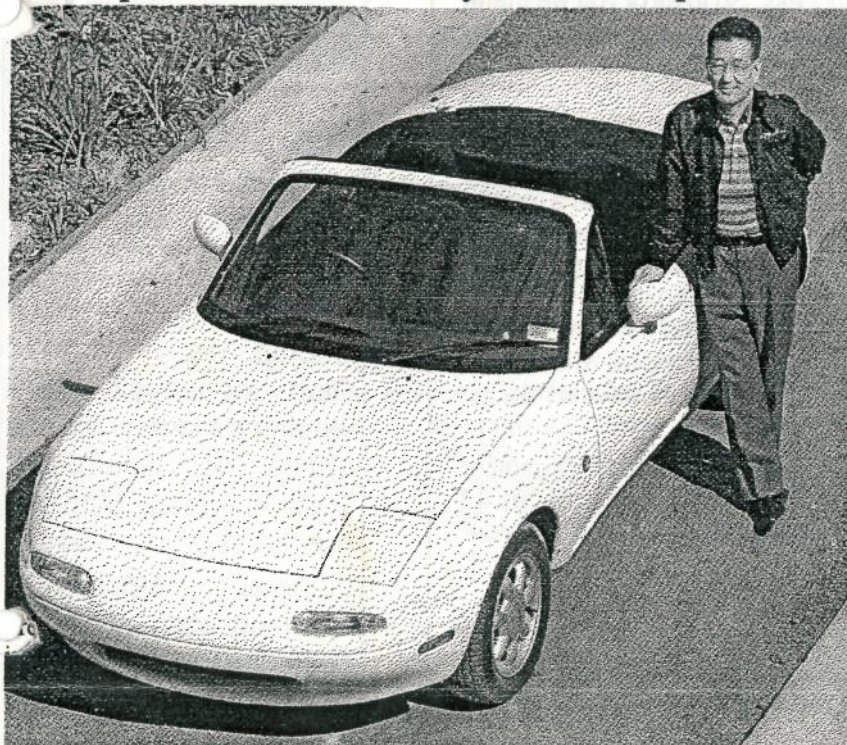


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF N.S.W.

## The Father of MX-5 moves on

**T**oshihiko Hirai, the man who became a legend in the motor industry as the Product Program Manager of the MX-5 project, has left the Mazda Motor Corporation to take up a lecturing post at the Oita University in southern Japan.



*Hirai, the Father of the MX-5: Toshihiko Hirai was the "Shusa" or the Product Program Manager of the MX-5 Project. His standard Mazda business card was overprinted with the words: "A oneness between horse and rider".*

Hirai, who graduated in March 1961, began his distinguished career at Mazda, then Toyo Kogyo, in April of the same year. He worked in the Body Designing and Engineering Department, then spent two years as service manager in a dealership before returning to the Design Department and his first Project Leader job on the 626 series in 1978. While it was Tom Matano's team at Mazda's R&D Centre in Irvine, California, who actually came up

with the MX-5's front engine, rear drive, two seat configuration and design, it was Hirai who held the overall position as "conductor" of the project.

"Wheels" magazine called him "Hirai Houdini, the genial genius". Hirai had a well-known love affair with Australia and it is thought that he was the force behind the benchmark 250,000th MX-5 being built to Australian Design Rules.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP P

A.M.R. Motors, Mazda Service in Petersham is now offering special discounts and services to Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW members.

RESS... STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

Please note our new  
Postal Address is

MAZDA  
MX-5 CLUB OF NSW  
P.O. Box 267  
North Sydney 2059  
Australia

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## Letter from the President

I would like to say some special thank yous to some very special people who give up their time and put a lot of energy to work at some of our functions.

We have young Spielberg (alias James Cook) who has been our movie director for the motorkhana. Then we not only have our sports organizer but also his wife Charlotte and son Aaron who spend all day either dodging cars or breathing fumes from our enthusiastic competitors on Motorkhana day (the bulldog comes along as well).

The partners of our committee people always seem to be roped into jobs as well and of course we tend to forget that all this is done behind the scenes to ensure our club outings are a success. So to all of you we thank you and on occasions when we forget just how much work goes into these events then give us a yell or write to our editor and say so.

Talking of editor (what editor?) you may well ask. Nobody came forward for the job of collecting material and trying to coax people into submitting articles. Then putting it together and getting a newsletter out once a month. (Not easy) So I would appreciate those of you who ring me to congratulate us on our new look, much improved more often Newsletter. Please put pen to paper and tell the editor (come Treasurer, come Advertising Consultant, come helper to the Chairman, come you name it and that's Bryan) GREAT JOB and well done. Oh by the way - He will print copy as it is written, one thing he is not and that is a censor - remember we are all volunteers.

