

August  
2000



# MRAA NEWS

## PRESIDENT DEANS BIT

I have created a monster. My wife read in our last newsletter (*actually it would have been the one before*) about the Vicroads Road reporting hotline. I think she has reported every imperfection in every street in our area. This includes traffic lights and obscured traffic signs. Alright I may be exaggerating a little bit. But my point is that this line has been set up to service motorcyclists only and it does work. Every legitimate complaint received about poor roads is fixed. BUT, if we don't use it, we loose it. The number is 9854 2899.

In this issue you will find out how the Melbourne City Council is trying to change footpath parking laws. The MRAA has fought to stop these changes, but now we need your voice. Inside you will find contact details for the council and you can request the document on the proposed changes. The more people who request this, the more it shows to those who think they know best, how we, the ones affected, feel.

We are currently trying to get 4B's happening again. For those who are not aware of 4B's, it is a hospital visiting service for injured motorcyclists. We visit the rider, supplying them with magazines, books and company. If it's needed, we can also

supply legal advise through a lawyer. What we need is people who would like to volunteer their time to visit these riders. Where you live depends on which hospital or rehabilitation centre you would visit. And it is not a very time consuming thing. If you want to know more about it, ring me.

Which leads me to my last point. We do not have full time staff. In fact we do not have any paid staff. The office is usually not manned during the day. Someone will always call you back if you leave a message and an after hours contact number. We are working on getting funding, and I hope this will allow us to put on a staff member. I have also learned that dealing with government departments is slow and frustrating. But we will persevere.

Ride safe

Dean

## EVENT SHORT LIST

The complete list of events and information is on page 7.

August

- 6<sup>th</sup> Social Ride
- 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion night
- 12<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance
- 12<sup>th</sup> WSR video night
- 29<sup>th</sup> General Maintenance evening
- 29<sup>th</sup> WSR AGM

September

- 2<sup>rd</sup> MRA AGM – Social ride after
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance day
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR video night
- 12<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night
- 26<sup>th</sup> Suspension & tyre Maintenance evening.
- 26<sup>th</sup> WSR meeting

October

- 8<sup>th</sup> Social Ride
- 10<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night
- 14<sup>th</sup> WSR Maintenance day
- 14<sup>th</sup> WSR video night
- 31<sup>st</sup> General maintenance evening
- 31<sup>st</sup> WSR meeting

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY

L S Gill & Son Printers  
Thomas Avenue  
Warburton 3799

The Motorcycle Riders Association

ABN 28703101330

22 Ross Street South Melbourne

Ph: 96991811

Fax: 96991833

Email [mraa@rabbit.com.au](mailto:mraa@rabbit.com.au)

WEBSITE: [www.mraa.org.au](http://www.mraa.org.au)



*The last nine months have seen us stabilise our costs and consolidate our debts*

## TREASURERS REPORT

**W**e have made it to the end of another financial year. Income was well down on last year and this was due to two main areas. Sale of stock was down by \$7,000.00 and donations were down by \$28,000.00 on the previous year. On the brighter side, membership was up by \$3,000.00.

The last nine months have seen us stabilise our costs and consolidate our debts. Moving to Ross Street has been a sound financial decision as, although our income has been reduced, we have been able to maintain a home base, initiate a regular Calendar of events and prepare and distribute a regular newsletter within our financial means.

We still have two long-term debts, one to Motorcycle Victoria, and the second with NMC/Damien Codognotto. Both debts have been reduced during the last year and we will continue to make payments as income permits. Normal running costs have been reduced where possible.

Some good news (I think). Our current income level allows us the choice of not registering for GST and therefore not charging GST on memberships and stock (on stock we pay the GST). At this stage we will keep costs as is and will monitor the situation and inform you of any change. Should income exceed expectations and the need to change our GST status arise we will have to charge GST at the full 10%.

A full financial report for 1999/2000 will be available at the AGM.

