

From: Derek Clarkson
To: 'Damien Codognotto'
Cc: 'mrab'
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 2004 3:19 PM
Subject: TAC

Hello Damien,

Can you please do me a favour and refrain from slamming TAC. Dale just got out of a meeting with them and he said he had never see Paula so angry. She said that your attacks on her and the TAC will invalidate the contract and result in no money from the TAC. So please stop doing it. We cannot afford to be without that money at this stage. I know you are not happy with them, but for everyones sake please stop.

Regards,
Derek Clarkson

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 2004 3:55 PM
To: Derek Clarkson
Cc: mrab; mra_Com
Subject: Re: TAC

The truth hurts eh? Well Paula and TAC deserve all they get with the \$50 antibike tax and the hindrance they've been to this charity. Paula Vigorelli, representing TAC, has the gall to threaten us with invalidating this outrageous Toy Run contract that binds the MRA but allows TAC to vary the grant amount! What? Try that in the business world.

The fact that she is carrying on and threatening the MRA Board is because she knows she is in trouble. She's hoping to frighten you blokes into gagging me. Can't you see you have the high moral ground? Attacking the MRA with threats of breaking the Attorney General's (TAC's boss) word is nonsense. It is absolutely negative PR for TAC too. "We'll take our bag of gold so the bikies can't help the Salvos help kids who really need it." Those disgusting creeps! We have nothing to be afriad of here. The only ones likely to suffer are children who need our help.

Get some pride. Stand up straight. Tells those manipulative mediocre public servants to keep their filthy lucre. We'll run raffles and take up collections and sell memberships & stock to raise the money needed to help the kids ourselves.

Damien.

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2004 11:16 AM
To: MRA_Com; mrab
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] RE: TAC

From: Ellis, Tony J
To: mrab ; MRA_Com
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 2004 4:28 PM
Subject: [MRA_Com] RE: TAC

Damien,

As a "manipulative mediocre public servant" myself, I take great offence at this phrase. The dozen other MRA members in the complex that I work in would certainly join me in that.

"The Melbourne Toy Run has been reduced from 15,000 to 3000 (aprox.), has a different assembly area and route each year and has become dangerous in recent years. This did not happened because it was run sensibly by experiencecd riders. It happened, in the main, by the self-named A Team (public authorities committee). The event has been manipulated and the TAC sponsorship has been used to pressure the MRA into doing things the way non-riding public servants feel is good for them. I was a public servant for 11 years so I've been on the inside and seen the way departmental policies work. PSs initiate little, innovate rarely and produce bugar all for the community that isn't ordered from above. They are paid our taxes and they are supposed to keep records

and implement public policy. But too often, as in this case, the PSs take a paternalistic attitude to a minority group and seek to force the group to do their will. That's one reason I resigned from the public service. - D"

Worse, the attacks on Paula appear to have become personal - on her, not on her position. This is unacceptable.

"Paula Vigorelli isn't important. She's just the face the TAC have put up. She has little decision making power. She's probably annoyed that the VMU ploy failed and that the Attorney General overruled TAC on Toy Run funding. - D"

All language like that does is get peoples backs up unnecessarily. OK we have issues with the TAC's handling of this, but it needs to be resolved with them - not in public forums.

"Spoken like a true PS. Keep it quiet and neat and 9 to 5. The only defence motorcycling has is the fact that people know what's happening. The MRA achieved TOY RUNS and law changes and more by getting peoples backs up. TAC kept it all quiet & neat when they introduced the TAC anti-bike tax. TAC officials were most certainly involved. They had talks with MRA's John Piggot and Ulysses' Neville Grey from Adelaide. It was agreed that opposition to the \$50 per bike per year tax would be minimal. Neville Grey wrote the tax was 'inevitable' on the Ulysses web site. Many Victorian riders wanted to oppose the tax but it was too late because it had been developed behind closed doors, quiet & neat, with TAC involvement. VMAC, the rider rep group hosted by PSs at VicRoads, was treated as window dressing and by-passed. Just as they did this morning with the new monkey bike laws. An important way ensure riders get a fair go is to expose public service machinations to the light of day by expressing opinions and sometimes using the media. - D"

We are trying hard to stay afloat and this sort of public dispute only plays into the hands of those who want to destroy the organisation. putting it bluntly as Treasurer - we need that money! We have commitments that must be met and running raffles and taking up collections will not cut it. In fact what it does is send a signal that we are getting desperate.

"Rot! How do you think we built the MRA into a national organisation with 15,000+ members? The MRA was brought low by quiet & neat policies, appeasement of public authorities and failure to generate our own cash flow. If a PR / fund raising unit had been set up when I called for it months ago we would not have the cash flow problems we have now. Depending on government hand-outs creates a conflict of interest for bike lobbyists. I think we should reject the TAC grant as being too much trouble. As someone who has put up a lot of their small income and put in over 600 hours to make this TOY RUN work I've got a right to a say. I do not say things behind peoples backs, neat & quiet. As for getting desperate. The shoe is on the other foot. TAC knows the Attorney General was trying to do the right thing and it's not going the way he wanted. TAC knows the \$50 tax is up for review in 2005 and there's an election in 2006. TAC would much prefer to be seen as the saviour of the TOY RUN and conduct the \$50 tax review quiet & neat, preferably with other PSs. - D"

The \$50 bike tax wasn't initiated by the TAC. They collect it and while there are issues there we agreed not to criticise them in anything linked with the toyrun. I don't believe that that is unreasonable. We can still criticise them in other ways but you don't bite the hand that feeds you.

Criticising the \$50 tax in the same forum posting as you mention the toyrun is sufficient grounds for them to terminate the contract.

Mostly covered above but, if putting a condition in the TOY RUN contract that gags the MRA from speaking out on their discriminatory tax isn't manipulative then what is? 'Don't bite the hand that feeds!' That line demonstrates my point. TOY RUNS themselves, with the exception of Alex Money's speech, have been non-political for 26 years. There was no danger of me raising TAC taxes, WRB or any other political issue at a TOY RUN or in the promotion of a TOY RUN. But to let the TAC money smother free speech in our forums is wrong. - D"

If you were to go into a meeting with Volvo to discuss sponsorship with a "Volvo aware rider" sticker on your helmet, would you really expect them to give you money?

"Volvo offered to sponsor the TOY RUN because it was good for their image. Personally I would not take sponsorship from any car company for a bike event. I'd certainly wear a Volvo Aware Rider sticker to see them if it was part of my usual attire. - D"

As for bringing the Attorney General into this, now you've taken it on yourself to bar him from attending, how far do you think his support will go if the TAC goes back to him and says that the MRA is not being co-operative?

"What rubbish. No one barred the Attorney General. The TOY RUN has always been non-party political. The campaign I put together as TOY RUN Organiser focuses on the Bikes By The Bay stage at presentation time - noon. At the start of the run where the Attorney General was to flag the run off, we have no PA or facilities

because we did not raise the money during the year. Everything we do have, I organised and got paid for. The probability of the media turning up in Latrobe Street then going to other events and ignoring the presentations with Cathy Freeman and Eric Bana in Williamstown is real. The Attorney General's media advisor consulted with him and they decided to let the focus be on the special guests and the hand-over of gifts to the Salvos. - D"

As for not being political - we agreed to take money from a Government agency - that makes us need to be aware of the politics involved.

"I've never been happy about taking government money because it always comes with strings attached, maybe not written down but in expectations and discreet conversations and assurances, all quiet & neat. - D"

TonyE

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2004 10:17 AM
To: MRA_Forum
Subject: Re: [MRA_Forum] Helmet

If people had been focused on what the debrief was about, the future of MRA TOY RUNS, inviting guests would not had been thought about. It's part of the problems Alan and I had to deal with in putting MRA TOY RUN 27 together. It will be part of its' downfall as a major City event.

MRA TOY RUN 27 was a major improvement on the Federation Square fiasco. It looked good from the poutside but it had plenty of problems just under the surface. Sooner or later there will be a major casualty crash and there will be several contributory factors.

One of them was this amateur attitude of too many MRA volunteers. Another was the attitude and plainly dangerous decisions by police and public authorities committee. Another was the blatant white anting by people like Anton and lee.

The TOY RUN debrief was important. It has been trivialised.

Damien.

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2005 4:14 PM
To: MRA_Com
Cc: HOG HARRY LISTOKIN
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] AGM agenda mark 2

G'day All.

Sorry if this reply is too late. Very, very busy week.

I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY NOMINATION PAPERWORK FOR THE 2005 MRAA Inc. AGM.
WHEN DO WE FIND OUT WHO THE CANDIDATES ARE? CAN YOU SUPPLY PROXY VOTE FORMS ASAP.

I strongly object to Harry Listokin chairing the 2005 MRAA Inc.AGM and I think you'll find others will too.

While he did nothing major wrong, Harry was a chairman at Gomperts/Money faction MRAA Inc. general meetings which generated some of the worst and most disgraceful denials of justice and inappropriate use of 10s of 1000s of \$\$\$ of members funds in MRA history. He refused any recording of the public meetings that generated those injustices. That was beyond his powers as chairman. We only switched our tapes off under protest, after a majority in the room voted for that. We did so even though the vote was not valid/legal

because the method of determining MRAA Inc. current membership was by show of hands. The minutes did not tally with what hapened at the meeting particularly with regard to the Road Safety Reference Group at VicRoads.

I think it safe to say that if Harry Listokin is put up for chairman of the 2005 MRAA Inc.AGM you will find a lot of members make very angry protest indeed. A lot of time will be wasted. Get someone fresh and a simple book on meeting proceedure and agendas.

I have no problem with an independant chairman if the President does not wish to chair the AGM but not this reminder of a very black era in the MRA's recent past.

Also, I think it proper in these cases to 1. Open. 2. Accept minutes (can we see a copy before the AGM?) 3. Reports. 4. Nominations and candidate's presentation. Questions. Election of new Board by secret ballot.

Then Constitutional changes, fees etc. to be handled by the incoming Board.
Toy Run / Blood Challenge / Advocacy / Events reports.

Then General Business.

Remind members of details of coming meetings.

Damien.

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2005 3:31 PM
To: Ellis, Tony J
Cc: DALE MAGGS ULYSSES; Michael Czajka; derek.clarkson
Subject: Re: TAC TOY RUN MONEY.

Thanks Tony.

Dale rang earlier. He said Paula V wanted more detail on the NMC invoice. I asked him to tell her to put it in writing to me personally if TAC felt I was such a thief I'd swindle them out of sixpence.

The delaying tactics have pretty much done for me financially and Paula V knew the situation Alan and I and others were in from the Debrief 3 weeks ago. Both MRA and TAC got excellent value for money out of me, Alan and Derek. My invoice was repeatedly requested. I submitted it in good faith. I didn't want TAC money prefering real fund raising to pay for MRA TOY RUN 27.
That invoice was honest. Paula V can come direct.

