



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

## **Captain's Report for the Year 2012 - 2013**

The last 12 months has seen fundamental change in the way the Club promotes, communicates, administers and manages itself and the wide spectrum of its activities. These changes impact on the responsibility of the Club Captain following the establishment of the RPM and Sydney Chapters, coupled with the discontinuation of the Social Secretary role.

The MX-5 Club of NSW is one of the most active car clubs in the country with around two thirds of our members participating in at least one of our seventy Club runs this year, and our well patronised Nulon Oils Tech Night organised by Keith Monaghan in August. Responsibility for tech events has now been allocated to the Club Captain. Tech events will be revitalised with more tech events next year, starting off with a Wheel Alignment Day next month.

Club runs are at the core of our activities and is by far the most popular activity. When the Club was founded in 1990, the Club Captain was responsible for organizing all runs. However that responsibility has incrementally diminished with the establishment of each of our six Chapters and the BreakFast Club special interest group. Consequently, the organisation of runs has been transferred to the Chapter Convenors and their assistants, thereby eliminating this role from the Club Captain. I congratulate and thank Lesa Bunn, Peter Rodgers, Guy Coles and Adam Walker for stepping up to take on their respective roles this year, encouraging member participation and servicing the expectations of their Chapters.

With the formation of the Chapters and the resulting shift in responsibilities, a meeting of the Convenors with the President and Club Captain has been scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Camden Valley Inn. This Convenors Conference is the first of this kind for our Club. The Convenors and general membership through their Convenors can raise issues, make suggestions and endeavour to find solutions to the matters raised in an open forum. More established Chapters will be encouraged to pass on their accumulated knowledge and experience to our newer Chapters as well as develop areas and activities of common interest, including a level of co-ordination in Club runs.

Our Club caters to a wide range of members' expectations as to the type of run that best suits their driving, touring and social preferences. A formal grading criteria was adopted by the Committee in June, to give members a heads-up on the type of run being organised for their participation. A grading chart is reproduced on our new website and run organisers have been encouraged to grade their runs in the Events Calendar. After a trial by the BreakFast Club, the Committee also approved the waypoint run system as an optional alternative to the traditional convoy runs. Waypoint runs were pioneered and favoured by the MX-5 Club of WA, and adopted more recently by the MX-5 Club of Queensland. Waypoint Run Guidelines are reproduced on the new website.

The Canberra, Hunter, Illawarra, RPM and Mid North Coast Chapters all completed a year of successful and well patronised runs and social events in their regions to



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the credit of their Convenors and membership. In the final year of the Club Captain's responsibility for organising Club runs out of Sydney a full schedule of events was also completed. John Cassidy, Graham Fletcher, Greg Johnson, Ray Jowett, Mark Sando and Frank Verheyen all took responsibility for one or more runs. David & Gaynor Lawler with Catherine & Ian Combes are deserving of special mention for organising the hugely successful Magical Mystery Tour II that was fully subscribed and enjoyed by all. From August 2013, Guy Coles is the driving force behind Sydney Chapter runs with my unconditional support. Sydney runs went to or passed through the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter Illawarra, South Coast and the Southern Highlands in addition to the Greater Sydney Region. Noel La Rose and Graham Fletcher led our midweek runs that were well supported by members. The midweek runs went to the Megalong Valley, Mount Victoria and Patonga in 2013.

The BreakFast Club became an official organ of the Club this year with Adam Walker as its first official Co-ordinator. The BreakFast Club had a busy schedule in the past twelve months, with short Saturday morning runs, traditional breakfast runs, and multi day events of over 2,500km as a marquee event. BreakFast Club runs were organised or led by Peter Battisson, Guy Coles, Chris Flak, Robert Forsyth, Timothy Heppell, Victor Lee, Andrew Lord. Keith Manion, Russell Maxwell, Brad & Carmen Robinson, Alan Vuong as well as Adam and I. BreakFast Club runs this year visited the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Central Western Tablelands, East Gippsland, Hunter, Illawarra, Monaro, Murray Valley, Snowy Mountains, South Coast, Southern Highlands, Southern & Western Slopes, Southern Tablelands, Victorian Alps and High Country regions.

Responsibility for the President's Picnic has now passed from the Social Secretary to the Club Captain. Notwithstanding the end of her office, Lesa Bunn with the support of Pam Estreich did a sterling job with registration, finding a fantastic venue, and securing catering for all by the ladies of the Ebenezer Church. This year's President's Picnic was held in conjunction with other events that saw 2013 being the best attended event of its kind ever held by the Club. A combination of free lunch coupled with the events saw 110 members sign on with 75 cars parked for inspection by all and judging on the church grounds.

The new format for the President's Picnic generated new interest in Concours d'Elegance as part of the competitive events run in conjunction with Bits 'n' Bling, which was trialed in 2012 and again proved to be very successful. A special thanks to the large number of members who gave of their time to act as judges and officials on the day. Concours was managed by Guy Coles with judging by Phil Ashton, Paul Byers, Jean Cook, Chris Flak, Peter Feutrill, Keith Monaghan, Gary Nobrega, Adam Rumjahn, Trevor To, Adam Walker, and Guy Coles. Peter Battisson, Steven Brennan, Joe Gabki, Lou Iezzi and George Vergotis judged the modified cars in the Bits competition. Daniel Jenson, Cameron Macarthur, Dominique Spoodler and Mary-Anne Walsh judged the Bling competition. Trevor Bown, Phillip Donnelly, Noel La Rose and Gaynor Lawler took time out of their day to ensure that all of the cars parked in the church grounds with a minimum of confusion.



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From my perspective it has been a very busy and successful year for the MX-5 Club of NSW by any measure, be that membership, activities or administration. I take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to every member who gave something back to the Club and their fellow members this year. I encourage every member to make a contribution to an activity or administration at either Club or Chapter level in 2014. A Club can only be as good as the support and time volunteered by its membership. On a closing note I must acknowledge that being part of the committed and hardworking Committee during a time of change and improvement in what the Club does and stands for, has been a joy and a rewarding experience.

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

Annual General Meeting  
23 October 2013