



Motorcycle Riders' Association

MRA HOUSE
184 BRUNSWICK ST.,
FITZROY 3065.
(03) 417 2718
(03) 419 5737

6th October, 1983.

To: M.R.A. Australia National Executive
M.R.A. Australia Delegates
M.R.A. State Branches

Dear Committees,

Since the inception of M.R.A. Australia in July, 1983, the M.R.A. Organisation as a whole has become deeply divided to a point where the general membership, the motorcycle media and the Federal Government have all started to question the credibility of the M.R.A.

Because of the problems associated with the divisions in M.R.A. ideologies, personality conflicts have developed, M.R.A. Committees are not trusted, and increased pressures have been placed on the dedicated people Australia-wide who are administering the M.R.A.

I write this letter, not to place blame on any Committee or the M.R.A. Australia Executive, nor to go over any old conflicts re Victoria vs other State Branches. I intend to clarify M.R.A. Victoria's position within the M.R.A. Australia network, and to ask all State Branches to trust the operation and expertise gained in this State so that we can start working towards (and not against) an M.R.A. Australia that each State can be proud to be a part of.

M.R.A. Victoria is the foundation State and prime mover of the M.R.A. organisation, and has taken the lead in developing the organisation to the point it is at today.

M.R.A. Victoria also recognises the hard work and dedication of all the State Branch Committees and their contribution to the M.R.A.

I trust that the policy statement attached will explain the position of M.R.A. Victoria, and that each delegate will accept our position, even if certain points are not agreed with. Under such circumstances, I see it best to 'agree to differ' and attempt to work in that framework.

.. /2

A.C.T., New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia,
Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and Gt. Britain

let those who ride decide

M.R.A. Victoria is considering sending a delegate to the National Conference in Brisbane 1984. The decision will be based on the response to our policy statement.

Should any State Committee wish to comment or question the issues I have raised, please contact me direct, or Hal Caston (A.C.T)

Yours in Motorcycling,

Tony Scicluna,
M.R.A. Australia delegate
M.R.A. Victoria President

M.R.A. VICTORIA/M.R.A. AUSTRALIA POLICY STATEMENT

- A. M.R.A. Victoria has not and will not withdraw from M.R.A. Australia. The concept of M.R.A. Australia evolved after much hard work and research by M.R.A. Victoria personnel, and despite not approving the current structure, we intend to continue to build the organisation to a point where it is financially sound, and meeting those aims in bikers' rights, and servicing the motorcycle community. This can be best achieved by remaining within the current structure and working towards settling these differences, and eventually adopting the Victorian proposal for M.R.A. Australia.
- B. M.R.A. Victoria will not be contributing \$2 of each membership towards M.R.A. Australia as we believe that Victoria will be subsidising the majority of the M.R.A. organisation for one vote at a National Conference. Having one vote at a National Conference and abiding by National Conference decisions makes M.R.A. Victoria vulnerable to decisions continuously made against it, particularly in a situation where the majority of States support the current M.R.A. structure. The members of M.R.A. Victoria have made it clear that they want their funds to remain in Victoria under the present M.R.A. Australia structure. M.R.A. Victoria will honour the membership wishes. M.R.A. Victoria will contribute more than any other state in terms of finance when an acceptable M.R.A. Australia is set up.
- C. M.R.A. Victoria sees itself as the M.R.A. Head Office, despite the formation of M.R.A. Australia. It has been the responsibility of M.R.A. Victoria to establish the other State M.R.A.s and to service those States over the past 5 years with Constitution, logo, stock, etc. All major M.R.A. initiatives have evolved from Victoria, e.g. Toy Runs, 4Bs, Road Safety Months, etc. etc. M.R.A. Victoria is still servicing and will continue to service any request from any State Branch or M.R.A. Australia.
- The present M.R.A. Australia structure does not have the facility to provide those services.
- M.R.A. Victoria operates on an expansionary policy. We strongly believe that unless someone is around to get things moving, and occasionally 'kick someone in the butt', nothing gets done. M.R.A. Victoria has taken this attitude with other States in the past in the interest of not seeing the M.R.A. turn into a conservatively-minded operation, and to maintain the integrity of the M.R.A.
- D. M.R.A. Victoria negotiated a deal with A.M.C.N. on behalf of M.R.A. Australia to establish a National Newsletter. The concept of a National newsletter is the first stage in uniting and informing the M.R.A. Organisation Australia-wide. It takes workloads off Committees and provides the membership with a journal that emphasises the strength and size of the M.R.A. Despite the withdrawal of S.A. from M.R.A. Australia, the S.A. Committee has undertaken to fully support the newsletter

Recent moves by M.R.A. Australia and supporting states to delay the newsletter almost caused the newsletter to be lost. Such a move would have isolated S.A. and Victoria even further from the M.R.A. Australia organisation and deepened the existing divisions. This would have been a retrograde step in efforts to unite M.R.A. Australia.

