

The President's Two Words







Changing the Guard

There is a new -look Committee following some recent resignations. The Club's Secretary, Eva Peryer resigned from the Committee in February. She is off overseas. Jeff Gehrig has advised that because of personal circumstances he will not be able to continue as Vice President.

A very big vote of thanks and the Club's best wishes go to Eva, and her husband Simon, both of whom have been very strong supporters of the Club. The Committee also wants to acknowledge Jeff's many activities on behalf of the Club as Vice President.

The Committee acted quickly to fill these positions - both are key Officers of the Club. Ron Lyons has been elected as Vice President, Zan Menzel will take up the Secretary's role, and Bill Whitehorn will be the Club Captain. Jeff will stay on as a Committee member, editing the monthly Club Events bulletin and Club Talk magazine. The Committee also asked Anne Lyons to assist as a volunteer up to the AGM. Anne will back-up Zan Menzel with the various Secretary's tasks. This is a very busy role in the Committee, and Zan is already very involved helping Carlos Albornoz run the Club's very successful track competition. All of these changes will make sure that your Club runs smoothly up to the AGM. You can meet your new-look Committee at the General Club Meeting on 14 April, at the Eastwood Rugby Club.

What's Inside?

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This Is Your Captain Speaking

Well here we are 8 months into this Committee's current term. From my rear view, it is great to see so many cars taking part in the Club Drives.

I set out in August last year to put new life back into the Drives for longer-time members and to get new Club members to join in. In this I have been well supported by my fellow Committee members, Bill and Karen Whitehorn, and of course my driving partner Anne Lyons. Between us we have tried to make the Drives varied and interesting.

We'll be touring Sydney's North Coast and the foreshores of Lake Macquarie with a stop to enjoy a great waterside brunch.

What has been most encouraging is that members are coming forward with comments in each run, all of which are being looked at and where possible incorporated into planning future Drives.

The next run will be a morning tea run to give some of you later-risers a chance to join in the fun. We'll be touring Sydney's North Coast and the foreshores of Lake Macquarie with a stop to enjoy a great waterside brunch.

In April, Bill & Karen Whitehorn have put together what promises to (Continued on page 2)

Club Sporting Talk

By Carlos Albornoz

This year looks to be a busy one for us on the track.

My goal for this year is to leave the Wooden Spooner tag with another club in the Combined Sports Car Association (CSCA) and really show that we are a force to be reckoned with. In order to do this, we need more participants. I have previously heard that our own club track days are a little inconvenient because they are held on weekdays. My answer to this is join in on the CSCA days! They're always on weekends. They're concerned about the safety of the vehicles and drivers

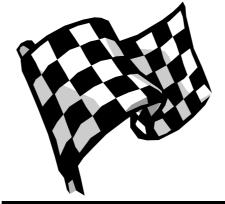
We'll have our largest representation so far on March the 28th at Oran Park so you should be able to find at least one familiar face in the crowd!

just as much as we are. They're run very professionally by the clubs involved.

The people that race on these days are car nuts like you and I. A very small minority are manic "race heads" like myself. The remainder are first timers on the track and those that wish to go a little faster than they can legally on the road. They are essentially a good bunch of people just like us! So come on down and just have a

peek. We'll have our largest representation so far on March the 28th at Oran Park so you should be able to find at least one familiar face in the crowd!

Another goal I would like to see the club achieve is the organization and running of one of it's own CSCA rounds. Due to the lack of numbers and experience at the moment, we have been excused from running one this year. However let's aim for one to start (or finish, depending on your perspective) off the new millennium. To get to this point, I will find out when the next CAMS Flag Marshals courses are due. If any of you are interested in doing this course, please let me know and we'll slot you in. Otherwise, come on down and give us a hand on one of these days. You'll normally get a free lunch for your efforts but more importantly, you'll gain experience with the correct procedures used in the running of these days. Which in turn will allow us to host one of the best race days the CSCA have ever seen! Happy Racing. Carlos Albornoz



Captains Report Continued from page 1

be a fresh look at the Mount Kuringgai National Park.