I believe the crew at TAC Marketing are nursing grudges. It's not about needy kids or the quality of the promotion. Even the most incompetant clowns could not have wasted this much time on petty cash matters.

3 weeks isn't incompetant, it's vindictive. In my opinion TAC sponsorship has done much more harm than good and they have broken their contract. My advice is find a professional and trustworthy sponsor in the private sector.
50% up front. 50% on the first working day after the successful running of the event.

Damien Codogbnotto OAM
MRA Life Member.
MRA TOY RUN 27 Organiser.

From: "Ellis, Tony J"
To: "Damien Codognotto"
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2005 9:28 AM

Subject: RE: TAC TOY RUN MONEY.

Damien,
sorry not to reply earlier but I've been away ill for a few days, I've just checked the account and the money is still not there. I've emailed Paula to see when it will be in. The last payment was done within 48 hours by electronic transfer. I'll call you for the account no. to deposit it etc as soon as I know that it is in the account.

Regards,
Tony

From: "gavin"
To: <MRA_Com
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2005 8:05 PM
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] AGM Notes

Sorry I was away, but did I hear right that Alan Riley and Derek became life members for their work on the toyrun? To me that kinda makes a mockery of meaning of life membership, don't get me wrong, I think Derek deserves all the plaudits we can give for his extraordinary work time and effort he put into the toyrun and associated problems he was confronted with. Just not sure that Life membership for one thing is a good idea, grace helped out for 10 years+ before becoming a life member. We don't want to make this award too frivalous do we ?

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 3:03 PM
To: MRA_Com
Cc: MRA_Forum
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] AGM Notes

Gavin.

If Alan Riley and Derek Clarkson had not supported me while others were undermining the rebuilding of Toy Run 27, the event would not have been the limited success it was. In spite of the fact that the event was primarily for needy kids, the "white ants" behaviour selfish and personal. When we needed teamwork we got a nasty school yard whispering campaign. As I said at the AGM, people who'd undermine an event for children disgust me. Derek and Alan stayed with the team and allowed partial success.

If memory serves the motion to make them Honourary Life Members of the MRA was passed unanimously. You saying their work, and a motion passed at an AGM, "makes a mockery of meaning of life membership ..." is insulting to both Derek, Alan and our constitutional system. You've been around the MRA in Melbourne a couple of years. You were on the TOY RUN 27 organising team at the start. YOU QUIT. If you'd stayed and done what Alan and Derek did TOY RUN 27 would have been that much better and I'd probably have nominated you for a HLM too.

Regarding Grace Placencio. I don't know where you get your info from but it's wrong. Certainly Grace earned her HLM but she was only introduced to the MRA towards the end of 1996. She worked for a firm who supported the MRA. You can see them on stage at TOY RUN 19 (December 1996) on the DVD. There were various ructions in that firm. Grace went with David Stagg & co. When she finished her personal injury training with David she split taking the MRA with her, maybe 6 years ago.

The MRA refers injured riders to her law firm. She sues TAC et al. She charges \$375 per hour or perhaps a %age of the compensation payment (?). The MRA gets not one cent for the referals. Neither do I. In fact David Stagg did a lot more for the MRA than Grace ever

has. He got no thanks for the time and money he put into our Association and Grace. Such is democracy and business. But please don't try to tell us that Grace's very well paid work for the MRA is more worthy than Alan and Derek's. They earned their award and your attempt to smear it is nasty and personal.

If you want the full report on the work on TOY RUN 27, where it failed and where it succeeded, have an objective look at the DVD when it comes out.]

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

From: "Mick D"
To: <MRA_Com
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2005 8:36 PM
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] AGM Notes

gavin wrote: "Sorry I was away, but did I hear right that Alan Riley and Derek became life members for their work on the toyrun?"

Gavin, that's correct.

"To me that kinda makes a mockery of meaning of life membership, don't get me wrong, I think Derek deserves all the plaudits we can give for his extraordinary work time and effort he put into the toyrun and associated problems he was confronted with."

No argument regards that nor Alan Rileys work either.

"Just not sure that Life membership for one thing is a good idea, grace helped out for 10 years+ before becoming a life member. We don't want to make this award too frivalous do we?"

I for one voted against the motion for that reason, no argument they both did a lot of work but if we go by this precedent then every Toyrun we are likely to have more life members than paying members. Maybe we should nominate you Gavin for being treasurer when times were toughest and the money you have put into the org to keep it afloat. List goes on of people that have done a lot of work for the MRA over time even, Detlef is yet another that could justify a nomination. Members on the database that have probably paid their dues every year for many years and not been awarded life membership. For what it's worth though, the motion was moved and passed so life members they are.

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 3:38 PM
To: MRA_Com
Cc: MRA_Forum
Subject: Re: [MRA_Com] AGM Notes

In our system it's members, not individuals or committees who decide who gets Honourary Life Memberships. They can't be bought. They are voted on by members. I reckon it should be by secret ballot of verified members but that's not the way Chairman Listokin works and the meeting accepted that. If Gavin, or anyone else wanted to vote for a HLM for Detlef (He's certainly earned it) or against HLMs for Alan & Derek they just had gto turn up at the MRA AGM.

Derek Clarkson was nominated because he did as much and more work than others to try to save the Melbourne Toy Runs but he added two elements. 1. He made www.toyrun.org and the Event Management Plan work, no one else did that. 2. He remained loyal to the system that set up the structure to try to revive Melbourne Toy Runs, few others did that.

Alan Riley was nominated because he did as much and more as others to try to save Melbourne Toy Runs. His consistant hard work attending meetings, doing assembly area and

route surveys, setting up alternative routes, liaising with the Race Marshals and APEX and ensuring Derek and got the info we needed for the EMP. His attempts (in the face of cowardly opposition) to re-establish a real MRA Marshals Unit and refusing to stay in bed after being rammed from behind by an out-of-control car, Alan, though in pain did his job at TOY RUN 27. Alan remained loyal to the system that set up the structure to try to revive Melbourne Toy Runs, few others did that.

What structure to revive Toy Runs?
Click AUTHORISATION.

The way MRA HLMS are awarded is a matter for all MRA Members to ponder but these 2 stand. There will be a constitutional committee taking submissions.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Codognotto
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2005 2:21 PM
To: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Cc: brotherhood; BIKERS AUSTRALIA
Subject: CANBERRA 2006.

The MRAA Inc. Board.
Dandenong, Vic.

I was contacted by Greg Hirst from Sydney recently. He sounded me out regarding a "celebration" type ride to Canberra on January 28, 2006. I understand the run has been approved by Bikers Australia in Sydney and they will be the primary organisers. I support the concept.

I worked on all the big Canberra Rides, 1980, 1996 & 2001. I have worked very well with Greg Hirst on many projects over a lot of years. Greg indicated that he would like me to request the MRAA Board authorise me to represent the MRA in Victoria in this matter and to organise and publicise a run up the Hume to Canberra in support of this event. I so request. I would work liase Michael Czajka and Derek Clarkson for the Board.

Please put this matter on the agenda of your next MRAA Board meeting and let me know the result as soon as possible.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 11:42 AM
To: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Cc: Michael Czajka; RVanZuyl; derek.clarkson; MRAA WENDY TAYLOR; SALVOS - TONY ARMSTRONG; SALVOS - EVAN CASSIDY TOY RUN CO-ORDINATOR; Martin Taylor
Subject: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

I've just looked at www.toyrun.org.au . 11.30 Tuesday, May 10, 2005.

The letter agreeing to the use of the Swann logo and nmcins.com address on the toyrun website was not worth the paper it was written on.

The Swann logo has not been used as agreed.

The MRA must either remove the logo within 24 hours or use it as agreed in the letter or I will take action to ensure the MRA holds to it's contract.

I find this failure to abide by an agreement that has no downside but plenty of upside for needy kids dispicable.

Damien.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dale Maggs"

To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

Cc: <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>; <mrab@mraa.org.au>; "Derek Clarkson"

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 2:12 PM

Subject: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

> Hi All,
> Seriously Damien,
> You must understand that the value of our sponsorship from Swann and your
> input is very important to the MRAA and Toyrun.org.au website!
> It is my belief that the webpage was just under some reconstruction as
> often is done on these sites and that the
> page will be back to normal asap.
> I would still however like to dicuss the value of the Swann sponsorship
> packedge and how we can further assist in promoting their efforts.
> I would like to see the sponsor participate in the Melbourne Toyrun as
> this is a very high profile event I hope this can be achieved.
> Regards
> Dale Maggs
> President
> MRAA

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 5:05 PM

To: Dale Maggs

Cc: vicepresident@mraa.org.au; mrab@mraa.org.au; Derek Clarkson; SALVOS - TONY ARMSTRONG;

SALVOS - EVAN CASSIDY TOY RUN CO-ORDINATOR

Subject: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

Dale.

You know well that Swann is NOT an MRAA Inc. (MRA) sponsor. Swann Insurance sponsors my national Toy Run List campaign. You already have all invoices and costs relevant to the national campaign. You gain a benefit through a deal with me (NMC). The MRA has reneged on the written www.toyrun.org.au deal three ways.

1. The deal was made with a time limit clearly stated, the begining of April. As soon as I had accepted the MRA letter of agreement (dated April 13, 2005) I found myself arguing terms and conditions after the agreed on deadline. All the critical time limits have long since passed.

2. In spite of making it abundantly clear in discussion and in writing that the SOLE webmaster was to be Derek Clarkson I was faced with others, unknown to me, having access to www.toyrun.org.au. Derek earned our trust. He is highly skilled reliable and honest. We are not prepared to be associated with a public document/website where we have no reasonable control of content and quality.

3. The front page of www.toyrun.org.au today, May 10, 2005, demonstrates 2. The Swann logo has been abused. In spite of the letter of agreement it has appeared in an unauthorised way. If your new multi-webbaster mystery editors can't even get this simple

part of the written agreement right, how can we trust the complicated bits to be handled correctly.

I am sick of wasting time and effort on something that should have been so easy. I want to work for the motorcycle community and society as a whole. Trying to do that by working through my own Association is at best a wasteful depressing experience.

The part that makes me really angry is that this should have been the next step forward from last year's successful campaign. It was a gift to the MRA. When an organisation is so short of resources and skilled labour as the MRA is, it should look after known resources. www.toyrun.org.au worked well. Why try to fix it when you've got so much else to do. The malignant clowns who pulled this deal apart have wasted a valuable resource and hurt the campaign to help needy kids. Whether it was done to spite anyone, because they have no imagination or because they are unbelievably incompetent is irrelevant.

Damien Codognotto OAM

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 11:27 AM

To: Martin Taylor

Cc: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; Michael Czajka; SALVOS - TONY ARMSTRONG

Subject: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

Martin.

This could go on forever. I make a point. You find an excuse to refute. "Perhaps the webmaster misunderstood." First. There is only ONE, 1, webmaster in this deal. Second. I did the groundwork very carefully to be sure that everyone knew what was going on and that the webmaster for www.toyrun.org.au understood very well (in writing over 3 months and more) the terms of the agreement. Dialogue with the MRA Board, both written and spoken has been unsatisfactory, Rik V being the exception.

