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	President/Chairperson:	Justin Kilgariff	264 3638 H		
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS'	Vice President:	David Low	49 4534 H		
ASSOCIATION INC.	Secretary/Correspondence: Secretary/Minutes Treasurer:	Ian Marlow	258 0760 W		
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of S.A. G.P.O. Box 1895, Adelaide, S.A. 5001.	GENERAL MEETING: 8:00pm, St John Ambulance Centre 180 Tynte Street, NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006 See Calendar for Dates				
MRA:	MID NORTH	at an a down that i not see it	1. available for 66-1		
Phone: (08) 264 9810			096 96 9040		
经济冲。在这个时期后,14月,1883年。"增加。4月月	PRESIDENT: SECRETARY:	Tom Bunnet Greg Stevens	086 36 3348 H 088 65 2120 H		
Contributions invited.	TREASURER:	Malcolm Hill	086 35 2397 H		
Subscriptions gratis to members.	VICE:	Trevor Bowshire	。····································		
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retuined after publication.	PRESIDENT:	Andrew Butler	087 33 4646 H		
Opinions: Contributors and advert-		Vicki Eales	087 35 4287 H		
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reflect the views of the Association	VICE:	Graham Blackall	087 24 2837 H		
or Publisher.	POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 909, MILLICENT SA 5280 MEETINGS: Last Wednesday in month, Tiger Hotel, Tantanoola, 7:30pm				
All advertising enquiries to: – Adelaide Advertising Services. GPO Box 1617, Adelaide. 5001 Phone 212 6227.	- EDITORIAL -				
na sena municipa negativa de la companya de la comp En 1936 de la companya de la company En 1936 de la companya	As a re-elected member of the Br folio positions I have had to seriousl to the MRA and in particular my con	y think about the priority	of my committment		
Deadline – 1st of month previous to publication	I believe in continuing the works publication that can more than hol provides an information service to w and it provides an open forum for the	tarted by previous editors o d its own with others are hich members would not o	f producing a quality ound the country. It		
MRA	It is essentially a members' magazine relating to issues and concerns expressed by the members and based mainly on contributions from members. It is at time serious and at time humorous. Sometimes earthy but always informative and entertaining. It strikes a balance in just the right place and so it continues to be a magazine for all members. Centre Stand continues because of member support and so does the MRA. Thi is often overlooked as a positive feature of the organisation and one of its strengths This is what reaffirms my committment and that of the rest of the Branch Com mittee in continuing our efforts.				
COVER PHOTO: OFF TO THE TOY RUN					
	Merry Christmas and Ride Safe in	to the New Year.			
D ST, BORDERTOWN S268	Restautions 1 102 WOOLSHI		Ride Safe		
PUBLICATION: QUARTERLY - MARCH	BHRSH BIACHE		Haralo		
- JUNE - SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	With many stand of the literation of the stand of the sta				
	A TENDOM TET A				

MRA SA NOTES

* Good to see all the new and past members at the AGM at the talk by Dr Rod Cooter on deaths caused by full face helmets. I counted some 70 faces. Nice to see that a lot were not regulars at meetings. Let us know if this is the kind of activity we could put on more often.

* The editorial page lists a number of officers of the Association elected at the AGM. Others electedt at the same time were:

Computer/Membership Officer General Committee Members Daryl Jonathon

Ian Marlow Vanessa Jonathon Chris Fenech Michelle Kilgariff Steve Jolyon Porter

* The MRA 4Bs still have some bottles of their fundraising Port available for \$6:00 per bottle. If you are interested ring Daryl on 264 9810.

The Rolling Thunder Bike Show Best Club Display Trophy and \$200.00 prize donated by the MRA SA went to the SA Hells Angels.

* The MRA SA is desperately in need of a person competent to take minutes at the General and Committee meetings of the Association. Duties include typing and distributing the minutes. If you are interested call Justin or any other Committee member.

* We also need a correspondence secretary as Mike Giesecke has had to resign due to personal commitments. See Justin if you are interested. Many thanks to Mike for his years of Committee work.

* We Got It Wrong! The Sidecar Club phone numbers given in the last issue should be Tom (08) 269 6741, Mal and July (08) 362 4654.

* Rub shoulders with those you only ever read about at the MRA SA End of Year Show. You are invited to join us for drinks and nibbles at the North Adelaide Hotel, Tynte Street North Adelaide at 8:00pm Monday 17th of December.

Cheers to David Alm of Yulara N.T. He is the first member to sign up for 5 years membership. A sign of commitment to and confidence in the future of the MRA.

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

You have not heard from me for a while and my excuse is that I have been heavily involved in moving house. Actually the move itself did not take long before the unpacking and sorting still has not been properly finished.

It amazed me that I had accumulated so much "good stuff" Apart from the house, which took two trips with an 8 tonne van, it took me three days to clean out my shed!

Suffice it to say that I couldn't have done it without the "volunteers" from MRA and the Yamaha Club who worked very hard indeed.

I have managed to get involved in something interesting though. We were asked whether the MRA could provide some bikes for an act which was to be part of a charity function, Angela Condous (The Mayor's wife) was organising in support of the Mary Potter Hospice at Calvary Hospital.

The Act was to be part of a 60's night at the Adelaide Town Hall and was to be "The Leader of the pack". It involved three bikes, each carrying a member of the Swing Sisters trio, riding into the Town Hall ballroom, waiting while they did their act and then carrying them out again.

