

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

It PAYS to belong...

Now, where have I heard that phrase before? But certainly being a Financial Member of the Mazda MX-5 Club of N.S.W. has many benefits, not only do you have an opportunity to meet many different and interesting people on our social outings and sporting events or a chance to show off your MX-5 in public parades, it can also save you many dollars on MX-5 accessories or service costs.

Currently, the Committee is negotiating with various companies to offer these special services/savings to MX-5 Club members. These will be published in our newsletters.

We are pleased to announce that **JOHN NEWELL MAZDA SERVICE** at Alexandria is now offering VIP service to MX-5 Club members.

This service offers the use of a free loan car at service appointments; representing a saving of \$35.00 per day and repairs will be considered urgent and marked VIP to facilitate quick and efficient service. This service plus the loan car must be ordered when booking in your car and you must show your current Club Membership Card to the service advisor.

JOHN NEWELL MAZDA SERVICE

is located at:

Unit 3,9-13 O'Riordan St, Alexandria

Telephone : 319 0011

Please find enclosed with this newsletter the letter from Terry Knight (After Sales Manager).

FINISHLINE CAR ACCESSORIES in Melbourne is offering a **DISCOUNT** on all it's products and a free courier delivery service to our N.S.W. members.

Finishline offers from cosmetic products like wooden dash panels, Aerodynamic body kits, to performance products such as the PowerChip, genuine Millen Exhaust systems and a RAM air induction system. In fact, almost anything that you want to add to the MX-5, Finishline will most likely have it.

To obtain your discount, mention that you are a member of the Mazda MX-5 Club of N.S.W. and quote your member number.

Call Barry Helfenbaum on (03) 528 4618 .

FINISHLINE CAR ACCESSORIES

P.O.Box 272, Caulfield South

Victoria 3162

Mobile: 018 394-056

Fax: 03 528-4914

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

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Letter from the President

Firstly I would like to thank all who supported me last year as Club Captain. It was definately a learning experience but I enjoyed it and I had a load of fun, consensus is that everyone felt as I did and fun was the main aim of the game. Those that had various criticisms were listened to and we tried to please all. There is a very old saying that goes; "you can please some of the people some of the time and all the people some of the time. But you can't please all the people all the time."

So if we can make it better we will, but we must know before we can do anything; the committee would like to hear from you, please drop us a line.

As for my new job, I'm still in a daze. But fortunately the club is very lucky to have a fabulous committee - they are ALL working on projects for the members and as these things come to fruition they will be passed on to you, the member. Don't forget you will always hear about these things first hand at the General Meetings, so come along to the first meeting on 24th February.

Lea Findley
Club President

Thank You

The Committee and it's members would like to thank all who supported the club in 1992 and in Particular Ben at Canterbury Mazda, Alan at WestEnd Mazda, Gus at Rockdale Mazda, Meguirs and Finishline Car Accessories. All of which provided the Club with prizes at our Christmas function.

A special thank you to Caroline Brennan for the lovely pottery plus the management and staff of the Newington Inn for hosting our Christmas Party; a good time was had by all.

PARTS REGISTER

Iain Boyd

As time goes on you will no doubt, as I have, that you will collect various spares, at this moment for instance I now have a full spare set of CSA rims, two new(ish) rear and one front standard shocks, a set of plastic door kick guards, a standard Momo steering wheel and a slightly dented front nearside guard.

What I propose to do is to compile a register of who has got what, where they are and how much they are asking for them. By doing this, if you need a spare part, I may be able to give you a contact as to who can supply it.

So let me know what you have, either fax it on 623 9713 or drop me a line with your list.

I intend to include suppliers and services in the register so if you are aware of any good deals going let me know, for instance, should you require new tyres the contact RE-TYRE AT HOME on 047 218 582 and ask for Brett Story and mention my name, you will be pleased with the substantial discount offered.

Finally, I have some of the special tools required to service and tune our little toys and intend to eventually obtain them all, by fair means or foul, again these will be made available to competent owners who can make use of them and save service costs

Iain Boyd

7/37 Woodview Avenue

St. Marys 2760

tel: 833 2346

We will publish Iain's register in the next newsletter (ed).

Welcome to the Club

*** Cathy Francis**

Cathy joined us in January, this brings our membership numbers to 131.

Editor's Desk

Welcome to our new look Newsletter, I hope you like it. This newsletter was produced by Express Publisher (for Windows) which the club recently purchased and I have been busily learning how to use all its features. Unfortunately I'm running the program with a very slow 386 PC computer and I can tell you, it's not a lot of fun waiting for things to happen.

We the committee feel that producing a good newsletter is important in relaying information to our members; it is often the main source of information and activity for many.

You should by now have received information that the committee has proposed a computer system for the Club to run the database, letters and this newsletter. This proposal will be tabled in our February 24th general meeting, come and voice your vote.

