

2024 Captain's Report

I'm now into my 2nd year as Club Captain and still learning. So, looking at the last year in chronological order I'll start with our MSA permits.

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 ending October that has come to 177 motoring events.

The Convenors Conference is held every November and is aimed at giving all the Convenors a chance to discuss any questions that have arisen during the previous year. Last year's meeting covered items such as Convenors responsibilities, management of chapter funds as well as how to use the various web tools available to them - such as Membership Works (for bookings), FarCry (for entering events on the web site) and the new Google Workspace.

This year we again used a computer-based event calendar for chapters to organise combined events. This is done for two reasons, the first is to have the chapters start to plan and organise the timing of next year's events and the second is to allow chapters to organise combined chapter events throughout the year.

This year marked the 35th anniversary of our club and the committee decided to have a celebration in leu of the annual Presidents Picnic. It falls to the Club Captain to organise all-club events, so in January I formed a small committee to help with the planning & organising. I would like to thank them all again, Chris Cameron, Phil Betts, Zan Dimovski, Sandra Duric, Kay Godfrey, John Chapuis and John & Sharon Cassidy. I did rope in our President Ian as well, as I figured we were spending the club's money on the event so he should have an overview. I would also like to thank Elaine Gazzard who, in December, researched three different venues for us to choose from and Bryan and Fiona for running the regalia table. Brian also gets a special mention for setting up the slide show as well as giving me a headache by having to re-organise all the event timing after he told me that he had organised with Bob Hall to do a video link, but I had to admit it was brilliant to have Bob participate in the event.

Our first meeting in January resulted in the choice of Gledswood Farm & Winery near Camden and I believe all those who attended the event would agree with me that we couldn't have had a better venue. Their team could not have been more helpful and accommodating with everything we requested. After our first organising committee meeting, we progressively worked through menu planning, celebration cake designs, the DJ, the schedule for the day, seating plans, matching volunteers to tasks and much more. As the event grew closer, we ended up having weekly on-line meetings to keep abreast of the myriad of tasks that had to be completed.

With 270 members attending bringing over 150 MX-5s I could not have asked for a better response from club members. Our two competitions, Show & Shine and Concourse were both popular, with the display of NA's drawing much admiration.

The last major all-club event of the year, the annual Brass Monkey, was again organised by Michael Soulos, and this year it involved a drive to Singleton. Taking into account some personal donations made by members and passing the hat around during breakfast we raised almost \$1200 for Careflight, which is a great effort.

The last year has certainly been busy and without so many members helping out when required none of us would have been able to enjoy the events and functions the club was able to offer. I would like to make special mention of the Convenors of each Chapter for the fantastic work they do to put together and deliver an amazing program of social and motoring events in their respective regions. The enjoyment of members in owning their MX-5's ties back to the Convenors and the others in their Chapter who plan and lead runs, organise social events, and keep the website and Facebook updated. My thanks and you're doing a great job!

Thankyou
John Purcell

Club Captain