

Convenor's Report for the Annual Meeting of the Canberra Chapter of the MX 5 Club of NSW – Canberra Southern Cross Club – 28 August 2013

Good evening to all and welcome to the only formal meeting of our Chapter for the 2012 – 13 year.

May I welcome to our meeting our Club President, Bryan Sheddon, who has driven up from the Illawarra to be with us tonight. We welcome, also, Guy Coles, who was recently elected as the Convenor of the newly established Sydney Chapter.

Bricet and I were elected as Co-convenors of our Chapter at the last General Meeting in August last year. The fact that we happened to be on an extended driving holiday to Northern Queensland at the time may have had something to do with you voting us in. However, we were very honoured to receive your support and hope that you feel that your confidence in us was not wasted.

It was only a few years ago that the Mazda MX 5 Club of New Wales (Inc.) had one solitary Chapter, us!

There are now 6 Chapters, Canberra, the Hunter, the Illawarra, RPM, covering the area to the west of Sydney, from Penrith to Orange, the Mid-North Coast and the new Sydney Chapter. Sitting over the top of these Chapters is the NSW Club Committee, which provides the administrative support to all Chapters and guidance as to how the Chapters should be run. Bricet's and my role, as co-Convenors and as participants on the Committee is to make your lives as members the most fun possible within the aims and aspirations of the Club.

We have tried to keep the Chapter as strong as possible by offering events that interest everyone. Numerically, we have lost a few members during the year – some of those were people retiring and moving away. Others were members selling their cars and moving on. My strongest concern is for those who are in the Club but we rarely see them. How do we encourage them to come along to runs and enjoy what the Club has to offer? We have dropped our membership list to about 100 people, which represents about 60 cars, including up to about 10 race cars. So when 20 cars, out of our 50, come on a run, which we regularly do, we are actually doing very well.

We are well aware that we appear to be leaning more towards social events than motor sport – type events, but we believe that that is what is being asked of us. There also seems to be little support for show-and-shine type display days, so we will offer these only as 'extra' runs for the months in which they appear. Motor sport events have a few very dedicated supporters and we will continue to do everything we can to help them with their activities. Like all good Clubs, we will evolve to meet the demands of our membership.

Club Runs

In the last 12 months, the Chapter has run the following events:

- 16 September 2012 – Mystery Run to Gundaroo – Malcolm Bernhardt
- 8/9/10 October 2012 – Riverina Wineries Run – Ken and Diana Keeling
- 4 November 2012 – Riversdale Open Day, Goulburn – Rachael Eggins and Damon Muller
- 18 November 2012 – Marques In the Park – Joe Craddy
- 16 December 2012 – Christmas Lunch and Presentation Day – Bricet Kloren and Paul Beerworth
- 20 January 2013 – Twilight 5 Hills Run – Roz and Norm Barker
- 10 February 2013 – Convenor's BBQ – us, with the great assistance of Jill and Dennis Wicklander
- 16/17 February 2013 – The Monaro Meander – Ken Keeling
- 16/17 March 2013 – Dave's "how To..." Day and Wheels Exhibition – me again.
- 21 April 2013 – Lake George and Gundaroo Run – Malcolm Bernhardt
- 29 April to 12 May 2013 – Noosa Sun Run – Ken Keeling
- 19 May 2013 – Goulburn Water Wheel – Ed Cory
- 16 June 2013 – Brunch at Captains Flat – Ian Bottcher
- 21 July 2013 – Run to Crookwell with the Illawarra Chapter – Paul Beerworth
- 28 July 2013 – Christmas in July – Iris and Tony McDonald
- 25 August 2013 – Gundaroo Gourmet Run – Ken Keeling

That's a total of 16 runs for the year, plus the possibility of enjoying 12 runs arranged by the Breakfast Club and / or the numerous motor sport activities that are also available.

