

TOPDOWN

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

MAGAZINE

THE 'RED' BONITT TIKI TOUR 2016

ELEVEN DAYS OF MX-5 FUN
TOURING THE NORTH ISLAND.



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MX-5 RF KURO AND MX-5 SPEEDSTER CONCEPTS DEBUT IN LA

Mazda North American Operations (MNAO) is no stranger to the Specialty Equipment Marketing Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, providing its designers the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild to create some truly stunning dream cars.

This year proves no different with its two concepts: the lighter, more ruthlessly efficient **MX-5 Miata Speedster Evolution** and the stealth-like **MX-5 RF Kuro**, based on the 2017 MX-5 RF retractable fastback that will be going on sale early next year in the US.

MX-5 Speedster debuted at the 2015 SEMA Show as an ode to the lightweight, frills-free, pure driving experience of 1950s sports cars. Weighing just 2,080 lbs., MX-5 Speedster's 150-lb. weight loss - an 11% reduction versus a stock MX-5 soft top - propelled its performance and elevated the open-air experience for which the roadster is known. Ultimately, the design team shaved an additional 15% from the original MX-5 soft top's starting weight. Now, it weighs a scant 1,980 lbs.

"With MX-5 Speedster Evolution, our goal was to further deliver the essence of what MX-5 has represented for the past 27 years - lightweight engineering and pure driving joy," said Saward, who also owns and races a Spec Miata. "In the future, we might see if there is anywhere else we could take out weight.

Joining MX-5 Speedster Evolution on the Mazda stand is a new concept based on the 2017 MX-5 RF. Called MX-5 RF Kuro, it is a car that also adopts much of the MX-5 Global Cup technology but in a much more street-focused package. MX-5 RF Kuro



also shares its adjustable suspension with the MX-5 Global Cup racecar as well as its Brembo dual-piston front brake callipers. It is painted Satin Black Metallic, a semi-matte black metallic color.

"We wanted to give MX-5 RF Kuro a stealth look to complement its sleek profile, providing subtlety and purpose," said Saward. "As we move our brand in a direction we call 'Mazda Premium,' we want to embrace our longstanding motorsports heritage and reach forward with breathtaking designs like the MX-5 RF." 🌀

SOURCE: Mazda North American Operations

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Front Cover: Photo by Ash Price, Chateau Tongariro, BONITT Tour

Back Cover: Photo by Ash Price, Southwards Start, BONITT Tour

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MEANWHILE...IN RUSSIA...



PHOTO OF THE MONTH...

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HI EVERYONE

When I sit down and try to write a 'blurb' for the magazine – I always think, no one wants to hear anything I've got to say.....I've got nothing to say

But if I think about what's happened in the last couple of months - well I've driven around like a Dawn of the Dead person (Halloween costume), raising money for Motor Neurone - hopefully some or all of you got to do something similar: i.e. fun!!!

Chaired two meetings with the National committee – planning for things like the National Rally (coming up in March). Please please, please, if you haven't registered and you want to – you need to get in touch now! We are closing the registrations SOON so that we can start on all the details and planning for this amazing event (your choices may be limited even now as it has been very popular). Please contact Sharon

Ewing on ks.ewing@xtra.co.nz – urgently!

I was also involved with the Northern Show and Shine, fundraising for the Westpac Helicopter Trust – a charity I hope none of us ever need to use, but a very deserving institution; and will currently be dressed up as some strange Christmas persona and hopefully joining in with several of our other regions on a Christmas run; i.e. fun!!! Along with parking my car on the front lawn at school with its massive Santa hat on for the last couple of weeks of school to amuse the kids.

This is all inbetween selling my white NB, (no, I don't want to swap it for a Toyota Starlet!!) - Trademe; not fun... and buying a new car from Japan; massive fun!!! Sounds like an MX5 life to me!! Hope you are all enjoying your favourite little cars ...getting out in the sun and blowing the

MRS PREZ SEZ



cobwebs out. Happy Christmas everyone – I hope you spend lots of time with family and people you love, eat too many nice things, drink something nice and cold, lie in the grass and look up at the sky, (or from the passenger's seat of a topless MX5) and relax.... Merry Christmas everyone – take care.

BRENDA WHITE, PRESIDENT

Registrations Closing Soon!

NATIONAL RALLY 2017

Friday 10th March – Monday 13th March 2017

Hosted by Kapiti Club

Starts Friday with Registration at 3.30pm with drinks and nibbles.
Saturday: We have three drives for you to choose from. Followed by an evening at an exotic location.
Sunday: Amalgamated drive, dinner with entertainment.
Monday: Breakfast and farewells.

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Register now on website
www.mx5club.org.nz

FROM THE EDITOR

HI EVERYONE

Another year is disappearing over the horizon and it's a great time to reflect on all the amazing MX-5 runs and events that have highlighted 2016; such as the Driver Training Day in Taupo, the AGM and the recent BONITT tour around the North Island - you can read all about the BONITT tour on page 6.

A huge thanks to all the wonderful people involved in making these national events happen, as well as those co-ordinators bringing together regional club members on a regular basis (big thanks for sharing your trip reports with TopDown too!).

It's also the end of the Millionth MX-5's Celebration Tour (see opposite page) and what better way to finish it than with the fans down here in New Zealand. Early indications are that you can view the car at the Leadfoot Festival in early February (Hahei) and we're just awaiting confirmation if the MX-5 might also be in Auckland mid-February. Keep an eye on the club Facebook page and we'll let you know more details as they come to hand.

I look forward to another great year for the club with more fantastic run reports coming to you in 2017!

Happy driving over the holidays...

VICKY POWELL, EDITOR

Email: topdown@mx5club.org.nz



NEW MEMBERS

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

BAY OF PLENTY

Kevin and Sue French,
TAURANGA

KAPITI COAST

Diane and Brian Hogg,
PARAPARAUMU

MANAWATU

Mark Prenter, MANAWATU

MARLBOROUGH

Rob Honour and Megan
Stratford, BLENHEIM

NELSON

Kerry and Karina Downer,
NELSON

NORTHERN

Shannon and Terry
Robinson, AUCKLAND

Margaret Morris and John
Batty, AUCKLAND

Vic Devenport, AUCKLAND

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.

