

CAPTAINS AGM REPORT

This year is the first opportunity we have had to meet at a venue to conduct our annual AGM since 2019. The world changed in 2020 with the outbreak of the COVID-19 that our politicians have all determined is in the past, however, as a Club we have put the trials and tribulations of the pandemic behind us and look forward to our runs and social events the new normal.

This year is a good opportunity to record and reflect on the COVID years and compare where we were when we last met at his venue in 2019 and where are and have achieved this year. The COVID years have been a difficult period for our members and Club as a whole having to cope with lockdowns, travel restrictions and social distancing that have all impacted on our Club runs and social gatherings.

In October 2019 and before we had ever heard of COVID-19, we had 1,096 members and were confident of passing 1,100 in the 2020. In 2020 and for the first time since I joined in 2004 that our membership declined by 1.8% or by 20 members. We bounced back in 2021 with an additional 18 members and passed the 2019 total this year with 1,112 members. To set a new record for membership.

We are the biggest MX-5 Club and more than likely largest single marque car club in Australia. The secret of our Club's success over a long period of time is that we offer a wide range of activities to suit the social and driving expectations of MX-5 owners through our seven chapters and two special interest groups. Our activities are supported by the time and effort of our Committee, Convenors and volunteers with the willingness of members to participate and assist when called upon.

In 2019 we conducted a total of 197 Club runs, a Club record. In 2022 we conducted 152 runs being 45 less than 2019 but only 2 below the year before. I obtain Social Run Permits from Motorsport Australian each month and the number of runs obtaining Run Permits are now approaching the levels of 2019 and a cause for being confident of increasing our Club record number of runs this coming year.

With MOTY point being awarded for social events and chapter dinners we now record our social events that numbered 192 in 2019 being the current Club record. In the past year we conducted 102 social events, a drop of 80 events

compared to the pre covid numbers. This decline can be directly attributed to the COVID restrictions over the past two and half years and is above the totals of the two preceding years. I believe that there will be an increase in social events in the next twelve months but not confident of surpassing the 2019 record.

The heart and core and success of our Club lies with the our members in their chapters spread across the State. Between 1919 and 2022, Illawarra and South Coast both equalled their 2019 totals in Club runs and social events following on from falls in the previous two years. COVID impacted on all the other Chapters to varying degrees from their record level of events in 2019 with Canberra dropping by 10%, Hunter by 42%, Mid North Coast by 75%, RPM by 5%, Sydney by 55% and the Breakfast Club by 36%. A quick review of the events posted on the Web page leads indicates that the pre COVID records will be approached or surpassed by all or some Chapters in 2023.

The participation rate of members to the limited number of events in the past 2 years compared to before the highs of 2019 show the member's participation rate in the past year is in line with 2016 and 2020 at around 700 being around 66% of membership taking part in at least one event in the past 12 months but below numbers in 2017, 2018 and 2019 of a little more than 800 participants or around 75% of the membership in those years.

Due to COVID restrictions we cancelled Natmet 2020 and our marque social events were not conducted for 2 years between April 2020 and May 2022. This year, we were able to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Illawarra Chapter in May, chased after the Brass Monkey in August and held the President's Picnic in September. Numbers were not unexpectantly below the numbers in the past or those anticipated due to the long shadow of COVID-19. Hopefully the new normal will see the participation numbers in our marque events return during 2023.

On behalf of the membership, I extend to the Convenors and their volunteers who enable the Chapters to conduct their events year on year, the deserving appreciation for their contribution and service to the Club. To those members in the Chapters continuing on with their important roles, I extend my appreciation on behalf of the Club for their time and effort over the past 12 months and going forward. To Peter & Annemie Wilson in Canberra and James Mate in the Illawarra I thank you for your tenure as Convenors of your Chapters. Although the changeover is yet to happen in the South Coast

Chapter a special mention for Brian and Anda Clayton who have given their time to lead and grow the South Coast Chapter from its inception and will be handing over to Geoff & Rose Smith in December. To the newly elected teams of Rod & Maryanne Nicholas in Canberra and Senia & Bob Gaunson in the Illawarra I bid you welcome and look forward to your time at the helm of your local Chapters.

As I have every year, I end my annual report with the same plagiarism of a well known statement of JFK, namely *“Don’t ask what the Club can do for you, ask what you can do for the Club”*.