

CLUB TALK



Volume 14, Number 1
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Whoah Black Beauty



SuperSprint
Who won the day and who embarrassed themselves



Meet the Committee
Who are the committee?
What do they drive?



Welcome

to the new Club Talk format

As you can see 2004 brings a few changes here at Club Talk Central. We've taken on board your suggestions, and created a new, more colourful, more vibrant and hopefully, more entertaining publication for you.

Starting from now, the content of this publication is going to be material YOU want to read. Want to hear more about new products or services available to you, the MX5 Owner? Done! Do you like reading about modifications and customisations people have performed on their cars? Done! Want to hear funny anecdotes about life on the MX5 Club Committee? Well maybe not that far, but I'm sure you get the idea...

You're probably wondering, 'how do I, as a club member, get involved?'

Well it's simple. If you have a story you'd like to share, a product or service you've tried and would like to let us know about, or even if you have been browsing the web and have seen a cool site dedicated to MX-5's, then let us know! No bit of information or content is too small!

If you would like to contribute, send your material to publicity@mx5.com.au, in the format you prefer, and we'll work it into the next available publication. Pictures are definitely welcome, but please attach them separately rather than embedding them in the material as it ensures a better quality output from the publication. Thanks for reading!

Liam O'Hagan
Publications Officer
Mazda MX5 Club of NSW

Welcome New Members

Hope to see you on a run soon!

Gail Daines
Chris Halford
Andrew Deeb
Neil Daines
Robin San
Andrew Ward
Keith Bridgement
Lois Blundell
Paul Brell
Marilyn Bridgement
Richard Lee
Fiona Hamilton
Duncan Trevor-Wilson

James Lee
Allison Irvine
Chris Lowry
Kim Slender
Jarrett Barker-Whittle
Maribel Alvarez
Margaret Pascoe
Robert Arthurson
Alan Townsley
Geoffrey Pascoe
Leesa Pink
Claudine Neeves
Patrick Tchan

Douglas Pink
Ben McMullen
Nolan Satkunarajah
Shane Baistow
Roehl Oringo
Mark Rutherford
James Wright
Jeffrey Wong
Colin Dutt
Michelle Andrews
Carole Carpenter
Jane Palme
Ian Foster

Rohan Olson
Andrew Boroky
Victor Ferrari
Alan Vlah
Ross Edwards
Alex Champion
Inge Sildnik
Paul O'Malley
Troy Lawrence
Robert Ferguson
Helen O'Malley
Peter Stanton
Gabor Szivek



Inside

www.mx5.com.au/nsw

news

reviews

President's Report

Arno Boge reports on the progress of the club to date

Black & White Part 1

How CTZOOM has turned from pure white to the dark side

Meet The New Committee

Who was that masked club member? Find out all you need to know here!

What is MX5Garage.com?

Club member Rob Irwin's fantastic resource for the budding mechanic

Supersprint Roundup

The best round of the 2002 / 2003 super sprint series was conducted by the MX5 club jointly with the Z Car Club

Natmeet 2004

An entire resort full of MX5 drivers, can you imagine a better weekend away?

Upcoming...

What takes your fancy? Here's a quick peek at what we have planned for the next few months.

Member Benefits

What do you get for your money? Need some work done on your car?



President's Report

As I put the finishing touches to this issue's report Linda and I are enjoying a holiday in tropical north Queensland, in particular driving some great MX-5 roads around Cairns and Port Douglas. Look for the article about this in the next issue.

The last few months have included a diverse range of club events. Unfortunately due to work and family demands we have not been able to attend as many as we had wished. However there were a number of very enjoyable events we did get to.

The Easter Weekend at Coffs Harbour was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends from the QLD club and to make some new ones, as well as getting together in a relaxing environment with our own members. Even though the weather was not entirely dry, it was sunny when required – i.e. on runs and other activities. On the Saturday a number of people opted for the Go-Kart track. Some light rain towards the end of the session made things interesting. I

had a graphic demonstration of the laws of adhesion

- attempting to turn a go-kart with slick tyres and a wet surface equals going straight ahead (and the F1 drivers do this at 300KPH!). Everyone agreed it was a lot of fun. The weather was also with us for the Sunday Dorrigo run. It was quite a sight to see 30 MX-5s in convoy, and the reaction of the locals as we drove through the towns and villages. The Dorrigo run is definitely in the 'Classic

MX-5' run category. Many thanks to Jan Burgess for organising the weekend, and to Peter Simpson for coordinating the QLD contingent.

