

MX-5

Club Newsletter

September 1992.

President's

R E P O R T

Your Club President - Ron Lyons

Here it is September already. Time to start thinking about the elections in November. Do you wish to work on the Committee? Do you have the time? How much time is needed? All these and other questions can be answered. Ring me for information.

On the issue of meetings the Committee has discussed the value of regular Club meeting given the poor attendance. Express your views at the AGM in NOVEMBER.

Recent Club runs have generated a lot of interest with many new people joining our merry band. The September run to the Hunter looks particularly interesting and the October run to the Southern Highlands will be invigorating. See you there.

Don't forget you sporting enthusiasts to ring Alan Geenough on 938 1902 and get details on the latest events available to Club members. Spectating shows interest and will give you an idea of what is involved.

Special thanks to Sue Forrest and Anne Kehl for their sterling efforts in the membership drive. They have been well supported by Colin and Elaine Caldwell. Thanks.

Look forward to seeing many of you at future runs and the AGM.

OLYMPIC TICKER TAPE PARADE.

TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST 1992

What a fantastic atmosphere - you had to be there to believe it!

We assembled at the State Government garage in Glebe where the cars were prepared with wattle (made in China!!) and green and gold streamers.

About 70 cars including a Mercedes 500SL, BMW Z1, a new model Jaguar XJS, a few BMW Cabrio's, a handful of Mister two's, and 50 or so of the best looking MX-5's ever seen made up a great convoy.

As far as I was concerned half the fun of the day was the dash from Glebe to the Opera House. What fun - police escort and the lights in our favour or being overridden by police on point duty. Plenty of acceleration as we tried to keep with the car in front who was obviously trying to stay with the police escort - or that Z1.

At the Opera House large helium filled green and gold Telecom balloons were tied to the rear of the cars and the Olympic medallists came a'lookin. Each car had been numbered and they came looking for "their" car. The lucky ones got to ride in the MX-5's.

Then the real show began. We inched from the forecourt, across Circular Quay and left into George Street where we were absolutely swamped by well wishers, ribbons, ticker tape, phone books (shredded) and anything else which demonstrated emotion and support. Paper, paper everywhere. And it got into cracks and crevices that I never knew existed in my car. I'm still getting the bits out.

All in all, one fantastic day for everybody who took part, the Olympians, onlookers and the mere drivers.

Congratulations and thanks to the Committee for giving me the opportunity.

PAUL HEEKS.

Thanks to all club members who took part especially those who made their cars available for members whose other half wanted to drive their car. It was a great Club showing and looked fantastic on tele. (Ed.)

CLUB BADGES

The club badges most of you wear to our runs and meeting are provided through WEST RYDE TROPHIES at 904 Victoria Rd. West Ryde.

Geoff Baldock there has been very supportive of the Club so if you are looking for any trophies or presentation awards within your own organisations give Geoff a call on 808 3341. And don't forget to tell him you heard about from the MX-5 Club.

MEMBERSHIPS.

Have you paid your dues???

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

Remain financial.

MAZDA MX-5 CLUB Supports Safe Driving

FROM THE Steering Wheel OF THE Club Captain

- Lea Findley

If you haven't sent your money for the Hunter trip please ring me urgently. It is booked out but money must be forwarded. Please contact me directly.

Canberra - not exactly from my steering wheel. The story as told by Alison Shortal.

Saturday July 18th was a lovely day if you were one of three things: a duck, an Englishman, or an MX-5 owner on the way to Canberra. Despite the miserable weather the mood was jolly as most of us managed to get to the Tram Museum at Sutherland by 9.30am.

The run took us down the coast road to Albion Park where the plan was to have a great run up the Macquarie Pass. But, as they say the best laid plans were wrecked by a semi-trailer, or two!!

After a brief but very tasty stop at the Robertson Pie Shop it was down the Expressway to Nark, oops sorry Lark Hill Winery to taste some interesting wines. From there straight to Canberra via Goulburn and Queanbeyan.

We arrived at the Chelsea Lodge in Canberra late in the afternoon. RIDDLE: How do you fit 12 cars in a space designed for 6?? Just ask Laurie!

Our host Graham gave us a very friendly reception, despite some people having trouble comprehending single digit numbers!! It was great to have a couple of hours to settle in and relax before dinner.

One couple took relaxing to the extreme. You see they had the downstairs room which had access to the rear carpark and the front of the Lodge. Discretion and good manners prevent me from mentioning any names (but the car is blue and the plate is BD 1961); this couple very generously allowed those of us with upstairs rooms to use their room as a thoroughfare "at any time". Thanks guys.

It was great to have some Canberra MX-5 enthusiasts join us for per-dinner drinks. Peter O'Brien and Ronald Sandeman, who later joined the NSW branch, are hoping to start a Canberra chapter of the Club. Lea and Laurie provided some very helpful hints. After a brief(!) overview of Sundays run, punctuated only by the sound of growling bellies, it was time to settle down to a gourmet's delight.

Graham's wife Fiona cooked up an absolute storm for dinner, over which numerous bottles of wine were consumed. Excellent!

