

CLUB TALK

Spring 1997

A Quarterly Publication of the MX-5 Club of NSW Inc

Vol 7, No 4

NatMeet '98 - Provisional Program

Ashley Price & Ian Lewis (Mazda MX-5 Club of Western Australia)

We've planned a fantastic five days of fun and excitement here in Western Australia for the 3rd Australian MX-5 Natmeet. We've already had enquiries from all over Australia, New Zealand, the USA, England and Holland!

Provisional Programme

Friday 11 September 1998

3:00 pm - Time to check into the motel, situated close to the centre of Perth, then complete the registration formalities at the Natmeet office. You will receive your Natmeet pack and details of how every event scores points towards your individual and state team tally. You'll have time to do some final detailing of your car before...

7:30 pm - The Natmeet BBQ - a chance to meet up with old friends and make new acquaintances.

Saturday 12 September 1998

7:30 am - Into our MX-5s and off to historic Kings Park overlooking Perth Water and the city for a 5 star breakfast at Frasers restaurant. While you're enjoying your meal judges will be examining all the cars for the Concours d'Elegance, followed by scrutineering for the next day's racetrack activities.

10:30 am - The choice is yours:

- Walk through the Botanical Gardens to view the famous WA wildflowers
- Catch the free tram ride into Perth for shopping
- Continue through Perth to the tram to Burswood Casino (open 24 hours!)
- Catch a ferry to South Perth Zoo

A fantastic five days of fun and excitement here in Western Australia is planned for Natmeet '98. We've already had enquiries from all over world!

Have lunch wherever you are and return to Kings Park by 2pm for photo opportunities, then back in the cars for...

3:00 pm - Scenic drive by the side of the Swan River to Fremantle, then up the coast by the Indian Ocean to Hillarys Boat Harbour.

7:00 pm - Quiz night at a top Perth Hotel in the best WA tradition. Meals and drinks available as required.

Sunday 13 September 1998

7:00 am - Breakfast at the motel

8:00 am - On the road to Barbagallo Raceway, 30 km north of Perth for an action packed day of circuit sprints, hillclimbs and motorkhanas. Barbagallo is the safest circuit in the country, with sand traps to cushion any indiscretions and protect your car from any harm! A picnic lunch will be served in the Clubhouse at 1:00 pm.

The evening is free, to recover from the day, explore some of Perth's nightlife, check out one of the thousands of fine restaurants, win/lose more money at the Casino...

Monday 14 September 1998

7:00 am - Breakfast at the motel

9:00 am - Convoy run through some stunning WA scenery on real MX-5 type roads. The route will include the Chittering Valley, Bindoon, Dewars Pool and end up at Houghtons Winery for a superb lunch.

12:30 pm - Lunch, followed by...

2:30 pm - Drive to Whiteman Park, and a tour through the WA Motor Museum. Return at leisure to the motel.

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Corporate Sponsorship Is Nigh

By Steve Remington

The September committee meeting was held at John Newell Mazda's showroom at Surry Hills. As well as the normal committee business revolving around the day-to-day running of the club, discussions were held with Philip Adler (Parts Manager) and Paul Sarkis (MX-5 Sales Manager) about having John Newell Mazda as

principle corporate sponsor of the MX-5 Club of NSW.

The meeting came after preliminary discussions held between Tony Buon, Paul Sarkis and myself at the AGM. Paul is responsible for the sale and promotion of MX-5s and performance parts for MX-5 at Newells.

John Newell Mazda is Australia's number one Mazda dealer and one of the few exclusive Mazda dealers. In fact, Paul mentioned at the meeting that Newells had the only remaining stock of the current model MX-5s in Australia. No more will be imported until the new model is released.

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Meet Your 97 / 98 Committee... See page 5

The President's Word

Tony Buon

I was thinking the other day about the joy I felt when I first picked up my new MX-5 three years ago. I had wanted one of these little beauties since I first saw them in 1989, but couldn't afford one at the time.

Since I had sold my Triumph Stag in 1987, I had sadly missed the joy of open top motoring and the fun of sports car ownership. Fortunately with the MX-5 this didn't mean lots of "off the road" periods for expensive repairs.

I think that is the essence of the MX-5 phenomenon. The fact that you can have the excitement and sheer pleasure of British type sports car driving, without the leaks, stops and constant repairs.

I only hope that in Mazda's' move

It is sad to report that the attention to detail that has seen many of the 1989 cars needing only minor repairs, may not be as evident in the 1997 model.

towards 'economic restraint', that they keep up the excellent quality that they have been justifiably famous for.

It is sad to report that the amazing attention to detail that has seen many of the original 1989 cars needing only minor repairs, may not be as evident in the 1997 model. Quite a few owners have reported minor but annoying problems with paint, trim and accessories. Certainly the defects are minor, but noticeable to us spoiled by excellent quality assurance of the past.

Probably the true test of the new MX-5 model will not be the design or shape, but the attention to detail evident in the first few cars to hit our shores. Only time will tell.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new committee members and thank them for electing

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The Club Welcomes

Christian Warren

Marcus lun

Steve Holder

David fog

Rick Nalder

Kerri Nalder

Cathy Miletta

Robert lau

Warren Yenson

Ashley Hill

Roger Sant

Robin Thomson

Marcus lim

Vanessa Knight

Julie Saddington

This Is Your Captain Speaking

Jean Cook

The past year has been an interesting year for me as Captain. It has also been very busy. We have tried a couple of new runs, among them the Evening run to Pittwater and then the Afternoon Tea run on Anzac Day. They seem to have been accepted quite well, so perhaps we will do them again, in some form or another.

I want to thank all of the members for their support in the past year. It has certainly made a big difference to me. I did have some reservations about accepting the role of Captain, but you have made me look really good, by coming out on the runs, and planning and conducting runs for me. That is what the club is all about, participating in all the different activities that are

I did have some reservations about accepting the role of Captain, but you have made me look good, by coming out on the runs.

arranged. A special thank you and a warm welcome to all the new members. It is a pleasure to see new members, but it is even better to see you return. It must mean that you like what the MX-5 Club has to offer.

I had set myself one goal for the year which I have not actually achieved, but it does seem to be getting a little closer. There must be more lady members that have the same spirit, call it adventurous or possibly just plain stupid, who will join me on the track at Wakefield Park.

We had a combined weekend run with the Queensland Club, and those of you who attended had a really good time. These combined runs are great, and will help us all when we get to Natmeet next year.

I hope that the next year will be as much fun for all of us, and I want you to help me to make it even better than the last.

CT



From the Editor's Dashboard...

Well here I am writing another editorial for Club Talk and I'm thinking what the hell am I going to talk about.

I don't know about anyone else, but my year has been very hectic. I have discovered that changing jobs, completing my uni studies and performing my vice presidential and editorial duties for the club can make for a very busy person.

Those who have known me for a while, will know that the fact that I am not entering in this year's Concours d'Elegance means that I am very busy and have made a big sacrifice.

This year has seen a consolidation for the club's publications. We have found a reliable printer that does a high quality job for a much cheaper price. We have also considerably reduced the cost of postage by registering our two publications with Australia Post which allows us to access cheaper rates of postage.

There has been, however, one slightly disappointing element with our publications and that is the lack of contribution by the members. I have asked on many occasions for short submissions (only a couple of paragraphs) from members but they have been conspicuous by their absence. I hope that more members will send in short articles for inclusion in future issues.