The Hunter Valley run in June was sunny and enjoyable. Particularly as we went yet another way to get to the Hunter – via Yarramalong for morning tea. The lunch stop at the Hunter Valley Gardens was a terrific spot for a picnic lunch, plus a range of shops for those in need of some retail therapy!

The planning and organising for the 'big' event – Natmeet 2004 has also taken a lot of time at the expense of missing some runs. A preview video for Natmeet (another great job by Laurie Tessoriero) has been sent to each MX-5 club to aid in promoting this event to their members. In addition during the visit to Sydney by John Hewitt, President of Club Miata in Oregon USA, I took the opportunity to give him a copy of the video and registration forms to present to club members there. So we are hopeful that as the registrations are coming in that we will get some overseas guests as well.

I encourage you to come along to this event, especially if you have not attended Natmeet previously. We have a lot of fun events and enjoyable runs organised.

Plus included at no cost is the world class scenery of the Blue Mountains.

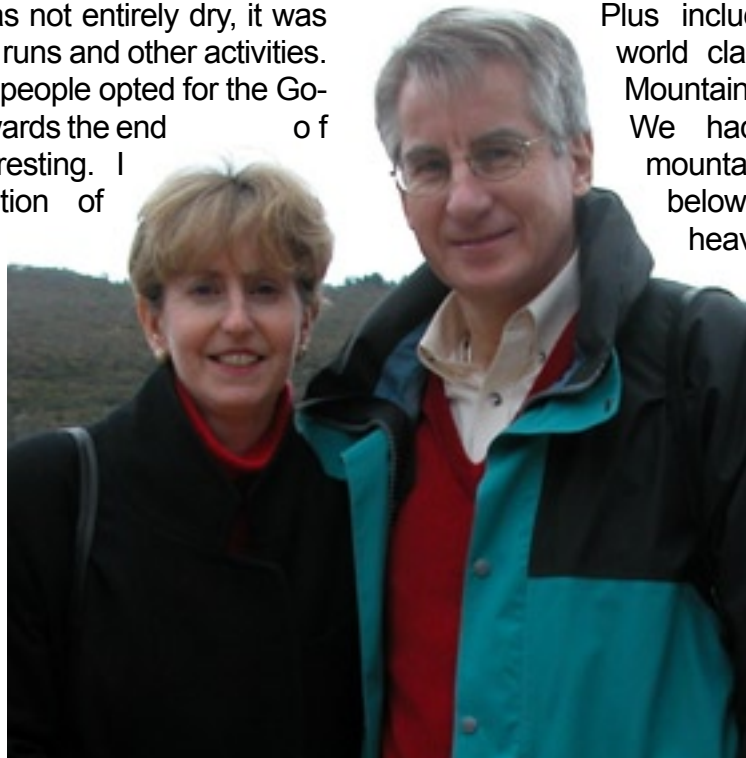
We had a weekend in the mountains recently (see picture below – you won't need the heavy duty winter coats at Easter!). Once again we were so impressed by the beauty of the area, the many things to see and do, and the great roads to drive on.

The events calendar for the rest of the year is being well filled under the guidance of Craig Berthold, our club Captain. I am sure you will find lots

of interesting MX-5 and social events to mix with club friends. So come along and get even more enjoyment out of a great car in the company of wonderful people.

That's all from me for this issue. If you have any questions, suggestions in regard to club matters, or would just like to have a chat about MX-5 related things, please give me a call or send an email. Contact details can be found on the committee page.

Best wishes
Arno Boge



Black & White



Chris 'CTZOOM' Tonna started out with the MX5 club after buying one of the very first NB8B models, in a very rare pure white. He then proceeded to make a few, very well researched modifications.

First on the list was a GURU Racing Torque Biasing LSD. Similar to the factory TORSEN diff, but of a more aggressive nature, Chris found it gave him far better drive out of tight corners, and reduced wheelspin.

Soon after that, Chris invested in some after market suspension items, mainly King Springs and Whiteline Sway bars. These modifications served to reduce body roll, pitch, dive and squat, and helped Chris (along with some super sticky Dunlop D01 semi slicks) to a lap record for NB8B's at Wakefield Park of 1:13.91!