There was hardly any interest in the Committee's idea to hold the annual Concourse at Darling Harbour. The Committee made this suggestion to raise the profile of the Club and to capture new members. So, we will revert to making the Concourse part of the Club's annual weekend away, as was advertised late last year.

The weekend Drive will be on July 17th and 18th, to a new venue for the Club, to the South of Sydney. This will let our Canberra members join in – they have missed out on the Concourse in the last few years. Plus we will be able to have our regular 'Christmas in July' as a dinner on Saturday night. The weekend Drives have become very popular, so you should register as soon as the details are advertised in April. I am busy right now confirming the details. Certainly there will be a variety of room options, including the chance for you to share with friends. When we are ready to accept bookings, it will be a case of first in gets the rooms. Make sure you do not miss this one SAFE DRIVING **RON LYONS**

The Club Needs You

The Annual General Meeting is getting nearer and as many members will be aware, several of the Committee have resigned.

Eva Peryer and her husband Simon are now living in Hong Kong, Steve Remington and wife Melanie are in Melbourne so of course their positions will need to be filled.

This Club, like any other, relies on members to volunteer to serve on the Committee and contribute to the running of the organisation of the activities that the Club provides. If you feel that you would like to "give it a try" or know someone that would do a good job, nominate them when the nomination forms become available, (some time between now and July).

The Committee consists of ten members, seven office bearers and three "ordinary" members. All of the positions require dedication and some effort but the effort is of course repaid with the satisfaction of seeing the Club growing and members enjoying all the events that take place during the year.

Committee meetings are held monthly, usually on a week night that suits all members and last an hour or two, not much to give up in terms of time, give it some thought. J.C.G.



, m sure that many of you have noticed an increased emphasis on the Club Website.

There is a reason of course, we have been trying to reach as many of you as possible, as quickly as possible.

One of our aims, is to reduce the amount of paper being sent out by emailing you as much news as possible. Those whose e-mail address I have, already know that I pass on any information as soon as I get it. I'm sure though that there are many of you who have not given us an e-mail address. You will not be bombarded with jokes, or special offers, just Club News or at least MX-5 related news. The ultimate aim is to be able to e-mail you the issues of Club Events and Club Talk, which you can either store on your computers or print for yourselves.

Those who already access the Club Website will know that both these publications are usually available for "download" in Adobe Acrobat format, at least a week before they arrive in your mailboxes for it takes a week to get them to the printer, collect them, fold them and mail them. If you would like to join the list of people who receive the publications electronically please e-mail me at miata@bigpond.com please indicate whether you still want to receive hard copies as well, although it is the hard copy aspect that we are hoping to reduce.

We appreciate that many regard the Magazine as part of the Membership benefits and this of course is quite correct but it is also a quite expensive aspect of running the Club and the money could be perhaps better spent on such things a trophies.

J.C.G.

A reminder about the Competition running at the moment to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the car. I refer to the Essay and Photo competition with the two excellent MX5 Books as prizes.

So far I have had no responses! These two contests will close in July before the AGM so that the awards can be made at the Annual General Meeting.

Full details are in the last issue of Club Talk.

J.C.G.

Coming Events

Rencil them in your diary so you don't forget!

April 4 ACT 1st Sunday run April 10 Tenpin Bowling April 11 CSCA Driver Training April 12 Wakefield Park April 14 General Meeting April 18 ACT Run April 18 Club Run May 8 Club Social May 16 Club Run May 23 MG Car Club Hillclimb May 31 Wakefield Park June 5 Supersprint June 20 Club Run June 28 Supersprint

Dash Lights

<u>Name Badges</u>

The Club sources its terrific name badges from our sister Club in Queensland. These come in your car colour with your name. You can also order one for your regular travel companion.

