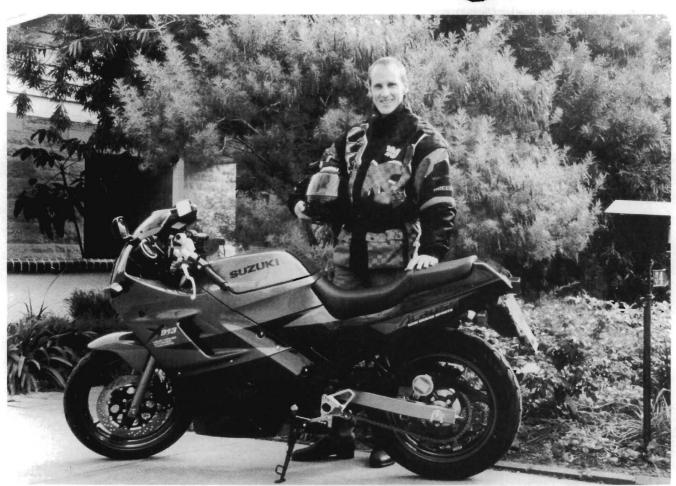
# CENTRESTAND

**DECEMBER 1998** 

SEASOAS

GREETINGS





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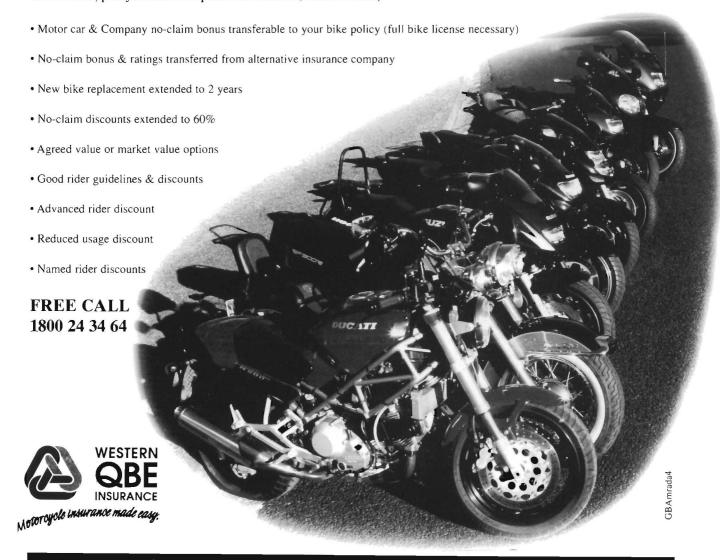
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# M.R.A.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION OF SA INC.

VOL. 15 NO. 1 DECEMBER 1998

Produced and published by the Motorcycle Rider's Association of South Australia Incorporated.

PRINT POST APPROVAL PUBLICATION NO. PP: 530028/00014

MRA (SA): GPO Box 1895

Adelaide SA 5001

<u>Telephone</u>: 08 8262 2150 Fax: 08 8262 2151

Public Officer: Peter Mount

All advertising enquiries to the above address.

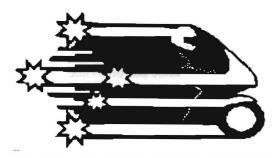
- · Subscription gratis to members.
- Contributions welcome.
- Photographs welcome: colour or black and white prints will be returned after publication. Please identify with return address on the back.
- Opinions: contributors and advertisers opinions and assertions do not necessarily reflect the view of the Association.
- Deadline: 1st of month prior to publication.

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COVER PHOTO: MRA member Chris Gregory and his Suzi back from a run.

PUBLICATION : Quarterly - March, June, September, December

The MRA SA is a member of the Australian Motorcycle Council (AMC)



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# **EDITORIAL**

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



See you on the road, Harald

# **MRA SA NOTES**

# A GOOD READ TO BE HAD

• As well as bike magazines, the Centrestand and bike manuals there are a lot of other good publications on the market which make great reading and provide insight into the biker culture and lifestyle. They also provide inspiration for activities involving bikes. The Famous Bikers series is a case in point. As well as tomes on the history of motorcycling the favourites in the editor's library includes biographies of Barry Sheen and Mike Hailwood, travelogues by bike from Tim Severin (Tracking Marco Polo) and Ted Simon (Jupiter's Travels), the Peters Thoeming & Rae's 'Motorcycle Touring' and of course the collection wouldn't be complete without Pirsig's 'Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance'. If you have a favourite biking book, even if it's the ZZR manual, write and tell us what's so good about it and we'll print it in a Book Review page.

