

# M.R.A.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr Brian Wilkins,  
[REDACTED]  
Glebe, N.S.W. 2037.

P.O. Box 48, Sandy Bay,  
Tasmania, 7005.

Dear Brian Wilkins,

Who are you and where do you get off?

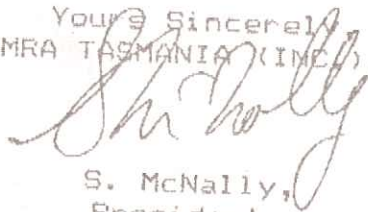
I believe you received a letter from one of the hardest workers in the MRA Australia-wide, where he had put a set of proposals to you and all states in Australia. Your reply was insulting, to say the least. Whether you personally think it's right or wrong, as national President to give someone a reply of that nature, makes me wonder how you gained that position. In the two years of doing your job, I have never even heard your name as a representative of MRA. So what exactly have you been doing?

As President of Australia's only stable and financial MRA branch at the moment, maybe you should have a better look at how things are done professionally. We are, at the present moment, one of the only states recruiting new members and maintaining our current members. We may be the smallest state in Australia but we have managed to put together the second largest Toy Run in Australia. We call it co-operation, which in simple man's terms, so you can understand, means working together.

No-one is saying David Closs's proposals are the only way to head, but at the moment we need an area to direct ourselves towards. As I see it, there are only two people at the national level working their arses off. One of them being David Closs and the other being Damian Codognotto. So what have you been doing? It would also be nice to get all the information as to your aims on a national level, but with the information we have, which is nothing, it's hard to know what direction we should take on situations such as ADR regulations and lights-on laws. I would have at least expected some correspondence on the way you would like us to head as a national body. But obviously you are not doing anything, or if you are, why not let the people who are working for you know what is happening.

I strongly suggest to you to get your arse into gear and get this organisation working properly, or resign and let someone else do the job who is more capable.

Yours Sincerely  
MRA TASMANIA (INC).

  
S. McNally,  
President.

# M.R.A.

Teorale, 39 Wally Way,  
Tasmania, 7005.

Dear Damian

First let us thank you for your support and information

"Lights-on". As a result, we have arranged a protest ride to Parliament House. regarding

On another issue, we have publically expressed our concerns regarding A.M.C. and MRA Australia. Infact we have resigned from A.M.C. as of 23rd January. As far as MRA Australia is concerned we have expressed our dissatisfaction with its performance and would be interested in pursuing with MRA Victoria some course of action to achieve what MRA Australia should be.

Recent discussions with you have indicated MRA Victoria is prepared to to take on the role of MRA Australia.

We would like to offer tentative support for the idea pending further discussions.

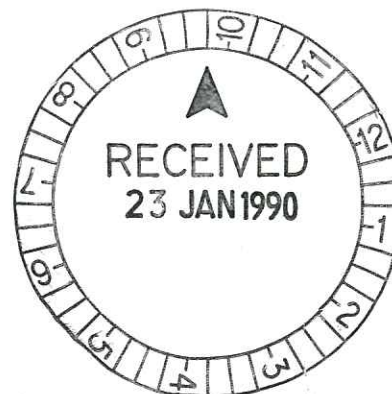
To cut the letter short, what's in it for us?, what's it going to cost?, and what do you want from us?. Also some idea of structure, policies and constitution would help speed the process up.

We are currently evaluating our position with the current" MRA Australia and are prepared to support whole heartedly any body or organisation who can represent our interests at a national level effectively.

We look forward to fruitful discussions.

Yours sincerely

*S. McNally*  
S. McNally  
President  
MRA TASMANIA



14/4/90

Mr Scot McNally  
President  
MRA Tas.  
P. O. BOX 48,  
Sandy Bay. 7005

Dear Scot,

the recent attacks on Iain Clarke in AMCN have done nothing to make me want to improve relations with your Branch. Iain has been a hard working and loyal MRA member and his heart is certainly with tasy. He has promoted the Tas Rally over many years through his column in AMCN and I am sure his work has been a major contributor to the ongoing success of the event.

