

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF N.S.W. Inc.

Mickey Meets the MX

George Russ

Mickey Mouse and the MX-5 have finally formed a lasting partnership!! On the 27th to 30th of January the Club provided cars to drive in a promotional parade for Centrepont. This involved 4 cars per day driving the Disney characters of Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Goofy and Donald Duck around the city at lunch time. Here goes the story.....

I received a phone call from Paula which goes something like this.....

Paula: We've had a call from Centrepont and they need four red MX-5's for a parade on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of next week..... you have a red car..... would you be available for any or all of the days?

George: Possibly..... tell me some more.

Paula explains the details and since I am a fan of Mickey Mouse.....

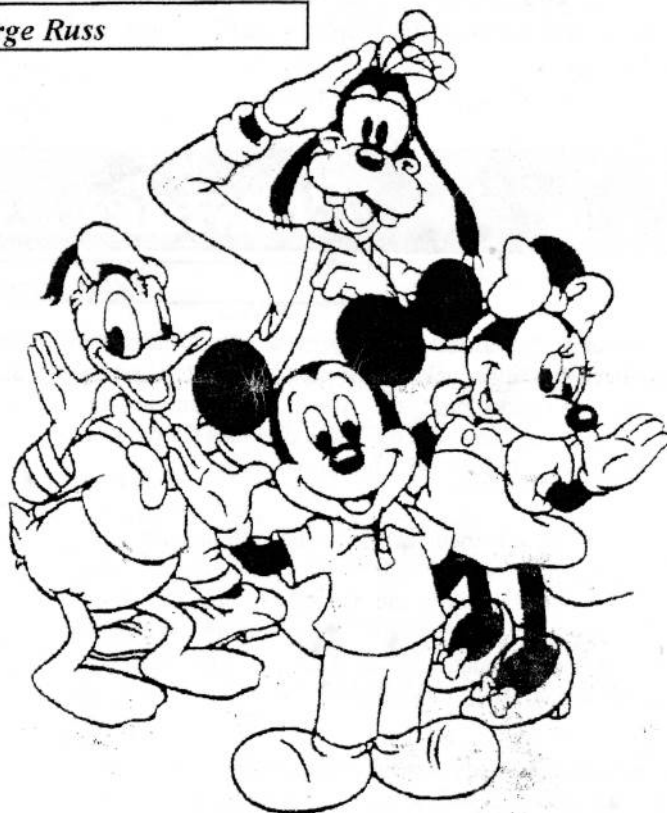
George: OK. I should be able to drive every day. I work at Bondi Junction and live at Annandale so it will not be too far to the city each lunch time.

Paula: Thanks. We will let you know the details when they are finalised.

Good byes etc.....

MY DIRECT LINE RINGS A FEW MOMENTS LATER
!!!!

Bryan: George..... Bryan here..... I believe you've just spoken to Paula and agreed to be one of the drivers for the Centrepont Disney parade.....



George: Yes (Bryan doesn't say much at first..... I detect a little nervousness in his voice..... I nearly panic at my eagerness to drive in this parade..... but calmly I seek more information from Bryan as to why he is calling when I have just confirmed with Paula that I would drive !!!!!?)

Bryan: There is something that I forgot to tell Paula..... (The pause made me think that it is time to panic) Disney regulations stipulate that the drivers cannot wear ear rings..... (I am thinking that Bryan must have lost his marbles because he knows that country boys do not wear ear rings..... I am OK..... but what about the other drivers?then he drops the bomb shell !!!) and must be clean shaven !!! (In amongst Bryan's laughter he is trying ascertain whether I will remove my moustache or forgo driving in the parade)

Cont. page 4

From The Editor's Desk

Bryan Wu

Toshihiko Hirai, a name instantly recognizable and known to many MX-5 aficionados as the father of the MX-5, but for those early MX-5 owners in Australia way back in October 1989 who received a Miata book set from Mazda, may know that in Chapter 1 describes the full story behind the birth of the MX-5 sports car.

