuel consumption and emission targets laid down by the legislators in many parts of the world. To meet these targets the latest engine oils are very light viscosity multigrades which whilst being suitable for modern engine designs, are not suitable in earlier veteran and historic engines.

These cars were originally built with different technologies and tolerances to late model vehicle. They also spend the vast majority of their time idle. Whilst a non-working engine is not wearing itself out, unprotected surfaces such as cylinder walls, camshafts, etc can be subject to corrosion.

Modern thin oils designed to circulate quickly through an engine will drain away from the internal surfaces back to the sump leaving little protection to the parts above the oil level and therefore prone to corrosive attack. ☹️

SPARE WHEEL OPTIONS FOR A MX-5 NC

There has been some enquiry about what the options are for a spare wheel for an NC as they don't come with one. A club member (thanks Frank), found this on the net and thought it might be useful to share. An earlier Mazda RX space-saver spare will mount under floor with a rear muffler mod. (Wheel takes up nearly the entire boot space, so better mounted under-floor). You can find the link to the MX-5 World Forum thread discussing this, and more information on the MX-5 Blog: <http://mx5club.org.nz/blog/>

One MX-5 Miata World Forum member from South Africa posted a potential solution:

Due to the poor roads in certain parts of our country we are worried about side wall damage which would render the tyre useless. Most of us have obtained the "biscuit" spare wheels from other Mazda vehicles such as the Mazda 3 or a Mazda 6, which have 5/114.3, 16" x 4" with 50mm offset rims and T115/70/16 or T125/70/16 tyres. The alloy spare from the earlier RX8 is the best but very hard to get, later RX8's had the kit and pump as per the MX5.

While you can put this spare in the boot, it limits space especially when one goes on long trips when you would need it the most.

What a lot of us have done is remove the huge rear silencer (weighs more than the spare wheel) and put two small boxes on each side with a Y piece (my car has a complete new stainless steel exhaust system including headers). The spare wheel then neatly bolts up under the boot with a steel spreader plate in the

boot. Below is a photo of a RX8 spare being fitted under a MX5 (not my car). I have had this set up for many years without any problems. ☹️



FOR SALE: A STRETCHED MAZDA MX-5 PICKUP TRUCK CONVERSION



We don't know what's cuter; the fact that a Mazda MX-5 pickup truck actually exists or that the owner of the car is asking US\$6,000 to part ways with it.

Featured on Craigslist, the internet's sketchy, back-alley flea market where you can find anything from free sofas to laughably fake Bugatti ads, the seller lists the car as a (obviously)

custom made pickup truck built out of a salvaged 1990 Miata with only "22,000 original miles". We'd take that last part with a few dozen grains of salt.

If there was only a single photo, we would have been tempted to believe it was a Photoshop exercise of the sort we find on Facebook, but this thing is for real. The extension took place at the

back of the roadster that maintains its fabric roof, with the Miata gaining a stretched wheelbase and a covered truck bed. Must be a delight to drive.

All this could be yours if you're drunk enough to spend "\$6,000 (approx. NZ\$8,300) or best offer".

Source: www.carscoops.com

MIATAS AT MAZDA RACEWAY

If you're not doing anything the weekend of 6-8 October 2017 and find yourself in Laguna Seca in California and fancy meeting hundreds of other MX-5 owners, then you need to check this out. Last year over 900 individuals and 700 Miatas, with 225 drivers took part in the Hot Lap sessions.

The event has a kiwi link as the organiser Rick Weldon used to live in Nelson and also gave a talk at the last South Island MX-5 Tiki Tour.

WHAT IS IT?

- » The biggest annual Miata celebration on the continent!
- » 2 days of high speed track time at world famous Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.
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- » A chance to ride along with a pro driver on the track.
- » Free BBQ and car show on Friday night.
- » A party with live band on Saturday night.

<http://www.miatasatmazdaraceway.com/>



TWIN RIVERS OVERNIGHTER

COMBINED RUN – MANAWATU/WAIKATO MX5 CLUBS



MANAWATU RUN: FEBRUARY 2017 // REPORT & PHOTO'S BY GLYN & CATHY CLEMENTS

Nine Manawatu cars and four Waikato cars met at Colonel Malones Restaurant in Stratford for a superb lunch before heading off on the "Forgotten Highway", through to Taumarunui for the night. Top weather, Top roads and Top people made for a Top trip!

