



M.R.A. PROMOTIONS PTY. LTD.

The Secretary
The Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia Inc.
Victorian Branch.
P.O. Box 64,
Collins Street,
Melbourne. 3000.

16 / 4 / 1986.

Dear Sir,

it seems that I am not on the mailing list for meeting minutes but a concerned member has given me a copy of the minutes of the Committee meeting held at the MRA Shop on the 12 / 4 / 1986.

Once again I must state that the quality of the letters and minutes sent by you does not reflect well on an organisation that spends around \$100,000 of members funds per year. Comments you made about Dr. M. Beattie and Tony Scicluna indicate bias and immaturity on your part. As Secretary your job is to produce a true and correct, unbiased record of the meeting.

These minutes are not a true and correct record.

At a time when the MRA needs to improve its image, in line with the second aim of the organisation, allowing the name "Wetcheck" to be used in connection with an official MRA Australia event reflects badly on all Australian motorcyclists and indicates the lack of professionalism of this new Committee.

The minutes are wrong in many areas and fail to cover most of the important issues I raised in each of my letters.

I am running the Toy Run as a function of the Association not MRA Promotions Pty. Ltd. I want to run it because after 8 years I am the best MRA member for the job. Neither I nor Promotions will make one cent out of it. I can do a good job for the members of the MRA and if you have any objections please put them in writing and Warren Gordon and I will consider them.

I have not resigned from the Victorian Branch of the MRA. I now hold 2 MRA Branch memberships. If the Committee wishes to expell me from the Victorian Branch please put your reasons for this action in writing.

Tony Scicluna's motion that "What has been mentioned about Damien on a personal basis is to remain confidential." is not acceptable to me nor should it be to the members. It hides a multitude of sins.

Since the meeting was not taped as far as I know, the items covered by this motion should be put on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. When I was President of the Victorian Branch most meetings were recorded.

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2/

let those who ride decide

2.

In my opinion the following items should have been addressed publicly by the Committee meeting of the 12 / 4 so that the Victorian Delegate to the National Conference in Perth could be properly briefed.

1. MRA Victoria's fees to the National Body. An agreement was made to bring Victoria's fees up to date. The members are entitled to know whether or not the Treasurer has lived up to this agreement.

2. The Treasurer has said that he did not intend to pay the fees due to the Australian Motorcycle Council. The members are entitled to know what MRA Victoria's policy is to paying the AMC.

3. I understand that Mr. Scicluna was removed from his position on the AMC because he was unreliable and difficult to contact. Is this true?

4. I secured funds from Custom Credit to purchase the MRA Victoria computer. I used my home as security. For many months I have asked the Treasurer to take over the responsibility for the Custom Credit arrangement but no action has been taken so far.

5. The Dragon Boat festival media coverage was negative. It reflected badly on all motorcyclists. I believe that a letter of apology should be sent to the Chinese Community through the organisers.

6. When will monthly public meetings for the State Branch recommence?

7. What does the State Committee intend to do about the name of the Broken Bones Rally? I do not feel it is proper that a company own the name of this MRA function.

8. When will the next State Register's Conference be held and where?

9. What does the MRA Victorian Branch intend to do about the money owed to Bryan Gurry and Associates? I understand that the amount owed to our lawyers is approximately \$14,000.

10. Since it has been the custom that when an MRA member does work for the Association and has a good record of achievement he is given a vote on Committee, how does the Committee justify not giving me a vote for my work on the Toy Run or the magazine? As precedents I point to Mr. Osborne's work on rider training and Mr. Kent's work as Recovery Service Director.

11. Since the Treasurer may be involved in administering a Government grant what is his status regarding a) taking a position and payment in such a grant scheme. b) Working an outside job while taking the dole. I may be misinformed on this point but I feel it should be clarified.

Other points that should be corrected in your minutes of the Committee meeting of the 12 / 4. The VACC have already responded, in writing, to 60 Minutes. They had done so by the Tuesday after the show in Question, Death on Two Wheels. The ACUV and MRA Promotions had also responded. MRA Victoria is not "designing" a letter with the VACC as the minutes imply. The opportunity has been lost. This demonstrates the importance of a competent Media Officer. Correspondance to Traz and Promotions has been recieved and Promotions had replied. The letter was read out at the meeting. Your minutes are misleading.

3.

MRA Promotions was formed by serving State Committee members so that the MRA could operate in a business area not available to an unincorporated, or an incorporated association. Promotions has provided services to motorcycling exactly as it was intended to, continuously, for 5 years. To claim that the MRA Committee was not aware of Promotions or did not approve, as your minutes imply, is farcical and misleading.

It has been rare as far as I can remember that an MRA Committee has approved secret meetings, motions of confidentiality or omissions from the minutes of meetings. I do not believe that Mr. Scicluna's motion was appropriate or proper. The members have a right to know what their State Committee is doing. It is against the spirit of the Constitution to withhold information or mislead the members, albeit unintentionally, through incomplete or misleading minutes.

I believe the Committee must formulate a written policy regarding the records of meetings and that motions of confidentiality must be specific and used only in the most extraordinary circumstances.

The new President, Warren Gordon, has my support and I think it worthwhile to note his closing remarks in the minutes. "Lets all work together to unify the Registers."

On one weekend recently 4 Registers held events in competition with each other. This is negative. We should support each other by encouraging members to attend each others events. Last year one Register held a Toy Run on the same day as the Melbourne Toy Run.

Finally, this Association must become more mature and professional if it is to retain what it has achieved thus far. We must learn to work with the industry groups to ensure safer roads and a healthy motorcycle community.

At the last meeting of the Motorcycle Industry Division, while the President and Membership Secretary listened, I put forward a proposal that has the potential to double the MRA membership within 2 years. The industry is prepared to work with us but for my idea to work the Committee will have to make decisions regarding the joining fee and the image of the Association. I had hoped to set up a pilot scheme in Melbourne by the end of the financial year. If that scheme worked it could go National to the benefit of the whole Motorcycle Community. However, I am sure the industry would want to be involved with a professional organization and would not want to associate with a group that ran an official event named after a contraceptive. Mr. Hornsby's comments on the VACC were not helpful.

The membership scheme would rely on the Deciding Factor continuing with the excellent image given it through the efforts of Traz Graphics and MRA Promotions.

Sincerely,



D. Codognotto
Director.