

# TOPDOWN

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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016

MAGAZINE

## SUMMER DRIVING

CLUB MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY SHARE  
THEIR AWESOME SUMMER DRIVING EXPERIENCES.



**PLUS:**

- » 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MX-5
- » MX-5 PROFILE
- » TRIP REPORTS



# 2016 MAZDA ROADSTER RS RACING CONCEPT CAR



The Tokyo Auto Salon held in January is recognised as the world's biggest custom car show and hosts big-name Japanese marques including Mazda, Honda, Subaru, Suzuki and Toyota.

The show is often home to cars that look like science projects gone wrong and showcases an array of exciting concept cars, one of which is the **Mazda Roadster RS Racing**.

Although the name might suggest we're talking about a brand-new model, the RS Racing concept is actually based on the fourth-generation MX-5 Miata.

Having already spawned the Spyder and Speedster concepts we saw at the 2015 SEMA in November, the Miata will take a slightly different form in Tokyo, where it will share features with Racing concepts based on the

CX-3 and the Mazda6 sedan.

Much like the Spyder and Speedster concepts, the RS Racing concept features an aerodynamic kit consisting of a larger front splitter, reworked side skirts, and a new rear diffuser. The splitter and the side skirts are actually similar to the Spyder's, while the diffuser has a unique shape and offset, twin exhaust pipes. Other than that and the multi-spoke wheels, the RS Racing concept seems identical to the standard model, but it's the paint job that makes a difference.

The roadster is finished in an exclusive shade of black that gives it a menacing appearance you won't get from the factory. Complementing the murdered-out appearance are the red accents on the splitter, side skirts, and rear diffuser, as well as the bright-red brake calipers.

The wheels are also larger and wrapped in low-profile tires, while the suspension has been lowered by an inch or so.

While it may not be that different when compared to the standard car, the RS Racing concept is an interesting take on the fourth-generation MX-5 that showcases just how customisable this tiny roadster is. We like how Mazda managed to turn the Miata into a more aggressive machine with just a coat of paint and a splash of red on its aero bits. The interior is also sportier than usual thanks to the Recaro seats and the large amount of Alcantara, a material that's quite common in race cars nowadays. If we were Mazda, we'd put this concept car into production as a limited-edition model and send it out with the 2.0-litre engine under the hood. 🌀

Source: [www.mazda-motors.com](http://www.mazda-motors.com)

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Front Cover Photo: Taylor Attwood. Kawakawa Bay, Kaiaua Run.  
Back Cover Photo: Vivienne Hawken. Cape Palliser Run.  
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Absent: Anne Williamson (Treasurer)

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HI EVERYONE

MRS PREZ SEZ

Happy New Year everyone, I hope 2016 has started well and you have been out and about enjoying the sunshine and the soaring temperatures while they are still around.

Over anniversary weekend Martin and I were lucky enough to join with Vicky & Graham and David & Leanne from the Rotorua district for a run out through the end of Rotoiti, the back road to Matata, and then onto Ohope Beach. Wow, stunning road to Matata that we would highly recommend if you're down that way. We had an awesome day, even though there were no run notes.....(run notes...what are they? - Ed) .....haha – quite a lot of our discussion revolved around the difference between the way things are done, good to see how the other halves topdown.....Thanks for letting us join you.



We are looking forward to the Ellerslie Classic Car show on the 14 February where ten club cars of all ages will represent the MX5 Club, it's a huge day with lots of people very interested in our MX5 club, we have a good reputation for being super friendly and usually pick up a handful of new members. This year of course the new ND's will be a huge drawcard.

I spent yesterday polishing, painting and repairing a few little bits on my poor old NB, which I still love dearly, but she is getting a bit long in the tooth. Still she scrubbed up quite well and I look forward to the Course de Elegance on Saturday (before the show on Sunday), which is the combined car clubs of NZ car run which heads into Auckland City

from eight different points around the outskirts. It's a great opportunity to travel with other like-minded car enthusiasts who love their vehicles as much as we do, be they vintage, VW, mini, or lambourgine.

Please don't hesitate to send in your articles, photos and tales to Vicky showcasing what you are getting up to in your area, we love to catch up with what everyone is up to.

Happy travels.

Brenda

BRENDA WHITE, PRESIDENT

NEW MEMBERS

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

BAY OF PLENTY

Tony and Jan Bambery, ROTORUA

Stu and Lynda Massey, TAURANGA

Martin and Glenys Fenton, TAURANGA

Dave Moles, KATIKATI

Keith and Dianne Turner, TAURANGA

HAWKES BAY

Peter Jackson, HASTINGS

Peter Church and Margaret Rogers, HAVELOCK NORTH

KAPITI COAST

Andrea Marsden, LOWER HUTT

Ashley Collins, PARAPARAUMU

MANAWATU

Linda and Rory Learmonth, PALMERSTON NORTH

NORTHERN

Dale Anthony and Dini Paragagama, AUCKLAND

Ian Russell, AUCKLAND

Tom Jarecki and Deborah O'Brien, AUCKLAND

Jesse Arends, AUCKLAND

TARANAKI

Robert Newbrook and Suzanne Scott, NEW PLYMOUTH

Mike and Cristina Powell, HAWERA

WAIKATO

Willie and Gina Rosendaal, TE KAUWHATA

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.

## FROM THE EDITOR

HI EVERYONE

It's been a great summer for top-down driving, and we've had the opportunity to join a few runs ourselves lately - which has been lot's of fun.



This issue is packed full with exciting trip reports, the BONITT tour is also this year, plus there's been sightings of a few ND's around the country.