Chris also raced in the NSW Supersprint series at Eastern Creek and Oran park, bringing home a class win in season 2002-2003. This is an astonishing achievement considering the relatively minor modifications done to the car.

However, Chris still wasn't satisfied. He consulted the gurus of the MX5 racing fraternity, who bestowed upon him great wisdom:

"If thou wantest to go fast, thou should get thyself an NA"

Chris followed their sage advice, and soon came across an NA of suitable condition. Well, we should say half an NA, as the majority of the rear bodywork on the car was missing!

Never fear, Chris called on the expertise of his father, who has plenty of experience fixing cars, seeing as he built his own from scratch! (*A Lotus 7 replica, but that's another story - Ed*)

Chris and his father then performed an emergency NA butt transplant, and following a super quick spray paint, **Black Beauty** was born...

To be continued...



What committee member was that?

An armchair guide to identifying various species of committee members in their own habitat...



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Interior

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	Voodoo Gear Knobs <p>The gear knob of choice for MX-5 owners around the world. Machined from a solid billet of aluminium in the style of classic Ferrari's and Formula 1 cars, Voodoo gear knobs are designed to enhance gearshift feel and accuracy. Available in a variety of finishes: polished, spun, pearl,</p>	Models <p>All</p>	Price (AUD) <p>from <u>\$60.00</u></p>

What is... MX-5 Garage

In the first article in our new "What is..." series, we take a look at www.mx5garage.com.

MX-5 Garage was created out of the need for a good, Oz-centric Website devoted to our favourite car, MX-5 Garage is the brainchild of club member Rob Irwin. We caught up with Rob for a few questions earlier this month.

Club Talk: How did the concept for MX-5 Garage come up?

Rob Irwin: I've always had the idea to do an MX-5 site at the back of my mind. I think it's just one of those natural extensions for people of my generation (He's 28, folks... ED) to want to build Websites devoted to things they love - virtual shrines in a sense. Anyway, I was having the urge to create an MX-5 Website for what seemed like the thousandth time, when it suddenly dawned on me that there was a great deal of useful knowledge and expertise lurking in both the NSW club and the online forums where the NSW club mixes with clubs from other states (www.aus-cartalk.com) I thought to myself, "What if I can harness this knowledge?". It seemed such a logical thing to do, I don't know why I hadn't done it earlier. It certainly seemed a great shame to see topic after topic raised, and then forgotten about, without any record made of the wealth of knowledge that people were contributing to these online discussions and help sessions.

CT: Some might argue that sites like www.miata.net have beaten you to the punch in many areas?

RI: They could; and I don't take anything away from Miata Net - it's like the grandfather of every MX-5 site on the Web. Where I think MX-5 Garage is different, however, is that it's Australian. A lot of the content we link to, forums we discuss, writers who write for us and many other things are from our corner of the world. So just as MiataNet thinks global, but tends to be US-centric, MX-5 Garage thinks global too... but tends to be Australian and that's quite appealing for people who are used to MX-5, or should I say "Miata" sites from overseas. Also, to stick with this comparison, I think Miata Net has grown to such a size that it's quite impersonal in some ways. With MX-5 Garage, if you want to talk to "the boss," you can e-mail me. If you want to submit an article, you can write to me and I'll do my best to make it appear online within a few days. I think the personal touch of the site is a great selling point at this time. Being officially linked to www.aus-cartalk.com is no bad thing, either, there are over 23,000 posts in the general MX-5 section of that site alone?

CT: That's quite impressive. Is that the reason you didn't create your own forum on MX-5 Garage?

RI: Absolutely correct. It made no sense to have an existing great MX-5 forum community, largely made of Australians, then try to replicate that same community somewhere else. So I was more than happy to leave the whole concept of forums alone, and concentrate on building a site which could leverage that community, rather than trying to fragment it and steal some of it for myself. That would have made no sense whatsoever.

CT: What do you think people will get out of MX-5 Garage?

RI: Enjoyment, I hope... and knowledge. I hope that visitors will be able to come along and whether they're looking at the modifications section or the "how to" section or the news, that they can realise they're part of this great community where they can do so many things with their car - and with the support of many, many enthusiasts who will try and help them in any way they can. I don't think I've ever met a community of people like MX-5 drivers, to be quite honest with you.