Just now there is a hold up with supply. The Queensland Club has been busy getting ready for NatMeet '99 and some of their regular activities have been put aside until after April. If you want to order extra badges or a new one for yourself you can contact

Anne Lyons at the Club address.

<u>The Wedding</u>

Before I get yelled at for not mentioning the Wedding of President Steve Remington and Melanie Bondini, it was a grand event and Melanie looked wonderful. Her dress was described for me by Caitlin Buon as :- "Princess Bride". Ivory brocade underskirt and bodice with a satin finish overskirt and beaded sleeveless bodice and to top it off

an exquisite pearled and jeweled tiara with attached veil.

<u>Driver Training</u>

If you have purchased a new MX-5 and have not taken advantage of the complimentary Defensive Driving course, do something about it.

Even "the best" drivers will learn something at this day, although I did hear of one driver who complained of flat spotting his tyres, indicating that he did not listen to instructions. One of the aims of the course, is to teach braking to maximum effect without locking the wheels, thereby retaining steering control, allowing the driver to avoid obstacles whilst stopping in the shortest distance possible.

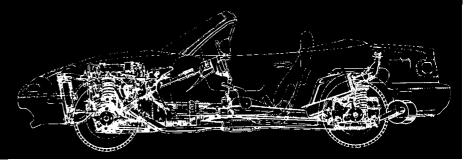
Learn just how capable the MX-5 really is, an enjoyable and very informative day out.

Inside Your MX-5

MAZDA PRESS RELEASE February 9, 1999

500,000th MX-5 BUILT THIS WEEK

The 500,000'h MX-5 rolled off Mazda Motor Corporation's Hiroshima assembly line this week, 9 years and 10 months after production of the first generation model began in April 1989.



The MX-5 now has the distinction of being the 'most produced' two-seat, lightweight, open sports car in the world.

The first-generation vehicle made its debut at the Chicago Auto Show in February 1989 and was launched into the US market in May.

In September 1989, sales began in Japan, then Australia in October, followed by Europe. The second being 1990 when 1455 were delivered. The new model has continued the success story here with a total of 1421 sold since introduction in April 1998 to the end of January 1999. The milestone 250,000th MX-5 was manufactured in November 1992 and came to Australia where it now resides in South Australia's National Motor Museum at Birdwood.

The front-engine rear-wheel-drive

roadster has received worldwide acclaim ever since it was launched and has been the recipient of more than 80 motoring awards. In Australia it won Wheels magazine's coveted 'Car Of The year" award in 1989 and has been listed in that magazine's "Top Ten" selection every year since launch.

It served as the spark to re-ignite the worldwide lightweight sports car market in the 1990's after it reached a peak in the 1960's.

Mazda Motor

Corporation says it is now forging ahead with a strategy to enhance its brand awareness and the new model MX-5 is a car that clearly embodies the distinctive design and

responsive handling and performance, which are key areas of Mazda's product philosophy.

The company has positioned the MX-5 as Mazda's image leader to attract young-at-heart customers, and plans to further improve the model. A special edition to mark the 10' Anniversary of the MX-5 is set for worldwide launch and will make its debut in Australia in March.



Car 500,000 is greeted by Mazda workers

Bound for the United States, the landmark vehicle is finished in Evolution Orange (Evolution Gold in Australia) and equipped with leather seats.

To mark the occasion, Mazda held an 'in plant' ceremony attended by President James Miller and employees, including members of the MX-5 development team. generation model made its debut in Japan in January 1998, and in Australia three months later.

Now internationally regarded as the benchmark among lightweight sports cars, the MX-5 is sold in more than 50 countries.

Of the 500,000 units so far produced, 30% (150,000) have sold in Japan, and the rest in overseas markets. In Australia more than 5000 MX-5's have been sold with the peak sales year

ANNIVERSARY MX-5 HEADS MAZDA SHOW LINEUP

The Mazda display at the 1999 Melbourne International Motor show is a 'smorgasbord' of new models, an interesting concept car as well as an 'old friend.'