Regards, Faye

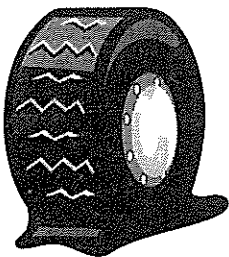
## FEELING DEPRESSED-A LITTLE FLAT

**E**ver wondered about what you would do if you were out one day enjoying the fruits of this wonderful country of ours, and you get a flat tyre. Well, whilst at Southside Motorcycles the other day I noticed a small kit which can have your TUBELESS tyre repaired and inflated in 10 minutes. The kit consists of a large "T" handle with a reaming tool, looks a bit like a drill bit, a very large needle with a large eye in the end, and several strips of a sticky tar like substance. You first locate the puncture and pull out the cause. Insert the reaming tool into the "T" handle and push into the puncture hole several times to make the hole larger. Put the needle type tool into the "T" handle and thread one of the strips into the eye. Then insert the needle into the hole you have just enlarged till half of the strip is in the tyre. Slowly withdraw the needle out of the tyre, the strip will stay in place. Using the knife supplied, cut off the excess strip. The puncture is now repaired. To inflate the tyre, you can buy small canisters of compressed air. Two of these will inflate a tyre. The whole kit will fit into one hand. The repair is recommended as being temporary only but to the people I have spoken to it has proved to be quite long lasting.

*(Having bought one of these repair kits for our Bathurst trip our beloved leader was heard to say "hope we get a puncture so I can test it out". As he and I were travelling together I didn't share his wish.*

*About the last 45 minutes of the trip as we headed into Bathurst I was cold and tired and couldn't work out why I had suddenly forgotten how to corner. Did any of those 40 or so hikes that passed me actually see Dean throwing little metal spikes at me so his wish could come true? I want witnesses!*

*He insists it was only coincidence. He did repair the puncture using the kit. It took about 25 minutes - OK it would have been less if I hadn't been having hysterics watching him make the hole in the tyre, of my 5 week old bike, bigger. That was in April, 2,500k later it holds pressure and I can't find where the repair was so I guess it's OK - Kerri)*



## July Social ride to Daylesford

**W**ith a good weather forecast for Sunday, I was looking forward to this month's social ride to Daylesford. But with a 9.00am departure time it was a struggle to get to the MRA office in South Melbourne. ZZZZZ.Z.Z.

There's a loud rumble down Clarendon street and Glenn turns up on his new steed, a Suzuki TLR 1000 in bright safety yellow (mmmm I think the, "I didn't see you" excuse wont work on this bike!!) and its soooo light, he exclaims after shutting the big twin down. Well I suppose he did have a '97 ish ZX9R previously.

With nine bikes, we head off on an overcast cool morning. Our first stop was Bacchus Marsh where the prez asked me whether we should stop at the Two Wheels Café . . . . . um . . . its closed down (bit sad really.). Kerri leads us out of town on her midnight blue Ducati and out onto the long and scenic Bacchus Marsh Gisborne road.

Eddie's GS850 (one of six bikes he owns) decides nope its too early and begins to play up but he manages to limp into Woodend. We decide to skip the twisties around Mt Macedon as it is cold and the road is damp. . . . .

"W" is for Woodend and Warmth, with the winter sun doing its best to take the morning chill out of the air as we sip our coffees at the Woodend café and bakery.

"Let's top up our fuel here", sounded like good sense at the time. . . .it didn't work out that way. I'm waiting behind a brumby ute which is waiting to turn right. Boy that sun is nice and warm . . .hang on. . . is that ute now reversing ???? YEP. . . .BEEEP BEEEP goes the bike horn (OK, it really went "beep. . . Beep" Why are bike horns so pathetically quiet????) . . .No effect . . .Mr Sulu take evasive action. . .its no use, the Subaru is determined to say an intimate hello to my 600 Ninja. With the bike at standstill and leaning hard as possible to the left, the cars bumper just passes the front nose cowl and neatly rips off the right indicator stalk. . . my leg is coming next, get ready to abandon ship. I like my bike, but I like my leg more. . . .the car stops.

The lady apologises feverishly, she tells me she has never had an accident in decades and is happy she didn't knock me over and reverse over me. ME TOO. I think she forgot to tick the box beside the Rear View Mirror option on the Subaru catalogue. With the indicator clipping back into the fairing, we're on our way again.

Barry on his Virago 1100 is doing a great job through the sweeping corners out near Tylden somewhere. I'm smiling to myself as the Virago is setting a brisk pace with three sports bikes and a Hyabusa in tow through the countryside. It's not quite what the marketing guys and girls would have us believe on TV. That's the good thing about MRA rides, it's about having fun, not how fast you can go.

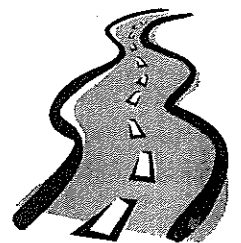
We arrive at the Daylesford Boat Shed café. I've never been to Daylesford before and this place is great. Go there and sit at your table beside the waters edge and soak up that warm afternoon sunshine whilst chatting to friends, which is exactly what we did.

