

**THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**  
**ESTABLISHED 1978**

GPO BOX 1933 R, MELBOURNE 3001  
TEL; 03 571 5127. FAX 03 563 5248.

**GENERAL MEETING NO. 7**

DARBY'S HOTEL. PRINCES HWY. CAULFIELD  
SUNDAY AUGUST 4, 1991.

Meeting Opened 2.13pm.

**Board Members**

President	Damien Codognotto
Vice President	Chris Lamblin
Treasurer	Gus Cummings
Secretary	John Nelson
Membership Secretary	Jo Nelson

**Minutes from General Meeting No. 6 - February 3, 1991.**

Business Arising Nil.  
Move to Accept Mark Goodchild. Seconded Detlef Lamp.

N.B. Due to the sound quality of the tapes, members questions and comments were muffled and very difficult to understand.

**REPORTS**

**President - Damien Codognotto.**

Damien's opening remarks cited the financial and administration problems we faced in the first half of the year by members not wanting reforms. The problems with the MRAA voting system. The Vic Roads and FORS recommendations to the Parliamentary inquiry, the workload on both John, himself and the other Board members, and the damage caused by people from the MRA's dark ages.

**Vice President & 4B's - Chris Lamblin.**

Chris's reported on his activities for the Association and 4B's.

**Treasurer - Gus Cummings.**

See attached financial statement.

Gus apologized for not being at all meetings, thanked the Board and stated he is prepared to continue as Treasurer.

**Secretary & Merchandise - John Nelson.**

John reported on his activities and meetings he attended and with Damien. John thanked the Board members and thanked other members for support.

**Membership Secretary - Jo Nelson.**

Jo thanked members of Eastern Suburbs Motorcycle Association for the membership drive which netted 73 new members for July. We currently have 1750 members.

## ITEMS

1. **MRA Australia Agents** - discussion on the new system for the future and thanks to ESMA for their support. There were questions from members about the legality of the Board's decision to end the register system. There was heated debate which was quelled by members who see the future direction in which MRA Australia is heading and supported the Board.

2. **4B's** - Chris reported the future direction of the 4B's and praised the current 4B operatives for a ghastly job, well done. Chris explained the function of 4B's and the use of Horizontal Sheets for data collection of road crash statistics. It is hoped government will assist with this.

3. **Honours List** - Damien explained the Medallion presentation at the TOY RUN and the system by which members are selected. Nominations are being accepted for 1992.

4. **N.M.S.M.** - Damien gave a report on the activities for the NMSM. NMSM Media launch November 8. D.A.R. - November 10. Poker Run - November 17. Maintenance Day - November 23. Wine Run - November 24. Blood Challenge Starts - December 1. Toy Run - December 10. Damien reported on the problems with the Melbourne City Council billing us for street closures, after last years Toy Run.

5. **TAC 3rd Party Premiums** - Damien gave a report on meetings that he and John attended. The outcome of these meetings was discussed. There was some success that could attract new bums on seats.

6. **Media & Motorcycle Press** - Damien reported on the "20 Year Kaput Law" and the consequences to owners of older vehicles. The bike press appear to be not interested.

Damien reported on the quantity and quality of political reporting by the motorcycle press, AMCN, TWO WHEELS, etc. Damien reported on how the SDC Inquiry came about, and the purpose of the Inquiry. This was not reported in the bike mag's.

7. **Vic Roads Submission to SDC** - Damien read out and discussed the 17 recommendation from Vic Roads. This item was discussed in length and took some time.

8. **FORS & Lights-on** - Damien stated that FORS figures are shady and reported the problems faced with dealing with FORS. The legal and insurance problems riders face with ADR 19.01 was discussed. Various reports were read that support our claims that compulsory conspicuity, is a law that could end motorcycling in Australia.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Chris reported that riders in the western suburbs can be subsidised for rider training through HART with help from Westgate Community Road Safety Council.

2. The Kew Boulevard was discussed and it was pointed out that John Nelson went there to talk to the boy racers. John offered discounts to riders for the Calder Ride Days and was offered to have his face rearranged.

3. The CENSUS was discussed with reference to questions on transport which omitted motorcycles.

4. Elections and the vacating of Board positions was discussed. The Board offered to vacate their positions to the critics, through a motion of no confidence. There was majority support for the current Board to continue to reform and expand the Association. There was no election. Don Buchan then proceeded to tell the Board how to run MRA Australia and demanded we started to think of the members and told the Board how to save money. These critics were given every opportunity to run the Association.

Amendment from previous minutes. August 4 1991 AGM.

5. Detlef Lamp requested that the constitution be printed in TDF. Damien replied that if time and workload permit, we will try to print the current constitution in the November TDF, for comment by the members for the February TDF.