In short, way back in 1979, a visiting US journalist by the name of Robert C. Hall met with Mazda's Managing Director at the time Kenichi Yamamoto; their conversations were on several subjects, but when Bob was asked "What kinds of cars should Mazda build?". Bob Hall had a ready answer: "A low-priced open-bodied sports car".....and well.... the rest is history.

Robert has been working in the past 13 years as a Product Planner at Mazda Research America (MRA) playing a key role in the development of cars like the MX-6 and MPV. He is now working in Australia as a journalist with Wheels magazine. If you have a glance at last month's Club Events flyer you may have noticed in the "Welcome to the Club" column, the name Robert C. Hall; Bob is now a member of our Club! Welcome Bob, it is a great honour to you in our Club.

The Miata book set is a worthwhile addition to your MX-5 memorabilia and are available through Finishline Car Accessories in Melbourne (see back page).

See you on the road...

President's Report

Peter Simpson

Since being elected last November, the new Committee has been like little ducks on the pond, with lots of effort going on underneath the water to maintain the momentum that had been built up by the previous Committee to turn this into the best MX-5 Club in Australia.

The Club was officially incorporated on the 20th January 1994 and in line with the new constitution, the Committee will take far greater responsibilities in the day to day running of the Club, bringing only those matters that are necessary, or believed to be contentious, to General Meetings for discussion.

The Committee has made several changes which we believe will be to the benefit of the members. This includes only four General Meetings during the year instead of six, changing the venue of the General Meetings, and including a guest speaker or special event at each meeting. There will be four issues of the Club magazine during the year in addition to a 'Club Events' flier which will let members know exactly what's happening in advance, on a regular basis.

Being conscious of a higher than acceptable loss of members, we are trying to set up a programme that will cater for both younger and older members, be they male or female, single or married. This will include a balanced mix of drives, social activities and sporting events.

The Club has already had a busy couple of months, with excellent attendance at all the organised events and with an obvious increase in attendance of younger and new members. If you are a member who has been around for some time but

hasn't attended events recently, I would encourage you to think again about coming along and enjoying yourself at Club activities.

Apart from regular events, the Club participated in the Disney Parade and generated some additional income for the Club. My special thanks to Captain George Russ for co-ordinating this activity and those who participated (see separate article).

George and the Social Secretary Ruth Simpson were able to get a press release into the Sydney daily papers, as well as many motoring magazines, which has brought us a rush of new member enquiries.

I am happy to report that it looks like there will be 13 cars going from NSW to the first national meeting in Adelaide, with the expectation of between 60 and 70 cars participating all together. This will be a magnificent event and we hope that our contingent takes out many honours.

The Committee is very aware of not getting too serious and wanting to ensure that all members are able to have fun enjoying their Club. Please never hesitate to let me or any other Committee member know if you have a problem or suggestion so that we can react to it.



Calendar

MAY

14/15 Weekend Run
Canberra

JUNE

19 Social Run

JULY

17 Social Run

20 Club Meeting

AUGUST

21 Social Run

SEPTEMBER

17/18 Weekend Run
Hunter Valley

OCTOBER

16 Social Run

19 Club AGM

NOVEMBER

20 Breakfast Run

DECEMBER

18 Christmas
Party

BD4's Draw Members to General Meeting

Peter Simpson

This was the first General Meeting at our new venue - the Auburn-Lidcombe Business Club - and what a boomer it was. The new location has given us a room of our own, safe parking, but unfortunately the organisers erred. They asked for a room to cater for 30 people, this being at least 5 more than we have had at a meeting for a long time, but on the night there were 43 people present! Perhaps the new location had something to do with the excellent attendance but I am sure, just as important, was the presentation by Paul Brell from BD4's Motor Sport on tuning, performance tuning, performance accessories and general accessories for the MX-5. Paul and his team went to a lot of effort to display products and to give us some real insight into finer points of performance of the MX-5. We thank him and his team for participating.

The General Meeting took its new form of trying to keep administrative issues to a minimum and concentrating on bringing information to the members,

as well as interaction and discussions.