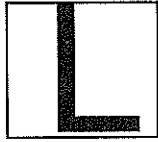
Hope to see more of you on the next ride. That includes you L and P riders out there. Hopefully, I should have painted my Ninja bright yellow by then.

Garry



*We decide to skip the twisties around Mt Macedon as it is cold and the road is damp. . . . .*





## LETS FOLLOW HER

**S**ome of us cannot remember back to when we first started riding bikes. Whilst for others, it still remains the "one day" dream. We are happy to announce that Johanna has volunteered to be our new guinea pig.

Johanna will soon be going for her Victorian bike learners permit and is allowing us to follow her progress as she enters the world of motorcycling for the first time. Every month she will keep us all updated on her tales as they happen. It should make for some great reading and bring a smile to the faces of the old hands, while also providing a fresh vantage point for others who may be interested in taking the plunge.

Will she make it and get her learners permit and then full licence? What bike will she buy? What characters will she meet on the way? What does the future hold? Johanna's 1<sup>st</sup> instalment is waiting for you on the MRA website [www.mraa.org.au](http://www.mraa.org.au)

## MELB-MOTO

**M**elb-moto is a forum where the MRA can quickly send out relevant information on motorcycling issues.

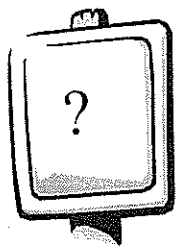
In addition, it also allows individuals to reply or post their own viewpoints. The forum was set up and is managed by Dey Alexander who is the lady responsible for the MRAA's website.

To subscribe simply send a blank e mail to [melb-moto-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:melb-moto-subscribe@egroups.com)

There is no cost and you can unsubscribe at any time.

## WARNING ON AIRPORT

**V**ictorian law allows motorcyclists to park on footpaths provided they don't obstruct pedestrians. BUT! Airports are on Commonwealth land, subject to Commonwealth law and Canberra does not think footpath parking is a good idea. You face fines for parking normally at Tullamarine (Melbourne) Airport. The MRA has complained that this legal trap should be sign posted. Signs did go up but it seems they have come down again. Couriers can use the 2 minute drop-off zones in front of the terminals but if there is an official about it is a good idea to check it.



## MRA CRANBOURNE GP RUN.

**W**ith the support of the City of Casey and the GP Corp. it looks like this years run will be bigger and better than ever. We will meet at Cranbourne on Saturday 28 October for a 10.00am departure. This gives plenty of time to catch up with other riders in Cranbourne and still make it to the track in time for qualifying. There will be food, drinks and entertainment and a celebrity to wave of the ride.

The run is a great way to travel to the Island. The locals all come out to see the bikes, the kids (old and young) wave us on our way. So join the 5,000 or so other riders on their way to the Island.

*To subscribe to melb-moto simply send a blank e mail to [melb-moto-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:melb-moto-subscribe@egroups.com)*

## LINDA

**M**any of you will be aware that Linda has been designing our newsletter since we began in this format. On May 23 Linda was involved in an accident. I'll let Linda's partner Steve tell it in his words.

"Linda was riding her motorcycle home from work when a woman driver decided that a 'Give Way' sign was actually a 'Go straight ahead' sign with an attitude problem. The car hit Linda, sending her flying – the bike then went on to hit a parked BMW sedan. Linda is OK – she suffered a broken right humerus (??upper arm between elbow and shoulder) a few cracked or broken ribs on her right side, a bruised lung, a broken right shin, a very badly dislocated left thumb (which required surgery) and a cut above her right eye. She now has a titanium plate holding her arm-bone together, and a titanium rod in her shin. There was talk of a fractured vertebrae that was a bit of a worry but seems OK. (Yeah, I know, that's the worst description of OK I've ever seen)

I don't know how long she's going to be in hospital, but I think it's going to be a fair while. Stuart and I are doing well – it's a bit hard to explain to a 2 ½ year old that his mum won't be coming home for a long time, and that the funny person in the hospital with all the pipes, tubes and things is his mother."

*The car hit Linda, sending her flying – the bike then went on to hit a parked BMW sedan.*

Linda is now home although going back to hospital on a regular basis.

OUR BEST WISHES LINDA FOR A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY.

## CAN YOU HELP?

**P**eter Costello has asked whether any of our members can help him get in contact with his son Andrew Peter Costello – known as Cossa. Andrew recently rang home leaving a message for his parents saying that he needed their help. He didn't leave a contact number. When they tried the mobile number they had it had been disconnected. Andrew lived in the Knox area, belongs to a motorbike club, rode a Suzuki a couple of years ago but traded it. His parents are not sure what he now rides but are sure he does still have a bike. If you know Andrew or can help his parents contact him, his father, Peter, can be contacted during business hours on 9707 2089. Andrew's family, particularly his mother, just want to know that he is OK.