The toyrun.org agreement was signed and delivered after weeks of talks/emails. It's too late to start again. the time limits for booked space at best prices was well and truly blown by the MRA. It reneged in terms of the time limits, the webmaster and the last straw was the logo. What a waste! A free gift to help kids.

Responding to your excuses is a waste of time. Like dealing with VicRoads over WRB or TAC on the antibike tax or expecting the modern MRA to be able to hold to an agreement.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

From: "Martin Taylor"

To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 7:30 PM

Subject: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

UNCLE DAMIEN said....

Firstly, your method of replying and quoting is a bit confusing for me. It doesn't follow normal convention, where the original poster's remarks are prefixed with email quote marks or ">" characters.

Martin - Exactly how does it not abide by your "contract"? There is a Swann Logo there. There is also a note saying that the site is currently being remodelled, or under construction. This means that it's not finished yet.

DKC - The logo is not placed as agreed nor with the agreed on lettering. The change was made without consultation.

Perhaps the webmaster or whoever's designing it misunderstood. Did you give him/her the benefit of the doubt?

Martin - Have you spoken to the webmaster about this? If so, has he responded? If he hasn't responded, how long has it been since you tried to contact him? Days, weeks, hours?

DKC - Hours. Left messages. Derek does not answer his mobile when at work. There have been many emails. Nothing in reply that solves anything. Besides, who is the www.toyrun.org.au webmaster? the April 13 letter of agreement clearly does not guarantee it's Derek alone.

I don't answer my mobile when I'm at work either. It stays in the car, in fact. Or I leave it at home. Maybe Derek has the same philosophy. Ditto for emails. I usually have access to email at work, and if I have time will read them. Depending on what they're about, I usually leave them til I get home to answer them, or read in detail.

"The MRA must either remove the logo within 24 hours or use it as agreed in the letter or I will take action to ensure the MRA holds to it's contract."

Martin - And yeah, that'll really achieve a lot. Sue the MRA. Join forces with Brian Beardon and Alex Money, perhaps. Maybe you can initiate a class action against the MRA.

DKC - I will take a relatively cheap legal action to ensure any links with toyrun.org.au are severed and the logo removed. The MRA won't be charged costs. The only person paying will be me. I doubt a class action applies in this case. It is a simple breach of contract and we are protecting our good name.

This is where I am totally lost. From what I can understand, the logo goes up, but it's in the wrong corner, and the NMS logo is missing. Fair enough, if that's what the agreement or contract says. However, from what I understand, you haven't given enough time for the people who are doing the actual work to discuss it with you. Like you, they're all volunteers too, and maybe, just maybe they're too busy to drop everything to get this finished.

I'm reading this "contract". I may not be a lawyer, but usually contracts have to have the signature of both parties in order for it to be valid. Yours isn't on there anywhere.

And contracts usually explicitly, if rather verbosely, express the rights and responsibilities of both parties. All this says that it agrees to put Swann's and NMS's logos on the website. It says nothing about placement.

You talk about "verbal" agreements. Silly. Never rely on them, particularly if one party has a "dodgy memory". Difficult to prove from your perspective. And from theirs, if you're making a claim that something was said that may not have been the case.

Anyway, from what I understand, the board wants to clear this up. If you haven't already done so, give them the benefit of the doubt. Meet with them and get it sorted. Have someone put something in writing and get all parties involved to sign it.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 3:59 PM

To: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; Michael Czajka; Martin Taylor; SALVOS - TONY ARMSTRONG; SALVOS - EVAN CASSIDY TOY RUN CO-ORDINATOR

Subject: WRONG MOVE.

May 11, 2005.

The Board.

The Motorcycle Riders' Association of Australia Inc.

By ringing Swann Insurance re taking over the sponsorship deal where Swann would, through NMC, supply words, pictures and promotional material for the national Toy Runs campaign, President Dale Maggs demonstrated the MRA Board's lack of understanding and ethics in organising and promoting sponsored events.

Swann Insurance have known and dealt with me and NMC for 25 years.

Dale's call reflected badly on the whole MRA in Melbourne. Ringing what is effectively my employer to tell tales is pretty low and was seen that way.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

From: <dale.maggs
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN" "Martin Taylor"
Cc: <president@mraa.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 4:14 PM
Subject: Re: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

>> Hi All,
> Damien damien,
> please settle down now!
> Swann is not sure why you are acting on their behalf and to be honest
> they are not fully aware of the implications of the web site details
> or logo position and details but will receive copies of all emails
> from this point on.
> However they are aware that the logo SWANN has been removed as per
> your request and due to your threat of legal action.
> They look forward to resolving this matter as much as we do.
> Regards
> Dale Maggs
> President

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 4:42 PM
To: dale.maggs@ozemail.com.au; Martin Taylor
Cc: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Subject: Re: Re: TOYRUN.ORG.AU SPONSORSHIP

Swann know what's going on. They wanted to know who you were. The MRA in Melbourne wrecked this deal on their own. No company wants to be associated with a publication/website that has multiple editors/webmasters and takes contributions from vague sources. Quality and content control MUST be guaranteed by ONE editor/webmaster. That's what the April 13 letter of agreement was about.

Quality and content control are guaranteed on the TOY RUN LIST and it is run without the repeated problems associated with dealing with the MRA Board. Swann will deal with me and we will support the Salvos in a way that will bring credit to motorcycling and our organisations.

Any further correspondence on this issue must be on MRA letterhead, signed by all Board members. Do not make the mistake of using anyone's logo on any website without permission.

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 5:24 PM
To: Ellis, Tony J
Subject: Re: MRA NEEDS STRONGER POLICY - NO TOLLS.

Tony.

I reported the figures on Channel 7 News and in the Herald Sun. My personal estimate, not published, was 2 to 300. Given 267 machines, it still wasn't what you'd call a big run.

I got your registered mail letter today, May 23. It confirms that the agreement which was breached and therefore terminated weeks ago was terminated on May 18? I get this ultimatum nearly a week after your (MRA) own deadline? That's the fourth in this series of letters. It's a late April Fool's Day joke, right? You want me to bring the 4 of them to the QGM so we can all have a good old hoot at the expense of needy children across the country.

For an organisation letting an agreement die quietly you (MRA) sure do a great impersonation of a 2 bob thug looking for a brawl (paperwise).

Extraordinary gall. You (MRA) have the cheek to hint that after you (MRA) destroyed the free gift (the national Toy Run promotion) that would have helped a lot of kids, you (MRA) will have to do extra work and I'm somehow to blame! The potential work I would have done for nothing and better than you (MRA) could. "Due to the extra work that will now fall to the MRA"

Now I could get upset about this but it is a joke, right? No one could make such a mess of 4 letters in a row ... unless Unless the Board felt the need for bonding and counseling and went to vicRoads on a course in theraputic letter writing. That's it, isn't it? That's a relief. For a momenbt when I opened the costly registered mail envelope I thought you (MRA) were serious. Course in my day we would have hand delivered such a letter and saved the money for decent premises.

Damien Codognotto

From: [Ellis, Tony J](#)
To: [UNCLE DAMIEN](#)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 8:38 AM
Subject: RE: MRA NEEDS STRONGER POLICY - NO TOLLS.

Damien - I have the receipt number RD23433396 in front of me it's dated May 16th posted from Lygon Street North. I'll be checking with the Post Office today as to why you didn't receive it.

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 11:20 AM
To: Ellis, Tony J
Subject: Re: MRA NEEDS STRONGER POLICY - NO TOLLS.

Do that Tony.

I made a point of opening it yesterday (May 23), in front of Post Office staff that I know personally. The envelope is indeed franked May 17, Lygon Street.

However, instead of wasting more energy on who's right and what the MRA did not do wrong with regard to the sponsorship agreement, I suggest you get on with more important issues and let this die a quiet death as agreed with Rik. I am heartily sick of seeing my work damaged or destroyed by well-meaning incompetants and/or white ants.

This whole episode, the timing shot, the webmaster changes without consultation, the abuse of the logo and the "termination" letter, clearly demonstrates this MRA Board's inability or lack of will, to honour an agreement. It was better to find out now and get on with something creative and productive for needy kids and riders' image.

Damien.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 12:10 PM

To: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au

Subject: FINANCE REQUEST.

From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

To: "greg hirst"

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 12:01 PM

Subject: Re: Canberra 2006

> Thanks Greg.

>

> I'll forward this to the MRA Board as part of the request for \$250
> funding for the Canberra trip and meetings.

>

> Damien.

>

> From: "greg hirst"

> To: <rvanzuyl >; <uncle.d

> Cc: <ariley >; <Michael C>;

> <mrab

> Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 9:01 AM

> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006

>

>

> G'day Rik and Damien,

>

> The meeting on June 10 is being organised for us to sit down with the
> ACT Department of Roads, the Federal Police and the National Capital
> Authority (reponsible for Parliamentary Precincts) to confirm details
> for the road closure, police presence, traffic lights and time at Parliament House.

>

> If Damien can come it would be a good opportunity for us to meet and
> finalise details of our cooperation, do a site inspection and confirm
> the verbal support of the ACT Government.

>

> I am hoping that the National President of Bikers Australia and
> another Board Member will ride down with me for the day.

>

> I think the idea of Damien ,Michael, Rik and Alan coming would mean we
> can have an effective organisational meeting as well.

>

> I hope they can make it. And yes the Carotel would be the cheapest
> accommodation that I know of in Canberra.They have rooms, caravans etc.
> You should book asap.And please pass on my email address as needed.

>

> Hope Saturdays meeting goes well.