At this point, I would like to sincerely congratulate the Runs Committee of Ken Keeling (Runs Rep), Malcolm Bernhardt, Tony and Iris McDonald, and Jill and Dennis Wicklander. Their initial planning of a calendar and subsequent implementation has been outstanding.

If you thought last year was good, wait until you see what's planned for next year. We already have plans for a weekend at the Dubbo Zoo, the Tulips Run, a whale watching trip to the South Coast and the possibility of a mighty trip to Western Australia. Oh, and don't

forget Natmeet 2014, which is also coming up. Of course, we also need ideas and volunteers, and both are keenly sought.

Chapter Communications

Clearly, monthly meetings are dead and buried. Like it or loath it, we live in an electronic world. Our oldest member, who is well into his eighties, regularly checks his emails and is happy to receive information in this manner. I've had many positive comments about my monthly What's On email, which attempts to give everyone a fair notice of what's going on within the club. My worry is that people are being bombarded by information, not only from us, but also from the Sydney end of the NSW Club. I welcome your feedback on this issue.

On other matters, I'm sure you will agree with me that the Quarterly issue of the Club Torque magazine is a great publication and provides a wonderful historical reference of what everyone has done in the Club as a whole. My sincere congratulations to the guys in Sydney that put it together.

By now, you will have seen the new Club Website. It now puts all of our chapter's information in one place, co-located with information from the other Chapters within the NSW Club. Our aim is provide in one place all the information that a member may need. With a little fine tuning, I'm sure the website will prove to be a wonderful resource for us all. Again, my sincere congratulations to the guys in Sydney that put it together, not forgetting also, the significant input made by our former Convenor, Damon Muller.

I can't talk about the subject of Communications without mentioning the tremendous support that members continue to show for our monthly Coffee and Lies meeting. To get 30 to 40 members to turn up simply for a coffee and a chat each month is wonderful.

A Couple of Reminders

Don't forget about the proposed West Australian Run in September next year. By now you should be in a position to say whether you wish to come with us on this adventure. The organising group will be seeking your intentions next month.

Secondly, don't forget Natmeet in Queensland in April of next year. The proposed program is a good one and should be lots of fun for those that go.

Final Thoughts

Now some 'thank-yous'.

Firstly, a thank you to our predecessors Damon Muller and Rachael Eggins who handed the Chapter over to us in such a fine form. Their continuing efforts with the Chapter website and its social media outlets of Facebook and Twitter are also very much appreciated.

We'd also especially like to mention the huge effort during the year of our esteemed Run Co-ordinator, and current Member of the Year, Ken Keeling, who has provided such a huge contribution during the year.

My I also thank Peter Browning who has looked after our Motor Sports area. I have attached his annual report which suggests that a couple of our members have had successful years behind the wheel.

Finally, we'd like to record our appreciation for all of the Chapter members who do so much to support the club, be it by coming on runs or going to events, to organising events and runs.

Bricet and I have enjoyed being Co-convenors for the year and we would like to renominate for the position for one more year.

Thank you.

Bob Judd
Canberra Chapter Co-convenor

At this stage, the formal part of the meeting commences.

All current positions were declared vacant and there was a call for nominations.

After calling for nominations for Convenor/s, Bob Judd and Bricet Kloren were reappointed.

Next the membership of the Runs Committee, who will nominate their own Leader.

The following nominations were received and accepted for the Runs Committee: Ken and Diana Keeling, Iris and Tony McDonald, Lia and Peter Battisson.

Next the membership of the Social Committee.

Rachel Eggins nominated for this position and was accepted.

Next, the Motor Sport Co-ordinator.

Ed Cory was nominated and he accepted the position of Motor Sport Coordinator.

Next, the position of Social Media Coordinator.

Damon Muller was happy to continue in this role.

Lastly, the Representatives to the Council of ACT Motor Clubs (2 positions possible)

Bob Judd will continue in this role and will be joined by Peter Battisson.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm