

CLUB TALK



Winter 1996

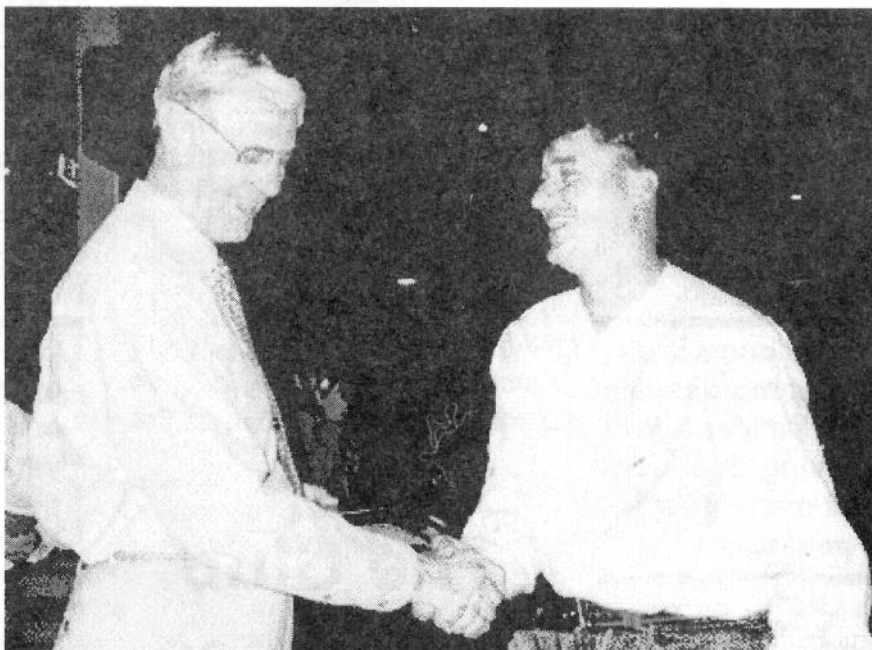
A Quarterly Publication of the MX-5 Club of NSW Inc

Vol 6, No 3

We are the 1996 NatMeet Champions

In atMeet '96 is over. The echo of cheers from the final night celebration in the Lobby Restaurant have subsided, all of the competitors have gone home and settled back into their normal routines, but one thing that came out of NatMeet '96 will not change for at least two years. We are the National Champions. The MX-5 Club of Australia's wheel trophy is ours to keep for at least two years.

Congratulations go to all of those who won prizes, In particular Dave "Speedy" Perin (pictured right) who scooped the pool and earned himself the National Individual Championship. Thank-you also goes to all of those from NSW contributed to the win by participating in events. The biggest congratulations, however, goes to Peter and



Ruth Simpson and the rest of the NatMeet Committee for organising a very memorable event.

Inside this issue there are results, pictures and the story of the tragedy of NatMeet '96. *CT*

The Great Membership Drive Competition Begins

In the last mail out from the club you would have received a copy of the entry form and a number of business cards so that you can participate in the membership drive competition.

The aim of the competition is to convince as many MX-5 owners as possible to join our club. The person who gets the most number of new members will have up to \$50.00 of their 1997 fees paid for them by the club.

The reason for running this competition is to boost the membership base of the club so that we are able to provide better services to all of our members. A larger

member base means that we would be able to do things such as, deliver a better quality newsletter, order different types of club regalia, and better subsidise events like the Christmas and Presentation dinner.

All entrants must remember is that **this competition is based on you keeping your own records**. Every time you place a club business card under an MX-5's windscreen wiper blade or talk to an MX-5 owner or use any other method to convince a new person to join the club you need to record the car's rego number and, if you can, their name on the sheet provided. If you do need more cards or another entry form just contact one of the committee members (see back page). *CT*

SPECIAL NATMEET '96 ISSUE

The President's Word

George Russ

We won!! As you are all aware our team at NatMeet won the National Club Championship. We had a few stars but the effort of each and every person contributed to our win. Thanks and well done.

I can now appreciate the enthusiasm of the people who returned from Adelaide after NatMeet '94. You cannot help but be wound up in the excitement of spending a week with 90 MX-5 nuts. Our next challenge is to retain the Championship in Perth at NatMeet '98. So start saving because we need as many people in WA as possible. If you put away \$20 per week starting now you

Our next challenge is to retain the Championship in Perth at NatMeet '98, so start saving because we need as many people in WA as possible.

will have about \$2000 by the time you will need to go to Perth!

On the local scene all has been motoring along as usual except for a few hiccups with the rain. It is good for the garden, but not good for riding in a roadster!

I hope you are all out trying to drum up new members. Remember that the Committee has decided to give away a membership renewal for the member who is most active in recruiting new members. At the moment we have about 150 members but I think the Club would benefit greatly if we had about 200.

Recently I met with Phil Clark, Manager NSW, Mazda and I am pleased to report that Mazda is very supportive of the Club and our activities. There has been a great deal of interest in the proposed MX-5 racing series for 1997. As soon as I have some more information from Mazda I will let you know.

See you soon. CT

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The Club Welcomes

Faye Heek

Vito Ricci

Rick Fischer

**lets see more names
here after the
membership
competition!!!**

This Is Your Captain Speaking

Tony Buon

II hope you have enjoyed this years MX-5 runs and social drives. This year we have already had several runs. The Bridges of Sydney Run (19 cars), Riverside Oaks Seafood Lunch Run (20 cars), Reptile Park Drive (17 cars), Zig Zag Railway (12 cars) and the Dural / Motorkhana Run (15 cars). We also participated in the Eastern Creek Classic Rally in January (10 cars). Special thanks to our tour leaders Caitlin, Steve and Melanie, Mike, and Ed and Patsy.

As I previously stated, one of my aims this year is to encourage many more members to take part in and help

One exciting upcoming event is this years week-end run in October. This year we will be going to the beautiful area of Mudgee / Gulgong.

organise runs. To date this has been a great success and many people have come forward to organise their first run. If you are interested in getting involved in organising a run please give me a call. Also if you are a bit unsure about doing it by yourself - possibly you should consider co-leading a run. Let me know if you're interested and I'll match you up with a like minded person.

