



Incorporated No. A0021659A

Life Membership – Bob de Bont

❖ awarded 26 October, 2025 ❖



very 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.

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 25 other people in our 35-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.

Bob de Bont is a 15-year member of the Club, having joined the Club in January 2010, and has given exceptional service to the Club, through his strong presence, dedication and positive influence on the Club and those around him.

While never having served on the Club Committee, Bob has been the very definition of a stalwart member for all that time. If anyone has needed any form of assistance, it has always been a matter of "Ask Bob", and he has always been only too happy to help where he can.

In particular, Bob has made a valued contribution to the Central Chapter, serving "officially" as Assistant Chapter Captain first from 2016 to 2018 and again since 2025, and unofficially in the absence of any Central Chapter leadership between 2022 and earlier in 2025 when he worked closely with Club Captain Craig Dixon to keep Central Chapter activity alive.

His strong support for the Club has led to him being named:

Central Chapter Champion five times (2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2021-22), and winner of the *mxtra* award in 2018 and the **Teams** award in 2022.

winner of the 2022 *Jinba Ittai* award for the member most recognised for "oneness with the Club",

an inaugural Club **Service Award** winner in 2021 and a Club **Service Star** winner (a pre-requisite for Life membership) in 2023.

Throughout, Bob has been a fixture at events across all the Victorian Chapters, as planner, leader, participant and hands-on supporter as required, and has been synonymous with the success of Eastern Victoria Chapter's annual "3 Peaks" events and Tech days. He has also been prominent in fostering Club members' awareness of, and participation in, motorkhana.

He has been prolific in the pages of *mxtra*, especially with layman-friendly technical hints, tips and how-tos. For many, he is the Club's go-to font of wisdom, particularly for "all things NC" but also for just about anything MX-5-related.

Bob is the epitome of "here to help"; for him, no request is too big, too hard or too much trouble.

In the Committee's opinion, Bob's ongoing contribution since his 2023 Service Star has elevated him into the "exceptional service to the Club for at least seven years" qualification required for Life membership.

There is no doubt that his contribution has been dedicated, and that his influence right across the Club has been extremely positive.

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

Simon Acfield, President