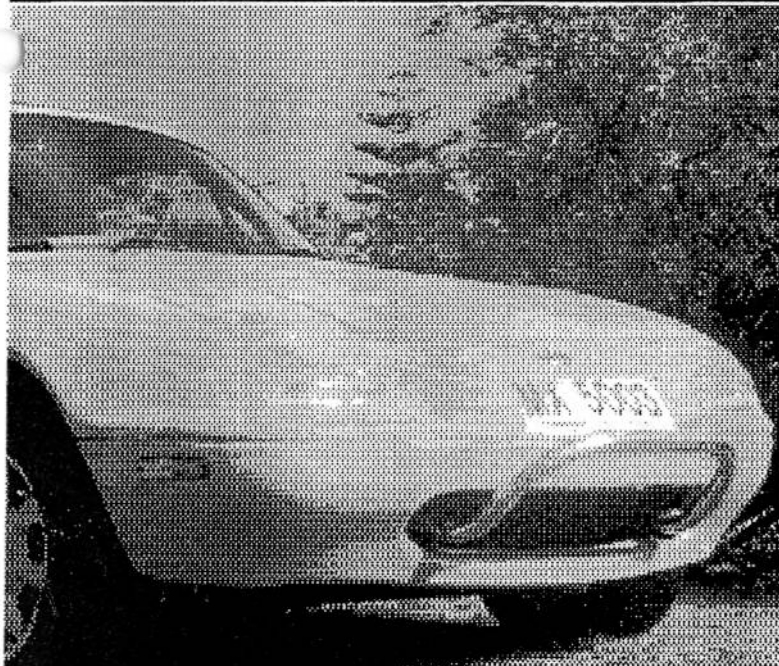
During the night we also signed up 4 new members, including Mr Bob Hall, an American who was one of the people who developed the original concept of the MX-5. We will hear more from Bob in the future.

Frank Johnson, with his usual persuasive talents, managed to convince another two people to attend the National Meeting in Adelaide. The meeting finished at 9.40 pm but a significant amount of interaction continued after the formal meeting, particularly discussing some of the performance equipment with Paul Brell and his team.

We hope that you may be able to get along to the next General Meeting to find out a bit more information about your club and your car, and what we can do to help you enjoy both.

P.S. We have organised a room to take 50 people for the next General Meeting on the 20th April please help us fill it.

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink...



Say no more... The nudge bar fitted to this MX-5 is made from high grade aluminium and are cold stress bent which makes them shock resistant.

They are available freight inclusive at \$240.00 each (multiple orders \$220.00) complete with stainless steel bolts and fitting instructions.

They have proved popular in Tasmania and a great protection for front body panels.

For more information contact Geoff Jacobs at:

JEFFJAY ENTERPRISES Pty. Ltd.

Phone (004) 31 2482 or 45 1196

P.O. Box 376,

BURNIE 7320

Tasmania

Mickey Meets the MX, from front page...

George: (Trying not to sound too fussed about this matter of shaving) *This could be a problem..... I will consult with Colleen and let you know tomorrow.*

Good byes etc..... (Bryan is still laughing)

George thinks..... I have had this moustache since 1979..... lately I have been wondering what I really look like. I've had this thing for so long that I think I was born with it. Bugger it..... I am the Club Captain, duty calls, the wedding is not until March, Colleen won't mind, it's only a moustache, it will grow again, why should I ask Colleen..... it is my face, (by this stage my mind is going at 100 miles an hour), will people laugh at me, Mickey Mouse was one of my favourite characters..... what the heck..... ring Bryan now!..... why wait until tomorrow ?

I phone Bryan..... Bryan has voice mail which says that he is not at his desk (probably coaxing some poor soul into removing his facial hair) so I leave him a message....

Bryan..... this is George..... count me in for the four days..... I WILL SHAVE !!!

MY DIRECT LINE RINGS NOT LONG AFTER THIS.....