The three of us, myself, Peter Barnardo and Mark Howard took our bikes up in the lift and parked them on the balcony. All the town hall staff were worried about was oil drops on the carpet - it reminded me of the circus where the clown runs behind the elephant with a shovel and a broom.

On the night we were given black T-shirts to wear with "Who's Who" printed on them (he's Harry Who the fashion designer) and we were told we could keep them (at \$58 each I thanked him!). I have since been persuaded to give it to my wife Helen (actually she took it).

Whilst Peter, Mark and myself are probably the only three people to ride motorcycles into the Adelaide Town Hall Ballroom. I really don't remember much of going in or out, apart from the faces flashing by and the fact that my singer was moving and wriggling about so much I had trouble staying in a straight line.

It turned out to be an excellent night with plenty of drinks available and we met some very interesting people. This is just one of the sacrifices we make to keep the MRA in the public eye!



2 - MRA DECEMBER '90

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT



Sometimes it's difficult to keep your femininity when you are a lady motorcyclist. Besides the digs about being a butch, chain chewing bitch it's hard to stay ladylike when you have to abuse a car driver.

But I must admit I started to feel like a real motorcyclist only after I abused the first maniac who pulled out in front of me. After executing the correct breaking technique as learnt in my Rider Safe course I recovered quickly to yell something my mother told me never to say.

I'm sure all learners have similar problems, but I don't think men would have to put up with hoons in orange Escorts making odd suggestions at the traffic lights.

Perhaps the L plate for females should be extended to 'Lady' — then other road users would know they had something special on their hands. But its not all bad.

After being a pillion for several years getting a motorcycle license has only made me wish that I had done it sooner, although my mother probably would not have liked it. I can finally appreciate the thrill motorcycling brings and seeing the world rush by over someone elses' shoulder is just not on when you learn to do it solo. I've also come up with a few survival techniques for other women considering taking up the challenge.

THINK like a lady at all times. This helps when you have to abuse someone.

WHEN abuse is necessary, it's much better to yell something like "fool" rather than that other F-word.

SKIRTS and the latest wide-legged trousers are definitely out on a bike. It's hard to stop them embarrassing you when you are scooting along at the regulation 70km per hour.

DO NOT adjust your mirrors so that you can see if your hair has blown out of your helmet. This will happen no matter what you do.

DESPITE what some men do it's not cool to ride around with your jacket only done up halfway. Bug splats in the chest region can cause suspicious stains and permanent damage.

PLUCK is necessary for female motorcyclists. This helps when you have to get on your bike and ride away in front of the local deli/hangout for teenagers or dragging off hoons in orange Escorts or leaving the fortnightly MRA meetings. NEVER take abuse about your bike. Everyone has to start somewhere.

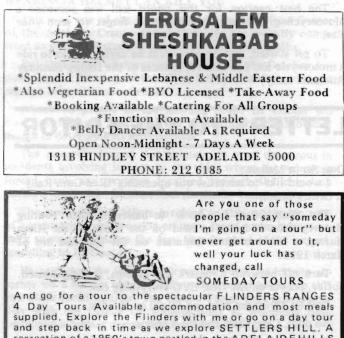
Theresa Rockley

B.J. SPEAKS OUT

How many of you read page 1? How many of you read what Harald writes? Who counts the names at the start of each issue? Did anyone read Goannas' whinge on page three of the June issue? Who was concerned at the loss of the Awareness Ride this year 550 members for Christ sake? What percentage of the motorcycling population is that? How long can the MRA continue at this rate and what feature gets dropped next? The trouble is that most of you who read this are part of the 550 remaining members, so how do we increase the numbers? One way is to forget the socks and sixpack for Chrissie presents and give a years membership in the MRA instead. Another way is to sign up for two or more years instead of just one. Buy the patches and wear them. Wear the windcheaters and T-shirts (I'm often asked about the logo), but whatever you do, don't drop out.

\$15 a year is nothing. You can't have a good nights drinking for that! I reckon it's worth it for the mag alone, but it's this \$15 that also gets you the Awareness rides, toy runs etc. So if you are reading this and are not a member, join up. It you are a member and know someone who comes on the rides or uses other facilities organised by the MRA point out that if membership keeps sliding the facilities will sooner or later cease to exist.

B.J. Robertson



recreation of a 1850's town nestled in the ADELAIDEHILLS and OLD TAILEM TOWN, a collection of fine old buildings from our past. Other tours available to the VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS where you can try your hand at prospecting for GOLD. SOMEDAY TOURS is available for charter at very competitive prices. Discount fairs apply to group bookings, so for that special outing, form a group and go for a tour. Enjoy life dont wait too long for someday For Information Contact SOMEDAY TOURS GAWLER (085) 22 3826

COMPETITION TIME



Well, there was little interest from members in drawing cartoons about the Toy Run so no prize was given out. We won't do that one again.

For this issue our roving photographer braved the wilds of the ACT on his trusty Wing(s) to get the good oil on the 1990 AMC Conference (which is reported on elsewhere in this issue). The photograph below is of L to R: Greg Hirst (Bikers Ltd), Damien Codognotto (MRA Aust Inc), Bob Brown (Minister for Land Transport), Jeanette Hartwig (MRA Aust QLD Office) at the Lights On Meeting at Parliament House on October 8th 1990.

