

THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
(VB) Inc.  
GPO Box 1933R, Melbourne 3001.  
Tel 03 571 5127. Fax. 03 5633 5248.

29 August 1989.

The Committee  
MRA Gippsland Register  
P O Box 1099,  
Morwell 3840.

Dear Committee,

I have contacted Warren Coward by phone twice and had long, expensive STD discussions about the state of the MRA in Victoria. The new State Committee has also written to all registers several times and the Gippsland Register received that material. Those letters requested register support for the MRA. Registers that have begun communicating and supplying minutes and details of finances are considered active.

An active register has all the normal rights registers have enjoyed in the past. However with the Tax Office and Corporate Affairs displeased over the way the Association has been run in recent years, and the Federal Budget which probably forces the MRA and registers to pay company tax, we do not have resources to waste. MRA resources will be used to support registers who do what is required of them.

There are 8 active registers. West Coast, Seymour and Border Districts are closed.

Gippsland and Sale Registers are no longer active.

This means those registers may no longer use the MRA name or logo in association with any activity without the written permission of the State Committee. These registers may put their case to be re-activated at the next Registers Conference in March 1990. But they must apply in writing. Phone calls on any matter will be considered but no request will be acted on unless it is in writing.

Any breach of the State Committee's directives will result in legal action.

Please be aware that we are sympathetic to problems facing local registers but that we have to consider the well-being of the MRA statewide. There is a lot to do to come up the minimum standard required by law and four years of poor management have left us with a massive debt. We can only save the Association by running it in a businesslike way.

Sincerely,   
Damien Codoñotto  
MRA President.



THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.

GPO Box 1933 R, Melbourne 3001.  
Tel. 03 571 5127 Fax. 03 563 5248.

Mr Alan Sawyer.  
C/O Box 1099,  
Morwell 3840.

Sir,

for at least the last 2 years people from your area have run the MRA. The Public Officer, State Committee and newsletter staff all moved from Melbourne to the La Trobe Valley. These people presided over the decay of this association to a point where it is almost beyond saving.

Two, not one, votes were held to throw out the last administration. The first, by secret ballot, was unanimous. The second was overwhelmingly in favour of sacking the last State Committee. This administration agreed to be elected on the condition that it was allowed to get on with the job of saving the MRA. That means hard decisions and a constitution re-write in 1990.

If your people do not like that then call a Special General Meeting and move a motion of "no confidence" in this committee.

There is no excuse for not knowing what has been happening. Both SGMs were well advertised. Several letters were sent to ~~this~~ PO Box. Two lengthy and expensive STD calls were made to Warren Coward to try to get the Gippsland Register to respond and help us save the MRA. No response. From listening to you on the phone the other night I gather Mr. Coward did not inform your committee of the changes to the MRA or the fact that we tried repeatedly to inform and involve your people.

It has been my personal experience that Mr. Coward has not kept his word on previous occasions.

The task faced by this administration is enormous and we do not have time to wet-nurse groups that do not want to help. Nor do we have the resources. So far we have had no help from your area and the time and resources spent on you could be better spent on the 8 Registers who are genuinely working for the benefit of motorcycling across the state and not just at a local-club level. The MRA is not, and never has been, a club. That kind of thinking has no place in the MRA we are going to take into the 1990s.

The status of the Gippsland Register is "inactive". It failed to respond and the deadline was extended three times. That status was voted on by the State Committee and Mr Coward was well aware of what was coming. I told him myself. Apparently he decided not to tell you. Other registers are involving themselves in the new administration and finding it to their advantage.

2.

In response to your undated letter to the State Committee received September 6:

1/ This matter has been gone over to the satisfaction of the executive and the active registers. The MRA is broke. The NMC is giving its facilities to try to save it. How else could the Association afford phones, fax, staff, stationary, and all the trappings of a working organisation. The MRA cant even afford stamps. Most of its equipment, like the computer, is gone. How do you think we should communicate with people? NMC letterheads were used in the initial stages as a stop-gap measure. We do not want to confuse NMC with MRA because the NMC has an excellent reputation while the Association's is very tarnished. That is why we changed the name from MRA Promotions P/L (which NMC still owns) to NMC. The MRA was damaging "Promotions'" good name. Why not copy old MRA letterheads? Because we did not want the new administration confused with the previous, disastrous situation. We are going to give the MRA a totally new image that riders across the country can be proud of. As you see from this letter the process has begun.