CT: Enthusiasts are important to MX-5 Garage, aren't they? Your site's tagline features that quite heavily...

RI: Yes, we've been using the tagline "by enthusiasts, for enthusiasts," which seemed the best way to summarise the site. At the end of the day, that's what we are. Whether we spend our 9 to 5 in an office, or

or being a gardener, or being a housewife or househusband, it's the car that brings us together. Reinforcing this is the fact that the site is also written by the people who read it. After all, I can only write so much and there are only so many modifications that I can make to my car to talk about! It's the beauty of the MX-5 community that people are so proud of their cars and want to share information about them. That makes sites like this work. In turn, it makes people want to visit and learn new things and hopefully, in time, submit articles and pieces of information of their own. It's an incredibly organic thing.

CT: Getting away from the site for a moment, readers might want to know what kind of MX-5 you drive?

RI: It's a Classic Red 1992. It was built at the tail end of 1991, but has all the 1992 features which were introduced on that particular model. For that reason, it was probably one of the first 1992 models to arrive in this country. If people want to know more, they can always e-mail me.

CT: Speaking of e-mail, you also give people MX-5 Garage e-mail addresses at your site, don't you?

RI: Yes I do. I'm not sure how many other sites like mine do this, but anyone who contributes to MX-5 Garage is entitled to an e-mail address @mx5garage.com which will forward e-mail to their regular e-mail address. It's my way of saying thank you to contributors - and it also means we can publish that address on the site so people can be contacted regarding their articles, but not have to post their 'real' e-mail address for the entire world to see. People have responded really well to this and I've handed out quite a few addresses since the site went live!

CT: You have a newsletter too?

RI: That's right. Unless you're the Sydney Morning Herald, or similar, I don't think you can expect people to come to your site each and every day. Yet, on any given day, we might have some really interesting content being posted. So the newsletter forms a solution of sorts for us whereby we will send a monthly e-mail newsletter to people, detailing the hot stories of the past month and all the other interesting things that we posted. In this way, I hope people don't miss out on anything because they were unable to visit the site for a few days during the past month.

CT: How can people best help MX-5 Garage to grow?

RI: I think the best thing that any Internet-enabled person can do, whether they are a member of this club or not, is to visit the Website itself and have a read. Afterwards, they might find themselves thinking, "Hmmm, I wonder if that carbon fibre dash kit I installed last weekend might interest MX-5 Garage?" and hopefully they'll write to me. Assuming we haven't already covered the material in some format, I'll be more than interested to let them know how to write up the information and submit it to us - usually with a digital picture or two. I think once people realise how interesting their modifications and other information is to the rest of the world, they'll feel quite empowered and want to submit more. From my days as a magazine editor, I'm a very big fan of seeing people realise that they CAN write and that they DO have something interesting to say. Once they realise that, there's usually no stopping them!

CT: Thanks Rob, we'll look forward to chatting again about the site further down the track.

9

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Kumho Tyres SuperSprint

Wakefield Park 22nd June 2003

All Photos Courtesy Oz Event Photo
02 4478 1113



On Sunday the 22nd June the MX-5 Club of NSW successfully promoted and conducted the 4th round of the NSW Supersprint Championship at Wakefield Park in conjunction with the Z Car Club of Sydney.

Before talking about the day itself it is necessary to go back approximately twelve months to the Supersprint Advisory Panel Meeting. Mike Hicks from the MX-5 Club and Ern Mitchell of the Z Car Club first explored the possibility of jointly conducting a round of the 2003 State Championship. Mike strongly believed that it was time for our club to put a little back into motor sport, after all the club has won the Supersprint shield three times and a number of our members have actively competed and been successful in Production Sports Car races over the past three or four years. The logic behind the joint venture was that both parties would bring different strengths to the partnership. The MX-5 Club would contribute the organising strengths accumulated over the past few years at the club's track days along with the proven timing system developed by Rod and Zan Menzel through their company Menzel Com. The Z Car Club, although smaller in membership numbers than the MX-5 Club, had the important ingredient of CAMS accredited officials to act as Chief Scrutineer & Clerk of Course. They also had the experience of conducting rounds of the championship several years ago.

