



Incorporated No. A0021659A

## Hall of Fame – Will Campbell

❖ awarded 13 March, 2021 ❖

**2**021 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.

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

Early commitment showed when Will and Coral 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 Will 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. Will 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 he joined later in 2000. His dedication to the Club earned him Honorary Life Membership in November 2003. The effort was all the more remarkable given that Will and Coral travelled from Torquay to Melbourne to attend monthly Committee meetings. During Will's Presidency, they attended every Club event due to Will's commitment to set an example for other Club members to follow. They also excluded themselves from Club awards during Will's Presidency, but won the Club's Teams Champion Award on three occasions on either side of that term, in 2000-2001, 2005-2006 and 2009-2010.

Will has remained on the Committee for a total of 21 years' continuous service to date.

Committee duties have included a year as Membership Officer (2000-2001) before serving as Club President for three years (2001-2004), followed by an astounding 17 more consecutive years (to date) as Membership Officer (2004-) and Points Officer (2018-2019).

Will's intense loyalty to his Club friends and to the Club overall, his wisdom and willingness to play “Devil's advocate” during Committee deliberations on many critical Club issues, as well as his enthusiastic participation across more than two decades of Club life have greatly benefited the Club over the duration of his membership.

*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 Will has more than qualified on each of those requirements for membership.

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