

1990



2010





HONOUR ROLL
20th ANNIVERSARY - JUNE 24, 2010

PAST PRESIDENTS

Pieter Versluis
Ron Lyons
Lea Turner (formerly Findlay)
Peter Simpson
George Russ
Tony Buon
Steve Remington
Jean Cook
Arno Boge
George Benedek
Jean Cook
Phil Ashton

LIFE MEMBERS

Jean Cook
Jeffrey Gehrig
Mike & Cobie Hicks
Zan & Rod Menzel
Peter & Ruth Simpson

MAZDA CONNECTIONS

Alan Horsley of Mazda Australia was responsible for organising the inaugural meeting of the club at Vickary's Winery.

Bob Hall is the Club's Patron and worked with Mazda in the USA on the development of the MX-5. He lives in Malaysia where he works with Proton.

Jinba Yttai - "rider and horse as one"

MARKING THE CLUB'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

During October through to the Club's Christmas party last year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the 1989 launch of the MX-5, the car that marked the revival of the lightweight sports car concept, took world markets by storm, was acclaimed by motoring, design and journalistic bodies, copied in concept by other manufacturers, and became the top-selling sports roadster of all time.

This year the focus is on the 20th anniversary of all the Australian MX-5 Clubs, but with obvious emphasis on the founding of the New South Wales Club. We are here today in the pleasant surrounds of the Centennial Vineyard to mark the occasion, but first, let's delve

into our history to lay the groundwork for this significant event



The initiative to form a club for MX-5 owners was taken by Alan Horsley who formed a steering committee on 15th May, 1990 which was followed on the 25th May by a

meeting at which the embryo Club's management committee was elected. Peiter Versluis became the Club's first President with Bob Skelton backing up in the vice presidential position and the first committee meeting was held on the 10th June. With the Club up almost up and running, Mazda Australia hosted an open day with a free lunch for potential members at Vickary's Winery, at Luddenham. On that sunny winter's day of 24th June, 1990, ninety MX-5s made up the contingent of cars and 104 enthusiasts signed up as Foundation Members, thus sealing the occasion as the official date of the Club's birth. A helicopter hovered above and the resultant aerial photograph of the assembled cars was distributed to each member as a memento of the event.

The Club has not looked back since. More than 2000 MX-5 owners have passed through our ranks and the current membership exceeds 500. That's a lot of MX-5 owners and many of them, including Foundation Members are still with us. There have been countless events in the interim, monthly runs, weekends away, Concours events and track days. One run of great significance was held in March 1991 when 80 cars and 120 members joined a Club run to Kangaroo Valley with esteemed guest from Japan, *Toshihiko Hirai* who, as Mazda's Chief Engineer, was responsible for the design and development of the MX-5.

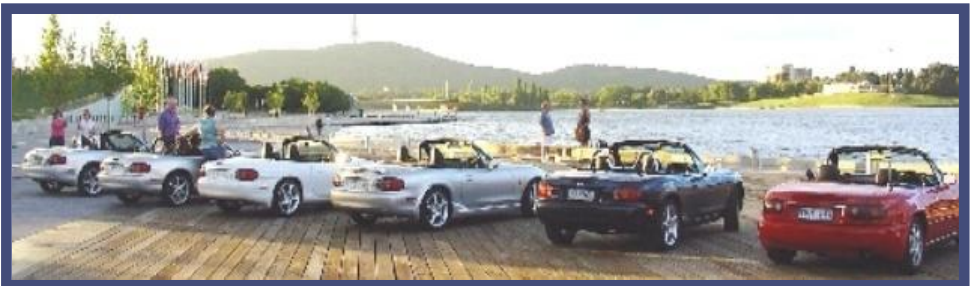
The track days instigated by Ed Chivers are now conducted with unrivalled success by Mike Hicks, who took on the role of Competition Secretary in March, 2001 and is ably supported by Zan Menzel. Rod Menzel's, RTM timing system is a major contributing factor in the efficient running of these track events. These are widely acknowledged as the best events held in New South Wales, a fact confirmed by their popularity. At the 2009 Track day in October to mark the anniversary of the car, a record number of 82 cars entered with Zan forced to decline late applications in the interests of track safety. It is worthy of note that since entering the NSW Super Sprint Championship in 1999 our Club has won the Club Shield on six occasions. The annual awards for track events are presented at the Club's AGM, the culmination of all the effort that goes into organizing the event and for the competitors who bring the track to life. It's your big night guys. Be there!

The Concours d'Elegance is held annually, the Event at Fox Studios in 2004 attracted 49 entrants, supported by Mazda Australia - which provided a display of three new SE cars - and Shannon's Insurance. This year the Concours will be combined with a barbecue/picnic day along the lines of the President's picnic. So if you don't want to exhibit your car, then enjoy the social interaction in the picnic atmosphere. The Concours awards are presented at the Club's Xmas party.

The Club has hosted two of the Mazda MX-5 Clubs of Australia National Meetings (NatMeet), the first in Canberra in 1996 and the second at Leura in 2004. New South Wales has won the coveted State Trophy on two occasions - and make a note - we will again host NatMeet in Canberra over the Easter weekend of 2012. Preparations are already underway and we expect a strong representation from you, the members, to ensure that it is a resounding success. The challenge for you is to help us win that State Trophy. You will thoroughly enjoy yourself in the process.

Happy 20th Anniversary and happy motoring in your MX-5s

[We are indebted to Club Historian Elaine Caldwell for providing the historical material for this article]



Canberra Chapter members by the lake - the location for NatMeet 2012

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY AT WISEMAN'S FERRY RESORT

Over 80 MX-5s and 147 enthusiasts attended the 15th Anniversary celebratory run and lunch.



After a run from Hornsby via Spencer, cars line up to cross on Wiseman's Ferry to reach the Resort



Just a glimpse of the parking area.

IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE CLUB

A group of founding members – look for them here today!



A table or a tableau of bon vivants?



Participants at a highly successful day arranged by then Social Secretary Roger O'Grady

IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE CLUB



*Time out on a
Hunter
Chapter run!*



*The Sydney
group by
river and the
sea on the
South Coast*



Goodbye Folks - it's all over for another five years!

THE CAR THAT REWROTE THE HISTORY OF SPORTS CARS



The Mercurial Mazda MX-5 NA

The sweet lines of the successor – the NB



The third generation - Mk 1 NC



The third generation hardtop coupe

