



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
ABN 82 599 208 521

President's Report for the Year 2013 - 2014

After the widespread changes for our club in 2012-2013, this year has seen the Committee focus on consolidating those changes. We have also been freed up to enhance our efforts in a few key areas that have previously been under-resourced.

It all started with the inaugural **Convenors' Conference** at Camden in November. The Convenors of all six Chapters, a few Committee members and assistants met for a full day to discuss ways in which we will all work together and make our club even more successful. Fiona Shedden did a superb job as our facilitator, keeping us on track and making sure that everyone had a chance to contribute. The key outcome was a set of basic guidelines for Chapter interaction to assist with the planning of cooperative events while ensuring that each Chapter retains their regional identity. We then mapped out a coordinated event calendar for 2014. The results of this planning saw the Chapters unite for at least one multi-Chapter event every month.

Sponsorship and advertising has grown substantially in recent years, to the point where it is now our second largest income source after membership subscriptions. The formal management of this portfolio is now the responsibility of the Vice President, and I thank Pam Estreich for her efforts. This year we welcomed two new Major Sponsors and a new advertiser. Deckspeed Racing sponsors our motorsport community with those funds subsidising our driver training day at Marulan. Mazda Australia also became a Major Sponsor with those funds used to pay for our CAMS affiliation. We welcomed new advertising in Club Torque by Windsor Sports Car Hire. In addition to the continued generous support from ACDC, Hume Smash Repairs, MX5 Solutions, Centenary Plumbing and Blue Mountains Mazda, the club allocates all these sponsor funds to offering a greater range of benefits to members. We will formally thank each of our sponsors with a certificate of appreciation later this evening.

Club Torque magazine is the most equitable way in which the club provides members with a tangible benefit. It is also the most expensive, accounting for almost half our expenditure in FY13. So it was a welcome relief for our budget when we found that a new printer could deliver almost 40% saving in print costs. This has been offset by a 40% increase in postage costs as the magazines are now mailed from Victoria, but we have still realized a net saving of 30%. The magazine continues to be produced at a superb standard. Thank you Timothy Heppell and Andrew Lord, and welcome to Mel Keller and Rod Carter, who hit the ground running with the Winter edition.

Total **membership** currently stands at 713 financial members, and has been growing at the rate of 7.1%pa over the last five years. Once again we have seen record growth in new members, with 200 people joining since the last AGM. We are also retaining our members and at the Awards Presentation tonight, we will recognize 72 with 5 Years, 18 with 10 Years, 10 with 15 Years, and 2 with 20 Years of continuous membership. There are now 245 members with at least 5 years of membership (+22% on last year), representing 34% of the total. Females



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account for 29% of our membership, while the distribution of members by Chapter is Sydney 45%, Canberra 15%, Hunter 13%, Illawarra 11%, RPM 10%, Mid North Coast 3% and the remaining 3% are in other regions, interstate or overseas.

The **Member of the Year** awards now account for participation in all club events, including Chapter events and club track days. The huge mass of data collected from the sign-on sheets for each event presented us with a unique opportunity to analyse participation levels across all corners of the club. A detailed report was prepared in January, which highlighted some opportunities to improve engagement with members in local areas such as the Central Coast, Southern Highlands, and Southern Canberra. Our Chapter Convenors took this on board and designed events to suit these club members. For the 2014 MOTY awards, Greg Perry has undertaken to develop an improved system for centralised recording of pointscores, which streamlines the process considerably.

NatMeet XI in Caloundra was of course a massive highlight this year. Fifty club members made the long trip to the Sunshine Coast and we cleaned up in the competitive events, claiming six trophies in Concours d'Elegance and seven trophies in motorsport. Our club was crowned National Champion, which was our first ever away win. It was an incredible effort by all our attending club members.

Club Captain Michael Soulos once again demonstrated great skill in coordinating two massive events for the club this year. First was the **MX-5 25th Anniversary** celebration in the Hunter, with about 120 members attending the Sunday brunch at Lovedale. Second was the **President's Picnic** with about 150 members basking in the spring sunshine and enjoying a free lunch at Lane Cove National Park. Of course, Michael could not have done it alone, and we must also thank Mark Gray and the Hunter Chapter, Guy Coles, Julie Sando, and all our judges for Concours and Bits & Bling.

Our **charity fundraising** efforts have produced exceptional results this year. It started with my personal quest for Movember, when club members helped me raise over \$6000 in donations for men's health. All it cost me was a shaved head and my dignity. Following the terrible bushfires of October 2013, we decided to support the NSW Royal Fire Service with our fundraising activities. At the Charity Brunch in May, over \$2000 was raised for the RFS in the Blue Mountains region, and at the MX-5 25th Anniversary Brunch in September, \$1000 was raised for the RFS in the Hunter region. The donations will be handed over very soon at presentation ceremonies for each.

Motorsport activities for the club have been incredibly successful and more varied than ever before, as discussed by David Lawler in his Competition Report. Our club track days continue to be eagerly supported at Wakefield Park and Sydney Motorsport Park. We have organised a couple of driver training days at Marulan, and a motorkhana on the SMP skidpan. Our team won the CAMS NSW Supersprint Championship for the 9th time. We had three teams travel to Phillip Island where they represented the club at the Victorian 6 Hour Regularity Relay. New for 2014 was the MX-5 Cup and it has been a hit with those who crave for



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proper door-to-door competition. Lastly, was the Nulon Nationals supported by a team of several club members coordinated by Keith Monaghan. Whew!

Looking ahead, the fourth generation MX-5 is expected to go on sale in about 12 months from now, and we're all very excited about what it means for the future of Mazda Australia and the MX-5 Club of NSW. We have worked very hard in recent years to gear up for this occasion, with our new magazine, new website, new social media activity, and new Chapters. We're ready!

2015 promises to be a special milestone for the club with our 25th Anniversary. Planning has already begun for a gala celebration that will see us return to Vicary's Winery, Luddenham, where 104 MX-5 owners founded our club in 1990. It will be held in September in conjunction with the President's Picnic, Concours d'Elegance and Bits & Bling. It's going to be a huge event and we're planning for unprecedented attendance. If the stars align, we hope to have the ND MX-5 available for people to look over.

Bryan Shedden
President
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Incorporated

Annual General Meeting
22 October 2014