

MAZDA MX-5

11/108 Crimea Road
MARSFIELD NSW 2122



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1991

The first full year of the MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES has ended in success. Our initial day at Vickerys Winery seems a very long time ago and a great deal has happened.

The club has grown from a group of enthusiasts seeking to enjoy their car in a social context with like-minded souls to a group of dedicated car (MX-5) enthusiasts who are coming to grips with the spirit built into every one of our cars. At the same time as a club we have come to appreciate the joy our car can give to others and in this context our visit last Saturday (November 9th) to Camp Quality will long live in my memory. The excitement in the faces of the youngsters as we arrived to take them for a short drive to Bilpin was a very uplifting experience. Special thanks to the members who were able to be part of that day.

As President I have been very proud of the efforts of all Committee members and on your behalf I publicly thank them for the time and energy they have so generously contributed. Club membership has steadied at 80 and I look forward to a continued effort to increase this number. I must make particular mention of a couple of present members who use a variety of strategies to encourage new members- including, I have it on good authority, sprinting across three lanes of traffic stopped at the lights to leave a form with a perplexed MX-5 driver. And, yes, he is a member now!

Presentation of this President's report also presents me with the honour of thanking the people who have really made the Club work. In recent months my own involvement has been restricted and the person who has borne the brunt of this has been Anne Kehl. To say that the Club is where it is today because of her unstinting efforts is only a small reward for the time and energy Anne has put into your Club. To you Anne my personal thanks and the thanks of every club member. I hope you will continue as part of the Club organisation. It is also appropriate to thank Anne's other half, Roy, for his work on the database.

Club Captain Ron Lyons has worked tirelessly to find those interesting roads and the introduction of the "car care" competition is providing added interest. Ron is a tremendous asset to our club and we look forward to his continued involvement. Speaking of competition brings me to Alan Greenough. From the very first meeting in May 1990 Alan wanted the club to enter the competition field. He struggled with other committee members to ensure CAMS affiliation and battled to conduct the high-speed day at Eastern Creek last year. This year he has worked to solicit invitations from other clubs so that our members can enjoy the MX-5 in competition and the increasing numbers going to these events justifies and rewards his persistence. Thanks Alan, we look forward to reports about your times around Amaroo, or Winton, or Catalina. The Club has also been well serviced by Treasurer Tony Bonnano and the healthy balance of over \$6,000.00 shows his prudence and ability to say no.

During the year the Committee was joined by Lea Findley and she took up the task of producing the newsletter. She was ably supported by Mark Sweetman although both tell me that editing and printing the newsletter doesn't mean write it all as well so in the coming year let's all write at least one article for the interest and benefit of other members.

Finally my thanks to all members who have supported the club at the various events throughout the year. We have a strong unique club which will grow through your efforts. The future lies in our ability to acknowledge the diversity of interests of members and ensure that all of us work towards the continued enjoyment of "our" great little car. Thank you for your support which I know will continue well into the future. As a postscript I would like to congratulate the new Committee. Under Ron's capable guidance we will continue to grow. But just to be sure - *IS THAT MX-5 DRIVER IN THE NEXT LANE A MEMBER???*

Pieter Versluis.

Mazda News Update.

There have been 2,750 MX-5's sold in Australia since their launch. Of these 1132 have been sold in NSW. With 41% of these vehicles being sold in NSW one would imagine that there is great potential for the MX-5 Club of NSW to increase it's membership.

The MX-5 is receiving a facelift and following is a list of the improvements.

1. Improved suspension components which have brought better handling and stability.
 2. A boot release is now standard.
 3. There is now a storage compartment below the audio unit.
 4. Dashboard ventilators have been fitted with a knob to aid positioning. No more broken finger nails.
 5. The detachable hardtop now incorporates an interior lining and a rear window demister.
- Following on from this facelift, in January '92 a Malibu Gold Limited Edition MX-5 will be introduced in Australia. There will be only 55 Malibu Gold MX-5's sold in Australia. Apart from the special paintwork, these vehicles will all be soft tops and fitted with a CD Player and Headrest Speakers.

Mazda is still denying any changes to the engine. They're stating there will be NO 1.8 or 2.0 Ltr and definitely NO turbo.

Who the Hell is the New Treasurer?

As a child of the baby booming 50's it is sufficient to say that my 40th birthday is well over and I am coming to terms with my "mid life crisis".

Part of my therapy in this "executive" stress bearing world is my ownership of my MX-5.

I am married to Margaret and have the national average of 2.0 children. Fiona is a 16 year old dynamic teenager with the usual love hate relationship with her father who won't allow her to put her "Ls" upon "THE CAR". Martin is a 14 year old with a talent for soccer and tennis not attributable to his dad.

I maintain a rural retreat in th North Shore area of Rural North Coast NSW by the name of Nabiac and am custodian of cats, a dog and copious ground and airborne vermin.

In my acceptance of an executive role within the club structure I am indicating my desire to "be involved". I am enthusiastic, keen and not overly bright and am interested to meet with you at the club outings and bimonthly meetings.

The Bagman - Rodney Lewis (RPL-984)

Skid Marks

In view of the convoy of Mazda's in support of the Camp Quality kids dare I suggest that a MONTAGE of mighty mazda's often looked like a MOTZA. And would it be fair to say that under the control and guidance of Club Captain Ron, Sundays run through the Southern Highlands was best described as AMOK of MX-5's. *The Bagman.*



Sports Desk



Since the last report the Club has been invited to two speed events at Catalina park (Katoomba) and Amaroo Park.