Be sure to check out the MX5 Blog (<http://mx5club.org.nz/blog/>) for more MX5 stories and videos.

VICKY POWELL, EDITOR



## VAUXHALL REVEALS NEW MAZDA MX-5 RIVAL

The Mazda MX-5 currently has the affordable sports car market to itself, but that could be about to change, with Vauxhall revealing a new GT Concept.

Officially, the new Vauxhall GT Concept has been built to pay homage to the striking XVR concept car, which Vauxhall unveiled at the Geneva motor show 50 years ago. However, a production version could follow, with Vauxhall describing the GT Concept as a "template for future sports cars".

Like the hugely popular Mazda MX-5, the Vauxhall GT Concept is a front-engined, rear-wheel drive, two-seater. And while it's a coupé rather than a convertible, the windscreen flows into a glass roof to flood the interior with light. 🌀

## NEXT DEADLINE:

FOR TOPDOWN MAR/APRIL ISSUE

**1 APRIL 2016**

Editorial contributions or photographs can be sent direct to the Editor by email to [topdown@mx5club.org.nz](mailto:topdown@mx5club.org.nz)



## OUT N ABOUT

"Gotta love that rear spoiler- MX5 RARO STYLE"

Photo: Mike Austin (taken in Rarotonga)

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

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# THE MAZDA ICE ACADEMY

## TRIAL BY ICE AND SNOW - CX-5, CX-3 AND MX-5



When you think of all-wheel drive, do you think of Mazda?

Chances are the answer is no and Mazda is fully aware of that. To help change perceptions about the brand's all-wheel drive prowess, Mazda invited reporters from The Motor Report to Crested Butte, Colorado to put the brand's i-ACTIV all-wheel drive systems to the test.

At ground level, a near total white-out. Perfectly sensible then to point a posse of Australian journalists at three purpose-built ice tracks, and let 'em loose with the CX-5, CX-3 and the MX-5.

The first track, a looping circuit with a slalom and long off-camber fast turn, and pedal down with

traction control off. The second: traction control on with a longer slalom and marked brake-test. And lastly, a tight 'gymkhana-style' drift circuit which we tackled in an MX-5; traction control off. The challenge was to 'knit' the corners of the circuit in a controlled drifting sideways run.

There was no iActiv AWD at work there, the MX-5 is RWD only, but its sublime balance and razor responsiveness made it an absolute blast – like snowboarding with an engine – to fire around the tight snowbound circuit.

CHECK OUT THE EDITOR'S BLOG FOR LINKS TO THE FULL ARTICLE AND VIDEO'S.

SOURCE: [www.themotorreport.com.au](http://www.themotorreport.com.au)

## MAZDA MX-5 WINNING AWARDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

### JAPAN – CAR OF THE YEAR

In a close battle, Mazda's MX-5 held onto its narrow lead to beat the fast-finishing Honda S660 mini-sports car to win the Car of the Year Japan award.

### NEW ZEALAND - SPORTS CAR OF THE YEAR

The MX-5 won the National Business Review Car of the Year Awards Sports Car of the Year title and was a finalist in the NZ Car of the Year.

### AUSTRALIA - CAR OF THE YEAR

Mazda MX-5 wins Wheels car of the year for the third time

The latest version of Mazda's enduring roadster the MX-5 has won Australia's most prestigious motoring prize for a third time.

The two-seater has been named Wheels magazine's car of the year for 2016 after earlier models of the car took out the award in 1989 and 2005.

### 2016 MAZDA MX-5 NAMED BEST SPORTS CAR FOR THE MONEY

The 2016 Mazda MX-5 Miata has been named the "Best Sports Car for the Money" by US News & World Report.

Mazda's lightweight roadster was selected based on the media reviews it has received, as well as driving performance, interior features and comfort, reliability and safety ratings. 🌀



# 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MAZDA MX-5

**NOW, HERE ARE 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE NEW MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER.**

BY STEPHEN CORBY

1. The front wings have been designed to replicate the look of the original pop-up headlight design, at least from the driver's seat, so that you can see the front of the car.

2. From an "ant's eye" view, the front of the car smiles at you.

3. The original Mazda MX-5 concept used a 1.6-litre engine from the compact Mazda 323, a gearbox from the mid-sized 626 and the diff from an RX-7 sports coupe.

4. The side indicator is the one part shared on the first three MX-5 generations: all NA, NB and NC models used it. The new ND shares nothing with its forebears other than "maybe a few bolts".

5. The MX-5 is the only Skyactiv car in the Mazda range not to

feature stop-start technology, and you sure don't miss it when it's gone.

6. MX-5 guru Nobuhiro Yamamoto actually helped out Toyota 86 chief engineer Tetsuya Tada, because he thought it was a good thing for competing sports car makers to push each other to greater heights.

7. Our MX-5s will use the European steering rather than the sludgy US set-up, because American roads are boring, straight and soulless. Mainly.

8. We should have had this MX-5 in 2012, because Mazda was working on it from 2007, but the whole project was put on hold for three years because of the GFC. It was assumed people would be too poor and depressed to buy sports cars.

9. The new car's boot release is cleverly hidden just above the top of the number plate recess, instead of between the seats where it's been for 25 years. The change was made to save weight - that's some gram theory - and for aesthetic reasons.

10. The glovebox has vanished in the ND to provide more knee room for passengers, with a dinky storage cubby now behind and between the seats instead.

