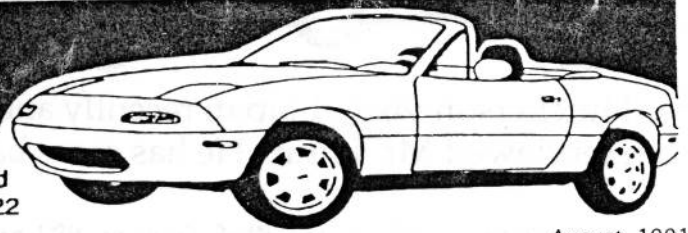


MAZDA MX-5

11/108 Crimea Road
MARSFIELD NSW 2122



Volume 2/1

August, 1991

President's Report

Welcome to our new look newsletter. I hope you like it.

Congratulations to Lea Findley who has taken on the task of co-ordinating your contributions. I'm sure she will be inundated with suggestions. Make sure you use the newsletter to pass on any hints about car care or any other item of interest. Lea is being helped by Mark Sweetman (and Laurie I'm sure) and as I reported to the last General Meeting I am personally grateful for their offer of time and resources.

The last meeting was well attended. The information on car care was particularly well received although it gave Ron Lyons too many hints and the suggestions for future events raised some interesting discussions. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting in September and the AGM in November. Start thinking about your role in the Club!

Elsewhere in the newsletter there is information on coming events .. the Hunter trip (hic) sounds fabulous!

Alan Greenough is looking to arrange another High Speed Driving Course, like the one held at Eastern Creek last year. It is a great way to learn about your car and improve your driving technique. Look for the detail on the following pages.

The club continues to grow, so keep up the good work in telling other happy MX-5 drivers about your club. Enjoy your car and I look forward to seeing you on the next run.

Pieter Versluis.

.....

Club Outing

Mystery Clue

Rally Report.

Our last outing was held on June 9th. Although it was held during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend and it was raining, 11 cars turned out for an exciting Metropolitan Clue Rally.

Starting at Bicentennial Park, Homebush we travelled through suburbs such as Concord West, Rhodes, Top Ryde, Epping and North Ryde..... It was easy to assume that the final destination would be somewhere in the Northern Suburbs. Alas, this was not to be. With the devious mind of Tony Bonanno busily at work the group arrived at the destination (some 4 hours and 200 clues later) at Penrith Leagues Club.

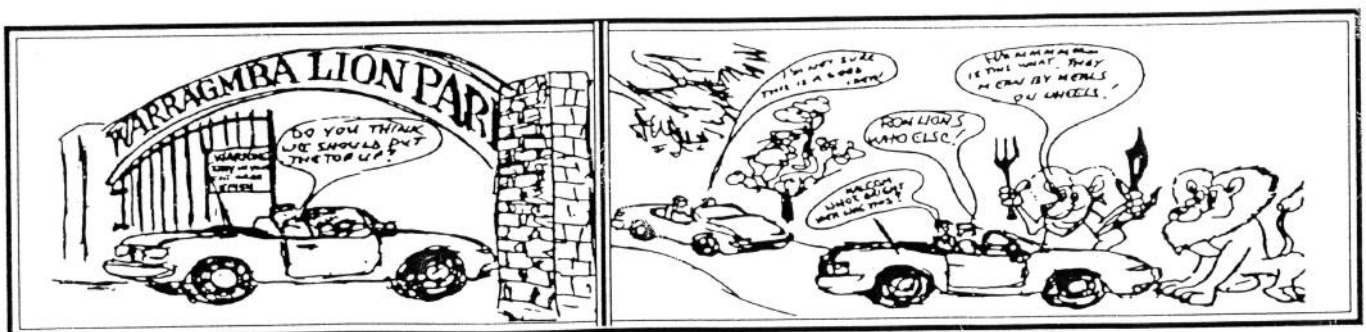
An exciting day was had by all and don't ask Tony for directions if your low on fuel.

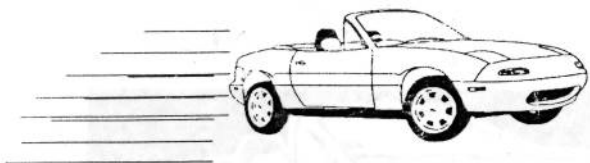
Congratulations go to the winners of the clue rally - Sam Favetti and his navigator. Well done! For their efforts they have won a night for 2 including breakfast at the SUNNYBROOK TRAVELODGE, Warwick Farm.

Don't forget our next outing.....

Weekend in the Hunter Valley 10th & 11th August.

See you there!





Stop Press...Stop Press... Stop Press...Stop Press...