JUSTMX5 Baby

Stephen and Julie Thatcher, club members and owners of JUSTMX5 now have another role to fill in their lives. On the Friday 12 September Julie gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Unfortunately the birth occurred two days ahead of schedule which meant Stephen missed the birth because he was still in Japan on Business.

Annelie weighed-in at a healthy 7lb 10oz and was 20in long. According to Julie, Annelie has almost got her trained in the basics of motherhood.

Dash Lights

Edited By Steve Remington

Quoteable Quote

From Sports Car International, August / September 1997:

"...fun behind the wheel of a sports car has nothing to do with specific engine output, skidpad numbers, the quickest possible 0-60 mph time, or sheer horsepower. The intangibles--feedback, character and accuracy--are paramount. It could take a car with the finest of these attributes all of ten seconds to reach 60 mph from a standstill, but character and feedback would still give its driver a smile a jack-hammer couldn't pry off."

Man or Myth

(Source: Peter McKay - SMH)

Being seen at the wheel of a sports car makes older women more appealing to males, says a report published in the UK. But women don't consider mature chaps driving sports cars even remotely sexy. So, if you're male, over 40 and thinking of buying an MX-5 or MGF, don't bother. Save the \$50,000 and spend a few hundred on a gym membership, new clobber and a bottle of Eau Sauvage. Fewer than 10 per cent of women think a sports car can enhance an older man's sex appeal or make him appear younger. There is a change with the cost or status of the sports car — a Ferrari or Lamborghini won't improve a man's chances. Only young men are made more attractive by sports cars. The report debunks several theories about cars and sex, finding that women do not think men who drive swiftly are attractive. This relates to driving on the road, rather than the track, which is good news for a non-Porsche driver like Dick Johnson, 52. And no less than 50 per cent of men become sexually excited when they see a woman driving a sports car. This rises to 75 per cent if the driver is blonde. Which car did women find the most sexy? A Porsche, because it combines eye appeal and reliability.

Thank you to our Captain Jean Cook for submitting this article. I think she just confirmed something that she has known for years.

Coming Events

Club events scheduled for the next 3 months.
Pencil them in your diary so you don't forget!

Tuesday 14 October '97 — Committee Meeting — 7:30pm Powerhouse Museum.

Saturday 18 October '97 — Annual Club Concours d'Elegance — 12:30pm Al Palmers Repairs Penrith.

Monday 27 October '97 — Club Practice Day — 8:30am Wakefield Park Raceway.

Tuesday 11 November '97 — Committee Meeting — 7:30am Venue to be advised.

Saturday 15 November '97 — Social Drive — Evening Run and BBQ — Destination to be advised.

Tuesday 2 October '97 — Committee Meeting — 7:30am Venue to be advised.

Sunday 7 December '97 — Annual Presentation **Lunch** and Christmas Party — Riverside Oaks Country Club.

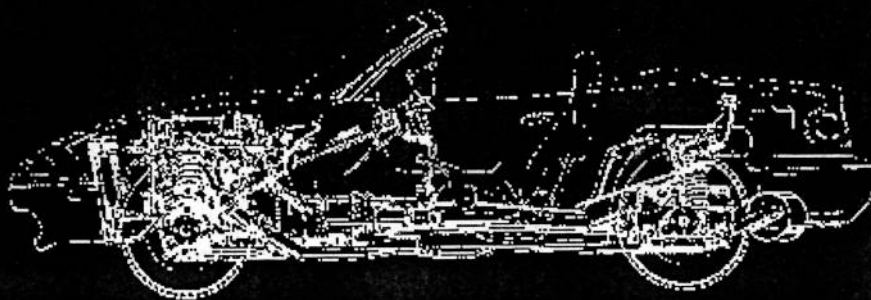
Monday 8 December '97 — Club Open Practice Day — 8:30am Wakefield Park Raceway.

Details for events in 1998 are now being finalised by the committee. A calendar will be sent to your in a month or two. CT

Inside Your MX-5

Information and tips on how to get the best from your car.

Edited By Steve Remington



In this issue of Club Talk the "Inside Your MX-5" column focuses not so much on the "inside" but rather on the "outside" of your MX-5. This issue's column will help those who are preparing for the upcoming club Concours d'Elegance by explaining how the competition is judged and sharing the secrets of past concours winners so that you might have a better chance of winning a prize at the concours.

Classifications and Judging

An entry form will be completed by all entrants on the day. On this entry form you will be required to fill in details about your car. For example you will have to enter, category of entry, age, kilometres travelled and any modifications you have made.

Entry categories for the concours are:

- Standard 1600
- Standard 1800
- Limited Editions
- Modified
- Customised

The rules for entry into each category are described below:

- **Standard** means as supplied from the dealer. Any modifications must be with genuine Mazda options / spare parts.
- **Modified** means that the car has been modified by the addition of after-market items or accessories or genuine parts have been replaced with non-standard / performance parts.
- **Customised** means the addition of body panels or major modification to suspension, drive train or colour.
- **Limited Edition** means the Neo Green, Yellow or Red / Tan models.

Judging

Judging will be performed by 12 pairs of judges, each pair judging the same parts on each car. Some of the specific parts being judged during the concours

are:

- Under Bonnet and Engine Bay
- Paint Work
- Under Body
- Soft Top
- Wheels and Tyres
- Modifications / Customisations (how well fitted and maintained)

Judges will award points based on both condition and presentation of the specific parts they are judging.

All judging is based on comparison with the condition of a brand new car. An allowance is, however, made for both age of the car and total kilometres

Cars that are close as possible or better than showroom condition will score the most points - but remember age and distance travelled also counts.

driven, so that all cars are ultimately compared on level a footing.

Obviously, cars that are close as possible and / or better than showroom condition will score the most points - but remember the age and distance travelled allowance does make a difference.

Apart from the official judging, all attendees at the concours will be given a voting slip to vote for what they believe is the best car on display - the people's choice.

Prizes

There are a number of concours prizes that will awarded at the Presentation Night and Christmas Party. Those Prizes are:

- Category Winner and Runner-Up
- People's Choice Winner
- Champion Car

The winners are decided on the following basis:

- The **Category Winner** is the car that scores the highest total points,

including the age and distance allowance in their entered category.

- The **Peoples' Choice** Winner is the car that receives the highest number of votes from attendees at the concours day.
- The **Champion Car** is open to all cars in all categories. The winner is the car that has the highest points, including age and distance allowance, overall. **NB: Points awarded modifications / customisations are not included in the champion car points scores.**

Please note that the decision of the judges will be final.

Tips and Tricks

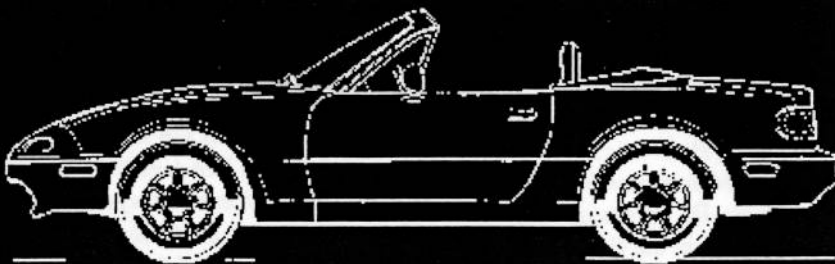
As a winner of both NatMeet and NSW concours championships, the biggest tip I can give people who are preparing their cars is have an eye for detail. I say this because it is easy for most people to wash and polish their car and get it looking shiny. Extra points are gained by doing things like removing the wheels and cleaning the back of them; scrubbing the inside of the wheel arches; removing blinkers, reflectors and tail lights, and cleaning and polishing the space where they fit; removing windscreen wipers and spray-painting them with matt-black paint; and, scrubbing those hard to get at places in the engine bay.