>

> Greg

>

> From: Rik van Zuylekom

> To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

> CC: "MARSHAL ALAN RILEY" "greg hirst"

>>> Michael Czajka"

>>> >,mrab

> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006

> Date: Wed, 25 May 2005 18:20:50 +1100

>
> Hi Damien,
>
> Thanks for the heads up on this.
>
> Re: the MRA supporting this trip financially. If you are going to put
> this motion at the QGM, an agenda outline and aim of the trip will
> make it much easier to vote for this on the day. Perhaps Greg can put
> something simple together. This can be presented at the QGM, together
> with the motion for the MRA to support this trip financially.
>
> Regards
> Rik
>
> 25/05/05 11:04 AM
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
>
> G'day Greg.
>
> I'd like to come to the meetings and I can probably get the day off
> BUT finances are zilch at the moment. Just paid rego and some overdue bills.
> If
>
> I take another day off I'm down \$120. I'm not prepared to do the run
> on the bike because it is my main source of income, critical this
> time, so if anything happened to it I'd be in serious bother.
>
> I can get a car for a couple of days. I would leave Thursday
> afternoon/evening. I'd like to bring Michael Czajka (MRA Federal rep
> and
>
> Rik Van Z (MRA Treasurer) and Alan Riley even if only 1 of us
> actually went into the Government meeting. Your call. I don't think
> MRA or I should say anything at that meeting other than to confirm
> strong support from the South. Perhaps some of your troops could make
> the lunch meeting? That would be good PR I think. The lunch after the
> government meeting sounds good. We each pay our way there. Yes? Any
> recommendations on cheap accommodation for Friday night? What about
> the camping ground adjacent to the assembly area?
>
> I would head back early Saturday stopping at towns along the Hume for
> local papers and tourist info. My campaign would include wide
> publicity in country areas and publicity for accommodation en route. I
> am not financial enough to contemplate another rally site but I don't
> think that will reduce numbers if riders are aware of alternatives on the way to
> Canberra.
> The key, as always, will be to get the date and venue onto calendars
> ASAP, very ASAP, so riders can plan their trip.
>
> Re the contacts with other state bike organisations, you'll find links
> and websites on www.nmcins.com.au and www.mra.org.au . I will also
> send an email to my contact list informing them of the event and
> asking them to contact you. I'll use the Brotherhood email address and
> your phone number, if that's OK. Please let me know.
>
> I'll ask the MRA at the QGM next Saturday, if they would put up \$250
> for the trip. I will forward this to Michael and Rik so they know
> what's going on.
>
> If I can't make it, good luck. I look forward to hearing yet another
> success story.
>
> Damien.
>
> From: "greg hirst"
> To: <uncle.d

> Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 9:55 AM
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
>
> G'day Damien,
>
> Can you make a meeting in Canberra on Fri. June 10 at noon with the
> ACT Government, Federal Police and National Capital Authority and
> after for a lunch meeting with me?
>
> Regards,
>
> Greg
>
> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
> To: "greg hirst"
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
> Date: Fri, 20 May 2005 09:41:16 +1000
>
> Thanks Greg.
>
>East Doncaster, Vic. 3109.
>
> Damien.
>
> From: "greg hirst"
> To:
> Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 8:10 AM
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
>
> No worries. I'll organise it soon.Can I have a mailing address.
>
> Greg
>
> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
> To: "greg hirst" >,<rvanzuyl
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
> Date: Thu, 19 May 2005 11:34:11 +1000
>
> G'day Greg.
>
> I'll need a letter authorising me to publicise Canberra 2006 from the
> organisers and from MRAA Inc.
>
> Damien.
>
> From: "greg hirst"
> To: <rvanzuyl
> Cc: <uncle.d
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 2:23 PM
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
>
> Thanks Rik.
>
> That's good news. I'll contact Damien and get him working with me on
> the details. Do you have an MRA contact list so that I can start
> organising other interstate rides?
>
> Thanks again,
>
> Greg
>
> From: Rik van Zuylekom
> To: "greg hirst"
> CC: uncle.d
> Subject: Re: Canberra 2006
> Date: Wed, 18 May 2005 15:09:35 +1100

>
> Hi Gregg,
>
> This was discussed at the last meeting and following the information
> that you provided, we voted to support this ride. Can't recall clearly
> recall what was decided in relation to the representation. If my
> memory serves me, it was decided that we would send 2 representatives
> and one of those was to be Damien, the other I suspect will be Dale, but let me make
> sure.
>
> I will speak to Dale to get clarification on this and get back to you.
>
> Stay upright
> Rik

From: UNCLE DAMIEN [mailto:uncle.d@bigpond.net.au]

Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 4:50 PM

To: Tony Weare

Cc: president@mraa.org.au; president@ulyssesmelb.com; Vice President; vicepresident@ulysses.org.au; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; MRAA DETLEF LAMP

Subject: Re: City Link Monday

G'day Tony.

You're a bit too delicate to involve yourself in lobbying if you thought that was abuse. My responses to your email are marked thus. **DKC - "AAAAAAAAAA."**

From: Tony Weare

To: 'UNCLE DAMIEN'

Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 4:13 PM

Subject: City Link Monday

Damien Codognotto OAM.

I would like to express my extreme disappointment with the verbal abuse that I received from you and others outside the Citylink offices last Monday. The unprovoked outburst was unwarranted and has shown you and some others are intolerant to any who do not agree with your way of thinking.

DKC - "Not correct. You did not discuss with me or anyone I know, even some BMW Club members, the position you were going to present to Citilink. Regardless of your claim that you only represent BMW MC Vic. that is not how it was seen by others at the meeting and most likely not how it will be used by the toll company behind closed doors. Your position does effect ALL riders in Victoria and maybe beyond, maybe for years, maybe for good. Your excuse is the excuse of a person without valid arguments. Claim anyone disagreeing with you is intolerant and makes unprovoked outbursts to discredit the other side of the argument. Bit weak. Reflects poorly on the BMW Club. To my mind you telling Citilink that bike tolls are OK was an unprovoked outburst without warning on your part. Little wonder more than 1 of use disagreed with your position as presented at the meeting."

It is unfortunate that we do not agree on this matter of Citylink tolls but I can see no justifiable reason for your outburst.

We still live in a democratic society and entitled to our own opinion, something you should try and respect.

DKC - "Correct. This is a democracy with free speech. I respect your right to campaign for road tolls on motorbikes in Victoria and to have whatever say you wish. However, what you said at the Citilink meeting was unexpected and unpopular. Even the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council was barred from the meeting. It is likely that the BMW Club will be used as pro-tolls propaganda leaving the Motorcycle Riders' Association the only voice for the status quo - No motorbike tolls in Victoria. That's a debated then voted on policy of an organisation specifically set up to work for riders' safety and rights."

We are all entitled to our own views and opinions and we (BMWCCVic) act on behalf of our members only and do not presume to speak for all other motorcyclists as you do.

We would also appreciate that you refrain from using the name of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Victoria in any of your correspondence insinuating we support you on this matter or any other matter. Our name has appeared in correspondence from you without our permission and we would like that practice to cease immediately.

DKC - "You are nudging nearer hypocrisy. First you defend democracy and free speech then you criticise our arguments as being too loud, now you want a gag. Not you, nor the BMW Club, nor the Chancellor of Germany (reference to the bike, not the folk) are going to censor what I write."

Tony Weare
Vice President BMWCCVic

From: MRA_Forum On Behalf Of UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 5:49 PM
To: MRA_Forum; melb-moto
Subject: [MRA_Forum] Fw: No tolls treachery

----- Original Message -----

From: Jim Jasper
To: melb-moto com ; MRA_Forum; A/D Sadler ; UNCLE DAMIEN
Cc: Raymond Herd ; Deborah Jasper ; MLA TERRY MULDER ; VMAC ;
membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au ; secretary@mraa.org.au ; MRAA Treasurer ; vicepresident
ulysses; Vice President ; president ulyssesmelb; president@mraa.org.au
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 4:32 PM
Subject: Re: No tolls treachery

I feel there is some underlying agenda by Damien, there appears to be a lot of emotive and in my opinion untruthful information being emailed around. Just a thought, I cannot put my finger on it but its there!, I am referring this and other emails I have received this week with Damien's signature.

I would be interested in your thoughts Damien, especially now you have all the information at hand, after accosting the President and committee member of the Melbourne Ulysses branch, and the BMW clubs reps outside the meeting on Monday. (An apology would be a good a place to start rebuilding a damaged bridge)

I do admire your passion Damien, but I sometimes feel that you can be a little too passionate for some people, and it causes friction rather than union. Uncontrolled passion as you must know, can be a terrible thing, creating division, disloyalty and worst of all, lack of trust.

A united front is essential in any struggle, but if you attack your allies at the first instance that they do not agree with you 100%, then you are assisting the oppositions cause, and closer to home you are creating enemies of your friends, at best your are creating an arena of mistrust.

Jim Jasper
Secretary Melbourne branch Ulysses club -----

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 12:22 PM
To: president ulyssesmelb; president@mraa.org.au
Cc: CLUB - CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD GREG HIRST; webmaster@mraa
Subject: Fw: Canberra Ride is on Again in 2006

Please give this run as much publicity as you can.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.
Ulysses Club

From: "greg hirst"
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 5:42 PM
Subject: Canberra Ride is on Again in 2006

Bikers Australia and the Melbourne based MRAA are organising another celebrity based ride to Canberra on Saturday, January 28 2006.

Current details are attached(more will follow) plus a letter of support from Federal MP Jackie Kelly. Please publicise this as widely as possible.

Thanks,

Greg Hirst
Organising Committee Chairman.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 1:15 PM
To: Mick Doedee; Martin Taylor
Cc: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au
Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

Thanks Mick.

No problem. I'll sort the BLOOD CHALLENGE and PETITION publicity myself.

Damien.

From: "Mick Doedee" <membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au>
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN" "Martin Taylor"
Cc: <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President" <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>; "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 4:14 PM
Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

> Damien, next newsletter is at the printers already, had to get it out
> quick for advertising deadlines. Blood challenge article you just sent has
> been forwarded to Martin for next issue. Petition can be included as an
> insert if you want to help with the folding and envelope stuffing process.
>

> Martin, with the next issue, can we leave the bottom 3rd of the front page
> blank so we can do the label/sticky tape thing, should save us time and
> money.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
> To: "Martin Taylor" > Cc: <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President"
<vicepresident@mraa.org.au>;
> "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>;
> <membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au>
> Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 3:00 PM
> Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

>

>

>> Doncha just love bureaucracy. Just tell me when the next newsletter is
>> due out and if it will contain info on the 27th MRA BLOOD CHALLENGE
>> and/or on the PETITION to abolish the \$50 TAC antibike tax and Canberra
>> 2006.

>>

>> I'll cc this to the MRA Board as a request that Mick Doedee let me know
>> what's happening with the newsletter. And I'll take you off my email
>> list.

>>

>> Damien.

>>

>> From: "Martin Taylor"

>> To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 7:19 PM

>> Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.
>>
>>
>>> ---- Original message ----
>>>
>>> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
>>>
>>>>Are you doing the MRA newsletter? If not then I'll take you off my
>>>>mailing
>>>>list but surely you can't be refusing official info on MRA activities.
>>>
>>> Yep, still doing the newsletter. Officially, all articles are to go
>>> through Mick Doedee for board approval, then on to me.
>>>
>>> If that Blood Challenge note was an official newsletter article, then it
>>> should be send to Mick first. If it's general comment, then I ask that
>>> you don't send me anything with large attachments. Or notes that have
>>> private corrrrespondence appended to your original post.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2005 4:31 PM
To: president@mraa.org.au; BIKERS AUSTRALIA; canberraride2006@hotmail.com
Cc: Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au;
membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Subject: CANBERRA RUN 2006 - REPORT [long].

PREPARATIONS FOR CANBERRA 2006 - THE NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS RIDE.

My thoughts. This report is neither formal nor confidential. Please offer any corrections and/or suggestions.

On the Australia Day long weekend in 1980, there was a "10,000 BIKE RUN" on the nation's capital. The idea came from the MRA in Melbourne after reading about a protest run on Washington, USA. The Canberra Run, as it became known, changed bike politics/safety in this country forever.

