

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

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Tasmanians
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In this edition:
603 members - a new record!
Taking better photos
All the Chapter news from June



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7/2014

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image:

Michael & Karin Stosh celebrate "The
Sideling", a 35km section of the Tasman
Hwy between Launceston and Scottsdale ...
Australia's best road? Photo: Kelly Berggren



Find us at:
**MX-5 Club of
Victoria**

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Don's Drive(l) ...

■ Don Nicoll – President president@mx5vic.org.au

Hi everyone, welcome to the July *mxtra*.

Last month I mentioned that we were having some issues finalising the Club Awards function this year. I'm pleased to say we have reached a compromise, satisfactory to the mainland Chapters. See the flyer for detailed information. My thanks again to Mazda for letting us use their HO facilities for our function. *I look forward to seeing you there.*

The time has come to think about the new Club year. First off, we need your renewals please. This will be the last edition of *mxtra* that we will be sending if you have not renewed.

The new Club year also means a new Committee. Daniel White will be stepping down from his role as the Club Captain – Motor Sport. Tim Emery, his Assistant this year, has volunteered to succeed Daniel and we already have a nomination from Randy Stagno Navarra to take up a motor sport role on the Committee.

My sincere thanks to Daniel for all his efforts over the last three years. As Captain, he has had a very busy time presiding over an ever-growing group of enthusiasts. He's also been instrumental in attracting sponsorship of the Motor Sport Championship. Thanks again Danie – we'll need to find a new "all in favour".

Nomination forms for positions on the Committee will be circulated with the Notice of AGM. If you are interested please feel free to nominate or you can give me a call for more information. It's a great opportunity to help guide this Club. *You could also uncover what "all in favour" is about.*

We are still on the lookout for a Central Chapter Captain. Again, if you are interested please feel free to give me a call. It probably needs to be re-stated that we are not looking for someone who is going to organise a run every month. We are looking for someone to act as a coordinator to ensure that there is an orderly plan of runs. Several Central Chapter and Committee members volunteer to organise runs so it is more a matter of sorting who goes where and when.

Talking of Central Chapter runs, we have had to cancel the Great Ocean Road (GOR) event in October. This has been one of our most popular events in the Central Chapter calendar, so it is disappointing that we cannot run it this year. There are major road and bridge works being undertaken along the GOR. These started in mid-June and are unlikely to be completed before our traditional October early morning run. Rather than entertain the risk of driving over road works, Ben Sale and Alex Hailstone have kindly volunteered to bring their *High Country run* forward as a replacement event. Those who have been on this run previously know that this is quite a *tour de force*, lasting all day. It will be on a Saturday to allow the Sunday for recovery! For those not used to driving twisty roads for extended periods we recommend bringing a co-pilot to share the driving.

It has now been over 12 months since we launched the new website. The response from Club members has been very positive. Murray keeps track of how many visits we get to both the home page and the top 10 pages. From the middle of May last year, when Murray started to track this information, to the end of May this year, the home page has been visited 17,546 times (an average of over 1,300 visits per month) and the top 10 pages have been visited a staggering 46,999 times (an average of 3,615 visits per month). I think we are safe to assume that the new website is doing its job, keeping you informed and allowing you to access Club information. It would seem that we are also attracting interest from overseas countries. In May this year alone, we had visitors from the UK, USA, Japan, Canada, NZ, Brazil, Spain, Italy and the Philippines. The five people who visited from Brazil were probably not soccer fans!

I have mentioned before that one of our goals is to bring the payment of membership and Club events in-house, rather than relying on an external provider. We are on the way to achieving this goal and with it a reduction in operating costs. We'll let you know when we are ready to make the transition.

For your diary ...

See the full calendar for details

July

- 18 *Eastern: Social night, Morwell*
- 27 *Club: Annual Awards lunch*

August

- 3 *NE Vic: Mitta Mitta/Dartmouth*
- 3 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 3: Winton*
- 10 *Central: Heathcote run*
- 13: *Club: 24th Annual General Meeting*

September

- 7 *Eastern: Licola run*
- 14 *Central: Healesville Sanctuary run*
- 14 *NE Vic: Mt Buffalo run*
- 21 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 4: Sandown*

October

- 11 *Central: High country run*
- 18-19 *2014 Winton 6 Hour*
- 19 *NE Vic: Jingellic run*
- 19 *NTas: Mystery Tour II*
- 26 *Eastern: Leongatha lunch run*

November

- 15-16 *Summit to Sea run*
- 16 *Eastern: Mt Worth run*
- 23 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 5: Sandown*

December

- 13 *Sprints 2014-15 Rd 6: Broadford*
- 14 *Central: Annual CFA run*
- 14 *Eastern: Social night*
- 14 *NE Vic: Christmas run*

Mazda Australia recently offered all the State MX-5 Clubs financial support for their operations. I'm delighted to advise that the Mazda support of our Club covers the cost of running the Club's website. This is really appreciated and our thanks go to Ben Rounsefell and his team.

Must go ... the driver's seat is getting cold!

Remember ... Safety ~~fast~~ first!

Don

Scene about ...

■ Photos: Marg Gillick, Kelly Berggren, Ron Macdonald, Wendy Clark, Karen Bradshaw, John Waldock





Membership

■ Will Campbell – Membership Officer membership@mx5vic.org.au

Hi all!

Another membership year has finished and we ended with **603 members** – a new membership record for the Club.

We're already off to a great start, with renewals (and quite a few new memberships) flowing in. Notices for this year were emailed or posted to members around mid-June. If you missed out, or if you require assistance, please give me a call on 03 5261 4816 or send me an email at membership@mx5vic.org.au.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined our ranks:

Central Chapter

Troy Hudson	2000 Blue NB
Alf Iacobucci	1998 Evolution Gold NB
Victor Lao	1995 White NA
Karl, Philippa & Daniel Leitner	1989 Classic Red NA
Steven Miller	2003 Black NB
Helene McAlpine	2001 Black NB
Margy Roder	2005 Silver NB
Brigida Van Nynanten	2006 True Red NC
Abhishek Singh	1996 Montego Blue NB

Eastern Victoria Chapter

Trish and Suzie Bodey	1989 Classic Red NA
Morgan Fisher	1990 Red NA

Western Victoria Chapter

Virgie Hocking	1989 Black NA
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Current
membership count:

221

and growing!