One specific tip is the cleaning of the soft top. The only real way to get the vinyl of the MX-5 soft top clean is to scrub is all over (including the parts below the body line at the back) with a small scrubbing brush. Yes it takes ages and your arms ache when you have finished but it is possible to restore the finish to almost better than new. Also, please buff off the excess vinyl cleaner / restorer when you have finished because the judges will take off points for an "artificially shiny" soft top.

In short winning a concourse is hard work but if you're so inclined its worth it. **CT**

Going Topless

Revealing insights into an MX-5 Club member's life with their car



Meet The 97 / 98 Committee Members

In with tradition — OK alright we only started it last year — this issue of Going Topless is profiling the members of the 1997 / 98 committee. I hope this gives you an insight into those people who work hard to keep the cogs of the MX-5 Club of NSW turning.

Tony Buon (President)

Car Colour: Laguna Blue

Year Model: 1993 - 94

When did you purchase your MX-5?
1994

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?

Yes.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

Director of a company called IPS Employee Assistance, also teach at Macquarie University, attend MX-5 Club Committee meetings and occasionally relax in front of my Foxtell, my Computer or a good book.

Who would you consider your hero?

My wife Caitlin

What is your favourite movie?

Citizen Kane

What is the last book you have read?

Angela's Ashes by McCourt

Why did you buy an MX-5?

Wanted one back in 88, but had to wait until I could get one as a company car. Which was one of the first things I did when I became a Company Director.

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

'Miata' (much sexier than MX-5) and no it doesn't

What did you drive before your MX-

5?

Just before I had a Ford Fairlane Ghia, before that a Triumph Stag

What is your favourite short drive?

Over to Palm Beach

What is your favourite long drive?

The back roads to Mugee are rather fun

What do you like least about MX-5?

Lack of power.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

Better boot cover, better seats, optional factory supercharger, low profile pop-up lights and to mine -- a five speed box

off my company with 00(T) for Tony (my partners have 00R, 00B & 00V).

Steve Remington (Vice President)

Car Colour: Classic Red

Year Model: 1989

What distance has it travelled?

174,000 kms. Yes that's right my MX-5 is well on the way to 200,000 km and it's still going strong.

When did you purchase your MX-5?

4:30pm Thursday 29 November, 1989.

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?

Yes — and I plan to be the only owner. I personally cannot understand the concept of *selling* and MX-5 — it would be like selling a child.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

Going to the movies; reading about Australian history; spending time with Melanie; and wandering around the Internet.

Who would you consider your hero?

Albert Einstein

What is your favourite movie?

The Breakfast Club.

What is the last book you have read?

1788: The Expedition to Botany Bay & The Settlement at Port Jackson by Watkin Tench

Why did you buy an MX-5?

I woke up one morning thinking that my life would not be complete if I did not own a sports car. While looking around for the right one I read about the soon to be released MX-5. Every article praised the MX-5 so I thought it must be the one

(Continued on page 6)



Above: The 97 / 98 Committee. Back Row (L-R) - Ed Chivers, Al Palmer, Eva Peryer, Steve Remington, Jeff Tinker. Front Row (L-R) - Jean Cook, Sylvia Tikellis, Tony Boun, Bob Scott. Not Present - Russell Wheatley.

and air conditioning!

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Porsche Boxster

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

My number plate IPS-OOT is not some interesting play on words, nor is it the name of an American Indian Tribe, nor is it a sign that I work in a coal mine (think about it) -- it is simply the name

Going Topless Continues

(Continued from page 5)

to buy. By the way, the first time I saw an MX-5 in the flesh (or should I say in the metal) was the day I picked my car up from the dealer...

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

Although not very original I call my car Max. Max is basically a derivative of the MX in MX-5.

What did you drive before your MX-5?

Immediately prior to the MX-5 I owned a red Sigma sedan, and prior to that I owned a yellow Corolla sedan.

What is your favourite short drive?

My favourite short drive would have to be the run from Tharwa to Corin Dam and return in Canberra. The Tharwa end of the run is a high speed drive through the foot hills of the mountains surrounding Canberra. The Corin Dam end of the run takes you through some very tight twists and turns following the gully leading down to the dam. There is hardly any traffic except for the odd timber jinker carrying pine logs out of the forest. This is a really great road to get the adrenalin pumping really hard!

What is your favourite long drive?

My favourite long drive would have to be the round trip that takes you from and back to Thredbo Village via Khancoban and Tumut Ponds. The first part of the trip is very steep down-hill, very windy and dirt (Yes that's right, Max is NOT allergic to dirt roads like many other cars in the club). Once you reach the Murray River you start the climb back into the mountains. The road twists and turns in and out of the many gullies that form part of the Snowy Scheme, and takes you into country that was just made for the MX-5. The scenery is also very spectacular ... well that's what Melanie told me ... I was too busy driving on the edge to notice.

What do you like most about MX-5?

Its simplicity and driveability. The car was obviously made for driving pleasure from the beginning with all other consideration being secondary.

What do you like least about MX-5?

The fact that in standard form it suffers

from chronic asthma that strangles the life out of it.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

I would redesign the car to have an intake / exhaust system that optimises the car's performance rather than its environmental friendliness.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

A Porche 911 Carrera because I love the exhaust note it has under acceleration.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

When driving from Newcastle to Kangaroo Valley to meet Hirai a few years ago I decided to do some maintenance on the valves using the drive-fast-enough-to-blow-the-carbon-away technique. As I passed though Mt White, at a speed appropriate to thoroughly cleaning the valves, my mate said I think we passed a parked highway patrol car (this was in the days before speed cameras). I looked in the mirror to see if we were being followed. There was no sign of any car at all let alone a police car so we continued on with the maintenance. After about 15 minutes we decided to turn back onto the express way. While we waited to merge a police car pulled up behind us and flashed its lights for us to pull over. The officer got out of the car and came over to the MX-5. It was the patrol car we passed at Mt White (it took him that long to catch me). The officer gave me a very stern warning about driving so fast on this road ... but all the while he had a very dejected look on his face because he was not able to determine my actual speed and therefore could not fine me. It is the first and only time I was ever given a caution.

**Jean Cook
(Club Captain)**

Car Colour: Neo Green

Year Model: 1996 Limited Edition

When did you purchase your MX-5?
March 1996.

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?
Yes.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

If you mean work, I am a Nurse Manager, If you mean hobbies etc, Golf

and surfing (the net)

Who would you consider your hero?

I can't remember her name, I think it was Clarke, the lady of my age who drove the white MX5 in the Targe Tasmania a couple of years ago.

What is your favourite movie?

Too many to mention and I might give away my age, but recently I really enjoyed Babe, and Born on the Fourth of July.

What is the last book you have read?

The Bridges of Madison County, in preparation for my visit with the Delaware Valley Miata club in Philadelphia, when we had a great run around the covered Bridges of Lancaster county. Unfortunately my driver was not Clint Eastwood.

Why did you buy an MX-5?

I did not buy it, it was part of my divorce settlement! I also got the cat!

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

Not really.

What did you drive before your MX-5?

The only one worth mentioning was a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro, but just before this one was a Black MX-5 and before that was a Blue MX-5. Still a few more colours to go!

