



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

President's Report for the Year 2012 - 2013

This has been an outstanding year for the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW – some might say revolutionary! At the start, I promised that we would “get things done”, and thanks to the superb contributions by each of our Committee members and ex officio representatives, we have achieved amazing things.

First up was the development of a **business plan** for the year ahead. This was a progression from the great work instigated by my predecessor, Glenn Thomas. Starting with a list of 125 ideas for consideration, we used a “decision analysis” process to prioritise and select activities that we would aim to deliver. A detailed **budget** was then signed off by the Committee to ensure that the selected initiatives were affordable and planned.

Club Torque magazine is the most equitable way in which the Club provides members with a tangible benefit. Our publications team successfully negotiating an increased budget to deliver: growth in the page count, the addition of a quarterly Event Calendar flyer, and plastic wrapping to improve handling during delivery. *Club Torque* is a remarkable publication that all members should be proud of. Thank you to Neil Hamilton-Ritchie for his dramatic re-design of the magazine, and I wish him well on his new ventures roaming the world.

The internet presence of our Club has received a massive boost with the design, build and launch of our **new website**. This was certainly not a cheap exercise: we invested \$14,960 in the website redevelopment, with ongoing hosting and support budgeted at \$2,500 per year. The Committee is confident that it is money well spent, as the website provides a vastly improved service for our members, is easier and faster for many contributors to publish content, and presents a highly professional public face for our Club. Each Chapter has their own mini-website that can be customised to suit their needs, while retaining an integrated design that is consistent across the whole website.

Our Club's journey into the world of social media has advanced with the launch of our official **Facebook Page**. The Canberra Chapter and Hunter Chapter already had Facebook *Groups*, each with a small following, and other Chapters launched their own Groups this year too. Yet the new Facebook *Page* provides an all encompassing corporate presence, and is a complimentary tool for promoting our Club and attracting visits to our website. Already, our Page has 216 followers and is growing steadily.

The creation of regional Chapters accelerated dramatically this year with the formation of the **RPM Chapter** (Blue Mountains area) and the **Mid North Coast Chapter**. This would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of Lesa Bunn and Peter Rodgers, respectively – thank you! Coupled with the launch of the Illawarra Chapter last year, our expansion into regional areas has contributed to record growth in Club membership, with 185 new members since the last AGM. Total Club membership currently stands at 646 financial members. The new Chapters provide an important outlet for members in regional areas, and the



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various monthly meetings, drive days, weekends away and social events have been highly successful with strong attendances.

The final piece in the puzzle was the formation of the **Sydney Chapter**, which was made possible when Guy Coles volunteered to be the first Convenor – thank you Guy! We have welcomed offers by various Sydney Chapter members to establish social events in their local areas, resulting in the monthly scheduling of Saturday coffee in the north and south-west, plus midweek dinner gatherings in the north, south, city, and south-west. The Sydney Chapter still has some way to go, but there is already an infectious energy spreading across the region.

I have made a point of visiting as many Chapters as possible during the year, so that regional members would have the opportunity to connect face-to-face with the Club management – the only Chapter I missed was Mid North Coast. These have been highly enjoyable experiences, providing me with excellent insights into the strengths (and weaknesses) of each Chapter.

In response to the reshaping of our Club due to the formation of new Chapters, we have **restructured the Committee**. Major changes were made to the responsibilities for Vice President and Club Captain – Michael will highlight the latter in his report to follow. The Event Calendar Coordinator role was discontinued and it morphed into the Website Coordinator role. The Social Secretary role has been discontinued, as the key duties of this position now fall within the scope of the Sydney Chapter. The BreakFast Club Coordinator role has been upgraded from ex officio to a Committee position, in recognition of the strong support that many of our members have for this special interest group. The net consequence of this restructure is that the Committee has adopted a central management role with a Club-wide focus. Detailed role descriptions for each Committee position have been prepared and are published in Appendix A of our Constitution.

Nine **Committee meetings** were held during the year, with an average of 13 people attending. The December meeting was a tight squeeze with 18 present. Particular thanks are due to Mark Garven, Michael Soulos and Keith Monaghan who joined me at all nine meetings. We experimented a few times with Skype so that our Chapter Convenors could participate in the meetings via teleconference, but unfortunately the service proved inadequate. We have now begun holding quarterly Skype teleconferences attended by all Chapter Convenors, Captain and President, where the aim is to share best practices and encourage interaction and cooperation between Chapters. Our first face-to-face Chapter Convenors Conference will be held in Camden on 30th November.

Our year has not passed without some difficulties. Ken Liston has suffered recurring serious health issues, which have unavoidably impacted on our ability to process new member packs, name badges, and membership cards – thank you for your patience during this time. We are focused on Ken's well being and I wish him the best of luck for a full recovery. Meanwhile, Keith Monaghan has softened the impact by managing the membership database, purchasing a new card printer to boost the quality of our membership cards, and coordinating the production of our



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new Tenure Badges (these will be presented at the conclusion of this AGM).

The Club has received excellent support recently from **Mazda Australia**. They provided very generous financial assistance and in-kind support last year for NatMeet 2012. More recently, Mazda hosted our Club at the Australian International Motor Show in Sydney, and treated 30 club members to a night at the opera on Sydney Harbour. Thank you to Ben Rounsefell and his team at Mazda Australia.

The Club event highlight of my year was the **President's Picnic, Bits 'n' Bling, and Concours d'Elegance** event, which received tremendous support by nearly all Chapters. It was very satisfying to see so many Club members enjoying themselves, and the day was a credit to the organisational skills of Michael Soulos, Guy Coles, Lesa Bunn and Pam Estreich.

Finally, I must express my sincere gratitude to **Mike Hicks** who today retires as Competition Secretary, after almost 13 years in the job. I am in absolutely no doubt that the success of our Club today can be attributed substantially to the contribution of this amazing man. Under his management, the success of our motorsport activities helped the Club recover from financial difficulty in 1999, to the present situation of close to \$80,000 accumulated equity. The Club has already bestowed Mike with our highest honour of Life Membership, and I wish we could award it to him again! What more can be said? Thank you Mike – you are an inspiration.

Bryan Shedden
President
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Incorporated

Annual General Meeting
23 October 2013