HELP REQUIRED BY THE MX5 CLUB MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Is there someone out there that can replace a soft top?

We have a 2002 NB that needs the top replaced.

We have the 'new' top but

need someone who knows what to do. Happy to pay!

Please contact Willie on

021 945 543 or

williew@ihug.co.nz

**DEADLINE: FOR TOPDOWN JAN/FEB ISSUE
- 1 FEBRUARY 2017**

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THE END OF THE “MILLIONTH MIATA CELEBRATION TOUR”

The MX5 is one of the most beloved cars in history. Since its creation in 1990, the car has become wildly popular for its racing capabilities, stylish design, and reasonable pricing. In April 2016, this iconic car added another notch onto its “milestone belt” by producing its one millionth Miata!

Mazda Motor Corp. has done well to acknowledge this accomplishment by sending the car on a tour through Japan and Europe. Then, reaching the US in August of 2016, it began its “Millionth Miata Celebration Tour”. On its way, the vehicle collected more than 4000 autographs from Mazda executives, engineers,

employees and enthusiasts.

Once done in the US, it will be sent to Australasia and should arrive in New Zealand during February of 2017.

It will then reach its final destination in Hiroshima, Japan, where it will be placed on exhibit in the Mazda Museum. 🌀

THE AWARDS KEEP COMING FOR THE MX-5

MX-5 EARN 2017 CAR AND DRIVER 10BEST AWARDS

Earning a Car and Driver magazine 10Best award is no small feat, yet Mazda earned two of the 10 spots in the 2017 10Best awards, with its 2017 Mazda3 and the combined 2017 MX-5 Miata soft top and MX-5 RF retractable fastback models.

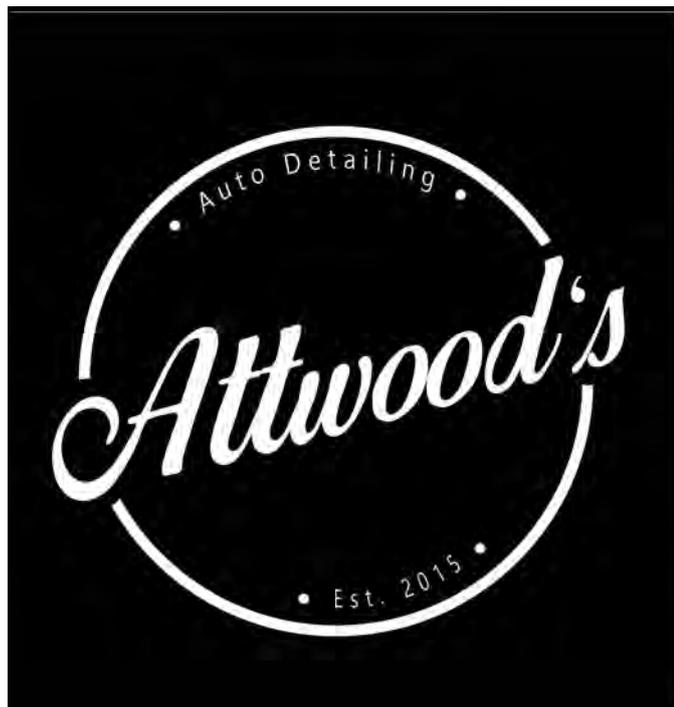
MX-5 NAMED 2016 WORLD CAR OF THE YEAR AND 2016 WORLD CAR DESIGN OF THE YEAR

Fresh from unveiling the 2017 MX-5 RF, Mazda was recognised by automotive journalists from around the world during the annual World Car of the Year Awards. The fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 Miata won both the titles of 2016 World Car of the Year and 2016 World Car Design of the Year.

MX-5 NAMED THE CAR CONNECTION'S BEST CONVERTIBLE TO BUY FOR 2017

The Mazda MX-5 Miata has been named the Best Convertible to Buy for 2017 by the editors of The Car Connection. The editorial team agreed that the lightweight MX-5 roadster is a standout in its class, outperforming its competitors with a driving experience that only the world's best-selling roadster can deliver.

- Zoom, zoom! 🌀



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Taylor - 021-1254664
taylorjattwood@gmail.com



THE RED BONITT TIKI TOUR 2016

BY ASH PRICE

The 2016 Tiki Tour, the 5th in the series started in 2012, was the brainchild of Cath & Glyn Clements from Kimbolton in the Manawatu. The Clements, one of just six crews to have a 100% Tiki Tour record, also ran the 2014 25th Anniversary TT around the central North Island. With Cath's flair for event organising and Glyn's extensive local knowledge, BONITT was bound to be a success.

Our friends Gary & Bev, from Perth WA, had been frequent visitors from Perth, and having experienced two previous TTs, were keen for a third. However, they were also keen to find a house and relocate to the Tasman area, and so Bev stayed behind in Motueka with Sandra, to do some serious house hunting. This left Ash & Gary to blaze their own unique trail around the North Island, in a 1993 Red NA, which had replaced Sandra's 2011 NC in April this year. Could we keep up with the NCs which made up the majority of the field? Could we squeeze those many presents for our spouses into an already crammed full boot? Is the Earth round?

DAY 1, MONDAY

Meeting at the Southward Museum, New Zealand's biggest car collection, around 1pm on Monday was a great choice. We decided to arrive at opening time of 9 am, and spend the morning browsing some of the more than 400 vehicles. By 11, we started spotting some familiar MX-5 faces, and by 1 pm, there were over 20 MX5s lined up in the massive car park. With 18 months since the last TT, there was much to talk

about, as well as welcoming new faces to the Tour.

Glyn had a challenging route for the first 97 kilometres of the Tour: the Akatarawa Road, followed by the Rimutakas on SH2. The Akatarawa Road has been described as "The Akatarawa Valley Hill Road is a narrow twisting route that's not for the faint hearted; there are hairpin bends, I-think-I'd-rather-close-my-eyes-than-look steep drops and the road is stupidly narrow in many places so edging past an oncoming vehicle requires caution, nerves of steel and a stiff drink at the end of the trip." Definitely best driving in convoy as we did, with brave Glyn as our lead car! The Rimutakas were almost tame by comparison, even with very low cloud and steady rain, though not enough to stop our driving top-down. We stayed overnight at the Masterton Motor Lodge, just 100 metres from the finish of Cathy's last TT.

