



Incorporated No. A0021659A

Life Membership – Malcolm Brand

❖ awarded 26 October, 2025 ❖



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.

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 24 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.

Malcolm Brand joined the Club in 1990, and has been a member for all of its 35 years. He has completed seven years over two stints on the Club Committee.

Mazda MX-5s have been part of Malcolm's life for as long as they have been in existence.

He was one of the first in Australia to purchase an MX-5, laying down his money on his beloved NA (which he still owns and drives regularly) in August 1989 without even a test drive. He had only viewed an MX-5 on a stand at the Melbourne Motor Show months earlier. His first drive was when that car was delivered in March 1990.

He purchased a second MX-5 – a 1.5L ND – in 2016 to sit alongside his NA. While garage space meant the ND was sold in 2025, he already has the money set aside for the as-yet unspecified fifth generation MX-5!

Malcolm attended the very first gathering in the southern hemisphere of MX-5s and their owners, at Berwick in May 1990, and became a Foundation member of the Club. After 35 years, he is one of only two still-active Foundation members, and has seen the Club expand both in size and in the range of sporting and social activities it offers.

He is currently serving his second stint on the Club Committee. He first served for two years in 1994 and

1995, when he was a general Committeeman and editor of the early versions of the Club's magazine, *mxtra*. Family, business and other community work impacted his Club involvement in the intervening years, before he stepped up again for another Committee term in 2020. He has since served an additional five years on the Committee, with four of those as Club Treasurer, and no intention of stepping away.

As Treasurer he successfully resolved both the clarification of the Club's taxation position and the appointment of an auditor for the Club's finances, and initiated and led long-overdue discussions about the future management of the Club's financial and other assets.

Now more than ever, he is truly a heart-and-soul member of the Club, working tirelessly on behalf of the Committee and in support of the Central Chapter to ensure that fellow members derive as much pleasure as he has from membership of our Club, and from driving the magnificent MX-5. He has planned and assisted with many Club and Chapter events and has been a regular contributor of quality articles to *mxtra*.

Malcolm was named among the first Club Service Award recipients in 2021, and in 2023 was recognised with the Club's Service Star – a prerequisite for Life membership.

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