Another unsung hero is Frank Johnson, our Xmas Party Organizer extraordinaire. Frank has so many talents that I would be here all day if I explored them all. So to Frank, not just for your great party but for all your help along the way, I thank you.

I know there are many more and I thank all of you for your support and help but if I don't stop here Bryan will run out of room and he said make it short, so thanks again and I'll see you at the next event.



Lea Findley  
Club President

## Member Survey

You will find enclosed with this month's newsletter a survey form of Club activities. Please take a little time to complete it and return it to Our Club Secretary.

This survey is to help us the committee, to organise and plan activities for our Club in the coming months.

Please add further suggestions or any other comments you may have.

Should we have less Club meetings? More weekends away. Social drives on Saturdays. Twilight runs, Morning breakfast runs. Social dinners, Parachuting, camping trips. The list could be endless; we will never know if you don't tell us.

Please return your form to:

**Mazda MX-5 Club  
of NSW  
P.O. Box 267  
North Sydney, NSW  
2059**



# MX-5 MOTORKHANA SERIES 1993

## Round #2 Results

Name	Car Rego	Test1	Test2	Test3	Test4	Penalty	Total	Place
Jimmy Stewart*	AAY 30D	26.6	48.8	25.3	47.5		148.2	4
Ross Hutcherson	MV 371	30.5	43.5	26.1	35.2	2	137.3	1
Peter Simpson	MX 5115	32.1	47.7	26.4	39.8	1	147.0	3
Bryan Wu	WU668	37.3	51.6	27.2	50.0		166.1	9
Tony Armstrong**	RFF677	36.0	47.1	27.0	47.9	1	159.1	7
Wayne Price*	AAY 30D	31.8	44.4	26.3	38.1		140.6	2
Lindsay Burke***	SPV171	33.4	50.0	28.5	43.5	1	156.4	6
Sue Forrest	RLN295	35.7	52.1	29.7	50.9	2	170.6	10
M. Walkden-Brown	AAM 44R	36.1	52.2	28.9	46.3	1	164.5	8
Graham Cook	RMN760	35.7	47.9	28.0	43.8		155.4	5

\* MX-6 Vehicle

\*\* Leyland Mini Moke

\*\*\* Mazda 808

### From the Editor's Desk

I had originally written another editorial, but recent comments at our last general meeting have compelled me to change my topic of discussion.

During the last month or so, many members have complimented on the new format newsletter and associated flyers we are producing, this has been very gratifying. I thank the members and other MX-5 Clubs with their articles and illustrations. In using the material we have made every effort to preserve the original content, it's intended meaning and impact.

I believe our publications should not be compromised by including the use of any material made available to the club in the off chance that the subject matter or illustration may not be compliant to all members beliefs, tastes and values. If we did that, there will be nothing to print. Any material that is rejected or edited would only occur if the material contravenes the law or exceeds common decency.

Materials contained in our publications are discussed and passed through the committee members; more importantly, any views expressed or implied do not however necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the committee.

If you as a member have any comments or views on our publications; the club's forum for discussion is "Letters to the Editor". We will be very happy to publish your comments.

See you on the road.

Bryan Wu

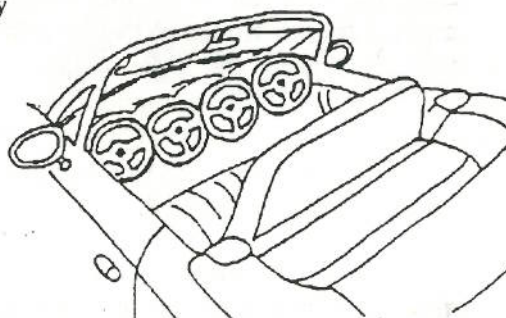
### What's New in MX-5 Accessories

Robbins sporty Tonneau cover for MX-5's is now available from Nolan Warehouse. Designed for instant style, you won't damage or devalue your dream car and you don't need a specialist to install the Tonneau. No drilling or structural alteration is required. Available ex-stock in black/black or tan/black. Other colours available on indent order. Nolan Warehouse is located at 464 Gardners Rd. Alexandria. Telephone : 669 3333

### Did You Know ?

One of the reasons your MX-5 handles so well is because of it's ingenious rear suspension design.