Bryan: *George..... this is Bryan (I had this funny feeling it would be him) Did you say that you will have a shave ?*

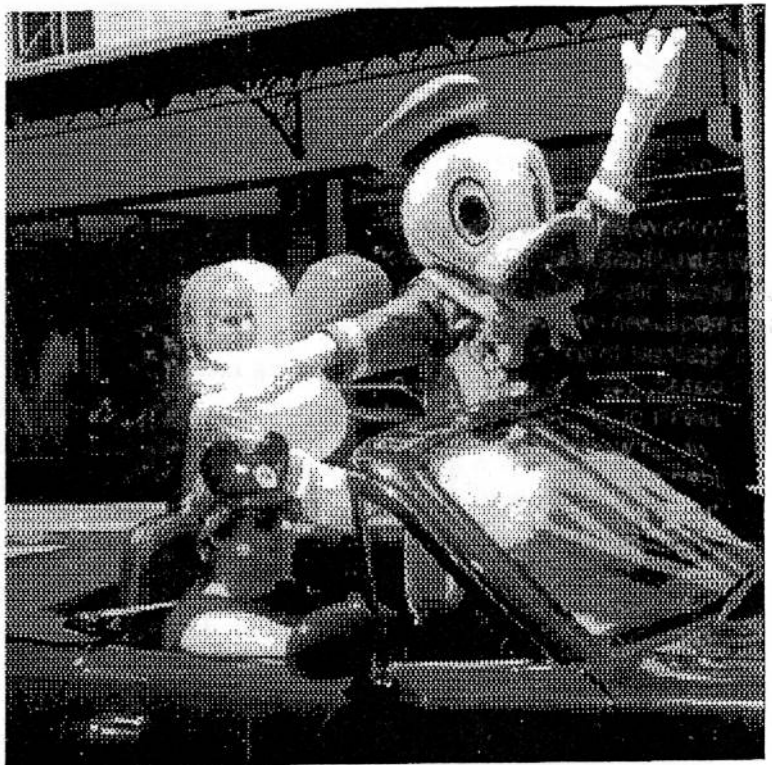
George: Yes (I thought I made it quite obvious on his answering machine, but I guess something like this needs to be double checked)

Bryan: (Amongst laughter) *Are you sure ?..... were'nt you going to check with Colleen ?*

George: *I was, but I've made my mind up. I will be there.*

I finally convinced Bryan that all would be OK and I would be there without my moustache !!

That was one of the days in which I drove Colleen to work. I picked her up as usual but somehow I had to break the news to her that I was going to meet Mickey Mouse (the moustache could wait). The usual conversation took place..... *How was your day? Fine. How was yours? Fine.* Then I told her the big news..... *I am going to meet Mickey*



Toby King with Donald Duck

Mouse. I could not think of any easy way to tell her that for the first time in her life she would meet my top lip..... so I just came out and told her the truth..... that Bryan had forced me into shaving, because I had the only red car that was available on Thursday and Friday therefore I have no choice. (I think Bryan is in big trouble because I've seen Colleen's temper at work !)

Anyway, after a lot of behind the scenes work with Centrepont the parade was organised and all appeared to be under control, I had my shave on Wednesday night and Colleen was not sure whether to laugh or cry (neither was I). The girls at work weren't sure what was different about me and the bank tellers laughed, but I was ready to meet Mickey Mouse.

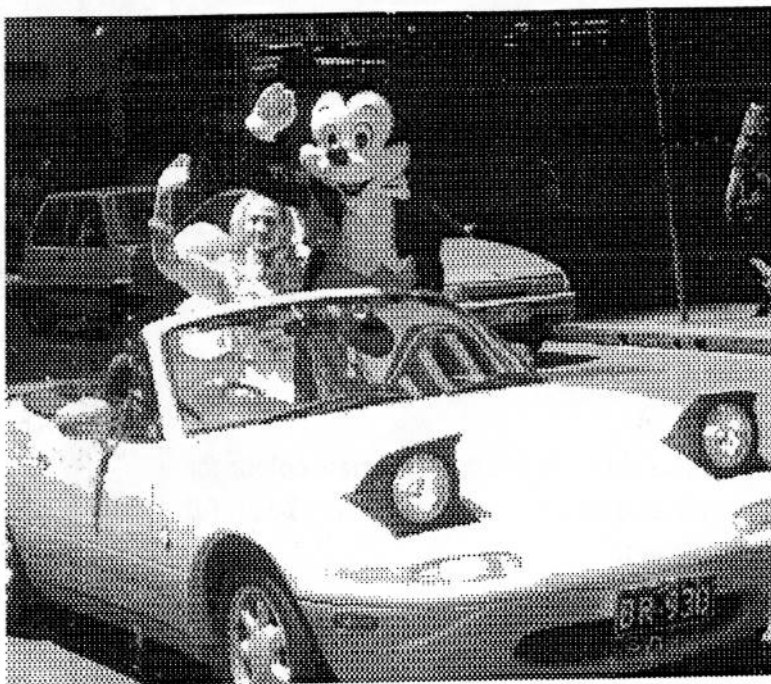
Thursday came and the car had been polished (the first time), but I could not remove the passenger's seat (as I had advised the other drivers). My last socket set had been stolen years ago from another car and had not been replaced, so I purchased a brand new one..... from K-Mart..... made in Taiwan. Bryan and Rolf had told me that it is very easy to remove the seat (I have never done this because Colleen has a hatch back which we use as our truck) so I take the 14ml socket and like all good Taiwanese products it snapped as soon as I put some pressure on it. The seat had to stay as there was no time left to go and abuse the man at K-Mart and get a replacement.