But even if he has not attracted a single person to the Tas Rally through his writing the kind of thinking that is displayed in the letters of Mr M N Lunch, Mr R T John & Mr S G Blizzard is what has caused much of the MRA to decay. Petty parochialism combined with a spoiled-brat/can't-take-criticism attitude has turned me personally right off. I dont need that kind of bullshit.

If the catering was good then rally goers will return and a single letter reasonably worded would have been enough. If it was bad then the criticism is valid. I trust Iain's judgement. He has been to more rallies than just about anyone I know and it was his opinion, which he is entitled to, that the catering at the Tas Rally this time was not as good as in years gone by. So what? AMCN would be just as happy not to have a rally column which may be why the letters got printed so prominently. Then again, maybe not. But if Rallying Round does go then your guys contributed.

Many of your rally goers come through this city and I for one will not be saying anymore nice things about the Tas Rally until Iain gets a letter of apology at least from Blizzard.

I love Tasy but I have only made it to two Tas Rallies due to work etc. I was hoping to get a group together for '91 but not now. I would prefer to take my business to people who recognise a man who has worked hard and long for motorcycling as Iain has.

This is not an official letter and I hope it does not cause problems for you. I just dont like parochialism and I dont like folk who cant take criticism.

Sincerely,

  
Damien Codognotto

cc Iain Clarke  
Dave Closs

## Tas Rally 1

In reply to Mr Clarke's comments on the catering efforts at the tenth Tas Rally: I have attended all ten Tas Rallies and have given total personal commitment to the culinary needs at the last nine rallies.

To say that I am dismayed, insulted and disgusted at Mr Clarke's findings is an understatement. If Mr Clarke was dissatisfied with our voluntary — I repeat, voluntary — efforts and, after standing, sleeping and partying within conversation distance of the said area of complaint, then why did he leave such personally insulting remarks to the apparently 'safe' inside cover of this national and, up to this stage, reputable magazine?

I am physically and mentally exhausted before, during and after a Tas Rally, but it is an event I can't wait to participate in each year. However, to have someone who himself was at one time personally involved, and at executive level, make such outrageous statements knowing full well the incredible effort and sacrifice needed, has left me in total disbelief and makes me wonder whether it is all worth it or not.

Michael Noel Lunch,  
Ulverstone,  
Tas

## Tas Rally 2

I am writing as a member of MRA North West Tasmania to voice my disgust at the report Iain Clarke wrote about Tas Rally 90 held at Mathinna.

Being a volunteer in the catering tent this year I was very pissed off about his description of the food being marinated in metho, and suggest that Mr Clarke stop drinking the stuff himself and get his facts right and stop knocking people that were willing to have a go to make Tas Rally 90 the great success it was.

And one more thing please keep the mongrel on the mainland next year so that we won't have any more bullshit spread around.

RT John,  
Burnie,  
Tas

## Tas Rally 3

Rapidly rising blood pressure, acute aggression and hardly containable temper were just three of a lot of bad feelings, brimming over after trying to digest the dribbling of Iain Clarke — re Tas Rally 1990.

Just who the hell does he think he is? Where does this creton (*sic*) think he gets his credibility to slander the incredible

effort of volunteers who bust their guts to put together a rally, be it a Tas Rally or any other.

As president and catering manager of MRA North West Tasmania, I feel compelled to point out a few home truths about Mr Clarke's attack on my members. (*The letter descends into personal abuse, which has been cut — Ed.*)

A late start with breakfast on Saturday morning at Tas Rally, yes I will admit that it wasn't up to our normal standard, a crowd beyond expectations at 7.00am is fairly taxing, as for the taste of meths (*more abuse — Ed.*)

We spent two months working ourselves silly to get the food operation to Tas Rally 1990. We dished up more food this year than in any of the previous nine. How about scotch fillet and salad for the evening meal or if you didn't fancy that you could choose a casserole on a bed of rice, all for under \$5.00.

