

Telephone 651 3444



35 Spring Street,  
Melbourne, Vic. 3000

Ref:

August 4, 1982.

Mr. Damien Codognotto,  
President,  
Motorcycle Riders' Association,  
184 Brunswick Street,  
FITZROY, Vic. 3065

M. R. A. House  
184 Brunswick St  
Fitzroy 3065

Dear Damien,

On the 8th July, 1982, the Motor Cycle Riders' Association made a submission to the Ministry of Transport for a financial grant for the operation of specific M.R.A. programs.

Your submission confirms my belief that the M.R.A. performs a valuable and somewhat unique role, both amongst the motor-cycling fraternity, and in the community at large.

I am therefore pleased to now approve a Special Grant of \$9,500 to the Motor Cycle Riders' Association to assist the projects described in your submission. This Special Grant has been allocated on the following basis:-

Road Safety and Research Program

For the collection, processing and reporting of research data; and for publicity and educational materials for the road safety project.	\$5,000
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4B Support Service

For service materials and administration.	\$2,000
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M.R.A. Information and Legal Service

For administrative expenses, excluding wages.	\$2,500
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TOTAL	\$9,500
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I will now arrange for the Ministry of Transport Accountant to forward a cheque for \$9,500, payable to the Motorcycle Riders' Association, on the understanding that an audited statement of expenditure of this Special Grant money will be lodged with the Ministry of Transport on or before the 30th June, 1983.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Crabb  
Minister of Transport



Motorcycle Riders' Association

DAMIEN  
CODOGNOTTO

M.R.A.  
184 Brunswick Street,  
Fitzroy, 3065  
(03) 417 2718

Mr. D. Coghlan,  
Ministry for Transport,  
35 Spring Street,  
MELBOURNE VIC. 3000

8th July, 1982

Dear Mr. Coghlan,

I refer to our telephone conversation on 5th July, 1982.  
Enclosed is the submission you requested detailing the main areas in which  
a financial grant is required. ( See overleaf )

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further  
enquiries. B.H. 651 4274 or via M. R. A. House.

Yours faithfully,

A. Scicluna  
c/- M. R. A. Committee.

HAND DELIVERED 13/7/82

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Motorcycle Riders' Association

M.R.A.  
184 Brunswick Street,  
Fitzroy, 3065  
(03) 417 2718

SUBMISSION TO MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT  
REQUESTING FINANCIAL GRANT FOR  
OPERATION OF MOTORCYCLE RIDERS  
ASSOCIATION

Prepared by: A. Scicluna  
D. Codognotto

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## MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION (M. R. A. )

### General Information

The Motorcycle Riders Association is a registered Association operating in Victoria and all other states. Its main aims are:

1. To work for improved motorcycle road safety
2. To promote a better public image of motorcycling
3. To work for fair and sensible legislation

The Association has approximately 4800 financial members in Victoria and membership is growing. Members pay \$8 per annum for a range of services and social functions. Much of the M. R. A. funds work for all 65,000 Victorian motorcyclists in achieving the above stated aims.

The M. R. A. supports an office and meeting hall known as M. R. A. House, situated at 184 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

It is administered by an elected Committee of nine persons (5 Executive Committee, 4 General Committee) and is subject to a written constitution. Special sub-committees for specific tasks have been established. Meetings for motorcyclists are held monthly.

All work carried out since the M. R. A. inception has been done so by volunteers at personal sacrifice and expense.

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## ROAD SAFETY AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME.

### General Information

The M. R. A. Motorcycle Road Safety and Research Committee was established in 1979. The committee is responsible for research into motorcycle accidents and implementing road safety programmes. The committee has 5 research officers who are required to study accident data, implement road safety programmes, representation on Government committees and preparing submissions and reports. The committee works closely with the Road Safety and Traffic Authority and all relevant Government departments. It also has liaison with the motorcycle industry. The committee develops all M. R. A. motorcycle and road policy. Representations and reports from the committee have been made to both State and Federal Parliamentary Road Safety Committees, Victoria Police, T. R. B. and RoSTA. The committee will expand as resources allows.

### MOTORCYCLE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The main function of the Committee is to co-ordinate the October-Motorcycle Road Safety Month.

The M. R. A. undertakes a road safety education month each October where media and manpower is utilised to promote motorcycle road awareness and defensive riding. RoSTA supports the campaign. Programme as follows:

- (a) Month declared with city display and media coverage.
- (b) Drive-in advertisements (driver awareness) shown at all 21 Village Drive-ins in Victoria from October 1st-Dec. 31st. (The M. R. A. negotiated approximately \$20,000 worth of donated advertising)
- (c) Radio advertisement during October on 3AW, 3LO, 3KZ, 3MP and 3CR.
- (d) Displays at Motorcycle Exhibition (October 16, 17, 18th)
- (e) 50,000 "Driver look out for them" leaflets distributed at major Victorian intersections. (Leaflet enclosed)
- (f) Rider training seminars and skill tests.

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- (g) Information and legal service lines available for enquiries.
- (h) Motorcycle Rider Safety ride from Elizabeth Street, Melbourne to the Motorcycle Exhibition. (Approximately 4000 motorcycles to attend)  
Ride will display road safety messages.
- (i) M. R. A. Committee members meeting with Government authorities, rider education and road safety officials.
- (j) Newspaper advertisements.

Planning for the 1982 campaign has commenced and the media has expressed full support. The 1981 campaign was successful and was conducted at a cost of approximately \$4,850. This was made possible from M. R. A. funds. The proposed 1982 campaign has presently no funds available due to M. R. A. debts

#### School Counsellor

The Committee recently acquired the services of a member who is qualified in lecturing. He visits schools in the State, at request, speaking on the subject of "Road Safety, Road Awareness, Two Wheels and You". Demand for this service is increasing. The lectures include a large amount of audio visual features.