And, because we like to under-promise and over-deliver, here's one more:

11. Mazda would have gone ahead with the new MX-5 whether or not Fiat Chrysler Automobiles had come on board with the Fiat 124 Spider joint venture. 🌀

SOURCE: [www.wheelsmag.com.au](http://www.wheelsmag.com.au)

# THE MX-5 FILES

Each issue we'll be interviewing members of the MX-5 club, so you can get to know and perhaps recognise them at the next club run. This month in the spotlight is the new Bay of Plenty co-ordinator, Karen Struiksma.



**NAME: KAREN STRUIKSMA**

**AGE:** 50

**MX5 REGION:** Bay of Plenty

**DAY JOB:**

School Secretary at Te Puke Primary

**CURRENT MX5:**

2005 Red NC Soft top, tip-tronic.

**EVERYDAY DRIVE:**

2005 Toyota Highlander

**IMPROVEMENTS TO MX5.:**

Lowered. After market exhaust. (Jury still out on that one).

**WHY MX5:**

Friends had one and we thought it looked lots of fun.

**HOW LONG IN THE CLUB:**

Joined 2009

**FAVOURITE RUN:**

(SITT) South Island Tiki Tour. Never been South before.

**FAVOURITE DRIVE:**

All our monthly club runs are good.

Great company, we have made many friends and travelled roads we never have known were there.

Hubby Theo liked Naper to Masterton coast road.

**FIRST CAR:**

Morris 1000

**DREAM CAR:**

I'm not sure, but Theo has lots of suggestions.

**WHAT CAR DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE:**

Holden 202

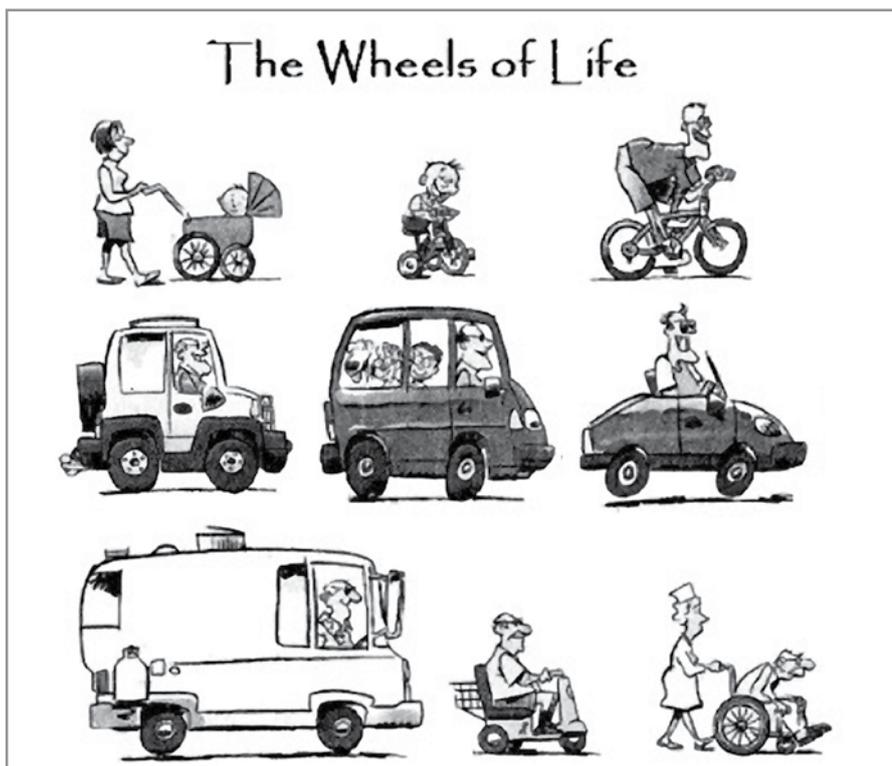
**WHATS THE BEST CAR ADVICE:**

Service regularly.

Theo and I live in sunny Papamoa by the beach. We have one daughter and one son and a 15 month old busy grandson.

We attend 99% of all organised runs with the club. We are scheduled to have a planning meeting in March to organise the next year's events.

Thanks to Ross Mitchell and wife Dianne. Ross has stepped down from BOP Co-ordinators role after seven years. We all hope you enjoy your retirement and I'm sure you will be right there when I need your support along with our other members. Dorothy Locke and I have supporting roles in this position as Dorothy is so well travelled and a great camp mother. 🌞



# BOTTOM OF THE NORTH ISLAND TIKI TOUR 2016!



The Bottom of the North Island Tiki Tour (BONITT) is scheduled to take place at the end September this year.

**START: MON 26TH SEPT 2016 >>>> END: THURS 6TH OCT 2016**

Organised by Glyn and Cathy Clements, Co-ordinators from the Manawatu MX5 Club, the ten-day long run is definitely a must for MX-5 enthusiasts. A great way to see the bottom of the North Island and meet some friendly like-minded people at the same time.

Starting at Waikanae, you'll get to explore some of New Zealand's great driving roads from Masterton through to Havelock North, on to Turangi, Wanganui and Palmerston North, finishing with a local run around the Manawatu.

The event has been advertised to past tour entrants (this is Tour No. 5) and also members of the Manawatu Club. Glyn and Cathy would now like to extend the invitation to the

club nationwide. The feedback from past tours has always been amazing and some club members have been known to participate in nearly every event.

There are 13 confirmed entries already – this also includes an entry from Western Australia – which proves just how popular these tours are.

Please give it some serious consideration - to do some, if not all of the event.