**Next General Meeting** - November 3, 1991. 2.00pm Darby's Hotel,  
Princes Hwy. Caulfield.

**Meeting Closed** 4.52pm

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1991

1. MOVEMENT IN BANK BALANCE (to 31 July 1991)

	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 1991		340.40
Income		
Memberships	4,374.00	
Sale of stock	295.50	
	-----	
	4,669.50	
Expenses		
Purchases of stock and stationery	700.50	
Office repairs	200.00	
NMC for administration and expenses	88.22	
Publications, printing, advertising	1070.32	
Public amenities (SEC, Telecom etc)	102.96	
Meeting and conference costs	850.00	
Expense reimbursement	572.69	
Computer expenses	100.00	
Government taxes and bank charges	65.33	
Entertaining	120.00	
	-----	
	3,870.02	
	-----	
Net income (expense)		799.48
		-----
Balance at 31 July 1991		1,139.88
		=====
Represented by:		
Bank Account		861.04
Deposit Account		154.36
Yellow Brick Road fund		124.48
		-----
		1,139.88
		=====

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1991

2. LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 1991

	\$
Jim Gurry (legal fees, YBR)	1,505.75
NMC for administration and expenses	1,343.17
Calder Park Raceway	1,857.00
The AGE	201.96
	-----
	4,907.88
	=====

NOTE 1. Liabilities does not include an estimate of joining fees due to agents.

3. COMMENTARY

July was an excellent membership month because of the membership drive undertaken by Eastern Suburbs.

Our major costs were incurred on advertising and leaflets and on expenses in relation to political representation.

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## NATIONAL SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT

Since the last AGM, I lost my job, and have not had time to find work, because I have been working with Damien at Head Office to bring MRA Australia up to something that will work for motorcycling, the way the RACV works for car drivers. In November I went to Brisbane to set up the 4Bs. I was confronted with a wall of silence over the Queensland Office wanting to separate from US and start their own club using us and our paid advertising as part of the scam. The trip home was eventful, I lost my wallet between Tamworth and Tenterfield. 17 Hours from Tenterfield to Melbourne arriving at 3am. A week later my wallet turned up with everything intact, including \$250 that was in it.

I met with TAC to have them sponsor stickers for MRA Australia to hand out, since then the TAC have produced 8,000 "MRA Australia, If You Drink then Drive Your a Bloody Idiot" stickers. These have been well received by the general public and riders alike.

Early in '91 I started work with Damien on a FULL-TIME basis. The work I do with Damien is TOTALLY VOLUNTARY and most of it has been for MRAA. Time off to attend a number of meetings with TAC, Vic Roads, Police Road Safety Advisory Committee, 3 Community Road Safety Councils and the State Insurance Office to negotiate their new motorcycle insurance that has benefits for MRAA members.

The week before Easter was the Easter Care Road Safety Campaign. It was a good excuse to get stuck into some "JACK DANIELS", blow on the breatholiser .061 and stay with some relatives. This saved me a return trip to and from Geelong for the 4 days it was held. Thanks to Peter Bricknell and Dave Presidente for their help.

I also lobbied The Hon. Simon Crean MHR regarding the Lights-on issue with some degree of success. The Hon. Simon Crean is not convinced that the Federal Office of Road Safety has done its home work on ADR 19.01 and will lobby Bob Brown for more research on my behalf. In a way, I am proud to be GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED.

April saw the Grand Prix in Sydney and the OZ GP LIVE AT THE METRO telecast. I rode to Canberra OVER NIGHT for the Lies Damn Lies and Bureaucrats Protest Ride on Parliament House. Worked with the Federal Police to make sure the run went smoothly. After a quiet few days it was off to Cobram to inspect the site for the MRA Australia Rally in June, with Damien as pillion.

Back in the hole again, we were confronted with another job of DAMAGE CONTROL for what the Brisbane Office had been up to over the past few months. Again, we were being nobbled by our own people. Critics come and go but the job still gets done (what with I do not know). But I do know that you cannot run your bike without petrol. Too numerous to mention here, but there have been a lot of opportunities lost because of critics.

More time off to lobby and attend media launches for the Plain English Road Law paper, the Kew Boulevard "boy racer" road treatment and the SIO "Bike Cover". I attend ALL of the Social Development Committee hearings as your representative. Financially I am going backwards, but I believe in what I am doing and will fight to defend my position and my right to ride.

I would like to thank a few people for their advise and support over the past year. Damien, for the privilege of working with the only FULL TIME person in Australia that has the commitment and knowledge to fight the bastards. Chris & Kathy, for their continued support and occasional soggy shoulder. Laurie, for support and friendship and something to nick when he's not looking. Gus, for friendship and support. Peter & Karyn for friendship and support. My wife Jo, for her love and support over the past 2 years and offering to pack my bags a few times when the going got tough. Lastly you the members for giving me something to work for. THANK YOU ALL.

John Nelson  
National Secretary  
MRA Australia Inc.