**J**ohn Harris of QLD is looking for a copy of a book entitled 'James Flood Book of Motorcycling'. The book was printed as a fundraiser for the Western General Hospital some time ago. He has recently purchased one of the bikes (speedway bike and sidecar) featured in the book. Contact 0418 731 333 if you can give John some info on this book.

## BATHURST MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL

**A**ll who attended agree this event was well run with plenty to do and see. Sadly there was just too much on at Easter and not enough riders attended Bathurst to make the money needed to ensure the events ongoing success. It will be our loss if this does not become an annual event. Thanks to Event Management Services who ran the event and supported the MRA. *(One thing which did surprise us was the lack of support from Bathurst. Not like the Island where everyone welcomes the bikes.)*

## WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

**A**s motorcyclists, we are unique in many ways – we take up less space in our congested world and have many other distinct advantages. It is therefore necessary for us to communicate these facts to our fellow-non-motorcyclist human beings and stand up for our special rights on this planet. This will ensure that we will continue to enjoy the pleasures of motorcycling in just the way it was intended – not in the way some bureaucrat in a Volvo intended.

Having started life on a bike 17 years, 23 bikes, 3 accidents, and a million kilometers ago, in a land where you couldn't fight for your rights even if you wanted to, I realized the importance of this long ago. I am fortunate enough to be alive – some of my friends were not so lucky. I would probably have gone in the same direction had I not taken some drastic steps. I decided to get away from it all and migrate to Australia. Arriving here with high hopes and aspirations just like any migrant, I am happy to say that I made the right decision. Yet, months later, with a steady job and a pair of hot wheels and everything going well, I still wanted more. That's why I joined the MRA – to uphold something that is very important in my life – my rights.

You, the reader of this newsletter, are probably not aware how special you are. The reason? Well, you are part of a special group of people that believe in an organization that stands up for something very important – your rights as a motorcyclist. This is why I became a member and I am sure this is why you did too. Sure, it was an opportunity to meet people of similar interests and go on a few social rides but in between the fun and frolic, I realized that close to the heart of the MRA was the fight for issues that affect you and me in our daily lives. I was disappointed however, to hear that a lot of people, who were earlier members, had not renewed their memberships. I wish more riders would realize how important it is for them to remain a member. To realize what it really means.

Think about it.

Joe

*That's why I joined the MRA – to uphold something that is very important in my life – my rights.*

## NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT REDUCTION COUNCIL

**T**his organisation have a five year project looking into the issues around motor vehicle theft. To date they have been working on the car side of things but have recently contacted us as they are about to start investigating the motorcycle side. Although they are still sourcing bike figures they were able to advise that while 85% of stolen cars are recovered (some torched, etc) only about 42% of stolen bikes are recovered. Australia has the second worst vehicle theft rate in the world, behind U.K. You can look up the latest info on the website: [www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au) – remember they have only just started looking into bikes so information is still being gathered.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 6<sup>th</sup> Social Ride-leaving at 10.00 am from MRA office (destination decided on the day)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion night- starts 7.30 pm at MRA office
- 12<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance day at 12 noon 7 Boyle CRT West Sunshine
- 12<sup>th</sup> WSR video night -3m screen, surround sound, DVD 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 29<sup>th</sup> General Maintenance evening-7.30 PM at MRA office. **\*\*Please book!!**
- 29<sup>th</sup> WSR MRA AGM-8 PM at Fun City 234 Ballarat rd Brooklyn

### September

- 2<sup>rd</sup> Saturday MRA AGM 11.00am MRA office (and a ride after if we have time!!)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> NO RIDE DAY – IT'S FATHERS DAY
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance day at 12 noon 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR video night-3m screen, surround sound, DVD, 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 12<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night-starts at 7.30pm at MRA office
- 26<sup>th</sup> Suspension & tyre Maintenance evening- 7.30 PM at MRA office. **\*\*Please book!!**
- 26<sup>th</sup> WSR meeting at Fun City 234 Ballarat Rd Brooklyn

