

President's Report 2020

This has not been the year we thought it would be, but we have nonetheless managed to get a number of excellent events in – some highlights being another very successful track day, Spring Classic and Brit and Euro, and of course the Ellerslie Intermarque Concours. All these events require a significant amount of organising, in particular as the host club for Ellerslie, involved a huge number of members, and a big effort from Norm Harvey and Sue Martin to organise it all. John Hancock and Jeremy Nicholls organised a fantastic club display, and Dawn Judge and John Campbell once again did us proud as our representatives on the Ellerslie Committee.

While COVID-19 has caused a lot of disruption to, and constant revision of, our club calendar, it has also provided an opportunity to try something new for the club, in the form of virtual trials. These have been really well supported, and drawn in a lot of members from around NZ and across the globe.

On the motorsport front, we have had some very successful events – notably the track day – but have had some setbacks with our hillclimbs. To run these, we need to have a trained traffic management person onsite, and unfortunately our regular volunteer has had a change of circumstance and can no longer support us. The cost of hiring a professional team is prohibitive, so while we're investigating alternatives we have unfortunately had to cancel our Kemp Rd hillclimb.

The committee has been investing in some new equipment over the past year. Those at Ellerslie will have seen the new large pop-up marquee that Sue Martin put a lot of time and effort into organising. Nick de Wit has organised a Go Pro video camera and some support gear, to record our events and make some promotional footage.

Our committee this past year has been very hard working, particularly over the last few months as we navigated our way through all the changes. I'd like to thank the out-going committee, especially Jeremy and Nick – our first-time committee members – who have stood up and taken a lot on in their first year on board. Obviously they haven't been put off yet, as they've both indicated they're willing to stand for committee next year. Also thanks to Zena, who is standing down as Secretary after her third stint in the role. Norm Harvey has kindly agreed to take on the role for the time being, having done it previously so now we're just down a VP. Sue Martin as Membership Secretary, Paul Walbran as Club Captain, Colin Upchurch as Treasurer and John Campbell have continued to serve the club excellently and tirelessly. It has made my first year as President much simpler to have such a capable team.

Outside of the committee, Dave Addison as Webmaster and Steve Jones as MaG editor have continued their hardwork, together with Tony Simmons who helps coordinate the email blasts. The Pre '56 team, and the Team Waikato and Team BOP teams have run some great events, as always.

It's a bit difficult to predict what will happen over the next year, but it should involve a lot of MGs and a lot of fun.

Octagonally

Andrew