AGM 2024 President's Report

This is my second year as President of the MX-5 Club of NSW. I guess that you could say that this was a year of consolidation.

Cost of living pressures continue to be a big concern. Motoring activities are a discretionary activity, so it's no surprise that many Club members have had to pull back a little over the last year. Nowhere is this more evident than in motorsport where attendance at our track days have continued to struggle for numbers. We did cut back on the number of events this year, but even so, entry numbers were still down. One Raceway will be open again as of the AGM, but indications are that hire costs are up considerably from Wakefield Park.

On behalf of the Committee and the Club as a whole, I'd like to thank the retiring members of the Committee for their valuable and much appreciated contribution to the Committee over the years. My apologies if I've missed anyone, but I'd like to thank Senia for her great job as Illawarra Convenor. But there's no holding Senia down as she's taken on the Publications Officer role. Talk about a flying start – she got her first issue of Club Torque out before the Committee had even confirmed her appointment. Senia is now two issues down, and working on the third issue! Senia's role as Illawarra Convenor has been taken up by Zaneta Dimovski & Phil Betts – welcome guys.

A very special thank you to Rod Nicholas in Canberra who has not only done an amazing job as the Canberra Convenor, but has contributed to a number of other significant initiatives on the Committee such as helping to define the role description for a Chapter Convenor. Thanks Rod for all the hard work. Welcome to John Chapuis as the new Canberra Convenor.

I'd like to thank David Lawler for taking back the Motorsport Secretary's role in 2022. David is stepping down at this AGM, having done a second 2-year stint in the role – thanks mate – I know how tough that job is. A brave call taking it back after your first term in the role. The Club currently does not have any nominations for the role of Motorsport Secretary, which does not put the Club in a good position for motorsport in 2025.

Ian Mash has stepped into the role as Governance Officer following the resignation of Gordon Stevens. Ian is resigning as General Committee Member and this role will be filled at the AGM.

Catherine Combes took the role as Secretary following the resignation of Phil Donnelley, as an interim measure but will step down at the AGM. The Club will be looking to fill the vacancy at the AGM.

A very special thanks to Elaine and David Gazzard for taking on the extra role of chairpersons of our 2026 Natmeet Committee, in addition to being Hunter Chapter Convenors. Having attended my first NatMeet this year at Toowoomba, I now know what goes into organising NatMeet. Having been involved in the early planning and organising of

our 2026 NatMeet, I know that it is in safe hands – we have a great sub-committee working on the planning for the event, so I have no doubt that it will be a fabulous event.

I look forward to working with the new Committee over the next 12 months to continue the great events that our Club has become well known for.

Ian Combes
President
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.