The 1980 event is commemorated with a photo in a display of historic events in the Nation's Capital. The display is in the Speaker's Corner, in the historic Hyatt Hotel just down from Parliament House. Well worth a visit.

From memory the shot was from the Canberra Times. It shows a massive column of bikes coming down ANZAC Avenue with the Australian War Memorial in the background. The column of more than 10,000 machines, travelled from huge camp site south of Canberra. Marshals split the column and it crossed the Commonwealth and Kings Bridges over Lake Burly Griffin to rejoin at the Old Parliament House.

16 years later, in 1996, the first Celebration Ride was initiated in Sydney by Bikers Australia. It was strongly supported by the MRA in Melbourne. This event was different from the 1980 ride. It was a celebration of everything positive motorcycling has to offer. It featured celebrities and MPs as well as the riders. Very high profile.

5 years after that, in 2001, there was another Celebration Ride to Canberra. Again high profile and a positive boost to bike safety and mortorcycle awareness on our roads. This run featured largew numbers of spectators along Northbourne Avenue cheering the parade.

Greg Hirst played a major role in the Celebration Rides and is the prime mover in Canberra 2006. This run is important both for bike safety, rider PR and political credibility. I was involved to a greater or lesser degree in all of the above runs.

I left Melbourne on Thursday evening, June 9, 2005, as planned. Travelled up the Hume to Canberra. More than 8 hours with a couple of short breaks.

Met Greg Hirst at about 11 am Friday, in front of Parliament House and did a brief site inspection. Some construction work in progress but pretty much unchanged from the last Celebration Ride.

Met reps from the Federal Police, ACT Urban Services and the National Capital Authority at Police HQ in Weston a bit after noon. Good meeting. Substantial increase in red tape (Can't be helped) but lots of goodwill for the event. Assembly area: inbound lanes of the Federal Highway near Carotel, as per last time. Route: straight down Northbourne Avenue as per last time. 1 pm start (?). Destination: the lawn in front of Parliament House. Down the hill a bit but no problems. Gear from the OZ Day Concert may be still in the area. No real problems.

Briefed by Greg Hirst over lunch:

1. Sponsorship.
2. MRA responsibilities in Melbourne.
3. Letter for me.
4. Canberra meetings and site inspection (above).
5. Greg Hirst to meet with John Anderson, July 25.
6. Function for key players in Parliament House after the ride, as per 2001 Celebration Ride, if possible.
7. Press release for bike mags sent.
8. Approach to the NSW Motorcycle Council, the Victorian Motorcycle Council and the State & Territory MRA's to support and promote Canberra 2006. (I have some recommendations below.)
9. Other Business: Tee shirt, cap and patch logo. Design ideas asked for. Possible sales of cold drinks (Jan can get very hot) to help cover costs. I informed Greg of the problems with "tranching" the Melbourne Toy Run. Tranching should be avoided on the Canberra 2006 ride. History teaches that the safest way to move a large number of riders from A to B is in a single group, flowing smoothly. This is also the most efficient method taking less time and causing less traffic disruption over all. The OZ GP Run in Cranbourne, Victoria in 2004, moved about 8000 bikes (with police escort) out of the main street in 16 to 17 minutes.

Visited The Canberra Times to make personal contact and deliver a press release.

Visited the Canberra MC Centre, Robbo's and the Gecko MC Coy. to make personal contact and inform the management of the event. Good response. On the way out of town about 5 pm, I dropped in to TJ's to see Hal Caston to let him know about Canberra 2006.

Worthwhile trip.

I recommend:

1. Because of construction work in front of the Federal Parliament, the MRA should attend a further site inspection and meeting in November 2005. The aim would be to familiarise Board members and the Chief Marshal with the assembly area, the route and access to the venue and to solve any problems that may be found and to establish better contact with Bikers Australia members and local riders who will have to work together on January 28, 2006.
2. the MRA in Melbourne begins to promote Canberra 2006 in its' newsletter, on the website and so on.
3. The Board establishes close contact with Bikers Australia and Greg Hirst.
4. The MRA authorises a Board member as liason officer to maintain the conact with Bikers and Greg - maybe Rik the Treasurer.
5. The MRA Board book at Carotel for the OZ Day weekend ASAP. Carotel is big. It has from camping to motel style accomodation. It has a function hall for groups.
6. The MRA in Melbourne support a Vic. MHR to fill a similar role here as Jackie Kelly is doing for NSW.
7. The MRA support a well publicised column of bikes departing Elizabeth Street for Canberra on the Jan 26 or 27, 2006. It will be a national push for bike safety. It may be an Australia Day activity. This ride would not remain "in formation" the whole way.
8. The MRA supports and publicises towns and accommodation en route to Canberra.
9. In keeping with Canberra 2006 being a National Motorcycle Awareness Ride, the MRA in Melbourne, as the founding branch, should invite all the other MRA's to a social function of some kind on the Saturday night after the ride to Parliament House. MRA ACT should be asked for recommendations.
10. The MRA should book the Carotel facility for an MRA National Conference. All MRAs invited to send reps. Explore what MRAs have in common in 2006 and how Branches can strengthen ties while maintaining autonomy. Perhaps common policies eg Wire Rope

Barriers or bike licence ages or bike parking rules or road tolls? Bikers Australia should be invited to send observers.

11. Set the date for another MRA National Conference to become an annual MRA activity. Consider Phillip Island during the GP in Oct. 2006 or Canberra again on OZ day 2007. Rotating MRA National Conferences in the past ran into problems with distance, time and cost. A yearly trip to a national event (the GP?), perhaps subsidised through a common fund could be looked at.

10. MRA in Melbourne should establish a policy/agreement to ally itself with Bikers Australia (the right to dissent always maintained - agree to disagree on some issues if necessary). Sydney and Melbourne drive bike legislation in this country, always have. It is counterproductive for the main representative organisations in NSW and Vic. not to work more closely together.

This report is informal and will be followed up with paperwork and video tape. It is not confidential. In fact the more riders that read it the better. Canberra 2006 has the potential to be a great event and a huge boost to the motorcycle community's credibility at a national level. I urge all of you to get behind Bikers Australia in this very positive initiative.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.
MRA BLOOD CHALLENGE Co-ordinator

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 1:15 PM
To: Mick Doedee; Martin Taylor
Cc: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au
Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

Thanks Mick.

No problem. I'll sort the BLOOD CHALLENGE and PETITION publicity myself.

Damien.

From: "Mick Doedee"
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN" "Martin Taylor"
Cc: <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President" <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>; "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 4:14 PM
Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

> Damien, next newsletter is at the printers already, had to get it out
> quick for advertising deadlines. Blod challenge article you just sent has
> been forwarded to Martin for next issue. Petition can be included as an
> insert if you want to help with the folding and envelope stuffing process.
>

> Martin, with the next issue, can we leave the bottom 3rd of te front page
> blank so we can do the label/sticky tape thing, should save us time and
> money.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
> To: "Martin Taylor"
> Cc: <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President" <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>;
> "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>;
> <membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au>
> Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 3:00 PM
> Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.

>

>

>> Doncha just love bureaucracy. Just tell me when the next newsletter is
>> due out and if it will contain info on the 27th MRA BLOOD CHALLENGE

>> and/or on the PETITION to abolish the \$50 TAC antibike tax and Canberra
>> 2006.
>>
>> I'll cc this to the MRA Board as a request that Mick Doedee let me know
>> what's happening with the newsletter. And I'll take you off my email
>> list.
>>
>> Damien.
>>
>> From: "Martin Taylor"
>> To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 7:19 PM
>> Subject: Re: BLOOD CHALLENGE 27.
>>
>>
>>> ----- Original message -----
>>>
>>> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
>>>
>>>> Are you doing the MRA newsletter? If not then I'll take you off my
>>>> mailing
>>>> list but surely you can't be refusing official info on MRA activities.
>>>
>>> Yep, still doing the newsletter. Officially, all articles are to go
>>> through Mick Doedee for board approval, then on to me.
>>>
>>> If that Blood Challenge note was an official newsletter article, then it
>>> should be send to Mick first. If it's general comment, then I ask that
>>> you don't send me anything with large attachments. Or notes that have
>>> private correspondence appended to your original post.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 12:11 PM
To: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au;
membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; Martin Taylor; Michael Czajka; MRA_Forum; webmaster mraa
Subject: MRA NEWSLETTER

Letters to the Editor.
Riders Voice.

The MRA's quarterly newsletter finally arrived. Again we wasted money on a glossy, enveloped publication that would have been much cheaper and easier to post as 4 x A3 sheets of plain paper folded to DL, no saddle stitch, with the address space left on one DL face.

While most of the content was good quality, I question the need for three pages of ride report. Rides are part of MRA activities BUT they are, and always have been, minor functions effecting a miniscule percentage of Victoria's riders. The Kyneton Meet & Greet Ride was a more reasonable size but it would have been more appropriate if both ride stories could have fitted a single A4 page.

The MRA never was touring/social club. Check the Constitution. We should support clubs that specialise in these activities. Cut stories ride/social stories to an appropriate size leaving room for articles that matter to the majority of motorbike & scooter riders. It would be useful to print membership figures in a highlighted area, same place each issue. A letters section would be good too.

There was no sign of the \$50 TAC tax petition though there was obviously space for it if the Editors personal priorities had not got in the way. A full A4 page was used for a membership form that usually occupies only a third of an A4 sheet. Likewise the hazard report form took a full A4 sheet when it should has used only a quarter or a third.

There was plenty of room for the petition sheet if the editorial staff had wanted to include it. I made several approaches. I submitted both hard copy and various electronic versions. I got mixed responses and indefinite times. Yeses and Nos (in writing). Other organisations have seen the value of the \$50 tax petition to their members and motorcycling. The tax is due for review in October. They have put personality clashes aside and printed the form in their club publications and raised the matter at meetings asking their members to copy the forms and get signatures. Not my organisation, the MRA.

The excuse that I did not pay for printing or turn up to stuff envelopes isn't credible. I was never asked to supply printed forms, not that I could have afforded to, or to stuff envelopes until it was too late. In fact I only found out, second hand, a day or so before the envelope stuffing was on. I thought it was agreed to cut costs and use the cheaper A3 folded to DL format so envelopes would not be used. My record shows not volunteering for MRA tasks is not one of my faults. The article on giving blood didn't make it into The Riders Voice either and it was submitted in plenty of time. Source before subject?

Until the MRA administration puts issues before personalities and professionalism before in-house politics, our Association will continue to decline.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 2:08 PM
To: Mick Doedee; president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; Martin Taylor; Michael Czajka; MRA_Forum; webmaster mraa
Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER

The MRA Newsletter Staff.

Just forget it. No matter what I do I end up wasting so much time defending myself after I attempt to work with MRA newsletter that it's self defeating. It does not happen with other publications. It's not me botching my attempts to supply quality, relevant words and pictures to the MRA newsletter. The lack of rate cards with deadline dates says heaps. The very content exposes you.

