

**THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**
(Victoria Branch)

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MINUTES OF STATE REGISTERS' CONFERENCE

Saturday July 7, 1984 at Warrnambool Institute

IN ATTENDANCE:

STATE COMMITTEE - Tony Scicluna, Glenn Barlow, Lewis Bordon & Bernadette Fitzpatrick.

GEELONG - David Doreman, Dorinda Donnelly, Damien Morgan, Chris & Andrew Matthews, Tom Phippen, Raylene Sims, Lisa Pescott, Alan Fisher.

GIPPSLAND - Dave Hornsby.

MELBOURNE - Warren Gordon, Ken Bechaz & Lorraine Stone.

WEST COAST - Gary Vickers, Norm Miller, John Andrew & Greg Batten.

APOLOGIES - Bayside, Southern Peninsula & Western Suburbs.

MEETING OPENED AT 1.45PM.

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Tony welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming. He mentioned that he will be standing down at the end of his term i.e. September. He thanked everyone for their support in the previous year.

General discussion of 3rd Party Premiums followed.

At 2.00pm Mr Adam Kempton, the Liberal M.P. for Warrnambool, arrived. He thanked the MRA for inviting him and congratulated us for our road safety campaign i.e. Look Right, Look Left, Look Bike.

He explained that the current 3rd Party Premium Review would only be tabled before the Government for decision making, not Parliament. He couldn't outline the Liberal thoughts on the Review as a policy had yet to be formulated.

He stated that funding eg. C.E.P Grants, to bodies such as ours, should be favourable because of their overall benefit to the community eg. road safety work. Promotion of the MRA eg. registration inserts, should be allowed, as it would help us to become more self dependant/sufficient.

A formal decision on Rider Training was being formed. Also, the Liberals were looking at a new licencing scheme i.e. learner's permit at 16.5 yrs, as well as abolishing the .00 alcohol level for L & P plate drivers/riders.

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1) Memberships & Computer

Request from Bernadette that memberships be sent regularly and that membership numbers be quoted at all possible times. The computer is now at a more usable stage, thanks to alot of time and effort. Memberships, letters, stock and newsletter typesetting are now being done on it. A portable computer was recently acquired for more efficient use of the main computer and its options.

2) Incorporation

We are now known as "The Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia Incorporated". The reason being that Victorian Law now allows for associations to incorporate. New letter-heads will be sent to all Registers. All stocks of old stationary should be destroyed, bearing in mind that it doesn't fall into the hands of unwarrented people.

3) Newsletter

The August issue is the 1st year anniversary issue of "The Deciding Factor". The next issue will have a color cover, thanks to Honda Australia taking out a large advertising feature. Registers are to take note of issue deadlines i.e. 1st day of month before issue is due. Perhaps a delegate from each Register be appointed for newsletter responsibilities and as a point of contact. Suggestions of n/l content are always welcome, eg, safety hints and stories.

4) Howqua '84

Howqua '84 was a success - enjoyalby and financially, mainly thanks to the work of Glenn Barlow & Lewis Bordon. The film hopefully will be ready by the end of September. The product will be better due to some helpful contacts we now have. Howqua '85 will go ahead at the same site. Who is willing to help arrange it??????

5) Finance

See balance sheet attached. (Appendix A). Different items of stock will becoming available shortly i.e. jeans & waxed cottons, all with the MRA label. The discount system is to be promoted as well as the Insurance. A new shop will be opening in Elizabeth St, Melbourne as soon as the occupiers of the premises leave, thus allowing for the new new stock items. Auditors are looking at the books and Lewis is still looking at new financial proposals. Lewis will be standing down in September as Treasurer and will be standing for Presidency.

6) Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4,1984 at MRA House at 8.00pm. Nominations are now open and a form will be in the August newsletter. Everyone to be encouraged to attend this meeting.

7) Discount System

The Discount System is benefical to all riders. Registers are encouraged to obtain discounts from shops in their areas. Not just motorcycle orientated shops, i.e. baby wear, photographic shops.

8) MRA Australia

The delegates are Tony Scicluna and Bernadette Fitzpatrick. A strong and positive attitude will be presented.

The day's proceedings finished at 5.20pm.

Sunday, July 8, 1984.

Meeting commenced at 10.20pm.

