

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NSW SMA Inc**

### **President's Report 2017/2018**

As we end our third full year since incorporation it is time to look back at the progress we have made and the aims that have been achieved. At the same time we can now look to the future and set further goals.

Our first meeting of 30 clubs at Wagga Wagga on 8th November 2014 set three principle objectives for the "Southern Motoring Group". We wanted to see the introduction of log books for NSW Historic Vehicles, we wanted to see Conditional Registration extended to modified Historic Vehicles and we wanted to have a "voice".

Just six months later we incorporated the NSW Southern Motoring Association with 83 foundation members. We had the benefit of advice and guidance from Alan Hay (Patron of the ACMC) who was our guest speaker at two of our early meetings. His simple principle that "numbers are everything" when seeking change is as true today as ever.

Later in 2015 we were accepted into the Australian Confederation of Motor Clubs (ACMC) where we found our "voice" and added to the substantial numbers of clubs that organisation represents. Through the involvement with ACMC we have been able to raise issues on behalf of our members and to secure results. At the same time we have been provided with reliable and up-to-date information enabling us to keep our member clubs well informed. Our Association now represents over 180 clubs ranging from pure Historic cars and motorcycles to modified vehicles of all types and historic trucks and machinery.

Today ACMC represents over 700 clubs in NSW covering a wide spread of motoring enthusiasts interests. It is by far the largest peak body representing our sector of the motoring industry in this State and as such has a unique standing with NSW RMS enabling a very close working relationship and unrivalled communication.

We can be well pleased with our progress so far and we can look forward to further successes as the details of our Conditional Registration schemes receive more work and refinement in the near future. The log book trial will soon be concluded and we can reasonably expect its permanent endorsement and the production of an improved log book. Our requests for access to a full range of plates and our expectations of a shift to on-line inspection certificates etc. have been stymied by "system difficulties" at RMS that may take some time to resolve.

Looking further ahead the biggest issue that I see facing the entire historic vehicle movement is our lack of coordinated representation at the National level and our vulnerability to unacceptable outcomes as the motoring world and associated regulations change, as they are bound to do. When the ACMC formed, the idea was floated to other states that if each state formed a similar unifying body across the several areas of historic motoring interest then it would be possible to assemble the individual state bodies as one unified organisation to represent the whole national Historic Motoring community and to negotiate with Government at the Federal level. The suggestion wasn't taken up by the other states so the ACMC remains the one clear and successful example of this approach.

What we do have at the National level are several peak bodies representing their individual specialised interests and seldom, if ever, communicating with each other.

We will have the pleasure of meeting Doug Young as our guest speaker at our AGM. He will explain the importance of a National representative body to protect the interests of our members and will outline the options available and our possible place in them. Doug's belief is that without being properly represented at a national level the old vehicle movement will simply become a casualty of the changes that are to come.

We have a starting point but as yet no clear model for the future. I hope that a much higher level of coordinated representation can be achieved and I also hope that we can be a useful part of it.

As always I have to thank our Committee for their support. Again I draw particular attention to Secretary Tony Stove and Webmaster Trevor Beckwith each doing their own job dependably well and helping enormously to achieve the smooth running of the Association. I look forward to some new faces on our Committee this year and some fresh input and ideas. We are in a strong position, growing steadily and well placed to continue providing our member clubs with the service they require.

**Phil Mudie**

**President NSW Southern Motoring Association**