



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

## **Captain's Report for the Year 2014-2015**

The past year spanned the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the world's most popular roadster and our passion, the MX-5, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Club. Over recent years our membership has grown to be in excess of 800 members who participate in 86 Club runs, 131 social events, 13 activity events (karting, tech days), and 36 motorsport events. Our 263 events is a big number for a car club but the fact that over two thirds of our membership participated in one or more of our events is far more impressive.

Our growth in membership in the past year is a reflection of the growing support and interest that the chapters bring to the MX-5 communities in their regions that is accelerated by the release of the ND. We are all aware that some of our members are hesitant to accept the important role the Chapters now play in the advancement of the Club that has not lost any of its unity. The statistics show that the concept has been accepted by the vast majority of our membership and is demonstrated by the broad spectrum of our activities that included Nulon, Meguiar's and Spinning Wheel Tech Events that were again well patronised this year, and our sound financial position.

The strength, importance and input of our various Chapters is a reflection of the dedication of the Convenors and their team who help with their events that are well supported by the members. Our Chapters are not exclusive with all their events being MX-5 Club of NSW events open to and patronised by members living outside their regions. From only one or two multi-day events when I joined the Club in 2004, there were 14 such events this year for members to join. Canberra Chapter again was the most active with 4 multi-day trips, while Illawarra pitched in with 3 weekend trips.

As universally supported events go, the Charity Lunch organised by the Canberra Chapter comes to mind, as does NotMeet a biannual Easter event hosted by the Hunter, the Spring Break Out to Cowra put together by the Illawarra Chapter, the RPM Xmas Party, the Xmas in July arranged by Sydney Chapter and my personal favorite the Brass Monkey from the BreakFast Club that defied the dreaded Antarctic Vortex in 2015. In paying tribute to these Chapters, I believe special mention should be made of the Mid North Coast Chapter, our most isolated and smallest Chapter, that enjoys the highest participation rate of all.

Our Club runs on volunteers be they on the Committee or members taking a lead in helping out with their Chapters or organising get-togethers or runs. Each role is as important as any other as without them all being present the Club could not meet the expectations of its members. I have been a member for over 10 years and to differing degrees have undertaken each of these roles that was something I had never thought I would do when I joined. All contributions to the Club's activities are appreciated and give each volunteer a heightened sense of satisfaction and purpose for membership. Do not think about contributing - just do it - as you will have no regrets.



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A good example of contribution is how many members gave us their time to help out on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events last month. The Committee passed a resolution thanking those who helped out on the day with one in three attending the lunch volunteering their services. The event was a huge success and the best attended event the Club has held since its inception. We had 234 people join us for lunch with another 80 getting a Day Pass.

By noon on 27 September 2015 we had 147 MX-5s parked at Ottimo House with many members entered into Concours, Show 'n' Shine and MX-5 Modified Events. Best on Show was awarded to Rachel Crawford with the People's Choice taken out by Dave Perin. After nearly being abandoned a few years ago our Concours event attracted the largest number of entries to a standard that has improved annually under the encouragement and guidance of Guy Coles who is stepping down as the Convenor of the Sydney Chapter to be replaced by Ed Crowley.

Other changes in our Convenors see Mark Gray who has done a sterling job in leading the Hunter Chapter handing over to Josh Fitzgerald and Lindsay Green who are part of our new generation of young leaders. Adam Walker is not walking away from the Breakfast Club in allowing the Club's major sponsor Peter Battisson to fill the Coordinator's role, whilst Greg Cox is assisting Peter Rodgers to take the Mid North Coast Chapter forward.

We are still looking for a member to step up to become the Convenor of the RPM Chapter with Lesa Bunn wishing to stand down after many years contributions to the Club and overseeing the establishment of this vibrant chapter. If any one or two members living in the RPM region has had an epiphany on the road to the AGM or has one on the way home or in the coming weeks or months then please step forward as we could have a role for you.

On reading what I had to say at last year's AGM it came to my attention that we omitted to follow up on a questionnaire about your thoughts on your membership and our Club in general. Without the burden of another event like the Club 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to preoccupy me it will hopefully come about in the next 12 months.

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

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

Annual General Meeting, 21 October 2015