A quick stop at the Whangamomoana Pub, which was quite busy with a large contingent of motorcyclists, then it was on to our destination – Twin Rivers Motel in Taumarunui. A perfect place for a group like us with the added benefit of the complex being owned by MX5 club member, Michelle (see the advert in the back of the Top Down magazine).

A convivial happy hour before walking directly across the road to the local RSA for an excellent dinner and quite a few laughs.

Next morning we all headed to Tokaanu via Highway 41, re-grouped at the Marina before heading along Highway 47, up past the Chateau, on to the

Summit at Whakapapa Ski Field. Not much snow but still a big temperature drop, so a quick photo shoot then back down the mountain and onto the historic Railway Café at National Park for lunch, and then farewells.

The Manawatu crews headed homeward to a variety of destinations – Dannevirke, Levin, Carterton, Palmerston North and Whanganui, while the Waikato folk (now accompanied by the Clements) headed northward. A quick coffee at Te Kuiti and then a couple of detours to take in some spectacular twisting back roads before reaching Te Awamutu.

The Waitomo Valley Road is one to remember, absolutely built for MX5's! On this road, its not who is the best driver, who has the best car, or who has the most horsepower; instead it is who has the most tolerant spouse as the change of direction every two car lengths requires a certain amount of understanding! The fact that the first two cars were single occupant may tell you something!

From Te Awamutu we parted company with promises to do another joint branch event again. The Clements stayed the night in Cambridge with Dave & Margie Strongman before heading to New Plymouth on the Monday and home to Kimbolton on Tuesday with just over 1200 kms on the clock for this trip – Brilliant fun! We turned over the 45,000 kms mark in the three years we have owned the "NC" – not bad considering it's only used for club events, we managed 65,000 kms in the "NA" over 6 years and only used on club events – Miles of Smiles!

Our sincere thanks to Manawatu members, the Waikato crews (Dave & Margie Strongman, Denis Crossman, Ken Brown and Ian & Miriam Potts) who joined us and Michelle at Twin Rivers Motel for a terrific weekend. Roll on the next one.

Manawatu Branch is very keen to do more events with other regions so give it some thought. 🌟



CLASSIC CAR SHOW

NORTHERN REPORT: FEBRUARY 2017 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE //

The weekend of the 11 and 12 February was super busy - with the Concourse De Elegance (Classic Car Show) complete with fun run on the Saturday (which was very well supported by our MX5 team) in beautiful sunshine.

Then Sunday dawned bright and early for the Classic Car Show at Ellerslie Racecourse - in by 8.30am and no movement until 4pm thank you very much!!!

The club was very well represented by Carl Brumback's brand new Fastback which was the Prima Dona of the day with massive interest (we think he demonstrated the roof about 20 times!); Hutchies beautiful ND, Keith Jones racing NA (which also gathered a lot of interest from young and old)

and two stunning NC's - thank you Josette, one of our lovely newbies, for flying the flag for the club.

We've decided that 90% of the population either had an MX5, want an Mx5, or own one currently and don't know there's even a club.

The parting comment on the day was from a man passing by who said to me "Oh, this will be the MX5 people - why are you guys always smiling?"..... we know why don't we!!!!!!

Thanks to everyone who came and supported us too - it can be tough out there competing with the big boys..... ☼



MAHIA PENINSULA

BAY OF PLENTY WEEKEND RUN: 28-30 JANUARY 2017 // REPORT & PHOTO'S BY HELEN KEAR

On a beautiful summer's day, six cars from Western BOP met at 9am and travelled to Whakatane for morning tea and briefing at Helen's. For Martin and Glenys this was their first weekend trip away with the club. We were joined by Owen and Michele then were on the road to Gisborne. Travelling through Ohope then onto Opotiki we encountered stunning views of the ocean and enjoyed the great weather. From there it was through the Waioeka Gorge, following the mighty Motu river, on roads that we all love to drive with many twists and turns. Adding to the fun was very little traffic.

