



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

## **Captain's Report for the Year 2015-2016**

Please accept an apology for my absence this evening at my nieces wedding events in Nowra and missing my first AGM since 2013. Due to my absence I have asked Wesley Hill to read my annual report.

Last year may have been a big year in the areas in which I have a responsibility that included the 25th Anniversary. However, 2016 had more social runs and events than 2015 and the *President's Picnic* at Ebenezer Church was the next biggest event in the Club's History. Our Club is dependent on the support of its members and this year our members stepped up again, some old and many new members have given their time for the benefit of others for which I thank them all on your behalf.

We had at least 200 people attend the *President's Picnic 2016* with an estimated 120 cars parked in the grounds. Over 50 member's volunteered to act as judges, parking marshalls, work the registration desk, and serve at the Forsyth's Coffee cart. This level of support is very impressive and if there were roles to fill then I have no doubt that there would be no lack of volunteers. The willingness to help out is what has enabled our Club to prosper from the outset and that level of commitment is carried on by our membership today.

We raised over \$4000 for *CareFight* this year thanks to the members support for our charity lunches, the Brass Monkey Charity Run, fundraisers in the Illawarra and Hunter, and the President's Picnic. Members organised the dinners, runs and tech nights for the chapters. Our chapters cooperated to stage joint runs and social activities throughout the year and entered the popular Go Kart Challenge in friendly competition. Our Club was represented at *NatMeet* in Tasmania by a very keen group of 63 people, each and every one resplendent in the "Team NSW" regalia.

Our growing number of Tech Events at an All Club and Chapter level have been well supported again. I hope to hold more Tech Events in 2017 and encourage members to put up suggestions for additional tech events for consideration for next year.

It was a special year for our Canberra Chapter celebrating its 20th and the Hunter Chapter its 10th anniversaries with participation from other chapter members in the festivities. I give recognition this evening to Tony & Iris and Josh & Lindsay on the success of these functions. In the recent survey both of these chapters had the greatest participation rate to events and their Convenors, leadership team and members are to be congratulated. This special mention is not intended to detract from the level of support and energy of all our chapters and their members from our largest to smallest and those in between whose contributions are worthy of similar praise.

The past four years have been a period of great change in our Club to meet the demands and responsibility to service the diverse interests of our membership that has just topped 900 financial members this week. Any reasonable concerns about



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the merits of establishing new chapters have been answered with a new generation of leaders having been appointed by the Chapters since the last AGM. To our most recently retired Convenors – Tony & Iris McDonald, Peter Rodgers, and Lesa Bunn – I extend our thanks and appreciation and for the new appointees – Norm Barker, Graham Rochester, and Brigid Gallop – and their respective leadership teams I offer the support and gratitude of the Committee and membership.

I cannot let this moment pass without expressing my thanks and best wishes to Bryan who has guided our Club through a period of metamorphoses that sees us emerge financially sound with a strong membership base, six chapters catering to the individual expectations of members in their catchment areas and a commitment to improve in offering services and support to chapters and members. An impressive legacy from a retiring President.

Plagiarising a quote from JFK, I conclude with *“Ask not what your Club can do for you, ask what you can do for your Club”*.

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

Annual General Meeting, 21 October 2016