

Motorsport Secretary Report for 2026 AGM

The 2026 MX-5 Club motorsport program consisted of:

- Seven Supersprints – one run by the MX-5 Club, five by other CSCA Clubs, and one run by AROCA at Philip Island as the interstate challenge with the MX-5 Club of Tasmania and Victoria.
- Four motorkhanas at the Sydney Motorsport Park skidpan
- One Driver training day at the Pheasant Wood Circuit

CSCA Supersprints

The MX-5 Club Supersprint at the Amaroo Circuit at Sydney Motorsport Park was scheduled when it was as it was meant to be the motorsport event at Natmeet 2026. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest from Natmeet attendees, it was not actually part of Natmeet. One consequence of the timing however (being the day of Natmeet registration), was that both club members who could act as Clerk of Course were at Natmeet. However, an external Clerk of Course was arranged. While the event was run slightly differently to the usual MX-5 Club Supersprint, the event still went well, apart from the designated Steward not being available, which caused a slight delay. The CoC can officiate as Steward in these circumstances, so the event could proceed.

Two of the CSCA Supersprints (run by other clubs) were held at One Raceway. Both were good events. The second one (run by the TSOA Club – Triumph) ran the circuit in both directions on the same day, which was a significant challenge to say the least!

Two of the other rounds – the Sprite round at the Amaroo Circuit at SMSP, and the Lotus Club Supersprint at the SMSP GP Circuit were both damp, which were a challenge for entrants.

The MX-5 Club continues to supply a large part of the starting grid for all CSCA Supersprints. Unsurprisingly, that means that many MX-5 drivers win their classes in the CSCA championship, with the MX-5 Club winning the CSCA Club Championship again.

Both the MX-5 Club and the other CSCA clubs gain enormously from the Club's participation in the CSCA Championship – for different reasons. The MX-5 Club does not need to organise and run all our own events (massive win), and the other CSCA clubs obviously benefit from the entry of so many MX-5 club members.

Motorkhanas

In 2026, the MX-5 Club will run four motorkhanas – at time of writing one is still to be held. Motorkhanas have been up and down over the last two or three years. In 2025, the events struggled to attract entrants. With economic conditions being tough, the Club was bracing for a tough 2026, especially with two of the events being close together.

However, the 2026 motorkhanas have been very well supported. Even the two events that were a few weeks apart had full entry lists. All three motorkhanas so far in 2026 have been very successful – full fields, with everyone having a very enjoyable time. Whilst motorkhanas are not intended to be sources of profit, they did cover costs, which is nice.

What was very pleasing was the number of new club members and visitors participating. For that reason, the events were very good promotions for the club.

Driver Training Day

For the last few years, the Club has run just the one Driver Training Day (we have run up to three). The 2026 Driver Training Day was a great success. There was a healthy number of entrants overall, and a good level of involvement from new participants and juniors. The feedback from drivers participating in this event was excellent.

Interstate Challenge

At the time of writing, this years events has not been run. This year, it is the turn of the Vic/Tas MX-5 Club to host the event. The options for dates and venues in 2026 were very limited. In particular, no dates were available at the Winton Circuit. Of the possible options, the only one that was viable was at Philip Island at the end of the year (6th December). While this is a big commitment for NSW participants, it is an unrivalled opportunity to experience a great circuit.

Regularities

In 2026, the two main regularities that club members have been involved in are the Sydney (Sydney Motorsport Park) NSWRRRC 10 hour 600 Relay and the AROCA 10 hour Relay at Winton.

The 2026 Sydney Regularity Relay was 10 hours rather than the usual 6 hours to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the event. This was a one-off – future events will be 6 hours. The 10 hour event was run over 2 days as you would expect. However, the Saturday 4 hour leg did not start until late in the day – early evening in fact. That meant it finished late. The Sunday 6 hour leg meant another early start of course, so it was a very tiring event.

The MX-5 Club had 5 teams entered. All 5 teams finished in the top ten, which is amazing. Panorama Mountain Men again won the event, but that was due to penalties – the team was running second for much of the day.

The AROCA 10 hour has now been run and won. NSW had four teams entered. It was a challenging year for some of our NSW teams with mechanical dramas intervening. Despite mechanical issues, Panorama Mountain Men came in second, narrowly missing out on another Just Regular Guys finished in the top six.

NSW Supersprints

In 2025, the MX-5 Club committee voted to discontinue our organisation of a NSW state Supersprint. The number of club participants in these events has been very low (typically 5 or so) for some time now. The 2025 MX-5 club round saw a substantial decline in numbers. The effort to organise this event, as well as the financial exposure did not seem worthwhile, hence, there was no Club run event in 2026. Some MX-5 Club members continue to participate in these events, and the events continue to be included in our club motorsport calendar, but that is the extent of the Club's involvement.

MX-5 Cup

The MX-5 Club has not been involved in MX-5 Cup racing in 2026. Most people know that the Club started MX-5 Cup many years ago, and had been organising the category up to and including the 2025 season.

For the 2026 season, Motor Racing Australia (MRA) were forced to change sanctioning bodies – moving from AASA to Motorsport Australia. This required MRA to do a large amount of work to comply with Motorsport Australia regulations. Rather than involve the MX-5 Club however, MRA decided to handle the Motorsport Australia regulations for MX-5 Cup themselves, and in fact, organise the category in 2026. As MRA actually ran the race events where MX-5 Cup racing took place, that left the club with no option except to discontinue any association with MRA or MX-5 Cup racing.

Volunteers

I would like to thank all our volunteers who helped organise and run our Club events in 2026. A special thanks to our hardworking event secretaries - Barry Luttrell, Maria Martin and Gaynor Lawler. This not only involved managing entries, but also organising a myriad of details in the lead up to the actual events. Gerardo Martin and Phil Donnelley were our primary scrutineers at track and motorkhana events, with support from a team of regular helpers.

David Wilson, Ian Combes and David Lawler took the lead in running our Club motorkhanas. Thank you to our regular motorkhana timers who turn up regularly to these events – Phil Reid, Greg Unger, Ian Fenn and Ian Spinks. Apologies if I've missed anyone.

Thank you Blake Roy and Matt Tarrant for organising our Driver Training day.

There is a sizeable group of volunteers involved in organising and running our motorsport program, which many don't realise - I have mentioned a number above. Whilst that has always been the case, we needed to broaden that motorsport group more and re-distribute responsibilities so that no-one had too much to do. This process has been ongoing for some time, but more recently, more of the work previously undertaken by the Motorsport Secretary has been hived off, this time to a new Motorsport Coordinator role. That role has been taken up by Gaynor Lawler (as well as being one of the Motorsport Secretaries). In 2026, Gaynor has taken up much of the work that the Motorsport Secretary would have previously done. That allowed us to focus on refactoring the roles and responsibilities in motorsport, and then documenting those roles and responsibilities, before looking for a new Motorsport Secretary. We now have a new Motorsport Secretary - Lou Iezzi.

2027 Calendar

The 2027 motorsport calendar is firming up. There will be the usual 6 CSCA Supersprints. There will again be four motorkhanas – a little more spread than in 2026. There will of course be a Driver Training Day. We expect to publish the 2027 calendar by the AGM.