

2026 AGM Presidents Report

Last year, it was the 35th anniversary. This year, we had another huge event - Natmeet 2026. This event takes a huge amount of planning and organisation. In fact, this planning started in early 2024 – even before the Queensland Natmeet event. I think that this planning really paid off – the actual event came together very well. Whilst there are always wrinkles in the actual event, the Natmeet volunteers rose to the challenge. From the point of view of the attendees, the event ran pretty smoothly. I know that there was furious paddling under the surface, but that effort paid off!

On behalf of the club, I'd again like to congratulate the Natmeet committee on a fantastic job, especially Elaine and David Gazzard for chairing this committee. Whilst there were many people contributing to the organisation and running of Natmeet 2026, I'd also like to mention John Purcell, Chris Cameron, Jen and George Boyko. Being Club Captain as well, John was working extra hard in the lead up to the event and during the event itself.

On behalf of the Committee and the Club as a whole, I'd like to thank the retiring members of the Club's committee for their valuable and much appreciated contributions to the Committee over the years. My apologies if I've missed anyone.

This year, John Purcell completes his service to the Club as Club Captain and will be stepping down at the AGM. I'd like to thank John Purcell for all his work over the last three years - the Presidents Picnics and the 35th anniversary lunch particularly. Apart from these events, John has organised the Motorsport Australia permits for all our club social runs, the Brass Monkey run with Michael Solous, the Conveners Conference, and of course John's contribution to Natmeet - thank you very much!

That meant that we were looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Club Captain at the AGM this year. This is an important role as without the Motorsport Australia permits, we cannot organise club runs. I'd like to congratulate Manpreet Banga for taking up the challenge of being Club Captain for 2027. Manpreet's company (Banga Financial) is a new sponsor of the Club, so this is showing real commitment to the Club, especially as Manpreet is a very new member of the Club. Well done!

Jeff Rowe is stepping down as the Vice-President at the AGM this year. In the time that Jeff has held this role, his hard work in signing up new sponsors for the Club (Club and Chapter sponsors) has become legendary. The level of sponsorship enjoyed by the Club now is absolutely unprecedented and the envy of every other MX-5 Club in the country. Thank you Jeff for this hard work and these results! Truly amazing. I'd like to welcome Wesley Hill back to the committee as Vice President. Wes did a stellar job as the Club Secretary for many years, and it's fantastic to have Wes back on the committee.

I'd like to thank Maree Eccleston for supporting Kay Godfrey in the Sydney Chapter. Welcome to Jonathan Wood as co-convenor.

Wendy Parsonage is stepping down as Hunter Chapter convenor this year – I'd like to thank Wendy for her work as the convenor, along with her contribution to Natmeet 2026. Hot off the press is that Pauline Schofield has put her hand up to take over the role - thank you Pauline!

This year, John Chapius stepped down as convenor of the Canberra Chapter. John has been a strong advocate for the Canberra Chapter during his tenure. Thank you John for your

contributions to the committee and the Canberra Chapter. Welcome to Stuart and Michelle Ducat as the new Canberra co-conveners.

Ian Redman is retiring as the RPM Chapter Convener – thank you for your time as convener, Ian. The new convener will be Graham Fletcher. Welcome Fletch! That does mean that we were now looking for a new General Committee Member. We will have a new General Committee Member as of the AGM - stay tuned.

Following the resignation of Rosy Black and Ken Bailey as conveners of the Mid-North Coast Chapter in 2025, unfortunately no-one has volunteered to take on this role. So, reluctantly, the Club had made the chapter inactive and has recovered the assets held by the chapter. If there is interest in the future, the chapter can be re-activated.

For the Chapter Conveners and other committee members I haven't mentioned - thank you for all the work over the last 12 months - there is a phenomenal volume of activity in the various chapters, and committee roles. That takes nothing away from the many other volunteers that contribute to those activities - thank you!

This year, the Governance sub-committee (Ian Mash, Chris Cameron and Cathy Combes) has continued to work through a number of governance issues. This is work that is definitely not something that most members spend time thinking about, but indirectly, the members do definitely benefit from by ensuring that the club is sustainable in the long term. An incredible amount of work by Ian Mash, Chris Cameron and Cathy Combes. It's one thing getting volunteers to put in the effort that this required. It is quite another to get that effort from volunteers with this experience, skillset and expertise.

This year we again have a detailed report from the Governance sub-committee for the AGM - please see this below. While I take no credit for the amazing amount of work done - this governance area has been a major focus for me in 2026, and will remain so.

The other vacancy was that of Motorsport Secretary. We have been without a Motorsport Secretary for 2026. The main reason is that we wanted to document the role properly (in the same way as other committee roles) before we actively looked for volunteers, but we were also re-organizing the roles and responsibilities in motorsport. We have now managed to do that. In the interim, our Motorsport Coordinator Gaynor Lawler has been doing the heavy lifting, so thank you for taking on that effort.

We will now have a new Motorsport Secretary - Lou Iezzi. Anyone vaguely connected to motorsport in the Club will know Lou. It goes without saying that Lou has vast experience in motorsport, so the Club is very fortunate to have Lou in this role. I'm sure that the Club's motorsport is in safe hands.

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

Ian Combes

President

2026 AGM Governance Report

With Chris ably assisting what turned into an exceptional NatMeet 2026, one might be forgiven for expecting that there would not have been much Governance Sub-group work done this calendar year. But any such notion would be quite wrong!

Governance is an often-used term, and one that is often ill defined. The Australian Governance Institute (yes – there is one!) defines it thus: the framework by which organisations, institutions, or societies are controlled and operate. It involves decision-making processes, management of resources, enforcement of rules, and accountability mechanisms. Key elements include ethics, risk management, compliance, administration, and integrity. Good governance ensures transparency, accountability, stewardship, and ethical conduct, enabling organisations to achieve their objectives while considering the interests of stakeholder.

So, in that context, members will be reassured to know that we've spent time this year on taking a Risk Management approach to Natmeet 2026 – such that the various what ifs were documented, and concrete plans put in place to enable success in the unlikely event of the foreseen risks arising.

The theme of risk management was strong this year – with the subgroup actively engaged with the Committee to formalise and document the key risks to our club, and to developing a risk policy to sit alongside the active risk register. This is work in progress at this stage – and any member who has a strength or passion in this space – is welcomed to join us and assist too 😊

Other things we've done include:

- The group has assisted to create a Committee Board drive, has structured it , and populated it on google drive. That way – we should always be able to find the things we know we have.
- The Revised Bylaws have been completed, captured and uploaded to Club Website.
- Completing the extensive process (over the last 3 years) that all committee roles have been documented with the help of incumbents & are now formulated into a committee handbook. That is a foundation for succession planning – and is a significant achievement in and of itself.
- Assisted in navigating a claim for payment for the use of an image to which the Club did not possess the IP. A lesson hard learnt – if you haven't taken the picture – don't publish it in the magazine or on the website. There are sharks out there waiting to make you pay!

Ian Mash

Governance Officer