One exciting forthcoming event is this years week-end run in October. This year we will be going to the beautiful area of Mudgee / Gulgong. The prices for the weekend will be only \$65 per person (Dinner / Bed / Breakfast) - numbers will be limited so if you are interested fill-out the early-bird registration flyer in this issue.

Hope to see you on the next run. CT

From the Editor's Dashboard...



Hhe middle of the year has now passed and the days are getting longer. It won't be long now before roadster friendly weather is upon us and our Sunday drive will stop being rained out.

In this issue there is an article about accessing MX-5 related resources on the internet. To follow up that article I would like to let our members know that we are currently negotiating with the other Australian MX-5 clubs to set up a World Wide Web (WWW) site for all MX-5 Clubs in Australia.

The NSW club have registered the domain name of MX5.COM.AU. A registered domain name is the internet's equivalent of a registered business name so know one else in the world can jump in and use this name. If our negotiations are successful, every Australian club will have a international presence on the WWW. This will allow them to advertise their existence to potential members, allow people who want to

become members join up on-line, and provide on-line services for existing members (eg on-line newsletters, event fliers, run-sheets, etc).

By the next issue of Club Talk will be able to give you more information on the status of our very own internet site.

As I close my column for this issue I would like to make a few thank-yous. Firstly, thank-you to those members who rang and made positive comments about the recent issue of Club Talk. It is nice know that people appreciate the work that you do. Secondly, I would like to thank Jean Cook for contributing articles to the last two issues. Hopefully there a few other members out there who will take her lead and contribute to future issues. Finally, thank-you to Melanie, Club Talk's new "assistant editor", for doing a lot of the typing of articles in this issue and proof-reading the final product so that you can read a magazine that is mistake free. **CT**

Dash Lights

Edited By Steve Remington

Quotable Quote

"My MX-5 is a lot more faithful than my boyfriend." - Another MX-5 owner living in Jean Cook's unit block.

Would you believe it?

The *Dash Lights* spies, while driving around the St George area, saw a certain MX-5 Car Club President riding in the back seat of an automatic Ford Capri. I wonder how he could bring himself to do such a horrible thing.

Collect Your New Name Badges

There are still some name badges to be collected. Please see Steve Remington at the next club run to pick them up. If you would like a name badge for any non-members that regularly attend runs or meetings you can order and pay for them (\$5.00) from any one of the committee members at any of the runs or meetings.

Biggest Thing Carried in an MX-5

A recent thread on the MX-5 mailing list asked the following question - What is the biggest thing you've ever carried in your MX-5? Some of the answers were: Two 6 foot tall pine trees in pots; A 63cm TV in the front seat; and; one brave respondent said that the biggest thing ever carried was his mother-in-law

From the Miami Herald...

Some female models were doing a photo shoot on South Beach yesterday for a fitness magazine. They were posing in spandex lycra, wearing in-line skates, safety equipment, etc etc etc. One of the models noticed that somebody was breaking into her Miata, which was parked on a nearby street corner!

Well, you guessed it, the models took off on their in-line skates and ran the thief down. They knocked him flat on his ass, and SAT on him, until a beat cop arrived on the scene to take him to his just rewards (the suspect was found in possession of the many different credit cards).

Coming Events

Club events scheduled for the next three months.

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

Sunday 21 July '96 - South Coast. Jamberoo Recreation Park and spit roast lunch. Must book and pay \$26.00 / person by 12 July '96. (Leader: George Russ).

Sunday 18 August '96 - Hunter Region. Longer run with catered BBQ lunch. Cost \$10 / person. (Leader: Jeff Gehrig).

Saturday 31 August '96 - Social event. Details to be advised. (Organiser: Sylvia Tikelis).

Sunday 15 September '96 - Club Concour de Elegance. Venue to be advised. (Leader: Peter and Ruth

Simpson).

Saturday-Sunday 26-27 October '96 - Mudgee-Gulgong. Weekend run. Cost approximately \$65 per person for Dinner, bed and breakfast. (Leader: Tony and Caitlin Buon).

Saturday 16 November '96 - Royal National Park. Evening run. (Leader: Paul and Faye Heeks).

Saturday 30 November '96 - Club presentation night and christmas party. Venue to be advised. **CT**

Sports Torque

Edited By Steve Remington

Peter Stanton, the regular writer of Sports Torque, was unable to contribute a column for this issue due to a family illness. As a replacement, we have an update on the upcoming eight round MX-5 racing series as mentioned in a letter from Allan Horsley, Mazda's National Motorsport Manager, in the last issue of Club Talk. The update is courtesy of the Queensland MX-5 Club Newsletter, Ragtop Review:

An MX-5 Racing Series in Australia?

"Mazda Australia's withdrawal from Australian production car racing (the RX-7 SPs - Ed) has not dampened the company's enthusiasm for a motor sport involvement, with well advanced plans for an MX-5s one-make series currently on the drawing board for next year.

Mazda Motorsport boss Allan Horsley confirmed this week he is currently drafting a new set of technical regulations for the new category and has been enthused by strong competitor interest.

"These MX-5s will be proper racing cars that people can play about with a bit, but will still be affordable to run".

"We don't want it to be a strict showroom-spec series like the Suzuki GTIs and Mazda 121s" Horsley said. "These MX-5s will be proper racing cars that people can play about with a bit, but will still be affordable to run".

All cars are expected to race on a control slick racing tyre. Engine modifications and freedom of suspension are also planned as well as removal of interior trim. The convertible MX-5s will also run a substantial roll cage and a compulsory hardtop roof.

Horsley said the series would require a return to competitors building and

preparing the cars rather than the current one-make series practice of buying a car fully prepared by the promoters.

There is a possibility Mazda Motorsport may make "stripper" cars available at a reduced price which competitors could then build into race cars, but Horsley said that idea - and many other details - were yet to be finalised.

"Judging by the number of enquires we've had so far - including some from the few name drivers - I wouldn't be surprised if we could attract a field of 30 cars," he said. CT

Are you an MX-5 Nut?

Author's Name

Here's a test to determine the extent to which you are an "MX-5 Nut". Answer the questions and tally up your score according to the points scale given on Page 9. Several answers may be correct, however, only answer the one that best fits your personal profile.