The North West volunteers served food 20 hours a day starting Friday night and finishing with a record breakfast crowd on Monday morning. All done in the spirit of motorcycling. Absolute care is always taken by myself, as manager of catering, to present fresh, good quality ingredients to our brother rallyers. We are not a professional monolith backed by huge dollars.

Having been on the state executive of MRA Tasmania with Mr Clarke in years gone by (*Iain was president of MRA South for three months — Ed*) I know only too well (*yet more abuse, plus reworded repeats of the above, except for...*)

Yes we sold out of soft drink, but no mention was made of our two trips out to buy more stock, all at our cost. We actually had soft drinks on sale until late Sunday afternoon, but I forgot, poor old Mr Clarke was at the time slaving over a knapsack for the wet T-shirt competition.

Iain's other major cockup was for con-


gratulating Mike Meyman and the North West Register for organising the rally when in fact it was Mike Meyman and the Northern Register who did all the hard work for the rally. They deserve better than that.

(*More abuse — Ed.*)  
Stephen G Blizzard,  
President, MRA NW Registrar (*sic*),  
Tasmania

Well, Steve, you've vented your spleen. For reasons of good taste (not to mention defamation) we've deleted your personal views of Iain Clarke's background, personality and friends. Essentially, Iain's problem was that he's been pushing Tas Rally in his column for a year — stretching the limits of acceptability in a national magazine — and then had to put up with readers who complained to him about the catering at the rally. Readers who might not have come if he hadn't told them to. Should he have kept his criticism in-house and blown his credibility? Sounds like it.

Thanks for pointing out the culinary delights to be had for \$5.00, because many people (not only Iain) were turned off after breakfast and emptied food stocks in at least two townships in the area. They obviously didn't realise what they were missing. As for soft drinks: according to a mother of two nagging kids (and there were quite a few, you must admit), drinks ran out on Saturday and a mercy dash in the afternoon was sold out in an hour; a second dash on Sunday morning was also sold out quickly.

We gather from Iain that the subject of catering at Tas Rallies has been debated at various MRA Tas committees in past years, and that advice/criticism has been passed on to the MRA North-West catering team. Concerns like these from members should not be ignored or rejected. Basically, folks, your Tas Rally has come out of the backwater...



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Peter Bricknell  
13 Raglan Street  
Port Melbourne  
3207

13/12/1991

The Editor  
The Motorcyclist  
MRA (NSW)  
PO Box 988  
St Marys  
2760

Dear Sir,

I have just read Hugh Johannsen's recent letter to "The Motorcyclist" and would like to correct some dangerous inaccuracies. There is no campaign to confuse M.R.A. NSW members, or anybody else, and Damien Codognotto is not trying to get himself into State Parliament.

Damien is a (more often than not) struggling small business man and when the day comes that he sees no need for riders to be protected from Government anti-motorcycle bureacrats and a road system that works against us he has ambitions towards media production.

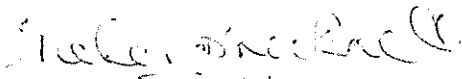
Here is an excerpt from a recent M.R.A.A. letter to Australian Motorcycle News. "M.R.A. Australia is the original M.R.A. and the only one in direct consultation with the Federal Government. We have members across Australia, but this does not mean local M.R.A.'s are less valid."

All we are trying to do is gather sufficient members to work professionally against Federal Government anti-motorcycle legislation and promote a better image for motorcycling, which should in turn lead to greater respect and increased safety on our roads.

There is no need for any conflict between M.R.A.'s. Lets not forget what we are all here to do. If we lose our watchdog capacity motorcycles will be history.

Devic.ive and incorrect comments such as those made by Mr Johannsen can only lead to a lack of credibility for all and the collapse of the motorcycle lobby movement. The bastards we should all be fighting are in Canberra, although it should be remembered that some of them seem to be on our side. If we don't fight THEM together we can forget about riding our bikes.

Yours faithfully



Peter Bricknell  
M.R.A.A. and proud to be a motorcyclist.