Finally, I would like to thank Iain Boyd, who is contributing many articles for the newsletter. If you can contribute in any way please call me or send them to our post office box.

See you on the road

Bryan Wu

MEMBERSHIPS

Have you paid your dues???

If not this may be your last newsletter, and you wouldn't want that to happen. Send your overdue fees in TODAY. Remain financial.

Who buys MX-5's ??

"It's biggest buyers are men aged 25 to 39 years but 45 percent of its sales are to women with most buyers overall being professionals."

- The Daily Telegraph Mirror, 1/93

MOTOR TORQUE

- Iain Boyd

Mazda will shortly be releasing the wire wheels previewed on the metallic black MX-5 at the Sydney Motor show as an after market option. These are a true wire wheel, with full laced spokes and not an imitation with a steel backing plate. Currently they have been submitted to the Australian Design Council for approval prior to Mazda putting them on sale.

For those interested in buying a set be aware of the following pertinent points. I used to align and respoke wire wheels for Jaguars, Aston Martins, Healey's and MG's....It was a profitable hobby. Bear in mind that if you do buy a set of the spokes, these will need to be retensioned at regular intervals dependent on the condition and surface of the roads you drive on, if you drive on a lot of pot holed country type roads this could be every 1000 kilometres, every 500 if you live in Blacktown!

Retensioning involves removing the tyre and inner tube, fitting the wheel onto a jig and checking the rim for ovality and any alignment deviations, that is, the faces of the rim must be parallel to the inner mounting flange. If the rim has been dented it must be removed and the dent pressed out before this can be carried out and a full relace and respoke is then necessary.

There is only one company that I know of who can re-press. wheels and they are in Melbourne. Rims can be repressed only once and the cost, time and hassle is such that I would often advise buying a new wheel, for example, if the rim is chromed it may need to be acid bathed to remove the plating then rechromed and repolished before it can be relaced as pressing dents out often causes the chrome plating to crack or craze.

Based on the makes of vehicles that I am familiar with the costs can be expected to be as follows.

(prices are per wheel)

\$ 55.00 for retensioning.

\$185.00 full respoke at approx every 80,000 km.

(cost includes 36 new spokes and spoke nuts).

\$ 65.00 for rim pressing.

\$150.00 for a new rim.

Mazda advises that the cost of the wheels will be approx. \$325.00 each including sales tax. (\$1300.00 per set)

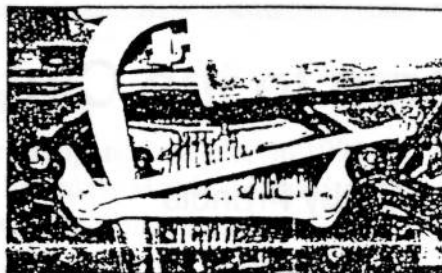
If you do decide to get a set, (and I will be) keep your standard wheels and tyres for every day motoring and only use the wires for show, club outings etc. that way you will keep the maintenance costs down to a minimum.

Once I obtain a set I will be fabricating a jig and will be able to carry out realignments and respokes for club members on a "at cost" basis.

Whats new in MX-5 Accessories

In 1992 Mazda have added a cross brace onto the rear suspension. Mazda calls this a performance bar. Its purpose is to increase the steering response of the car by eliminating any small deflections that may have been occurring in the rear sub frame. These deflections could affect the alignment of the rear wheels during cornering and bumps which would result in a slight slopiness in the MX-5's otherwise crisp handling. It also helps to eliminate any flex in the chassis that could contribute to the high speed vibration that some have experienced.

Unfortunately, these performance bars come fitted on current models only, and can't be retrofitted onto earlier models. Luckily Finishline has again been first off the mark to find an after market product to bring this new bar to all MX-5 owners. This performance bar is easily bolted on within minutes. The cost is \$350 (discount and free delivery for MX-5 Club members in N.S.W.), Barry tells me that supply is limited, order yours now.



FLASHING

MX-5's

THE MX-5 GREETING!

Here's one way to acknowledge other MX-5 drivers.

Using a simple diode, you can modify your wiring harness so the "flash to pass" function on your indicator stalk actually raises your headlights and shines your high beam at oncoming cars. When you raise the stalk, the headlights close again. It makes a perfect greeting as well as a great "silent horn" when people pull out in front of you.

* First go to an electronics supply store and buy a diode rated for 2.5 amps (minimum) at 1 kilovolt. The next step is easy. * Remove the plastic steering column cover under the dash area by removing the two lower Phillips screws and sliding forward. * Locate the large 16-pin wiring harness connector that runs along the steering column.

* Now you just need to locate the correct wires. The wires leading into the connector come from the steering column switches, go through the connector and lead into the car's main wiring harness. Make sure you twist the connector so you can see the main harness side. Disregard the switch side of the connector because the switch's wire colours can vary depending on the supplier making the combination switch. * The first wire you need to find on the main harness side is the Red/White (R/W) wire; the other is the White/Black (W/B) wire. Both are part of the centre four slots shown in the diagram.