TUESDAY

Francis and Gaile Pointon's Garage and Museum was our first stop, only 10 minutes away. Around 30 cars, many fully restored by Francis, and the rest

awaiting their turn. Also a great collection of vintage clothing, all displayed beautifully in a range of barns and sheds! Yes, it WAS raining as we headed out to Castle Point, but it miraculously stopped just before we arrived. Very windy and cold but dry as we marched across the sand to the good climb up past the lighthouse to the viewpoint at the top. The last stretch was a flight of steep steps with a handrail, much needed as the near-gale force winds threatened to blow us over the edge of the cliff!

We decided to head for Martinborough for lunch - a lovely little country town, arrived in bright sunshine, had a terrific lunch at the Village Cafe (recommended by my Aussie guide Gary), then strolled around the town centre, enjoying the relaxed feel. One strange thing though - at 2.30 on Tuesday afternoon, almost all the shops and cafes were closed! Why?

Top down, we decided not to bother with the drive south to Cape Palliser (and heard stories of rain, gravel roads and deep fords later that evening). Rain soon returned for us as well, before we



TUOROA SKI FIELD

reached the motel. A great meal that night at the packed Tripoli Bistro in Masterton.

WEDNESDAY

A damp departure again, following a very detailed route chart from Glyn. There was a little confusion at a “Bear Right to Alfredton”. Gary didn’t hang around, followed the right turn and enjoyed the next 45 minutes on glorious twisty back roads. Only problem was – we should have turned left! Despite covering nearly 80 km too many, we still finally arrived at the Tui Brewery cafe/museum at Mangatainoka just before the last of the others departed. A quick lunch stop at a wet Dannevirke allowed us to rejoin the gang at Dave’s Den, an incredible private collection of model vehicles, with over 8000 on show.

Destination that night was The Village Motel in Havelock North, the best accommodation we stayed at on the whole trip. This was probably the most consistently wet day of the Tour, but Thursday looked more promising.... A bewildering choice of good eateries, all within two blocks of the Village; we settled on the Rose and Shamrock pub, as recommended by C&G. Top

nosh and inexpensive. With all this great food and sitting in cars all day, our waistlines were expanding!

THURSDAY

A free day around Hawkes Bay – Ken Brown recommended Te Mata Peak Road, and Denis Crossman, the river road drive back out to the coast. Both were great – the last couple of km up the Peak were rather challenging – many blind corners on a very one way road! A tremendous view from the top car park, taking in the whole of the Bay. Misty but dry, and the weather just got better all day. But first, an appointment postponed from the last Tour up this way – Ian Hope’s British Car Museum at Haumoana.

Words and even pictures don’t do justice to this eclectic, disorganised, massive collection of over 400 cars. Stacked two high everywhere, Gary and I stayed for nearly three hours, reminiscing about all the British cars we’d driven, owned – they were all there! Some were a little tired, but many were in excellent condition. Apparently a lot of the cars were driven in and just handed over to Ian.

We came out to see a warm sunny day for our cruise into Napier for another great lunch in the Art Deco area. Then a two hour Art Deco walking tour of the town centre before returning to The Village at Havelock North for a long overdue wash for the MX. The queue for the bucket and hose quickly formed behind me!

Chatting in the car park, we had a surprise visit by Dianna and Tom, on holiday from their home at Hokianga Harbour in their red ND. We had a great talk, and it emerged that they have an NA, NB, NC and ND in their garage, including probably the world’s only MX-5 camper!

FRIDAY

After a very comfortable stay at The Village, it was onto the Napier – Taihape road and a brilliant 150 km non-stop drive in the rain over one of the best MX-5 roads in the North Island. Known as Gentle Annie though I have no idea why, as our NA was not going at all gently!

I don’t know what special friends Cathy has but our coffee stop in Taihape, like almost every other drink/meal stop on the Tour, had no rain and even sunshine.

Top down, we then headed North on SH1, and arrived at Waiouru Army Museum just before the rain clouds checked in.

What a museum! We spent most of the afternoon there, learning about all the various theatres of war that Kiwi troops were involved in. The 2nd Boer War was an eye-opener for me, and watching a number of reviews and eye-witness accounts of Gallipoli told a revealing story. We dragged ourselves away, promising to return – so much more to see and learn.

Despite this delayed departure, it was still bucketing down for the final 70 km to Turangi. Another very sociable evening spreading along the verandah of Parklands Motor Lodge, where amongst other new arrivals, we caught up with Karen and Teo from Te Puke, previous Tour regulars.

SATURDAY

A damp start for our drive around Lake Taupo, with a dry (again!) and sunny stop at Kinloch for morning coffee. Then into Taupo town – more like a city these days, the way it has grown – for lunch before cruising back to Turangi. And guess what? Before we arrived, down came the rain again. Luckily, plenty of F1 and WRC coverage on Sky kept us quiet and happy. Glyn inspired some intrepid MX-5ers with a damp BBQ.

SUNDAY

Guess what? We woke to a little more precipitation, though it was dry by the time we loaded up the cars. Destination for the morning was the Chateau at Tongariro, with a trip up Bruce Road to the top of the ski-field road. Brilliantly atmospheric, with very thick fog (or was it low clouds?) slowing us down to less than 35 kph – virtually driving blind! I could just see the car ahead, 20 metres away – the worst fog I've ever encountered in NZ. After a photo stop by the Chateau, we pressed on, past "Smash Palace", the massive vintage car wreckers

at Horopito. Couldn't find our gumboots, so didn't stop this time. Onwards to Ohakune, by which time it was

a) Lunch

b) Dry and sunny! You wouldn't read about it! (till now)

But before finding a good eating house, we drove up to the Turoa ski-field, another steep and twisty mountainous road. The weather may have dried out, but the viciously cold and strong wind was straight from the Antarctic! We took a few photos and dived back into our cars. Plenty of snow just metres away, and you knew about it.

We chose the Utopia Cafe for lunch – always wanted to discover Utopia! – great value, tasty food. Then tops down and off again, down Highway 4 and the Paraparas. A terrific stretch of road, though plenty of washouts, one way sections and road works did impede progress a little. Finding Anndion Lodge was a breeze in Wanganui, on the main road in.