1. The front number plate on a MX-5 is:
 - a) for all law abiding citizens
 - b) required in most states
 - c) to help people identify their MX-5 at a group gathering
 - d) for sissies
2. Other people I let drive my MX-5 are:
 - a) car park attendants
 - b) the service technician at the dealership
 - c) my spouse
 - d) only those who aren't afraid to die when I catch them
3. The wheels I have on my MX-5 are:
 - a) OEM steel wheels
 - b) OEM alloy wheels
 - c) Alloy wheels from Limited Edition Models
 - d) the most unique aftermarket wheels I could find/afford
4. The Tie-down hooks on my MX-5 are for:
 - a) towing
 - b) stability and balance
 - c) the attachment of parade decorations
 - d) "tie-down hooks? What tie down

hooks?"

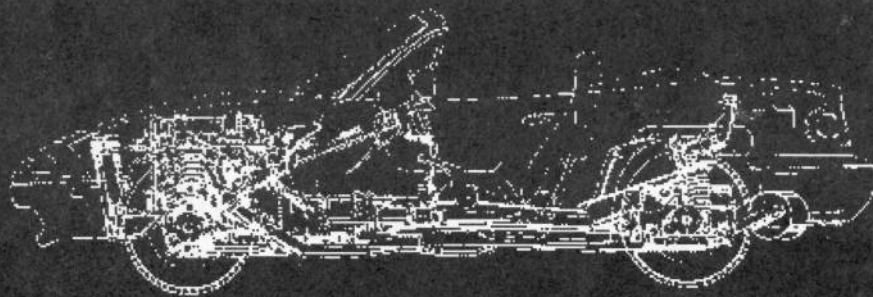
5. I raise the bonnet of my MX-5:
 - a) only to check the oil once in awhile
 - b) to refill my washer fluid bottle
 - c) to clean and polish the engine bay
 - d) almost daily to tweek the ignition timing
6. Before I lower the top, I always:
 - a) check for rain
 - b) fetch the boot
 - c) unzip the rear window and slide it into my window protector
 - d) "My top is ALWAYS down!"
7. "Miata.Net" is:
 - a) a huge road block used by police to catch speeding MX-5s
 - b) a Japanese underground spy network
 - c) a group of MX-5 owners who correspond with an electronic mailing list on the internet
 - d) my life, my home, my all
8. Boot space in a MX-5:
 - a) is pretty cramped for my needs
 - b) is large enough if I plan well
 - c) is big enough for my suntan lotion
 - d) barely big enough to hold my sub-woofer
9. I've spent the following dollar amount on after market equipment:
 - a) I loved my MX-5 just the way it came from the factory.
 - b) \$50 - \$100
 - c) I could have purchased another MX-5 by now
 - d) my children will inherit the debt when I die
10. The MX-5 club:
 - a) just sends out newsletters
 - b) has seen me at a few events
 - c) has seen me regularly at meetings and events
 - d) has elected me to the committee
11. I have purchased the following MX-5 products that don't belong on the car:
 - a) "They make these?"
 - b) An MX-5 T-shirt and a cap
 - c) A scale model MX-5
 - d) The "MX-5" tennis shoes by Reebok
12. I have driven my MX-5:
 - a) to work and back
 - b) in a parade or two
 - c) in some motorkhanas

(Continued on page 11)

Inside Your MX-5

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

Edited By Steve Remington



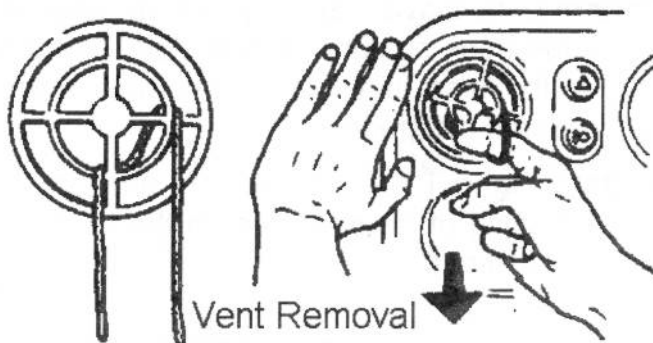
In this edition of Inside Your MX-5 looks at a simple solution to common but mysterious problem that effects the standard radio / cassette player. This article and diagrams come from the 1996 Technical Issue of the Miata Magazine.

Do-It-Yourself Radio Fix

If your standard AM/FM MX-5 radio does not always turn on, there's a simple "no cost" fix that almost anyone can do. Radio switch failures on MX-5s are a somewhat common problem, as reported in MX-5 circles. As the cars age, the problem often occurs in high-humidity conditions and may occur when the car has not been used for several days. It appears to be a mysterious fault that comes and goes, but there is a cure.

The Cause

Through disassembly of the radio and lengthy experimentation, it has been determined that the radio's turn-on problem results when a minuscule amount of moisture forms between the bottom of the rear socket on the radio and the printed circuit board is mounted on. When any detectable amount of condensation forms on the printed circuit board, a conductive path is produced between it and an unused pin in the socket. The condensation path allows positive voltage to reach the pin. The circuit associated with this pin is a very high-impedance one that, if allowed to go positive, prevents the radio's turn-on.



This type of printed circuit board problem generally becomes worse over time, due to the greater conductivity of water when it is mixed with dust. The "fix" outlined below ties this sensitive pin to "ground" and prevents it from going positive. This may not be the most professional repair of the radio's design problem, but it is one that anyone can do for free (not counting the cost of a very short piece of wire).