We assembled in the Centrepont loading dock so that the cars could be decorated with balloons and magnetic signs and the drivers could be decorated with Disney T-shirts and Mickey Mouse ears. Toby had trouble convincing Donald Duck that his car was red, but being a clever duck Donald decided that a blue car is still better than walking. Actually Donald's blue uniform looked quite the part in Toby's blue car.

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Mickey Meets the MX, from page 4

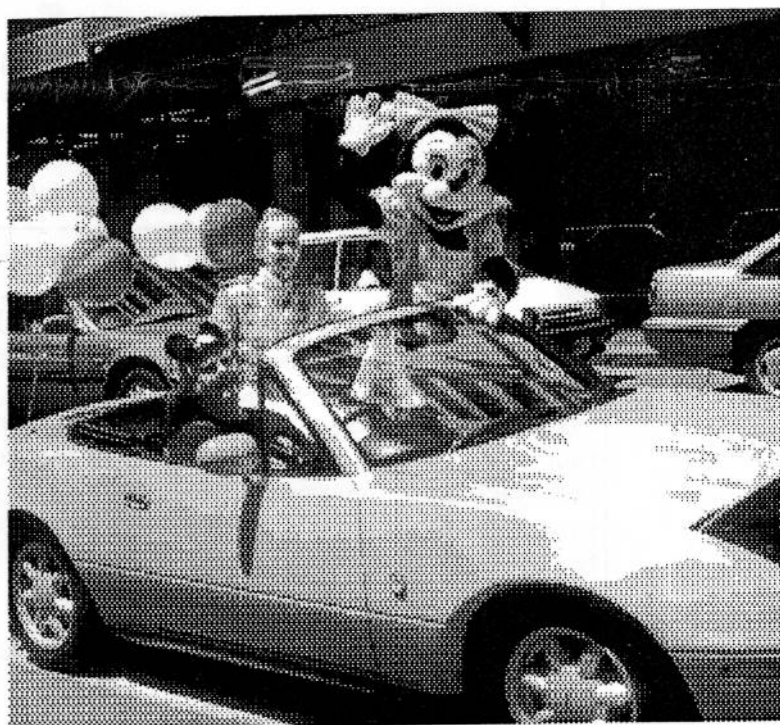
When it came time for the characters to climb aboard they had big feet..... and I (the Club Captain and now one of the main organisers) was the only one who had not removed his seat. I was to have Minnie Mouse because she had delicate feet in comparison to all the others. A little surprise at this moment when we were told that the minders had to travel in the car with the characters:..... 3 people in an MX just does not go. After a few not so polite words with the lady from Disney I decided that I was not going to win this discussion..... the minder would travel with us. The characters stood and held on to the windscreen, which meant that they could wave to all the onlookers, and the minders sat on the rear shelf. Problem solved (but would the local constabulary be so polite if they stopped us....?).



Mickey Mouse and George Russ

The route, which would take about half an hour, was from Centrepont loading dock (which means driving on

but the adults ranged from being a big kid to not even glancing sideways at the parade..... I actually felt sorry for those adults who could not get excited at the sight of four Disney characters travelling in the world's most loved sports car.