#### Funds Required

Operation of Research Committee (Printing-Research Data-Reports)	\$1200
Motorcycle Road Safety Month (Printing, advertising-major expenses)	\$5800
School Counsellor (Printing-Audio Visual Material- Travelling Expenses)	\$1000
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	\$8000

NB Please note, money for road safety campaign is of highest priority.

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## M. R. A. INFORMATION AND LEGAL SERVICE

### General Information

An information and legal service is provided for motorcyclists and persons interested in motorcycling. A volunteer secretary is on hand from approximately 12 noon to 5.30 pm each weekday to answer queries ranging from, where the local mini bike club is, to what laws govern riding a motorcycle in Victoria. The work of the service is backed up by an after hours Voca system. Collation of information is handled by the secretary. Thousands of phone calls and personal visits to M. R. A. House are handled annually.

### Legal Adviser

The M. R. A. has also acquired the services of a volunteer solicitor to handle problems of a legal nature, undertake court cases for motorcyclists at a reduced rate and to advise on proposed Government legislation.

Both services are available to all motorcyclists in Victoria.

### Funds

The service operates from general M. R. A. funds but is at present meeting financial difficulties in covering expenses of postage, telephone and printing costs. Operating M. R. A. House as an office requires a substantial financial commitment. The M. R. A. committee is seeking funding to be made available to continue this service and provide a retainer wage to the M. R. A. secretary.

### Funds Required

Staff-Secretary (Nominal Wage)      \$5000

General Office Expenses (Postage,  
Telephone, Printing, Advertising  
Information)      \$2500

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\$7500

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## ROAD TRAUMA HOSPITAL SUPPORT SERVICE

(Bent & Buckled Bikies Bureau--4B's)

### General Information

The M. R. A. 4B Committee is a group of approximately 30 volunteer motorcyclists who offer their time and services for visiting motorcycle accident victims in hospital, providing them with moral support and assisting in whatever way required, eg. legal assistance, reading material, motorcycle recovery from towing firms, general visiting, etc.

The 4B's work in every major Victorian hospital and their services are highly regarded by hospital administrations. (References are available on request) Hospital staff now contact the M. R. A. to inform of long term casualties and seek support required. A special group has been recently established to cater for severely handicapped riders (eg. quadraplegics) in an effort to establish confidence in those persons and assist recovery.

### Hospital Fundraising

The 4B's Committee also raises funds for hospital equipment and research. Recently the Royal Melbourne Hospital requested help in obtaining "Wagner Splints" used particularly by motorcycle accident victims. The M. R. A. raised the \$1000 required. Regular donations are also made to assist the work of the Alfred Hospital Spinal Research Unit.

Statistics and data are collected in order to assist the work of the Research Committee.

### Funds Required

The 4B Committee operates using general M. R. A. membership funds and by means of donations.

To operate to its full potential the 4B's Committee requires approximately \$2350 annually.

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Expenditure

Printing information leaflets & other printing costs	\$1000 approximately	
Transport & fuel costs	\$300	"
Postage & Telephone expenses	\$300	"
Acquisition of reading material for motorcycle library	\$500	"
Other expenditure	\$250	"
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	\$2350	
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## M. R. A. CHARITY WORK

### General Information

The membership of the M. R. A. is involved in a substantial amount of general charity work to assist organisations listed and to improve the image of motorcyclists and motorcycling in general. A different public image of motorcyclists will undoubtedly decrease the amount of road aggression between motor cars and motor cycles. Organisations supported: (Reference available on request)

- (a) Annual 1979, 1980, 1981) Toy Run at Christmas to provide toys for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy children. Motorcyclists collect toys and money.
- (b) Blood runs to aid Red Cross Blood Bank. Hundreds of motorcyclists donate blood every 3 months to the bank after riding there from a central point. Annual blood challenge (Dec. - March) against other groups and Associations. (See honour board at Blood Bank, South Melbourne)
- (c) Spastic Society support 1980, 1981
- (d) Proposed support for Channel 10 "Nerve Deafness Appeal"
- (e) Taking underprivileged children from institutions for days out to motorcycle races or motorcycle exhibition
- (f) Prison visits for motorcyclists. (Please note, Community Welfare Dept. provided M. R. A. \$1000 for this work.)

The M. R. A. charity work is an objective which will continue to be achieved as required by constitution.

### Funding

The Committee of the M. R. A. understands that such work is done from good will and does not expect direct Government support for such work, but it must be appreciated that to organise such functions does mean using general M. R. A. funds and a grant would overcome exhausting existing M. R. A. money.

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TOTAL FINANCIAL GRANT REQUIRED

Road Safety and Research Programme	\$8000.00
Information and legal service	\$7500.00
Hospital Support Service	\$2350.00
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	\$17,850.00
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Refer to submission

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## Membership Report

Prepared by Garry Yip  
26<sup>th</sup> January 1999

### Purpose

To briefly analyse the MRA's membership base in order to understand the current position and assist in the decisions regarding the future direction of the MRAA.

### Data

The data for this report was drawn from the MRAA membership database as printed on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1999 by Damien Codognotto

### Key Results

The major findings from the analysis are:

- The MRAA currently has a membership base of 1683 financial members
- Women membership comprises 145 members or 8.6% of total membership.
- There are 36 honorary lifetime members.
- Breakdown of membership by age demographics (refer to graphs).  
*Note the total number of members as shown in the graph is less than 1683 as 96 members did not disclose their age.*