* NARDI leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob colored in black/blue. Blue is also applied to the shift lever boot and floor carpet;

* Carbon-fibre-like material incorporated in the centre console panel;

* Chrome-plated rings around the speedo



Note numbered badge below the turn indicator.

Heading the bill is the limited edition of and tacho, and stainless steel scuff plates;

> * Balanced engine components including pistons, conrods and flywheel to optimize

Inside Your MX-5 Continues

engine smoothness and responsiveness;

- * Strut tower bar;
- * Bilstein sports suspension;

* Special "10th Anniversary symbol" ignition keys as well as an emblem on the front fender showing its unique serial number.

New owners will also receive a commemorative "owner certificate" signed by Mazda Motor Corporation President James Miller, as well as a "gift box" containing an inscribed wristwatch, miniature model of the model and key hold.



Shiny trim rings return to the instruments



Polished alloy wheels add even more eye appeal

anniversary of its 1989 debut. Strikingly finished in its unique

"Innocent Blue" and coupled with 15 inch polished alloy road wheels, the display car is the first of only 150 which will come to Australia.

the @-5 which commemorates the 10th

The vehicle, which is expected to become a sought after-'collector's' car, is priced at \$46,920.

A total of 7,500 examples are currently being manufactured at Mazda's Hiroshima plant, all are powered by the familiar 1.8 litre DOHC engine which produces 106 kw at 6,500 rpm and 165 Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm. Its performance is further enhanced by the installation of Mazda's recently developed 6-speed gearbox.

The vehicle also features: Blue soft top and tonneau cover to tone with the paint work;

* Two-tone black and blue trim color coordinating with the exterior. Blue suede-like material in the central part of seats, with the headrests and sides finished in black leather:



On A Sunday Drive





Our Spy camera has been working overtime, this prototype for the downsized 2002 MX-5 was spotted at a secret location in the US



Lower body height means the return of the Pop-up headlights, missed by many owners of the Mk11



Sue Duncan from the UK MX-5 Owners Club at Jamberoo in February



Jean Cook and Richard Sorrentino Discuss lunch in Picton



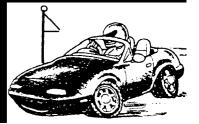
Scott Kirkham, President of the Roadster Association of the Great Smokies RAGS) managed to get a test drive of the new Roadster.



Best Man Tony Buon gives Steve Remington a last minute detail before the BIG EVENT!



Out On The Track

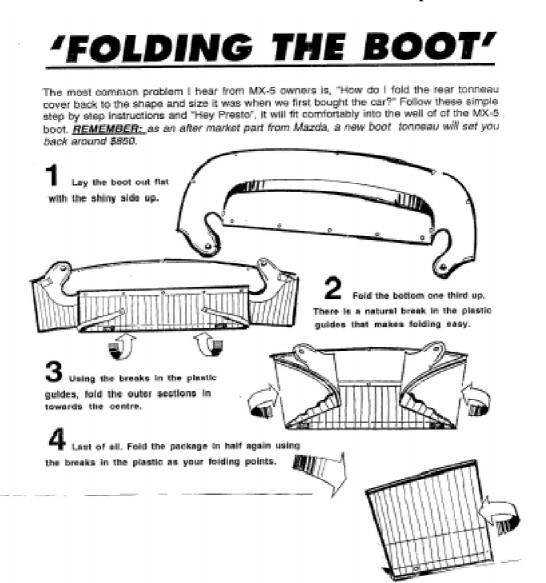






Patsy Chivers takes husband Ed for a Monday drive.

Zan Menzel, half of the team that organises our Competition Events.