Minnie Mouse and Frank Johnson

the Pitt Street Mall to go underneath the building), right into Market Street, left into George Street, past the picture theatres, left into Goulburn Street, left into Pitt Street, right into Park Street, left into Elizabeth Street, left into Hunter Street, left into George Street, left into King Street, (lost yet?) right into Castlereagh Street, right into

Market Street and then back onto the Pitt Street Mall.

The interesting facet was watching the reactions of people as we were driving through the city..... the kids were great, all smiles and totally excited at seeing the four characters,

On the Friday the Bush Fire parade meant that we could not drive on the street, so we drove from the loading dock to the mall and back into the loading dock !!! This day was over in a few minutes..... but we cannot take any glory from the fire fighters.

Thanks go to Tony Armstrong, Frank Johnson, Toby King and Rolf Edler for their assistance and cars in this parade.

(It's OK Bryan, I finally confessed to Colleen that it was my own decision to shave !)

Well... in summary, Centrepont marketing were very happy with our effort and will invite the Club to be involved in future promotions, George shaved off his moustache, Mickey enjoyed himself, Bryan is off the hook, the Club gained some useful exposure and we all had a good time.

In The Driver's Seat

Mike Walkden-Brown was the newest member when he was interviewed and since then has done a quick double shuffle and changed into an enthusiastic, active member with a number of social runs, a sports event, a driving course, newsletter articles to his credit and is a committee member in 1994. In 14 months he has done 37,500 km.

SF: Welcome to the club mike. I notice you've chosen a red car. Why is that?

MWB: Because red is the most appropriate colour for a small two door convertible and is a beautiful classic red.

SF: Does your car have a personality?

MWB: I haven't analysed it yet. It follows my example really.

SF: Now, I know you live on the northern beaches and you've done quite a few kilometres so I'm wondering, are you one of those would-be-waxheads who drive up and down the Serpentine with a surfboard that's never been wet?

MWB: No.

SF: Oh. So what IS your favourite drive?

MWB: Bell's Line of road and, Berowra down to Hawksbury River along the old Pacific Highway.

SF: What is your most memorable MX-perience?

MWB: This is a deep and meaningful question.... Its always fun really.

SF: And what did you drive before the MX-5?

MWB: Motorcycles. The last one was a BMW R75... before that a Bultaco 360 and an Alpina. My last car was an '85 626 coupe.

SF: Well then, what's your most desired vehicle?

MWB: (happily) an MX-5

SF: Do you get to drive as part of your job?

MWB: Unfortunately no. I'm a stationmaster with State Rail.

SF: Are you reading anything at the moment?

MWB: The street directory.

SF: If I could grant you ANY passenger - from the past, present or future - who would you choose?

MWB: Someone really calm and in control.

HISTORIC WINTON

The club has received from the Austin 7 Club two complimentary passes to the 18th Historic Winton.

This year promises to be bigger and better than ever and they are once again running 43 events for the best racing machinery in the country. All classes of historic cars are catered for, from pre-war to 1977 including F5000 and Appendix J sedans.

For further enquiries on this event call
(03) 596 2777 PH/FAX (03) 592 9310 (A/H).

Please contact Bryan Wu if you wish to go. First come, first served. Ph: 451 9985

28th - 29th May, 1994

Winton Motor Raceway
Benalla, Vic.