The best caption for this photo will win someone a Motorcycling Is Magic Singlet. Don't forget to send your size.

To get started, Bob Brown could be saying "I use to ride a motorcycle too you know", (Shades of the Happy Birthday Australia Rally)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to advertise our upcoming "Red Gum Rally" in Centre Stand.

The "Red Gum" is a back to basics rally for Touring Motorcyclists. It is to be held on the banks of the River Murray a few km from Renmark on the 2nd and 3rd of March 1991.

Turn off between Renmark and Paringa, it is signposted. Coffee, tea etc on site free, BYO everything else.

Cost is: \$8:00 pre paid and \$9:00 on the day.

No dogs, Cars, Glass and No Yobbos.

Entries To: Red Gum Rally P.O. Box 741 Renmark SA 5341.

Thank you Very Much!

Yours Faithfully, B Stolze

G'day.

For those of you that were at the AGM you would know that MRA SA has a new ROAD SAFETY REP, as well as other committee members. For those that weren't you missed a very interesting talk by Dr Rod Cooter.

My new job as Road Safety Rep will involve investigating any complaints you may have regarding dangerous sections of road and other general road safety matters.

If you have any questions or suggestions drop me a line at: KEN HOGAN Road Safety Rep, MRA SA, GPO Box 1895 Adelaide SA 5001.

I can also be contacted during business hours on (08) 256 2662.

Cheers Hoges

\$2548.40

TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1990

or mining primiting		and the second second second
RECEIVED:		
Memberships	\$4139.00	
Sale of stock	6573.85	
Postage received	26.80	
Donations	306.00	
Account closures	271.65	
BBQ Sales '89 Toy Run	1444.19	
'89 Toy Run change	650.00	al share all h
AMC Airfare Refund	544.00	he head adains
National Rally proceeds	539.58	
Received from Fund Raising		
Committee	425.56	
Received from Samrats	200.00	
Interest from State Bank	161.94	
	i ni ni ni ni n i	\$15980.47
EXPENDITURE:		
Publicity	\$2656.94	
Printing	1263.75	
Insurance	833.11	
Postage	2067.48	
Stock requisities	4144.29	
Miscellaneous	3681.47	
F.G.T. Charges	21.10	
F.I.D. Charges	5.58	
	्रा स्टब्स् से व	\$14673.72
CLOSING BALANCE:		\$3845.15
plus investment account		\$5812.50
		I.F. Marlow Treasurer

BLOOD RUN

We are meeting at the K-Mart Kurralta Park car park to ride to Red Cross House, Pirie Street, to donate B L O O D. Why not come along and join us. All donations gratefully received.

DATE: Saturday January 12th 1991.

TIME: Meet at 8:30am

4 - MRA DECEMBER '90

HELP.....HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP.....

How good is your memory? Can you recall things that happened up to 10 years ago? Well, here's the change for some of our members to test their powers of recollection.

If you joined the MRA prior to 1985, and can remember approximately when you became a member, we would like to hear from you. Simply write to us giving the details you can remember. If you address the envelope to: FREEPOST No. 238 Motorcycle Riders Association GPO Box 1895 Adelaide SA 5001 you won't need to pay for postage. There is no prize for the neatest correct entry or anything like that, we would simply like to upgrade our files. However, we don't really want this to drag on forever, so perhaps we could have the information by the end of December '90.

We would also like to hear from members who have been involved in the various Committees over the years. If you can actually remember which year(s) you served on a Committee, which position(s) you held and who else served on the Committee, we like to hear from you.

HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....

4B'S REPORT

BED PUSH

The past 3 months have been fairly busy for us. We have been preparing for our Annual Bed Push (our 3rd). Last year we raised over \$580 for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This year we decided to raise money for the St Johns Motorcycle Ambulance Division.

This year we introduced Sponsorship Forms. Quite a few people took forms and at the time of the deadline for the Centrestand we had only 1 or 2 back, so we cannot give you a final figure. However, on the day of the Bed Push we raised \$456.74.

We must thank Rosemary Bonnett, who stayed with the tent again, Glen White, Gary Bonnett for cooking the barbeques, Tony Cotter for arranging to have Channel 7 turn up, Steven Fry for helping out on his bike and all the 30-35 people who helped out on the day.

Of the 30-35 people we had approximately 11 St Johns Motorcycle Ambulance cadets and 2 of their helpers, 10 4Bs members. Everyone did a great job on the day and seemed to enjoy themselves — which is the main thing..

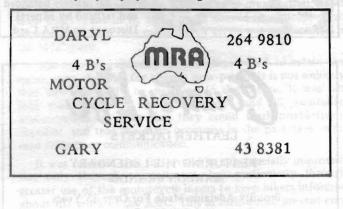
(When we have a final figure we will be donating it to St

Johns at their Xmas breakup at the end of the year.)

There were some very tired people around at the end of the day, however before the cadets left we were told that they all had a great time and would be glad to help out next year. (Me thinks there is going to be another bed push any volunteers to help collect next year? Stand in line and be counted!)

Vanessa Jonathan

P.S. Goanna I understand you were in hospital to have your nose fixed. What's wrong, getting it into other people's business? Anyway hope you are alright now.