The Manawatu Club's monthly dinner night for October 2016 will coincide with the tour final dinner which is at the Coachman Hotel in Palmerston North. Glyn and Cathy have encouraged as many Manawatu Club members who are available to attend – so this

will be an unforgettable evening and also an opportunity to meet members from other clubs around NZ and Australia.

Don't Wait – if you are keen, let Glyn or Cathy know (details below) and they will forward the accommodation details to you.

Note: All accommodation must be confirmed by the **end of May 2016** or the negotiated bookings will be released to the general public. They have endeavoured to find accommodation which caters with Restaurants on-site and secure parking. Glyn and Cathy have also worked very hard to negotiate good rates to suit most budgets. Once you have booked your accommodation you will be recorded as an entry. 🌀

CHECK OUT THE ITINERARY ON THE NEXT PAGE >>

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**CATH**            027 2862927  
**EMAIL**            cbz1@xtra.co.nz

## NOTE FROM GLYN

I've motorcycled and vintage car rallied the whole area extensively for over 40 years. For the past 15 years, I've been a Commercial Traveller in this area, covering 5000 km per month, so there's probably not many roads I haven't been on.

Be assured there are some magnificent MX5 roads throughout the region!

I look forward to seeing the smiles on your faces at the end of each day!

	DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Day 1	Monday 26 Sept	Waikanae – Masterton	Lunch time start – Southwards Car Museum <i>Evening Group Dinner</i>
Day 2	Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Masterton Local Run	Pointon Collection – more than just a car Museum - Craft Shop, Period clothing collection and a ¾ acre garden to view Martinborough – Lunch Gladstone
Day 3	Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Masterton – Havelock North	Lunch at Dannevirke
Day 4	Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Havelock North - Free Day</b>	
Day 5	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Havelock North – Turangi	Run via Gentle Annie Lunch at Taihape <i>Evening Group Dinner</i>
Day 6	Sat 1 Oct	Turangi – Return	Around the Lake Lunch at Taupo
Day 7	Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Turangi – Wanganui	Via ParaParas HW4 Spend morning up The Mountain Lunch at Ohakune Afternoon (Ed Boyd’s Auto Collection plus there is also a Doll Collection to view for the ladies) <i>Evening Group Dinner</i>
Day 8	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<b>Wanganui – Free Day</b>	<b>Bridge to Nowhere Trip (river trip)</b>
Day 9	Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wanganui – Palmerston North	Lunch at Hunterville Bruce Ardell’s Auto Collection
Day 10	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Manawatu Local Run	Local Run with lunch at Apiti OR Shopping, Cafes, Coffee in the Plaza/the Square Pania Ryan’s Day Spa
<b>FAREWELL DINNER NIGHT</b>			
Day 11	Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Homeward Bound	

## EXECUTIVE HINTS AT ALL-WHEEL DRIVE MX-5

According to one of the engineering managers of the Japanese brand, an all-wheel drive Mazda MX-5 is increasingly becoming a possibility.

We all know and revere the roadster for being affordable, reliable and utterly fun to drive thanks to its rear-wheel drive assembly – but we’re also giving the nod to a possible AWD variant that apparently sounds like a good idea to the company as well – if we go by the comments of Tetsushi Marutani, assistant manager for drivetrain and powertrain development at the automaker, who during a recent interview hinted at a “possible” all-wheel drive

Mazda Mx-5 project. Talking to a publication during a recent event in Colorado, he commented “there are many factors to consider first, especially that the car must deliver driving pleasure.” His opinion on the idea was that “there is no doubt AWD is good,” though “2WD can be more economical and cheaper” and he also added “the MX-5 is perfect with RWD.”

He was also asked about the next generation AWD system,

though he declined to go into specifics – mostly because he said the project would become reality “maybe within five years”, though he said the company was actively developing the technology alongside the work done on the new generation vehicles – adding that since they build crossovers and SUVs the all-wheel drive is integral of their development work.

VIA CAR ADVICE

# MAZDA MX-5 LIMITED MAINTAINS MAXIMUM DRIVER APPEAL

David Linklater reviews the latest MX-5 Limited model for Stuff.co.nz and rates it a 9/10.

**I thought the latest MX-5 was back to basics. What's the point of a luxurious Limited version?**

It's true that the fourth-generation MX-5 is all about recapturing the essence of the 1989 original - right down to size and weight. That was certainly the idea of the 1.5-litre, manual-only GSX launch model, which rapidly became a critical favourite for 2015. It's a purist machine, no question.

But Mazda also recognises a market for an MX-5 that balances out the enthusiast ethos with a bit more ease-of-use and extra equipment.

So enter the MX-5 2.0-litre. Mazda NZ has kept things simple by offering the 1.5-litre car only in GSX specification and the 2.0-litre only in Limited guise. The big changes are the extra power and the option of an automatic gearbox, which you can't have in the GSX.

The Limited costs an extra \$6000 over the GSX but you're getting a lot of extra gear. It rides on larger 17-inch wheels and has automatic headlights (including high-beam control) and wipers, heated mirrors, keyless entry, climate air conditioning, black leather seat upholstery with red stitching, sat-nav, auto-dimming rearview mirror and nine-speaker Bose sound system with speakers in the head restraints.

Opt for the automatic and you get a drive selection

switch with Sport mode and paddle shifters, while both Limited models have lane departure warning (all MX-5s have blind-spot alert and rear cross-traffic alert).