# 'PICK YOUR DATE' PREFERENCE

• Over the last couple of years we have gone from placing our event calendar, the "Pick Your Date", in the Centrestand, as a separate liftout sheet sent out with the magazine and back to a placement within the magazine. We dropped the separate liftout as it was costing us around \$35 per issue in extra printing costs, but after some comments from members, this may have been a mistake. So which do you prefer? Write to me, leave a message on the answering machine (08) 8262 2150 or fax me (08) 8262 2151 and tell me your preference and why. Provide a contact number as well. All financial members who respond will go in the draw for a MRA T-shirt.

# THIRD PARTY RESPONSES

• Thanks to members who wrote to their pollies and to the Minister for Transport, Diana Laidlaw, regarding the Third Party premiums levels and the secrecy regarding the Third Party Premiums Committee deliberations. Everyone who has been in contact with us regarding this seems to have received the same information back with a fairly resounding silence covering the latter query. We must have had an effect however, because a qeuestion about the issue was asked in Parliament. This one will not go away if we have anything to do with it.

# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

 Looking for gifts for Christmas, something to take on the Toy Run? Ace Club Supplies of 43 David Terrace, Woodville Park telephone 8347 7665 are offering discounts to MRA members. They are open 7 days per week, so check them out and tell them you need something for the Toy Run.

# STO-FLEX APS

• Never heard of it? Thanks to MAGVic we will be hearing more of it. It's a non-bitumen road crack filler made by Sto in Austria and reportedly has the same grip as the road surface, is more durable than bitumen and may be cheaper. With the help of MAG Austria, MAGVic got the information together, sent it to VicRoads which could be encouraged to trial the product in Australia. Congratulations to MAGVic for finding a solution which eluded the professionals.

# WHEN IS A BIKE NOT A BIKE?

• When it's a trike with a volkswagen engine and a stick shift. The bike(?) on the cover of the September issue of Centrestand gave rise to a number of comments. Apparently it's not registered as a bike but as a sports car. Does that mean that seat belts should be worn? What about a helmet exemption? What do you think?

# **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

- The MRA Christmas celebrations will be held on December 21 December at 8.00 pm at the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel on Port Road. Come and toast the end of another successful year of biking and meet your new Committee for 1999. All members and friends are invited to come along. We supply the nibbles and you buy your own drinks. MRA stock will be on display and for sale, so if you missed out on getting something at the Toy Run, then treat yourself on the night.
- Don't forget that the 4Bs Christmas dinner will be held on the 19th. A three course meal at the Flagstaff Hotel in Fanklin Street at 7.00 pm till late The cost will be \$22 per head. Let Greg know on (08) 8346 8068 and pay a deposit of \$5 to secure a seat. See you there.

# LEARN & RIDE SECURE & SAFE

GP Motorcycles of 218 Main South Road, Morphett Vale is conducting FREE Basic Motorcycle
 Maintenance sessions on the last Saturday of every month from 12.15 to 2.15pm. These sessions will be run by qualified technicians and bookings can be made by ringing (08) 8384 1155. Ladies and learners are welcome. The show room will be open until 2.00 pm and a sausage sizzle will be put on to keep the hungries at bay.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this, my first report to the members of the MRA I would like to present a view of the Association as an organisation the successes of which should be celebrated and the potential of which, with the help of its members, will be achieved.

For starters, membership is increasing. Thanks to the work done by our previous Membership Officer Adrian Gibbs, application forms have been more widely distributed and as a result the work of the MRA has become more widely recognised. Adrian's work in the Iron Triangle and northern region has been especially useful and we welcome all our new members from up there. Increasing membership numbers is an indication that the MRA is relevant and useful and suits the needs of our current and new members.

Secondly, the MRA is financially viable. A few years ago we were grateful to receive a small donation of excess funds from the South East Register. At the time this was much needed as our cash flow was pretty slow. Now we manage a reasonable carry over of funds from year to year and can return the favour if needed.

Thirdly, we have a first class magazine which has a high approval rating by the members and just about pays for itself through the advertising revenue from our sponsors. The new look magazine was made possible through the efforts of our previous President Jeff Gaden, who did the work needed to provide a sound financial base for the Centrestand to continue on as a viable quality publication.