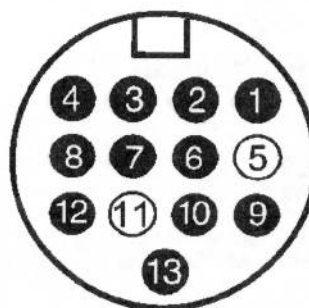
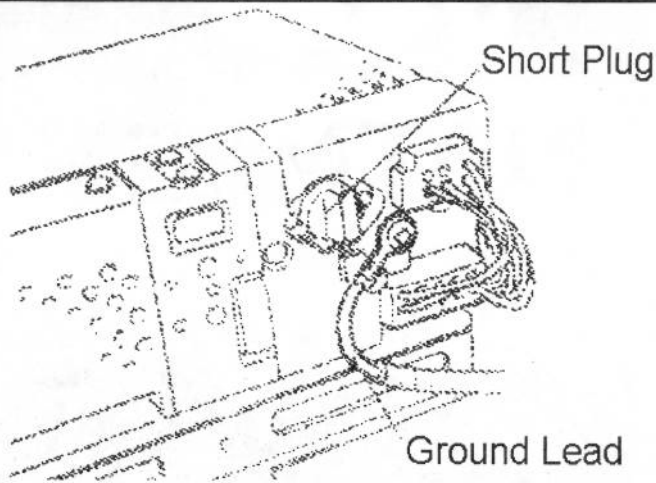
The Cure

The most difficult part of the repair is getting the radio out of the car, which isn't all that bad. Follow the diagrams shown here. Start with the centre console, first removing the gearshift console and then taking out the radio/heater control panel. The latter begins with the removal of the two air vent eyelets. This is best performed via the use of a "J" hook made of soft wire as shown in the illustration below-left.

The first step is to remove the radio. If your radio has a security code, write it down before you remove it. Pull out the round black plastic plug on the back of the unit with the finger-hold black plastic loop. After you remove the plug, look down inside the exposed hole and

you'll see four metal pins. This plug is called the "short plug" as shown in the illustration.

Next, you'll need a piece of bare solid wire to make a jumper connection into the black socket on the back of the



radio, between holes #5 and #11. The wire's gauge (wire diameter) to the metal hole size in the plastic plug you removed - it's about 20 gauge. Bend the jumper wire in a "U" shape with sharp 90° angles. The bottom width of the "U" should match the spacing between socket pins #5 and #11: approximately 5.1mm. The sides of the "U" forming the connection should each be about 7.6mm long.

Press the U-shape jumper wire you made all the way down into holes #5 and #11 of the radio's socket and replace the "short plug". You've just fixed the "switch-on" radio problem.

The hole numbers are labelled on the radio's socket, but you may need a magnifying glass and good light to see them. Looking at the radio, top-up from the back, hole #5 (ground) is the socket hole on the far right, centre row. Pin #11 is on the bottom row, second from the left. The workshop manual says pin #11 is "NC" (no connection). However, inside the radio it's not.

That's all there is to it! Put the radio back in place and re-install the plastic consoles. Remember not to tighten the console mounting screws too tightly: The plastic will crack easily if the screws are too tight, usually when the weather gets cold. **CT**

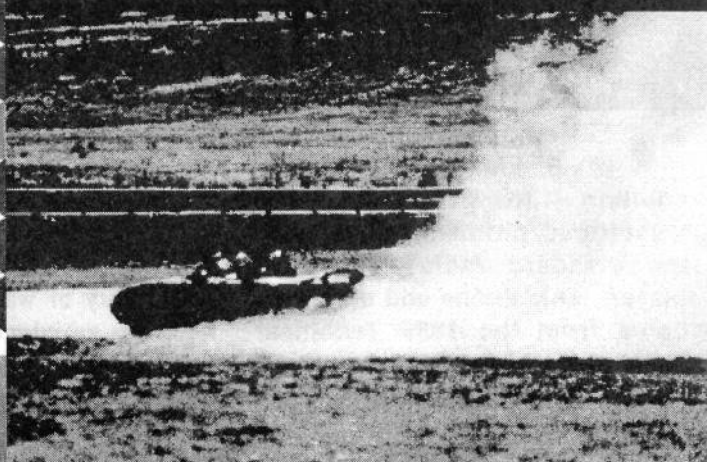
MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

MAZDA MX-5 NATMEET

CANBERRA '96

Photo Gallery

Edited By Steve Remington



Top Right: Lance once again demonstrates that he has shares*in all tyre manufacturers. Here he is captured on film doing one of his many spins on the NatMeet race day.

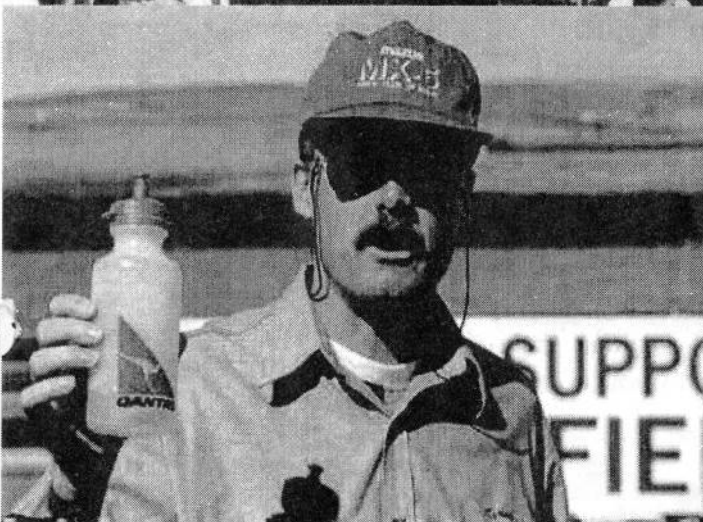
Middle Left: A row of MX-5s and the very cold owners taking in the sights of an Autumnal Canberra before heading off to the Canberra Yacht Club for a buffet breakfast.

Middle Right: Steve Remington accepts his runners certificate for the Concours Modified

category from Peter Simpson and Phil Clark (State Manager Mazda NSW).

Bottom Left: Dave "Speedy" Perin speeds along the back straight of Wakefield Park on one of the laps that led to him winning his Super Sprint category.

Bottom Right: Three competitors line up for the beginning of their session on the track for the Super Sprint.



Top Left: Dave Perin and Anne Lyons receive their runners-up certificate for the Concours Championship from Peter Simpson and Phil Clark (State Manager Mazda NSW).

Top Left: Diana du Cros (one of NatMeet's international visitors) is jubilant in winning the runners-up certificate for the Novelty Track Events.

Middle Left: A group of NatMeet-ers enjoying a cruise on Lake Burley-Griffin in beautiful

Autumn weather.

Middle Right: Steve Remington returning from his stint on the track at the Wakefield Park race day.

Bottom Left: Our illustrious President, George Russ, taking a drink break while officiating at the Wakefield Park race day.

Bottom Right: Our club Captain, Tony Buon, in control of the pit are at the Wakefield Park Race Day.