After a wonderful meal like that most sensible people would settle down for a chat over coffee with friends. But no, the MX-5 club charter insists on a certain element of masochism in its members. It must! Why else would some people go walking on a COLD Canberra night?!!

Sunday dawned a glorious day and after a delicious cooked breakfast it was time to set off for the sights of Canberra. But alas, there is another clause in the Charter insisting on clean cars. There was however, a certain rebellious element who refused to clean their pride and joy. One rebel, who owns a white MX-5, eventually gave in to the pressure and washed most of his car.

The run on Sunday was nothing short of fantastic. A stop at a delicious coffee shop (hungry people these MX-5 owners - to eat a complete coffee shop!! Ed.) and interesting gallery at Tharwa provided yet more opportunities for sustenance and spending.

Our next stop was Gibraltar Falls. The road to the falls was what dreams are made of - oh and the falls weren't too bad either.

A wine tasting session at the Wine Press in Ginninderra proved so popular they ran out of Chardonnay. Talk about the quick and thirsty. Lunch at the Federation Inn lived up to the high standard of the rest of the weekend.

A quick photo session outside the Wine Press finished off what can only be described as a fabulous weekend.

To Lea and Laurie thanks for organising a fun and interesting weekend.

(Please book my space for next years run! Ed.)

NORTH SYDNEY TO SURF.

VIEWS! VIEWS! VIEWS!
by Vivian Sophocleous

Sydney how beautiful you are! If there were any doubts surely these were dispelled after our jaunt through the northern beaches recently.

Cammeray and Beauty Point residents had a startling beginning to their Sunday morning as 22 "head turners" came spinning through the narrow winding streets. A few jaws literally dropped as we "sped" by. Palm Beach for lunch was our destination. There are some great roads on our northern side!

The weather was perfect and did anyone partake of the water? Well yes I did see someone with wet hair - alongside a blue MX-5. Was she very brave? or ...

The days drive consisted of left and right turns that kept the drivers on their toes. Amazingly no one got lost.

A big hand to Colin and Elaine for a well planned run and especially for afternoon tea at their home. Commendations to the chef for the delicious cakes.

CHRISTMAS PARTY & PRESENTATION DAY

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Make sure you set this day aside. The venue is yet to be decided but we are working at making this a very enjoyable day

Be there and support your club.

More information next newsletter.

Contact Frank Johnson if you have any ideas or can help on his home number 02 669 5328.

MAZDA MX-5 CLUB Supports Safe Driving

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BATTERY REPLACEMENT

Dear Ed.,

I read with interest your "Battery Replacement" article in the June 92 Club Newsletter - the cost of replacing your MX5 battery.

My battery decided to call it a day twelve hours before I was due to leave for the Whitsunday in Queensland, with the MX5 of course.

My local Mazda Service Centre advised that a replacement battery had been ordered from Melbourne and would arrive in a few days time. I quickly explained that I was due to leave at 5.00 a.m. the following morning and what could be done about the battery, here and now.

My local Mazda Service Centre was kind enough to replace my battery with one lonely unwary brand spanking new red hard-top MX5 sitting in their showroom.

When the holiday was over and the inevitable accounts started to roll in, well there it was, an account for the new MX5 battery. I quickly checked the "Conditions of the Warranty", Clause (c) whereby the warranty does not extend to the battery, isn't that always the way..... < \$#!> ? What the heck, I had nothing to lose, a telephone call to Mazda distributors in Sydney would not go astray.

I was advised by the N.S.W. Mazda distributors, that YES, Mazda would in fact replace a faulty MX5 battery for the first two years after purchase. A quick check by Mazda N.S.W. on their computer confirmed that I qualified for a free replacement battery. Mazda N.S.W. then rang my local Mazda Service Centre and had the account re-directed to them. Good one!

The only snag is make sure that an Authorised Mazda Service Centre replaces the battery, as the battery will need to be checked and sent to the Mazda N.S.W. distributors.

Joe Cremona.

P.S. The 5,000km round trip to the Whitsunday went PURR..FECT, only a few more stone chips to add to my existing collection.

Dear Ed.,

I recently had the un-nerving experience of the metal pull tab to the zipper of the soft top shearing in two. After much discussions with MX5 dealers, plus members of MX5 Car Clubs (thanks to John Cartwright) it was decided not to replace the entire zip but to install a substantial key ring holder in place of the metal pull tab.

Apparently there have been instances where installing a new zipper has failed to retain the original tension of the soft top, resulting in ungainly looking ripples etc.

The good news is that the key ring holder is easier to use than the original metal pull tab.

Useful tip to replace the zip pull. I would suggest that everyone lubricates both sides of their zip with "Dri-Lube" solid stick lubricant, available at K Mart. Also, most important, do not to attempt to zip up or unzip the window when the hood is clipped in position. Pull up the hood, leave unclipped, zip up the window, then clip up the hood. Same when unzipping. A little care and patience will prevent further zip trouble, most have been trouble free (mine over nearly 3 years).

If you think the MX5 is in any way troublesome, try any other hood and you'll be grateful to Mazda.