The rear suspension on the MX-5 is designed to turn the outside back wheel into the direction of a corner when placed under load. Developed initially for the RX-7, this helps the MX-5 track more accurately when cornering or changing lanes. The effect is similar to cars with four wheel steering, but without the weight penalty





# MOTOR TORQUE

Bryan Wu

**W**heels magazine has once again conducted another giant handling test. This time, the magical MX-5 was up against far more superior purpose built machinery like the Porsche 968 CS, Godzilla GT-R, Honda NSX, Big Brother RX-7 and Mister 2. But when the smoke cleared and the points tallied the little roadster was still standing tall to machinery costing three to four times more. According to Dick Johnson the MX-5 came in third with the Porsche 968 CS first and RX-7 second.

The experts have decided once more the MX-5 is a great handler but needs a little more get up and go. Well help is not too far away, starting from a few hundred dollars, you can transform your little roadster to a real beastie with a little more poke. Here is a quick guide what's available in the aftermarket performance bits.

Turbo kits from BBR and AVO in Melbourne. I have seen the BBR kit fitted to one of our members cars and the finish and workmanship is superb. This will set you back about \$10K, the AVO stage 1 kit starts at \$4K plus installation, but don't forget the extra premiums on your insurance. The word "Turbo" to an insurance company is still a no no; especially an aftermarket one.

To avoid this problem many owners and members have opted for a more subtle approach. Performance Tuned Extractors, Mandrel bent high flow exhaust system were the starting point. Once again there are many different vendors selling these systems and each claiming to be the best. I have seen many installations and most have a problem of refitting the heat shield, I saw one car with the shield removed and it melted the air filter box! The best quality extractor I have seen were the Japanese made; Computer designed, chromed, mandrel bent RS\*R extractors from Vision (located in Chatswood Ph: 4176322). Mated with the RS\*R exhaust muffler it will set you back \$2450 fitted.

There are exhaust systems from AMG and Finishline for which the finish is not as good but is half the price. Power gains claimed by the

manufacturers range from 5kW to 10kW.

Next on the shopping list would be a new computer unit (ECU) or chip replacement. Powerchip was the first on the market and costs \$750. A complete modified, reprogrammed ECU is also available from Vision at a cost of \$1800. This is a complete and clean replacement of the entire computer and allows you to change back to the original ECU, unlike the Powerchip which requires your microprocessor to be removed and replaced with a daughterboard.

The standard air intake and filter box on the MX-5 as described by Iain Boyd in a previous newsletter said it all. But don't despair cos with about \$30 Dollars you can follow Iain's modification to get instant power boost. Even better still Finishline markets a RAM air box designed by Loch Stewart of the Queensland Club for about \$400. HKS has a Powerflow air-filter kit, this eliminates also the factory box and provide a claimed increase in power of about 5% with a slight increase in induction noise, this goes for \$500. The HKS system differs in that it is still sucking in hot air from within the engine bay. To get the best of both worlds of cold air and high air flow, get a K&N Oil impregnated filter or the Racing Beat foam filter with the RAM air box.

To put all this new found power to good use, a limited slip diff is the go; Mazda has one as an accessory (surprise, surprise) at a cost of around \$2,000 fitted or you can get a Cusco (one way) limited slip diff. The Cusco limits differential action but only under power. Off throttle, the diff free runs and doesn't push or understeer influence the handling. The Cusco costs \$1300 plus fitting.

A stiffer and lowered suspension is next, Koni, Tokiko, GAB or Bilstein shocks are your choices with heavier sway bars lowered springs the essential mods. If you have an early model MX-5 a rear performance track bar is highly regarded and is available from Finishline.

If you thought the MX-5's gear shift was short Vision has C's short shift kit that greatly shortens the factory throw for more positive, and even faster gear changes and sells for \$430 fitted.

So there you have it a potpourri of performance enhancement bits you can start off small and build up to what ever you can afford. Ummm.....  
I just can't wait for the V6 MX-5.



## .....MAZDA NEWS RELEASE

### 250,000th MX-5 A HIGHLIGHT OF NATIONAL CLUB CONFERENCE

**W**hen Mazda Australia took almost 1,000 advance orders of the MX-5 before it's public release in October 1989, the company knew it had introduced a car which aroused great passion and enthusiasm.

It seemed logical to harness the enthusiasm MX-5 owners had for the little sports car and through the efforts of Mazda, MX-5 clubs were established in each of the mainland capital cities.

Earlier this month, coinciding with the display of the 250,000 MX-5 at the Melbourne Motor Show, Mazda brought together the five MX-5 club presidents for the first national conference.

The MX-5 club presidents - Dr Peter Randell (WA), Mr Grant George (SA), Mr David Henry (Vic/Tas), Mrs Lea Findley (NSW/ACT) and Mr David Verna (QLD) - were thrilled to be able to meet as a group and celebrate the arrival of the 250,000th MX-5 which Mazda Motor Corporation built just three years and seven months after production of the model began.

