

FILE



THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

5 October 1990

The Committee
MRA Australia Inc.

Dear Committee,

I am concerned about the direction the Association is headed. Earlier in the year we had a political and a financial crisis in progress yet the Howqua Rally had to be run. It cost us manpower. It cost money. It cost good will. I am still getting phone calls from angry people about the last Howqua. I had 3 last night.

Last Sunday, at the committee meeting I asked for help in making the most out of the next 10 weeks or so until Christmas. I pointed out that the National Motorcycle Month included 3 major events that I really needed help with. I further pointed out other opportunities for the MRA at the Expo and so on.

I asked that details on the Calder ride days be sent to me urgently so I could arrange publicity before I went to Canberra at my cost to represent you to the Federal Government. Five working days later I have nothing. Therefore I have to make a decision.

The Calder ride days are a good concept providing they are linked to road safety and provide good publicity so that we sign new members.

Ride days will be scrapped just like the Howqua if they degenerate into a fun day for a couple of hundred non-members. Of the 3 ride days so far the Police attended at only one. The return in terms of new members and stock sales was not worth the effort John Nelson and I put in to be there. So what do the ride days do for the MRA?

There is just one chance to show me - Saturday 17 November.
From Steve Duggan I will require letters from each of the following. 1. The Auto Cycle Union of Victoria approving each of the proposed dates. 2. Calder Park authorising the dates and giving details of the public liability insurance premium and cover. 3. The Police giving an assurance they will have their riders present on each of the dates.

In other words the Calder Ride day coming up has to be properly organised and has to achieve some kind of result regarding memberships and stock sales.

APPROX 15 RIDERS.

NOT ONE
SCRAP OF
PAPER TO

TODAY
SATUR-
DAY, 29 DEC.
1990

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We are in the busiest time of the year and our well established events need support. However, as was the case with the Howqua I am getting a lot of verbals but no hard copy. I need all the support I can get to survive. I promised to get the MRA out of debt and we are getting there but if I am constantly going to have the committee's manpower drained off into loser events then you dont need me and I will be gone when Jim Gurry is paid.

The Calder days were only a success in that those out their enjoyed it. Fine, you dont need the MRA for that. Most of those out there were not members and had no intention of joining.

These are the events I really need help with:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>
OCTOBER		
19 to 21	Motorcycle Expo. Exhibition Bdgs.	John Nelson 568 6374
20 & 21	Swap Meet.	John Nelson 568 6374 Max Merrit 314 8307
28	<u>Committee Meeting 2pm</u> 22 Tooronga Rd., Malvern	Damien Codognotto 571 5127
NOVEMBER		
4	<u>General Meeting. NOON</u> Cnr Howard & Queensbury Streets, N. Melbourne.	Jo Nelson 568 6374
10	<u>Driver Awareness Ride.</u> Assemble in A'Beckett St, Melbourne from noon. The Run will take the same route as the Oz GP Run to Dandenong. We need a PR stand & volunteers.	Damien Codognotto 5715127
18	<u>4Bs Black Spur Family Run</u>	Graham Love
25	<u>Committee Meeting.</u>	Damien Codognotto
DECEMBER		
1	<u>Blood Challenge</u> begins	Chris Lamblin
2	<u>Blood Run.</u> Assemble in A'beckett St. Departs 9am. For Sth. Melb. Blood Bank.	Chris Lamblin
9	<u>Toy Run No. 13.</u> Assemble St Kilda Rd & High St for Parade to Victoria Sq. Departs 11am. encourage useful gifts not stuffed toys. We need volunteers to sell stock & sign members.	Damien Codognotto 571 5127

As you can see the work of the MRA is being carried by a few and not all are on committee. If I get "lost" there is no one who could take over the running of the organisation or the politics associated with our work for riders' rights and safety. Our manpower is once again being sucked up by an event that

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benefits a very few, mostly non members.

The fee structure for the Calder ride days must include a discount for financial members. The event must meet the minimum organisational requirements I have asked for. The event must give the paying membership some tangible benefit ie we have to get some members and stock sales out of it.

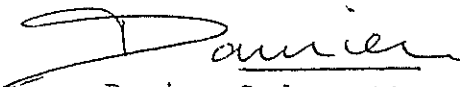
I did not want to be involved in ride days at all but when they become a threat to the work done so far in saving the MRA then rules have to be laid down. You elected me to pay the MRAs bills and get back some of the honour and respect we once had. If the committee wants to learn and be proud of the achievements we are capable of then they need to be seen more than once a month and they need to listen to the advice of more experienced people. I am sick and tired of seeing the same people work their hearts out while others just create more work for the workers while they indulge their whims.

The Calder ride days can be a great thing for our image and for road safety. They can also be run profitably. But only if they are done properly. So far I have only seen 1 run properly and none have done a damn thing for the vast majority of our members.

We have less than 10 weeks to get the MRA in the black. After that there is a very good chance I wont be around and Steve Duggan will be President. I am asking for a maximum effort on the events listed on page 2 and for the ride days to be done properly.

I have now waited a full working week for the material I requested on the ride days urgently. The opportunity for the event to be promoted by direct mail to 6000 riders has been lost. That is the kind of amateur nite stuff that turned the MRA into what it was 2 years ago.

Think about it.



Damien Codognotto
President
MRA Australia Inc.