NEWELLS NOTES

inally the 10th Anniversary edition of the MX5 has arrived, however with a few nouncement. Firstly, Mazda was unable to keep the price of \$45,250 as originally quoted. An increase to \$46,920 was brought about by exchange rate fluctuations and the addition of ABS which was not included in the original specification. John Newell Mazda has just received the first of our allocation of only twelve cars, and we love it. The colour is just beautiful and the special touches make it truly unique and of course extremely desirable. Those lucky enough to secure a purchase of this model will have the rest of us turning a shade of not so innocent blue with envy!

News from the John Newell Mazda Parts and Accessories De-

partment this issue is the arrival of as possible on some new and exciting products. We have just received stocks of changes from it's initial an- front grilles and white instrument faces for the MX5 NB and we are looking at sourcing stocks of these Mazda MX5 Club of New South for the earlier model too. The grilles are manufactured in stainless steel and are available in either a mesh or Miata logo script. The mesh arille not only looks great, it provides excellent protection to the radiator for those of you department carries the widest who get moving on some of our less than perfect road surfaces. Keeps the bugs out too! For those of us who like to stand out from the crowd, the Miata script grille is just the thing.

> Philip Adler, our Parts and Accessories manager has a very small supply of the Mazda Miata book by Jack Yamaguchi. Those interested should call him as soon

9310 4044 to get their hands on a copy.

As always, John Newell Mazda is proud to be a sponsor of the Wales. Our commitment to the margue is second to none, as proven by our dealership being the largest dealer of new and used MX5's in Australia.

Our Parts and Accessories range of accessories and merchandise for the MX5, and we are constantly on the lookout for new products. We would very much like to see members and their friends visit our dealership to see for themselves why John Newell Mazda really are the MX5 experts.



JUSTNX-5

<u>Web Site http://www.justmx5.com</u>

E-mail justmx5@ibm.net Tel: 02 9545 0532

Unit 10/29-33 Waratah Street Kirrawee 2232

You can now order all parts on We stock Loch Stewart ex-

<u>line</u> at our

improved Website.JUSTMX5 is open 6 days a week at the old factory and is now run by Service

Manager Daniel Hawes and Sales Manager

Darren Corrigan. Please contact them for servicing & anything for your MX5.

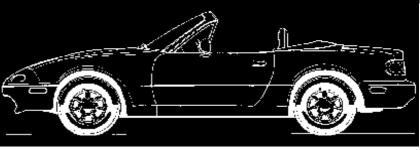


haust kits for 1600/1800 & 'Mk2 and offer fitting service.

We have dismantled over 40 cars from 1989-1997 and have a 1998 on the way with 6 SPEED.

Daniel is a qualified Mechanic and knows MX5s from back to front.

This months specials to Club Members Only 1600 & 1800 Power Steering Kits Fitted...... \$500 **Going Topless** Revealing insights into an MX-5 Club member's life with their car



ometimes the dream just has to end, this Members letter is such a case. Many of the more long term Members will miss Karen and we all wish her well in the role of Mother. Here is her letter.

Dear Eva/ whom it may concern.

I'm just writing to inform you that I am unfortunately unable to rejoin the MX5 Club. As much as I would love to rejoin, "Max" has gone, after 8 1/2 years of driving pleasure.

Yes, he was named Max (like many others) but not because of the MX but because driving a red convertible reminded me of Maxwell Smart (who drove a red Sunbeam Tiger V8--Ed.) that wonderful "Role Model" portrayed as Secret Agent #86.

Anyway, because of an expanding abdomen (a little one due 20/2/99), an overexpanded mortgage, keeping Max (with a family in mind) wasn't possible, so he was traded in on a Subaru Liberty Station Wagon (named Car of the Year 1998 by WHEELS magazine).

So if you see a frustrated driver (drooling over your MX5), driving a

silver Subaru Wagon, still with the MX-5007 number plates, you'll understand I hope. I've kept the number plates in hope of putting them back on an appropriate car again one day, maybe a Black Max next time?

The reason for this letter is just to tell anyone in the Club, contemplating a trade in on a different car --DON'T. I would NOT it again but find another way around it despite any practicalities. Here's a "short" poem (sorry Nike Company) of my sentiments on the situation, called....