We reached Gisborne where we had lunch and picked up supplies from supermarket for our BBQ tea, then continued on more great MX5 roads for just over an hour to Mahia. When we drove onto the start of the peninsula, wow what a sight – the aqua sea below a very blue sky and the almost white

cliff face beyond. By this time the temperature was about 30 degrees.

We settled in to our accommodation at the Holiday Park, enjoyed a short walk on the beach, then gathered in an area behind some of our units where we had the place to ourselves. Drinks, an amazing range of nibbles, and great conversation from 5pm, then a BBQ which topped off a great day.

Next morning a short walk to the local Sunday market was our first stop. A number of purchases were made, and Dianne even had a massage. After that some of the group did a tiki tour of Wairoa and surrounds. It was so hot at least one car had to put top up and aircon on! While they were away the others climbed to the top of the iconic Mokotahi Hill with great views of Mahia Beach, and we could see south to Napier and north to Gisborne. Owen and Michele then ventured

further afield, driving the Mahia East Coast Rd as far as the road took them towards the end of the peninsula, where there's a Rocket Lab Launch complex with no public access. They headed back on the dusty, windy roads, taking in more beautiful views of the ocean, and ended up back at Mahanga Beach for a swim. Three other cars drove the short distance back through Nuhaka to Morere Springs where we enjoyed a pleasant walk in the scenic reserve with its dramatic stands of young and mature nikau palms in the lush and varied rainforest. A large kereru briefly kept us company and we could hear many other bird calls. A quick stop off at Oraka Beach with its extensive lagoon then back to Mahia beach for a cooling dip in the ocean. Steve found himself to be the only male in the water (too cold for you, Theo?) and was not only a chick magnet but also seemed to attract crabs!



Our pre-dinner gathering was followed by a meal at the nearby Sunset Point Bistro and Bar. A great night with mostly great food, and superb music from a local musician with his guitar and voice. There were 15 in our group and about 6 locals, so we pretty much had the place to ourselves. Some also enjoyed a game of pool. The singer entertained us non-stop with songs we knew, even requests, and we sang along and danced until we left at about 10pm.

Monday morning dawned fine but windy as we packed up and then parked our cars for a couple of photo shoots before heading back towards Gisborne. Coffee stop on outskirts of the city, then said farewell to Dianne and

Ross who are extending their stay. The remaining seven cars continued on to Opotiki for lunch. The day warmed up again and it was another great drive. From there, Warren headed back home through Ohope, while six cars took the road through Taneatua and across the old railway bridge to White Pine reserve. Another opportunity to enjoy some shade as we took the short walk into the reserve to view a stand of very old kahikatea trees. Then final farewells among the remaining group before heading back to Whakatane/Tauranga.

A long weekend spent in fantastic weather, driving roads built for MX5s, exploring another beautiful part of NZ, and enjoying great company. 🌀



STEVE ON BBQ DUTY

GROUP PHOTO



NORTHERN REPORT:



SCOTTS LANDING

NORTHERN REPORT: 22 JANUARY 2017 // REPORT BY SHONA BOL (LVMYMX) //
PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE

Our first run for 2017. The weather the night before the run was certainly wild and woolly. Very high winds across Auckland and heavy rain. Good for the water tanks after a dry Christmas season, but not much else.

Having been out the night before for dinner in the MX5, it needed a wash before the run to wash off the debris and the rain.

It was therefore great to see such a good turnout for our run

– 25 cars. We gathered at our West Auckland meeting point of Westgate. The usual meet and greet took place and we said hello to people we hadn't seen since the Christmas run in December. Seems like a long time ago now. Most people dressed appropriately for a windy summer's day. I did notice one particular person, who shall remain nameless, who came out particularly well dressed for a run to the beach, leaving her shoes at home!

We headed out on State Highway 16 and criss-crossed our way through the countryside eventually ending up back on State Highway 16 travelling up the West Coast. We had several slow cars ahead of us including a horse float and two SUV's who were travelling around 60kph for quite a number of kilometres. Very frustrating when you want to drive at 100kph. The motorcyclist who passed us on a yellow line also agreed.