Blythe Osborne was a guest speaker on Rider Training & Education. He presented a discussion paper. (See Appendix B). He was very informative and we thank him for coming. General discussion followed. As a result, a motion was put before the Registers.

MOTION: That the MRA Research Department, research and evaluate the pros and cons of
(a) Off road testing
(b) On road testing
(c) Combined testing (on & off road).
Moved by Lewis Bordon.
Seconded by Warren Gordon.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Four motions were put before the Registers per Blythe's recommendations. (See Appendix B, page 3).

- MOTION NO 1** Moved by Warren Gordon. Seconded by Dave Hornsby. PASSED.
- NO 2** Deffered until a policy on licencing had been formulated.
- NO 3** Moved by David Doreman. Seconded by Gary Vickers. PASSED.
- NO 4** Moved Dave Hornsby. Seconded Gary Vickers. PASSED. 1 ABSENTION.

Warren, re: motion 4, motion to be held over until more information is received, and further discussion held. He then withdrew the motion.

A presentation was made to Blythe by Lewis of a medallion in appreciation of his work for the MRA.

REGISTERS' REPORTS

Geelong

- David made mention that second-hand helmets were being sold in Geelong. They had placed an ad in the paper letting riders beware of their danger.
- They had received a letter from the Shire of Barabool, requesting a meeting to discuss the setting up of a trail bike track at Anglesea.
- The Poker Run was a success. 550 attended and \$1000 profit made. The next one will have to be carefully thought about due to the large number of bikes on the Great Ocean Rd.
- A Cabaret Ball was held on June 16, 1984 in aid of the Cyclic Fibrosis Society and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Damien Morgan for organising it.
- A raffle was held for the Mercy Family Care Centre. \$1000 was raised.
- David urged all Register to open an office as it was a great morale booster and thus an eventual financial success.

\$700 raised

Bitches & queries:

- Plastic membership cards? When finance allows.
- Press releases to be sent to all Registers quickly.
- Perhaps each Register should appoint a Press Secretary.
- Compensation for attendance at the Conference should be paid by each Register. If funds not available, then contact State Exec.
- David and Dorinda will be standing down this year. Many thanks to their work in the past couple of years in getting the Register together. David will probably be the Press Secretary for Geelong.

West Coast

- The Boggy Creek Rally will again be held, on November 24/25, 1984 at Curdievale again.
- Good relations with the local Police. Two officers have offered their services (out of time) to show riders what they were doing wrong.
- The Register was now more unified but still needed more members.

Bitches & queries:

- Stock efficiency - haven't got the funds for large volumes to always be on hand.

Gippsland

- A Driver Awareness Run was held on May 26, 1984. Attended by 300 bikes. \$1400 was spent, \$700 on a t.v. ad. Issues were

lights on, bright clothes, etc. Received media from all services.

- If Third Party issue becomes a serious threat, another protest ride will be held.
- A Bike Show will be held on September 1/2, 1984 at the Morwell Tech Hall.
- An anniversary party will be held in late November.
- All new members now receive a membership bag which includes stickers, pamphlets and an application form.
- They are meeting with different authorities for the establishment of a trail bike park in the Morwell area. They pointed out that any such park must be in a designated area.

Bitches & queries:

- Stock problems
- It is our responsibility to stop things like lights on, conspicuity, etc. from going through Parliament.

Melbourne

- All activities for the next 6 months will be in the n/l.
- Next blood run/swap meet will be early next year.
- The P.R. Stand will become mobile once there is a shop in Elizabeth St., eg. local shopping centres.
- Licencing age? Could registers ask their next meetings about their feelings for the licence age to be 16 years and get back to Head Office with the results.

Bitches & queries:

- How can we get more females interested in the MRA? Any thoughts back would be appreciated.
- If people are prepared to travel long distances for Conferences, at least all the Registers could have a representative there.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Two new possible Register in Victoria - Border Districts (Wodonga/Albury) and East Gippsland.

More Third Party talks.

A complete listing of all Victorian registered motorcycles will be obtained, with the view of organising a membership bag drop to as many as practical. (Register co-ordinated).

Future agendas will be organised by Head Office.

Next conference will be in Morwell in mid-February.

CONFERENCE ENDED AT 2.20pm on 8/7/84