

TO: The MRA (Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia)
 FROM: Heather
 DATE: Saturday, June 21, 2003
 SUBJECT: Resignation of Ordinary Board Member

I resign as Ordinary Board Member and editor of the MRA Magazine/newsletter due to the following reasons:

1. With the continuous political infighting within the MRA Board I see no resolution to the present Board working together as a team.
2. As editor of the MRA Magazine/newsletter, myself and production manager Roger (who has also resigned from this position), worked very hard in developing this publication as a self-funded entity. With the summer and autumn edition we had proved to advertisers, the MRA could put out a club magazine with good readable content. For the winter edition, I asked Alex Money at an editorial meeting on March 8, if this magazine could go to 20 pages with a front colour cover and two inside colour pages. Alex agreed. At the special Board meeting on March 18, I again asked Alex if it was okay to go ahead with a 20 page (4 page colour) magazine and was told yes. At a Board meeting on March 25, I informed the Board we had \$1600 in advertising and the printing cost would be about \$2500. All agreed to go ahead with the 20page publication. A quote from the MRA's printer came in at \$2670. For my own interest, I later contacted another printer to get an idea of prices. The cheapest for a 20page magazine with four colour pages and 1500 copies was \$1991. This information along with quotes for an 8-page and 16 page newsletter were emailed to the Board. While the magazine would not completely pay for its self, it would be a "show piece" to get more advertising in future editions. I was fully committed to do the work as a volunteer to make this happen.
3. In early April, Alex Money suddenly called a meeting for April 8 to approve the layout of the magazine/newsletter. The deadline for this magazine was April 12-13. All the Board were fully informed of this on March 8. So how could we be checking the newsletter on April 8. On the weekend of lay-out Roger and I had no submissions from the Board including the Presidents report. After a number of calls to Alex, we finally received his report on Sunday.
4. The magazine was viewed for approval by the Board on April 22. There was much arguing over content. Nobody was actually reading the content with concentration. Most were concerned Damien Codognotto's name had been printed four times. The Board say that four hours at a Board meeting is not long enough to check the magazine. However, if all would just sit down quietly and read it, then it is enough time. At the end of this meeting we had decided what stories needed to be changed and the magazine was approved. The amended version was left with Roger the next morning to do the changes. However, he received a call from Alex Money that the magazine was not to be printed. I was notified by Roger. In further emails from Alex, I was told not to print a story on the footpath parking issue. I refused saying it was in the interests of members to be informed of this issue. Alex also reprimanded me for attending the Melbourne City Council meeting on footpath parking on April 30. I received an email from the council about this meeting and I asked if I could attend in my capacity as editor of the MRA Magazine. I told the Board I would be attending the meeting as an

observer so I could report on this issue. Later, Alex Money contacted the council (I was told this by Detlef Lamp who also attended the council meeting along with Harry Listokin), telling them I had nothing to do with the MRA. I feel this was unprofessional of Alex and also undermines my own professional standing as a journalist especially if I were to contact the council in future for comments for the MRA Magazine.

5. Roger and I then changed the layout to an 8 page newsletter, I contacted advertisers, some kept their booking and some pulled out. Then when this newsletter had been finished, we received an email from Alex saying the 20 page magazine had been approved and to go ahead and print. (the email dated May 25 is enclosed).
6. At the Board meeting to approve this amended 8 page layout on June 3, the Board did not even look at the newsletter saying checking the new layout of the newsletter was not an Agenda item (Michael Czijka who was at the meeting informed me of this). So no final check for errors occurred and had a check been done the error in the heading Barry Sheene would have been noticed. (I could not be at this meeting due to having a tooth extracted that morning.)
7. And finally, I feel the integrity and independence of the MRA has been undermined by Alex Money who told me in October 2002 that the government were prepared to give the MRA funding but would not do so while Damien Codognotto has "anything to do with the MRA". And this is why there has been a concerted push by some members of the Board to have Damien permanently removed as an MRA member. A Special General Meeting had been arranged for May 17 to do this. However, the meeting was later cancelled by the majority of the Board. I believe this offer of govt funding on the proviso Damien is removed is the main reason for Alex Money taking legal action against Damien, which was a gross over reaction on his part to events, which took place at the Special Board meeting on March 18. I also feel Alex Money has damaged the reputation of the MRA by involving the organization in a court case. I would also like proof that no MRA funds have been used to hire security guards at MRA Quarterly General Meetings and that no MRA funds have been used in the court case by Alex Money against Damien Codognotto.

I have also submitted emails that support my reasons for resigning from the Board. This also includes stand-over tactics, which I see as bullying by Alex Money.

.....
Heather Ellis

.....
Date

.....
Witness (name)

.....
Date

Presented and read out to MRA members attending the Quarterly General Meeting at the Bells Hotel on Saturday, June 21 2003.