The Limited has only just arrived but it's already outsold the GSX, which has been on sale since August. Of the 100 MX-5 models Mazda NZ expects to sell each year, nearly 70 per cent will be Limited versions. 🌀

## MAZDA MX-5 LIMITED

**Price:** \$46,995 (manual) or \$48,995 (automatic)

**Powertrain:** 2.0-litre petrol four, 118kW/200Nm, 6-speed manual or automatic, RWD.

**Performance:** 0-100km/h 7.3sec (manual), Combined economy 6.9 l/100km.

**Vital statistics:** 3915mm long, 1735mm wide, 1230mm high, 130 litres luggage.

**Hot:** Steering, chassis, more performance than GSX with minimal increase in mass.

**Not:** Headlights like candles in the snow, automatic version dulls the senses (just a bit).

Out of 10: 9

[Read the full review on Stuff.co.nz](#)

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# GARDEN FESTIVAL/ROUND THE MOUNTAIN RUN



TARANAKI RUN: 8 NOVEMBER 2015 // REPORT & PHOTOS BY KAZ BRUCE

The Garden Festival is held each year in Taranaki and is a very popular attraction with people coming from all over NZ and various parts of the world to view our spectacular Gardens. On the last day of the Festival Jock & Lesley took us for a jaunt (tops down) around the Mountain (Mt Egmont/ Taranaki) combining awesome MX5 Roads, spectacular scenery and beautiful Gardens. We met up at various points along the way heading south from New Plymouth, we joined at Inglewood and the rest joined us at Eltham.

Our first visit was to Bruce & Pam Palmer's beautiful Garden in Hawera (members of the MX5 Club). Their garden has been a labour of love over many years and we were able

to very proudly line up our cars on their front lawn and the cars became an attraction as well. It was suggested that we may have a better photo opportunity if we moved further up the lawn. Unfortunately, wet grass and a slope does not mix to well with a MX5 and much to my embarrassment, I had to be pushed out of trouble but fortunately I did not damage the beautiful lawn. We all enjoyed scones with jam and cream and a cuppa before we set off.

Our next stop was at an 'old' Dairy Factory at Pihama that had been converted to a home and guest accommodation and a working lavender farm. It looked like a great life style.

Next on the list was a beautiful old Villa at Opunake called

KenKora incorporating Rose Gardens and a beautiful Art Display. The day was so good that we were able to also enjoy various views of the Mountain as we headed along the Wiremu Road and arrived at our Picnic Lunch spot at the Greenwood Road Beach. It was a lovely relaxing spot for us to enjoy our picnic and good company.

Our final visit was to another large Garden in New Plymouth, obviously many years of hard labour as well and it was full of bird life, Tui's, Wood Pigeon's and lots of small birds, lots of interesting paths disappearing in different directions.

After a thoroughly enjoyable day we said our goodbyes and set off for various places called home throughout Taranaki. 🌀



# CAPE PALLISER TRIP

KAPITI COAST RUN: 17TH JANUARY 2016 // REPORT BY PETER COLLIER //  
PHOTOS BY VIVIENNE HAWKEN AND PETER COLLIER //

Our regular meeting place at the bottom of Haywards hill was no longer usable due to it being the site offices and compound for the new interchange construction. This meant we assembled at a new meeting place a few minutes further on at 9 am.

A quick check we had all 12 cars expected and a chance to apply some sunblock for hours of hood down driving ahead under a clear blue sky and we were off.

The drive over the Rimatukas is always a pleasure in an MX5, but this day the excitement started early in the climb up the hill above the Kaitoke lakes. Anticipating a passing lane to get past the three slower cars ahead, chop down a gear and follow the fast lane as it opens out to the left of the centre line and gun it at the first opportunity for a quick easy overtake - only this time the cars in the slow lane ahead start moving into the fast lane, time to back off and

then it is seen why - smack in the middle of the slow lane is a stranded bus with the driver at the rear frantically waving cars into the fast lane, phew.

After that moment shared by a few of us and an uneventful hill climb we were joined by the Wairarapa contingent of three more MX5's at Featherston and then it was onwards towards the south coast and the next stop the fishing village of Ngawi, running through a mix of flat straight running followed by some twisting hills and views of the ocean.

One was amazed at the sight of the fishing boats on huge trailers and bulldozers used to launch and the retrieve the boats on the gravel beach.

Another treat was in store, one more MX5 was waiting for us in the parking line-up making 16, but this one was a new ND in the popular red and everyone

stepped up for a look, most of us not having seen one before. Proud owner Dianna was happy to tell us all about it and how well it goes, a little later when the bonnet was opened the blokes descended on it for a good look, no surprises there and discussion revealed it was the 2.0L version.

A short drive of a further 5 km over a mainly dirt (or rather dusty) road took us to the Cape Palliser lighthouse, some cars were seen to break with MX5 run protocol and elected to run with hoods up and aircon on, pikers.

Perched high above the carpark in a cut-out on the rock face was the lighthouse, leading up to the lighthouse was a set of wooden stairs or more exactly should we say 'Jacob's ladder'.

Most of us climbed the steps for a look, how many steps?

Well GPS showed it was about



60 metres above the carpark and at about 200 mm rise on each step that is about 300 steps! View from the top was great, only limited by a periodic drifting fog, later found out to be bad enough over the general area for Wellington airport to have been closed most of the day. The walk up and down made the legs feel great once back down again.

After the return drive, through the dust again, the folding seats

came out for the picnic lunch at the edge of the Ngawi camping ground.

Amusing to note two other MX5's noticed us, as we all do when out driving, the sight of 16 of our favourite cars scattered in a smallish area caused more than a second glance as they slowly drove by, perhaps wondering what is this?

Lunch finished and a discussion ensued as to what do we do

now, too early to go home, easy decision to go to the Lake Ferry pub for a mid-afternoon drink.

