

# **MERCEDES - BENZ CLUB AUCKLAND INC.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

**A.G.M. 14 JUNE 2011**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present the President's Report of club activities for the last 12 months.

Your committee has met on a monthly schedule with the primary aim of organizing an interesting schedule of events for the benefit of members. It has been a pleasure to lead a dedicated committee who have given me every assistance and have been very patient as they broke in their new president. By the end of the year we have all settled down well and new routines have become familiar. We have tried a number of new initiatives during the year, some have proved popular while one or two did not meet with a great deal of enthusiasm. Recently we have introduced a more social aspect to some events where light refreshments have been provided at club expense, this idea seems to be catching on and we will continue with this scheme which promotes a situation where we can gather round a central point and get to know each other. Previous committees have been most successful in building up club funds and I feel that we can afford to prudently return some of these benefits to members who attend our functions. So far the clubs finances seem to have kept pace with expenditure and we are no worse off financially.

During the year our major events started with the Annual Prize Giving dinner at Portside

Restaurant, this was followed by a Ken Williams Mystery Fun Run in September, the mysteries were many and varied and in spite of bad weather 11 cars and 26 people enjoyed a trip round lesser known parts of our city. New committee member Bill Bray organised a scenic run to Kariotahi Beach in October attended by 13 cars and 29 people. Brian Hood prepared a grass gymkhana at Pukekohe for mid November, there was a good turnout with a barbecue lunch served. The Christmas lunch saw us returning to Miranda for another good meal at the Chapel By The Sea, 33 members braved the wet conditions and were rewarded for their efforts. The Galaxy of Cars at Motat in February proved very popular and Baji had considerable difficulty in fitting in the 33 members cars that turned up; the club provided barbecued snacks and this combined with the fine weather provided an excellent day for the club. The Intermarque at Ellerslie later in February featured 7 large vehicles to tie in with the theme of "Kings of the Road". We will be trying to get permission to use more vehicles next year and also to include a barbecue and some live music. It was felt that our excellent site at Ellerslie was not being used to full advantage which was a pity. In March a grass gymkhana was held at Mills Reef Winery near Tauranga in conjunction with the Midlands Club. Perfect weather in a superb setting saw a large number of Midland members in attendance but only a very disappointing few from Auckland. Club Captain Jack Nazer organised a picnic run to Wenderholm in April and once again the club barbecue dispensed plenty of sausages, this was a good venue and was attended by 11 cars. On May 30 members attended an ~~evening~~<sup>event</sup> at Bryan Jackson's home in Devonport where a very successful evening culminated in wine and cheese. Last weekend one of Jack's famous garage raids took place around South Auckland. Coffee Guy dispensed coffee and muffins at the first port of call in Mangere, lunch was at The

Kentish Hotel in Waiuku before we went up the hill to view a superb working traction engine and a number of other interesting exhibits. The whole day was a huge success and members were able to view displays which are not normally available to the general public.

On the National Scene there has been a degree of turmoil with the executive of one club downing tools and walking out en masse, no president at Hawkes Bay and the National President deciding to resign from the Manawatu Club and not making himself available for re-election this year. This political unrest is regrettable and what ever happens we will have a new national president shortly.

Our own committee have worked harmoniously and I would like to thank vice president Garry Boyce for his continuing work particularly with the Intermarque which provides a valuable contribution to club funds each year. Garry is also to be congratulated for featuring in Mercedes-Benz Classic Magazine, this international publication from Germany devoted an entire article to Garry and this was a great honour. Club Captain Jack Nazer has certainly Captained the club well with his energy and enthusiasm, a terrific asset thank you Jack. Treasurer Thomas guards the purse strings with superb diligence and great efficiency. Secretary Persees was of a mind to resign her post earlier in the year fortunately she has now seen the error of her ways and we thank her most sincerely. Eoin Burns continues to amaze me with the volume of detail he has stored

away on our membership, nothing is too much trouble and his quiet smile is always appreciated. Ken Williams can be relied upon for his vast experience and is the sort of man that every club needs as an anchor. Baji has continued to welcome our guests and members in his inimitable style and I am sure he is of great assistance to the secretary. Barry Bollington a new committee member has been a diligent attendee at meetings and we all like to see Old Fox turning up to events. Bill Bray another new committee member has been very active on club affairs and has provided reliable and pleasant service to the club. We have not seen as much of Brian Hood as we would have liked, poor health has kept him away from us for some of the time and we certainly wish him well during the coming year.

The National Club Magazine "Benzscene" has appeared regularly and on time throughout the year, everything we have sent to them has been published and in my opinion this publication holds the whole club together. Our own web site in Auckland has been well used and Persees and Thomas are to be congratulated, they tell me there have been 110,000 hits in the last 12 months with 4700 unique visitors - quite amazing!

Thank you very much for your attendance tonight, our club is in good heart and serving a very real purpose.