

AMCN 15/11/06

MRAA UNREST CONTINUES

MRAA president Dale Maggs says other board members have given him the impression they want him to stand down, as rifts widen within the organisation over its decision to dump founding member Damien Codognotto.

Maggs has been critical of the board's handling of the vote against Codognotto that took place in a special general meeting (SGM) on 30 September this year.

Meanwhile, Codognotto claims the SGM was illegal and, therefore, the decision to stand him down and strip him of his life membership ('MRAA Dumps Codognotto', Vol 56 No 9) is invalid.

He is expected to fight the decision, which he says is "part of a long-running vilification campaign" to

remove him from the MRAA.

Maggs denies the SGM was illegal but says he believes the board had not been completely transparent to members in its intentions.

"I believe they [the board] wanted to limit the information available to members to get this matter over and done with as soon as possible," Maggs said. "But they have all been, as I see it, driven by their emotions and feelings that have been passed down by previous boards.

"I won't be stepping down because members need direction and I don't believe the members are getting clear and transparent information — especially when it concerns discipline."

The dispute erupted

after a scuffle involving Codognotto and Don McCarthy at the SGM. McCarthy has since resigned as MRAA treasurer.

Codognotto denies McCarthy's accusations of violence against him, and eyewitnesses have provided conflicting accounts.

"I hit no one," said Codognotto.

Despite a matter concerning Codognotto being resolved in the Dispute Centre of Victoria earlier this year, the SGM was called after some MRAA board members were dissatisfied with the outcome.

"We need to remember the MRAA is about motorcycling, not about personalities and grudge matches," said Maggs.