JUST DON'T

Renewal for this Club, has come once again,

But this year is different, for it has come to an end.

Now the reason for this, the sulks and the whine,

Is Max has been sold, no more days of sunshine.

He gallantly went but now I'm suffering inside,

Although in Feb '99, there'll be a ray of

Pull over Driver

sunshine. You see Max had no faults, except for his size,

My husbands too practical, where I wanted to try.

A 3rd person you see, doesn't fit on the shelf,

A trailer is good? "No it's bad for their health!"

So Max stepped aside and now it's the wagon

Though a new Subaru, my chin is still sagging.

But the plates I still have, though now out of place,

MX-5007, on a Subarus face?!

So if you see me around, looking rather forlorn,

Losin Max was too hard and I'm continuing to mourn.

Now, why this long poem, you'll probably ask,

Is to say, "please keep your Max as long as he lasts!"

Signed Dr Karen "don't make the same mistake" Crawley Member #120



value over by this very striking looking MX-5.

The car, on loan from Mazda Australia is the Victoria Police

"Courtesy Car" and was employed to congratulate drivers on good driving practices. Any driver surviving the shock of being pulled over and not being booked, was presented with a gift pack (contents unknown)!

Keen observers will recognise the car as being one of those present at Wakefield Park for the presentation of the new model .

ast year there was a program which screened on Channel 10 called "Drivetime". 1 am not sure whether you ever had the chance to see the show but it was an excellent program for motoring/car enthusiasts. The program was presented by Phil Scott and Angus McKenzie, two of Australia's most well known and respected motoring journalists.

Primarily the show featured Phil and Angus test driving sports and exotic cars but also had feature articles on after market products such as car audio, security systems etc.

1 recently made contact with the producers of Drivetime, Delco Productions, and was delighted to hear that the program had screened a segment on the MX-5 (1999 model).

Delco Productions have supplied me with

DRIVETIME

a video tape of the particular program which shows Phil Scott putting the latest MX5 "through its paces". As an owner of a current MX5 this piece of video is great to watch and will be treasured in years to come.

Here is the good news! 1 mentioned to Paolo Remati the producer of Drivetime that 1 was a member of the MX5 Car Club NSW and that 1 would like to promote his production/video to Club members. Paolo accepted my offer and for \$30 will be happy to sell a 90 minute video containing 3 shows from the series to Club members. Besides the latest MX5. the video contains the Lotus Elise, Porsche 91 1 Cabriolet and WRX STI plus other interesting articles.

1 would be pleased if you could bring this to the attention of Club members in our next Club Talk newsletter.

Attached is a copy of Mr. Paolo Remati's business card with all the necessary details. Club members wishing to avail of this offer should contact him directly.

I understand DriveTime will be returning to Channel 10 in 1999 so Club members should keep

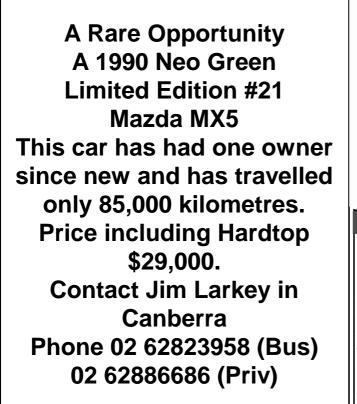
lookout for the program.



Thanks to David Reynolds for the story. Editors Note: Repeat Episodes of Drivetime have also been showing on FOXTEL.

Your Local MX-5 Service Station

A notice board for club members to advertise MX-5 items they may have for sale, and other interested parties to advertise their goods and services. A nominal fee for your advert is charged (see below). To place an advert contact Jeff Gehrig see contact details back page.



Computer Training

Phone: (02) 9144 6776 Mobile: 0418 885 852 Email: z-menzel@lhug.com.au

- Tailored to your needs
- Short and to the point sessions
- Experienced Trainer
- **On-Site Training**



Assistance for Users of Information Technology

IS IT OK? Y2K OK?