A group buffet meal in the Anndion Conference Centre was probably the best on the tour so far. As always, it was fun to sit and talk with people that you perhaps didn't know too well – by the end of the Tour, we got to know everyone!

MONDAY

A dry start, tops off and away to the tortuous Wanganui River Road, for our trip to The Bridge To Nowhere. The road was probably the worst I've driven on for many years – numerous major washouts and slips, sheer drops with no barriers for the hundreds of metres drop to the surging brown Wanganui River below, half a dozen active road works, many narrow and blind one way stretches, many rough gravel sections, rock falls with rocks all over the road, unstable sheer clay banks towering over the road, together with regular rain showers – a real challenge. But we all

handled it well and passed Glyn's endurance test!

After 90 minutes on this road, we arrived at Pipiriki, having cruised through the famous township of Jerusalem. We also passed through two other small settlements called Athens and London! Lifejackets on, and the rain stopped briefly as we started our 50 minute jetboat trip up river, with magnificent cliffs, inlets and waterfalls along both sides. The walking track to the Bridge was only 2.7 km and not too steep, apart from the initial ascent to a small information shelter near the drop off point. However, the weeks of continual rain had created mud, puddles and streams along the track, making the walk really challenging. More than a few of us misjudged our footing and landed in the mud. (Yes, that included me!) Constant rain for the walk didn't help, and most got soaked through by the end.

The Bridge To Nowhere was quite surreal, a very solid bridge surrounded by dense native bush; a real curiosity and worth the trek. After the boats' return to Pipiriki, we chose the longer but much better road out via Raetihi, then down through the Paraparas again. Fewer road works today, and most of us had a good and quick run home. Just before Wanganui, one final rainstorm was so violent that we were looking for hailstones!

A free night for dinner, and pizzas and fish n chips from the local parade of shops were the popular choice, after using the washing machine and dryer at the Lodge for our muddy clothes, and the excellent gas fire for drying our shoes.

TUESDAY

Sunshine!! Blue skies!! Our luck had turned. Topless it was for the backroads drive to Hunterville for lunch. We loved the many concrete sheep clustered around the Post Office in the wide empty streets of the town.



A SUNNY DAY!



CAPE PALLISER FORD



ON THE ROAD



FINAL DINNER BONITT OCT 2016



WANGANUI JET BOATS



TT MASCOT - DESMOND



TUROA SKI FIELD RD

The drive onwards to Palmerston North was Glyn's territory, and the route strangely seemed to be marked by pubs (including the Cheltenham, start point for Glyn & Cathy's previous TT.) And yes, there was a shower or two. Our last two nights were at The Coachman Hotel.

Free night, and Gary and I discovered a gem – Bethany's Cafe on The Square. Trip Advisor reports say it is the best in town, and we think they are probably right. Great food!

WEDNESDAY

Last day on the TT, could have gone shopping... but no, we signed up for the 250km local drive. Weather was still wet and dry by turns, but hey, we're used to that by now! More of a concern

were the incredible winds up by the Te Apiti Wind Farm – suppose that's why they are located there! As usual, Glyn had directed us down some wonderful twisty back roads through the hills, the Manawatu Gorge, Pohangina Valley... Afternoon tea was in Kimbolton, where G&C live, then down to Feilding and return to "Palmy".

Our Farewell Dinner was in The Coachman, a real celebration of all the fun times we'd had over the last 10 days. Cathy and Glyn were brilliant hosts and held a raffle with a huge range of Mazda related merchandise – most people would have gone home with some treasures! The six crews who have been on all five TTs were recognised, and the proceeds of

the raffle were handed across to Caryl and Grant Simpson, to start preparing for the next Tiki Tour – down the Bottom of the South Island, tentatively planned to be Sept 2017. All previous TTourers will be kept informed, and any other expressions of interest can be sent to caryl@simtronics.co.nz

And why the RED BONITT title? No, not our car's colour change from Dolphin Grey, but - Rained Every Day.

Thanks very much to Cathy & Glyn for a tremendous 11 days of MX-5 fun: their excellent accommodation choices, varied activities and visits, fabulous roads and scenery, and friendly and helpful guidance everywhere made it truly a wonderful time for us all. 🌀

NORTHERN REPORT



SHOW AND SHINE

NORTHERN REPORT: NOVEMBER 2016 // REPORT BY BRENDA WHITE // PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE & ROGER SMITH

A beautiful sunny Sunday, November 20, at Watene Reserve in Orakei Auckland – perfect weather for the Northern Show and Shine Car show.

A few “out of towners” braved the Auckland motorways to join us, making up our numbers to 56 MX5’s.

We were also lucky enough to have several of the younger MX5 scene, namely some of the boys from the NZMX5 facebook page come along and have a chat with us.

Westpac Helicopter Trust were the recipients of \$1100 from our fundraising efforts, and a good day including plaques and prizes for the winners of each category, including awarding the John Cox trophy to the overall winner on the day, Conrad Tutin for his immaculate dark navy blue baby (who was without her onesie on this day!).

Many thanks to all who came out and supported us, we had a fab day, we hope you did too!! 🍷





WAIRARAPA

KAPITI RUN: 16 OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY SHARON EWING

After all our rain on Saturday, Sunday turned on the Sun.

We drove to Featherston to meet the cars coming over the hill. We had nine cars, and a great Wairarapa day. After a toilet stop we headed off out the back of Featherston and around the Lake.

The information sheet was detailed with some interesting facts about the area you were

driving. Around the Lake then onto Lake Ferry Road heading back towards Martinborough, turning onto White Rock Rd to head to the wind mills, not a bad day there for this visit.

Heading back we take a turn off to drive pass some vine yards and then out to Longbush, over Millars Road, then heading back into Carterton, ducking in and out some roads.

Finally arriving Carterton, quick stop for a take away coffee at the café.

Then we headed out Carrington and eventually ending up at Mount Holdsworth for a picnic lunch.

Thanks all for coming, it was most enjoyable. ☺



ORUA DOWNS

KAPITI RUN: 20 NOVEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY SHARON EWING

We had the sun shining for our November drive, after a terrible week of rain and earthquakes.

Cars met at Waikanae for the drive to Foxton Beach, where we stopped at Simply Barmy for a coffee.