* Insert the diode so it runs from the R/W wire the W/B wire; that is the silver mark on the diode leads to the W/B wire. (if you have a voltmeter, check that the R/W wire reads 12 volts when the indicator stalk is pulled back towards the driver ("flash to pass"), and zero volts when the stalk is released. The W/B wire shows 12 volts when the headlights are on, and zero when they are off.. What you are doing with the diode is allowing the stalk switch to raise and turn on the headlights

(R/W wire activating the W/B wire), but not allowing electricity to flow in the other direction.

* You can connect the diode by forcing each end down inside the particular wire's slot and pinning it between the wire's blade and the wall of the slot. Carefully cover the exposed diode wires with electrical tape to prevent any shorts.

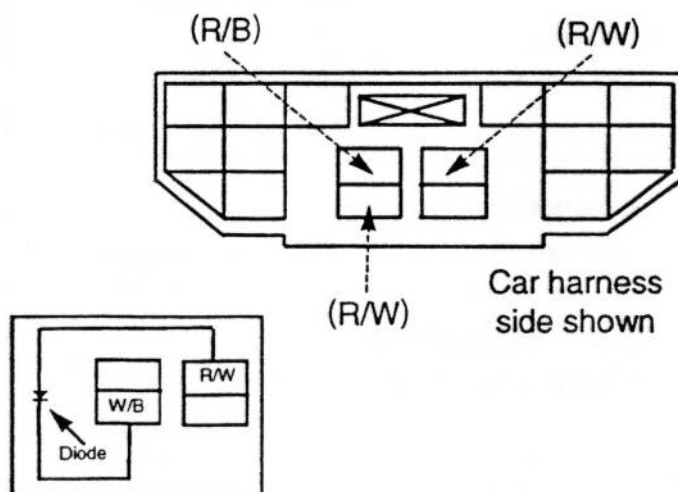
* Test the circuit by turning on the headlights to see if they work on low and high beams. Then cut off the lights and try the flash-to-pass stalk switch. Both headlights should raise momentarily and close. If you pull the stalk switch and hold it back, the headlights should raise and stay up with the high beams lit. If all this doesn't happen, check your wire colours and polarity (direction) of your diode installation.

* Then try the headlight raising switch located between the centre vents for correct operation. Secure the diode to the wiring harness with electrical tape or tie wraps and make sure that the final job is well insulated with electrical tape.

Now you can wave to other owners with a simple flick of the right hand - simple, quick, effective and cheap.

FROM MX-ACTION MAZDA MX-5 CLUB - VICTORIA.

MX-5 Club of N.S.W. will be putting a limited number of kits together for members to purchase; these will be available at any of the club's outings. Committee members Iain Boyd or Bryan Wu will be happy to install it for you.



CAPTAIN COOK'S first voyage of 1993..

Our new Club Captain Graham Cook led a merry band of members on the first social drive for 1993. Vivian Sophocleous take-up the story...

PICNIC IN THE BANKS OF THE NEPEAN

What can I say about the picnic at Tench Park? "IT WAS HOT! and it got HOTTER!!!" The storm clouds heading our way promising some relief kept on going with a light sprinkling of rain just enough to spoil the shine on all those "Sparkling" Mazda's.

Apart from the weather we had a great day, it was a very nice day to start off our 1993 "Mazda Year". The afternoon was rounded off by a pleasant cruise on the "Nepean Belle" paddle steamer. All in all you could say it was a day of leisure and pleasure.

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)
- * Competition Secretary**
Iain Boyd 833-2346 (home/bus)
- * Membership Officer**
Phillip Sophocleous 774-3856 (bus)
547-1607 (home)

1993 CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR

Please note down these dates in your diary!

FEBRUARY 20th Saturday evening Drive	AUGUST 15th Social Drive
FEBRUARY 24th Club Meeting	AUGUST 18th Club meeting
MARCH 21st Social Drive	SEPTEMBER 18/19 Weekend Run
APRIL 18th Social Drive	OCTOBER 17th Social Drive
APRIL 21st Club meeting	OCTOBER 20th Club meeting
MAY 15/16th Weekend Run	NOVEMBER 21st Social Drive
JUNE 20th Social Drive	NOVEMBER 24th Club A.G.M.
JUNE 23rd Club meeting	DECEMBER 15th Christmas Party
JULY 18th Social Drive	NB. Camp Quality run to be announced

MX-5 MOTORKHANA

Don't forget the first round is on Feb 7th. You can still send your entries in. If you are not competing, come and cheer or assist as an official. Ring Iain Boyd on 833 2346 for further information.

MOTORKHANA DATES

FEBRUARY 7th
MARCH 14th
MAY 2nd
JUNE 13th
JULY 25th
SEPTEMBER 5th
OCTOBER 17th
DECEMBER 5th

VENUE

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

MAZDA MX-5 CLUB Supports Safe Driving