Ross Hutcherson visited Japan recently and went to Mazda at Hiroshima. He met and interviewed Mr. Hirai. He has come back with some very interesting news ...

MR HIRAI, WHO IS THE MX-5 CLUB OF NSW PATRON, AND THUS KNOWN TO THE MANY MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN A ONE-DAY OUTING TO KANGAROO VALLEY ORGANISED BY THE CLUB, WAS MORE THAN PLEASED TO DISCUSS ABOUT A SUBJECT CLOSE TO HIS HEART. DURING THE INTERVIEW, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT QUITE CLEARLY AND WITH NO DOUBTS IN HIS TONE: "NO TURBOS". HOWEVER, AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD SEE A PROPOSED "JAPANESE MODEL ONLY" LARGER 1.8 LITRE VERSION, OR A STRIPPED-DOWN "BUDGET" VERSION, A CONCISE AND UNAMBIGUOUS RESPONSE WAS UNAVAILABLE!

ITS SEEMS CERTAIN HOWEVER THAT ADDITIONAL COLOURS WILL SOON BE ON THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET: MOST LIKELY APPEAR TO BE YELLOW (A LEGACY FROM LOTUS?), JET BLACK, AND PERHAPS AN IRIDESCENT SILVER (ALREADY AVAILABLE IN JAPAN).

MR HIRAI MENTIONED THAT MAZDA HAS ALREADY PREPARED A LONG LIST OF ACCESSORIES FOR THE EUNOS (AS IT IS CALLED IN JAPAN), INCLUDING - WITH THE BLESSING OF THE COMPANY - SOME "MANIAC PARTS" (MAZDA'S DESCRIPTION, NOT MINE). SOME OF THE GOODIES IN THE LATTER CATEGORY INCLUDE STIFFER SPRINGS, HEAVIER SWAY BARS, AND NEWLY-RATED SHOCK ABSORBERS (DESIGNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH BILSTEIN OF GERMANY). OTHER ACCESSORIES WORTH NOTING ARE AERO "DRESS" PARTS, 14 X 6 WHEELS, TONNEAU COVER, DOOR-KICK SILLS, UPGRADED SOUND SYSTEM (WITH THE NOW COMPULSORY CD PLAYER), AND THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF INTERIOR DRESS FITTINGS

AS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MX-5, MR HIRAI ASSURED THAT THE RUNAWAY SUCCESS OF THE PRODUCT WOULD ENSURE A LIFE CYCLE WORTHY OF ITS POPULARITY. WHEN QUESTIONED IF THE VEHICLE WOULD GO THE SAME WAY AS THE RX-7 (IE. GROW SUCCESSIVELY HEAVIER, MORE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPENSIVE WITH EACH GENERATION), THE ANSWER WAS A CLEAR "NO". MAZDA REALISES WHAT MAKES THE CAR SO UNIQUE TO THE SPORTSCAR BUYER, AND INTENDS TO KEEP OFFERING A SUPERB LIGHTWEIGHT PURPOSE-BUILT VEHICLE WITH A SENSIBLE POWER-TO-WEIGHT RATIO, CRISP HANDLING, PRECISE CONTROLLABILITY AND ELEGANT UNCLUTTERED STYLING. MY MEETING WAS CONCLUDED WITH A COMPLETE FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CAR'S FUTURE. WHY? BECAUSE THE MX-5/EUNOS/MIATA (CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL) IS THE INSPIRATION OF A TEAM OF MANAGERS AND DESIGNERS WHO LOVE TO DRIVE FOR THE SHEER PLEASURE OF THAT EXPERIENCE. I FELT THAT, IN TALKING WITH MR HIRAI, I WAS DISCUSSING THE TOPIC OF THE MX-5 WITH A FELLOW MEMBER OF OUR CLUB, NOT WITH A DIVISION HEAD OF A LARGE CORPORATION.... THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CAR WAS OBVIOUS AND CAME OUT TIME AND AGAIN DURING OUR DISCOURSE, AND I AM HAPPY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MX-5 CLUB HAS A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE IN FRONT OF IT.

(MORE REFLECTIONS ON THE MAZDA CORPORATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CLUB'S NEWSLETTER).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, "Original or Not?" That is the question?

Members of the MX-5 Club, today we have original cars, how will they be in 5, 10 or 20 years from now?

Firstly, let us define the meaning of the word ORIGINAL. My dictionary states "of or belonging, origin of first stage of existence of a thing not copied, the first form."

My reason for writing this is to provide some thought for our members so as to help preserve the originality of our cars into the future.

Your car is original the day you purchase her from your Mazda dealer, and if you never replace anything on her she would always remain original. However, that is an impossibility as we all wish to drive and enjoy our cars. Yes, we can have our cake and eat it, or should I say our can and drive it, if we stop now and take note.

