

M.R.A.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 64, Collins St.,
Vic. 3000

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING NO. 1 (1983)

DATE: TUESDAY 1 st., FEBRUARY 1983.

TIME: 8.15 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE - DAMIEN CODOGNOTTO, LEWIS BORDON, TONY SCICLUNA, STEVE BOND, MALCOM McMILLAN, DAVE ROBINSON, LUKE BRYANT. MEMBERS - 50. VISITORS - HOWARD & DEB FROM QLD. SGT. KLAUS MULLER, VICTORIA POLICE.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ACCEPTED.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Damien spoke about a document that was recieved from Canberra, the draft of the National Vehicle Code (July '82). It is still a confidential document apparently. It was mentioned at the M.R.A. National Conference in Canberra on the Australia Day Wkend. There was a short discussion on trikes prompted by the fact that the document defined trikes as motorcycles. It also states that NO M / C shall tow a trailer. The document will be tabled at the Australian M / C Council meeting in Tasy in Feb. '83.

The M.R.A. Conference in Canberra was satisfactory. Several Vic. Registers made the trip including Western Suburbs, Southern Pennin-sular, Gippsland, Seymour, Bendigo and Geelong. Dave Closs (Tas.) & Bob Cocker and Martha (S.A.) represented their States and took advantage of the free bus ride offered by Vic. While Vic. had a good representation from its Registers other States were not so well supported.

2 points were made at the Conference. First, the establishment of the National Body was discussed at length. A motion was put that the Delegates vote on the concept of such a body. Of the 7 Delegates, 6 voted for the concept with N.S.W. abstaining. Secondly, blue t-shirts were allowed to be sold by Qld. but only where they are already being sold and with a standard logo. If they turn up for sale in new areas then the M.R.A. Australia wide will go back to the original black & white design.

An apology was made for the lateness of the newsletter but it was explained that the 3 rd. party premiums fight which came up just before the Toy Run was the reason. We hope to have the next n/1 out in march.

The Blood Challenge runs to the end of Feb. Call for donors.

The Braeside Trail Park was having a fund raising function on the 5 th. of Feb.

In 1983 there were to be 3 major functions. 1. the Howqua Rally June 11, 12 & 13 th. 2. Toy Run '83. The City Square, Melb. and 3. The Motorcycle Expo and m/c Safety Month in October.

The Festivals Committee to be involved in the Royal Melb. Show.

The Social Sip 3 rd. Tues of each month at the White Horse Inn Hotel in Burwood Rd., Hawthorn to be promoted.

The Association now had a dark room, print shop, computer and 2 trucks. These would be traded in later for a better truck and trailer.

Let those who ride decide. 2/

2.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: Steve Bond said that the Green Horror Rally had been cancelled. Reasons not clear.

TREASURERS REPORT: Lewis Bordon said that the Statement for Jan. '83 was not yet complete. Dec. '82 Statement attached.

He reported that for the 6 month period from July to Dec. '82 the Victorian Branch had spent \$55,913 and had an income of \$63,541. Donations totalled \$9,500. Equipment owned by the M.R.A. had increased since 2 full time workers were at M.R.A. House. e.g. trucks, walky talkies, bull horn, printing machines and photo copier. One copier had been supplied to the South Gippsland Register.

There was a break in the routine of the meeting. Turtle and Tracy were welcomed back. They were on crutches and Turtle had made an amazing recovery after the accident.

Sgt. Klaus Muller, Instructor in vehicle testing procedures for the Victoria Police, gave a talk on roadworthy requirements for m/c's. He started by saying that under ideal conditions the m/c was the safest vehicle on the roads. Good power/weight ratio, brakes, mobility and visibility. Adverse conditions show who has the skill. Klaus answered questions from the floor. He said that his job was to enforce laws made by politicians. Sometimes it was difficult to find a practicle meaning from the legal wording of an act. He tells his students 'if in doubt, leave it out'. The Policy and information section of the Victoria Police was there for enquiries on new registrations and to interperete grey areas in law. His talk was very well recieved by the members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary resigned for personal reasons in Nov and had not been replaced. Damien is doing both jobs at present. These minutes were taken by Kathy Lamblin and typed by Damien.

RESEARCH REPORT: Tony spoke on the succesful lobbying against the 3 rd., party increase. Front No. Plates are still caught up in the gears of Govt. Dual Licence fee discussed. Blythe Osborne spoke on the morality of a single licence as oposed to a dual licences where serious offences are concerned.

4 B REPORT: Malcom McMillan said that they finally had St Vincents Hos tied up. It was the last of the major Melb Hospitals to be covered. Urgent request for more magazines. B.B.Q. for ex 4 B patients, nurses, doctors and ambulancemen is going ahead well. Sun. 22 Feb. Albert Park Lake. Malcom expressed concern that N.S.W. may change the 4 B badge.

P.R. REPOET: Frank Sutherland of the Festivals Committee said that his contacts with the Vic. Police had resulted in the possibility of M.R.A Police cooperation on Trail Parks for kids with off road bikes. Broadmeadows Police had sent a letter inviting M.R.A. rep. to a meeting. 4 riders with sidecars invited to represent the M.R.A. at a Lord Mayors luncheon in Preston on the 20 th. Feb.
Festivals - Sun. 20 th. March Bentleigh/Moorabin. Centre Rd.,
26 & 27 th. March. St Kilda Fest. Need lots of bikes & outfits to give kids & politicians rides.
30 April Camberwell Fest.
September. M.R.A. to organize bikes for 'Vic. on Parade' a the Royal Melb. Show. Need 200 people.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Pairs for Peace bike weekend to Morewell next Sat. Tracy put in a good word for all the help she and Turtle had recieved

at the accident and later with regard to the court case. One cop drove the ambulance from the rally to town so that the 2 Ambos could work on keeping Turtle alive. Damien concurred. The driver was not licenced and had a record of offences inc. dangerous driving. He got 15 months gaol. Not enough.

The Secretary resigned in November. Damien tabled correspondence. B.S.A. Owners Club. N.S.W. re insurance, registration. Letter sent to M.R.A. N.S.W. Letter from Carney's Law Firm. Damien ordered to give evidence on Bathurst '81 case in Sydney on March 1 st. Information recieved on trikes from U.S. & Japan. Draft of National Vehicle Code (confidential) recieved from spy in Canberra. Trikes defined as motorcycles. It still says that no bike shall tow a trailer. What has the A.M.C. done about this. Video of American G.M. experimental trike shown.

MEETING CLOSED: 10.30 P.M.

Members were invited to stay to watch the video shown in Canberra of M.R.A. Vic. activities of the last 2 years that got on television. Copies of this tape had been sent to the Nowra & Maranoa Registers.