Sit n'Chat at Pearl Beach

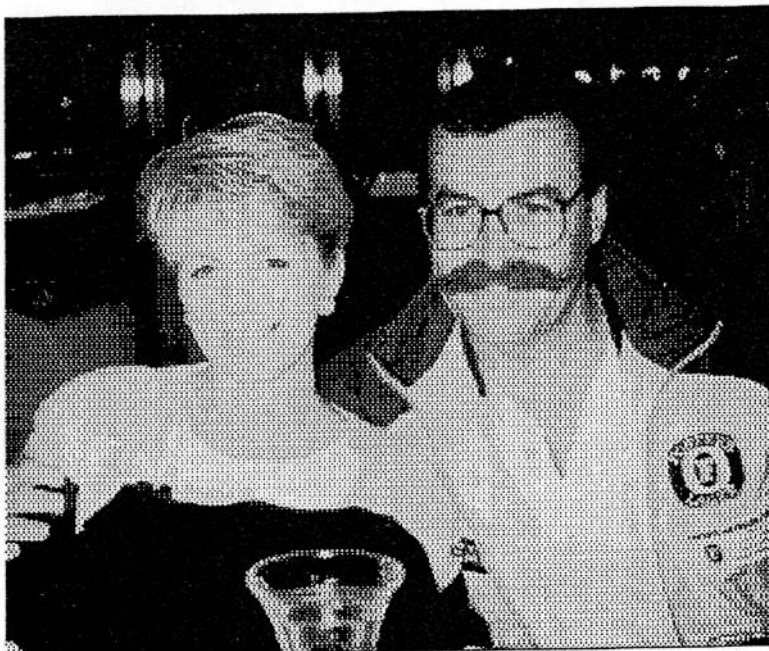
Twenty-one cars lined up at the old Berowra Toll Gates for an early morning drive along the Old Pacific Highway for breakfast at Pearl Beach on the Central Coast.

While the weather threatened to rain us out, we managed to get to Pearl Beach high and dry to eat a hearty breakfast at Sit n'Chat restaurant by the beach. It was good to see that the early morning start and potentially bad weather didn't deter several new members from coming along.

It was also good to see so many people socialising and looking at each other's 'toys' after breakfast. Several cars stayed in the area for the remainder of the day, going on local drives.

This was the first one day run where we used our new two-way radios to control the convoy, and we also split the convoy into two so that newer members, and those that wished to drive a bit more 'sedately', could travel with the second group.

There was a special welcome for Grant George, President of the MX-5 Club of South Australia and the Convenor of the National



SA Club President Grant George and wife Kerrienne



Vice President Paul Heeks and wife Fay

Meet at Easter time, and his wife Kerrienne. They were in Sydney with their car (green Limited Edition S.A. number plate MX-5) for a holiday, and thoroughly enjoyed the outing with us.

Special thanks to Mike Walkden-Brown who organised the run on short notice as the planned twilight run to the Royal National Park had to be cancelled due to the fires.



Steve Remington and friend Melanie

President's BBQ

Ruth Simpson

What better way to start the MX-5 Club year than a friendly get-together?

Saturday, 5th February, was a not so bright and sunny day, but that didn't stop 36-odd (well, not all that odd really...) members and 'passengers' coming along to our house for a casual BBQ. The neighbours wondered what was going on when the street suddenly turned into a Mazda showroom!

It was good to see many new and younger members attending the function.

It wasn't long before the BBQ was smoking, the salads were on the table and everyone was tucking in to perfectly cooked goodies, courtesy of Mr President's culinary skill! Like a lot of males, he's the only person on earth who can really cook a BBQ - just ask him!



L to R. George Russ, Terry Edgton, Toby King & Friend, Chris Campbell, Colleen Russ

People must have enjoyed themselves - even those who were Wu'd (our Treasurer, Bryan Wu, that is) into buying copious quantities of NatMeet '94 raffle tickets ... the first people arrived at 3.00 pm, the last left after midnight!

What's more, for 13 hearty souls the night must not have been enough. They did a quick turn-around and met at the Pasadena, Church Point, for breakfast the next morning.

Thank you to everyone who came along. Special thanks to Jean and Graham Cook, Paula Wu and Elaine Caldwell who helped with catering and organising.



L to R. Laurie Findley, Fay Heeks, Elaine Caldwell, Lea Findley, Paul Heeks, Jean Cook, Anne Lyons, Ron Lyons

The next social function is a theatre evening at the Ensemble Theatre at Milsons Point. Reg Livermore is presenting his one man show 'Wish You Were Here' and the special tickets organised for MX-5 Club members have sold out...a good sign for a great time!

ODD SHOTS

Have you got a photo that is unique, unusual, fantastic, odd situation or just about anything that happened with our club or the MX-5?

Well, why don't you send it in to ODD SHOTS our very own Funny Fotos section.

