



Incorporated No. A0021659A

### Life Membership – Bruce Gray

❖ awarded 5 August, 2021 ❖

Every so often it is the privilege of the President and the Committee to pay a tribute to someone who has made a special, lasting and memorable contribution to the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania. It is with pleasure that the commitment of **Bruce Gray** is recognised.

**Bruce** joined the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria in February 2008, and immediately became immersed in the Club's activities – participating, organising and leading many local runs. He joined other Victorian members at multiple interstate NatMeets (IX 2010 - SA, X 2012 - NSW, XI 2014 - Queensland, XII 2016 - Tasmania and XIII 2018 - SA).

After five years of active membership, when he decided that it “was time to make a contribution”, he joined the Committee in 2013. Initially, he took up the role of the Club's Merchandising Officer and, during his four-year stint, was instrumental in introducing a different range of merchandise, including items designed to celebrate the Club's 25th Anniversary year. However, this was not the extent of his contribution to the Club. As co-organiser, Bruce played a pivotal role in the 2016 NatMeet held in Tasmania, responding to the minutiae of detail required to run such a major event. With a record number of over 180 attendees from all Australian states, it is recognised as a very successful event.

Bruce stepped into the demanding role of the Club Secretary in 2016, a position he still retains. He administers the day-to-day organisational tasks, implements committee business, and carries out additional tasks as and when required. This role is integral to the success of the Club. Alongside this, in 2018 Bruce took on the role of Website Administrator. This is a complex task involving the maintenance of the Club's outward ‘face’. Within the role, he has designed and overseen website features that represent the many facets of Club life. This includes assisting in the opening of an online shop for the merchandising of a range of Club paraphernalia.

In both roles, Bruce has constantly looked at ways of streamlining many aspects of Club life. For many years, the Club's membership system had been administered by a

third-party, but Bruce developed and helped implement an in-house system that significantly reduced costs. He has since further refined the process with the Club to move from a fixed to a rolling membership year. The latter will again reduce costs and means that annual membership cards will not be required. This has a direct benefit both for the environment and the Club's coffers. It also has the effect of reducing the Club Membership Officer's seasonal workload.

With the arrival of COVID-19, it became evident that registering for Club events should be improved. Bruce devised a QR code system that greatly streamlined the process and eliminated the need for sign-on sheets. The system has also significantly simplified the collection and accuracy of the data used by the Club's Points Officer to determine members deserving of awards and has made the role of Chapter Captains and Run Leaders much less onerous. It also satisfies government requirements concerning the collection of data.

The conferring of Life Membership of this Club is not something that is done lightly. It has gone to only 15 other people in our 31-year history.

Club guidelines state that Honorary Life Membership is only offered to individuals with at least 10 years of Club membership and is awarded for long-term service to the Club. A nominee must have given exceptional service to the Club, by the application of extraordinary expertise, dedication and positive influence. It is a significant award and may only be conferred on a Club member at the absolute discretion of the Committee. It also requires a unanimous vote of the Committee in favour before it can be conferred. Whilst Bruce was awarded the Club's Service Star in 2020, his influence on the Club continues to be profound.

So, today, it is with great pleasure that I invite Bruce to accept this award of *Life Membership of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania.*

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Coral Campbell, President