HELMETS CAN KILL

WEARING A HELMET CAN KILL YOU

This was one of the shocking findings of Dr Rod Cooter of the Adelaide Cranio Facial Unit. He has recently completed an extensive study of motorcycle accident deaths.

But Dr Cooter who was guest speaker at the October Annual General Meeting of the MRA SA, does not recommend riding a bike without a helmet.

About 70 people at the meeting heard Dr Cooter tell how his research had involved examining current helmet design to determine its effectiveness.

The research showed that helmets are most dangerous in accidents involving impact to the chin, where the helmet is forced back and pressure localised through the chinstrap causes a lower sku.l fracture that shears the brain stem.

The irony is that bikers involved in this particular type of accident who are wearing an open faced or no helmet usually survive — because the face absorbs most of the impact, according to Dr Cooter.

He said that the idea of a "crumple zone" or impact absorber on a helmet was something that could help stop this and other facial injuries. The Cranio Facial Unit in conjunction with the Centre Of Manufactuing at Woodville have developed a helmet design they believe will do this.

The design, although still largely a secret, could involve removing the conventional chinstrap and replacing it with specially shaped chin pads.

Dr Cooter recently travelled to the United States to promote the design and to try to find a manufacturer for the helmet, after an unsuccessful attempt to find an Australian company to produce it.

Theresa Rockley



1990 A.M.C. CONFERENCE REPORT

The 1990 AMC conference was held in Canberra on October 6. It was originally scheduled for two days, and although old habits died hard and the talk went around in circles once or twice, everyone came with the idea of cutting out the humbug and getting down to constructive discussion, and a record was set by completing it in one day.

Those in attendance were Greg Hirst and Strawb (Bikers Ltd), Hal Caston nd Steve Mccorriston (MRA ACT), Steve Wiggins and Lynette Watters (FAM NSW), Scott McNally and Steve Blizzard (MRA TAS), Paul Edstein (ACU NSW), Fred Meli (MRA WA), Jeanette Hartwig (MRA Australia QLD office), Peter Mount (MRA SA), Albert Bowden (AMC Vehicle Standards Advisory Committee), and Blythe Osborne (Road User Advisory Committee and Licensing & Traffic Codes Committee).

ISSUES DISCUSSED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1.With initial prompting from MRA SA the SA Highway Department has spent the last four years developing skidresistant road marking paint which is now replacing the old paint as it wears out. Other state governments haven't shown much interest in this breakthrough, and the AMC will push the Federal Government while member groups will push in their own states.

2.The AMC adopted a policy that aftermarket exhaust systems should meet ADR standards which were in force at the time of manufacture. Regulations currently require exhaust systems to meet those ADR's and be no louder than the original system, which Db rating is often considerably less than ADR requirements. The AMC is simply supporting the more flexible regulation.

3.It was recommended that a peak motorcycle working party be established in conjunction with the Federal Government, comprising at least 50% motorcycle group representatives, and that any proposal regarding motorcycling be referred to that party before any ministerial decision is made.

4. The Government has reaffirmed that uniformity of licensing is to be introduced, and that motorcyclists are now exempt from certain parking requirements, viz. that motorcycles are required to have only one wheel as near as practicable to the kerb, regardless of signs stipulating angle or parallel parking.

5. Thanks to representation from motorcycle groups, ADR's for trikes will be introduced in 1991. All states have agreed to the ADR's except Tasmania, which has questions regarding stability tests (probably because there are no straight roads in Tassie). It is expected that these will be sorted out in the coming months. This will enable states to include trikes in their own regulations so they can be registered without going through the hassles that trike owners have in the past.

6.Annual fees have been reduced from \$500 to \$300 to make the AMC more easily accesssible to smaller motorcycle groups.

7.It was suggested that the AMC be wound up and that the Motorcycle Council of Australia be formed in its place, adopting a simplified constitution along the lines of that of the Motorcycle Council of NSW. This provoked a lot of discussion because it was recognised that the AMC has not been fulfilling its intended function as well as it should, and that substantial changes were needed.

The general feeling was that bikers stood to lose more than they gained by winding up the AMC, and that the same end could be achieved by rewriting the constitution in a much simpler form which provided far more flexibility and could not be used to hinder the organisation.

Existing member groups and any other interested motorcycle groups will be asked to say what they consider important in the constitution of a national organisation, what they don't want in it, and how it should be structured, so we end up with a document which serves our purpose and is not hidebound.

Although the majority of members voted to retain the name, with the way for change now paved, it is not unlikely that this will again be discussed in the future. It was felt that members owed it to themselves and all Australian Motorcyclists to show that they could work productively together, and that the main problems in the past have stemmed from poor communication.

It was resolved that this would be substancially improved, not only through commitment, but particularly through greater use of the motorcycle media to keep bikers informed about the work of the AMC. This in turn would prevent conflict through improving knowledge and discussion.

8.In the interests of better communication it was also decided to take more advantage of current technology such as computer systems and fax machines as soon as it is economically viable.

9.Members will keep an eye on their local media for anything to do with motorcycling which might require a response from the AMC.

10.As a courtesy gesture, and in an effort to assist where possible, the AMC will have more communication with other lobby groups such as the ACCA and road racing associations.

11,Individual ideas on road safety have produced different state vehicle standards which prevent some vehicles from travelling legally in some states. The AMC will look at addressing his anomaly in state laws.

