



Incorporated No. A0021659A

### Life Membership – John & Noellene Gleeson

❖ awarded 11 October, 2023 ❖



very so often it is the privilege of the President and the Committee to pay a tribute to people who have made a special, lasting and memorable contribution to the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania.

**Honorary Life membership** is a significant award and may only be conferred on a Club member at the absolute discretion of, and approval by, the Club Committee.

Conferring of Life Membership of this Club is not done lightly. It has gone to only 21 other people in our 33-year history. Club guidelines state that Honorary Life Membership is offered only to individuals with at least 10 years of Club membership, who have previously been awarded the Club's Service Star and given long-term, exceptional service to the Club, by applying extraordinary expertise, dedication and positive influence.

**John and Noellene Gleeson** joined the Club on 10 April 2008, and have been members for 15 years.

John was the Foundation Chapter Captain – Western Victoria Chapter 2009-2014, with Noellene right there every step of the way as the unofficial assistant Chapter Captain. After five years at the helm they were able to step back for a few years, but in 2022 found themselves back as Chapter Co-Captains of the Western Victoria Chapter.

Both have provided exceptional ongoing support for the Club as a whole, and for the Western Victoria Chapter in particular throughout their years of membership, including close guidance for the various Captains of their Chapter in the intervening years.

While never seeking any awards or recognitions for themselves – although Noellene was the Western Victoria Chapter Champion twice (2011-2012 and 2013-2014) – they were both named among the first Club Service Star recipients in 2021. The Service Star is a pre-requisite for Life Membership of the Club.

As well as taking back responsibility for the Western Victoria Chapter, in 2023 they both took seats on the 2023-2024 Club Committee, providing additional regional representation for the Club's management.

They have always put the Club and the Chapter ahead of their own interests, and have worked hard both to ensure

that their own Chapter has always enjoyed a full calendar of interesting events – many of which they planned and led themselves – and to support other Chapters' events far and wide across Victoria. In addition, they have provided mighty support for the Club's magazine, *mxtra*, with a seemingly endless stream of reports on Chapter events.

And of course, they invented the now-famous *Western Victoria Chapter U-Turn*, where convoy participants could either follow the run notes or follow the leader (who was not following their own run notes!), which is now an obligatory part of just about every Western Victoria Chapter run. If it doesn't happen naturally, the run leader usually throws one in anyway!

John and Noellene have been the underlying life-force in the Western Victoria Chapter since its inception and, through their own personal warmth and humour, they have developed the close-knit community of like-minded friends that is the Chapter today.

Their ongoing contribution since their 2021 Service Star has elevated them into the "exceptional service to the Club for at least seven years" qualification required for Honorary Life membership.

Through their dedicated contribution, their influence on the Western Victoria Chapter's success, and on the Club as a whole, has been extremely positive.

*It is with great pleasure that I invite Noellene and John to accept this award of Life Membership of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania.*

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Cary Warren, President