2/ The simple answer is, they are. Your problem with our times and dates of committee meetings are at your end. You have a communications blockage not us. We suggest you discuss it with whoever clears your PO Box and/or with Mr. Coward. Why is it that it always seems to be your area that has problems?

3/ The State Committee is not running outside the constitution. Read it. If after that you still feel you want to contest it then move a motion to sack us.

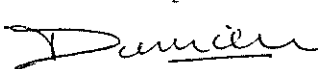
I was inclined to avoid problems and bend to some of your requests. However, the other committee members felt that if Gippsland Register wanted to become active again they would have to apply to the next State Committee meeting. Currently you have no rights to use the MRA name or logo for any purpose without written permission of this committee.

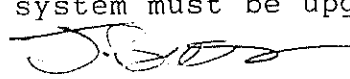
However, since your activities for October are prepared and are generally for the good of motorcycling, I have recommended that legal action not be taken until the register has been represented by yourself at the next committee meeting on Sunday, October 8 at noon.

As you are probably aware I am no stranger to court actions and will not hesitate to legally prevent any non-active register or other group from using our name and logo without written permission. On the other hand I want see active registers working within our system and have recommended we look at Gippsland again.

Please confirm in writing that Alan Sawyer will be the register rep. at the next meeting. Mr. Coward's history makes him unacceptable to me as a rep for the riders in your area.

Finally, we would like to see a 4Bs rep at the meeting too. The 4Bs are part of the MRA and that system must be upgraded too

  
Damien Codognotto  
President

  
Julian Butler.  
Treasurer

cc BOX 1099  
REGISTERS.



# Motorcycle Riders Association

## GIPPSLAND REGISTER

Toners Lane,  
P.O. Box 1099, Morwell. 3840

Member of:-

- MRA Aust. Inc.  
(Victoria)

Dear State Committee,

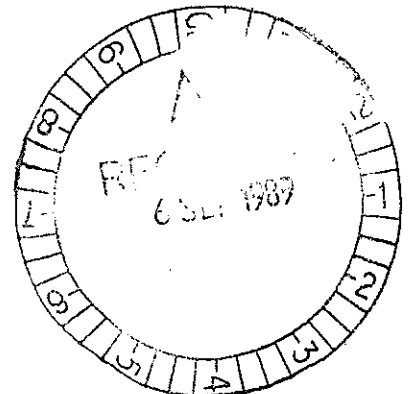
The Gippsland Register has some great

concerns regarding several mater that have come up at our meetings.

- 1/ N.M.C. letter heads, There has been a lot of discusion regarding these and it was agrede that we do not reconise these letters as offical M.R.A. documents. We understand the finacial problems the State have but if you have to photo copy the N.M.C. letter head, why not our own letter heads surly you could find an old one to make some new ones. If you cant we will send you some.
- 2/Why is there a two week notice required for state committee meetings, why arnt the dates times and places advertised and kept to say a 3rd Tues of the mcnth. Why isant the agenda advertised so as issues concentering us could be discussed.
- 3/It has been evident that the current State Committee are runing outside our own constertution making decicions that they can not with out special meetings or cosultation of all M.R.A. members.
  - 1/ Membership fees.
  - 2/ Changing of Register names and areas.

Thanking you for your time and your promt reply will be greatly received yours in Motorcycling

Alan Sawyer Sec Gippsland M.R.A.



**let those who ride decide**



# Motorcycle Riders Association

## GIPPSLAND REGISTER

Toners Lane,  
P.O. Box 1099, Morwell. 3840

Member of:-

● MRA Aust. Inc.  
(Victoria)

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

Meeting Opend; 7.50pm.

19-7-89.

Attendance; 12.

Point of discussion, Do we keep Gippsland M.R.A. operating.

It was moved that we keep the club going and to select a new committee.

Nominations for Pres; Warren, Alan, Andy, Peter, Bruce, .

Nominations for Tres; Anthony, Alan Andy, Tim.

Nominations for Sec; Alan, Bruce, Peter, Andy.

All positions were voted on and our committee consits of 3 people.

1/ Pres; Warren Coward, Morwell 051-337995.

2/ Tres; Andy Stavro, Moe. 051-278269.

19 MENA ST. MOE

3025

3/ Sec; Alan Sawyer, Moe. 051- 277369.

A short discusion folowed on what the club should do.

It has been decided to hold a Bike Awarness Month in Oct and to prmote,  
Gippsland M.R.A.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.



**let those who ride decide**