



Incorporated No. A0021659A

Hall of Fame – Coral Campbell

❖ awarded 13 March, 2021 ❖

2021 saw the introduction of a new system of Club recognition awards designed to acknowledge very high levels of support for and contribution to the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania going well beyond what could be expected of even the most dedicated Club devotee.

Previously the highest recognition to which a Club member could aspire was that of Honorary Life Membership, which is indeed a pre-requisite for the Club's new higher honours.

Today we are pleased to introduce a prestigious new level that recognises Life Members who have continued to contribute at the highest level well after that former recognition – the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania Hall of Fame.

Coral Campbell joined the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria on 30 June 1998, just after she and husband Will had bought their first Mazda MX-5 – a lovely 1990 White NA.

Early commitment showed when Coral and Will took out the 1998-99 “Outstanding Contribution” award (now re-named the Jinba Ittai Award) in their first year. This period included the long drive to Queensland and back to participate in the third-ever national MX-5 Clubs’ gathering, NatMeet, over Easter 1999.

NatMeet is a biennial event which should have been held in 1998, but planning issues led to it being postponed by 12 months. Victoria was next in line to host the event in 2001, but Coral and the rest of the Victorian contingent who attended were so enthused by their NatMeet experience that they vowed to return the event to its rightful schedule. Coral was a key member of the planning committee that delivered the next NatMeet, split between Ballarat and Melbourne, just a year later.

From there it was a natural progression to join the Club's full Committee, which she joined later in 2000. She served six years initially, displaying a dedication that earned her Honorary Life Membership in November 2003. The effort was all the more remarkable given that Coral and Will travelled from Torquay to Melbourne to attend monthly Committee meetings, on top of participation in every other Club activity during the three years of Will Presidency in 2001 to 2004. She also won the Club's *mxtra* Award for 2002-2003.

After a 12-month break, Coral returned to the Committee in 2007 and has remained for the ensuing 14 years – a total of 20 years’ service to date.

Committee duties have included two years as Merchandise Officer (2002-2004) and 11 years as Points Officer (2007-2018). She has served as Club President for three years to date, from 2018 to 2021.

In addition to her time in Committee roles, Coral has served on the organising committees of two Victorian-hosted NatMeets (2000 and 2008) and on the Club's 20th, 25th and 30th anniversary planning committees.

Her personable and inclusive nature, approachability, friendship, generous spirit and willingness to take on any task the Club has required of her have been central to the success that the Club has enjoyed over the past two decades.

*M*embership of the Club's newly-established Hall of Fame is an honour that will be bestowed only on truly outstanding members over the life of the Club.

Our recognition guidelines state that membership is offered only to a member with a minimum of 15 years’ Club membership, and who is already an Honorary Life Member. Their attitude and demeanour must reflect the values of the Club, and they must have demonstrated a remarkable contribution to the Club.

The award may only be conferred in exceptional circumstances, at the absolute and unanimous discretion of the Committee. It also requires a unanimous vote of the Committee in favour before it can be conferred.

We are very pleased to say that Coral has more than qualified on each of those requirements for membership.

*S*o, today, it is with great pleasure that we invite Coral to accept this award as an inaugural *Member of the Hall of Fame of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania.*

Murray Finlay and Peter Dannock, Past Presidents