Northern Tasmania Chapter

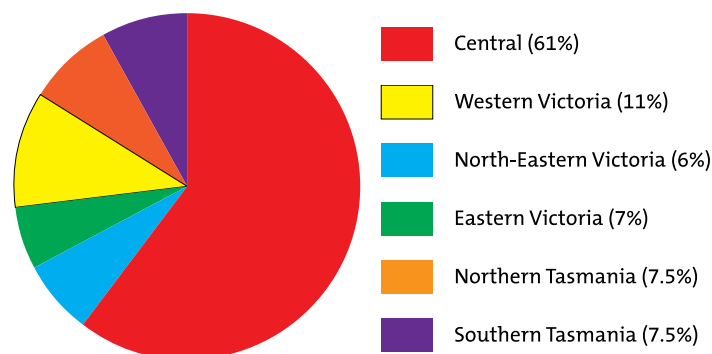
Sandra Tillack	2007 Red NC
----------------	-------------

Southern Tasmania Chapter

Gordon Cox*	2001 Classic Red NA
Dianne Tanner	2002 Titanium Silver NB

* Gordon is a proud Southern Tassie Chapter member, not a Central member as listed in last month's report. However, apart from living in a wonderful part of the world, Gordon owns and drives the most southerly garaged MX-5 in Australia!

For those interested in Club statistics, the following chart shows the relative sizes of the six Chapters.



Between them, they hosted more than 65 events. If you add on the 15 or so motor sport events (track days and meetings) that equates to a very active Club. Well done us!

Enjoy your MX-5, and I'll see you out and about ...

Will

World's most accurate pie chart



(Don Nicoll)

Alan Bennett's

MX-5 crossword #21

June 2014 – Answers

R	I	C	K	Y		C	A	L	E	B
H		A		E		A		E		R
Y		M	A	S	S	I	M	O		A
S	I	D		T		N		N	E	D
		E		I						
R	O	N	A	N	F	A	R	R	O	W
O						L		A		I
B	O	B		C		O		M	E	L
E		O	R	L	A	N	D	O		S
R		Y		A		S		L		O
T	E	D	D	Y		O	R	I	O	N



Full Throttle!

■ Daniel White – Club Captain - Motor Sport captain@mx5vic.org.au

My last edition ...
it's been a great ride!!!

In October 2012 I took over the role of Club Captain - Motor Sport and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role

So I would like to take this opportunity in my final edition of **Full Throttle** to thank some people.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their support and assistance over the past couple of years, not only for supporting me but also for their continued support of the Motor Sport Group within our Club.

As a result of your support our Club is continually growing in popularity, and with that we are seeing many new names and faces joining us at the track as competitors in our Sprint Championship.

This is rewarding to see, and what makes our Club great is that we provide an enjoyable environment for members to



have a go at motor sport, meet some great people, form friendships and enjoy their Mazda MX-5.

To all of our MX-5 motor sport competitors – too many names to mention – thank you all for your camaraderie and support.

Thanks also for your assistance with the variety of tasks we need help with at the track – instructing, scrutineering, flagging, marshalling, driver sign-on, compliance inspections, writing **mxtra** reports, photography etc etc. As you know we are a volunteer-based Club and without those prepared to jump in and help each other we would not be where we are today.

On behalf of all MX-5 motor sport competitors I wish **Tim Emery** all the best as he now takes over as Club Captain - Motor Sport, and **Randy Stagno Navarra** as he moves up to the role of Assistant Club Captain - Motor Sport. Succession planning for these roles is important, as it ensures a continual injection of fresh ideas and enthusiasm required for continued growth of our Motor Sport Group.

All the best, guys!

Daniel #146

"Racing – converting money into noise!"

See you on the track!



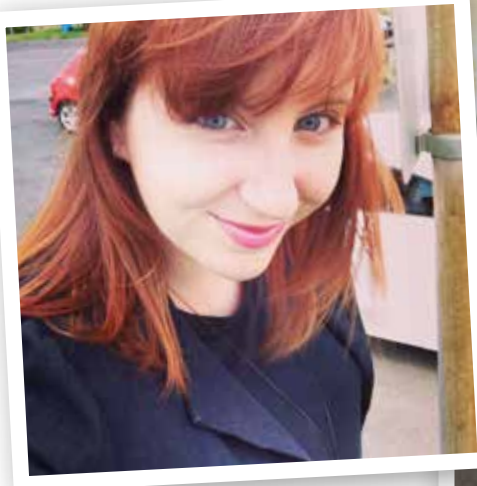
City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship standings after Round 1 | Sandown ~ 10.5.14

(corrected points)	1st	2nd	3rd
Overall Champion	Too early!		
Standard NA	Robert Downes » 10	---	---
Standard NB	Jeremy Fredersdorff » 10	Peter Dannock » 7	John Downes » 6
Standard NC	---	---	---
Clubman	Max Lloyd » 10	Noel Heritage » 7	Leon Bogers » 6
Modified	Ray Monik » 10	Daniel White » 7	---
Super Modified	Russell Garner » 10	Robert Parr » 7	---
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith » 10	---	---
Open	---	---	---

Alex Hailstone

Committee Member

The MX-5 Club Grill



Name? Alex Hailstone

Age? 24

Born? Sydney

Current abode? South Melbourne

Profession? Warranty Administrator

Partner? Ben Sale

Pets? Miniature wire haired Dachshund (Marcus) and two black cats (Heikki and Miata)

Fave food? Everything!