PAUL LINSDELL & ASSOCIATES

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

ABN 82 238 340 323

As there was confusion as to where the responsibility of those legal fees lay MacPherson & Kelley sought to seek redress by issuing their own legal proceedings against Mr Money for non-payment of those legal fees.

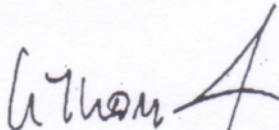
The matter proceeded by way of pre-hearing conference in the Dandenong Magistrates' Court on 16 December 2003 whereby the Registrar fixed a telephone mention for 5 February 2004 failing any compromise to the proceedings and accordingly the matter will be set down for hearing sometime in early or mid. February 2004.

Our client looks to the Motor Cycle Riders Association to pay any fees that may be payable by him in respect of these proceedings. We further advise that unless an agreement is reached to pay the legal fees no later than 7 January 2004, we have been instructed to institute a third party proceedings to join the Motor Cycle Riders Association as a party to MacPherson & Kelley's proceedings.

In the meantime, all efforts are being made to resolve the question of MacPherson & Kelley's legal fees by way of negotiation however the parties have until 5 February 2004 to arrive at any resolution.

We look forward to your urgent response by return facsimile or if you wish to discuss this matter in any detail please do not hesitate to contact our Mr Thompson.

Yours faithfully



PAUL LINSDELL & ASSOCIATES

per:

MARCEL GOMPERTS
WAS ALSO ON THIS
MRIA BOARD. HE
TOOK A LOT OF REC-
ORDS TO THE T.I.P.

ALEX MONEY WAS
MRIA PRESIDENT
IN MELBOURNE
JOHN KARMOUCHE
WAS TREASURER
GRACE
PLACENCIO SET UP
A TRUST TO PROTECT
MONEY.

PAUL LINSDELL & ASSOCIATES
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
ABN 82 238 340 323

19 December 2003

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271 William Street
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Ph: (61) 3 9606 0027
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Our ref: AMT:309087
Your ref:

Attn: John Karmoushe
Motor Cycle Riders Association
22 Ross Street
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

By Facsimile: 9699 1833

Dear Sirs

Re: MONEY -v- COGNODOTTO

We advise that we act on behalf of Mr Alex Money in relation to the intervention proceedings against Damian Cognodotto.

As you are aware, Mr Money upon seeking advice sought to prevent Mr Cognodotto from acting in a threatening manner and continuous harassment and took out an intervention order at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

Mr Cognodotto contested the intervention proceedings however were unsuccessful in preventing an intervention order being placed upon him.

Notwithstanding the first decision in the Magistrates' Court, Mr Cognodotto thought it appropriate to seek an appeal in the County Court, which he subsequently lost however no request by Mr Money's solicitors for the question of costs was ever sought.

NOT TRUE.

In order to obviate the threats made by Mr Cognodotto, Mr Money was forced to seek legal representation and instructed Messrs MacPherson & Kelley, Solicitors, in Dandenong to act on both his and the Motor Cycle Riders Association's behalf.

As a consequence of these proceedings, Mr Money has incurred a debt in excess of \$19,000.00 for legal fees.

THE MEMBERS WERE

INFORMED.

61

**MONEY & CO. RESIGNED
EN MASSE, IN DISGRACE.**

The Magistrate
Dandenong Court

RE: Mr DAMIEN CODOGNOTTO (AO)

I understand that Damien Codognotto is to attend Dandenong Court to defend an action brought against him by an official of the Victorian Branch of the MRAA.

I consider this to be a silly and unfortunate development, indicative of a souring of relationships between Damien and the current Executive of the MRAA, and certainly something which the aggrieved party(ies) should have found another way to resolve.

I have known and respected Damien in his role as a representative of motorcycle riders for many years and, over that time, have developed a personal friendship with him. He has done more than anyone I know to advocate the interests of the riding fraternity and is passionate in his concerns about community road safety.

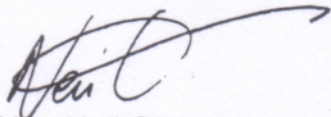
To turn to the specific matter at hand: Damien is a Life Member of the MRAA. The respect he has achieved among colleagues has benefited the long term reputation of the organisation and indicates that he conducts himself in a professional manner which has the support of his long term peers.

Damien presses his case strongly and can sometimes seem dogmatic or a little argumentative – but it is absurd to suggest that he is prone in any way to violence or to outbursts which would give anyone cause for fear.

I was present in an official capacity at the TAC Launch which gave rise to these events and can inform the Court that my informal soundings of a number of the parties present convinced me that Damien is the wronged party in the chain of events which unfolded.

Had I known what was happening at the time I would have intervened to insist that Damien be admitted to the Launch (and seated in the front row).

I trust that this submission is of assistance to the Court.



Hon Neil O'Keefe
Chair
Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council
MHR for Burke
(1984-2001)

May 12, 2003