

## Important changes for our magazine

Everyone's aware that there are *cost of living* pressures; your club is also experiencing *cost of operating* pressures. Gas, water and rates are rising costs we can do nothing about (thank goodness for solar panels), but one thing we can manage is a huge increase in postal costs for the monthly magazine. It currently costs the Club roughly \$16,500 p.a. for packaging and postage of MG Motoring. From January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, this would jump to around \$22,000 p.a. and if you add the cost of editing and printing, it will total approximately 60% of our income from membership fees. Your Committee feels that this is unsustainable and not the best use of our income, so a special Committee Meeting was held in September and resolved to take action.

The unanimous decision of the Committee is that when membership renewals go out in November this year, all members will have the option of paying Membership Fees at the current level and reading the monthly magazine on our website; or ticking a box to pay a \$20 levy to continue to receive a 'hard copy' in the mail. This will take effect from the January-February 2024 edition.

There are a number of advantages to this arrangement:

- It avoids having to make an overall increase in membership fees, which would have been necessary otherwise to meet a range of increasing operating costs.
- It will save the Club money which can be better used in providing new and improved services – and your Committee is always open to suggestions on what these may be.
- Reading the magazine online is straightforward.
- The magazine has been available online, as well as in hard copy, for some time now. It is simple to download copies to a computer so they can be saved and referred to.
- The online version is in full colour, which we would never have been able to do with the hard copy.
- It will be available online quickly.

The new arrangement is a significant incentive in terms of cost and convenience for members. The Committee realises that not everyone will want to do that and for these members the magazine will still be available in the post each month, it will just cost \$20 extra. We're one of the few MG Car Clubs in Australia that does not already offer this option – not that it matters what other States do, but it is common practice to have this arrangement in place to ensure best use is made of the Club's finances.

Annual membership subs have not increased since 2016 and the Committee is pleased that action has been taken to avoid an increase in 2024.

Stephen Marlow  
President.