Can you cook? In life or death situations ... maybe

Favourite tippie? Monteith's Apple Cider or Best's Great Western Bin O Shiraz

First drive? Almost into a bin!

First car? 1980 Ford XD Ute in Banana Yellow (naturally)

First fender bender? My fault (>_<)

Everyday driver? M4K1 (my MX-5)

How many MX-5s have you owned? Just the one!

Current MX-5? 1995 NA8 in Crystal White

MX-5 improvements? Too many to list ... LOTS of carbon

MX-5 dislikes? It's a girl's car!

Why an MX-5? RWD, handles well, looks good and has A LOT of aftermarket support

Fluffy dice? Nope, have Kirby though

Passions besides the MX-5? Rally, Photography, F1, coffee and chocolate!

Favourite TV show / movie / book? Doctor Who / Lord of the Rings / The Lost Art of Sleep

Dream wheels (money no object)?

Autozam Az1 or McLaren 650s

Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong? Am I being paid to do so – or racing?

Favourite other Mazda? I'm a sucker for the new BM Mazda3 Hatch in Soul Red

If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what? McLaren

How long in the Club? Gosh ... I think approx. three years? Maybe four

How many MX-5 Club runs or track events? Too many to count

Favourite Club run/track? High Country Run (of course!) and Phillip Island

Funniest thing seen at a Club event? People having their hats fly off whilst driving

Have you been to DECA or NatMeet? Yes to DECA, not yet to NatMeet

Ford vs Holden? McLaren

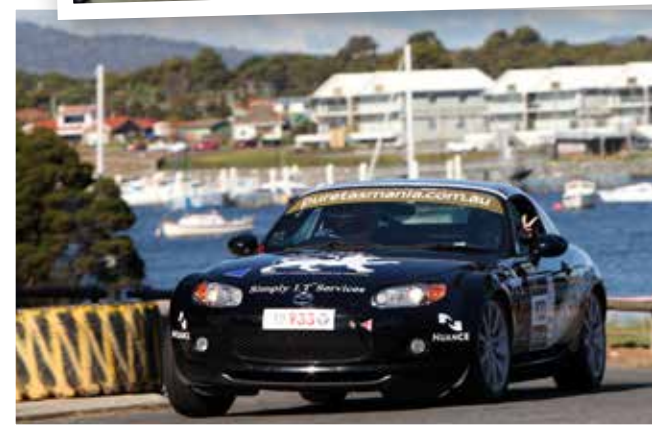
What's playing in your MX-5? Pandora Radiol! Also Daft Punk and Girl Talk

Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)? McLaren

Final comments? Been with the Club for a while now, and I definitely think it's worthwhile – the community and company is great.

The friendships formed, knowledge shared and support offered are unparalleled. Hopefully younger generations will be interested in getting involved and helping the Club further cater to the wishes of its members for many years to come!

✓ Alex's M4K1 (not a McLaren!)



✓ Alex as passenger in a Rally NC

Chapter chatter ...

19.6.14 | Central ■ Words: Murray Finlay ■ Photos: Alex Hailstone, Murray Finlay ■ Organiser: Cary Warren



New members' night

For a new members' night, it was great to see some "old" faces along at this event, held at Shannons auction room in Cheltenham.

Among the almost 40 members (including eight committee members) who turned out for the Central Chapter event were long-time member Rod Jewell, back and looking great after some health challenges, and Sue Shields, a committee member from about 15 years ago who was there with an MX-5-owning friend who was checking us out.

Speakers on the night included President Don Nicoll, VP Murray Finlay, Secretary Peter Dannock and motor sport evergreen Max Lloyd.

They gave interesting and informative talks on the history and structure of the Club, the social and motor sport programs, the VicRoads Club Permit Scheme and the Club's communications.

Everyone was most impressed with the array of classic cars on show in the Shannons auction room ... oh, for a few spare dollars and some space in the garage!



Thanks to Social Captain Cary Warren for organising the venue and the food, and to Belinda Douglas of Shannons for the venue. ●

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My favourite MX-5 road ...

■ Words, photos and medication taken by: Alan Bennett, Central Chapter



As I write this (under sleep deprivation I might add) **Ricardo** has won his first grand prix in *Canadia* and he's a hero.

That's what I wanted to feel when I was a kid (10 years ago) and I'm jealous but that's why I am a pretend racing driver.

Let me explain. I used to watch; albeit in black and white (*there goes that 10 year comment – ed*), the legends of motor racing: Denny Hulme, Jackie Stewart, Jack Brabham, Graham Hill – there were lots of them, although today they are more colourful (*no-one will get that – ed*).

That was then, this is now.

Rather than go racing as a young man I decided to get a job for a few years, save up the moolar and then go racing when I could back myself in against Schumacher, Prost, Senna, Mansell, Lauda, etc; the list goes on.

So why not me? (*This is your wife speaking, "you are dreaming!" And I thought I was sleep deprived.*)

Whilst my NC is fantastic to drive, my lap times at Albert Park (1 minute 45 seconds) are a bit slow compared to Webber and Ricciardo (1:33.006 – lap 49 this year, if you must know) and therefore (dear) I need a faster car (*what else could be the cause, I hear you say*). Apart from outright speed my starts, like Webber, leave a lot to be desired.

As many races are won from pole position the race start is critical (sorry Mark), as is getting to the first corner first. Who remembers where you start – it's the end justifying the means to finish first as the history ebooks will tell you soon.

Red traffic lights. Love them or hate them they control our lives in a stop-start sort of way (*do you think anyone will get that –*

ed). I actually look forward to the red ones! As the MX-5 is nimble I edge myself into pole position at every opportunity.

- » Don't like the massive 4WD next to you at the lights? Just slip into the bus lane.
- » When an orange light brightens as you approach an intersection ... just throw out the anchors and claim pole.
- » Turning right soon(ish)? Sit in the right-hand lane at 20km/h for a while and see if you get any nice waves or toots from the travelling public.

