

# Things you may not know ...



■ Words: Malcolm Brand, Foundation Club member and 31-year MX-5 NA owner

## ... about your NA. Fact (or Fiction)

### Air conditioning

**There was a long waiting list for NAs when they were first released in October 1989.**

For instance, an order in August was not delivered until March the following year. Dealers were being offered premiums to the list price to allow enthusiasts to climb up the waiting list.

Whilst air conditioning was an option and maybe is hard to justify on a drop-top car, many found that if you included this option you seemed to move higher up the delivery list.

There were two advantages for this: the dealer obtained a little more profit but the air conditioning was delivered in the boot and was installed by the dealer to add to the Australian content which was important at that time.

It was also nice, on those summer days when it was just too hot to have the roof down and the sun beating hard on your head, to close the roof and crank up the cooling!



### Wheels

**Early builds of the MX-5 were delivered pre-release for testing into Australia.**

At least one car was taken to Mildura to experience Australian heat conditions. Upon testing, engineers were concerned about the spokes on the wheels being hollowed out on the rear of the spoke.

To counteract this possible weakness, some wheels were manufactured with solid spokes (no hollowing).

Rumour has it that these were made in Tasmania. At least one salesman noted that the delay in delivery of an order was because they were waiting on the wheels!

Check *your* NA wheels ... are they hollowed or solid?



### Speakers

**Original NAs had very few extras delivered into Australia ... the reason being: "This is a sports car".**

However, you may (or may not) have noticed that the original NA seat covers have a zip around the headrest.

If you unzip this you can fold down the front covering of the headrest, revealing space for headrest speakers. You can purchase headrest speakers and plug them into the wiring harness beneath the seat as delivered from Hiroshima.