The Old Catalina was real tigers country, with tight, off camber corners and high wooden sleeper walls with little run off and no room for indiscretion. Four MX-5's attended thanks to the invitation from the Lower Blue Mountains Christian Car Club. The prayer at the end of the Drivers Briefing was a portent of things to come. At the end of my second run I sat in the car wondering how I could stop my knees shaking enough to allow me to get out! Gradually we improved our times and were feeling brave and confident. Best time 78.55 secs.

The only other car in our class was a Laser TX3 driven by a lady who ran 76.99 seconds and retired. Brian Johnson, Mark Kaplan and Les Jeffrey were observed, without permission from the owner, inspecting the engine bay of the Laser, returning to report it as a standard 1.6 litre single O/H cam motor. All of us went out and bettered our times and the lady's (except for me). Les Jeffrey won the class with 75.89 secs and he was very, very white at the end of the run, At the end of the day pints of Double Diamond (and none of us POMS!!!).

Amaroo Park, run by the ARDC was a Supersprint (two cars at a time on tow timed laps each run) Les Jeffrey, Mark Kaplan's brother David and myself drove, with apologies from Brian Johnson (suddenly real-no pun - sick), Daryl (no time to fit fire extinguisher), Anton (unfortunate incident the week before), Mark (Unit Exams), Les we believe is still finding the Tasmanian Tiger and Pieter yet to appear.

Best time (69.02) was not as good as the last event at Amaroo, but was it hot, hot!! But what great dices with hot FIAT X19's, Datsun and Mazda Club Cars.

What is emerging is that the MX-5 is in the club motor sport arena - without significant development - a good middle of the road car. You can take your standard MX-5 and hold your head up high.

Perhaps a true, if sobering, story about Amaroo might encourage your to participate in our high performance driving day on Saturday 21st December.

Alongside me in the pits was immaculate R/R modified Coupe, arguably the best turned out car on the day. It was owned by a father and son team who had spent four (kept him off the streets) years building and developing it. It had cost more than an MX-5. Dad was proudly talking about it while son was on a hot lap. Son didn't finish the lap, he went straight ahead at Mazda House, into a wall and pushed one front wheel back to the firewall. Son was O.K. - needed to go and get some stitches in his knee - car will need months of loving care. Later I asked Dad what had happened. Braked late and hard before the corner, lost traction. couldn't get it back and skated straight ahead into the wall.

If this has not happened to you on the road, it surly will, with or without speeding. One day you will encounter oil, water, dust or dirt, which will see you lose steering traction and to skate ahead at increased velocity. You will know as an enthusiast and as a MX-5 owner what to do in theory but without practise you will probably freeze.

I drive a truck for a living and motor sport is my hobby. Together with many professional drivers I am committed to at least one advanced driving course per year just to stop me freezing. To use a hackneyed phrase "PLEASE CONSIDER".

Alan Greenough

Camp Quality - The MX-5 Sponsored Charity

I am delighted to report on a successful run on sunny Saturday, the 9th of November, in support of Camp Quality.



Camp Quality is a non profit, volunteer organisation, Its purpose is to bring fun and joy into the lives of children with cancer while giving the parents of these children a much needed rest.

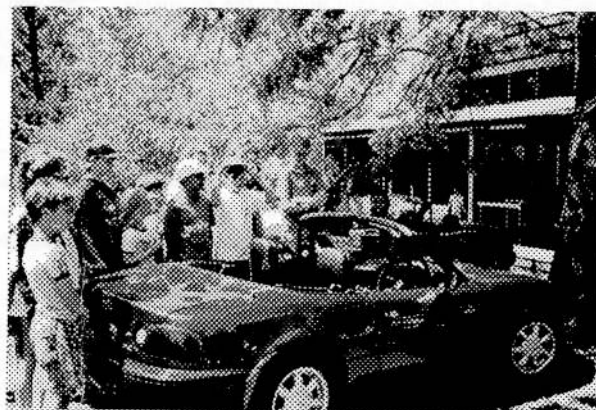
So, with the intention of sharing the fun of an MX-5, twenty one members met at 11.30 at Erminston and travelled in a jaw-dropping convoy through the suburbs to Richmond and then towards Grose Vale. Our young passengers greeted the cars with squeals of anticipation and shouts of "I bags this one!"

As a group, we left the camp on a dirt track and then to add that little something extra

we're off around the bends on the Bells Line of Road to Bilpin to buy an ice-cream and play on the swings. "Hold on to your hats" were off back to camp to collect the second batch including some of the parents, brothers and sisters.

Many of the people at the camp are in difficult circumstances that they are unable to control. The drivers showed generosity and kindness in giving their leisure time and were uplifted by the fortitude of the parents and the joie de vivre of the children. We recognised our own good fortune.

I am convinced that the children have a fundamental physiological difference to adults. They have very special fingers which exude a sticky substance and touch - well - everything. The shinier the surface, the greater the frequency of sticky finger marks. Cleaning the car later, is was hard not to smile - it just doesn't matter how old you are - you just want to set your hands on an MX-5!



A Merry and Safe Christmas From All at the NewsDesk.

Please Remember "If you Drink - Don't Drive."