



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

## President's Report for the Year 2014 - 2015

2015 was a special milestone for the Club with the celebration of our **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. We marked the occasion with the single biggest event in our history - a superb celebration at Ottimo House - on 27 September. Club Captain Michael Soulos directed the ambitious show, with over 140 MX-5s on display, more than 300 people attending in the morning, and 234 staying for the formal lunch. Michael was assisted by the entire Club Committee, and I particularly highlight the amazing efforts of Lesa Bunn and Guy Coles for turning plans into reality.

The ND MX-5 has arrived and the Club is now bearing the fruit of our labours in recent years. Total **membership** stands at 836 financial members, representing an astonishing increase of 123 in the last 12 months. Our membership has been growing at the rate of 7.5%pa over the last six years, and it spiked by about 70 members following the ND launch on 5<sup>th</sup> August. We have seen record growth in new members, with 229 people joining in the last 12 months, and a Club record was set in the month of August when 31 new members joined. We are also retaining more members and at the Awards Presentation tonight, we will recognize 56 with 5 Years, 19 with 10 Years, 5 with 15 Years, 4 with 20 Years, and 4 with 25 Years of continuous membership. There are now 291 financial members with at least 5 years of membership (+18% on last year), representing 35% of the total. Females account for 30% of our membership, while the distribution of members by Chapter is Sydney 40%, Canberra 18%, Hunter 13%, RPM 13%, Illawarra 11%, Mid North Coast 3% and the remaining 2% are interstate or overseas.

Club events are an increasingly colourful affair, thanks to the fabulous range of **Club Regalia** that is being enthusiastically purchased and proudly worn by our members. This year we launched a collectable 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary range in royal blue with silver embroidery, in addition to new "Chapter" ranges for Mid North Coast, Canberra and RPM Chapters to complement the existing RPM and Illawarra Chapter regalia. I would like to acknowledge Pam and Ray Estreich, who today retire from the Club Committee after more than nine years of dedicated service. All but one of those years was in the role of Regalia Officer, and they were at it again at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch. Thanks Pam & Ray, you're wonderful and I will miss your contribution to the Committee!

**Sponsorship and advertising** continues to grow under the management of the Vice President, and I thank Glenn Thomas for his efforts. Last month, we welcomed a new Major Sponsor in Soft Tops Online, and earlier we accepted new advertising in Club Torque by Blue Mountains Mazda. We also received generous support for Illawarra, Hunter and Mid North Coast chapters, from one small business that prefers to remain anonymous. The ND Day at Blue Mountains Mazda was a special treat and is one example of how we intend to engage more actively with our sponsors - thank you Cameron and Andrew. In addition to the continued sponsorship from ACDC, Deckspeed, Mazda Australia, Hume Smash Repairs, MX5 Solutions, and Blue Mountains Mazda, the Club allocates all these sponsor funds to offering a greater range of benefits to members. We will formally thank each of our sponsors with a certificate of appreciation later this evening.



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Our new **Business Directory** has enjoyed a humble beginning with several businesses advertising discounts to MX-5 Club members. We hope to expand this service in the year head, and attract even more special deals for our members.

**Club Torque** magazine continues to be produced at a superb standard. Rod Carter and Mel Keller shared the Publications Officer role this year before Mel took on sole responsibility, and I thank them both for their dedicated service. The special edition for the Club 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a wonderful memento for us to all to treasure. Printing has been moved from Minuteman in Melbourne to Frontline in Sydney in order to speed up the delivery times, and to realise a significant saving in postage costs.

Our **charity fundraising** efforts have produced wonderful results this year. The main event was a charity lunch organised by the Canberra Chapter at Joadja Winery on a freezing day in May. We raised \$1,660 thanks to the donations of our members, supporters and sponsors. Another \$935 was raised at the Brass Monkey Run, bringing the tally for CareFlight to \$2,695. The donation will be handed over to CareFlight very soon at presentation ceremony.

Finally, I must express my heartfelt thanks to the Club Committee for granting me **Life Membership** at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch. It came as an enormous surprise as the machinations were exceptionally well concealed. You have allowed me to join a group of very special people, all of whom I deeply admire for their selfless efforts to make this Club the best it can possibly be. I feel incredibly honoured to have my own contribution acknowledged as worthy of that recognition and I hope that I can inspire others to join me in making our Club even better.

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

Annual General Meeting  
21 October 2015