

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

In thinking about our PCV in the preparation of this report, it became clearer than ever to me that we're part of a large and very active club.

In terms of size, our membership number continues to grow, with 1492 members at last count. This impressive number by car club standards, I think, reflects the ongoing *relevance* of our activities to the Porsche community in Victoria.

At a very practical level that *relevance* lies in the ability of car club members to obtain club plates. Since a vehicle must be at least 25 years old for club plates our array of Porsches fits that bill admirably, as Porsche has estimated that over 70% of all Porsches ever made are still on the road.

The *relevance* of our club is also reinforced by the impressive number of events on offer, which adds to 56 for this calendar year. These encompass the streams of Social (led by Felix Rieniets), Competition (led by Tony Carolan) and Registers (led by Wayne St Baker).

Sticking with statistics for a moment, this year we had:

- 20 Register
- 21 Competition, and
- 15 Social activities.

Regarding these activities:

- There were about 3,600 individual participants
- This averages 2 ½ activities per member per year
- Of our members, 653 went to *at least one* event
- Our most active member has attended 25 events this year (and still counting).

The most notable club events since the last AGM include:

- President's Day at Sandown Raceway
- The 50th anniversary of the 911, at the MCG
- The Annual Dinner/Dance and Presentation Night (with *further* improvements and a lower cost this year, by the way)
- February Club Night at Ford Performance Racing workshops
- PCV Tasmanian Tour
- Ladies' High Tea at the Windsor (which started out as a Go Kart Challenge & Lunch)

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- PCV Displays at:
 - o The Phillip Island Classic;
 - o The Formula1 Grand Prix, and
 - o The Show'n'Shine at Motorclassica, Exhibition Buildings.

While the *Registers* group is now very well structured and runs its large number of relatively small events like clockwork, the *Social* and *Competition* groups are addressing some challenging issues with their generally more complex events.

After a review of the Social Committee's operation we've set up a more formal structure, with the Social Director supported by 4 coordinators, one for each of the areas of Club Nights, Annual Dinner, Major Events and Social Runs. That is still being bedded down but we expect it to go a long way towards reducing the work load on the Social Director.

Meanwhile, the Competition group has been working on three main issues:

- o Reduced participation at events
- o Noise
- o Competition *class* structures in light of the influx of faster, modern vehicles into the competition ranks.

Reduced *participation* at competition events has been felt across all car clubs. Tony Carolan has offset the financial impact of this by introducing a small number of joint events with other clubs. We are also working on a range of innovations to try to attract more competitors.

Noise is a real concern, with track operators appearing to impose much stricter enforcement than in the past. At a Phillip Island event this year over half of our cars were pinged for noise. Our work to date indicates that the noise limits imposed on these tracks are much more stringent than in other countries. We have much work to do in this area but as a stop-gap, we are trying to obtain some high noise limit days, which unfortunately are hard to get for weekends, and at a higher price I might add.

With Competition *classes* we have left the current ones untouched and introduced new *standard* and *modified* classes covering higher performance vehicles. This will result in smaller class sizes initially but the new points system introduced this year makes that a virtual non-issue.

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While on that topic, the new points system seems to have been very well accepted and has led to some very close competition within classes and also for the club championship.

With all of this club activity going on, we need somewhere to write about it! Our club magazine, Porsche Parade, does that job admirably under the management of our editor Ron Widdison. To keep the net cost of the magazine low, Leon Christodulaki has done a superlative job over the last couple of years on the onerous but very important task of acquiring and retaining advertisers for the magazine. Leon is now in the process of stepping down from that role as Rowan Burnett takes it on.

On the subject of money, Michael O'Brien as Treasurer continues to do a grand job setting our financial plan, together with some overarching budget guidelines for keeping our club financially safe. More on that topic in Michael's Treasurer's Report, up next.

Your committee members, including Phil Treloar who recently stepped down, have put in an immense effort over the last year in support of your club and I would like to thank each of them for a superlative job. I mentioned in last year's report that your committee is a talented group of people that operates in a culture of *active cooperation*. That makes it a much easier task to address and resolve any issues or concerns that confront us. I've found it very rewarding to be part of that group, and in the club's tradition of two year terms for the President, it's time for me to pass on the baton.

While your committee is of course made up of volunteers, there is a much larger group of members who volunteer for all sorts of support roles for your club including event organisers, competition officials, subcommittee members and others. I ask you to please thank them all for the contribution they are making to your club.

Of course, I would not fail to mention Carly and Lisa in the office. They're the *public persona* of our club and are often the interface point for members into all facets of club activity. I thank them too for the great and tireless job that they do.

With that, I conclude my report.

Peter