Springvale Road has lots of opportunities for practicing race starts. It must have the highest density of drivers, the densest quantity of drivers as well as the most traffic light per kilometre in Melbourne, if not the southern hemisphere. My record this month is six pole positions from seven opportunities. *Who knows what I can achieve next week!*

No wonder Split Enz were famous for *I See Red*. I won all seven starts (if you discount the plain clothes officer chat I had courtesy of accidentally straying into the bus lane).

I am convinced I can be a world champion if I just keep practicing. Sometimes I wake up at 3am from the nightmare of finishing second at Nurburgring and can't get back to sleep – so I practice my pole position take offs down Springvale Road.

Of course, you saw that coming; good for you!

The only problem at that hour is that the lights stay green for ages so I sometimes have to wait at a green light for an eternity for it to go red so I can begin – it's just so frustrating.

I just need a little more practice and chequered flag here I come! (*You are dreaming – ed and spouse.*) ●



If you have a favourite MX-5 road, you're welcome to submit a short description (150 words) and a photo to editor@mx5vic.org.au and share it around!

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(NB: only Peter Rutherford or Hayden Dally are authorised to give Club discounts in-store.)

Chapter chatter ...

1.6.14 | Central ■ Words & photos: Ron Macdonald & Wendy Clark ■ Organisers: Arthur Howie & Helene McAlpine

Thirteen cars sat in the KFC car park in Pakenham on this Sunday morning, raring to get going on Arthur and Helene's first run as leaders – "Down the Drouin Drains to Yarragon", bound for the wilds of Gippsland.

It was very pleasant to start the day by catching up with quite a few of the Eastern Chapter members who had decided to join us for this incursion in to their territory, not to mention Bob de Bont whose drive from the northern suburbs was very nearly a run in itself.

With all the official stuff out of the way, we headed east along the Princes Hwy, tops down of course, on track for places winding. The overcast skies had threatened but only a few small spots of rain eventuated – nothing to worry about and definitely not even worth considering changing the current top configuration.

Turning on to McDonald's track the corners started coming thick and fast; Patterson's Road and the Loch-Poowong Road followed. A quick transit through the Loch Village led us on to some of that area's greatest MX-5 roads, including Jeetho West Road, Bena-Kongwak Road and of course the very enjoyable Bass Valley Road.

We had been down Bass Valley Road on the "Lest We Forget" run in April,

but in the opposite direction. It is quite amazing how different the road seemed and I might say how much more bumpy it was simply by travelling from Bena to Poowong instead of the other way around.

*Down the drain?
Far from it!*

When we pulled up in Poowong I was advised that my front number plate was hanging off! On inspection I found that the useless bracket fitted to the front of NBs had snapped off on one side, allowing the plate to hang vertically instead of the standard horizontal

position. I know we gave it a fair nudge along the VERY winding Bass Valley Road but I hadn't expected this! Oh well, a few strategically placed zip ties and we were ready to rock and roll again.

With the drivers and passengers now re-fuelled, we set out on the second half of the run which proved to be just as pleasant as the first. Within sight of Yarragon however, we turned right and headed in the *opposite* direction towards Childers. *Was Arthur on drugs or had his internal compass failed?* After leading us away from Yarragon he made the turn on to the Old Leongatha Road and back towards our lunch stop and the end of the run. Then the penny dropped: seems in their planning, Arthur and Helene had decided another 50 or 60 bends might be appreciated to finish off what had been a very enjoyable morning ... and I have to say they were right.

Many thanks go to Arthur and Helene for a well thought out, planned and executed run. It may have been your first time hosting, but you nailed it. ●



◀ Rob Krygsman, John and Nic Bodey



Alan Laine (left) with Jenna Perks and Peter Ferguson



Arthur Howie



Chapter chatter ...

7-9.6.14 | Western Victoria ■ Words: Noellene Gleeson ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw ■ Organiser: John Gleeson

Queen's Birthday weekend run

Day 1 : 7/6

It is the Queen's Birthday long weekend and the Eastern Victoria Chapter are having a run on the Sunday ... so a few of us decide, "let's join them".

Saturday at 9.30 sharp, five cars leave Ballarat to link up with the Bradshaws and Everetts at Ballan at 10am and head towards Pam and Tyrone's home in Yan Yean where we have been invited to call in for our coffee break. Ron Diprose and Bill and Marg Roder join us here for the run to Moe. So now we are 10 cars with Lawrie and Vergie still to meet us at the start of the Sunday run at Traralgon.

After a lovely break and banter, Tyrone takes the lead to show us some terrific back roads he knows to get to Healesville where we are stopping for lunch. On leaving Healesville all tops are up, except of course Tyrone and Pam, as the weather looked threatening. We were right; on the way to Noojee down it comes with great force. The road is terrific with great sweepers and twists, but we have to be very careful.

Through the logging town of Noojee towards Mt Baw Baw we turn right on to the Willow Grove Road. This is a beautiful road with plenty of twists and turns under a canopy of great Aussie trees and tree ferns. Because of the weather we have the road almost to ourselves.

At about 4.30 we check into our respective motels after having made arrangements for dinner together at Rookies Bistro, beside the Comfort Inn. After a very nice relaxing meal we are looking forward to the great run Alan has in store for us the next day.

If the rest of the weekend is as good as the first day, we are going to have a beauty.

Day 2: Sunday's run was fantastic, as you will read in Bronwyn's report on page 16.



^ Hungry little Vegemites ... lunch at Healesville



◀ A very rare picture of Jeff Woolfe with his roof up

✓ THAT's how you pack an MX-5 boot for a holiday ... ask Ian Bradshaw



Day 1: On the way to Healesville ... a dreary day!



✓ Thorpdale hotel



Bugger!



Day 3: That's more like it!

◀ The morning run, day 3



Chair made from old tyres ... recyclable art display at Yinnar



◀ Dominique Moodlan

Day 3 : 9/6

We say our goodbyes to a few of our party on Monday morning who are not travelling home with us, like the Bradshaws who are heading to Merimbula for a week away. Lucky buggers!