As your car ages you will replace bits and pieces with Mazda approved of after market spare parts but, are they original. In many cases yes and in others no. For instance, let us take the common spark plug. From Japan your car is fitted with factory plugs and after your first major service the dealership may fit non-factory plugs which he may justify to you for various reasons, that's o.k. The option is yours, now is the time to think of the future. Ask for the original plugs back.

If you keep these parts, that is the original parts, you have the opportunity in years to come, to show your car the way it was. ORIGINAL.

Dallas Rowland

Dear Dallas,

Well! How many of us had thought that far ahead or considered this aspect of the future of our babies. I can see a group developing here.

Ε. ☺

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on taking up the thankless and rewardless task of Newsletter editor of the MX-5 Club. Please accept the following additional commendation as a possible "Letter To The Editor", should this be proposed as a regular feature of future MX-5 Club Newsletters.

Congratulations to Alan Greenough (and the committee) for the instigation of a 1991 Sporting Calendar. I am certain that many members of the Club have been awaiting eagerly for the opportunity to participate against other members in such sporting activities as sports car club events (such as the forthcoming Historical Racing Car Club Of Australia event at Eastern Creek) and Lap Dashes (like the Warwick Farm event).

The MX-5 was developed, particularly with an eye for such activities, and I believe that owners will not develop a full appreciation of this wonderful little car until they venture into such events. It is the "spirit" of the MX-5 which separates it from other soft-top concept cars such as the Ford Capri.

The Club's emphasis has to date focussed on social drives and weekends away; these are a lot of fun, and I have participated on several of these events. So the initiation of a Sporting Calendar sees a further fulfilment of the Club's original objectives, and another success for the Committee.

Please keep up the good work.

Ross Hutcherson.

Dear Ross,

Thanks for your note and I'm sure I know what you will be reading first in this newsletter!!

Ε. ☺

From The Editor.....

Dear Members,

We are a young Club but a progressive one. This is our first 'new style' newsletter - The August Edition - so PLEASE :- Enthusiasm we got, Ideas we got but - we love your new ideas and enthusiasm. If you want to pen a letter, ask a question, sen a clipping you found interesting or even plan a social outing or event; ring up & I'll write it down type message, memorabilia for the archive or just some constructive criticism don't hesitate to participate. Send your whatever to our Secretary

Anne Kehl

MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF NSW
11/108 Crimea Road, Marsfield 2122.

OR if you want to make a phone call with your message, phone me on 832 1101 and I'll do the writing.

Both Anne and I look forward to hearing from you.

Lea Findley.

Ε. ☺

Thank you to the person who rang and requested we attach the list of current Rego Nos. of members. The list is current to 30th April, keeping in mind Membership is due NOW for most of us. Remember when recruiting new members please don't do what one enthusiastic (he) driver did to a poor, unsuspecting lady. He POUNCED on her!!! Having roared up behind her in another unmentionable vehicle (he) did leap out and POUNCE. The poor woman went home and told her Doctor husband about this CRAZY. The husband actually rang (surprise, surprise) and found the CRAZY not so. The husband joined and we hope he doesn't think he has to approach prospective members in the same manner.I like happy endings.

A not so happy ending involves our Anne. The obnoxious driver who will not acknowledge our lovely Anne and her very lady like attempts to recruit him.

You never know, he may think Anne is trying to entice him in other directions.

Ho! Hum!

..... **Skid Marks**

Seen on a foggy Saturday morning outside Katoomba, an MX-5 with the top down. The driver well rugged up and the passenger straining the limits of the seat belt - an antique pine chest.....

The Tale of the Sad Ad - "For Sale - MX-5 out; to make way for the new baby."

Alan Greenough takes his role as acting Club Captain seriously or doesn't he read his trip notes.

- arrived at Blacktown for the Bastille Day outing at 8.30am while the actual meeting time was 10.30.

- Must have been one heck of a short cut!



Points of Interest

Club Archive-

We've been going long enough to start an archive - especially now that we have had our Patron visit and formalise our activities.

The Club Secretary, Anne Kehl, has been collecting memorabilia and trivia. She's sure that there must be someone out there with a copy of every article printed about 'our little car'.

And what about photos? There will be a competition for the best photo submitted between now and the Christmas Party. Pass in your entries at any of the Club meetings.

.....
Dear Editor,
What about the Ball?
P.M.

Dear P.M.,
I really love a person of few words, so I will answer in kind.....
It's on - soon, maybe October - you'll get a note!!

Ε. ☺

P.S. I didn't know Mr Hawke has an MX-5?