

Club Captain's Report - Feb 2014

2013 was a year we will all remember for a variety of reasons. A highlight of 2013 was the return to the Autosport Club round of the NZ Rally Championship. After 12 years away from the national scene, the Autosport Rally Organising Team deserve congratulations for successfully running the round and for being commended for the promotion of our event.

Participation (entries) in our events has been lower in recent years, but that is reflected in all of the many forms motorsport, as people have had less money available to spend on recreational activities. The Autosport Club has come through the slow down with our finances intact.

Having taken over from Barney as Club Captain during the year I have been able to put some energy into building up the social side of our club. We have introduced some new ideas with our Toast and Roast Club Nights. We will continue these in 2014. We have also introduced the \$5 photos where the club pays a photographer to record our events and also offers the photos to each competitor for just \$5 each. This gives us a record of our events, gives us something for the media and gives the competitors something extra for just \$5.

I would also like to mention the great work of Karl Celeste in running our website and Facebook pages, keeping them fresh and keeping you up to date. Karl has also recently added video to our website. Along with the usual hard work of Graeme, Tony, Barney and the rest of the committee, Karl's hard work is making a difference.

Our next social event will be "the Toast and Roast of Krusty" at the Running Bull on Monday 7th April. It will be another great night out, celebrating Glenn Buist (Krusty to his mates) with his friends providing stories about his life. Glenn gets the last word with his right of reply. Yes it's a Monday as Glenn has to come from Nelson – it will be huge fun – don't miss it.

The Club needs our members and I thank all of you for supporting the Autosport Club. We are working to build our numbers up by providing popular events, remembering our competitors are our customers, and trying to offer that little bit extra to make people want to support our club.

As Club Captain it is my job to report back your feedback. If you have something you want to suggest to the club, feel free to talk to me about

it. If you have ideas for other social events, especially family orientated events, please let me know your ideas.

Last but most important of all, I wish to remember the four close friends of our Club that we lost during the last 12 months.

Andrew Grundy lost his fight with Cancer early last year. Andrew was an all-round good bloke, Silver Fern rally winner and a close friend of many of our members – RIP Andrew Grundy

A few weeks later we lost Andrew Cowles also to Cancer. Crowbar as he was generally known was also a keen member of the Rally Family, helping prepare and service for many of our leading teams including Stokesy and Crowbar's cousin Jeff Judd. Crowbar was also a handy Rally Photographer and was also a close friend of many of our members and brother of James Cowles (Steinz). – RIP Crowbar.

It was a big shock and huge loss to have Royce Watson lose his life at our Hanmer Rally last year. Close to 1000 people attended the services for Royce – there can be no doubt Royce touched many people with his fun personality and generosity – Royce was rich with friends – RIP Royce.

Unfortunately 2014 has again started badly with the sudden loss of Yo Sands to Cancer. Sean and Yo Sands have been close to the action at the Autosport Club for over 25 years and are also close friends of many of our members. There are not that many female partners of the Rally Boys who can be bothered with our car talk, but Yo was always along side Sean and part of the crew. I can remember after their first son Matthew was born Yo having him bundled under her jumper spectating at Coalgate when he was just a few weeks old. Sean, Matthew and youngest son Hamish are regulars at our events. RIP – Yo

Ross Teesdale

Club Captain