Spokesman for the presidents, Mr David Henry said the arrival of the milestone car gave the clubs the perfect opportunity to get together for a national conference - something that had been mooted for some time.

"One of our major priorities was to

organise a national meeting of MX-5 club members each year and this will commence with the first "National Meet" to be held in South Australia during Easter 1993," Mr Henry said.

"Other significant moves were the appointment of a national MX-5 club committee and implementing plans to produce an annual National Year Book."

Mr Henry said he was extremely pleased with the outcome of the conference and added that all MX-5 Clubs would benefit from the formation of a national committee.

With more than 3,000 Mazda MX-5s sold in Australia since October 1989 the MX-5 clubs in

each state have enjoyed on-going membership growth.

The MX-5 Club of Victoria - the first of the clubs to form - was the largest inaugural membership club registered with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS).

### Welcome to the Club

Rolf Edler  
Geoffrey Sprod  
Joseph Szabo  
Bradley See  
Paul Fleetwood  
Jason Boyd

A warm welcome to the new members who joined us in April.

### MOTORKHANA DATES

MAY 2nd	JUNE 13th
JULY 25th	SEPTEMBER 5th
OCTOBER 10th	DECEMBER 5th

St. Marys Rugby Leagues Club  
Cnr. Forrester & Boronia Rd.  
St Marys

Come and try out your driving techniques and memory skills, come for fun or competition

### MX-5 Trivia



Miata, the name used in the American market for the MX-5 is an ancient German word for "prize". It is certainly a prized possession of those who own and drive it.



# Which way to Mount Sugarloaf ?

**F**riday afternoon I was thoroughly/ lovingly cleaning my little red sports car in anticipation of another fulfilling drive, this time north with my MX-5 colleagues to sunny Newcastle, totally unaware that at precisely 10 am Sunday morning, at the meeting point, the heavens opened up and undid all my hard work. Oh well, it can only get better now that the rain is heading north and appears to be clearing. Optimistic fool.

After the lead car was finally chosen, apparently the organizer of the run could not attend, 12 MX-5's headed along the old Pacific Highway relishing the curves and undulations of a near deserted length of bitumen. But this was short lived once we had crossed the Hawksbury as we had to join the throng of speedsters along the straight, flat and open expressway. Ho hum. Anyway just around the corner came the Peats Ridge turn-off so once again continue with our enjoyable trek northward.

Wyong was our impromptu morning tea stop and it was here that most of the committee were to be seen in a huddle with maps of the region. Needless to say that by the time we reached Mount Sugarloaf it could be seen that we had a nomination for the "Wrong Turn Award" in particular we all know how roundabouts got their name, they are not called around-a-bouts. Ha, Ha, Ha.

Mount Sugarloaf soon loomed in the distance and my stomach reminded me that it was lunch time. No sooner had we parked, it was unanimously agreed that we quickly eat our picnic lunch rather than stand around arguing the fact about the coming onslaught from above. Well anyway I found that eating a slightly drenched picnic from inside a slightly drenched MX-5 is a little awkward. I told them it was going to rain. I must admit my companion and I really did think it was funny though. After drying out the

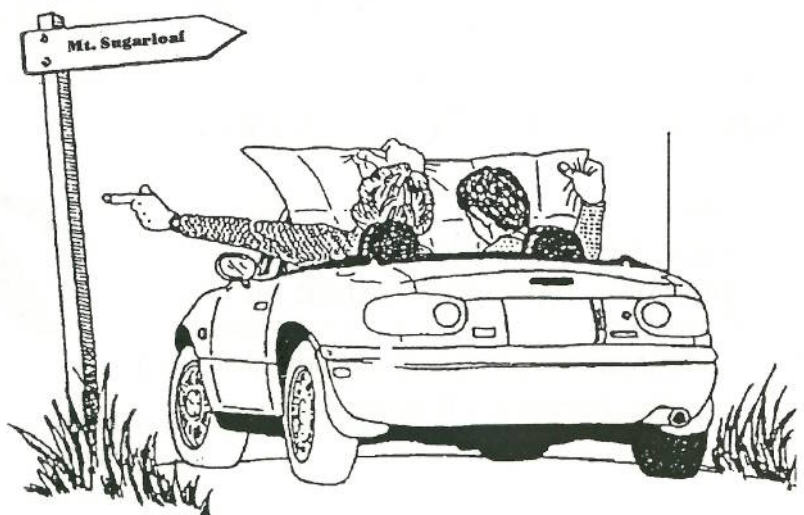
car and the remainder of the food it was time for a photo session. No sooner had Laurie made his car ready when along came a tiny little hatchback and plonked myself right in the middle of our shoot. Patsy came to the rescue and politely directed the intruder temporarily elsewhere. It is good to see the public's understanding attitude.