Dear Ed.

As you perhaps are not aware, MX5 Convertibles are a main target for thieves. The reason for this is that MX5's are fitted with Momo Sports Steering Wheels and the cost of replacing one is at least \$800.00. It is not only that the steering wheel gets stolen, but it is the way it is stolen. the thieves simply cut the canvas on the roof and take the steering wheel which only takes them 30 seconds.

The cost of all that then becomes a question of insurance; or you pay the bill. We can assist in minimising the risk of this happening to your MX5 by fitting a GRANT STEERING SECURITY SYSTEM which is exclusive to INTERLOCKS AUTOMOTIVE, the only company who is able to sell and fit the product to your MX5.

In simple terms NO WHEEL - NO STEAL! This device simply removes the steering wheel completely away from the vehicle; without a steering wheel the car cannot possibly be driven away.

If you have any questions, queries or would like to know more about this, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Medaglia on the following numbers:

Home Phone No.: (02) 718-7297
Mobile Service: 018 466909

**FOR SALE -
ONE HARD TOP
BLACK
UNFORTUNATELY.**

Reason for selling - hardly ever used, anyway the weather has been to good lately. I am looking for around \$1,500. Phone Ross on 267-4416 office or 363-9115 home.

(Ring Ross' home and get a message that will certainly brighten your day. Ed.)

MAZDA MX-5 CLUB Supports Safe Driving

MAZDA CLUB DRIVER TRAINING DAY.

Thanks to those who volunteered to make up the Club numbers for this event. Sorry you couldn't all go - but you haven't been forgotten - the Committee is on the lookout for volunteers to work towards our own event.

For those who did go it was a great day. One member dubious about taking his car onto a racetrack and who had to be convinced to borrow a helmet reported the day was an absolute
buzz!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NOTES FROM OTHER CLUBS

In the August edition of the Queensland newsletter an interesting article about one of their members who drove an MX5 across the Nullarbor in February of this year.

The article covers details of the trip from Perth to Adelaide and back. It is interesting to note that the distance from Perth to Adelaide was 2,115km and that was covered in an average of 31.78 miles per gallon. From Adelaide back to Perth 2,705km covered used 32.73 miles per gallon and for those contemplating it there was not too much trouble with stone chips but the cost of petrol on the Nullarbor is over 90 cents a litre.

Also received interesting set of newsletters from the MX5 Club of Victoria. They produce a newsletter very similar to our own. Interesting to note that their first A.G.M. will be held on the 9th September. Also very interesting article which they have re-printed from the Queensland newsletter about an induction system that adds low cost horse power and torque. Well worth reading, have a look at it at the next club meeting.

Dear Ed.,

Via the courtesy of Mr. John Keffe, General Secretary of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, I bring you and your Club Members an Invitation to join this special tour departure to this year's Macau Grand Prix, being staged 21st and 22nd November, on and through the streets of Macau.

For AU\$2,483.00 per person share twin (2 people to a room) just about everything is included. It's a first class deal, good hotels, well located.

We arrive in Macau on Friday 20th November, 1992 a practice day and I'm sure after our tour around the local sites, most will want to have a look at the track to prepare for the two major race days. The programme has something for everyone - from Super Bikes, Road Cars to Formula 3.

Come join us for an exciting time and enjoy your love of Motor Sport, along with a holiday in the East.

Brochures at the next Club meeting.

Best regards,

Dennis J. Weatherall
Allways Travel Pty. Ltd.

FOR SALE - BILSTEIN SHOCK ABSORBERS.

One complete set of front and rear Bilstein Shock Absorbers specially designed in conjunction with Mazda Corporation to fit the MX5. They are factory approved and sold overseas by Mazda Corporation although as yet unavailable through local dealers. These ones have only been used on Sundays (around Amaroo Park), suitable for day to day use as well. They will give a firmer ride than the standard dampers. The replacement cost, if you could find them, would be about \$1,000 however to a fellow enthusiast I am prepared to make them available for \$150 per damper. Phone Ross on 267-4416 at office hours or at home on 363-9115 if you want to improve your cars handling.

1992 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 23.

Club Meeting

October 18.

Bundanoon Run

November 15.

Bathurst Run

planned by Darryl Head

November 18.

AGM and Club Meeting

December 20.

Christmas function

planned by Frank Johnson

SPORTING EVENTS

September 13

Supersprint

November 22

Supersprint

December 6

Hillclimb

for further details and Supp Regs (Entry Forms) call Alan Greenough 938 1902.

Remember, to compete you need at least a CAMS Basic Licence available through Alan.

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Postal Address: 11/108 Crimea Rd., Marsfield
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President Ron Lyons

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Vice President Pieter Versluis

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Treasurer (temp) Sue Forrest

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Secretary Anne Kehl

(H) 02 868 2428 (W) 02 285 7990

Club Captain Lea Findley

(H) 02 832 1101 (W) 02 554 2856

Sporting Events Alan Greenough

(H) 02 938 1902

Membership (temp) Colin Caldwell

(H) 02 451 1432

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