We are now down to six cars, the weather is great and we have decided to head back the way we came so we can enjoy the trip up to Noojee on that great road with the tops down. As it should be travelled.

After a while we are wondering why small towns do not have public toilets as people are almost pleading on the CB for a stop. The police have a breath test set up and all get stopped except John in the lead car – he must look innocent !

We arrive at Yarra Junction and have our much needed toilet stop and a coffee break. It's a beautiful day and many people are making the most of it using the Rail Trail which runs from Lilydale to Warburton. Most are on foot or on bikes, but some are on horses. I think a few of the group may join them in future – the regulars tell us it is terrific.

Off we go again towards Kinglake, passing strawberry farms and wineries on more great roads that we are fortunate enough to enjoy on such a beautiful day.

Arriving at Kinglake it's time to put the nose bag on and, after trying a few places, a local lady told us about the best bakery around at Kinglake West ... and she was right! They advertise the "best sausage rolls" in Victoria - delicious!

Now the final leg home on great MX-5 roads through Whittlesea, around Sunbury into Bacchus Marsh and on to Ballarat.

We say our goodbyes but the predominant question is, "How long until the next run?"

We reflect on a great weekend with the best people in our toys. We all love the MX-5!

A big thank you to Alan Laine for organising such a great Sunday run. Looking forward to next year! ●

Chapter chatter ...

8.6.14 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Bronwyn Roche ■ Photos: Ron Macdonald, Wendy Clark ■ Organiser: Alan Laine



GIPPSLAND RUN



^ Karen & Ian Bradshaw



^ Top to bottom: Alan Laine; Wendy Clark; Karen Bradshaw, John Gleeson & Pam Bown; Lockie Story & Lester Scott; Lockie Story; Bill Roder & Siddique Fisher; Geoff & Bronwyn Roche

Eastern Victoria Chapter Captain Alan Laine has many talents, but his run on the recent Queen's Birthday long weekend proved he has magical powers too - turning a modest 38.5 kilometre drive between the Gippsland towns of Traralgon and Trafalgar into a magical 190km MX-5 run that had something for everyone:

Scenery?	✓	From Latrobe Valley with its Hazelwood, Yallourn and Loy Yang power stations dominating the skyline, to the sensational farmland views and tall timber forests, the run offered plenty a great variety of scenery.
Curves and corners?	✓	From the Grand Ridge Road snaking across the top of the Strzelecki ranges; to crisscrossing the historic Macdonald's Track; the steep upward climb of Love's Lane; and the downhill run from Narracan to Trafalgar, this run was text book MX-5 roads.
Good roads?	✓	Despite a mention of the dirty word gravel in the trip notes, the sections on the run were all bitumen roads in pretty good repair. Word is that the unofficial Eastern Vic Chapter motto is 'leave no winding road untravelled'. Just to remind us we were really in the country we spent a couple of k's behind a milk tanker into Mirboo North and behind a spud truck near Thorpdale. Despite plenty of warning signs for wombats, kangaroos, koalas and lyrebirds there was none on the road and the cows kept to their paddocks.
Good weather?	✓	Despite raining the day before and the day after, the threatening skies held off and we were treated to a cool but dry day (another one of Alan's talents is picking the best of the weather!). Ian Bradshaw maintained he was still wearing his summer shorts but the rumour is they may have been his winter ones.
Great lunch spot?	✓	The community-owned Yinnar pub's sticky date pudding rated highly, the local store keeper enjoyed the patronage and a yarn, and the self-caterers had a lovely park to spread out their picnics. No-one went hungry.
Good company?	✓	An impressive 27 cars met for the start of the run; sadly Peter and Jenna's car didn't make it out of Traralgon but they joined us for lunch and the end of the run. The remaining 26 presented quite a sight, especially for the unwary but polite locals who waited patiently at the cross roads for the convoy to pass. Plenty of time for a chat with old friends and to make new ones during the day. Special mention to the Western Chapter who brought a convoy of 11 cars, on a run travelling to Gippsland the day before. They really are good travellers in that Chapter! Coming from over near the Grampians, Lockie and Tracey may have won the "longest distance travelled" award.

All good things must come to an end and, as the sun lowered in the sky and the dairy cows headed for the milking sheds, the convoy turned south out of the hills and we headed home in all directions.
And exactly where did we go on the run? Well you'll have to come along next year and find out! Magic day – thanks Eastern Vic Chapter! ●

Tastes of the North-East

Imagine the perfect foodies' and MX-5 enthusiasts' day ...

... driving an MX-5 topless (*I think that might be "a topless MX-5" ~ ed.*) to a farm gate to pick up fresh regional produce and meet the farmer that grew it, to a cafe in a quaint historic village where you've enjoyed a beautiful morning tea, down a country road to taste award winning wines and cheeses.

You don't have to imagine travelling to Tuscany in Italy to enjoy this perfect day. This was our perfect day right here in north-east Victoria.

It was a cool, foggy morning for most of us as we made our way (with the tops up) from outlying townships such as Corowa, Myrtleford, Tallangatta and Bright to meet in historic Yackandandah for the Tastes of the North East run on Sunday, 22 June. By the time of departure, just after 10am, the fog had mostly lifted – leaving in its wake a glorious sunny day – and it was time for eight sexy beasts (*I still think that's the cars! ~ ed.*) to go topless and hit the gourmet trail. Our eskies were in the boot ready to be filled!

After leaving Yackandandah we made our way to the apple capital, Stanley. The road has been sealed in the last couple of years and allows for a bit of fun as the climb up Mount Stanley is curvy, albeit narrow. Our first stop was *Snowline Apples* where we tasted (and bought) beautiful fresh Pink Lady and Sundowner apples straight from the trees, chestnuts, berries and local honey.

From Stanley it was a short drive to the charming 1852 goldrush town of Beechworth. We relaxed and indulged our senses in the aroma and flavour of the excellent coffee at *Blynzz*. Beechworth is a great place to meander through an eclectic mixture of shops including antiques and old wares, but today was not that day as the promise of more food, wine and driving was calling.