What is your favourite short drive?

Up the Hawksbury road to Springwood and down the Old Bathurst road or Mitchells Pass into Emu Plains. (Great hairpin bends)

What is your favourite long drive?

Anywhere around the Southern Highlands, including Kangaroo Valley but a close second would be around Canberra.

What do you like least about MX-5?

The fact that driving a car like that involves a lot of responsibility in that you have to keep it gleaming all the time. After all we do have a reputation to uphold. The dirt on the bodywork seems to spoil the performance!

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

About the only thing might be a power operated top, but then I would not get quite as much exercise stretching and crawling inside and walking around.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Perhaps a merc, but I probably would

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Going Topless Continues

(Continued from page 6)

not be able to see over the bonnet!

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

Just the time driving past a notorious pub in my area with my newly blonde hair blowing freely in the breeze enjoying the admiring calls, until they had a closer look and shouted "Did I get it with my super payout" Another time I pulled up next to a police car at traffic lights and the officer driving told me a "Good looking woman always looks better in a good looking car"

Jeff Tinker (Treasurer)

Car Colour: Montego Blue

Year Model: 1996

What distance has it travelled?
6,100km.

When did you purchase your MX-5?
September 1996.

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?

Yes.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?
Renovate, clean my MX-5 and try to play guitar.

Who would you consider your hero?
Eric Clapton (this week anyway).

What is your favourite movie?
Straw Dogs (starring Eric Clapton).

What is the last book you have read?
Clapton - The authorised biography by Ray Coleman.

Why did you buy an MX-5?
Driving excitement, MX-5 Club social outings, extrovert tendencies.

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

Mazdaratty - a play on Maserati. There is no particular meaning. It is a name given to my MX-5 by my son.

What did you drive before your MX-5?
A Barina.

What is your favourite short drive?
Mona Vale to Terrey Hills via Bayview and Church Point.

What is your favourite long drive?
I haven't found one yet.

What do you like most about MX-5?
Its handling and pose value (I'm an extrovert remember). I also like MX-5s en masse.

What do you like least about MX-5?
Its got black tyres - pink would be nice. I don't like negative questions.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?
More power needed.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Why does this question annoy me? (Ed Maybe it has something to do with the perceived negativity of its tone?).

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

Did you know that the "JMONA" prefix of the MX-5 VIN stands for Jeff at Mona Vale...True. (Ed I suppose it is true...he's an auditor and he wouldn't lie would he). Also some of the comments yelled out to me are "Sick car man!"; "Cool Car!"; "Toyota make it!"

Russell Wheatley (Secretary)

Car Colour: Classic Red

Year Model: 1990

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?
Bicycle riding, listening to music, drawing, and avoiding trouble.

Who would you consider your hero?
It always changes.

What is your favourite movie?
Again, it always changes.

What is the last book you have read?
I am currently reading "Age & Guile beat youth, innocence, and a bad haircut" by P J O'Rourke. Generally, I read the SMH, Thursday Australian, Autocar, Hi Fi magazines and other periodicals.

Why did you buy an MX-5?
This is the story of how a \$4,000 Alfetta became an MX-5. I originally decided that as my first car I would buy a \$4,000 Alfa Romeo Alfetta. When I reached the financial point I looked at an \$8,000 BMW E21 323i, which then became a \$15,000 BMW E30 323i. I realised the BMW would be expensive to maintain and by improving the suspension it

would make a world of difference. The catch was improving the suspension would not be recouped when the time came to sell the car. I then looked at a Peugeot 205 GTi and Mazda Astina 323 SP. The problem with the Mazda 323 SP was the steering, gearbox and handling were not in the same league as a Mazda MX-5. The thing that sold me on the MX-5 was the steering and gearbox, handling as well as parts availability

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

No, but I sometimes refer to it as a six year old car/bomb/Mazda.

What did you drive before your MX-5?

A VL Holden Commodore and a Morris Marina.

What is your favourite short drive?
Peakhurst to Blakehurst via Kyle Bay.

What is your favourite long drive?
Sydney to Wollongong through Royal National park, up to the Mt Kiera lookout and back to Sydney.

What do you like least about MX-5?
Not having rear seats, torque at low rpm and getting the oil filter off.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Being selfish, and needing an affluent spouse, I would not have one car. I would have a Mercedes E Class for the week days, a Caterham (Nee Lotus) Seven for the weekend. Of course, like all things, this is subject to change.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?
Censored!

Ed Chivers (Competition Secretary)

Car Colour: Classic Red

Year Model: 1994

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?
Woodwork, fishing.

Who would you consider your hero?
Mario Andretti

What is your favourite movie?
Crocodile Dundee

What is the last book you have read?

(Continued on page 9)

JUSTMX5

Australia's Largest Dismantler of MX-5s

As of 1 July 1997 **JUSTMX5** celebrated its first anniversary of operations. In this time we have been through many changes and have finally developed a good management system. As I personally am in Japan on business around six months of the year. This makes it hard to run a business well so we have joined with the team at **EastCoast Suspension** to run a complete maintenance and suspension service for MX-5s.

The **JUSTMX5** factory is still stacked with MX-5 parts, but **EastCoast Suspension** has become the main office and workshop for all pick ups and maintenance. David Falson is the owner / manager of **EastCoast Suspension** and the day-to-day manager of **JUSTMX5**. He has had extensive experience setting up Porsche Cup cars and offers great knowledge in setting up your MX-5. **EastCoast Suspension** also stocks custom made sway bars and springs.

Something Really New!

We can now offer a supercharger kit for the first 10 customers at \$5,000 plus fitting. Before purchase you can experience the performance increase by test driving the **JUSTMX5** Black Rocket. These superchargers have been developed in Australia with a reliable back-up service. The **JUSTMX5** car was used as the development car, and the development took six months to complete — that's why you haven't seen us on any of the road runs.

We have also decided to stock a range of Racing Beat performance parts and we will have our first order in the next 8 weeks. If anyone requires anything, let us know as this will save on freight and we will do a special deal for the first member orders.

If you have any complaints or suggestions please let me know as we are trying to offer a good service for all of our customers.

Just for member's information, the very first "BMW Z3" at the Tokyo Motor Show was made for display purposes only, so I had great pleasure in cutting it in half in the course of my business it is now on display at Sydney Wide European Autos at Moorebank. I also gave it a big thrash around the wrecking yard and that is where they should be!

Just Arrived

1991 MX5 - Red; Japanese car with local compliance; automatic; air conditioning; power steering; 17,000 km; 12 months registration — \$26,500

This Month's Specials (Members only):

- 1.6 litre motors fitted \$1100
- 1.6 litre Power Steering Kits \$800 (plus fitting)
- GAB adjustable shocks (used ex-Japan) \$600 each
- MazSpeed Roll Cage (Black) \$600
- Centre Radio Surround \$95
- Assorted Mag Sets (14 inch) \$240

For more information please contact David, Reon, Danny on the **JUSTMX5** phone on (02) 9545-0532, or drop into **EastCoast Suspension** at The AutoPlaza, Lot 9/16 Waratah Street, Kirrawee (just across the road from the **JUSTMX5** factory).

All major credit cards welcome — 10% Discount To MX-5 Club Members

Going Topless Continues

(Continued from page 7)

The MX5 Maintenance manual - just kidding! The last book was on ideas / projects for storage within the home

Why did you buy an MX-5?

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

"Bootie" - because it's only got a child size boot!

