



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

Captain's Report for the Year 2013-2014

By all criteria the club could be judged on, we have improved our performance, determined by our growth in membership, the number of events held, our financial position, and the willingness of members to participate in or contribute towards Club events.

Since the last AGM, many of the responsibilities previously allocated to Committee members have passed to our Chapter Convenors and Coordinators, with the Captain assuming a guidance role. This change has resulted in increased participation by members in the original Chapters, and expedient growth in participation by members in the Illawarra and RPM Chapters. I single out for special mention Peter Rodgers and the members of Mid North Coast Chapter, who though small in number, have shown great enthusiasm and organised social functions and runs beyond our reasonable expectations.

In the past year our Club has conducted in excess of 75 club runs and 100 social events organised and run by the Chapters. It is interesting to review on our Club Website and in Club Torque magazine the broad variety of social events that the Club offers, ranging from casual meetings in a coffee shop to BBQs, dinners, Christmas Parties and multi-day trips. As a person who enjoys driving an MX-5 in non-urban areas, it is pleasing to see the quantity, quality and variety of Club runs available to all members, not just those members affiliated to the organising Chapter.

I congratulate Bob Judd, Bricet Klören, Ken Keeling and the members of the Canberra Chapter for the variety and quality of their one-day and multi-day events. In saying that there were some interesting and diverse runs that have also been organised by our new Chapters with RPM and Illawarra each attracting to their events members who geographically fall outside their allocated areas. I was impressed by the quality and frequency of the events organised in a novel way by the Illawarra Chapter with a committee fulfilling many of the roles assigned to a Convenor, to reduce the workload on one person. Mark Gray and the team from the Hunter Chapter have continued to provide social events and runs for their members and attract members from other Chapters. Hunter Chapter members were major factors in our Club winning the club championship at NatMeet this year.

The most challenging administrative role in the Club is the Sydney Chapter, with the largest membership covering a region separated by traffic congestion and the urban sprawl, with Guy Coles seeking the increased participation in events organised for and by members. In 2015 we plan to distribute a questionnaire to all members to survey the expectations and views on our social events, club runs and tech days. The aim of this initiative is to assist the Committee and Convenors in relation to these activities going forward.

The "All Club" social events were a big success again this year. The Club Charity Run was successfully hosted by the RPM Chapter at Mulgoa, raising over \$2,000 for the Blue Mountains RFS. The day was ably assisted by the generous support of



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ACDC, and Lesa Bunn's organisational skills. The Hunter Chapter hosted the celebration of the MX-5 25th Anniversary with support from all Chapters at Tatler Wines in Lovedale, raising \$1,000 for Port Stephens RFS.

The President's Picnic again proved highly successful with 150 attendees and 94 cars on display in Lane Cove National Park. We had record entries of MX-5s for the Concours and ancillary events. I take this opportunity to thank the weather Gods and the 34 members who volunteered to be judges, parking marshals, caterers and cleaners.

Next year, the President's Picnic will be held in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Club at Vicary's Winery, Luddenham, where the Club was launched in 1990. The numbers will be capped at 300 for a sit down lunch, which we anticipate will be a bigger event than the 20th Anniversary. The annual Concours d'Elegance and Bits & Bling events will be held in the morning with awards presented during the day.

Organisation of the annual Brass Monkey roadster event has been passed from the Austin Healey Owners Club to the MX-5 Club of NSW. The Brass Monkey Run is an open invitation event that attracts over 100 assorted roadsters and around 200 people enjoying a breakfast in a country town. This is a marquee point-to-point winter event, starting 6:00am to catch the dawn in an open top sports car. It should be added to the bucket list of everyone who loves to drive their MX-5.

In 2014 we held tech events at Spinning Wheel and Meguiars, with large attendance. Similar events will take place again next year including another tech night at Nulon, which was extremely successful in 2013. We will review the suggestions arising from the survey of members for other tech event ideas.

I encourage all members to support their Chapters with their events. Responsibility in organising, leading or assisting with events is not onerous and is extremely rewarding for the member and the Chapters. Every one of us has a favourite road or venue that you can share on our events calendar. Next month, we will again hold our Convenors' Conference that reviews our events and maps out a coordinated plan for the year ahead. All members are encouraged to share their runs and/or venues with all our membership. Approach your Convenor with your suggestions.

I would like to thank the Convenors and the members of each Chapter for their contributions over the past year, and congratulate them on their efforts. I look forward to their ongoing support for their Chapter and the Club for which we are all members.

Michael Soulos
Club Captain
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Incorporated

Annual General Meeting, 22 October 2014