Speckled throughout the Beechworth area are many vineyards tended by family winegrowers with a passion for making the best artisanal wines. Our next stop was one such winery sited on a ridge top, namely *Amulet*. Made here from locally-sourced apples is the light, crisp refreshing Beechworth Cider. Dave and Gail, visiting from the Central Chapter, loved it so much they bought a

slab! Since it's on our back doorstep the rest of us were happy with a four-pack.

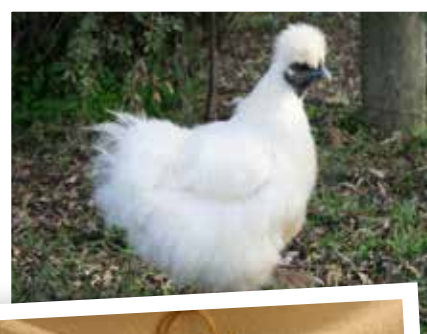
Driving through stunning alpine vistas and acres of vineyards we made our way to Milawa, the culinary crossroads of Victoria. We stocked up on olive oil and olives at *EV Olives*, mustards, herb vinegars and chilli jam at *Milawa Mustards*, and honey and mead at *Walkabout Apiary*. Lunch was at the *Milawa Cheese Factory* where we enjoyed tasting a range of hand-made, international award-winning, cow and goat milk cheeses.

We spent a leisurely 90 minutes or so sitting around the table eating, drinking a local King Valley shiraz or Brown Brothers Pinot Grigio (or a coffee) and enjoying each other's company. There was time to browse through the *Muse Gallery* which showcases fine art of artists from all over Australia and also a local contingent, the *Walnut Tree Collection* and *Eucalypt Wood Works* as well as wine tasting at *Wood Park Wines* cellar door.

Our final stop of the day was afternoon tea at *Sam Miranda* winery at Oxley in the King Valley. Some passengers enjoyed more wine tasting, but for the drivers it was coffee or tea.

There was more conversation and lamenting that the end of the day had arrived already. If only we could continue on through the King Valley and over the Whitfield Gap – but that would have to wait for another day. It was time to bid our farewells and enjoy the drive home.

Thanks to Ron and Marg for organising the run and doing a reconnaissance run the weekend before to fine-tune it. A great day was had by all. ●



^ And the apple was THIS big!
Gerry with Maree

^ Marg Gillick, and tastes
of the North-East!

Chapter chatter ...

22.6.14 | North-eastern Victoria ■ Words: Loz Thomas ■ Photos: Marg & Ron Gillick ■ Organiser: Ron Gillick



^ L-R. Helen, Noel, Ron, Maria, Maree, Gerry, Roger, Loz, Brian, Ellen, Marg, Elaine, Bill, Gail and Dave



^ New N-E Victoria Assistant Chapter Captain, Loz Thomas



^ Good cider, Brian?

Chapter chatter ...

22.6.14 | Northern Tasmania

Words: Trevor Page Photos: Kelly Berggren, Jill Steer Organisers: Alana & Trevor Page

Trevor and Alana's mystery tour started off as not much of a mystery due to a lack of cars (the day was rainy and foggy so we all decided to abandon the tour and to just go for a drive).



So we did what any red-blooded Tassie MX-5 driver would do ... we headed for The Sideling!

And a great choice it was too – a climb up a very twisty, wet and foggy mountain with no other traffic ... perfect! We finally reached the summit and pulled into the car park lookout to take a breather; it's hard work climbing that mountain in the wet!

After we got our breath back there were a few discussions about the merit of turning off the traction control or leaving it on (well, for those who had it) and a few stories of "oops" and "oh s.t" on a few corners.

We then headed down the other side (even more challenging in the wet) where we pulled up just outside Scottsdale to change the lead driver. Then it was off along Lilydale Road turning off on to some side roads that took us up to George Town where we had lunch at the Pier Hotel and told a few tall tales (as one does).

After a very long lunch we decided to head up to the lookout on Mt George where more tall tales were passed around (once the ol' blighters got their breath back).

Bruce, our Chapter Captain, took us on a tour of George Town's industrial area where we stopped at the poo treatment plant ... while I told of a story that everyone said stunk! After someone said there was something smelly about my story, we headed back to Bruce and Cheryl's house (well, Kelly, Carl and Alana and I did); the others went home to wash their clothes (cars).

After the grand tour of the house and a coffee we all headed home. It was not the day Alana and I had planned but in the end it just goes to show that an impromptu run can be just as much fun as a well-planned one ...

... especially here, with the best roads in Australia. ●

^ Bruce & Cheryl enjoying The Sideling

L-R. Trevor, Alana, Peter, (Roger's mate), Roger, Bruce & Cheryl, Jill, Denise (hidden) and Raymond at the Mt George lookout, overlooking Bell Bay, George Town, Low Head, the Tamar River and across it to Beauty Point and the Batman Bridge ...



The Sideling to the Pier



^ Trevor Simm with Carl Berggren and Bruce Harvey



^ What goes up ... Peter & Jill Steer



^ ... must come down ... Michael & Karin Stosh

Chapter chatter ...

22.6.14 | Southern Tasmania ■ Words: Michelle Waldock ■ Photos: Rob Tanner ■ Organiser: John Waldock

The crisp winter weather is starting to bite here on everyone's favourite island, so what better way to celebrate the longest night of the year than a run to one of the cooler places in Tassie?

Bothwell is one of the many historic towns in Tasmania, first settled around 1821, but home to a few hardy souls from as early as 1807. Nearly all of the original buildings are intact and have descendants of the original settlers still living in them (*no jokes from all you Mainlanders about inbreeding please!!*) Two of the oldest buildings in town were our destination for this run.