We are pleased to confirm that we have received advice from Mazda Motor Corporation, Japan, that there are no current or previous models of Mazda vehicles which will exhibit a concern as a result of the Year 2000 Effect. The Central Processing Units (CPUS) in Mazda and Eunos vehicles do not have calendar programming.



Makes You Fast! - Shift knobs - Brake Grips - T-Shirts http://www. teamvoodoo.com Tel: 64-025-504-811 (New Zealand Mail Order)



Members Only

The following companies have agreed to offer special discounts for products and services to members of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW. Please note that you must produce proof of membership by showing your current Club Membership Card.

Ammon International Pty Ltd

Ammon International are professional manufacturers of Car Leather seats. For the MX-5, two seats in full leather (your choice of colour) will cost only \$975. Price includes full installation and a three year warranty.

> 14 Telopea Avenue, Homebush West Ph: (02) 9746-9433 Contact: Alex Chien

A.M.R. Motors Mazda Service

Complimentary loan vehicle, 10% discount on labour, free exterior and interior wash and clean.

> 370 Parramatta Road Petersham Ph: (02)9569-2844 Contact Robert

A.M.R Motors Mazda Insurance

For details on Mazda's new Comprehensive Car Insurance.

> Ph: (02)9569-2844 Contact: Darryl

Eurocars Northside Mazda

Trade prices on parts and accessories, 15% discounts on labour charges, complimentary car wash and vacuum, complimentary courtesy car available for Club Members

and monthly parts specials.

43-45 Hotham Road, Artarmon Ph: (02) 9439-2733 / (02) 9439-2499 Contact: Bruce Roberts (Parts)

John Newell Mazda Service VIP Service, Free Loan vehicle for Club Members. Contact Phil Adler.

> Unit 3, 9-13 O'Riordan St, Alexandria Ph: (02) 9319-0011 http://www.newell.com.au

Trivett Classic Mazda

Trade prices on all parts, discount on labour, free loan car and free car wash and vacuum.

> 364 Princess Highway, Rockdale Ph: (02) 9599 3399 Contact: Dean or Carlo

Finishline Car Accessories Discounts on MX-5 accessories, free courier delivery.

> PO Box 272. Caulfield South, Victoria 3152 Ph: (03) 527-6924 Contact: Barry Helfenbaum

AMG

10% discount on body kits, wheels, tyres, sports exhausts and suspension parts.



500 Glenmore Rd Edgecliff Ph 9327-6508 Contact: Simon Stratford or Brian Connell.

Ian Luff Dynamic Safety Advanced Driving

\$25 discount on car control courses.

Ph: (02) 9820-2030 Contact: Ian Luff

Burncroft Guest House

Burncroft is a small guest house set on 20 acres in the Lower Hunter Valley, with views across the valley to Watagan Mountains and Brokenback Range. Your hosts are club members, Suzanne and Richard, 10% discounts for MX-5 club members. For reservations and information:

> Ph: (049) 30-7246 Contact: Suzanne or Richard

Please note that the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW does not endorse or recommend any product or service provided by the above companies. It is listed as an information service for our members only.

Contacting T he Committee

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CLUB WEB SITE

http://www.mx5.com.au/nsw/index.html

Club Talk

Club Talk is a quarterly publication of the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW. Please send all editorial contributions and advertising copy (hand-written, typed or on floppy disk or e-mail to miata@bigpond.com) to marked to the attention of Jeff Gehrig at the club address below.

The Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW operates as a non-profit organisation and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the newsletter, and operating supplies constitutes a financial burden that must be met by the membership. Make you MX-5 experience more enjoyable - join and participate. To keep the club meaningful, we need your support. To become a member send your name, address, and phone number to:

> Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW PO Box 267 North Sydney NSW 2059

Autumn 1999