Peter Stanton, Tony Armstrong and SA President Grant George talk intensely on the intricacies of Grant's BBR Turbo MX-5.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to our Club Captain George Russ who is marrying Colleen Flynn on the 26th March. Four MX-5s will be the bridal cars transporting Colleen, her Bridesmaid (Club Member Trudy McCutcheon) and her parents.

Bryan Wu, our Club Treasurer and Editor, has also announced that he will be marrying Cathy on August 6th.

George follows in the footsteps of a previous Club Captain, Ron Lyons, who married Club Member Anne Kehl last year.

...STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...STOP

BD4's Motorsport is now offering:

5% DISCOUNT on performance bits and widgets for your MX-5. Check out their customer price list (included in this issue of the newsletter) and subtract your special club discount. BD4's offer personal service to the enthusiast and tune your car for optimal performance.

Contact BD4's on 804 6110, ask for Paul Brell or Stephen Soo, They are located at the BP Workshop, 1233 Victoria Rd. West Ryde.

...STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...STOP

Another Milestone for MX-5

It seems only yesterday that we received news from Mazda in Hiroshima that 250,000th MX-5 had rolled off the production line and was heading for Australia. It was exactly one year ago that Mazda Australia hosted a gathering of the Mazda MX-5 Club Presidents to meet that car at the Melbourne Motor Show. Now, just four years and nine months after MX-5 number one rolled off the line, MX-5 number 300,000 has been born. It took only 19 months from the start of production to reach the 100,000 mark, a further 16 months to pass 200,000 and now another 22 months to surpass 300,000. In that time, the MX-5 has received more than 70 major international motoring awards... and the answer to that often-asked question, "How many MX-5s have been sold in Australia?" The total is now 3,780 and going strong

From MX-ACTION, Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria/Tasmania

Members Only

..... it pays to belong!

The following companies have agreed to offer special services and discounts to MAZDA MX-5 Club Members. Please note that you must produce proof of membership by showing your current Club membership card.



Ammon International Pty. Ltd.

Ammon Int'l are professional manufacturers of Car Leather seats. For your MX-5, **two seats in full leather (your choice of colour) for only \$ 975** (semi leather, side and back panels are vinyl for \$850). Door panels can also be leatherised for an additional \$170. All fully installed and three years warranty. Ammon is located at 1 Parramatta Rd. Five Dock. Contact Alex Chien on PH: 716-6749 / 716-6829

A.M.R. Motors. Mazda Service

Free loan vehicle, 10% discount on labour, Free exterior and interior wash and clean. A.M.R. Service is located at 370 Parramatta Rd. Petersham, Contact Dominic or Robert. PH: 569 2844

John Newell Mazda Service

VIP service, Free Loan vehicle. Unit 3,9-13 O'Riordan St, Alexandria. PH: 319 0011

Finishline Car Accessories

Discount MX-5 accessories, free courier delivery. P.O.Box 272, Caulfield South, Victoria 3162. Call Barry Helfenbaum PH: 03 527 6924.

AMG

10% Discounts on body kits, wheels, tyres, sports exhausts & suspension parts. 500 Glenmore Rd. Edgecliff. PH: 3276508. Ask for Simon Stratford or Brian Connell.

IAN LUFF Dynamic Safety Advance Driving

\$25 Discount on Car Control Courses. For details PH: 820 2030

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% discount for MX-5 club members, for reservations and information PH: 049 307246

NB: 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.

Mazda MX-5 Club of N.S.W. 1994 Committee

* President Peter Simpson 419 7125 (home) 898-0655 (bus)	* Secretary Paula Wu 018-866-481 (bus) 451-9985 (home)	* Committee Member Mike Walkden-Brown 412-2697 (bus) 938-6375 (home)
* Vice-President Paul Heeks 533-5411 (bus) 544-1361 (home)	* Treasurer Bryan Wu 925-7271 (bus) 451-9985 (home)	* Competition Secretary Graham Cook 899-6811 (bus) 047-355465 (home)
	* Captain George Russ 369-4499 (bus) 660-3407 (home)	
	* Social Secretary Ruth Simpson 419 7125 (home)	