After enjoying some catch up

time with a coffee, we headed off to Orua Downs Gardens. We went along the back roads until Himatangi beach road then back onto State Highway, then turning off to the gardens.

We enjoyed lunch in the garden, then a wonder through. Some

people bought Christmas gifts, as there was a range of gifts to buy that were homemade made. A lot of time spent keeping the gardens nice, and coming up with different creations.

Thanks Tony for organising the day. ☺





DEEP SOUTH WAIKATO RUN

WAIKATO RUN: 30 OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY DENIS CROSSMAN

The day clashed with the Hampton Downs 101 along with a Swap Meet in Rotorua which a number of MX5ers were attending however we still managed a group of 11 cars at our starting point for the day at the recently closed "Super Loos" at Cambridge.

As well as our regulars, it was great to see a couple of new faces, Steve and Pete. After a good chinwag we headed off, over French Pass, down SH1, and then along Horahora Road beside Lake Karapiro. Then it was down the Old Taupo Road, a zig zag around Tokoroa and onto Robert Harris on SH1 at Tokoroa for a coffee and comfort stop.

It was a beautiful sunny day as we headed south past Kinleith and then on the road to Rotorua. We spotted an orange NC coming the other way which we are pretty sure belongs to a gentleman who has painted his Soul Red ND

orange. Must say the orange looks good, but don't think I could bring myself to having a brand-new car repainted.

A right turn took us to the Ohakuri Dam. There was a bit of excitement (or more correctly excrement) on the way to the Dam as we got sprayed with cow shit which was being sprayed onto the land from a big sprinkler. There was no escape.

After stopping at the Ohakuri Lake for a photo shoot a number of cars turned right instead of left, however they soon had it under control and rejoined the rest of the group.

We then travelled back down SH1 for a short distance before turning right into Tram Road. This turned into a forestry road. Just before



LUNCH WHAKAMARU

joining SH30 we crossed the "Banana" Bridge which is where the shooting of the Stop Go man, George Taiaroa took place. There is a small memorial with George's Safety Dayglow and Hardhat at the spot he was shot.

Lunch was at Neds Place Whakamaru, the pizza's and burgers were very tasty. After we had eaten too much we headed off to Mangakino for a quick stop down by the lake.

The run North from here was great with basically no traffic through to Parawera where everyone headed in different directions home.

Many thanks to Jeff and Chelle for arranging a great run over roads that most people had not been over before. 🌀

LAKE AT MANGAKINO



WILL WE OR WON'T WE...

HAWKES BAY MARTINBOROUGH JAUNT

HAWKES BAY RUN: NOVEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTO BY MIKE HURLEY

The weekend of 12 and 13 November saw some of the HB MX5's do a trip down to Martinborough for the garden tour weekend.

Due to the wet weather the preceding few days, the gardens were wet, and parking in a REALLY wet and muddy paddock soon dampened the enthusiasm.

On the Sunday we opted to run out to Cape Palliser and eyeball the lighthouse, then stop for lunch at Lake Ferry on the way back. Due to the large volume of rain over the previous few days, we were stymied at the last hurdle, just in sight of the Lighthouse.

The ford was running a large volume of water, in the end

discretion prevailed over being silly. We'll get to the lighthouse another time.

Excellent lunch at Lake ferry Hotel - recommended if you get out that way. Tiki tour back to Featherston along the back of Lake Wairarapa, quick stop at the little boys and girls rooms, then a leisurely drive home. 🌦



THEM DASHING FLYING MACHINES AT ARDMORE AIRPORT

WAIKATO RUN: 13 NOVEMBER 2016 // STORY BY KARIN MERRIFIELD //
PHOTO BY GRAEME DENTON

The elements had put on a lack lustre display of grey skies and clouds as our contingent of six MX5's met at the Rototuna Shopping Centre on such an auspicious day. The grey weather did not dampen nor dull the spirit of excitement that was in the air as Graeme lead our posse as we headed off on a drive around the shores of Lake Kainui to the Warbirds over Ardmore.

Our beautiful New Zealand landscape scenery never ceases to amaze me. And with a quote from my darling Peter: "Nary a straight road taken by the MX5 Club on a run!" I found it somewhat problematic when scribbling my notes while being swung around bends at 80+ kph, however from practice of writing a few of these bulletins so far this year, I'm becoming more adept at this skill!

At Taupiri we got down to the serious business of driving to Ardmore via the motorway on conventional, less twisty roads. The Police put on a show of force, to some extent, as we noticed at least 3-4 of their vehicles on patrol

from Huntly onwards. Luckily we went un-noticed to them, and after a short comfort stop at Pokeno resumed our journey/quest for an aeronautic adventure, arriving at 10h30 at Ardmore Airport in Papakura, Auckland.

We parked neatly in a row and had a quandary as to who to pay for our entrance fees. Graeme at this point said, with a wry smile, that we were "part of the display", hence we weren't charged an entry fee. This was a delightful and unexpected surprise as was seeing the other marques being exhibited such as Jaguar (11 different models), 7 or 8 Austin Flying A's, 6 horseless carriages, AC Cobras – all providing interest and contrast in development of the automobile through the ages.

The next chapter of our adventure was heading off in our different directions to get the best vantage point to watch the daring aero displays. First up was a Tiger Moth flown by Dave - whose day job is flying a commercial jetliner (the A350 you know, only the most modern aeroplane!) for Cathay Pacific – getting his jollies

on as he did some tricks and manoeuvres to get the audience's adrenalin pumping and I'm sure his own too!

There were lots of families having a good family fun day out, albeit that the skies were grey. Assorted food trucks abounded so there was plenty of choice if you hadn't followed my example and packed a lunch of sandwiches and fizzy drinks (and water) to give you sustenance and quench your thirst during the course of all the exciting sights we experienced.

Next up were two Ryan S-T aircraft which were designed as trainers and were specifically used to train American pilots in and for WWII. I felt quite some contrast being drawn when I noticed a jet airliner in the distance, coming in to land at the Auckland Airport, and the two Ryan's in the foreground, with mock explosions going off as they sped by, then motored upwards and came twirling down with smoke trailing out the back. It was breathtaking to ponder the skill of the brave pilots, having to manage these startling feats, and created quite a



display, for the awe and enjoyment of the crowds below.