After turning off onto West Coast Road we were able to pick up the speed and enjoy the drive. It is a lovely road to drive and took us through to Warkworth. We headed towards Snells Beach on the East Coast and turned right to take us down to Scotts Landing. We walked along a walkway to come out at a lovely cove where the Scott Homestead stands. Picnic chairs and rugs were brought out and we tried to set up out of the wind.

The Scott family settled in the area in 1849 and built the house. It was a bustling settlement with a wharf. The house was destroyed

by fire in 1870 and a hotel and boarding house was built in 1877. The Scott family lived in the house until 1912 and their descendants used the house as a holiday home for the next 50 years. In 1971 and Civic Trust bought the house and volunteers spent the next 20 years restoring it. It is somewhere in Auckland that we have never been to.

Having the picnic was great as it allowed us to mingle amongst everyone. We had a photo in front of the homestead and Trish did another great job of running the raffle and organising prizes. The rain pretty much held off except

for a short passing shower during lunch. We encountered some rain on the drive home, so another car wash took place when we got home!

Looking back on our photos and write ups from previous runs, which date back to 2004, we really are in a great club with awesome people. We have made some good friends over the years and looking at the photos makes me smile and brings back great memories.

Until the next time..... ☀



MERRY-XMAS-FUN-RUN-TO-RAGLAN

WAIKATO RUN: 11 DECEMBER 2016 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY KARIN MERRIFIELD

The kindly rainy showers stopped just in time for our 10h40 departure, so we could have our tops down as our jolly group of MX5mas' (my new abbreviation for MX5 enthusiasts on a Xmas run) departed from the Rototuna Shops in good festive spirits for a fun day. Joining us were the visiting MX5 Club coordinators from Palmerston North.

The Lake Kainui bends beckoned and farwelled us as we journeyed around the lake toward Raglan via Wainagaro. What a road that was! We'd not been on this road before and for MX5 drivers it's a beauty!

We enjoyed the twisty drive so much, we didn't spend any time pondering that Raglan is west of Hamilton, yet we headed North East to get there. Being a member of the MX5 Club really cements the well-known adage of "it's about the journey, not the destination." Although today, it was both!

The gusty breezes, blowing ocean-type waves into the grassy embankments on the roadside, really emphasising that our destination was seaward bound. Raglan's weather was not as generous as Hamilton's as a light rain shower welcomed our arrival just before 12pm.

The Raglan Club's car park was rapidly filling with MX5's from the Waikato and the Northern Clubs, of which many of the latter were festively decorated for the occasion. A new MX5 Northern Club friend we made, Wyn, regaled us with tales of decorations coming off cars on the

journey from Auckland. That if you hadn't had a chance to decorate your car, you could collect detritus en rout and voila, your car would be decorated!

Once again it was great to meet up with members from the Northern Club – say hello to some old faces and "how do you do" to some new faces. I think I instinctively knew there was something special about Wyn as talking with her at our table, I discovered that we have "Dutchness" in common (I'm sure there are more of us out there...). Add to the fact that Wyn and her husband, Steve, have a rather romantic tale (really ladies - very romantic!) of how they met which could make for a smashing novel. I tried to convince Steve to write this story after he's finished writing his current book, but I don't think he was taking me seriously...

Our little cars give us so much pleasure and the camaraderie and special memories we create along the way only add to the fabric of and enhance our life stories. I can't help feeling slightly bad for someone who hasn't known the joy of an MX5. And yes, I'm waxing a bit lyrical, but it was almost the end of the year and so hopefully you can give me some literary latitude to do so...It's the silly season after all!

To round out an adventurous day, President Brenda spearheaded the gift giving session which added to the Xmas cheer of the event and punctuated the pending end of 2016 - bring on the mysteries and wonders of 2017! 🌟





CHRISTMAS DRIVE

KAPITI REPORT: DECEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTO BY SHARON EWING

We met at Silverstream at 10.00am, by this time the skies started to clear, so hopefully we will get to have our picnic.