12.Not surprisingly, the lights-on debacle was discussed at length, and there was a lot of concern that the AMC representative on VSAC, Albert Bowden, had been misled and misinformed on the issue, and that he had not been included in some of the discussion which resulted in VSAC recommending the daytime running lamps (DRL's) proposal. It was noted, not without reason, that there appears to be a strong anti-motorcycle contingent with the Federal Office of Road Safety.

This topic was carried over to the following Sunday afternoon when motorcycle group representatives, including Damien Codognotto from MRA Australia, again met to organise a strategy for the presentation of the Argument against DRL's at the meeting with the Minister for Land Transport, Mr Bob Brown, on the Monday at Parliament House.

13. The new executive consists of Peter Mount (Chairman 08 339 5400), Stephen Wiggins (Secretary, 02 649 7957), and Lynette Watters (Treasurer).

The conference was very constructive, and renewed most members' faith in the potential of the AMC. However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, as the saying goes, and it is up to the individual members to prove to themselves and all Australian motorcyclists that the AMC is a viable organisation.

The conference highlighted the need for progress beyond the AMC's current amateur status, and become a professional, business-orientated body capable of employing staff so that effort, time, and skills can be utilised to the fullest. This is seen as an ultimate goal, and with good communication and co-operation as a basis, the way now appears open for an eventual move in this direction.

Peter Mount

CALENDAR

MRA CALL	ENDER DECEMBER 1990-MARCH 1991						
DECEMBEI	R						
13th	4b's Christmas Dinner, contact Darryl & Van- essa for bookings 264 9810						
17th	Main Branch Christmas party, North Adelaide Hotel 8pm.						
27th	Mid-North Register Christmas party?						
29-30th	Modern & Historic road racing Mac Park, Mt Gambier.						
31st	SE Register New Year's Eve party, venue t.b.a						
JANUARY							
12th	Blood Run, meet K-Mart Kurrulta Park 8:30am						
14th	General Meeting						
21st	Committee Meeting						
24th	MN Register Meeting						
28th	General Meeting						
30th	SE Register meeting, Tiger Hotel Tantanoola						
FEBRUAR	Y						
7th	4B's meeting						
11th	General Meeting						
18th	Committee Meeting						
21st	4B's meeting						
25th	General Meeting						
27th	SE Register Meeting						
28th	MN Register Meeting						
MARCH							
2nd-3rd	Redgum Rally, near Renmark						
3rd	Cafe Racers' "Stars of Tomorrow" road race meeting, Mallala						
7th	4B's Meeting						
11th	General Meeting						
16-17th	Historic Road Racing Chamionships, Mallala						
18th	Committee Meeting						
21st	4B's Meeting						
25th	General Meeting						
27th	SE Register Meeting						
28th	MN Register Meeting						
30th-31st	Historic & Modern road racing, Mac Park						

TOY RUN

THANKING OUR SPONSORS OF THE 1990 TOY

BEDFORD MOTEL - WOODSIDE

HI-BOND AUSTRALIA

STOCK PRICE LIST

MRA STOCK PRICE LIST

ITEM	M	RAM	EMBER	p	UBLIC
MRA Windcheaters (black	141		MITT DIJA.		Oblic
only)	\$	22.00		S	24.00
MRA T-shirt (black or white)	1.10	10.00			12.00
Motorcycling Is Magic Singlet					
(black only)	\$	12.00		\$:	14.00
MRA Stubby Holders (flat					
type)	\$	3.50		\$	4.50
MRA Patches & MRA Badges	\$	4.00			N/A
1989 Toy Run Badges	\$	5.00		\$	5.00
National Rally T-shirts	\$	6.00		\$	6.00
National Rally Stubby Holders	\$	2.50		\$	2.50
National Rally Singlets					
(Limited sizes)	\$	6.00		\$	6.00
Biketober '84 Badges		.50			.50
National Motorcycle Month 85					
Badge		.50			.50
Biketober 87 Badges	\$	3.00		\$	3.00
Biketober 88 Badges	\$	4.00		\$	5.00
Biketober 89 Badges	\$	5.50		\$	5.50
All stickers		.50	20		.50
ADD POSTAGE TO ALL:			200	5	
Windcheaters \$3.00 each		1	MR	•)	
T-shirts/Singlets \$2.00 each		1		-/	
Badges \$0.80 cents each.				2	
Stickers Only - S.A.E.				~	





8 - MRA DECEMBER '90

RUN

'GOANNA'

* How thristy is Tom's new BMW R100 G/S Paris-Dakar? Ask Him!

* Camel has come back! But for how long this time?

* How many stands was Tom involved with at the 'Rolling Thunder' bike show in October?

* Will the 'Worlds End' Rally be on again in 1991?

* Is Mike Engel going to put a big bore kit in the 1300 Kwaka six? Rumour has it that it could go to 1600 cc or as big as 2000 cc. Why not put twin turbos on as well? Why not nitros too?

* Who was to be Santa at the '90 Toy Run? No it wasn't Scott McBain — Radio and TV Mega-star!!

* Is the newly reformed Sidecar Club thinking of holding a rally in 1991? Go for it!

* Has Tom been seen walking? He claims that he is excercising. He claims fuel prices are too high. Have his bikes broken down?