The commentator noted that the conditions were not great for this type of display. But, just a few hours later the day turned from “grey and gusty” to “hot and blustery” with clear, sunny skies. The one o’clock show brought the “Roaring 40’s” and I don’t think I was the only audience member who was stunned and amazed at the speed and dexterity of the Spitfire.

This small aircraft achieved legendary status during the Battle of Britain and although they were outnumbered by the Hurricanes, who during that battle also shouldered the brunt of the fight against the Luftwaffe, the Spitfire had a lower attrition rate than that of the Hurricanes, leaving the Spitfire with a higher victory-to-loss ratio when compared to the Hurricanes hence garnering the legendary status for the Spitfire.

Next up was the Boeing-Stearman which was also an aircraft built to train pilots during WWII – the ones on display today were both being flown by commercial jetliner pilots. Following on from that was the Mustang which at one point did a low level fly by at 300 kph. Again the commentator weighed in

saying that the majority of pilots were of the older generation as the NZ Airforce were no longer using the likes of these planes to train future pilots.

The NZ Army and the MOTAT Museum also had demonstrations on the go and kept my blood pumping with the occasional mock explosion and machine gun fire to wow the crowds. There were many more planes that followed and for me the soldiers in their camouflage gear, the explosions and gunfire and the smell of oil and smoke from the planes etc, gave me some idea of the fear and adrenalin you’d feel in a warzone.

I left the Warbirds over Ardmore with a similar feeling I had on a recent (and our first) visit to the MOTAT Museum. In specific, for me, the aeroplane side of the museum was an emotional experience, filling me with admiration of how brave those young men in their flying machines were and leaving me with thoughts of how different and possibly more awful, our world

“ I don’t think I was the only audience member who was stunned and amazed at the speed and dexterity of the Spitfire.

today could have been, if it were not for them. My eyes just well up and spill with tears at the thought of their sacrifice for us and how brave they were. All I can say is thank you.

Thank you also to Graeme for organising a memorable outing to the Warbirds Airshow, commemorating Armistice Day which will remain with us for a long time to come. 🌸



Hi Graeme,

On behalf of the New Zealand Warbirds Association I would like to thank you and your fellow club members for attending our Open Day yesterday.

The car club displays add a valuable component to our Open Days and are well liked and enjoyed by the public. Your cars looked superb and are a credit to your club members.

Thank you again for supporting the event, we very much appreciate it.

Kind Regards

Mike Wood

BOP REPORT:



TRIP TO WAIHI AND THE KARANGAHAKE GORGE

BAY OF PLENTY RUN: OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT BY HESTER RUSSELL & PHOTO'S BY ROB FISH AND DOROTHY LOCKE

Fourteen cars in two different groups with three different activities, picking up different people along the way - the whole under time constraints, it would be a miracle if it worked out the way it should! Amazingly, mostly, it did!

One group did the Windows goldmine walk in the morning. Although able to walk the Windows, disappointingly, the really lovely walk up the other side of the river was temporarily closed. However, this group used their extra time in the Falls Retreat

Cafe to good purpose - pizzas, red wine, good company ...and getting warm!

In the afternoon this group took the Martha Mine tour, our group having done it in the morning.

Again disappointingly, thinking the tour would go right into the Martha Mine, we were unaware of the massive slip within the mine, and subsequently, temporarily it is not being worked. However, other mining operations are still underway and were fully

explained, from extraction of the rock to the gold and silver nuggets we were able to hold at the end.

Our group also lunched at the Falls Retreat, arriving as the others were leaving - and hearing about part-closure of the river walk and the mud(!), instead absconded to the Flat White Cafe in Waihi Beach for chat, coffee, cake, sitting on the deck - virtually on the sand dunes. It doesn't get much better than this.... ☺

WEST COAST TO CENTRAL PLATEAU

TARANAKI REPORT: 23RD - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTO BY KAZ BRUCE

September is a busy time of year and only 4 Mx-5's departed from SH3/3A at 9am Friday morning looking forward to the awesome three day weekend that Grant had planned for us.

Heading north we first had the great MX5 challenge of Mt. Messenger and the Awakino Gorge before we turned inland at Te Kuiti crisscrossing the countryside to Mangakino and Whakamaru. The rock formations in the Mangakino area are an amazing sight. Looking across to them from the highway never fails to impress. Next stop Whakamaru Dam and the Waipapa Power Station more great photo opportunities and then on to Orakei Korako which was a good place to stretch the legs.

Four, very dirty MX-5's arrived at the Assure Chelmswood Motel in Taupo where we were able to relax and refresh before heading out to the 'Mole & Chicken' for Dinner. The Manager at the Chelmswood was a great host and ran us all too and from the Restaurant. This was very much appreciated as Taupo gave us some very heavy downpours of rain that night.

Next morning we set off for more adventures heading south to Turangi where Grant took us to a lookout where we had a great view

of Lake Taupo stretching way in to the distance. Then we were off to The Chateau Tongariro and the Whakapapa Ski Field, well has far as we could go without actually Skiing. It was so... impressive winding our way up the amazingly wide highway to the top. No rain but the swirling mist got thicker and thicker. On the way back down we stopped at the Chateau as some of us had not seen the interior and after the obligatory drive through the Chateau Entrance we were off again.

Next stop National Park Village for lunch and then on to 'Smash Palace' Horopito Motor Wreckers and we all wandered around the rusting hulks of days gone by. Then we drove on to the other side of the Mountain and once again we drove up as far as we could go to the Turoa Ski field and enjoyed the magnificent vistas and the fabulous road then continued on to the Memorial for the Tangiwai disaster of 1953.

We then headed down the Desert Road to The Waiouru Army Museum however we made the decision to come back the next morning on our way south as it was too late in the afternoon to have enough time to do justice to the displays and history of all the wars. Off back to Taupo and the wonderful sights of mountains and desert on the way back.

We ate at the Ploughman's Saturday night and once again our host ferried us to and from the Restaurant. Next morning we set off south again and spent a good amount of time at the Army Museum. When we departed for home one of our Group headed off on a more direct route south as they were spending a few more days away and the rest of us followed Grant south on S/H 49 over a very different route to the way we came up on the Friday. At one point we took a turn left down 'Fields Track' 40 kilometres of narrow (very), winding road, magnificent scenery and a great day for tops down. We never knew what might be coming towards us on the hairpin bends but fortunately there was almost no-existent traffic and was a good test of my driving skills, even if they did have to wait for me to catch up a couple of times.