As I said before, I bet you don't print my letter in the next newsletter. When that hits letterboxes is anyone's guess. The \$50 TAC tax will be reviewed in Oct/Nov. The campaign needs time for people to get forms filled in and back to me so I can bring pressure to bear on the various parties involved. But, to the average rider forking out an unfair \$50 a year extra, the Iron Butt and Meet & Greet stories and vast forms were much more important. Get your priorities straight.

I do not have anymore time to waste on an exchange of emails about why you are right and I'm wrong especially when your excuses are laced with personal insults about shooting off my mouth and beating up issues as though I worked for a show like Today Tonight.

Please don't bother responding to this. Just put my letter in the next newsletter and this email exchange on the MRA Forum and let the members decide.

Damien.

From: "Mick Doedee"
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN" <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President" <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>; "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>; "Martin Taylor" >; "Michael Czajka" <MRA_Forum >; <webmaster mraa.>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 1:50 PM
Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
> To: "Mick Doedee"

> <president@mraa.org.au>; "Vice President" <vicepresident@mraa.org.au>;
> "MRAA Treasurer" <treasurer@mraa.org.au>; <secretary@mraa.org.au>;
> "Martin Taylor" < "Michael Czajka"
<MRA_Forum
> <webmaster mraa
> Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 1:25 PM
> Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER
>
>
>> Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 12:31 PM
>> Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER
>
>> MD - Were working on the label thing Damien, anything that creates
>> less work I'm happy to look at as i'm far from being overwhelmed with
>> volunteers.
>>
>> DKC - Cuttingh costs and work on MRA publications has been done before.
>> All you had to do was ask. The impression I was definiotely and
>> clearly given was that you did not want any help beyond envelope
>> stuffing. I could have used a support driver volunteering for the Canberra too.
>
> I did ask! Damien, I always want help envelope stuffing. I also
> would have happily gone to Canberra had I been asked!
>>
>> While most of the content was good quality, I question the need for
>> three pages of ride report.
>>
>> MD - It was the Iron Butt ride so whilst it was a ride report it was
>> far from an ordinary ride.
>>
>> DKC - Even if it was an extraordinary ride, it still wasn't as
>> important as getting REGULAR blood donors is to society in general or
>> as important as the \$50 antibike tax is to the motorcycle community
>> in particular. Two
>> A4 pages plus was excessive. But you will never say "bad decision".
>
> Damien, as has been mentioned probably 5 times or more now, the
> articles are in the Sept issue. **If thwy had got tyo me on time they**
> would have been in this issue.
>>
>> Rides are part of MRA activities BUT they are, and always have been,
>> minor functions effecting a miniscule percentage of Victoria's riders.
>>
>> MD - No argument.
>>
>> DKC - The newsletter doesn't back you up in that.
>
> As is the case with every newsletter we look to fill a quota of a
> division of 4 pages, preferrably but not limitd to 20 pages. If I get
> more articles then i'll pull the social stuff, until that time I use
> it. We could have put a 12 page newsletter out but given that we only
> do 4 issues a year it was felt better to go to 16 pages, hence social
> activities made it, that was felt by other board members as wekll as me.
>>
>> DKC - I try to volunteer and supply material every issue but the
>> communication and info flow from the newsletter staff is pathegtic.
>> The editor even asked me to take him off my email list. So stop
>> excusing and start doing.
>>
> Damien, take that up with Martin re why he has you off his emnail
> list. I have run everything I received from you I believe and will
> run the petition and the bllood challenge in the next issue. What
> part of get the articles to me in time don't you understand?
>
>> DKC - As usual, when it comes to facts you turn personal. I have
>> repeatedly asked by email for exact deadlines, how many words are

>> needed, how the newsletter requires pictures, if any, supplied. I do
>> not have a problem with other newsletters or magazines or websites, just the MRA.
>
> You have asked for deadliners, nothing more. Want to supply articles
> then gbet them to me in a word doc or text format, not fussed about
> the number of words, if I believe it excessive i'll ask you to trim
> it. Pictures are best supplied as high res tif files in either CMYK or Greyscale.
> Deadlines are the 14th of the month prior to the msag coming out and
> preferrably earlier.
>>
>> DKC - More excuses. You had plenty of material to fill the newsletter.
>> You told the MRA Road Safety & Research Officer you were out of space.
>
> Martin may have, I certainly didn't. We are at Michael to supply
> material every issue and the more the better. Asd has been mentioned
> 6 times now, get it to me in time. That simple.

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2005 1:46 PM

To: Deborah Jasper; TRANSURBAN - MEDIA & PR JANE CALVERT; TOY RUN - TRANSURBAN B WALSH

Cc: MRA_Forum; melb-moto; ulysses; president@mraa.org.au; Ric Bedford; president ulyssesmelb; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; webmaster mraa; MRAA DETLEF LAMP; Batchelor, Peter (PARL); Mulder, Terence (PARL); VMAC; secretary ulyssesmelb; sparetreeditor ULYSSES - MELB. KEITH GIBSON; ULYSSES - MELB. BOB MUNRO; ULYSSES - MELB. THEO PATSIAOUROS; ULYSSES - MELB. PERRY STEPHENS

Subject: Re: BIKE TOLLS IN VICTORIA

G'day Deborah.

My responses are marked DKC - In green.

Damien.

----- Original Message -----

From: Deborah Jasper

To: UNCLE DAMIEN; TRANSURBAN - MEDIA & PR JANE CALVERT ; TOY RUN - TRANSURBAN B WALSH

Cc: MRA_Forum; melb-moto; ulysses; president@mraa.org.au ; Ric Bedford ; president ulyssesmelb ; Vice President ; MRAA Treasurer ; secretary@mraa.org.au ; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au ; webmaster mraa ; MRAA DETLEF LAMP ; MLA PETER BATCHELOR ; MLA TERRY MULDER ; VMAC ; secretary ulyssesmelb

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2005 9:26 AM

Subject: RE: BIKE TOLLS IN VICTORIA

Damien,

Just a quick note to suggest that before you send out more of your "letters" you actually check your facts. Whilst I will accept that your inaccuracies to date could be as a result of ignorance or misinformation, if they continue I may be forced to interpret them as lies.

DKC - Interpret as you like. I stand by my report. Some of it was based on talking to you outside the Citilink meeting on introducing road tolls for motorbikes & scooters.

Firstly, how can you report that - and I quote:

'I certainly had no idea the Jaspers would turn up and represent me as they did'. I may be considered to be a little overweight, but I am quite sure I don't yet qualify to be considered the size of both my husband and I put together. There was one "Jasper" present at the meeting - where on earth did you get the idea that the plural applied?

DKC - Irrelevant. I may be forced to interpret this as a distraction from the real issue, Citilink can use you to claim the company consulted with the Ulysses Club and the club was not opposed to road tolls for motorbikes & scooters. There were two Ulysses reps. One was you. The other a man. As I recall both getting into the same 4WD. Raymond Herd. My Mistake. Sorry. But not relevant to the issue. You supported road tolls for bikes at the Citilink meeting.

Secondly, the Ulysses Club is not, and has never been a social club for over 50s riders - it is a social club for over 40s riders.

Now that has to be a furphy. Juniorat 40, full member at 50. If I remember rightly the Ulysses Club began as an over 50s social club so mature riders could escape bike politics that was rampant back then. There was outcry from slightly younger riders and junior members were allowed. Please correct me if I'm wrong. Again, it's irrelevant to whether or not the Ulysses Club will be portrayed as supporting bike tolls in Victoria. This should go in the next Spare Tyre and Riding to measure response. Do the majority of Ulyssians want bike tolls to start in Victoria? That's the issue not the club joining age.

Thirdly, I don't think any member of a committee in the Ulysses Club considers themselves to be elected to run a political organisation. I certainly don't and was not present at the meeting to be seen in any political light at all. I was there because I was invited to attend.

DKC - That's just silly. How can you possibly attend a meeting on a road charge/tax that, to a greater or lesser degree, effects every rider in the State and say you weren't acting politically. I suppose you were not representing the rest of us either. It was not a cuppa and a scone. It was about a charge that will have long-term effects on the motorcycle community, particularly low income earners, little or no benefit to Citilink shareholders and negative effects on traffic, parking, pollution this will be especially true of municipalities near toll roads. I think you just naively accepted the invitation, failed to do any homework or consultation with stakeholders and performed exactly as those who invited you expected, but maybe I'm wrong.

As I have said, please stick to facts in your future mailouts if you are going to continue to mention me, or the Ulysses Club, or indeed report on what you think I may have said or done.

DKC - OK. Let's be democratic about this. Put it in Ulysses Club mags, all of it, and let's see what Ulyssians react to your attendance at the Citilink meeting.

DEBORAH JASPER

President

Ulysses Club Inc. - Melbourne Branch

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2005 4:53 PM

To: TRANSURBAN - MEDIA & PR JANE CALVERT; TOY RUN - TRANSURBAN B WALSH

Cc: MRA_Forum; melb-moto; ulysses; president@mraa.org.au; Ric Bedford; president ulyssesmelb; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; webmaster mraa; MRAA DETLEF LAMP; MLA PETER BATCHELOR; MLA TERRY MULDER; VMAC

Subject: BIKE TOLLS IN VICTORIA

Damien,

Last week in the Age there was an advert in public notices about tolls for motorbikes in Melbourne. It was not a story, just a blatant statement that listed the tolls to be applied to motorbikes. What gives? I thought the freeways were toll free for bikes.

M

From: UNCLE DAMIEN [mailto:uncle.d@bigpond.net.au]

Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2005 6:44 PM

To: M

Subject: BIKE TOLLS.

G'day M.

Road tolls on motorbikes & scooters will hurt low income earners most for no benefit to Citilink or the community. The argument that riders should pay their way is a sham. Riders already more than pay their way in road taxes.

You want to stop bike tolls, join the MRA. In 2006 motorcycling is sometimes more about ego and gain than about freedom and the common good. Much like the corporate world I suppose.

Citilink held a meeting at their St Kilda Road offices on Monday, May 30, 2005. The Ulysses Club Melbourne Branch and the BMW MC Vic agreed to tolls for motorcycles. They were led by Alex Money's and Marcel Gompert's Victorian Motorcyclists Union (VMU est.. 2004. Self appointed Board) actively supported Citilink's motorcycle tolls saying that the majority of Victorian riders supported bike tolls. Can't see it myself. The Victorian Motorcycle Council (VMC a council of clubs formed about 10 years ago) were apparently wishy washy on the point.

The Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC), the peak body set up advise the Victorian Transport Minister, was barred by Citilink staff.