What did you drive before your MX-5?

4 Landcruisers over 12 years followed by an LTD for a year.

What is your favourite short drive?

Through Kuringai Chase to Cottage Point for lunch at the "Inn".

What is your favourite long drive?

Old Pacific Highway to Gosford area, along the Hawksbury to Wisemans Ferry, Windsor, etc

What do you like least about MX-5?

No steering column adjustment, no seat height adjustment

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

See above plus more power (I've already got Loch Stewart's gear fitted)

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

None - I've thought about it from time to time and I wouldn't swap my 5 for anything else.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

Patsy and I made our mark on the NSW club by breaking down on our very first club run - miles from civilisation, in the Blue Mountains. We found it was a great way to meet a whole bunch of people that we probably wouldn't have met under normal conditions

Also, all three of my children (mid to late 20's) covet my car. They don't just want any MX-5, they want mine!! Should I prematurely drop off my perch there will be one mighty squabble, so I've told them I'm taking it with me.

Sylvia Tikellis
(Social Secretary)

Car Colour: Crystal White

Year Model: 1993

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?

No.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

Cleaning my MX-5.

Who would you consider your hero?

Kabubbi, my 4ft 7in pet bear.

What is your favourite movie?

Anything with Mel Gibson or Steven Segal in it. Also, Tool Time.

What is the last book you have read?

Circle of Friends by Maeve Binchi

Why did you buy an MX-5?

Carefree feeling of top down.

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

I think everyone knows the answer to that question. (Ed. For those who don't its "Agro" and it has something to do with Sylvia's bad temper or her Greek name).

What did you drive before your MX-5?

1986 Corolla hatch back also named "Agro"

What is your favourite short drive?

To work and back. It's about the only time I get to drive Agro on a weekly basis, that is once a week.

What is your favourite long drive?

To Victoria along the coast road.

What do you like most about MX-5?

That I can only take my teddy bear with me for a drive.

What do you like least about MX-5?

That I can only take one teddy bear with me at a time.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

A dickie seat for an extra teddy bear.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Someone else's MX-5.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

Everyone already knows them.

Bob Scott
(Committee Member
Assisting the Competition
Secretary)

Car Colour: Brilliant Black

Year Model: 1995

Distance Travelled: 30,000 km

When did you purchase your MX-5?

I took delivery of my car at 8.00 pm on Friday 23rd June 1995.

Are you the first owner?

Yes, I placed an order for my car in early March 1995 then had to wait while it was built and shipped out from Japan.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

Mainly work, I'm fortunate enough to have a great job at the Powerhouse Museum where I get involved in all manner of things. When not working or driving, travel is a major interest although there is still so much of the world to see I don't know if I can fit it all in. During quite times I go pistol shooting (targets only, not people).

Who would you consider your hero?

I don't have a hero as such. I admire many people, particularly those with special talents and skills.

What is your favourite movie?

Tough question, I've seen many good films. I would probably go for "The Big Chill" closely followed by "Apocalypse Now".

What is the last book you have read?

The MX-5 Enthusiast's Workshop Manual by Rod Grainger and Pete Shoemark. This is almost mandatory bedtime reading. Of the now technical variety "A Year in Provence" by Peter Mayle, this to reminisce of freewheeling through the south of France a couple of years ago.

Why did you buy an MX-5?

I'd reached the stage where I no longer required a medium sized car. My children all had their own cars and I was driving by myself 99.9% of the time. I looked for something that gave me enjoyment to drive. I considered a Toyota Celica, Honda Prelude, Honda Integra, a 3 series BMW, I even test drove a Toyota MR2 but none of them lived up to my first drive in an MX-5. Just one drive and I was hooked, here was a car that made you feel part of it..

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

I'm an avid "Phantom of the Opera" fan and did consider calling the car Christine as I consciously ask it to sing for me when the right foot goes down. Having now been asked the name question I'm inclined to tag the car "The Shadow" mainly because of the colour

(Continued on page 10)

Going Topless Continues

(Continued from page 9)

and we're hard to separate.

What did you drive before the MX-5?

A 1987 Toyota Corona Avante. Not your normal Corona, 2.4 litre EFI with 4 wheel independent suspension, etc. A very good medium size sedan. I bought it new in '87.

What is your favourite short drive?

South Maroota (near Wiseman's Ferry) to Windsor. Nice corners and through the countryside.

What is your favourite long drive?

The highway down to Goulburn then Braidwood Road out to Wakefield Park where the very best short drive is on offer.

What do you like most about MX-5?

The handling. No other car I have ever driven comes near it.

What do you like least about MX-5?

In standard format, the lack of power. I've remedied that by putting on the Loch Stewart performance gear.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

Maybe a 2.5 litre V6 and lower pop-up headlights.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

Hey, I'm no traitor, I'll stick with the Miata. Well, maybe just a short drive of the new competitors like the MGF and BMW Z3 etc just to confirm the MX-5 is the best.

What has been your most memorable club outing / event?

Wakefield Park supersprint and hillclimb.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

Driving home from work one day with the top up I stopped at a red traffic light, a car pulled up on my left side and the male driver beeped his horn to attract my attention. He then motioned for me to lower the window, which I did, he asked if I was married to which I replied yes. The driver then turned to the two beautiful young women in the car with him and said "sorry girls, he's not available". To this day I'm not sure whether I was the real attraction or not, maybe it could've been the brilliant

black MX-5?

Al Palmer

(Committee Member
responsible for Regalia)

Car Colour: White

Year Model: 1995

What distance has it travelled?
7,000km.

When did you purchase your MX-5?
June 1995.

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?
Yes.

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?
Read about MX-5s and tinker with my other cars.

Who would you consider your hero?
Niki Lauda.

What is your favourite movie?
Under Siege.

What is the last book you have read?
A book about Jacques Villeneuve.

Why did you buy an MX-5?
I wanted a Japanese soft-top.

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?
No.

What did you drive before your MX-5?
Eunos 30X.

What is your favourite short drive?
To Bathurst - the back way.

What is your favourite long drive?
To Nowra - the back way.

What do you like most about MX-5?
The design, finish and reliability.

What do you like least about MX-5?
The lack of boot space.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?
Electric soft-top operation.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?
RX-7.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?
I just dream about winning a concourse.

Eva Peryer

(Committee Member
Assisting the Captain)

Car Colour: Red (what else?)

Year Model: 1991

What distance has it travelled?
44,000kms

When did you purchase your MX-5?
December, 1996.

Are you the first owner of your MX-5?

No, it was first owned by a lawyer but I saved it (to give him credit he did look after it well).

What do you do as a pass time when you're not driving your MX-5?

Thinking about how I can con my hubby into installing a Lochie Stewart kit.

Who would you consider your hero?

Harrison Ford (but not because I look up to him), and Bruce Lee (how I wish I had that type of self control and strength).

What is your favourite movie?

Any movie that brings out interesting emotions. It is hard to choose from so many good movies. It is easier to remember bad ones such as 'Portrait of a Lady' where I had actually fallen asleep in the theatre.

What is the last book you have read?
The Colour of Water (can't remember the author).

Why did you buy an MX-5?

Because they are unique, cute and beautiful to drive (and no TR6s were available in quite the same condition).

Does your car have a name and does it mean anything?

Evaready - think about it.

What did you drive before your MX-5?

A red 'Beep Beep Barina'.

What is your favourite short drive?

