

Reference:

24 Windella Avenue  
East Kew 3102

Phone: 859 2086 (Home)  
397 0244 (Work)

8 March 1980

'Motorcycle Movement Has Internal Problems'

Mr Mike Hanlon  
Editor  
Australian Motorcycle News  
P O Box 87  
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206

Bikers, Motorcyclists, Interested Citizens

1. I wish to inform the readers of A.M.C.N. of the aims and ideals of the M.R.A. The M.R.A. commenced operation September 1978, A.M.L. September 1976, Bikers Ltd July 1979, F.A.M. 1962. (Only approximate dates given.) The majority of the membership are young Australians i.e. 18-30 years old. The M.R.A. therefore intends to promote a sense of leadership and community achievement as stated by me when we applied for a grant from the Queen's Jubilee Trust for Young Australians and to His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, September 1979. I feel as one of the earlier members, (No.182), I have pushed positive, constructive ideas and offered constructive criticisms as the need arose. I have never sought 'the limelight' but continued to sublimate my ego the whole of the time of my involvement with the M.R.A., as I am sure you have by always providing space for the motorcycle movement.
  
2. I hereby offer the following constructive criticisms and ideas for the readers to peruse and evaluate for themselves. I am at present disillusioned with the activities of the M.R.A. and cannot be heard as an individual committee member in the gloom that surrounds the leadership and membership at present.
  - (i) The M.R.A. has not made an honest effort to write or supply to the membership a democratic memorandum or constitution, list of active committee members, financial statement and aims.
  
  - (ii) The M.R.A. has veered away from the principles of a democratically run organization because a few key figures are making all the principle decisions relating to the efficiency and conduct of the M.R.A. activities.

2. Contd.

- (iii) The M.R.A. committee has failed in that it was originally stated at the first election, approximately December 1978, that the M.R.A. would be ruled by an upper hierarchy of three with a committee below it all of equal status. There is only one way to describe self appointed leaderships - a dictatorial hypocrisy.
- (iv) The M.R.A. purports to represent all Australian motorcyclists fairly. It mainly represents self-deftists egotists or the conservative motorcyclists who does not want to know how 'the other half live'.
- (v) The 'Outlaw Club Scene' is the other half who are mainly interested in looking after their own affairs and are apprehensive about people who fantasize about organization.
- (vi) The M.R.A. under present structure has failed to coax as financial members -
  - (a) The Racing Fraternity, A.C.U.V., Sandringham M.C., Hartwell M.C., Melbourne University M.C., Monarchs M.C. etc.;
  - (b) Straight Clubs, Vincent Owners, B.S.A. Owners, B.M.W. Owners etc.;
  - (c) Christian Clubs, God Squad etc.;
  - (d) Touring Clubs, Touring Club of Victoria M.C.;
  - (e) Speedway Clubs;
  - (f) Tertiary M.C. Clubs;
  - (g) Outlaw Clubs;
  - (h) Touring Sidecar Club of Victoria;
  - (i) Motorcycle Shope;
  - (j) Motorcycle Media;
  - (k) Classic & Veteran Clubs;

although the minimal amount of the business and dedicated side of the motorcycling world the M.R.A. has attracted have bent over backwards to help.

2. Contd.

(vii) The suggested structure required should be as follows -

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Vigilance Officer (Marshals for functions)  
(Supervise Elections )  
Membership Secretary  
Legal Officer (Qualif. Barrister & Solicitor)  
Organizer (Socials) Chairman (Meetings)  
Organizer (Fund Raising) Organizer (Toy Runs)  
Editor (Newsletter) Organizer (Swap Meets)  
Organizer (Runs) Public Relations Officer

then Area Representation eg. Qld., S.A.,  
(Western District) etc. with the above structure,  
although in rural areas one person could hold  
more than one function.

(viii) The above positions should be advertized in  
daily newspapers, then the elections should be  
conducted through A.M.C.N. as a secret ballot  
via the post, then supervised by the Australian  
Electoral Office thus ensuring democratic  
results.

3. I feel in my opinion if the M.R.A. does not implement  
the former basic guidelines and evaluate the  
criticisms offered it will alienate itself from the  
proper aims and principles of a democratically run  
organization and therefore collapse due to internal  
self created problems. Furthermore if anyone feels  
I have been unjust speak or be forever silent.

Yours fraternally

(KEVIN T TEHAN)  
Member of M.R.A. Committee  
Membership No.182

For the Record:

Occupation: Ship Naval Architecture/  
Trainee Design Draftsman  
Employer: Defence, H.M.A. Naval Dockyard,  
Williamstown  
Present  
Bike: 1975, Triumph Trident, USA Model  
Date of  
Birth: 3/2/'55