

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

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Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Chair of the Committee

I write as Honorary Secretary of a motor sport car club, M G Car Club of Queensland Incorporated (MGCCQ), a not-for-profit organisation. MGCCQ is affiliated with the national body, Motorsport Australia. The management committee for the club is located in Brisbane and has been able to establish six Chapters located throughout Queensland (Darling Downs, Wide Bay, Bundaberg, Capricorn, Whitsundays and Far North Queensland regions). Each Chapter has a member who has undertaken the role as coordinator for the activities for members.

Volunteers for the club are those on the management committee, members who organise social meetings, social day runs and competition events.

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Volunteers stand each year for election by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The work of the committee includes:

- maintains communication with members via weekly newsletters and club magazine;
- maintenance and management of the assets of the club;
- maintain office work;
- maintain membership records;
- prepare annual reports to State and Federal governments.

Several members have been on the management committee for many years which helps maintain the momentum of the club plus the knowledge of the history of the club. Their replacement would need others to volunteer for the committees thus many remain on the management committee due to reluctance from others.

Issues to dissuade some to volunteer on committees would include:

- Hours required for the work load;
- Ongoing work to keep activities "fresh" or new;
- Breadth of issues which need to be discussed and a decision;
- Community becoming more litigious, daunting for those with no legal training;
- Current communication technologies;
- Able to identify Scams which are becoming more sophisticated;
- Misinformation being disseminated;
- Just be available to members at all events of the club;
- Meeting members' expectations.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

The committees in both Brisbane and at the Chapters organise social events such as regular meetings for enthusiasts who have similar interests and to enjoy the camaraderie of the group of members. Social day runs will journey to various places of interest in their geographical area. A member of the club will volunteer to plan, organise the event and apply for a permit from Motorsport Australia. The event will be legal, have public liability insurance and able to meet the conditions for vehicles under Special Interest registration from Department of Transport and Main Roads. A duty of care to all members.

## COMPETITION EVENTS

MGCCQ owns and operates a club hillclimb circuit at Mount Cotton in the Redlands area. The hillclimb event is a "one driver at a time competition" and who are timed over the 946 metre bitumen course. It is to encourage drivers who:

- are keen to enter motor sport;
- to attempt the sport at the entry level to see if they will enjoy their experience;
- advance their skills in control of motor vehicles;
- can drive as quickly as they feel comfortable without the pressure of other competitors on the track at the same time.

Drivers are able to compete in cars ranging from the daily drive to modified sports or sedans and racing formula hillclimb special vehicles.

The club schedules approximately 7 events per year which are held on both days of a weekend.

Officials or volunteers required to run an event include:

- Stewards appointed by Motorsport Australia (permit issued so is a legal event, has public liability insurance, is run to the National Competition rules);
- Secretary of the Meeting to check drivers' documents;
- Clerk of Course to oversee the event;
- Scrutineer or safety inspector for cars before competing;
- Timekeeper;
- Minimum of four officials to staff the flag marshal posts.

Club has contact details for current officials those who have assisted previously thus chief officials are able to contact and ask for the availability of the officials.

An Officials' briefing is held prior to commencement is held to ensure all are aware of their tasks, the protocols, ensure they know the use the equipment provided (e.g. communications), and able to do the task.

Encouragements for volunteers to be officials are they receive a "basic breakfast" plus lunch and refreshments throughout the day (Duty of Care). Post event all officials receive a "thank

you email" from the Secretary of the Meeting to recognise their assistance and involvement with the event as well as "giving up their weekend". Like most not-for-profit organisations the club needs to aware of the financial situation.

The club has been fortunate as a few new officials have approached the club due to their involvement in the Motorsport Australia promotions or have seen the track via the club website and made contact.

The club is currently identifying members and enthusiasts who may be willing to become volunteers for introductory official roles and be able to receive training and assessment to perform the roles of essential officers at meetings.

Over the years we have seen a change to the regular officials. This could be due to health reasons, retirement from paid employment and are travelling, or may have lost interest and are pursuing other activities. As members retire from paid work many relocate to seaside or country area, thus their involvement is lost due to issues of travel, accommodation for at least one evening and dare say "cost of living".



Malcolm Spiden

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