Nine cars. We drove to the traffic lights at Haywards and took Hebdon Cres, up the narrow winding road Gurney Road into Major drive and back down

into SH2, quickly getting off the highway again at lights into Harcourt Werry Drive and back past Silverstream around to Field Street onto Blue Mountain Road out to Whiteman's Valley through to Maymorn back onto SH2, then along to Kaitoke Regional Park.

We enjoyed some nibbles before

our picnic. We did get a few drops of rain but in all a good day out. Thanks all for coming.

Hope you all had a good Christmas, and all the best for 2017.

We look forward to summer. ☀️



A RUN OF TWO HALVES

TARANAKI REPORT: 21ST JANUARY 2017 // REPORT BY OWEN JOHN & PHOTO BY ELOISE NEWBROOK

A good muster of cars left Inglewood at 9am for, up to now, an unknown destination. Owen and Judy had organised the run but kept all quiet until we were handed our driving instructions as we left. The run was a 'school bus run' where we (thought) had to pick up and drop off numbers of children that got on the bus at different school around the mountain. With the head counting the total all the time we were also asked different questions to answer on the way. Some common sense questions and some 'well who cares about the answer anyway' but kept us awake. A great drive/run on some MX5 coastal roads we hadn't been on before.

After two plus hours and approximately 150kms of driving

we were directed by a policeman, on the road, to pull over and park up for lunch. We heard a couple of cars thought they may be in for a ticket. Such a nice policeman, (AKA Owen). A nice lunch was organised.

Everyone again had no idea what the afternoon run would be until again given our directions as we left parc ferme. OMG more great MX5 country roads, more questions to answer, more bus stops, and we can't help but enjoy this day. This run is giving us what Taranaki has plenty of. Great MX5 roads with great vistas.

Again two hours and approximately 150kms later we ended up at a local café near New Plymouth that we've been to before for a coffee and stories.

We had been counting all day the number that got on and off the bus to be asked the final question: "How many times did the bus stop?" You got us all Owen & Judy and what a great game it was. Prizes were given for answering the twelve questions through the day. Third were Kaz & Rex, second Grant & Annette, and a great win by father & daughter Robert & Eloise.

It was a great day with nice people driving nice cars, being nice to each other and nice of Owen & Judy to organise a nice run. We would have to admit that this run would be the best run we have had all year.

Thanks from the Taradise team. 🌀

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION RUN

TARANAKI REPORT: 18TH DECEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY KAZ BRUCE

There was a wonderful response for our Christmas Celebration Run, 22 Mx-5's, woohoo a new record set.

I had organised a 'mystery' visit to a recently opened private car collection of the HOLDEN variety prior to our Christmas lunch. The Hillsborough Car Museum, one man (and one woman's) passion.

It was an amazing collection of Holden vehicles and Holden memorabilia set up in a purpose

built building, painted red and black of course.

We all met in Inglewood and then set off, driving in a big circle to reach our destination.

I believe even those who were not particular Holden fans were impressed with the vehicles and the displays set out to match the era of the cars. Car's from the 1940's right through to today.

We departed from there in time



to arrive at Colonel Malone's in Stratford for our booking at 12.30pm. We all ate and drank Christmas cheer and we had the fun of handing out the 'Secret Santa' presents.

It was an enjoyable way to finish off 2016. ❄️



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“SPARKLY RUN” TO GOLDEN BAY

NELSON/TASMAN RUN: JANUARY 2017 //
REPORT & PHOTOS BY SANDRA LOUISE &
ASH PRICE.

The January group event was scheduled for Tuesday 17th as we wanted to provide sparkle for Mike and Dee Bosma, two visiting MX5ers from Brisbane. After all, what could be a better culmination to a driving tour around the South Island than a meet up with some other enthusiastic convertible owners?

So it was that 8 convertibles (6 MX5s, 1 Westfield and 1 Lotus) met in Motueka at 1pm and drove in convoy over the seriously twisty mountain pass road to Golden Bay. We impressed the visiting Aussies with the clear bright sunny day and the spectacular scenery.