M.R.A. Victoria fully supports the National newsletter and will provide the Newsletter Editor, packaging staff, and undertakes all work involved in printing and distributing the newsletter. We shall pay for our own share of postage, envelopes, etc. We consider undertaking this project as a worthwhile contribution to M.R.A. Australia on our part. The newsletter will be in accordance with M.R.A. Australia guidelines.

- E. M.R.A. Victoria's financial arrangement with M.R.A. Promotions Pty. Ltd. remains under the control of M.R.A. Victoria. The arrangement with M.R.A. Promotions Pty. Ltd. has seen M.R.A. Victoria grow and strengthen to a point where the M.R.A. Victorian operation turns over approximately \$250,000 p.a. M.R.A. Victoria fully supports M.R.A. Promotions Pty. Ltd. and will not enter into any further discussion on this issue with any other State. Any State Committee with questions to, or requesting assistance from M.R.A. Promotions Pty. Ltd. can direct those enquiries to Mr. L. Bordon, C/- M.R.A. House.
- F. M.R.A. Victoria fully stands behind the Founding President of the M.R.A., Damien Codognotto. The membership of Victoria is loyal, and respects the achievements of the man we consider to have put motorcycling on the map in Australia. M.R.A. Victoria fully supports Lewis Bordon and holds his business expertise and commitment to motorcycling in high regard. The membership supports both persons' actions, past and present, and will not accept misdirected criticism by any M.R.A. State Branch.
- G. M.R.A. Victoria will continue to service M.R.A. Great Britain, and look into expanding the organisation internationally.
- H. M.R.A. Victoria is currently negotiating with Northern Territory Motorcycle Association (N.T.M.A.) to join the M.R.A. organisation. The Alice Springs Branch of the N.T.M.A. has already indicated its willingness to join the M.R.A., and has commenced contributing to the National newsletter. M.R.A. Victoria will continue the negotiations with the N.T.M.A. on behalf of M.R.A. Australia.
- I. The establishment of the M.R.A. National Constitution is of concern to M.R.A. Victoria. M.R.A. Victoria will not accept a watered-down document, and cannot guarantee any support for the Constitution unless it meets with our approval.
- J. M.R.A. Victoria believes that stock and stationery purchases and distribution must be centralised to save money for the organisation on a bulk basis. The supply can be from the State with the best prices, but the distribution must be centralised so that purchases can be made on a bulk basis, and stationery and stock can remain uniform. (This does not include Rally badges, or special function badges.) M.R.A. Victoria is prepared to undertake this on behalf of M.R.A. Australia.

- K. The original Constitution stated that M.R.A. colours and logo would be as directed by the Victorian Head Office. The logo remains as stated - pump print. The colours of the M.R.A. are to remain black and white. M.R.A. Victoria will not accept any other colours, and will continue to emphasize this point to all States, especially M.R.A. Queensland.

In brief, successful organisations don't change logos or colours. e.g. B.P., Shell, Qantas all have standard logos that are immediately identified world-wide. The same principal has been adopted by the M.R.A.

- L. M.R.A. Victoria, on establishing M.R.A. N.S.W. and M.R.A. Q'ld, had agreements that a centralised membership list would be maintained in Victoria, in conjunction with the States maintaining their own. M.R.A. Victoria seeks the re-implementation of this system in order to provide the M.R.A. Australia Executive ready access to all membership, using our own computer facilities, and so that research can be undertaken into membership patterns Australia-wide.
- M. M.R.A. Victoria believes that centralised pooling of M.R.A. membership funds will guarantee the future financial strength and political power of the organisation. M.R.A. Victoria will continue to work towards establishing the original Victorian M.R.A. Australia proposal in co-operation with other State Branches.
- N. M.R.A. Victoria asks that no statements be made to the Motorcycling press re M.R.A. Australia, except to state that any differences will be resolved in time, and that despite these differences, the organisation will continue to co-operate and work together Australia-wide.
-