To work, where occasionally a guy in a Red Honda with naughty number plates thinks he can drag me off at the lights. It's also fun to scoff at other convertible drivers who are too woosy to put the top down (one Jag person in particular, need I say more).

What is your favourite long drive?

Anywhere, anytime, especially if there is a hotel room with a spa waiting at the end of it.

What do you like most about MX-5?

The fact that no matter where you are going, even if it is to work, it is an experience and pleasure driving it. It is

(Continued on page 13)

Corporate Sponsorship Is Nigh Continues

(Continued from page 1)

While all of the details of the agreement are yet to be finalised, some of the issues discussed were sponsorship of social events (eg a special MX-5 Club Member's launch of the new MX-5 early in 1998 and the end of year presentation), competitive discounts on parts (both standard and performance) and standard services.

Over the next couple of months the committee will finalise the details of the sponsorship. It is expected that we will be in a position to advise the details of the agreement in the next issue of Club Talk. **CT**

BD4's - New Premises Even Better Service

By Bob Lynch

In the last issue of Club Talk there was an advertisement and article about BD4s Service Centre. Club member Bob Lynch decided to try out the quality of service at their new premises.

The best little car in the world deserves the best attention, so when I deliver my car for its service I always enquire about any little thing I can do to improve its performance.

The last time I dropped my MX-5 off at BD4s for a service Paul Brell suggested machining the throttle body and installing an larger diameter butterfly valve and fabricated stainless steel inlet tube.

Well, it was partially successful. There was better performance and torque, however, at about 2200 rpm it was very jerky. It would have been great on the race track when you are rarely under 2200 rpm but in traffic and over speed bumps it was a pig to try and drive smoothly.

Paul and the other mechanics experimented with a smaller diameter inlet tube, however, without the "flat spot box" (part of the original inlet tube) the problem still existed. Finally I said go back to the original butterfly valve and that solved the problem.

The point of the above is that every time I returned for some adjustments to be made there was never a complaint from anyone — just the opposite — they offered to give a refund.

I can thoroughly recommend Paul and his team for any normal servicing or performance modifications that you may require to be done to your beloved MX-5.

PS: I was a little worried when I first thought of a non-dealer servicing my car. John Newell only new about servicing by the book — not even advancing the timing to 14 or 16 degrees. The MX-5 can be improved so much. As the BD4s ad advises they do everything from run-of-the-mill servicing to performance tuning and modifications. Try them, you won't be sorry. **CT**

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OFFICIAL PANTHERS SPONSOR
PANTHER MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The President Continues

(Continued from page 2)

me as President of this great club for a second year. Our thanks also go to those past committee members who served the club so well.

Your new committee will strive to make the next twelve months a professional, exciting and safe year full of varied events for all of our members. Of course the true value of our club is only evident if you participate. So please try to make it to a few events this year, especially if you haven't been to one for a while. I can guarantee you, you will have a great time.

See you on the road... CT

Sporting Torque

Ed Chivers

This has been an interesting and challenging year for me. When I took on this role I couldn't see any members being interested in CAMS events at that time and I really had no real information on the needs or format to run our own events. I spoke with a number of members, sent out a survey, and gave some thought to what my objectives should be. For 1997 I planned four practice day events, a Go Kart night, a fun rally, and a driver training day.

The practice days were specifically aimed at encouraging and building a sporting interest in our members, in a non competitive and non threatening manner, and to enable our members to develop their driving skills whilst having some fun, in maximum safety. Track practice was a must, so the first thing was to find a good venue.

I discovered that all the Sydney tracks have nasty bits of concrete or Armco to intimidate a novice, coupled with an immense cost for hiring the circuit! I then looked at venues in Bathurst, Newcastle, Wollongong and Goulburn. Wakefield Park was a no brainer, it is very safe, moderately priced and, importantly, enables our Canberra and South Coast members to join in.

The first practice day was set for

January and I would have been happy to have had 10 drivers turn out. As it was we had 21 on the day and I was ecstatic. The format worked really well and the enthusiasm displayed by everyone made all the effort, by myself and the volunteers, worthwhile. During the day I was cornered by a group of real enthusiasts and now instead of four events a year there are eight events, roughly every 6 weeks, alternating between exclusively club members, and members and friends. I've put together a short video tape with a selection of the club sporting events, and humorous moments, of the past year or so, starting with the Natmeet 96 track day (and shown at the end of the AGM).

Of the other events I had planned: The go kart night was cancelled through insufficient numbers (I don't intend to organise another night). The fun rally worked out to be an observation run and was held in August, and the driver training day will be run a little later this year (when I find the time!).

I wish to form a sporting interest group to assist develop the sporting side of the club, with new ideas, and sharing the load in the organisation and running of events. Anyone interested in joining the group should call Ed Chivers or Bob Scott.

Finally, I believe the objectives I set at the start have been achieved:

- To encourage members to develop their driving skills and experiences.
 - ⇒ Very definitely - 35 members have driven in the events so far this year, around 24 have been twice or more and around 12 regularly participate.
- To develop a friendly sporting spirit within the club.
 - ⇒ Very definitely - not only has the odd side bet been made but several members are now regularly competing in formal events - eg. Wakefield Park Open Sprints and Hill Climbs, plus events run by the Combined Sports Car Club (part of the CAMS calendar).
- To do this without impacting the social nature and social events of the club.
 - ⇒ I believe this has also been achieved. I have tried to ensure that our sporting events do not

clash directly with social days and linked the social and competitive spirit together in the observation run. Also, it's apparent that whilst there are a number of members who only go to the sporting days, there are also a significant number who participate in both the social and sporting events.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members who have participated both as drivers and volunteers. Without your tremendous enthusiasm and support these events could not have been the success they are. I look forward to the coming year and hope to make it just as successful as this year. CT

You Know You're An MX-5 Driver When...

Eric Schwarzentraub (via the Miata.Net e-mail list)

Eric Schwarzentraub has compiled a list of 32 responses to the statement "You know you are an MX-5 driver when...". The list is based in the responses from contributors of the Miata.Net e-mail discussion group and adapted from "Bicycling" Magazine (Oct. 1997). How many of these responses make you think of yourself?

You know you're an MX-5 driver when...

- 1) ...you choose a house or unit because it is close to curvy roads.
- 2) ...you buy things for your MX-5 at the expense of the upkeep of your other car(s).
- 3) ...your legs are tanned at mid-thigh.
- 4) ...you drive further to work on days you take the MX-5.
- 5) ...you mentally note whether the road you are on is a "Good MX-5 Road" or a "Bad MX-5 Road".
- 6) ...you learn to have X amount of

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- money left over from paying the bills and the first thing you do is reach for the nearest MX-5 after market parts catalogue.
- 7) ...you dream of winning the lottery with the intention of not saving a cent, but rather thinking "I can buy that supercharger then!"
 - 8) ...you can tell your significant other with a straight face that you are going to the store to pick up some things, but instead, take off for your favourite MX-5 road.
 - 9) ...your first instinct when getting into a car is to reach for the latches.
 - 10) ...you read this thinking it will be funny, when you realise it all applies to you.
 - 11) ...when you drive someone else's "regular car" and you find yourself miss-shifting because the gear throws are so long!
 - 12) ...when you start LISTENING to the other car's exhaust notes, and knowing confidentially that "ooh man, do they have problems!"
 - 13) ...in an effort to make shopping easier for your relatives, you register with all after market parts vendors and you have entered all of the relevant 1800 numbers into the aforementioned relatives' telephone speed dial memories.
 - 14) ...you are always on the lookout — hoping beyond hope — for a cap that won't blow off over 100 mph.
 - 15) ...you justify your MX-5 purchase — not to mention its use on forays into the countryside — by citing the savings on antiques and other bulky non-essentials, the non-acquisition of which is cruelly enforced by the volume of the roadster's trunk.
 - 16) ...you can't remember the colour of your other car, much less its make or year.
 - 17) ...your front number plate is in the boot, or in the map pocket behind the passenger seat.
 - 18) ...your front number plate WAS in the pocket behind the passenger seat, until the Police forced you to bolt it back in place!
 - 19) ...you move from a one bedroom unit into a studio unit, sell all of your

bedroom furniture and now sleep on a fouton couch (ouch!) just so you can afford more aftermarket products for your beloved roadster.