Charlestown was our final destination for afternoon tea or in particular cappuccinos were the go for everyone. After we had our fill of tea it was time to head on home, which would have been via the dull, boring expressway according to the program. It didn't take too much convincing for me and my companion to take the old highway back home as we both enjoyed the drive in the car on the way up. Seeing how we didn't follow the day's program, to the letter, because we seemed to run out of time to see the sights of the harbour foreshore and beaches. I don't know about my colleagues but I never seem to take the quick way home when ever I'm behind the wheel of my little red sports car.

*Oh Well, it can only get better now that the rain is heading north and appears to be clearing. Optimistic fool.*

PURE PLEASURE.

- Mark Schmitzer





# 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.

## 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

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.

### *Become a Pilot!*

Fly over your favourite areas for fun.

A special treat

or

Learn to fly and take your friends along.

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY  
LESSON ONLY \$ 45.00**

Contact Tony Rath on 415-1481

### WANTED TO BUY

RED MX-5 with red hard top, low klms.  
Preferably with air conditioning.

Call Michael on 922-6814

or

Fiona on 960-2835

Advertising space for sale  
Please phone Bryan Wu for details  
PH: 451 - 9985 A/H

## Mazda MX-5 Club of N.S.W. 1993 Committee

### \* President

Lea Findley                      554-2999 (bus)  
832-1101 (home)

### \* Vice-President

Paul Heeks                      533-5411 (bus)  
544-1361 (home)

### \* Secretary

Paula Wu                      018-866-481 (bus)  
451-9985 (home)

### \* Treasurer

Bryan Wu                      925-7271 (bus)  
451-9985 (home)

### \* Captain

Graham Cook                      899-6811 (bus)  
047-355-465 (home)

### \* Membership Officer

Phillip Sophocleous                      774-3856 (bus)  
547-1607 (home)

### \* Competition Secretary

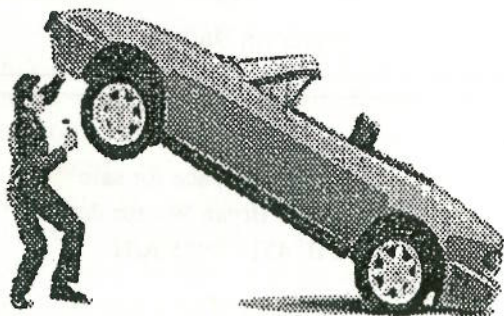
Iain Boyd                      833-2346 (home/bus)

## FUNNY CAPTIONS

Our intrepid Captain Cook found this cartoon and has suggested several captions .

- \* HELP !! Rape!!
- \* Get your hands off my parts!
- \* Where do you think you're going with that hammer!
- \* Hey watch my Bum!
- \* How dare you look under there

*Can you think of some more?*



## 1993 CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR

Please note down these dates in your diary!

MAY 16th	OCTOBER 16/17th
South Coast Run	Mudgee/Gulgong
JUNE 19/20th	Weekend Run
Dubbo Weekend Run	OCTOBER 20th
JUNE 23rd	Club meeting
Club meeting	NOVEMBER 21st
JULY 18th	Berri Run
Yule Fest/opt. Wkend	NOVEMBER 24th
AUGUST 15th	Club A.G.M.
Breakfast Run	DECEMBER 15th
AUGUST 18th	Film night
Club meeting	DECEMBER 19th
SEPTEMBER 19th	Christmas Party
Gosford Run	

### Don't Be Disappointed !

Send your deposit in now for the Mudgee run in October and for the Dubbo run in June.

## "QUOTABLE QUOTES"

"I have a friend with a Mazda MX-5 who drives it all the time with the lid down (he has a beautiful tan and superb after-shave) and he worries like hell that some day when it's parked, even though he has a movement-detector alarm, some drunken yobbo is going to leave half a kilo of prawns and six tins of VIC on the front seat, as a result of eructation.

(Refer Roget's Thesaurus, Under "barf")...."

Romsey Quints  
Car Australia, March 93

"...Real Blokes don't eat quiche - and they definitely don't drive Mazda MX-5s. But that doesn't mean he can't admire it's handling..."

Dick Johnson  
Wheels, April 93

"... It's a car that's big on user-friendliness and as trustworthy as your best mate."

Wheels, November 90