And The Winner of the NatMeet '96 Burn-Out Competition Is...

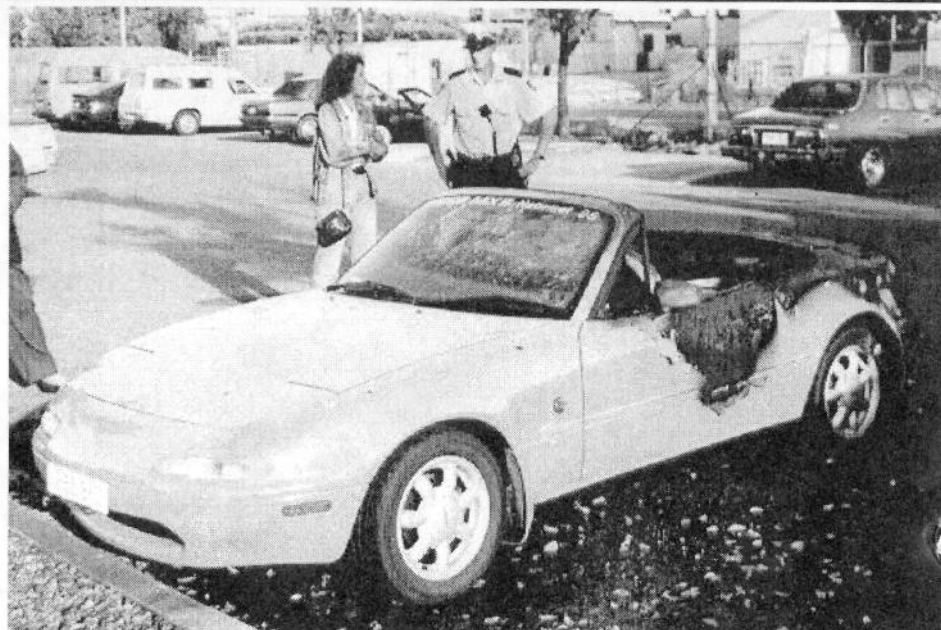
David and Eleanor Lydon (MX-5 Club of Queensland)

On Monday, 1st April and in company with about 50 other MX-5's Eleanor and I set off in convoy to participate in the Natmeet Concours. We didn't win and didn't expect to but neither did we envisage the disaster that was meted out to us in the afternoon.

Concourse concluded, we intended to buy some film and have a quick look around Canberra before returning to our accommodation. We parked the car in an open air car park in Canberra beside another sedan and headed off with Mike Ovens and Kate to find a bank to rob, an ice cream parlour and buy some film for our cameras. Having made our purchases we decided to walk around our nation's capital and soak up the atmosphere as we had each paid the princely sum of 50 cents for an hour's parking.

Getting closer to where we parked our cars, we saw a lemon yellow fire engine, (not nearly as nice as Malibu Gold) and a few wisps of smoke. Mike asked if I was parked near the fire engine. "Yes", I replied, and we walked on not knowing what to expect. It was the worst - 385-BKZ, "*Mucous*" to some, and "*Old Yella*" to others - had been burnt out by an exploding gas cylinder in the truck upwind and next door. A one-in-a-million chance but it happened. Eleanor and I are very lucky we weren't in the car at the time of the explosion.

MX-5's appeared out of nowhere and the support - together with the bad jokes



- very quickly got us laughing and our minds off our loss; the Queenslanders and others back at the village appeared with drinks under their arms, and a spontaneous wake took place with more bad one liners and very kind words for us.

Later that evening, and thinking the whole thing, I thought, "nothing has changed" as I had similar feelings a few years earlier when I peeled a tyre off the rim at Lakeside. Again the response was instantaneous as were the bad jokes. Eleanor didn't go through that one as she was making ready for a twin 21st birthday party and had graciously allowed me to get to hell out of our home for the day and when I returned

she enquired 'how did it go' and I responded 'fine until I had a bit of a spin.' She saw that I had all limbs intact and then asked if I would help carry a tray of savouries out to our guests, and there that matter rested.

The Canberra problem wasn't dismissed as easily as she was there and facts couldn't be disguised.

The car is a write off and I thank all at Natmeet who offered their cars for me to drive, there were many, and in some instances insisted with terrific sincerity:- some of our NSW friends almost wouldn't take no for an answer. Thank you NSW for your sincere support, we are both still shaking our heads and coming back to reality.

The future is looking good. The bad jokes from the Queenslanders didn't stop at our committee meeting a couple of nights ago and Joe Camilleri, of Grand Prix Mazda is helping by getting extremely keen prices on both new and second hand MX-5's, John Kirk, the Parts Manager is obtaining costs for, LSD's, tonneau covers, floor mats etc and Loch Stewart, being a canny Scot has already asked for a 'deposit' for his induction and exhaust modifications. Mal Gay, the manager of our panel shop is geared up to repaint my hardtop from Malibu Gold to whatever.



(Continued on page 13)

NatMeet '96 Results

Information supplied by Peter Simpson (NatMeet '96 President)

Top 10 Cool Things...

From The Top Five E-Mail List

The Top 10 Cool Things About owning a car that goes faster than the speed of light are...

- 10) You can sleep 'til noon. Still get to work by 8:00am!
- 9) The doppler shift makes all red traffic lights look green.
- 8) You are never in the car long enough to hear an entire Madonna song.
- 7) Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking keep bugging you for a ride to work.
- 6) You can stop worrying about being sucked into a black hole while driving home from work.
- 5) That kangaroo in your headlights is actually behind you.
- 4) Can make a fortune delivering pizza with the slogan "It's there before you order or it's free!"
- 3) Your car makes it from Hollywood to London fast enough so as not to arouse suspicions of Elizabeth Hurley.
- 2) License plate: "Me=mc2"
- 1) The women really like it. CT

Source: Top Five E-Mail List Sponsored by Windows Sources Magazine

Scoring the MX-5 Nut Quiz

Here is the scoring for the MX-5 Nut Quiz. Score your answers as follows:

(a) = 1 point; (b) = 2 points; (c) = 3 points; (d) = 4 points.

Your rating as an MX-5 Nut is as follows:

0-15 Points

We have to question whether you actually own an MX-5.