### October

- 8<sup>th</sup> Social Ride leaving at 10 am from MRA office
- 10<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night at 7.30 PM at MRA office
- 14<sup>th</sup> WSR Maintenance day at 12 noon, 7 Boyle CRT, W Sunshine
- 14<sup>th</sup> WSR video night-3m screen, surround sound, DVD, 7 Boyle St, W Sunshine
- 28<sup>th</sup> MRA Cranbourne GP run – leaves Cranbourne 10.00am
- 31<sup>st</sup> General maintenance evening-starts at 7.30 PM at MRA office. **\*\*Please book!!**
- 31<sup>st</sup> WSR meeting at Fun City 234 Ballarat Rd Brooklyn

### November

- 5<sup>th</sup> Social Ride leaving at 10 am from MRA office
- 11<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance day at 12 noon 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 11<sup>th</sup> WSR video night-3m screen, surround sound, DVD, 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 14<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night at 7.30 PM at MRA office
- 26<sup>th</sup> Bikes by the Bay. Williamstown motorcycle expo.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Tyre & suspension Maintenance evening- 7.30pm at MRA office. **\*\*Please book!!**
- 28<sup>th</sup> WSR meeting at Fun City 234 Ballarat Rd, Brooklyn

### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Social ride leaving at 10 am from MRA office
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR maintenance day at 12 noon 7 Boyle CRT, W Sunshine
- 9<sup>th</sup> WSR video Night- 3m screen, surround sound, DVD, 7 Boyle CRT W Sunshine
- 10<sup>th</sup> MRA Toy Run join the other 15,000 riders and donate a toy for underprivileged kids**
- 12<sup>th</sup> Discussion Night at 7.30pm at MRA office
- 25<sup>th</sup> Santa's coming, if you renew your membership I will talk to him about that new bike you want.

**General Maintenance Nights**—Conducted by Steve from Southside Motorcycles. Covering basic items that should be checked regularly on your bike

**Tyre & Suspension Nights**-Run by Pablo's tyres. They explain the how's and why's on tyres, and the up's and down's on suspension.

**\*\*To book leave your name and contact number on the MRA answering service ph 9699 1811.**

**Discussion Nights**-Aim to give you an opportunity to talk to the MRA representatives on government committees . If you have questions or points to raise, this is the night to do it.

**Social Ride** – Bring your friends. Learners and inexperienced riders welcome. Please ensure your bike is roadworthy and fill up before we go.

## MOTORCYCLE FOOTPATH PARKING

### THE FACTS

- The Melbourne City Council's official policy is to oppose ALL motorcycle footpath parking (MFP).
- The MCC is currently actively seeking support from Vicroads and the State government to "control" footpath parking.
- The MCC has never publicly defined what the problem is with motorcycle footpath parking (MFP) and why it opposes it.
- Despite continual requests, the MCC has never provided the MRA with any data on the type, location or number of complaints concerning footpath parking in the CBD since its introduction 12 YEARS ago.
- The Bracks Labour Government policy is to retain Motorcycling Footpath Parking
- Victoria is the ONLY state in Australia where footpath parking is allowed.

### MRA'S STANCE

- Motorcycle Footpath Parking is not a problem within the CBD and has operated successfully for over 12 years state wide.
- The overwhelming majority of motorcyclists park their motorcycles on the footpath responsibly.
- The MCC is attempting to implement controls over a "problem" that has not been defined.

### HOW IT EFFECTS YOU

- The MCC is proposing changes to the law which will effectively eliminate up to 70% of areas where motorcycles currently park on the footpath in the CBD.
- These changes, if adopted, will not conflict with the State governments policy of supporting MFP as the MCC has not banned it. However, the guidelines will effectively eliminate MFP.

### WHAT THE NEW REGS WOULD REQUIRE

1. *Motorcycles to be parked parallel to the curb on all occasions.*
2. *No motorcycle to be parked closer than 700mm to the curb.*
3. *No motorcycle to be parked closer than 2m to the building line.*
4. *No motorcycle to be parked adjacent to another motorcycle.*
5. *No motorcycle to be parked within 1m of another motorcycle.*

These 5 points are from the *Planning, Development & Services* report (undated) on *Motorcycle Parking On Footpaths Within The City of Melbourne*. It's 3 pages long and available from *Engineering Services* (9658 8711 – email [termak@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:termak@melbourne.vic.gov.au)). Blanket rules rarely work. Parallel parking is good in some places, bad in others.

If adopted, these "controls" may be adopted state wide which affects you even if you never ride your bike into the CBD.

New information is coming up regarding this issue continuously. Check out the MRA website for our most up to date information. [www.mraa.org.au](http://www.mraa.org.au).

*The MCC is proposing changes to the law which will effectively eliminate up to 70% of areas where motorcycles currently park on the footpath in the CBD.*