* And still on the subject of Tom - It has been 12 months since he gave up the drink! Will he last another 12 months?

* Peter Mount comes and goes! Where are Wendy, Bob Stanton, Dave Rault, Garfield and Gezza hiding — come back, all is forgiven. WE MISS YA!!!

* What happened to 'Biketober' this year? No Awareness Ride, no Economy Run, no Poker Run, no Bike Displays at shopping centres - NO COMMITTEES TO ORGANISE THEM!!!!!!!!

* Has Dave Raults' Yamaha broken down again? If he riding a 250 cc Suzuki for transport as his missus demands the car?

* Is it true that the new President Justin owns and drives a Volvo?

(Does that make him a Volvo aware rider? Ed)

* I note that our new Road Safety Officer has been booked by the Police more than 35 times — albeit only twice on the bike!

* Who has been complaining to his BMW dealer that his bike isn't getting the fuel economy of the bikes in the magazines even though his drag co-efficient would be the lowest (read shortest) around.

(Clue: see the first item in Goanna)



F.A.M. PRESS RELEASE

A coalition of Australian motorcyclists consisting of representatives from the Australian Motorcycle Council (AMC) The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA), Federation of Australian Motorcyclists (FAM), Bikers Limited, the New South Wales Motorcycle Council, and Auto Cycle Union (ACU) met on behalf of all other motorcycle groups and riders with the Federal Minister for Land Transport, the Hon. Mr Bob Brown, on Monday the 8th October at Parliament House, Canberra. The meeting was to discuss the opposition of motorcyclists to the Federal Government proposal to introduce compulsory use of day-time headlights as from March 1992.

A spokesperson for the coalition, Mr Peter Mount, Chairman of the AMC, said that whilst motorcyclists supported the voluntary use of headlights during daylight hours, they are strongly against any compulsory aspect on the grounds that it would remove a riders freedom to decide what constituted a hazardous situation and employ appropriate safety measures.

He added that the proposal was based on unsound and conflicting research and that no attempt had been made by the government researchers to critically examine research which did not happen to support day-time headlight usuage.

"The main cause of motorcycle accidents", said Mr Mount, "is poor attitude and a lack of awareness by drivers, not how visible a motorcycle is. Lights-on legislation will exonerate drivers from the duty of care, of having to look out for us, placing the entire responsibility for being seen on our shoulders"

Mr Mount said "We think the outcome of today's discussion with Mr Brown and representatives from FORS (Federal Office of Road Safety) was generally favourable in that we presented a better-researched and more convincing argument than did the FORS. Mr Brown appeared to be a reasonable man and competent Minister. We are hopeful of a decision in our favour."

The meeting concluded with the motorcycle groups asking for Mr Brown to immediately dismiss the proposed ADR 19:01 and called upon him to facilitate the introduction of rider training in all states, to promote road safety courses in all schools, to improve driver training with particular emphasis on awareness and attitude and to establish a peak motorcycle working party in conjunction with the federal government, comprising at least fifty percent motorcycle lobby group representation. Any proposal regarding motorcycling should be referred to that party before any ministerial decision is made. The coalition reaffirmed its desire to work with the Minister in making the roads safer.



MRA ADDRESSES ROAD SAFETY FORUM

Kids. Love them or deplore them, respect or deny them, endure or enjoy them, we wouldn't be where we are without them. The people running the Department of Road Safety and Transport must believe that too (perhaps they were even kids once themselves), for on September 24 they organised a road safety forum at the Adelaide Convention Centre, with the theme "Road Safety — Everyone's Concern", and sponsored by SGIC, to discuss two main issues, one being kids and how their safety on the road can be improved.

As with the last road safety forum in 1987, the MRA was invited to present submissions, suggesting not only that previous submissions have been satisfactory, but that the needs and opinions of motorcyclists are being recognised as integral to the integrity of the complex machinery behind our transport and road safety systems.

The forum was a 9 to 5 affair which comprised an opening address by the chairman, Vin Keane, morning and afternoon presentations of 18 selected submissions by their authors, and a closing summary of major points made throughout the day.

In the morning, on behalf of the MRA, I spoke on the topic "Road Safety For People Up To 15 Years Of Age". I addressed it from the perspective of road safety education in schools, as children have the greatest number of accidents between 8 and 9am and 3 and 4pm, when they are going to and from school.

The MRA has long been a strong advocate of improved road safety education through formal classes within the school curriculum. Some members might recall the efforts by the MRA between 1985 and 1987 to develop a road safety awareness package for school children involving lectures, films, and displays, which was easily, even gratefully, accepted in those schools visited. However, being a non-funded volunteer organisation, our resources eventually forced us to put the program on hold. Nevertheless, the concept was sound and its acceptance good.

The problem within schools is twofold. On the one hand at the present time there is no requirement for schools to teach road safety: if a teacher is available who is both competent and interested in teaching the subject, it may be considered, if the head of the school thinks its importance equates with the rest of the curriculum. On the other hand when the issue of road safety is addressed, it is done so in the most limited form, with no specific structure or goals.

Therefore, the following recommendations were made:

1. Introduce Road Safety into all school curriculums as a formal compulsory subject between the school years of 7 and 11.