We arrived at our usual meeting spot bright and early, under sparkling clear blue skies and a brisk winter wind. After the obligatory driver briefing, eight MX-5s set off through sleepy Sunday suburbs to one of the Chapter's favourite short roads, Grass Tree Hill. This road links Hobart's eastern suburbs with another historic town, Richmond, and until recently was one of the stages for Targa Tasmania.

The road climbs steeply, with enough twists and turns to delight the driver and alarm the passenger (well, this passenger anyway). However, it is also a favourite road with Hobart's cycling community and there were some close encounters with the brave few pedallers who had ventured out on to the road. Of course, any close shave is never the fault of the MX-5 driver!

A sharp left turn off Grass Tree Hill Road took us through the pastoral environment of Tea Tree. While not as twisty, these back roads provided an opportunity to 'test' (show off) our cars' performance and *accidentally* drive just a smidge over the speed limit on the straight bits. Tea Tree Road led us to the town of Brighton, one of the fastest-growing areas in Hobart as well as the gateway to the Midlands.

The convoy had regrouped after stretching out on the back roads and we cruised sedately along the Midlands Highway until turning off towards Bothwell at Melton Mowbray. Happy radio chatter between the drivers ensued as we found ourselves on another pretzel-like, inside-out road (*ominous silence from the passengers at this point*).

Once again, the world's best sports car demonstrated its superior handling and cornering abilities (*John told me to write that – I was*

too busy feeling sick) and we arrived in Bothwell ready for lunch.

The Castle Hotel in Bothwell was completed in 1829 and is reputedly the second-oldest continuously operating hotel in Australia. It was also our venue for lunch. The Castle sits on one corner of the main crossroads in Bothwell, diagonally opposite the large Anglican church and the Australasian Golfing Museum (Bothwell is home to Australia's oldest golf course, opened in 1830). It also provides an excellent menu and extensive wine list, both of which were enthusiastically utilised by members. In true *Ausmas* style, a welcoming open fire was the backdrop for much frivolity and many tall tales.

After lunch, those members who were not completely satiated made a short side trip to the Nant Distillery. Nant Estate was built in 1821 and currently makes whisky that is gaining an international reputation. The brave souls amongst us partook of a whisky tasting, sampling five of the different whiskies made on the estate. The less brave relaxed in the beautiful homestead and watched the River Clyde roll past while we enjoyed coffee.

The winter sky was beginning to turn lemon and violet as we carefully headed home in the gathering dusk after enjoying another great MX-5 outing. ●

✓ Historic Bothwell:
Clockwise from below: heading in to a well-earned lunch at the Castle Hotel; the Anglican church; the Nant Distillery



◀ David, John, Lawrence



Rob & Lorraine ▶



Graeme & partner ▶



◀ Carla, Ian and Di



Top: the MAMILs (middle-aged men in lycra) check us out ...

Above: L-R- Lawrence, John H, (unknown- sorry!), Michelle, Dave, Di, Carla, (another unknown), Ian, Jo (loving it!), Lorraine, Rob and John W



John Waldock greets the camera in Bothwell

The time has now come to shoot off a frame or two, but rather than just snap away and hope you get something decent to send in for the calendar, put a little thought in to it and the result will be vastly superior.

This is by no means an extensive list of photographic principles – more a basic guide to set you off in the right direction.

The *auto* setting on your camera might be fine for snapshots, but if you really want to produce some great images, try out the other options your camera offers and you will be on your way to creating some nice images.

Composing

One of the first things to consider is your background. Try to find something that's not only pleasing to the eye but will complement your car. Search the background well as often it only takes one small thing to ruin your shot. Look out for power poles and power lines, rubbish bins, discarded paper or soft drink cans, advertising signs etc.

Another thing to contemplate is the old **1/3 rule**. It is said to be aesthetically pleasing you should not have the horizon running through the centre of the frame ... it's better to have either 1/3 sky and 2/3 foreground or 1/3 foreground and 2/3 sky.

Finally, think about the position of the car within the frame: don't place it slap bang in the middle; try to have it offset (left or right) even if only slightly.

Perspective

Don't just automatically stand there and take the photo. Have a look at your subject from a few different perspectives to see which looks best. This is very relevant to the MX-5. In the standing position you tend to look down on the car; often you will get a far better result from the kneeling position or sometimes even lying down.

The perspective of the car also needs to be considered. In general terms you get a far more pleasing result if the car is slightly at an angle to the camera; ie, the camera can "see" the front (or back) as well as the side.

Lighting

This is one of the most important factors, as photography is all about capturing light.

In general terms you should have the light source coming from over your shoulder. Consideration should also be given to the time of day to shoot. During the early morning or late

Composing



Perspective



Lighting



evening the sun is low in the sky and, due to passing through the atmosphere at a lower angle, the light tends to be softer and "warmer" (lean more towards the red end of the spectrum). During the middle of the day the light is harsher and will be cooler (lean towards the blue end of the spectrum). If your photo does not include the sky good results can be obtained on over cast days as the light is filtered through the cloud cover making it both softer and less likely to "flare" or over exposure on the shiny areas of the car.

Another thing to watch out for is "noise". This is the digital equivalent of "grainy" in film and is often caused by poor exposure. If your photo is dark, there is a good chance it will be "noisy", especially if you lighten the photo in a photo editing program. Many of these editing programs do have a noise filter, however the net result of that is a very soft focus and an unnatural look to the image. You're better off getting the exposure correct in the first place.

Another cause of noise is the ISO setting on your camera. This is equivalent to the old ASA for film cameras and refers to the "speed" or sensitivity of the film (or sensor). Using a high ISO has the advantage of being able to take photos in very low light (without a flash), however noisy images are one of the trade-offs of doing so. Personally, where possible I always have my camera set to an ISO of 100; this, together with correct exposure, will ensure a noiseless image.