This was followed for some us with a short drive/walk to the outlet of Lake Onoke but unfortunately the usually spectacular waves were not breaking over the cut this time.

The foggy weather had set in on the coast but cleared considerably going back up the valley towards Featherston. 🌀

**WAIKATO REPORT:**

LINING UP AT TAUPIRI



BRIEFING BEFORE VENTURING FORTH TO THE FIRTH OF THAMES AND ENVIRONS



SCENIC COUNTRYSIDE, HILLS AND SKY... ALL THE MX5S MAKING IT A PRETTIER PICTURE.



REFLECTIONS ON THE BONNET (BOTTOM RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF PHOTO).



THE WILLOW TREE STANDING GUARD.



THE MOSTLY "RED CORNER" OF THE BAYVIEW HOTEL (KAIUAU) PARKING LOT.



THE FIRTH OF THAMES APPEARING IN THE DISTANCE.



THE GARDEN BAR AT THE BAYVIEW HOTEL, MOSTLY MX5 CLUB MEMBERS IN THIS SHOT.

# FISH & CHIPS RUN TO KAIUA HOTEL

WAIKATO REPORT:

WAIKATO RUN: 23 JANUARY 2016 // PHOTOS (ON LEFT) AND STORY BY KARIN MERRIFIELD

The Metservice's website reported the temperature was 29 degrees Celsius at 4pm when we departed the Rototuna Shopping Centre Car park, this was contrary to Denis' newest acquisition of his ND which said it was 30 degrees Celsius...we'll go with that, trusting Mazda's equipment more than that of the Metservice.

In all seriousness, it was a scorcher of a day and most of our group sought shade from the bus shelter as Denis presented his briefing prior to our departure. I quipped that the bus driver (if one arrived) would be disappointed to find that he didn't have about 30 passengers waiting to board the bus...

Denis (our Regional Co-ordinator) lead the charge, tops down of course, as we departed at 4pm. Everyone did their best to keep cool as the sun beat down on mother earth and our convoy of 17 cars ventured forth to Kaiaua. Included in our group were some new members, this excursion being the first club run for some – welcome to you all!

We expected to meet up at Kaiaua with a number of cars and friendly faces from the Northern Club and partake in a meal of fish and chips ("upgraded" to include salads, thanks Denis!).

We had a quick line up at Taupiri, just checking that we hadn't lost any of our Waikato flock on the

twisty bends between Hamilton and Taupiri.

The sky was blue and clear excepting for the odd cloud dotted here and there, occasionally creating a reflection on the MX5's paintwork of the passing scenery... We zoomed around the twirly-whirly bends of Lake Waikare, being the Waikato's largest lake covering 3,442 hectares. Winding our way to Kaiaua past yellowed fields, (with splashes of green appearing on some hills and from trees and shrubbery) with cows and sheep grazing in the paddocks - even the occasional piggy or two and some horses.

We noticed a number of signs that read along the lines of "Scenic drive 300m on right" (some were "on left", all were 300m...to the turn of the scenic drive). Something that caught my eye was the Whangamarino Wetland, which I hadn't heard of before, and thought I must note it down to Google it later. Now, thanks to the all-hailed-oracle-of-knowledge-with-a-funny-name, Google, I've discovered that this is the second largest wetland on the North Island which covers an area of 7,290 hectares, encompassing peat bog, swampland and river systems and is home to some of New Zealand's threatened bird life such as the Grey Teal and Spotless Crake, among others.

See all these interesting things the MX5 club introduces into our

lives! Yes, it's about the thrill of the drive and the open road, but also about the scenery/outings and especially the camaraderie among club members. That brings us to the Bayview Hotel in Kaiaua which was our destination for this run.

Suddenly the Firth of Thames appeared in the distance, all shiny and blue, as we neared our destination. After gathering in the parking lot, welcome shade was provided by a large willow tree, we awaited the arrival of all our troops. Guessing that the Northerners were still some distance away, we made our way inside the tavern for some sustenance (of the liquid variety) while we awaited the arrival of our friends from up north.

All in all, 47 vehicles and their passengers made the run to Kaiaua on this fine, okay, excellent example of a perfect New Zealand summer's day. We had the pleasure of enjoying a lovely, freshly prepared and tasty meal of fish & chips with salads in the pleasant surroundings of the garden bar at the Bayview Hotel. Club members caught up on each other's news as the evening cooled the temperature down, rounding off a superb run with lots of fun had by all.

Thanks go to Denis for making all the arrangements, leading the way and also the "upgrade" of our meal to include those yummy salads. I'm sure we're all looking forward to the next run! 🍷

## NORTHERN REPORT:

# CHRISTMAS RUN

NORTHERN REPORT: DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT BY MORRIN LAYTON // PHOTO: NICK ASHMAN



A great day so one had better get ready for the club Christmas run to the RSA at Waihi Beach. The car was ready the night before with a Santa and some fake snow and jingle things. Off to the BP Drury to meet the other members from jaffa town. Gathered were over 30 cars some decorated with Christmas stuff and a few people dressed in the spirit of the occasion. A few words from president Brenda and off we went certainly getting a few stares from other motorist.

We headed to Ngatea to meet with cars from the Waikato and Thames and I believe one from Tokoroa. What a sight at the council chamber car park, close to 56 cars and of course a couple of new NDs just to make us mortals feel jealous. After a wee chat and admiring Marilyn's new speeding ticket we headed to Waihi RSA where waiting was a couple of cars from BOP. The RSA was a great place with a marvellous view over the beach. We all paid our lunch monies got a bit of refreshment and had a very nice lunch, plenty to eat. We had Mr and Mrs Santa give out our \$5.00 gifts, which was a good thing for them as I have never seen so many kisses being handed out.