16-30 Points

You have probably just bought your car are yet to know well enough.

31-45 Points

You are a true MX-5 enthusiast. You enjoy your car but have other interests.

46-60 Points

You are obviously and obsessive fanatic and love your car more than life itself.

Major Prize Winners

Prize	Winner	Runner-Up
Club Championship	New South Wales	-
Individual Championship	Dave Perin (NSW)	Ian Lewis (WA)
Concours d'Elegance Championship	Steve Remington (NSW)	Anne Lyons (NSW) Dave Perin (NSW)
Track Performance Championship	Ian Lewis (WA)	Ed McCaul (SA)
Club Magazine Championship	Queensland	

Track - Hill Climb

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
1. Mod Car / Exp Driver	Ian Lewis WA	Roger Trethewey SA
2. Turbo Charged Car	Grant George SA	Kerriane George SA
3. Std Car / Exp Driver	Ed McCaul SA	Chris Campbell NSW
4. Mod Car / Nov Driver	Dave Perin NSW	Darren Worth NSW
5. Std Car / Nov Driver	Alan Towie SA	Louis Serret NSW

Track - Super Sprint

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
1. Mod Car / Exp Driver	Ian Lewis WA	Roger Trethewey SA
2. Turbo Charged Car	Grant George SA	Kerriane George SA
3. Std Car / Exp Driver	Ed McCaul SA	Chris Campbell NSW
4. Mod Car / Nov Driver	Dave Perin NSW	Darren Worth NSW
5. Std Car / Nov Driver	Louis Serret NSW	Stephen Kovacs QLD
Novelty Events	Anne Lyons NSW	Diana du Cros NSW

Concours de Elegance

Class	Winner	Runner-Up
1600 Standard	Anne Lyons NSW	Colin Caldwell NSW
1800 Standard	Tony Buon NSW	Jim Thomas VIC
Limited Editions	Jean Cook NSW	Paul Heeks NSW
Modified	Dave Perin NSW	Steve Remington NSW
Customised	Ian Lewis WA	Grant George SA
People's Choice	Dave Perin WA	Stephen Kovacs QLD



On A Sunday Drive



■ he first issue of "On A Sunday Drive" is brought to you by our intrepid foreign correspondent Jean Cook who travelled to North America to participate in the "Covered Bridges of Lancaster County" run.

Last month, I was lucky enough to be able to attend a run in the US. I was visiting Canada for a family wedding, and had some friends to visit in the Eastern US. I had seen on the internet that a NatMeet was going to be held in Toronto, no date was given, so I posted a notice requesting some info. A response duly arrived, which indicated that it would be in July, and unfortunately not when I was going to be there. I then was informed that his home club was having a run on the 8th of June. It was to be a combined run with the PACE (Pennsylvania Central) Miata Club, and was to be the Covered Bridges of Lancaster County. Having not long ago seen the movie "The Bridges of Madison County", and secretly hoped to find the DelVal (Delaware Valley) equivalent of Clint Eastwood, I then arranged my schedule to be in Philadelphia for the run.

I met up with the club as arranged, in the

parking area of the Valley Forge National Park, in a suburb of Philadelphia called King of Prussia. As usual there were the early birds, carefully polishing up their cars, the late arrivals rushing in just as we were about to leave, and the crowd standing around looking at some new addition under the 'hood'. My driver turned out to be fairly close to Clint Eastwood, but my son James, was sadly disappointed when the requested young single blonde did not materialize and he had to ride with a police officer from Philly. We had to drive from the meeting point to the Toyota / Mazda dealer in Lancaster, which is about an hour's drive along the Turnpike. There we met up with the PACE miata club, and were able to socialize while having a hot dog lunch provided by the dealership. At that point there were about 97 cars, of all different colours, but again, predominantly red. There were two darker shades of blue, one of which was almost a navy, and a dark metallic blue, which were lovely. My favourite turned out to be the Merlot, which is very dark metallic purple, with tan roof and tan seats. It looked almost as nice as my new green. It seems that this was the current years Limited Edition. The

clubs had set up stands for selling merchandise, and I must confess to being not able to resist buying a t-shirt, and my favourite, a miata watch. The dealer was also selling accessories at a 15% discount, as well as donating a CD player, a pair of scuff plates, and a hat as prizes for the draw at the end of the run. (I think we need to talk to Mazda Australia about that).

As there were so many of us there, we were divided into three different groups and started 20 minutes apart. We drove through Lancaster, which is a very picturesque small country town, in a farming community. It is the centre of the Amish Pennsylvania Dutch religious sect. They are a group of European immigrants, who arrived in the New World to escape religious persecution in their own country. It is amazing to see that they have managed to maintain their traditional values in this modern age. They wear black or dark colours, long dresses for the women, who also cover their hair, the men have beards, and wear large brimmed hats. They do not have electricity in their farms, do not have tractors or mechanised equipment on the farms. They drive around in

(Continued on page 13)

The Mazda Moo-ata

(Source: Miata.Net World Wide Web Page)

You may recall in Dash Lights of the Summer '96 issue of Club Talk I mentioned the cow coloured Miata (or was that Mooata). Well, just to prove that it was not a joke we have a photo and short interview with the owner.

Why is your car cow painted?
Just for fun.

Who painted her?

She was a white Miata. I realized she was a cow at heart. My friend Patti put me in touch with Woody Jackson. I asked him to help reveal the Holstein within my car. Woody offered



to paint a model car, so I built a 1/24th scale Miata, and Woody generously designed the scheme. I based my work on his scheme, simplifying it somewhat.

I masked out the patterns with a vinyl tape, filled in the broad regions with masking tape, sprayed her black and when removed the masking, I had a cow car! I suppose you could call it a "Clear-Over-Fur" finish.

Why does the license say HOW-NOW?

The truth is that I asked for "MILK-ME" but the Registry people canned it. I see HOW-

NOW as reflecting a confident air that says, "I'm a cow car and I feel good about it. Who are YOU?". The subtext, however, remains "Milk me!" **CT**

Going For A Virtual Drive

Steve Remington

Are You an MX-5 Nut?