Reflections

This can be a major problem for a nice shiny car, especially if it is a dark colour. On cloudy days the larger panels of the car, reflecting the clouds above, can look like they've been taken to with a baseball bat! Often this can be overcome simply by changing either the aspect of the car in relation to the sun or the camera in relation to the car. Other things to watch out for are rubbish bins, signs etc that might be reflecting in the car ... not to mention people standing in close proximity – or even you and your camera!

Reflections



Focus

OK, I know that sounds a little dumb ... of course the photo should be in focus, however you have to remember the Club's 2015 calendar is going to be A4 size. So what you might get away with in a small photo might look like trash at A4 size. The larger the end photo is going to be, the more you have to ensure the focus is clear and crisp. Auto focus can be a pain in the arm pit here – it may decide to focus on the door handle (or the tree next to the car) which looks great in a 6 x 4 print but at A4 ...? *Hmmm*. I suggest you use manual focus and choose the focus point yourself. Depth of field will of course have a bearing on how much of the frame is in focus as discussed in the next section.

Focus



... continued

Depth of field

Depth of Field is the term used to describe how much of your photo is in focus. I am sure you have all seen portraits where the person is in focus and the background is all fuzzy – that is achieved by use of the “A” setting on your camera’s command dial. “A” stands for aperture or size of the hole in your lens; this is usually given as an *F stop* (eg, F 22). Aperture can be a little confusing; just remember that the smaller the number, the bigger the hole in the lens.

Hopefully the depth of field examples are not too small in this printed article to see the differences in the photos provided. I can assure you at A4 size it will be abundantly clear. All four photos shown here were taken from the same place and with the same focus point, however:

- » at F 1.8 only the headlight and front guard are in sharp focus
- » by F 3.5 the focus has extended back to include the front door
- » at F 5.6 only the rear of the car is out of focus and
- » by F 11 the entire car is in focus.

In general terms the smaller the number, the bigger the hole and the lower the depth of field.

This can be used to great effect to make the background “fuzzy” and make the car stand out more. Or, if you want to get the entire frame in focus, you would be looking at F 11 - F 22 depending on how far back your background goes.

Now go out and find a nice backdrop, get that command dial off the green *Auto* setting and create some memorable images for yourself, for *mxtra* or for the Club’s 2015 calendar ...

Oh, and don’t forget to email them to Murray! ●

PS: If you would prefer to see the images from this article on-screen, please visit <http://gracies-place.net/MXTRA.php>

Aperture



Depth of Field



In previous editions of *mxtra*, Ron covered:

- » pixels, sensors & lenses (May 2014)
- » which camera? (June 2014)

These can be found on the *Technical* section of the Club’s website.

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Eastern Victoria Chapter's

Dinner & bowling evening

Friday, 18 July 2014



A social night out in Morwell for the Eastern Victoria Chapter ...

Dinner at the 'Out of India' restaurant, followed by some 10-pin bowling at 9pm (after the food has settled!)

- Meeting place:** 'Out of India' restaurant, 109 Buckley Street, Morwell
- At:** 6.30pm sharp for dinner
- Followed by:** 10-pin bowling, 'Morwell Tenpins', Chickerell Street
- At:** 9pm for bowling
- RSVP:**
- essential for dinner bookings – RSVP Alan by 10 July;
 - if you're only coming for the bowling, please just show up at Morwell Tenpins for a 9pm start.
- Contact:** Alan Laine – eastern@mx5vic.org.au | 5195 5375



North-Eastern
Victoria Chapter

Mitta Mitta run



Sunday, 3 August, 2014

Meet at Isaacs Park, Yackandandah (opposite hospital).
Join us on a run through the beautiful Mitta Mitta Valley
with lunch at the Mitta Mitta Hotel.

- Meet:** Isaacs Park, Yackandandah (opposite hospital)
- Time:** 9.30am for a 10am start
- RSVP:** essential for lunch bookings – by 27/7/14 please
- Contact:** Ron: (02) 6033 0253 (ah) or north-eastern@mx5vic.org.au



Central Chapter

PIONEERS' RUN

Sunday,
10 August, 2014



Join us for another run north-west, retracing the steps of some of Australia's early explorers and achievers.

A mixture of some twisty bits with some highway driving, this leisurely run will take us through some early Australian history ... part of the track taken by Burke & Wills on their ill-fated 1860 exploration, and past the site of the first flight of an Australian-built aircraft by John Robertson Duigan near Mia Mia in 1910.

After lunch you might peruse the local antiques shops or wineries.

But mostly it's just an excuse to get out in those MX-5s and have a chin-wag over lunch with fellow enthusiasts!



10 August
is the Club's
24th birthday!
Come and
join us!

-
- Starting point:** Woodland Street, Strathmore (adjacent to Woodlands Park)
(Melway: 16 F12)
- Meet at:** 9.30am for 10am departure (run time 2 - 2.5 hours)
- Finishing point:** Heathcote for BYO picnic lunch (or try the bakery)
- RSVP:** Not essential, but it would be appreciated for planning
- Contact:** Murray Finlay – editor@mx5vic.org.au | 0416 247 677



Eastern Victoria Chapter's

Nick's NA 25th anniversary run

Sunday, 28 September 2014



Calling all NAs! (and other MX-5s)

The Eastern Victoria Chapter is hosting a run to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a very special NA.

16-year-old L-plater Nic Bodey will be leading the run in his own 25-year-old NA – just the 38th MX-5 ever built for Australia. (And it looks like it just left the showroom!)

It would be fantastic to see as many NAs along as possible.
But of course everyone's welcome!

- Meet at:** 11 Hobsons St, Stratford (public toilets & coffee shops nearby)
- Time:** 9am for 9.30am start
- Stop at Briagalong for a short break, then lunch at the Dargo Hotel; back to Stratford via Munro.
- Contact:** Nic Bodey – bodes97@gmail.com | 0427 674 427





zoom-zoom
zoom-zoom
zoom-zoom



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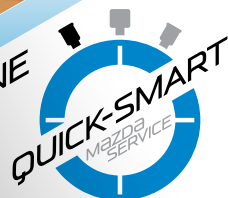
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