

MINUTES - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 1993

PRINCES AVENUE, CAULFIELD

OPENED - 10.15 am

CHAIRMAN - Lloyd Williams

Special General Meeting was called by MRAA Board after letter was received from disgruntled members regarding Presidency and Damien Codognotto.

Motion No. 1 Lloyd Williams  
Seconded Chris Cjacka

Everyone here today will abide by decision today according to constitution rules.

Voted 1 Opposed Rest agreed

Motion No. 2 Gus Cummings  
Seconded Jerry Hall

Proxy votes should be completely ignored.  
(According to Electoral Commission rules some Proxy votes were accepted.)

Voted Unanomous

Motion No. 3 Lloyd Williams  
Seconded Stax

Have secret vote today - in support or not in support of Damien Codognotto.

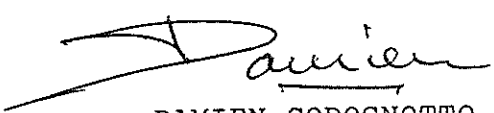
Voted Majority

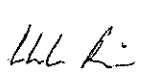
Secret ballot vote held including some proxy votes. Results as follows :

Support Damien Codognotto	75 Votes
Not support Damien Codognotto	73 Votes

Damien Codognotto remains as President.

CLOSED - 1.25 pm

  
DAMIEN CODOGNOTTO  
PRESIDENT

  
LINDA ROSIER  
SECRETARY



THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES - A G M

SUNDAY 1 AUGUST, 1993

Members Present - 106

Motion No. 1 Damien Codognotto  
Seconded Paul Webster

This meeting endorses the Returning Officers procedures in the running of this meeting.

Voted Unanomous

Results of election are on page number 5.

DAMIEN CODOGNOTTO  
PRESIDENT

LINDA ROSIER  
SECRETARY

12/1/93

## MRA ELECTIONS 1993 - RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

### History

1. Appoint Returning Officer at C'tee Meeting, 5 April.
2. No TDF prior to the May General Meeting.
3. Elections announced at General Meeting, 1 May.
4. Nominations closed, 1 June.
5. Nominations to be accepted up to 2.30 pm at AGM.
6. TDF ready for posting, some posted, 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
7. Five nominations received, 29 July.
8. One nomination received, 30 July.
9. Seven nominations received at AGM, 1 August.
10. Hold Elections for Officers of Association.

### Comments

1. I was asked to be Returning Officer via note on 15 March and accepted at next Committee Meeting.
2. Due to factors beyond Committee's control, there was no TDF in April to notify all members of nomination details.
3. The Elections were formally announced at the May 1 General Meeting, the deadline for acceptance of nominations being 1 June 93. The meeting was informal due to lack of quorum.
4. No nominations were received by 1 June. At this time the Returning Officer's name and contact telephone number were incorporated in the message on the answering machine at the office.
5. As an election of Officers was required at the AGM, and the AGM date was too late into the allowed 3 months from end of financial year to allow other arrangements, a decision to accept nomination up to 2.30 pm at the AGM was reached in consultation with Committee members and Chris Swalwell, who also agreed to act as adviser to the Returning Officer. The deadline was chosen to coincide with the 30 minute allowance to establish a quorum and to allow the maximum opportunity for nomination given the already inadvertently narrow broadcasting of election details. Misunderstandings regarding duties of Committee, function of Returning Officer and logistical problems militated against notification via the daily press and fortnightly motorcycle press. Notification of members was expected to be fulfilled by way of the official journal TDF.

6. The TDF was processed for posting, and in many cases actually sent, on the weekend 24/25 July. The AGM was prominently advertised on the front cover and mentioned on page 9. The Election was not mentioned in its own right, but it is an integral part of the AGM and has never been separated or omitted from proceedings. No nomination forms were available at the office until 26 July.
7. Five nominations were received on 29 July by picking them up personally from the Secretary's residence where they had been left, pushed under the door, addressed to him.
8. Another nomination was received on 30 July in the same circumstances as above.
9. Facilities were available on 1 August, from about 1.00 pm for lodgment and by the deadline, a further seven nominations had been received.
10. The Election commenced with an electorate of 106 which reduced to 58 by the last poll, an indicative mainly of partisan interests and frustration due to ignorance of our Constitution.

The nominations were sorted by Jo Nelson and Linda Rosier and, on handover from the incumbent Committee, a recess announced to allow check of nominations and establishment of right to vote. There was confusion about identity requirements, and this led to the later headcount.

Three nominations were received for the position of President and, as the incumbent had served for more than two years, the initial poll had to be between the other two candidates. Dissatisfaction with this turn of events was reflected in the majority abstention, and the refusal of the 'winner' to accept or benefit from the result. As the applicable clause referred to 'eligibility to stand' only, all serious contenders wanted a 'complete' poll and there was no instruction to declare the 'winner' elected, the Returning Officer decided to hold the second poll for President under the extra-constitutional powers.

The poll between the two candidates for Vice President was, by comparison, much more straight forward.

The Secretary's position was contested by two candidates, three nominations being received, one incomplete but the same nominee the subject of a completed form on the day.