(Continued from page 4)

- d) at the racetrack and against any V-8 on the street

13. When I drive my MX-5 in the rain with the top down, I:

- a) would NEVER do this
- b) stop under the nearest cover to put the top up
- c) hope it stops pretty soon
- d) go faster to stay dry

14. In the winter time, I:

- a) store my MX-5
- b) put on my hardtop
- c) drive around with the soft top up most of the time
- d) put the top down...who cares about hypothermia

15. A VooDoo knob is:

- a) a Haitian icon that puts a hex on the owner
- b) too hot for summer use
- c) nicer than the OEM knob
- d) minimum standard equipment, along with the VooDoo grip.

See Page 9 to see how well you scored.
CT

It's Sunday afternoon and you had planned to go for a quick top-down drive along your favourite stretch of road but the weather is too cold and wet. What are you going to do?. Don't despair...the wonders of modern technology and the internet mean that you can go for a virtual drive instead.

This article is for all those people who may have just started "surfin' the 'net" and want to know if there is any information out there about MX-5s.

The first and best starting point is Miata.Net. Miata.Net is a World Wide Web site (or home page) set up for and run by MX-5 owners. It is like a virtual car club - in fact, they call it the "Miata Club of the Earth".

Miata.Net is one of the best web sites that I have ever used. There are many places to visit once you get to the home page. There is "The Garage", on-line catalogues from US mail-order parts and accessories suppliers, stories from other owners, an archive of the mailing list, and links to many other car related sites. The get to Miata.Net all you need to do

(assuming you have access to the internet and the WWW) is point your WWW browser to the address:

www.miata.net

The next best source of information is the mailing list or listserver. By subscribing to this mailing list you will receive an enormous number of e-mail messages from MX-5 owners about all things related to MX-5s.

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to:

listserv@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu

and put "subscribe miata NAME" in the body of the message where "NAME" is your name (leave the subject blank.).

When you have subscribed you will receive a message from the listserver that describes where to send the messages and the options you have.

One final source of MX-5 information is Compuserve's MIATAVILLE forum. I do not use Compuserve but you could contact committee members Tony Buon or Jean Cook for information on how to connect to MIATAVILLE. CT

What Colour is The Devil's Miata?

Greg Reed (Miata Club of America)

Given that the last issue of Club Talk enlightened you by informing you that God's MX-5 was actually BRG. I decided that in the interests of journalistic and religious balance, I would search the globe to find out exactly what is the colour of Satan's MX-5 (Ed. I also hoped that Red MX-5s would be preferred at least by Satan...like what other colour would it be). Once again the all seeing, all knowing internet provided me with the answer. Greg Reed gives us the answer...

There is an old witch who lives in a deep wooded area of West Virginia. She practices the black arts and is on a first name basis with "The Bad One".

Upon reading about the colour of God's Miata I decided to find out the colour of "The Evil One's" Miata. I took my Bible in hand and placed my soul in the Lord's hands and proceeded to hike to

her residence. As I approached her residence I could feel the evil pressing down. The air was stagnant and had the odor of decaying flesh.

I approached the door to her house and it opened as I was about to knock. There before me stood the hag with a crooked nose and warts on her face. She was wearing what appeared to be a human skin cloak. Her teeth were rotted and her nails were long and curled with filth underneath. She gave an evil laugh.

I stood my ground and advised her I needed information. She was impressed with my boldness and told me to state my question. I asked what vehicle the Devil had picked as his favorite. She looked at me with a cruel smile and said, "You are wise to be aware of the machine that motivates my master when he roams the earth." I could tell that what she was disclosing was of the utmost importance to citizens everywhere. She continued, "In every

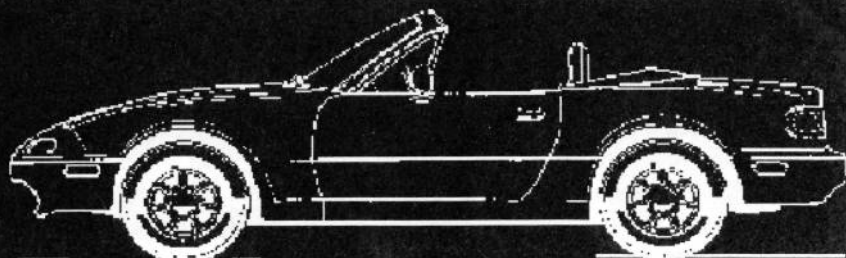
country he chooses a different automobile for his works.

In this country he prefers to drive a Honda Civic. Some cars are inherently evil in their nature and are more suited to his need." I then asked if in any country he preferred a Mazda Miata. She reeled as if in pain. "No! No! No!" she said, "He would NEVER drive ONE OF THOSE!". She told me that the "car which she could not name" had so much love and beauty about it that it brought terror to Satan's followers. Her eyes were wide in fright as she spouted these words. I, with a gleam in my eye, left her residence and got back home and inform my fellow Miata-ites that their car was wonderful and "Good"!

Well now we know both sides of the story. I did not get my wish but I'm relieved in a way because I would not be comfortable driving my red MX-5 knowing that it was "Evil". CT

Going Topless

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



This issue's victim...oops I mean club member being interviewed for *Going Topless* is Trudy McCutcheon. Trudy is renowned for paying people to wash her car and using it primarily for transporting wine from her trips to the vineyards. Our hard hitting questions have revealed the real Trudy...

Why did you buy an MX-5?

Because Chris Campbell told me to...and he didn't even have an MX-5 at the time! It was 1990, I was "car-less" and my only mode of transport was taxis. Chris told me to spend some of my hard-earned cash on an MX-5 so I did it (Ed. Chris next time you're talking to Trudy could you tell her to spend some of her hard-earned cash on a new extractor and free-flow exhaust system for my car).

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

It used to have the delightful number

plate of PUM-157, so "PUM" it was for a while but I'm glad those days are over. I'm sure those who used to follow me in the runs are pleased with the new number plate too.

What did you drive before MX-5?

A lime green 1982 model Ford Escort - beautiful!

What is your favourite short drive?

To Palm Beach via the Wakehurst Parkway.

What is your favourite long drive?

Any drive to the Hunter Valley.

What do you like most about MX-5?

The handling and the fact that it is a classic. Six years later and it still turns heads - particularly in a convoy.

What do you like least about MX-5?