The Motorcycle Riders' Association (MRA est. 1978) was the only organisation at the meeting with a democratically voted on policy to maintain the status quo - NO TOLLS. The issue was properly discussed and voted on at a general meeting. But Citilink, it seems, were not impressed. The arguments against collecting road tolls from motorbikes & scooters in Victoria are as follows:

1. Tolls will not benefit Citilink shareholders because the cash flow from riders will be minimal after costs. Considering the number that will choose NOT to ride these roads after tolls begin. The tunnels are gas chambers now can you really see a lot of people paying to do that to their health? Could legal action result?
2. Bike tolls will most hurt low income earners.
3. Motorbikes & scooters ease traffic, parking & pollution problems and do little damage to infrastructure so the benefit to society from encouraging single-track vehicles by not tolling them outweighs the minimal (if any) benefit gained by Citilink.
4. At peak times, when tolls are likely to turn commuting riders into single-occupant car drivers, the Citilink toll roads are at capacity. They crawl along. A very minor crash turns Citilink's tollway into a car park where 10s of thousands of man hours are lost as fumes rise vertically into our air.
5. Motorbikes & scooters are safer than ever before. The vast majority of casualty crashes that injure pedestrians, bicyclists and motorbike & scooter riders (Vulnerable Road Users) are caused by car driver error, particularly at intersections, so by putting more cars on our roads and forcing riders off their tollways, particularly at non-peak periods, Citilink may increase road casualties. I'm told there are British studies on this.

Apparently the MRA rep asked Citilink for figures on bike numbers using Citilink, projections on how much these tolls will cost to collect and how much will go to shareholders. I'm told they asked about studies on effects on safety, the environment and effected municipalities. Even if they did ask, I doubt anything will come of it. I don't think this is about money or fairness or common sense.

Anyway, the MRA was the only voice saying NO TOLLS. What the BMW MC was there for I have no idea. They may have been there to back up the VMU. Marcel G is a member I believe. You'd have thought they should have been represented through the VMC. The BMW club represents a tiny group of generally well-heeled riders. I doubt they consulted their members at a general meeting or through a website or publication.

The Ulysses Club Melbourne Branch effectively spoke for every other Ulysses Branch in the State. I certainly had no idea the Jaspers would turn up and represent me as they did. They were not elected to run a political organisation. Ulysses has no written policy document, it's a social club for over 50s riders and "born again bikers". In any case there was no consultation with Ulyssians to the best of my knowledge. I'm a member.

Citilink will likely portray itself as having the support of the majority of Victorian riders through the VMU, BMW club and Ulysses. Ulysses Melbourne Branch President, Deborah Jasper, arrived at the meeting dressed sharply in a lovely big 4WD. She wrote in the latest newsletter, The Spare Tyre.

"We have stressed that we would like to be actively involved in any future discussions regarding percentages and have recorded our (Ulysses Melbourne Branch) interest in keeping the channels of communication open between representatives of the various groups and Citilink."

Tolls will spread to roads around the State. There has already be talk of bike tolls the Geelong bypass and the Ringwood/Frankston freeway. A while ago there was talk of a tourist levy on the Great Ocean Road. With support from groups like the VMU, the BMW club and Ulysses Melbourne Branch riders from Mildura to Sale can look forward to paying up to 50% of the car toll on some future trips.

Only The MRA had a proper democratically generated policy to maintain the status quo - NO TOLLS - because, in the medium to long run tolls on motorbikes & scooters will do more harm than good. Citilink shareholders will get a pittance, if that. You might almost think this was choreographed (?) and the dancers carefully chosen. MRA was unknowingly the token resistance, or so it may have seemed.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.
MRA BLOOD CHALLENGE Co-coordinator.
Ulysses Club (Melb. Branch)

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2005 3:45 PM

To: MRA Committee; Martin Taylor
Cc: president@mraa.org.au; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au;
membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; Michael Czajka
Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER

Ok Martin.

You want to quit as newsletter editor when you get a bit of criticism and give the job to me? Good. If it's approved at the August MRA QGM by a vote of the members, you're on. Make sure you bring all related material to the QGM.

There was a heap of room for a very important petition in the mag if the newsletter staff had wanted it in. The ride stories were too long and the membership form has always been a third A4. There was no need for redesign, just change the address on an old one. When we had to paste up bromides to get a mag out we could still change a page over night. With today's technology the only reason the petition form could not be printed in the mag is because you did not want it there. As for it being too late. Perry Stephens and I put it together in April. The first signatures are dated May 3. It went out all over the internet (filtered out of your ken as spam?). I handed out copies at the May 28, MRA QGM. It was written up in the June issue of Cycletorque (out at the end of May). If you did not know about the petition in time you must have had your head in a very dark, quiet place.

Drop it.

It does not matter whether it's the Toy Run PR/Marketing Unit, the Marshals, the web site, the membership campaign through shops, the bike insurance scheme or the newsletter, it doesn't work when certain people are in the mix.

I want to contribute but too often my work gets bogged down in this silly tit for tat routine. I don't get it elsewhere. I spend more time trying to explain why a campaign or project needs to be done a certain way than I do actually contributing to the project. Then I find the job instruction's been ignored or the info hasn't been available so publication is delayed. Then I find it's all my fault. This does not happen elsewhere. I'm sick of it.

Drop it. I won't submit to the MRA newsletter again. It just isn't worth the wasted effort.

Damien.

From: "Martin Taylor"
To: "MRA Committee" <MRA_Com
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 8:10 PM
Subject: Re: MRA NEWSLETTER

> Mick Doedee said....

>

>>I have no prob with these suggestions, getting people to write the
>>letters is another story. Despite many calls for articles many times
>>it's always the same 4-5 people that contribute and even less than
>>that that actually volunteer to do some work to help distribute said newsletter.

>

> MickD, Michael C, Lee O'M, Tony E are 4 regulars that immediately come
> to mind.

>

>>>There was no sign of the \$50 TAC tax petition though there was
>>>obviously space for it if the Editors personal priorities had not got in the way.
>>

>>Damien, as has been explained at least 4 times now, it's nothing to do
>>with the editors personal preferences, you get the article to

>

> Correct. I didn't even see the petition until after the newsletter
> went to the printers. In fact, the date stamp on the file that was
> attached to it, a 900 kb jpg (a scanned version of the original paper

> copy) is 2nd June 2005. I mailed off the newsletter that morning.
>
> Also, it has nothing at all to do with my "personal preferences". I'll
> put anything in that's allowed by the Board. All I do is to edit the
> newsletter. I do not dictate editorial content.
>
>>A full A4 page was used for a membership form that usually occupies
>>only a
>>>third of an A4 sheet. Likewise the hazard report form took a full A4
>>>sheet when it should have used only a quarter or a third.
>
> If someone wants to redesign these forms then by all means, do so.
> Perhaps Damien can do it, given that he thinks that it should be this way.
>
>
>>>The excuse that I did not pay for printing or turn up to stuff
>>>envelopes isn't credible. I was never asked to supply printed forms,
>>>not that I could have afforded to, or to stuff envelopes until it was
>>>too late. In fact I only found out, second hand, a day or so before
>
> Eh? A notice went out 4 days before the event. I got an email via the
> MRA_Forum mailing list on Tuesday, 14th June asking for volunteers to
> go to Mick's place on the following Saturday morning. Everyone had
> plenty of warning if they wanted to help out.
>
> Finally, Damien, you've made some rather serious allegations and
> question the professionalism of those who make the effort to create the newsletter.
> Like you, we're all volunteers who take time off from their normal
> lives to help run the MRA in whatever way they can. You're not the
> only one who does stuff for the org. Your comments are both insulting
> and offensive to those hard working individuals who do put in the effort.
>
> You ask that the petition be put in the newsletter. It couldn't be
> incorporated as an article because it was too late getting to me. And
> you were advised of this. I have kept all emails emanating from the
> MRA_Forum mailing list. Plus, they're all available to be viewed at
> the Yahoo Groups website. They told you that if you wanted it included
> in the mailout, to come to Mick's place and HELP put them into the envelopes.
>
> You get all uppity because I put you in my spam filter. I repeatedly
> requested that you stop sending me the same stuff, over and over, and
> over, along with other peoples' emails to you. All I'm interested from
> you are whatever articles you may wish to contribute to the magazine.
> And they're to go via MickD.
>
> In the past you accused former Board members of driving away past
> newsletter editors. Your actions now are doing the exact same thing.
> If you think that I am not up to the task, I will gladly mail all the
> stuff that's required to make the next newsletter to you, and you, as
> a claimed photographer and journalist can do it.
>
> In other words, put up or shut up.
>
>
>

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 3:01 PM

To: Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au;

membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au; webmaster mraa; MRA_Forum; melb-moto

Cc: Derek Clarkson; MARSHAL ALAN RILEY; Michael Czajka; BLOOD CHALLENGE - ULYSSES PERRY;
RICK VAN ZUYLEKOM

Subject: TAC TAX PETITION & WEBSITE.

The MRAA Board.

The Motorcycle Riders' Association of Australia website currently displays an article that is apparently written by the MRAA Webmaster. It is about the petition to abolish \$50 TAC antibike tax. The MRAA has been extremely slow to support this petition. Copies were handed out at the last Quarterly General Meeting (QGM) in May 2005 and the MRAA was the first organisation given the material.

The Ulysses Club has been enormously supportive. Various clubs and businesses including the Classic Club have helped by copying the forms and collecting signatures. The MRAA has not obviously done any of this so it's a bit of an embarrassment that the organisation is now spreading the idea that it is the leader in this campaign with Ulyssians and others trailing behind.

The MRAA website would have readers believe that the MRAA organised the petition and campaign against the TAC tax. Allowing this situation to continue would obviously be dishonest. It behoves the MRAA to dispense reliable information.

A website, like a book, is only as good as its' content.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

From: "Ellis, Tony J"
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
Cc: <theboardmraa>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 3:09 PM
Subject: RE: TAC TAX PETITION & WEBSITE.

Damien,

that article is copied verbatim from the news article that you sent out. It's a direct quote from the article in The Standard. You will also need to take it up with Dr Napthine & the newspaper.

TonyE

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 5:17 PM
To: Ellis, Tony J
Cc: theboard
Subject: Re: TAC TAX PETITION & WEBSITE.

That's hardly the point Tony.

If something's wrong and misleading then it's wrong and misleading to leave it as is. This is why I find today's MRA very difficult to deal with. Regardless of the issue there is always some nit picking tripe to waste time and energy on instead of addressing the issue. And it's never the MRAA's fault. Some find it easier to smear a person than do the right thing and admit error.

You are not seriously trying to get me to believe that the webmaster put the item in question up without reading it, or did read it but did not know the origin of the petition? This is why I refused to deal with anyone but Derek Clarkson re the web. The MRAA blew that deal within weeks.

FACT. The MRAA did not organise the petition to abolish the \$50 TAC tax.

FACT. The MRAA has done very little to support the petition.

FACT. The MRAA was given details of the campaign before any other group and it is being way outperformed by far smaller groups.

I don't care if people on the MRAA Board are so personality biased that they won't acknowledge the origin of this petition, but, indirectly claiming credit for the petition by using someone else's mistake is definitely dishonest.

The mistake has been pointed out to the MP and the paper. The mistake has been pointed out to you, so fix it.