After lunch Brenda made another speech and handed out prizes for the best decorated cars. It was a very enjoyable occasion and it was good catching up with members from the other regions again.

The RSA did a great job of handling our 100 odd people and the food was great. Later in the day we all departed in groups for home. It was an amazing view over the day watching from the back of the line of cars weaving their way through the country side.

Thanks to John Wakefield for arranging the run thanks to the club for keeping our club so friendly and fun to be in. 🌟



## NORTHERN REPORT: DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT AND PHOTOS BY BRENDA

December 6 and quite a few of us Northerners met at Drury – travelling to Ngatea to meet up with the Waikato region. At this stop we find our first ND (I'm gonna say – ever on a club run). The carpark was so full we almost needed high vis vests and road cones!!!! A quick count at this point came to about 45 cars, not a bad turnout. We travelled on through Paeroa and through the Karangahake Gorge and through Waihi to the Waihi Beach RSA – a stunning facility with the most amazing view, albeit over the top of the bowls grounds/fields/grass bits, much to Martins delight, apparently we can retire there, the bowls part is soooooo nice..... The usual judging of the Christmas cars was held with prizes for several cars, and lots of laughter while Mr and Mrs Claus gave out the presents (Lee Keighley and Don Whitcombe). Our thanks again to Waikato for letting us encroach on their event. We love your company guys!!!!!! 🌟



## NORTHERN REPORT: DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT BY MARTIN

There was a lot of cars and it was fun. 🌟

# KAIUA FISH AND CHIPS RUN

NORTHERN REPORT: JANUARY 2016 // REPORT BY LYN AND HEATHER // PHOTOS BY BRENDA WHITE

Our Kaiaua Fish and Chip run day saw us into 2016 in great form, with a glorious sunny day to all start the MX5 year with.

Our Drury starting point had us fill up one of the car parks with every colour and model of MX5, all ready to head off on our cross country travels.

Heading South out and off at Drury to travel away from our usual everyday traffic, we go into the countryside which our MX5s we all love so much.

We cross over toward Pokeno and over some brows of hills giving us great views of the now fairly brown looking paddocks, and the animals who now enjoy any bit of shade that they can find.

The roads are made for our MX5s who love the wiggles and curves with the uphill and down dale route, along with the drivers who also enjoy the aromas of sinus clearing cow-dung and silage, which make us all aware that we are loose on another

adventure away from city life.

Pokeno had all its throngs of people topping up with New Zealand's biggest ice creams while trying then to stop the drips running away faster than they could eat them.

We then tour off through Mercer and out east onto Mangatangi Rd with more stunning views and corners we all love, to carry on out to Kaiaua arriving in perfect time at the Pub.

What a spectacle this was, with members of our friendly Waikato Club already waiting for us. I gather 97-odd of us made the trip.

We all then headed out into a large garden bar, just made for the purpose of days like this, with large older trees and fruit trees along with many umbrellas for some well needed shade, along with the cool drink and much chatter and laughter to see 2016 year in with a brilliant start.

Fish and chips were well



received along with a salad bar to fuel our tanks while enjoying our drinks and catching up with the latest goss.

We also had much chatter among our members who now have the latest ND series and some new members. All this making some of us very jealous but still loving what we have with our little treasures.

So a very big thanks to all those involved in organising our day, and the weather for its part in making another very successful day all round.

Happy Motoring for 2016. 🌞

## HAWKES BAY REPORT:



# LOCAL DARBY

HAWKES BAY REPORT: JANUARY 2016 //  
REPORT AND PHOTOS BY DEBBIE

Last run was only local roads to try and showcase MX5's locally - quick drive through all the villages and then a picnic lunch at Westshore beach. Planning for 2016.

Interestingly enough we started with seven cars, one of which was new members, Peter and Joan, Welcome, and three of which were just out for the ride, prospects I guess you could call them, but must have been too boring as they peeled off and did their own thing. Never to be seen again.

We ventured through Hastings, Havelock North, Clive, Puketapu, Taradale and Napier. Lots of people out so very visible.

Nice relaxing day, great local sights and great company. 🌞



## BOP REPORT:

# BOP XMAS LUNCH RUN

BOP REPORT: DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT BY ROSS MITCHELL

The annual BOP Xmas lunch with Secret Santa was organised for Sunday the 13th.

Fifteen cars set off from the Kaimai Café at a hectic pace. Fortunately the route had been pre discussed so everyone knew where they were going. I was meant to lead but found myself at the back of the pack ensuring that a new member did not get lost.

Over the Kaimais we went and up old Te Aroha Road for a pit stop and chat in Te Aroha. Off

again to Paeroa where turning right coming off the bridge proved very difficult. Eventually we all got around and as some had waited we were not too spread out. However, all but three cars missed the turn off to Old Tauranga Road and went straight ahead. The three together stuck with the planned route and took the turnoff.

Twenty minutes later we turned into our designated lunch stop to find nobody else had arrived. Our concerns that they may have been lost were alleviated when

they all arrived five minutes later, proof that the Old Tauranga Road is a quicker alternative to driving through Waihi.

After a lunch of pizza and chips we got on to the fun of Secret Santa. Lots of laughs and much fun.

Then it was time to say our farewells and wish each other a Merry Xmas.