It's inability to be able to carry 6 cases of wine back from a Hunter Valley wineries tour.

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

I love the car being as impractical for storage as it is. However, more room for transporting cases of wine from the vineyards would not go astray.

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

I'd like to give the BMW Z3 a try-out and I wouldn't say know to Lotus Elan.

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

Censored on legal advice.

Mazda Puts The Top On...

John McCormick

The modern-day classic MX-5 roadster is poised to become a coupe. John McCormick reports on a star attraction of the New York Motor Show.

Mazda has done the unthinkable with its MX-5 sports car, transforming the cult roadster into a coupe.

Designed in Mazda's Californian studios, the M Coupe was the Japanese maker's star attraction at last week's New York Motor Show. It carries an obvious family resemblance to the larger RX-7, a model soon to be dropped from most markets.

Mazda's US research and development chief, Mr Tom Matano, whose Californian team created the coupe and

the original MX-5, sounds positive about a production future for the new model. Officially, this depends on public reaction.



"There could be a strong demand from people who find the roadster a little too impractical, the sort of people who have been by buying the Honda CRX," he

said. "In Japan, for instance, we expect 50 per cent of MX-5 buyers might opt for the coupe."

This sounds a lot more definite than the usual concept car waffle and marks a radical departure from Mazda's strictly purist approach to the MX-5, the best-selling sports car of the modern era.

The marketing department says the coupe has more boot space than the cramped roadster. It also promises to be lighter, by about 100 kg, and still

have a more rigid body.

"That was another reason for doing this project," Mr Matano said.

(Continued on page 13)

On a Sunday Drive

(Continued from page 10)

horse drawn carriages, and use horses to plough the fields. I can only imagine what the young children who were driving the ploughs could be thinking as three different groups of sports cars drove past.

Our first stop was in a shady area where there was one of the prettiest bridges, and some very welcome shade! It was not a very hot day, the temperature was only about 82°F, but I had forgotten just how humid it can be over there. Our second stop was at an ice cream store, but those at the end of the line had to lick quickly before we had to go again. The run took in a total of 11 covered bridges, 86 miles, and ended with a barbecue in a park. Somehow the drinks were missed and by the time they arrived the barbecue sauce was beginning to take effect! After the usual thanks to the people concerned, and incidentally I took it upon myself as a

representative of the committee to invite any of them to attend one of our runs. At that point the run ended, and a small group of us went back on the turnpike. **CT**

And the Winner of the NatMeet '96 Burn-Out Competition is...

(Continued from page 8)

We will greatly miss our Yellow MX-5 but we know that it can't realistically be replaced and to some degree I wouldn't want it. That is the past, we have had nearly 90,000kms of fun driving and I am proud that it gave others enjoyment at the Concourse as several of you indicated that you had voted for it as your people's choice. That meant a lot, thank you. "Thank-you" MX-5 people for your support. **CT**

(Photographs courtesy of MX-5 Club of Queensland)

Mazda Puts The Top On...

(Continued from page 12)

"The racing community said it would move to the Miata (MX-5) if we could make it stronger. It could lend itself to rallying too."

Mechanically the coupe concept is largely unchanged from the standard MX-5, although it sports pop-up low-profile quad headlights, cross-drilled brake rotors, 16-inch alloy wheels with Dunlop SP8000 performance tyres and a free-flow exhaust system.

The main styling changes are naturally concentrated at the rear where the bootlid is substantially modified to accommodate the sweep of the roofline and rear window.

Mazda is due to give the MX-5 roadster a major styling makeover in 1998. Meanwhile a production coupe looms large. **CT**

Your Local MX-5 Service Station

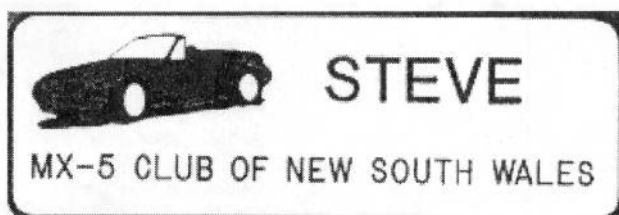
A notice board for club members to advertise MX-5 items they may have for sale, and other interested parties to advertise their goods and services. A nominal fee for your advert is charged (see below).

To place an advert contact Steve Remington on (02) 438-1803.

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. Place your order Paula Wu by phoning (02) 451-9985.



Out of the Boot of an MX-5

The following items of Club Regalia are available for sale out of the boot of Peter Stanton's car at each club run.

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

Watch this ad in future issues for new items of regalia

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 to 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

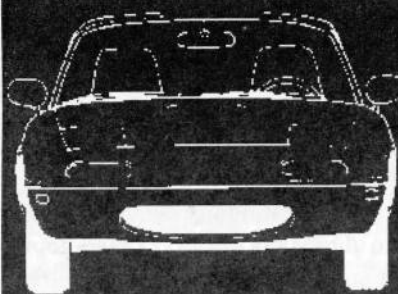
To book these services or to order any of the Nutri-Metics range of products contact:

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

Club Talk Advertising Rates

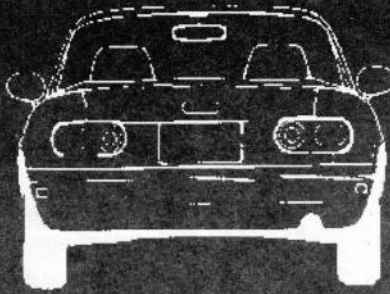
Size	Base Rate
Maxi (1/2 Page)	\$40.00
Midi (1/4 Page)	\$20.00
Mini (1/8 Page)	\$10.00
Micro (1/16 Page)	\$5.00

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)

McGrath Mazda

10% discount on service, trade price on

parts, free loan car, free car wash.

Cnr Hume Highway & Boundary Road
Liverpool

Ph: (02) 821-5000

Contact: Kevin

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

Tynan Motors Mazda

10% discount on service, repairs parts and accessories. Free loan car, free pick up and delivery within Sutherland Shire, free registration inspection, free valet cleaning.

5/9 Flora Street
Kirrawee

Ph: (02) 521-4911

Ian Luff Dynamic Safety Advanced Driving

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

Ph: (02) 829-5399 / Fax: (02) 829-5499

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 a service for our members only.

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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 you 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