Each club nominated 3 people to form a committee to firstly discuss the issues relating to the

joint venture and then if agreed to by each club's committee move forward with the organization of the event. The first meeting was conducted on the 16th September 2002 and as a result of that meeting the organization process commenced with Mike Hicks and Zan and Rod Menzel representing the interests of the MX-5 Club. Sponsorship was kindly provided by Kumho Tyres, for this they received the naming rights for the event. Wakefield Park was selected as the venue & after some negotiating the date of 22nd June was selected. In addition



to being a round of the State Championship the New South Wales Road Racing Club also agreed to make it a round of their club supersprint championship, thus guaranteeing us a healthy entrant base. After finalising CAMS Permits and support services such as "Ambulance and Fire and Rescue", entry forms and supplementary regulations were distributed to over 400 potential entrants. The entry fee was set at a reasonable \$130.00.

The end result was that we received over 90 entries thus ensuring that we could run the maximum capacity field of 85

drivers. This also contributed to the day resulting in a very positive financial return for both clubs.

The only thing we could not organise was suitable weather. After all it was Goulburn in June, what could we expect! Despite the occasional showers in the morning the weather did clear later, allowing all competitors the opportunity to complete a number of dry runs. Cars were graded according to lap times with up to 10 cars on the track at any one time. Each run consisted of 4 timed flying laps. By the end of the day at approximately 4.20 pm we had run out of competitors and had completed 6 sets of runs for each entrant. In the supplementary regulations we had offered 5 runs so everyone was pleased. At the end of the day the first, second and third outright place getters and class winners were presented with their trophies.

The running of the event would not have been possible but for the work of the volunteers provided by each club. To the flag marshals who operated in extremely cold



conditions we would like to say a very special thank you. In "military terms" it was over and above the normal call of duty. The 10



member Guy Walker in a very quick 260Z Datsun in 1.06.90 just 0.02 ahead of third place, which was won by Canberra based MX-5 club member Greg Sutton in his beautiful blue Porsche Carrera. Drivers who recorded times in the 1.07s were Bob Welsh in his Turbo Datsun, Darrell Mathews

Lindsay Burke lead class 3a on 19 points from Matilda Mravacic on 18 and Nick Martinenko fourth on 12 points. Robin Thomson lead class 3b on 27 points, Jason Hay shared the lead in SVA on 27 points whilst Ed Schulz was second in SVB on 15 points. It once again turned out as another successful supersprint season for TEAMX5 and its members.

club members who volunteered their services on the day were Gerry McCarthy in Scrutineering, Robert McBey, Rodd Clarke, Ken Thomas, Paul Beerworth, George Benedek and Jean Cook as flag marshals. Peter Balnaves who once again acted as grid marshal ably supported by Jean & George as dummy grid marshals when not waving flags. In the timing room were Rod and Menzel, Cobie Hicks, Ellise Stanton and Richard

in his spectacular Mark 1 RX 7 and Rama Higgins in his "blown" 3 Series BMW. Fastest MX-5 went to Jason Hay with a best lap of 1.09.02 to be seventh fastest overall, not bad when you consider it is road registered and running road tyres.



Other exotic cars to compete included ex 60's FJ Holden racer Warren Weldon in his beautiful red F 355 B Ferrari (1.10.67) and Canberra member Bernie Wilson in his yellow Bolwell Nagari (1.13.19). Club members who won their class on the day included Jason Hay (SVA), Bernie Wilson (SVB), Ken Horspool (1 a), Chris Tonna (2 b), Greg

Approximately one week after the event the organising committee met to review the conduct of the event and finalise the accounts. From the feedback provided by competitors we can conclude that we met and exceeded their expectations. Added to that each club went away from the meeting with additional funds over that invested to run the event. We would also like to once again thank Kumho Tyres for their sponsorship



Dutton. Event administration was looked after by Zan, Cobie, Jean and Ellise and Mike Hicks acted as Event Secretary and assistant Clerk of Course supported also by Rod. The Z Car Club who worked in conjunction with our members provided a similar number of volunteers.

Sutton (2 d) and Robin Thomson (3 b). Also club members Ed Schultz, Michael Bowden, Ed Cory, Lindsay Burke and Gerry McCarthy acquitted themselves well.