We look forward to the coming year which will be full of more MX5ing fun. 🌟

## KAPITI COAST REPORT

# CHRISTMAS RUN

13TH DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT BY CLARE // PHOTO'S BY SHARON

Twelve cars dressed in their finest Christmas decorations all met at the Pauahatani car park on a bright sunny Wellington day, before driving to our final destination at Godfrey & Ceinwen's home.

Led by Godfrey we descended on their home to enjoy catching up with all there.

With apologies and best wishes from those who weren't able to join us we enjoyed Petanque, Jenga (with hilarious results) not to mention the hula hoops!

Some of us were lucky enough to walk down through the bush to

the reserve and feed the local eels (and ducks) which live just behind Godfrey and Ceinwins home.

Sharon manned (or should that read woman-ed?) the BBQ and along with all the yummy salads and not to mention the divine desserts we all enjoyed the feast.

After lunch "Secret Santa" gifts were then presented, and we settled in for some more games and chat.

A huge thank you to Godfrey and Ceinwen for their hospitality – a great way to wind up the MX5 year. 🌟



## MANAWATU REPORT



MANAWATU REPORT:  
DECEMBER 2015 // REPORT  
PROVIDED BY GLYN AND  
CATH CLEMENTS



We had to cancel the proposed Christmas Lunch in early December as we only had three couples who replied. It was decided at the last minute to have a run the following Sunday and finish at Murray's Irish Bar in Feilding with some of us staying on for a meal.

A couple came back and said "lets still do the Secret Santa presents" at Murrays, so that was decided on.

What a turn out! 26 of us in the back room area – Brilliant! Thanks to all those that came along.

The run itself started with us arriving to see Peter Griffiths pouring the contents of his tyre pando in the rear tyre of Garry and Pauline Brooks "NA". Hang on – "NA's" have a spare don't they? YES, but Garry took it out for more boot space!

Off we set with us at the rear and by instruction here are Garry and Pauline at the start of the Pahiatua Track with the tyre bugged. Well, NC's don't have a spare so what to do?? We knew Brian Rowe was working at home in Linton and couldn't make the run, so a quick call and a quick trip to Linton to borrow his spare from his NA.

We got Garry and Pauline mobile then we headed straight to Ashhurst to catch up with the rest of the crews as they came off the Saddle Road – good photo opportunity too. It was here that Phil pulled up and handed me his keys. I had mentioned at the previous run that I had never driven an NB so now was my chance. Sharon and Phil took over our NC but then panicked when they saw the fuel light on so went straight to Murray's while the rest of us

followed the run sheet (they weren't to know that there is still a good 80 km in reserve when the fuel light is on!).

First impressions of the NB – I seemed to be sitting quite high in comparison to the NC but I soon forgot about that when the revs got up around 4500 – 5000 RPM – God these things are fun!! I can see the attraction, especially if you are after a fun Sunday afternoon drive. A bit more squirt than an NA but still with that "twitchy go-cart" sort of feel when you are in "play" mode!

Cath and I personally like the long distance touring type events so the NC is a bit more suited to that; but don't be surprised if you see us back with our old silver NA in the future when Brian and Sue Rowe purchase their NB! Cheers Phil for the big grin on my face! 🌀



# HODDY ESTUARY PARK

NELSON / TASMAN REPORT: 24TH JANUARY 2016 // REPORT PROVIDED BY GAYLENE ST JOHN

Ash & Sandra Louise set up the first drive of 2016, inspired by the discovery of a great picnic area just five minutes from their temporary home on Hoddy Road.

The Hoddy Estuary Park opened in 2014 after a 15 year battle by dedicated locals and the Hoddy Estuary Park Trust to preserve the 4.9 Ha site from becoming a housing development.

The family of prominent local pip fruit orchardist Peter Hoddy made a substantial donation, and the reserve was named by the Trust to recognise Peter.

After an 80km spin around the hills of the Motueka and Moutere River valleys, 11 MX-5s arrived for a picnic lunch at 1pm.

We farewelled Stuart & Lynne, who will be overseas for much

of 2016, and welcomed Kathy and Mike who recently moved to Brightwater from Blenheim.

As always in Nelson/Tasman, the weather was fine and warm, and some enterprising MX-5ers even found and harvested some mushrooms to take home! Photos show intense discussion and relaxation! Thank you Ash and Sandra. 🍄

# PIRATE PARTY

REPORT: 14TH DECEMBER  
2015 // PROVIDED BY  
CARYL SIMPSON

A great time was had by all at our Pirate Party at Stan and Nola's, Kenepuru Sound. Many thanks to our hosts who did a great job.

We were lucky with the weather, just a few tiny spits of rain briefly, and enjoyed a day in the sun with lots of fun and laughter.

Note Simon and Karen's Christmas present in the photo below - a new ND. It was much admired, as it was a lovely shade of red.

There was a variety of costumes worn, plenty of food, and a range of gifts to exchange. 🍷





## DIANNA DEAN (TWIN COASTS) NEW ND

Early in the New Year while sitting at Waipu Cove camping ground, a sparkling brand new red ND crept passed our caravan window.....Martin ran out thinking “who is that?”, the joys of facebook meant that Tom and Dianna Dean had realised where we were holidaying and after coming down to Whangarei to pick up their new baby, from the dealer in Whangarei, decided that its first little ‘run’ before heading home could be out to Waipu to show Martin and I. What a lovely surprise and a treat for the campers.

Needless to say - what a beautiful car, so thank you Dianna and Tom, you made me feel very special to have been the first to see her.....enjoy!!! - BRENDA WHITE, PRESIDENT

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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](mailto:topdown@mx5club.org.nz) and put Trade Off in the subject line.

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

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

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