We had coffee and cakes at the WholeMeal Cafe then drove along to Tata Beach where our group expanded to nine. Dennis, a white NC owner who lives in Pohara, was mowing his lawn, saw our convoy drive by, parked up the lawn mower and jumped in his MX5 to join us! (He plans to join our group and suggests hosting a BBQ at his place sometime in the future for one of our month's events).

We shared some good conversation among the group (as usual), there was some interested viewing of Leicester and Betty's Westfield engine (a 1.8 litre MX-5!) After a bracing walk down to Tata Beach (very breezy) we headed off for an ice cream stop at Pohara.

We all drove home having enjoyed the afternoon - sparkly for all concerned not just the Aussies! Many thanks to Caryl and Grant who came all the way from Blenheim to join us.

Top photo on right shows our Aussie visitors with Ash (Mike and Dee drove our MX5, Ash and I took the Lotus). 🌟





THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST

NELSON/TASMAN RUN: 18 DECEMBER 2016
// REPORT & PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY GAYLENE ST JOHN

The forecast said “rain” up till the night before, we had a contingency plan involving the nearest Sprig and Fern pub, but blind faith won through. Our Christmas event was home and dry! A little cloudy, but mild with it, as nine MX-5s left the WOW car park topless.

Ash and SandraLouise had managed to find a good route out of town avoiding all the main roads, and for nearly the entire 123km drive, there was hardly any traffic to spoil our fun.

Dave & Jan had lunch elsewhere to attend, but came for the drive, while Graeme & Jan were the opposite, waiting for us at the finish point - Hoddy Reserve Park. Hugh & Julie were the same, Julie bringing her mum, while Hugh cycled out! And two new faces – a warm welcome to Peter Todd and Kim Chi Ngo in their beautiful Crystal Blue NB.

Santa provided mince pies for all. AND another of Santa’s anonymous (female) helpers came out of the blue to offer slices of some lovely Christmas cake. In fact she was part of another picnic group, and was so excited by seeing our MX-5s that she had to come over and meet us! It happens all the time....

At various stages of the run, cars diverted from the route and took ingenious short cuts to Hoddy Reserve, leaving Ash & S-L to be last to arrive. No matter, there were no prizes for first place.

The real winners were the Salvation Army, as everyone donated food or cash to their Christmas fund – a very worthy cause. Thank you, SandraLouise and Ash. 🌀



MAD HATTER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

MARLBOROUGH RUN: DECEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CARYL SIMPSON

Our Mad Hatter's Christmas Party was a great success and lots of fun, despite the weather turning nasty in the middle of it. We welcomed some new members, Lianne Budny and her daughter Tyler, as well as Eldon and Marion Jackson. We also caught up with Emma and baby Aurora, much to the delight of many.

Our thoughts went to Jocelyn Ricketts as she had major surgery two days before so was unable to attend, although she sent Christmas wishes to all. Young Jack Laws sent his apologies as he had blown the engine in the MX5 he was doing up. We also had apologies from Anne & Russell Frew, but they sent best wishes, and Phil Holmes was getting over a touch of pneumonia so he and Sue wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanks for making them feel so welcome. They look forward to joining in again in 2017.

We had some interesting hats and, as usual, a lovely variety of salads and desserts. It was lovely at the start with the sun shining but as the day wore on the temperature suddenly dropped, the wind changed direction and got blustery and then it started to rain on our party! A good thing we had set up under gazebos and umbrellas, thinking to stop sunburn more than rain, as it stopped everyone getting soaked.

As we were dressed for summer, so feeling a mite chilly, we headed indoors to open our Secret Santa gifts, too much laughter and joking. We then enjoyed tea and coffee, and a slice of Mad Hatter cake, while discussing suggestions for 2017 run destinations and activities. A couple of members then asked to see photos from Grant and my recent travels through Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia so we showed them the Powerpoint we had made about it for another group.

Winner of the Best Hat competition was Tyler Budny with her, I was going to say "Flashing naughty elf" but realised that would not sound right. Tyler won with her Naughty Elf hat, which had flashing lights on it. Her prize? A sparkly, Christmas hat. ❄️



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