



Golden Era Auto Racing Club Qld Inc.

Incorporated Association IA 32402

President's Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2024

Hello Members,

Our vibrant Club has hosted a full calendar of 11 scheduled events in 2023/24, providing its members with the best opportunity to safely 'exercise' a classic car. A bonus for me as President is the 'buzz' around the pits, and the social environment that our events create for members and visitors.

Our club membership reached 381 by 30 June, an increase of 16 over the previous year. This is a healthy number, but as I have often noted the Club is still challenged to turn up with sufficient entrants for the hosting track owner to have a profitable day. Lakeside Raceway continues to be the favourite with our members, averaging 62 entrants over the 6 meetings; the revamped Queensland Raceway averaged 36 over 2 meetings. Our 3 meetings at Morgan Park have been well supported, and the event is vying to become my favourite.

The "Invited Clubs" initiative is now well accepted by members and a success, increasing our entries by around 25% as we strive to meet track owner's expectations. Also, we have consistently been able to run a fifth combined round for those who still have the energy and fuel at the end of day. This 'last run' has proved popular; it is a nice reward for an incident free day and adds more value for the effort and cost of coming to the track for the day.

It is early days, and only time will tell if the rolling 30-year date in the Vehicle Eligibility Guidelines will attract new members and increase track day participation. Vehicle eligibility has been a constant issue throughout the years, and I expect will remain so as we adjust and adapt to keep the Club relevant to the motoring community.

Safety is the cornerstone of a successful GEAR event; both the Management Committee and the track operators have expressed satisfaction with the adherence to the Club's Driver's Code of Conduct. Our members have embraced the spirit of the Code, and this has made our track days very safe, very relaxed, and allowed all entrants to enjoy driving their cars on a racetrack.

Our track operators provide all the staff to run our meetings. The Clerks of Course, Pit Lane Controllers, Observers and Ambulance Officers have provided great support through the year. They have kept our events flowing along smoothly and safely. Accordingly, on behalf of the Club, I thank the track management and their staff for their professional conduct.

I would like to thank the 2023/24 Management Committee for their work, initiative and enthusiasm over the last year. It is a top team, particularly Colin Jacobson (Club Secretary) who puts in many hours behind the scenes as the administrator and first point of contact for the Club. Committee members Ian Wakely, (Treasurer), Ross Johnson, Jim Andrews, Neil Sivyer (Webmaster) and our creative *GEAR Selector* editor Karly Miller have each done a sterling job. I am pleased to report that these good people are willing to continue in their respective roles for a further year.

In summary, in my view our Club is thriving as we look ahead to another year of GEAR events. I encourage you to make every effort to participate in our track days, however, if you cannot enter, come for chat, enjoy a coffee, stay for a meal, and spend a couple of hours enjoying the carnival atmosphere in the pits with fellow members and their interesting cars.

Cheers,
David Chilton