- 20) ...Miata.net is your start up page on your web browser and you have every section bookmarked for instant access.
- 21) ...you decide what you'll wear after considering how it will compliment your MX-5's colours.
- 22) ...you rate weather in only two categories: top down or top up.
- 23) ...you decide to spend \$18,000 to build a garage on a house which didn't come with one, so you can protect you baby and leave it parked top-down at night.
- 24) ...you haven't requested anything but aftermarket MX-5 goodies for birthdays, anniversaries, or Christmas since you got the car (and you always have a long list, including vendor's names and phone numbers for all occasions and price ranges).
- 25) ...you can't walk into a clothing store without automatically scanning for clothes that match the colour of your MX-5.
- 26) ...you realise you're out of your favorite brand of mustard...you decide to get some at the shop — it's SO nice out when you hit the street that you remember you saw that brand in a little country town about 100 km south of you, and can't find ANY reason not to go there instead of the shop around the corner!
- 27) ...you tell your hair dresser to give you your "top down season" cut.
- 28) ...you find yourself seriously contemplating adding some sort of climate control to the garage.
- 29) ...you routinely pull the blinkers out and clean and wax behind them.
- 30) ...your every 7,500 km service includes all the 30,000 km items.
- 31) ...you catch yourself waxing the engine bay & underside of the bonnet
- 32) ...you realise your reminiscences of your '58 Alfa Romeo Guilletta Spyder (classico Redino) aren't as hallowed as they once were. **CT**

Going Topless Continues

(Continued from page 10)

not just an A to B car.

What do you like least about MX-5?

Doesn't growl enough under the bonnet.

If you could change / add anything at all to the MX-5 what would it be?

Personalised number plates and a Loch Stewart kit.

If you could drive any other car what would you choose?

TR6 or a Mack Truck to deal with annoying road rage people and tailgaters.

Have you got any memorable stories or anecdotes about your MX-5 that you can tell the readers?

I was picking up hubby from a party at 3.00am one morning when I pulled up at a set of traffic lights next to a red 'souped up' car with four, rather attractive young men in it. Being a little over confident from having the car only about a week, I decided to do a little drag off from the lights. (How could I miss such an opportunity?) Unfortunately it had been raining and the traffic lights were at an intersection where we were turning a corner.

The result:

- One 180 degree spin causing the MX5 to face the other car in the same lane.
- Four attractive young men splitting themselves laughing.
- One MX5 driver who suddenly realised her seat was sitting way too high.
- One very irate husband who sobered up in a split second, swearing that he would never buy another sports car and that next time he would catch a cab or walk. **CT**

The next issue of Club Talk will contain another set of answers from one of our member to our in depth questions.

Beware! On the next run a someone who looks a lot like me doing a bad job of trying to look like a journalist may approach you and ask you to be the next interviewee for "Going Topless".

Natmeet '98 Program Continues

(Continued from page 1)

7:00 pm - Dinner at the Boatshed Restaurant, on the Swan River with a million dollar view across to Perth City.

Tuesday 15 September 1998

7:00 am - Breakfast at the motel

9:00 am - Off on an easy-for-beginners observation rally through the hills behind Perth, taking in yet more made-for-MX-5 roads and passing over a number of the water storage dams that help keep Perth so green. We finish up with a tour around Mundaring Weir and Dam.

12:30 pm - Lunch at the Mundaring Weir Hotel.

Afternoon - you are free to discover more MX-5 roads up in the hills, head back into Perth for shopping or sightseeing, etc.

7:00 pm - Gala Natmeet Dinner and Trophy presentation at the Matilda Bay Restaurant on the Swan River.

Wednesday 16 September 1998

8:00 am - Farewell breakfast at the motel.

10:00 am - Handover meeting for Presidents, Club Captains and Secretaries.

Roll on Natmeet 2000!!

As you can see, this will be a Natmeet to remember! If you've already been to Adelaide and Canberra, you don't need to be told how much fun they are. If you haven't yet been a Natmeeter, you must have seen the photos and heard the stories!

We recommend driving across to Perth for Natmeet, and perhaps sending the MX-5 back by TNT Road Transport if you're running short of time. The Club has used TNT before and found them good to deal with, and also among the cheapest. Every Monday, they have fully enclosed, 6-car wagon leaving Perth for Adelaide. Canvas covered semi-trailers also leave virtually every day.

Prices (as at 08/97) — Perth to:

- Adelaide \$275
- Melbourne \$405
- Sydney \$610

Be warned - shipping your car to Perth trebles the price!

Why not follow Queensland's excellent example from 1996 and arrange a group tour from your club across to WA. It's a unique opportunity to really explore some of Australia's natural sights and landscapes.

If you can stay on in Perth after Natmeet, the AEM Classic Rally starts on the following Friday, and runs for 3 days. This comprises hillclimbs, sprints, autokhanas and motorkhanas, together with navigation stages, and is also a wonderful social event. With around 150 competitors, in cars ranging from Goggomobils to Ferraris and Porsches to vintage Bentleys, this will be a motoring treat! We will have a team of MX-5s entered as usual, and have won various team and class awards over the last few years. Why not enter your MX-5 and make your WA trip even more memorable? Alternatively, there are always some excellent spectator stages at which you can catch the action. If you are interested, please call Ash on (08) 9364 4456 (h) or Ian on (0419) 905384 for more details.

At this stage, the final price hasn't been set, but should be around \$500 per person including accommodation on a twin share basis. A deposit of \$100 per person is required before 30th November, to confirm your attendance. We will need further instalments at a later date, and will advise you on this in due course.

It'll be great at Natmeet '98! *CT*

A Forgotten Little Item

Chris Lambert (Internet)

Having driven my Miata on a 3,000 mile trip for my vacation this summer, I used a little forgotten item on the stock radio ('90 - '96.5) that I would like to remind some of you about.

Maybe you bought your Miata used or maybe you forgot what the "AUTO M" button does on your radio; it's a great feature for out-of-town roadtrips. Let say you are driving out of town for the weekend and you have all your radio preset buttons just the way you like for

your own home city. But now you are going out of range and you want to channel surf for that perfect song, but you dread having to reset all your channels Monday morning once you get back home and are going to work.

This is where "AUTO M" come in handy. Just press and hold the the Auto Memory button until you hear a beep and the system will automatically scan and temporarily store the six strongest stations for that area. After scanning, the stations can be selected by the preset buttons 1 thru 6. If 6 stations cannot be captured the letter "A" will be displayed for the empty channels.