Two nominations were received for Treasurer, one completed in original, the other completely facsimiled. The facsimiled copy was accepted as a nomination on the undertaking, provided by an Officer of the Association, that the original, with all original signatures was forwarded as soon as possible.

The two nominations for Membership Secretary, were completed and signed correctly, however one of the candidates was not able to fill the position due to a lack of 'leave of absence' when resigning, therefore the other was declared unopposed.

Postal voting was not possible due to the lack of a list of candidates until the elections, all nominations being received within the last four days. Proxy voting was available but ignorance of the process resulted in no eligible proxies being lodged with the Secretary in time.

As the Constitution allowed for two votes per family membership, it was decided to allow two votes, provided the two members were present. The question of age was addressed by consulting the provision for individual membership which does not provide for any age barriers, so voting by minors was allowed.

Overall the elections did not run as smoothly as hoped for due to a number of factors. Some of these were,

- lack of knowledge of the existing, binding Constitution,
- inexperience in organising for and controlling an activity of this nature,
- the relative numbers attending, given past attendances,
- expectations held by various elements of the electorate at odds with the real purpose of the exercise,
- stresses inherent in the, at times, emotional atmosphere.

This list is by no means meant to be exhaustive or complete, merely indicative of factors affecting the Elections.

Given the trying circumstances of the event, it was gratifying to see the good will of the majority of the electorate, the reduction in numbers probably indicative of personal expectations in the process, and the eventual recognition of 'due process' and constitutional limitations shown by the participants given the emotionally charged atmosphere and, at times, unexpected developments. The request by one of the candidates to not take advantage of a technicality, and run against the incumbent for the President's position was a good example for the members and in the interests of the Association.

The results were,

1st poll	Chris Lamblin	42	
	Duane Cox	1	
	Abstain	57	
President	Damien Codognotto	51	Elected
	Chris Lamblin	50	
	Abstain	2	
V/President	Lloyd Williams	41	Elected
	John Nelson	39	
	Abstain	3	
Secretary	Linda Rosier	41	Elected
	Doris Belshaw	28	
	Abstain	3	
Treasurer	Angus Cummings	46	Elected
	Kathy Lamblin	12	
	Abstain	0	
M/ship Secretary	Gerry Hall		Unopposed
	Jo Nelson		Ineligible

The assistance of Chris Swalwell, prior to and on the day was of considerable value. His knowledge and commonsense advice, freely given, was of great benefit in coming to decisions in the best interests of the membership and candidates. The various members who helped on the day also deserve thanks for their efforts to make the Elections successful.

## Recommendations

Please consider the following recommendations,

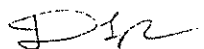
- \*\*\*\* GM's, AGM, nomination deadline and Election to be a part of the calender in every quarterly issue of TDF
- \*\*\*\* use membership list as voters roll, not just for ID,
- \*\*\*\* specify voting members under family membership,
- \*\*\*\* issue each voting member with a unique membership number,
- \*\*\*\* provide information to explain standard activities such as Elections,
- \*\*\*\* define duties and tasks for Returning Officer,
- \*\*\*\* Committee to provide administrative support for electoral process, ie. handle mail/nominations via central office to Returning Officer,
- \*\*\*\* improve communications between participants.

The above recommendations are not exhaustive and are put forward to allow constructive thought to improving the methods of the Association. Some of the suggested improvements will probably be addressed by the imminent update of the Constitution, however this should not be an exercise driven by 'knee jerk' reaction to the Election.

This report has been put together to explain the decisions and processes used at the 1993 Election and to provide material for improvement of the Association's electoral activities. There is no negative or accusatory thought in any statement made, such constructions are contrary to the author's intent, and this report is presented to allow past mistakes to be used as indicators where changes may benefit the Association.

Finally, the incoming Committee and unsuccessful candidates are to be congratulated on the eventual legitimate results of the Election. It is to be hoped that any lessons learned, viewed with a degree of good will on all sides, will result in benefits for the Association in proportion to the energies already expended in this, at times, traumatic exercise.

All the best for the coming term,



Detlef Lamp

Returning Officer



THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

OCTOBER 18, 1993.

**MRAA GENERAL MEETING POSTPONED.**

The MRAA General Meeting due on Sunday, November 7 has been postponed to Sunday, December 19. The meeting will be held at the usual venue, Derby's Hotel in Caulfield, east of Melbourne.

Recent changes in personnel at MRAA HQ and some sub-committees has left the association short of staff at the busiest time of the year. The MRAA Board has had to concentrate on the areas where resources are most needed - the Motorcycle Safety Month, state & federal politics and the continuing reform of the association and its constitution.

The MRAA Secretary, Linda Rosier said. "The MRAA is committed to certain events like the Driver Awareness Ride and the Toy Runs as well as being obliged to represent riders to governments. Add that to general admin and its a huge workload for our team of volunteers."

The MRAA is looking forward to 1994 as its best year yet. It is currently growing at the rate of over 100 new members per month and that should make it possible to take on a full-time, paid staff member without a government grant in '94. This is seen as essential to allow the association to move on to the next stage of development towards a professional, national organisation representing Australian motorcyclists.