

President's Report December 2023

I'm writing this on the morning after the VAILO Adelaide 500 – and what a huge success that was for promoting the Club and as a commemoration of MG's Centenary. I want to start off by thanking everyone involved in delivering that success, so to everyone who took part in the Driver's Parade and our MG Display and volunteered at our information booth – thank you on behalf of the Club.

I want to single out the hard-working team who worked for months to make it happen – Berry Treffers, Lynden Burns, Karen Stephenson, Dick Manning and Arthur Ruediger – plus all the volunteers who came along during the event and staffed our information booth. Few people probably appreciate just how much was involved in putting this together, including the regalia, so again, on behalf of the Club, a big thank you. For those who weren't there, I can report that there was strong public interest in the range of MGs on display, plenty of positive conversations throughout the event, good promotion of MG Racing Australia in SA, and even a few membership application forms handed out. I don't think the outcome could have been better.

What a year 2023 has been. I took over from Tim just a month before we hosted the National Meeting – doesn't that seem a long time ago?? Since then, we've continued to celebrate MG's Centenary with a pretty full calendar including the highly successful Centenary Kimber Run (thanks Ken) and special signage and regalia.

Looking ahead to next year we have:

All MG Day at Glenelg, February 18th

All British Day at Echunga, March 3rd

British Classic Tour to Victor Harbor, March 17th

Centenary National Meeting, Tamworth, March 29th – April 2nd

And perhaps a Grand Finale at Birdwood in May.

As always, keep a close eye on the website for updates and details.

I also want to thank the Constitution Subcommittee who sorted through some necessary updates to our Constitution to ensure it accurately reflects who we are and the direction in which we want to move.

Not forgetting of course, a special thanks to our Executive Committee who have put up with me for the first nine months of my Presidency. I have vowed to be more relaxed . . .

Last but by no means least, thanks to all the members I've met and/or heard from since I was elected, for their support and positive ideas. You know where to find me and I'm always pleased to hear from you.

This year we've also seen moves to establishing MG Racing Australia in SA with support from the Committee and a launch being planned for early 2024.

Your Committee has also endorsed providing the option of a printed or online version of *MG Motoring* which has enabled us to dodge an increase in membership fees. As this is the last *MG Motoring* until February, I'd like to leave you something to think about over the festive months.

Upfront, it's vital that the Club maintains its sporting and historic background and history. That's a given, non-negotiable. However, at the same time the reality is the MGs being produced today are vastly different from the 'traditional base' and come from a vastly different producer. Should we encompass that and if so, how? Along the same lines, despite the efforts made so far, we're not attracting sufficient new members who are buying the new MGs. Do we need to offer something new and different for this demographic? Again if so, what is it and how do we do it?

I'd like the Committee to have discussions along those lines in 2024 but it's not just a Committee issue, it affects all our Members and I hope to hear YOUR THOUGHTS as part of this discussion feeding into our forward planning. Food for thought – not just turkey and Christmas pud!!

Finally to all our members and your families, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope Santa is kind to you!

Safety Fast!

Stephen Marlow.

President.