We eventually came out on the Parapara Road to Wanganui and enjoyed the landscape once again. After refreshments in Wanganui we then had a two hour drive back to Taranaki. The rain eventually caught up with us not long after departing Wanganui. Thank you Grant: for a thoroughly enjoyable, interesting and fun time. Another 1000km's on the clock. 🌀

GARDEN RUN

TARANAKI REPORT: SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS GARY & NORA HUNN

A lovely morning, we all assembled at the Inglewood Railway Station car park.

14 cars in all, a great turn out. Leaving the car park at 9.30 am to visit Becklands historic homestead and large rambling garden. With bush walks and a craft shop.

We then headed out along a few old country roads that our MX5 members had not travelled over, under our beautiful Mt Taranaki/Egmont, to our next destination a country garden hidden behind a fence. Dondo, this garden was a more formal garden with many contrasting colours planted in rooms.

Another park like garden Lake Briar, we headed for after taking more interesting roads. This garden is a life style block with a man made lake, water fall, bridges, kid's playground and many animals and birds. Alpaca products were on sale as well as other assortments in their craft shop.

Not far along the same road

we entered a garden nursery, wandering through the large mature trees seeing what they had on offer for sale.

Taking more back roads, we meander to The Christmas Village, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch in their gazebo before exploring the Christmas decorations. The shop is a true gem to visit for young and old.

After a relaxing lunch we continue onto Merrilands to investigate yet another garden, this one showing the comforts of living outdoors with low maintenance and amazing views of their garden from several vantage points.

Time is now moving on but there is one more we really need to visit, so once again off we go to see The Railway Garden, and this garden has miniature trains running round the garden, through tunnels, across viaducts and even a train station. This was a very entertaining garden to visit, even a midget racing car was on view. I



think the men all enjoyed this garden.

Afternoon tea to finish our busy day was taken at Pukekura parks tea kiosk by the lake. This was a nice relaxing finish for our garden festival run.

Thanks to all those who joined us, it was nice casual and interesting seeing the wide variety of gardens people love and develop. 🚗



PIRONGIA - LUNCH AT “THE COACH HOUSE CAFE”

TARANAKI REPORT: SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY KAZ BRUCE

The weather gods have not been kind to the general population of late and I think we all needed to not only ‘blow the cobwebs out of the engine’ but also out of our brains.

13 Taranaki MX-5’s met at our northern rendezvous place, the intersection of Highway 3/3a. There were large drops of rain falling out of the sky just prior to departure so we did not start off tops down. However not very far down the road the rain disappeared and down came the tops.

It is always fun heading north and negotiating Mt. Messenger and the Awakino Gorge, we will have to make the most of it as an alternative route is now seriously

on the cards but probably not ready for another 4/5 years. We were heading to Pirongia home of the famous Clydesdales and the Coach House Cafe for lunch some 2.5 hours away.

They had asked us to be there by 11.30am so that they could work around their other Sunday customers. It turned out a lovely day for us to check out the Clydesdales and enjoy the property following a very tasty lunch. We then cut across to Te Awamutu, only a 10 minute journey to literally ‘Smell the Roses’ at the Te Awamutu Rose Gardens. We then headed off down the main highway south, turned off to Waitomo and enjoyed a snack and a drink at the “Long

Black Cafe”. Neil G took over the lead and took us on a detour off the main highway turning right on to Oparure Road, lots of beautiful country side and a well maintained road we then found ourselves on Troopers Road which eventually lead us back to the main highway, which meant we had made a detour and cut out Te Kuiti. We then enjoyed the drive back through the Awakino Gorge and over Mt Messenger. A journey of 400 plus kilometres, I know my cobwebs had certainly been dealt too.

Compliments of the season from the Taranaki Region to all our fellow MX5 enthusiasts spread throughout NZ. Catch you at the National’s in 2017.



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THERE AND BACK TO GUESS AND KNOW

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

It was a chilly start but the grey day was brightened when the latest MX-5 joined the nine cars at Saxton Field. Lindsay (Haven Motors) and Sonia Malpus in the MX-5 ND became the instant honey pot. There were many questions as the demonstration car was inspected and considered for “the maybe in the future bucket list.” Sonia felt ‘the seat wrapped around her giving her a very secure feeling’. We welcomed Bev Wotzko from Australia, travelling with Sandra-Louise. Bev is an experienced MX-5er and frequent participant in NZ-AUS tours. Bev’s husband Gary was with Ash Price on the BONITT tour, along with the Allports and Sigleys.

Then it was “top down” on the picturesque run to Brightwater HQ’s café where the excellent customer service and yummy afternoon tea prepared us for the “Guess or Know Quiz”. Lindsay Malpus donated prizes and it wasn’t necessarily the most correct answers that won the day. Tony showed the depth of research he’d put into the questions. Each correct answer had a story and often a humorous one! Many of the answers fitted into the “I didn’t know that” category.

It’s almost traditional that new club members are winners on the day – congratulations to Rachel and



Tony Greig, Karina and Kerry Downer, two winning couples. Our sincere thanks go to Lindsay (Haven Motors) for contributing the prizes, and Wendy & Tony for organising the run and fun. 🍷





MYSTERY TRIP

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

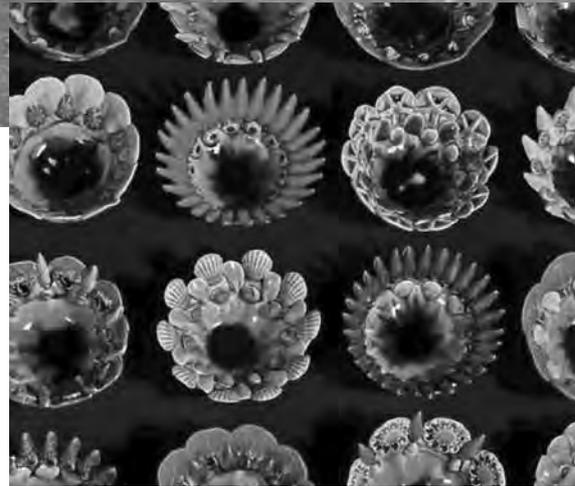
Lynne and Stu, back from their overseas travels, showed how to deal with whatever the day brings. Their original enthusiasm for a trip to Omaka changed into a mystery trip, with the weather a major factor. Here's their report that includes plenty of "plans" and unlike Baldwin from Blackadder, these plans worked. Thanks Lynne and Stu for your great laid back attitude.

