AGM 2024 Club Captain's Report

This has been my first year as Club Captain and it has certainly been a reasonably steep learning curve. To be quite honest I was not aware of all the responsibilities that came with this position and so was caught wrong-footed in some instances. That said I have found it a good learning experience and it has given me the opportunity to meet far more members than previously.

This year the club has had three changes to our Convenors, with Rosy Black & Ken Bailey standing for the previously vacant Mid North Coast Convenor position. Rod & Maryanne Nicholas recently retired as the Canberra Chapter Convenors to be replaced by John Chapuis, and Senia Gauson & Anne Hicks recently handed over their Illawarra Convenors position to Zan Dimovski & Phil Betts. I would like to thank all those who have assisted the Club in these roles in the past and going forward for their commitment.

Motorsport Australia provides our Club with Public & Professional Indemnity Insurance for our events. Each month I register the club's social motoring events for coverage and for the last 12 months that has come to 198 events. Excepting December's low number due to Christmas, the Club has averaged over 17 motoring events per month. As well as the motoring events the Club also held a further 140 social events.

Last year's Convenors Conference was the first I had to organise. Again it was held at the Campbelltown Catholic Club with 6 of our Chapters being represented by 12 Convenors and Event Coordinators. One of the items high on the priority list was Run Etiquette and the Run Code of Conduct. A small group was organised from the Convenors to revise Run Etiquette and the Run Code of Conduct guidelines which were accepted by the Committee in the new year. A new method of organising the Club Chapter Event Calendar was trialled and reduced the time significantly in the organisation of the calendar. This new system allows for continual updates throughout the year.

We hadn't had a major charity event for a number of years, so it was decided that this year it would be held in conjunction with the President's Picnic. Stephen & Maree Eccleston along with Senia & Bob Gaunson volunteered to organise a charity raffle to be held at the end of the Picnic. This raised $2,438 for CareFlight, which is a great result.

The President's Picnic was again held at Ebenezer Church on 21st September with 196 members and 6 visitors attending the day. As far as the weather goes, you couldn't have asked for better as the day was fine and unlike previous years, had a nice cool breeze making for a pleasant outing. This being my first time in organising the event it was reinforced early on that a successful event depends on those who help out. The standout for me was the help I received from Senia Gaunson whose previous experience in organising registrations allowed me to concentrate on other aspects. I need to thank the membership for their tremendous response in filling both volunteer and judging positions. We had over 40 members put their hands up for each role making the organising of the event so much easier. This year's Picnic had a few changes with it being the 35th anniversary of the MX-5. The Concours event was replaced with a display and judging of the best MX-5 over 30 years old and as this applied to all MX-5s of that age, Concours judging did not apply. The Best

Track Car category did not run as not enough entries registered before the cutoff date, but those that entered were added to the Modified competition. Another change was with the People's Choice award which became the Best in Show and applied only to those vehicles that entered a judged category. Over 100 members had a say in what they thought the best car on the day was. Alongside these changes was the addition of a few entertaining competitions such as the spanner & nut race and dismantling the Jenga tower. As usual a whip around the membership also raised $380 as a donation for the Ebenezer Church.

I have a minor role on the 2026 NatMeet sub-committee and one of my tasks was to check out insurance requirements. In doing this I found that Motorsport Australia's Insurance was far more inclusive than many of the Committee members previously realised. It not only covers our motoring events but can also cover the social side.

I will now start to focus on our Club's 35th Anniversary event in 2025 and will be starting with a discussion at the upcoming Convenors' Conference.

Huge thanks to all those that helped me during my first year in this position.

John Purcell
Club Captain
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.