What a waste of time. A website, like a magazine, is only as good as its' content. You need two skills to run a good site/mag - technical and editorial. The current MRAA webmaster isn't an editors bootlace.

Damien.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ellis, Tony J"

To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 9:21 AM

Subject: FW: Supporting the cause. photo in local paper

Damien,

I'm forwarding this to you to let you know my own position on the matter - as you can see from my email below the matter has already been raised. As it happens I'm in agreement with you - however, I believe that you will need to be a little more careful in differentiating your own actions from the MRA's. To many people anything put forward by you is, ipso facto, coming from the MRA. This is going to keep happening with the media - even after we change the website...

The MRA sought and obtained permission from the newspaper concerned to reproduce the article in the newsletter. One of the conditions is that it not be altered in any way so I suggest that you contact Martin and ask him to put a disclaimer in.

I'd suggest a disclaimer as I suggested above - perhaps something to the effect that "Despite Dr Napthine's comment, this petition is organised by DC and while having formal support from the MRA, Ulysses & other motorcycling groups has not been organised by them"

It's probably worthwhile you putting that disclaimer in any other releases organised personally by you - unless you don't mind the MRA getting the credit :-)

One question though - why send it to TransUrban?

I don't think they give a stuff about the levy and are probably happy to see attention being taken away from them...

Regards,
Tony

From: Ellis, Tony J

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2005 12:49 PM

To: theboardmraa

Subject: FW: Supporting the cause. photo in local paper

I have a minor issue with this article. It says that the petition is organised by the MRA. While we support it, it should be made clear that we have not formally organised it.

What do people think?

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2005 11:58 AM
To: webmastermraa; Vice President; MRAA Treasurer;
secretary@mraa.org.au; membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Cc: VMAC; TRANSURBAN - MEDIA & PR JANE CALVERT; Cockfield, Samantha
(TAC)
Subject: Fw: Supporting the cause. photo in local paper

From: David
To: undisclosed-recipients
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2005 7:16 PM
Subject: Supporting the cause. photo in local paper

Been away for the last 2 weeks Arranged with David Reynolds to have some Ulysses members in Warrnambool get in on the protest here is there photo & story.

Ride Safe & Have Fun
David Upton
Coordinator
Ulysses Club Branch
Green Triangle Region

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 10:02 AM
To: Ellis, Tony J
Subject: Re: Supporting the cause. photo in local paper

There were two papers in the South West that ran stories on the petition to abolish the \$50 TAC tax. Both were supplied to the MRA on the same day. The MRA chose to seek permission and run the part of the story with the obvious error. Says it all really.

This did not appear. "'I have been saying since this so-called safety tax was introduced in 2002 that this is an unfair and discriminatory impost on a minority group of road users,' he (Naphthine) said. 'I am delighted well-known motorcyclisys rights campaigner Damiebn Codognotto has instigated this staewide petition.'" A balanced representation of the news or selective reporting based on a personality clash?

It says clearly on the petition form that "This document represents the Victorians who sign it. It does not necessarily represent the views or policies of any club or Association or Business."

Will the MRA send a letter of support?

I note the MRAA website does not appear to be running a copy of the petition form on the website.

As I said, the current MRA does not admit error wrong easily and too often engages in these wasteful self-justification debates.

Why send it to Transurban? It's called lobbying. Transurban/Citilink should know that the issue of road taxes and fees is not dormant. It's a reminder that bike tolls and unfair TAC taxes continure to be strongly opposed.

This is wasting resources that could be going into positive work for motorcycling. The MRA Board supports taking credit for other's work and has failed miserably where other groups have succeeded admirably to support the petition. When professional journalists behave as our webmaster(s) have they are called unethical.

Damien.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 10:10 AM
To: Vice President; MRAA Treasurer; secretary@mraa.org.au;
membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au
Cc: Michael Czajka
Subject: ANTON LANGE

Anton Lange helped Marcel Gomperts and Alex Money send MRAA records and historical material to the tip. He told me at the motorcycle Expo that it did not matter what I said because he would lie to get me into trouble with the MRAA Board. He was a major problem with Marshaling last year's Toy Run and had to be dismissed on the day.

I do not believe Anton Lange is a proper person to hold the position of MRAA Chief Marshal. At the August 27, 2005 MRAA Quarterly General Meeting I will move a motion of no confidence in Anton Lange as MRAA Chief Marshal if he holds that position.

Please confirm that this is on the MRAA August QGM agenda.

Damien Codognotto OAM
MRA Life Member.

-----Original Message-----

From: UNCLE DAMIEN
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2005 3:09 PM
To: Derek Clarkson
Cc: Rik van Zuylenkom; Ellis, Tony J; Kate Donohue; DJ McCarthy;
Subject: Re: PARAMEDICS

G'day Derek.

Responses below marked DKC - "". I do not consider this message to be confidential. Pass it on as you see fit.

Damien.

From: "Derek Clarkson"
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN"
Cc: "Rik van Zuylenkom" "Ellis, Tony J"
"Kate Donohue" "DJ McCarthy"
Sent: Saturday, July 23, 2005 10:40 PM
Subject: Re: PARAMEDICS

Derek - Yes I have been in contact with the MP's via Perry. We have already had a positive response from them and they are will be talking to BMW about getting the bikes again.

DKC - "The MPs are the Military Police as seen on the DVDs I supplied. I know about the Paramedics. The MPs want to be involved as in the past."

Derek - On the other matter. I regard this as a private matter of personalities between yourself and Anton. Anton has always done a good job on the GP Run and other marshalled events so I have no doubt that he can do this. He, like yourself, is a strong willed person and when strong willed people don't get a long, things tend to get blown out of all proportion.

This is all this is and I don't think bringing a personal matter to an QGM will achieve anything or reflect well on those concerned.

DKC - "Regarding this as a personal matter between me and Anton Lange is a cop out. This is not personal. Anton Lange is not a strong willed person nor is he suitable to take on the role of Toy Run Chief Marshal. Last year he consistently undermined the work of Chief Marshal Alan Riley and myself because it suited him. He was actively involved in the dumping of historical and other material from the MRA store. He is the last member of the Gomperts/Money faction still involved in MRA administration. Anton Lange's involvement in the MRA Toy Run was not in the best interests of the membership last year. He failed to turn up for the Dry Run and had to be sacked on the day. When confronted with a situation of his own making he goes to water. Exactly what you do not need when you are responsible for people's safety. **Anton Lange was drummed out of a major bike club** and when asked to undergo a voluntary police check for all MRA Board members, he refused. I volunteered for the same police check. Several members are of the opinion that Anton Lange may not be a suitable person to have in a position of responsibility at an event for children. I am still happy to undergo a police check. Is Lange?"

Derek - I would ask that you not raise this motion (DKC - "of no confidence in Lange as MRA Chief Marshal".) as I don't believe it will achieve anything positive for the MRA or the Toy Run. I cannot and will not stop you from raising it as it is your privilege as a member. However I will not support it. I believe it is my choice as Toy Run Organiser this year to choose who does what job on the event. The only people who can override that are the Board who are my bosses.

DKC - "It is most definitely my right to move a motion of no confidence at an MRA QGM. If the motion does not pass the members vote by secret ballot, I will accept that. A vote of the MRA members at a proper general meeting overrules your 'bosses'. That's the democratic rule that Alex Money and Marcel Gomperts, backed by Lange, ignored so many times. I've worked directly and indirectly on 27 Toy Runs. The event is in serious trouble and part of the problem is Anton Lange. This motion is a matter of conscience not of personalities."

Derek - If you choose to raise this motion then you must also raise one on no confidence in myself as well. Firstly because I selected Anton and secondly because I cannot do an effective job as Organiser if members are continuously allowed to second guess and interfere with what I am trying to achieve.

DKC - "I sympathise but I won't be pressured into a motion against you because I've seen you both work. You are an asset to the MRA Anton Lange is, in my experience, a liability. Last year when I was Toy Run Organiser my work was continuously interfered with and undermined. Examples: 1. The failure of the Board members present to allow me to lead the A TEAM meeting, as I had a mandate with written authorisation, to do, where SC Vipond announced the 'tranching was not negotiable'. 2. Anton Lange's undermining of the TOY RUN 27 team and the DRY RUN then childish behaviour at TOY RUN 27 so he had to be sacked.

There's more. Much of it documented in my report and on the DVDs. What the Melbourne Toy Run needs now is a permanent home and stability. If you can't nail that down this year I doubt there will be a 30th Anniversary MRA Melbourne TOY RUN. You have what it takes to run an event this big. You lack experience and maybe the "hard heart" required to do this job BUT you can do it if you use your assets and discard your liabilities.

Anton Lange is a liability to the Melbourne Toy Run. Sure he's OK at a local social ride or doing the GP Run where all that's required is parking the bikes in a line done main street. Police and the Council do the real work and all Anton has to do is be seen. He likes being seen. And many of us have seen him go from Gomperts/Money's loyal henchman to Beardon's buddy to his current position.

You cannot afford to worry about my feelings or Anton's. Look at the big picture. The event is for NEEDED KIDS. It's spin off is PR for the MRA's road safety work and MRA credibility generally. You are responsible for getting people to donate to help kids and for their safety on the run. Can you really afford to have a Chief Marshal with this much baggage?

I will reconsider the motion of no confidence, not withdraw it. Perhaps if Anton and I both do a voluntary police check and both come up clean? I'll wait to see what other MRA members say after reading this."

Damien Codognotto OAM

MRA Life Member.

Previous email:

I will not deal with Anton Lange. Anton Lange did enormous damage to Toy Run 27 and had to be dismissed on the day. I will raise the matter at the QGM.

I will refer the paramedics to you when I have more info.

Have you contacted the MPs?

Damien.

From: "Derek Clarkson"
To: "UNCLE DAMIEN" Cc: "BLOOD CHALLENGE - ULYSSES PERRY" "Rik van Zuylekom" "Anton Lange" "Kate Donohue"
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 9:45 AM
Subject: Re: PARAMEDICS

Thanks for making that contact Damien.

Yes I would love to have these guys along as part of the team for the day. If they can contact myself or Anton please.

Regards,
Derek

On Tue, 19 Jul 2005 02:37, UNCLE DAMIEN wrote:
G'day Perry.

There was a story in the Ulysses Club Magazine, Issue 86, Feb. 2005. Page 40. The headline was TWO WHEEL PARAMEDICS ON GREAT VICTORIAN BICYCLE RIDE. It was written by Bill Briggs.

He writes. "The team includes Bill Briggs (Melbourne Branch, Bruce Rae & Alan Kemp (Ballarat Branch), Andrew Black & David Bourke."

I would like to see these riders on the 28th MRA Melbourne Toy Run on December 11, 2005. It would be a safety feature of course, but it would be excellent, and mutual, PR. The paramedics on a big ride would make very good TV and newspaper pictures. Can you put me in touch with these blokes?
Alternatively you could give them the Melbourne Toy Run 28 Organiser's contacts. The Organiser is

Derek Clarkson
Many thanks.

Damien.
