



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

President's Report for the Year 2015 - 2016

It is always important for a Club to **celebrate milestones**. In 2016 it was time to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Canberra Chapter and the 10th Anniversary of the Hunter Chapter. Each was celebrated with a special lunch that was heavily subsidised by the Club and open to all Club members. Commemorative badges were gifted by the Club to all members of the Canberra and Hunter Chapters, and in the years to come they will be a fine memento of the occasion. Our motorsport competitors also had plenty to celebrate after last weekend claiming a hat-trick of titles in the State Supersprint Club Championship, to back up a second-place for one of our teams at the Victorian 6 Hour Regularity Relay.

Membership in the Club has continued to spiral upwards. We cracked the 900 mark on Saturday, less than 14 months after reaching 800 for the first time. As of today, the total stands at 903 financial members, an increase of 67 (8%) in the last 12 months. There have been 273 new members join in the last year; we had 74 new members join in the last quarter alone. We continue to retain more members and at the Awards Presentation tonight, we will recognise 69 people with at least 5 years of continuous membership. There are now 295 financial members with at least 5 years of membership, representing 33% of the total. The distribution of members by Chapter is Sydney 39%, Canberra 18%, Hunter 16%, Illawarra 13%, RPM 11%, Mid North Coast 3% and the remaining 1% are interstate or overseas. The strongest growth was enjoyed by the Hunter and Illawarra Chapters with 35%pa and 31%pa respectively over the last year.

Financial management of the Club has been dramatically improved this year by Treasurer Julie Sando's establishment of a CommBiz online banking facility. This allows us to pay invoices quickly and securely by direct deposit while retaining dual authorisation. We almost never need to use the cheque book. The improved efficiency is especially important considering that our turnover for FY16 was about \$215,000 as a result of the increased number of motorsport events that we organised. This turnover exceeds the GST threshold which means that we've been completing quarterly BAS, and expect that to continue for the foreseeable future.

The Committee continuously strives to improve the value proposition of Club membership and deliver on the Club's reason for being. A key initiative in this strategy is the **member survey** that was designed and implemented by Secretary Wesley Hill. Wesley donated his professional skills in market research and the results will strongly influence the Club's plans in coming years. They will likely have a strong influence on the decisions made in planning our 2017 events at the Convenors' Conference next month.

Sponsorship and advertising continues to grow under the management of Vice President Glenn Thomas. This year we welcomed a new Major Sponsor in Central Coast Mazda and new Chapter Sponsors in greenslips.com.au (Hunter Chapter) and Manning Valley Automotive (Mid North Coast Chapter). In addition to the continued sponsorship from ACDC, Deckspeed, Mazda Australia, Soft Tops Online, Hume Smash Repairs, MX5 Solutions, and Blue Mountains Mazda, the



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Club allocates all these sponsor funds to offering a greater range of benefits to members. Glenn will formally thank each of our sponsors with a certificate of appreciation later this evening.

Club Torque magazine continues to be produced at a superb standard by Mel Keller, each new edition better than the last. The closure of our favoured printer Frontline forced Mel to find alternatives. We tried two others who both proved to be prohibitively expensive, before giving Minuteman in Melbourne another chance. A substantial cost saving has been achieved despite the increased postage costs, although the production time has been extended by several days. As always, we strive to achieve a balance between cost and quality / delivery time. The magazine is also now simultaneously published as a PDF download on our website.

And so my four year term as President has come to an end. I look back upon what we've achieved together during that time and feel extremely proud. It would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of all 49 people who have served beside me on the Committee during those years. In particular I sincerely thank Michael Soulos, Keith Monaghan, and Ken & Maggie Liston for sticking around for the entire ride. We've undergone many dramatic changes, and all the key indicators – variety of events, attendance numbers, survey results, membership statistics – demonstrate that club members are delighted with the results.

Keith Monaghan has nominated for President, and I'm confident that he will strongly lead us into the next chapter of our great Club's history. It's time for Keith to offer an alternate perspective on leading the Club, and for me to take a welcome break from the long commute to & from our monthly Committee meetings. I'm not departing entirely, as I have nominated for Keith's current role as Membership Database Secretary, which I intend to fulfil remotely. You can look forward to seeing many more of my charts and graphs!

Bryan Shedden
President & Life Member
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Incorporated

Annual General Meeting
21 October 2016