Your hometown presets remain and now you can channel surf while driving through different cities. Cool..huh? *CT*

Eastern Creek Six Hour Relay

Steve Remington

The Alfa Romeo Club of Australia is again hosting the Eastern Creek 6 Hour Relay. The race meeting spans three days from Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November. The Friday is open practice, the Saturday is practice and qualifying, and the Sunday is the actual race day.

The format of the race is a relay with each team having three cars that take turns to race around the Eastern Creek track. The team that completes the most laps at the end of the six hour period is the winner. Sounds simple — well it is but there is a catch. The catch is that after qualifying each team is required to submit a lap time above which they will not go for the entire race. Any laps which are done in a time above the submitted lap time do not count towards the overall lap total at the end of the race. The challenge for the team is to set the best lap time and stay with it.

JUSTMX5 is running a three car MX-5 team in the race this year and they are quietly confident that they can at least win their class and possibly even the race outright.

More details will be included in the next issue of Club Events. *CT*

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 Steve Remington on (02) 9438-1803.

Computer Training

Phone: (02) 9144 6776 Mobile: 0411 885 852

Email: MENZELR@OZEMAIL.COM.AU

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



enzelCom

Assistance for Users of Information

Technology

For Sale

Brilliant Black Painted Hard Top

From 1993 model 1.6 litre. Complete with tinted rear window and demister. In excellent condition — hardly used. Price: \$2000 ono

If you are interested contact John Shaw on:
(02) 9719-2610 [Home] / (0411) 565-857 [Mobile]

Parts For Sale

1992 Hard Top in Classic Red c/w tinted window ...\$1900
Daytona carbon fibre shift gate cover\$199
Razo shift knobs\$30
Genie 1.6L stainless exhaust system.....\$375
Soft top rear vinyl window\$175
Euonos V badge wheel cap for 89-92 alloy wheels.....\$50
PIAA 1200Fog Light Kit\$99
plus many others...

Interested? Contact Dennis J. Herr on:
[Mobile] (0412) 220-812 / [Fax] (02) 9634-5460
[E-mail] dherr@triode.net.au

For Sale

1993 Silver MX-5 Hardtop

Hard to find 1993 model 1.6L manual Silver MX-5 with original colour coded hardtop(with rear demister). Factory air-cond, Moss microwave remote alarm. A1 condition, always garaged. Low Kms and rego due end of December. Standard radio but Pioneer 6CD stacker with detachable face security(optional). Price: \$32,990 ono

If you are interested contact William Ko on:
(02)9220-6492 [Work] / (0414) 253-573 [Mobile] /
william.ko@boral.com.au [E-Mail]

Order Now

A Personalised Name Badge

Wear it with pride at club events. Free to all financial members. Just \$5.00 for all non-financial partners. Phone Russell on (02) 9533-5600 to place your order.



STEVE

MX-5 CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Out of the Boot of an MX-5

The following items of Club Regalia are available for sale out of the boot of Russell's car at club runs. See Russell and he can make the sale.

Remember we take Bankcard, Mastercard & Visacard

NSW Club Cloth Patches\$5.00
NSW Club Stickers.....\$3.00
NSW Club Number Plate Covers\$30.00
Fold-up Momo and Recaro Seats\$35.00
NSW Club Sun Visors\$10.00

We Need Your Input

Club Talk is YOUR magazine and needs your contributions.

We are seeking short articles, photographs, and / or funny stories relating to you and your MX-5. We are not looking for epics to rival War and Peace. We only need half a dozen paragraphs or so and possibly a photograph.

If you want to make a contribution you can send it to the Magazine Editor, Steve Remington, via post, fax, or email. Refer the back page of Club Talk for contact details.

Wedding and Formal Make-Up Artist

Skin Care Consultant For All Skin Types

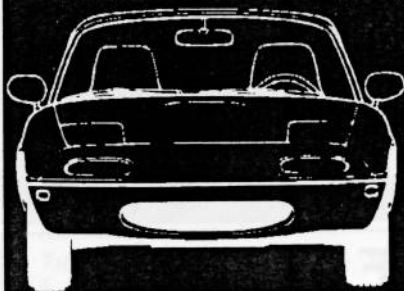
To book these services or to order any of the Nutri-Metics range of products contact:

Sylvia Tikellis
(02) 6273101 (BH)
(015) 709819 (AH)

Club Talk Advertising Rates

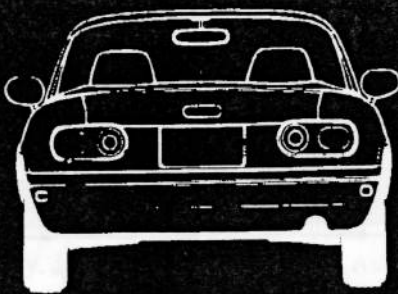
Size	Base Rate
Maxi (1/2 Page)	\$40.00
Midi (1/4 Page)	\$20.00
Mini (1/8 Page)	\$10.00
Micro (1/16 Page)	\$5.00

The above Base Rates apply to commercial advertisements. A 50% discount on the Base Rates applies to club members who are placing an advertisement for personal purposes (eg selling your standard wheels after buying new alloy wheels).



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.



AMR Motors Mazda Service

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

370 Parramatta Road, Petersham

Ph: (02) 569-2844

Contact: Contact Dominic or Robert

Cantebury Mazda

15% discount on labour, Trade price on parts, free courier service to train or shops, free exterior & interior wash and clean.

818 Cantebury Road, Cantebury

Ph: (02) 758-2600

Contact: John or Darren

Eurocars Northside Mazda

Trade prices on parts and accessories, 15% discounts on labour charges, complimentary car wash and vacuum, courtesy transport nearest transport station and monthly parts specials.

43-45 Hotham Road, Artarmon

Ph: (02) 439-2733 / (02) 439-2499

Contact: Bruce Roberts (Parts)

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) 599 3399

Contact: Carlo or Peter

Eurocars Northside Mazda

Trade prices on parts and accessories, 15% discounts on labour charges, complimentary car wash and vacuum, courtesy transport nearest transport station and monthly parts specials.

43-45 Hotham Road, Artarmon

Ph: (02) 439-2733 / (02) 439-2499

Contact: Bruce Roberts (Parts)

John Newell Mazda

Trade discount on parts and accessory purchases. Complimentary use of a loan vehicle and free car wash and vacuum with every service.

301 Botany Road, Waterloo

Ph: (02) 9319-0011

Contact: Philip Adler (Parts Manager)

Ian Luff Advanced Driving Australia

Discount packages available for Defensive Car Control, Skid Tuition and Performance (CAMS Licence) courses.

Ph: (02) 9829-5399

Fax: (02) 9829-5499

Contact: Ian Luff or Office Staff

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

Robco Products Pty Ltd

Car Bra manufacturers. Car Bras can be tailor made if your car is customised. 10% discount to club members.

49 Shepard Street, Marrickville

Ph: (02) 560-5393

Roman Auto-Tek Pty Ltd

Momo steering wheels, soft-top repairs, Recaro seating, alloy road wheels, gear knobs and other accessories. 10% discount to club members.

14 Cavell Avenue, Rhodes

ph: (02) 743-6822

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 service for our members only.

Contacting The Committee

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Committee - Eva Peryer

Home - (02) 9449-5113

Committee - Bob Scott

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Email - bob@phm.com.au

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) to marked to the attention of Steve Remington 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 your MX-5 experience more enjoyable - join and participate. To keep the club meaningful, we need your support. To become a member send you name, address, and phone number to:

Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW

PO Box 267

North Sydney NSW 2059

E-Mail: nsw@mx5.com.au