"A special thanks to those who came out and braved the weather today. We had eight cars on the run which we think was a good turn-out considering. Five cars started out from WOW and we joined up with three more in Mapua.

The original plan (A) was to have a picnic but most agreed that the black clouds overhead didn't lend itself to picnic weather. So we decided to have a little tour

up to the Upper Moutere Pub (Plan B) only to be told that it didn't open for another 1/2 hour (noon). So we had a little stroll up the street to the shops. There was a shop that sold some lovely condiments, cheeses, etc from the local area and had a gift shop attached, The Old Post Office. You were encouraged to post letters to Santa from here and one MX-5er became professional photographer for a group of visiting tourists. Some of us strolled across the road to visit the Bartlett & Gold Gallery. One photo shows some of the small bowls Katie makes. Her work is truly amazing.

As mid-day approached we strolled back to the pub only to be told that the pub was booked out for the Classic Car rally! On to plan C - we called the Kahurangi Estate to see if they would have



room for us. No answer! At this time it had started to rain again so general consensus was to call it a day. We had forgotten that the replay of the All Blacks game was on so most pubs would be filled with AB fans.

However, it was great to catch up with those who could make it and we appreciate everyone's easy going manner. Fingers crossed weather will be better for the next outing. Thanks, Stu & Lynne"

As a seasoned MX5-er said, "Just goes to show that rain and a booked out pub can't spoil an MX5 run!" ❄️

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, ST ARNAUD

NELSON/TASMAN RUN: OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT SUPPLIED BY GAYLENE ST JOHN

The day started at WOW with 8 cars gathered and owners catching up on the latest happenings. It was a chance to introduce new members to our 'restless kiwis'. Yes, Lynne and Stuart McNeill are back home

and saying it is good to be here in Nelson.

It was "top down" on the run to Kohatu, where Graeme & Jan joined the convoy. Then Eileen & Colin led to St Arnaud and the Clinker Café. Again, there was lots

of chatter and socialising.

Our thanks to Eileen & Colin for organising the day and Colin's suggestion that became definite plans for the 27th November event. ❄️



KAIKOURA HOP CAR SHOW

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

What a glorious day it was for the Kaikoura Hop! Simon Senior, Dez & Cindy Cross and the Simpsons left an overcast, spitty, Blenheim but the further down the coast we went the clearer it got until it was plain blue sky and sunshine at the Kaikoura Racecourse. We quickly found parks and headed into the venue.

Cars and people everywhere! Lots to look at both car-wise and costume-wise as many dressed up for the occasion.

There were also many food stalls along with craft and car oriented stalls along with a large play area

for the kids with roundabouts, side shows and an inflated, sinking, Titanic.

Both Grant and Simon managed to pick up models of previously owned cars, pre their MX5's. In Grant's case, his first ever car - an HB Vauxhall Viva.

We texted Stan and Nola to let them know we had arrived. These two managed to find Dez and Cindy as well as Phil & Sue Holmes but we missed them. We didn't find Radcliffes either.

The cars were lined up, in no particular order, in rows that had

street names like FonzD Blvd, Repco Ave and others with a sponsor or car movie theme (but I can't remember them now!)

Along with the retro outfits, there were many in black T-shirts with various cars featured. If you were looking for someone specific, described as scruffy and wearing jeans and a black T-shirt, you would not have had a hope of picking them out in the crowd.

The racecourse was a much better venue than the school, as in previous years, as there was so much more room to wander about and enjoy the atmosphere. 🌀

PELORUS CAFÉ AND BUSH WALKS

MARLBOROUGH RUN: OCTOBER 2016 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY NOLA RICKARD

The weather behaved and the sun came out so the hood went down. We were joined in Havelock by Caroline and Mike, Shirley and Ivan and Sue and Phil. Smooth run out to Pelorus Bridge.

Then a walk around the loop over the swing bridge. Surprise, surprise, there coming the other way on the track was Mike Besley from Nelson. Cathy was waiting for us back at the cafe. It was

there that some of us enjoyed the gourmet pies on offer while others devoured the lunch they

had brought along with them. Then, after a leisurely chit chat, we all headed off. Nola, Stan, Caroline and Mike stopping on the way home at the Trout Hotel in Canvastown for a drop of the good ale by the lovely log fire. 🌀



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Do you have a trade, job or skill that you think others may want to use? The trade directory is exclusively for Club members, and it's free to list! Simply email your BRIEF ad to topdown@mx5club.org.nz and put Trade Off in the subject line.

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It makes sense to use a professional insurance broker to insure your MX5 and also your other valuable assets. Please feel free to contact Karen Lawrence at BrokerWeb Risk Services for personalised insurance guidance and service and an obligation free quote for all of your insurance needs.

Phone: 0800 644 444 or

Email: karen.lawrence@bwrs.co.nz

BrokerWeb Risk Services have branches nationwide so we have local people with local knowledge happy to assist.

POWER PROTECTION

For computers etc., Westcon NZ Ltd Suppliers of APC by Schneider Electric UPS's, (Uninterruptible Power Supplies), single and three phase, and Power Filters.

Contact Willie Williamson on 021

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PET CARE SPECIALISTS

No room in your MX5 to take your pet and your partner on holiday? If you're leaving the family pet home alone get a Pet Angel to feed, walk or housesit while you're out enjoying your MX5. Call the pet care specialists on 0800 PETANGELS or book online www.petangels.co.nz

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Self inking or plain. common seals, daters etc. same day service if in by 10am.

3105 Great North Rd, New Lynn, Auckland.

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Got too many MX5s 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.

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MX-5 CLUB MERCHANDISE

Check out our range of MX5 Club clothing. The apparel includes the MX5 logo embroidered on the left hand side.

Quality 100% merino Eco Gear make the perfect accompaniments to our new range of jackets.



To view the full range visit the MX5 website and order online.

[www.mx5club.org.nz/
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