2. Include a basic first aid course within the program.

3. Marginally increase the Education budget to facilitate these two measures.

4. Where feasible, introduce a rider and driver training component in a limited degree in years 10 and 11.

5. Improve road user recognition of the need for caution and alertness in relation to children through more specific emphasis during rider and driver training, together with the use of the media to promote this need.

I must give credit here where it is due. In compiling this paper I was responsible merely for the research and getting it together in an organised form: the specific ideas regarding

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how the subject of road safety should be implemented, its content, methodology, duration and application, were derived mainly from my daughter Chelsea, who was 11 at the time. She also attended the forum with me in order to field any questions on road safety from the school child's perspective.

If you think I'm telling you this with just a hint of parental pride, you're not half right; but the other reason is that the MRA has a policy of consultation prior to recommendation. We expect the Government to consult with us on motorcycling matters, and if we want to talk about what's best for school kids, who better to get ideas from than the kids themselves?

Perhaps coincidentally, as if in support of this suggestion, the Education Department said it recognises road safety as a life skill, and the Education Curriculums Committee affirmed that road safety will become an essential element in schools.

Other suggestions to consider or action that is being undertaken include:

1. The RAA is arranging for 4 people to teach 30 teachers to teach a road safety component in schools.

2. The need to educate parents on a better attitude to road safety around schools.

3.Investigate the feasibility of a minimum age limit for cyclists to use public roads.

4,Parents should take a more active role in teaching their little darlings road safety.

5,More consideration by the general public, local communities, and the Government should be given to disabled children.

6.Better lighting, parking, and pathways around schools.

7. More-financially-accessible childcare facilities.

8.More women on councils to highlight local needs.

9.Escalation of the Adelaide Bike Plan and its usage, based on the criteria of engineering, education, enforcement, and encouragement.

10.General safety: A child's skull strength is equal to the cube of its thickness, ie a one-year-old's skull is one quarter the thickness of an adult's, so its strength is one sixty-fourth that of an adult, therefore more attention should be paid to cars in the way of:

a Head protection

- b Seatbelts
- c Secure doors
- d Energy-absorbing components
- e Airbags
- f Helmets
- g Capsules

The other topic for discussion at the forum was "Road Safety For People Over 60 Years Of Age".

With the average age of our population increasing, and the ensuingly greater preponderance of road accidents involving the over-60's group, it is necessary that special attention be given now to the problems confronting that group as a matter of community responsibility.

Social and economic adjustments, particularly as they apply to elderly road users, will have to be made, and both general and specific modifications will have to be made to current policies regarding training, testing, and behaviour

on the road.

However, it must be borne in mind that any such changes should reflect not only the needs of the community as a whole, but the needs of our elderly citizens.

The MRA paper on this topic was presented in the afternoon, the main thrust revolving around the trauma which elderly people suffer when being retested for their licence at the ages of 75, 80 and every year after, the increasing dependence on personal transport because of physical limitations imposed by age, and the fact that, as one gets older, maintaining a certain quality of life becomes more and more essential to one's well-being.

The MRA paper also paid special attention to the transportation problems elderly people in the country would suffer if their licence were revoked because they did not measure up to some particularly stringent testing or because the examiner was having a bad day.

One particular problem of the elderly is that, as a group, they show a greater tendency to disobey signs and signals, and to disobey convention, such as failing to give way and changing lanes without care. Low pressure, low or no cost, voluntary refresher road theory and practical courses could pay particular attention to these areas.

The recommendations the MRA made were as follows:

1. Licence Examiners to be made more aware of the trauma suffered by the elderly when they go for their driving test, in order that more sensitivity and compassion is displayed. 2. Introduce free or largely sibsidised refresher road theory

and practical training courses for elderly citizens.

3. During the training of young drivers and riders, emphasise the need for courtesy, tolerance, and consideration for elderly road users.

I would like to add that, as with the paper on road safety for kids, much of the research for this topic was conducted by interviewing elderly road users from both the city and the the country.

Points raised by other speakers included:

1.Road usage by the elderly decreases as the perception of risk increases.

2.Age creeps up slowly and people are often unaware of any deterioration in their physical or mental faculties (if this reminds you of anyone in the MRA it's quite unintentional).

3. Licence test failure is frequently due more to lack of driving practise than physical impairment.

4.Only major faults during testing will cause failure.

5. There should be greater uniformity of signposting to minimise confusion.

6.Cars should have seat height adjustment.

7.At present, public transport does not cater in the slightest degree for the reduced physical agility of the aged.

8. The need for a centralised information source for road safety literature and street and traffic regulations.

9. The need to address visiblity hazards from both the pedestrian's and the driver's points of view.

10.An audit of road signs should be conducted as there are too many for anyone's liking — their proliferation distracts and confuses.

11-Age is not a good gauge of behaviour or attitude.

12.Handrails on paths and medium strips should be erected in areas containing a large number of elderly people.

13.Lighting should be provided on pedestrial islands.

14. The duration of pedestrian lights is set at a walking speed of 1.4 m/sec, yet only 2% of the population can walk this fast without discomfort; walking in a hurry is equal to 1 m/sec, which 90% of the population, including the elderly

people, can manage, therfore, pedestrian lights need to operate for longer periods.

On the general road safety front, the following observations were noted:

1. High-speed buses with rear-facing balun seats (self-balancing) and seatbelts would be safer and more attractive to the public.

2.Environmental impact will demand better land use regarding traffic planning and safer roads.

