

## **2026 President's Report for MG Car Club (Auckland Centre) Inc and MG Motorsport Register (Auckland) Inc**

MG Car Club (Auckland Centre) has continued to have a strong membership base through the past year, and to offer a wide range of activities for member engagement.

A key milestone during the last 12 months was the adoption at the last AGM of a new constitution, as required by legislation changes. Perhaps not the most exciting topic of club activity, but the most important as without it the club would cease to exist as a legal entity. As the last refresh of the club's rules was over a decade ago, the opportunity was also taken to review all provisions for continued relevance.

The constitution's objects – largely carried over from before – set a very wide-ranging set of outcomes for the club to achieve. Included are MG's heritage, hospitality, technical information, motoring in general, and motorsport in a variety of possible forms. Worth a look if you haven't done so before. These objects provide a check list against which club activity should be planned and later reviewed, and I'm pleased to report that we have met them all.

Doing so would not have been possible without the support and help of a good many members throughout the year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has done so. While there are too many to list individually, those requiring a particular thank you include Maureen O'Connor for taking the reins of the Midweek Gallivanter, Gary Landon and Nigel Robinson for hosting some of our motorsport events at their properties, and Steve Jones for continuing to produce a great MaG.

One aspect which we have struggled with is finding 3 or so people to assist via a social subcommittee in the arranging of venues for runs to visit, clubnites and so on. We are still on the lookout!

Event highlight of the year was without doubt the biennial national rally, hosted this time by the Otago-Southland centre. A large group from Auckland Centre attended, with some making an extended tour of it and others using the sharply priced logistical support provided via MG NZ's car distribution connections. The week-long programme treated us to a good range of well run social and driving events capped off by the stunning South Island scenery, all mixed in with a great deal of MG camaraderie.

One activity that has gone on the backburner has been the annual track day. The only local circuit, Hampton Downs, is priced such that the \$\$ can't be made to stack up even with the sponsorship team and a very good turnout of members. However, there is a new facility being constructed at Tauranga and when that opens we are optimistic that this popular event will be viable again. Despite the lack of a track day our motorsport register numbers remain healthy, with over 50 members

Behind the scenes, the committee has continued the strategy work of the previous year with the objective of future-proofing the club in a way which meets the objects of its constitution. The committee decided that the first leg of this should be to review our IT and how it can better assist club capability in delivering on its objects in a world of rapidly evolving technology and communications. It

has made significant progress on how to make things less “clunky” (as the current system has been described) while keeping a careful eye on the critical question of costs and value for money. For a club of 500+ members relying on volunteers to run it in their own time, the resulting saving of effort required on routine (but essential) admin tasks frees up time for other club activity and makes the work of committee and related personnel much less onerous. One initial result of this work is the (planned-for at the time of writing) enabling of on-line attendance at the AGM, which was provided for in the new constitution.

Clubnites are another consideration as we move forward. A number of factors, including Auckland traffic and a large chunk of regulars moving out of town, have seen numbers drop to a level which is sometimes marginal for the caterers. Options for addressing this are the next block of the strategy work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the outgoing committee for its work during the past year. The strategy project has meant that the workload has been significant, requiring additional meetings most months along with the associated follow-up tasks. We have had a full complement, and it has been an excellent team to be a part of, with every single member contributing a great deal. Without their input and work the club would be very much the poorer, so from me, and I am sure all club members, a very big THANK YOU.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Paul Walbran', with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Walbran

President