On the competitive side of things Fastest Time of the Day was recorded by John Meyer in his V8 Commodore with a time of 1.06.10, second was Z Car

In the State Championship, completion of round 4 marked the halfway point, with the MX-5 Club leading the Club Point Score on 78 points ahead

of NSWRR second on 33 points with the Z Car Club and MGCC Newcastle tied for third on 23 points. In the classes, Ken Horspool was on 24 points in 1a with Ken Thomas and Michael Bowden equal second on 16. Chris Tonna lead class 2b on 36 points with Mike Hicks second on 18.

support. Will we do it again next year? You bet! Provided we have the support of the committees and members of both clubs.

Mike Hicks
Competition Secretary



NATMEET 2004

April 8 - 13

If you haven't already booked for Natmeet 2004, then send the form off now!

For the best five day holiday, with people who love their MX-5s like you do, come and experience these delights.

- On Thursday at Wakefield Park, you won't just be driving around a track. There is much more on offer. We have four different events planned: short circuit, regularity, super sprint, and a hill climb.
- Want to stretch your legs once you arrive at the Mercure Resort on Good Friday? There's tennis, bike riding, gymnasium equipment, swimming in the heated pool, relaxing in the spa or sauna, walking around the local shops, or you could sip a cooling ale. (We are allowed to BYO in areas where there are no bar facilities.) Our evening seafood Welcome BBQ will give you a chance to make new friends.
- On Saturday we have a full program but you will still have time to relax. Our Concourse venue included a ride down into the afternoon we visit an IMAX program but you will still have time is Scenic World, where we have beautiful Jamison Valley. In the theatre.
- We give you the opportunity to drive on the famous Mount Panorama track on Sunday. Then we look at some other beautiful cars in the National Motor Racing Museum, followed by lunch. In this afternoon's free time try the golf course right next door to the Mercure. Or see if the huge variety of local shops can tempt you – there are antiques, quality clothing, bookstores, curios, homeware shops and more.
- You will get some exercise on Monday at Jenolan Caves outside Bathurst, the views are amazing. Relax in the afternoon and get ready for the Presentation Dinner.




Remember: **ALL meals and entrance to attractions are included in the Mercure package and we have arranged very competitive group rates at all venues.**

There are surprises galore and laughter is guaranteed.
There are so many exciting things to do on this holiday. You cannot miss it.
BOOK NOW! IT WILL BE A HOLIDAY TO REMEMBER!

Further details, including photos, can be found on www.mx5.com.au/natmeet/Index.html
Or ring Arno on (02) 9816 1730 or Jan on (02) 4736 6352.





What's next?

February

**Sunday 8th February
Clue Rally - Brain Teaser!**

**Wednesday 11th February
Committee Meeting**

**Monday 16th February
Wakefield Park - Zoom Zoom**

**Sunday 22nd February
NSW/ACT - Kangaroo Valley**

**Wednesday 25th February
Quarterly Members Meeting**

See you there!

Next Issue

**30th April
NATMEET Roundup!**

**Club Talk is a quarterly publication of
the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
PO Box 402 Beecroft NSW 2119.
It is compiled by the committee.**

**The Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc en-
courages safe and responsible motoring
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10% Discount, stores at: Neutral Bay Ph: 02 99041511, Surry Hills Ph: 02 9281 8044 or Menai Ph: 02 9541 2266 Product Sales & Marketing Manager – Peter Mason Ph: 02 9316 9999

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Specialists in Paint & Fabric Protection, Swirl Mark Removal, Paint Scratches and Buff & Polish.

Phone (02) 4732 5225 Unit 5, 55/61 York Road, Penrith. Contact Sam Cilidonio.

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 Contact Sandra (02) 9560 5393

Rockdale Mazda

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

Cnr. Allen and Arncliffe Sts, Arncliffe Ph: (02) 8577 4888 Fax: (02) 9599 8121 Service Manager - John Mansweto

Roman Auto-Tek Pty Ltd

Momo Steering Wheels, Recaro seating, alloy road wheels, gear knobs and other accessories. 10% discount to club members.

14 Cavell Avenue, Rhodes Ph: (02) 9743 6822

Many other companies will offer you a discount if you belong to our club, this can save you serious dollars on specialised items for your MX-5. Please note that the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc. 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.