3.We must become innovative by redeveloping land use as traffic demands increase.

4.We should take advantage of new technology such a "smart" cars and "smart" roads (ie computer-orientated).

5.A technology watch should be maintained so that new developments are utilised in road safety and traffic management.

6.We should implement a network for uniformity of road safety and traffic management throughout Australia.

It was also noted that attitude is the main problem, and that it now appears to be socially acceptable to kill and maim on the road.

It was quite apparent from listening to what people had to say that the members of many diverse groups, along with the state government, share a great concern for the welfare of the young and old people of our community, are already taking action in areas of common need, and are showing enough foresight to prepare for the future by maximising the effectiveness of pre-planning and modern technology.

All that needs to be done now is to start implementing some of these suggestions so that all the time and effort put into this forum by so many people is not looked back on as a profound waste.

As you will have noticed, space in this issue of Centrestand did not permit a more in-depth explanation of the issues reached or the reasoning behind the recommendations. If there is enough interest from members in reading the complete papers, I will attempt to have them included in future issues of Centrestand. This could be possible as they are both less than 2000 words in length, or about three magazine pages. Peter Mount



ALWAYS CARRY TOOLS

One of the great joys in my life is to help a fellow motorcyclist in trouble. I always carry tools, and will always stop to help. This to me is a large part of what motorcycling is about. For sure the new bikes are too high tech for anyone to patch up, especially on the roadside, but you can often help to push/lift them off the road, and pillion the rider to the next phone box. If nothing else, you add to the camaraderie of motorcycling by your willingness to stop.

You meet all sorts on the road side. I followed one bloke on an old trumpy who was obviously in trouble. When the Triumph finally gave up, I stopped and we yarned for a minute about the old brits and he showed me the loose (stripped) screw in his maggy that was the problem. I offered my toolkit, but he said he had his own. He lifted his seat and there strapped to the underside of his seat was his "toolkit", the most comprehensive set of knives I've ever seen. He choose an appropriate shaped blade and retightened the screw.

Another recent incident involved a bloke trying gamely to get his Guzzi up onto a trailer single handed. His shaft seemed to have broken at the universals, and he'd get half way up the thin plank and it would bind. The back wheel would lock up and he would have to ease it back down to the ground again. He'd been at it for about an hour when I stopped. With two of us we soon manhandled the Guzzi up. I always chat for a while before helping. Not only is it sociable, but it gives me a chance to sus them out. (Is it really his bike he's trying to get on the trailer? I'd hate to find myself an accessory to a theft!!!)

While I strongly advocate giving a helping hand, I stress that survival in today's social climate dictates certain precautions. If the motorcyclist is not alone, I tread very carefully. Usually I stay mounted and keep my motor running until I feel safe. I rarely travel at night but, if I did, I would probably stop only for a lone rider. A good objective which is impossible to achieve, but worth aiming at, is to always consider all possibilities of all actions. I feel reasonably safe in stopping as I do, because I have had some training in Karate and am already mentally prepared to hit hard and fast if attacked. I have never yet had any unpleasant meetings, and odds are I won't.

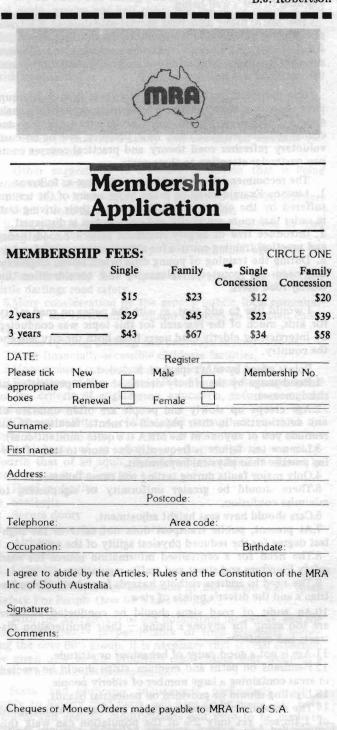
Balanced against the slight risk of anti-social types is the certainty of speaking to some interesting people. Saw a small bike off the side of South Road half way down Taps recently and stopped. Young female with L plate had already walked to the phone box and boyfriend was on his way. While waiting she was attempting to remove a flat back wheel. She was obviously a self sufficient sort and was doing OK. I stayed and talked, only helping where needed (sexual equality aside, some bolts need the attention of a Male!). Seems she and her friend had just finished reworking the bike, including brand new back tyre and now it had gone down fast providing her first experience in handling a bike with a flat. These things have to happen in peak hour traffic with wet roads and on hills, don't they. I commended her on her control but warned her to wait until the front goes that's even more entertaining. Rider training doesn't cover that, does it? Reason for the tyre deflating turned out to be a large nail.

Right up there with Politicians, Religious Fanatics and

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Bureaucrats on my most hated list are truck drivers with mobile loads. I reckon most of us have travelled for miles in thickening sand storms before finaly overtaking sand trucks, and cattle trucks are greatly feared, but my worst experience yet was at 100ks going down Lonsdale Highway when a large sheet of something blew off the truck in front. No time to think, just duck head and hope it's not galvanised iron. Thank Christ it was insulating foam!! Strange time of year for snow storms. The trucky didn't even stop, probably never knew the drama he caused. Good for a laugh now, but that could have been my lot.

B.J. Robertson







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