Fourthly, the MRA offers a range of activities like the Toy Run, rallies, roadcraft days and weekend runs in which members can become involved and which have a high standing amongst motorcyclists. These activities are possible because of the efforts of volunteers who recognise the value of these activities to other members and who see them as furthering the aims of the Assoc.

The MRA has also become known as a premier referral service to the community on motorcycling issues. The MRA phone constantly receives queries regarding club contacts, where to ride, where to find information etc. and in this way help a lot of people out and improves the image of motorcyclists.

Fifthly, in the area of political activism the MRA maintains contact with and financial support for the Australian Motorcycle Council (AMC) as the premier motorcycle representative organisation in Australia. We have been actively involved as a member organisation and have contributed to its activities and research. On a

state level we have maintained contacts with the Office of the Minister for Transport, the Department Of Transport and have been able to fund a member of the Comprehensive Third Party Premiums Committee.

The MRA has tended in the past to be more reactive than proactive in dealing with motorcycling issues on a political level and this has been more reflective of the interests of elected members, the time constraints which family and work place on them and their commitment to established MRA activities than of their commitment to working through issues. Discussions held at Committee level have canvassed these matters. We will continue to be reactive. Our effectiveness as an organisation will not be diminished in this area. Proactivity will be addressed on a project basis and which are relevant to issues at hand. These will be reported in the Centrestand and assistance from members sought.

The first such project will be a review of the use of non-skid road marking paint in South Australia. This paint was an initiative of the MRA in 1978 and developed by the SA Department of Road Transport in 1986 until 1992 when the first trials were held. Any members interested in taking part in this review should contact me as the review coordinator. The aim of the review is to produce an independent report which will provide some impetus for more organisations to use non-skid paint as the preferred road marking paint.

See you at the Toy Run

Harald



# TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL ACCOUNT 1997-1998

**OPENING BALANCE** 

\$ 6 086.70

**INCOME:** 

1 983.00
768.50
3 935.00
61.11
13 902.90
5 000 00
900.00
105.00

\$ 26 655.51

# **EXPENDITURE**

EM ENDITORE	
<b>Centrestand Production</b>	4 422.80
C'stand Ads Commission	501.00
Australia Post	458.42
Insurance Premiums	1 425.84
Telstra Charges	437.67
Advertising	14.45
Recovery Trailer - Rego	46.00
AMC Airfares	544.00
3rd Party Cttee Airfare	714.40
Printing	38.00
Catering AGM, Xmas, etc.	491.00
Computer, Fax purchases	270.00
Stock purchases - non resale	1 472.43
Stock Purchases - resale	3 918.15
1997 Toy Run	5 369.75
Cash Floats	7 000.00
Bank Charges	105.88
Miscellaneous	194.85

\$ 27 424.74

**CLOSING BALANCE:** 

\$ 5317.47

IAN MARLOW TREASURER 28/9/98





# HANDY TIPS TO REMEMBER

• Fuel price surveys have indicated that *in general* you will buy the cheapest fuel on Mondays and Tuesdays and the dearest on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Even armed with this money saving information it still pays to shop around as even the discount places will drop their prices on the discount days. Hint: survey your locals, they may have a different cheaper days.



# 10 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Any member who considers that they may be eligible for a 10 year membership badge are asked to advise the MRA Membership Secretary asap so that a presentation can be arranged.

Presentations are made each year only at the AGM in September and at the Christmas drinks party in December.

# Childhood Cancer

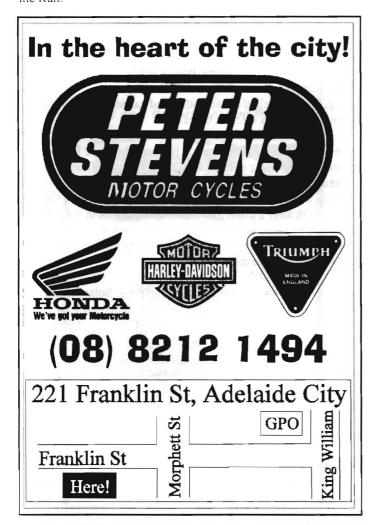
On March 20th 1999 the annual Riverland Run will be on again. This will be a fundraiser for the Childhood Cancer Association of SA and the MRA will be assisting again in marsalling the convoy of bikes and cars from Adelaide to Renmark.

This will be a two day event with a River Run on Sunday the 21st of boats and jet skis. Free camping sites will be available for the weekend.

The advertising material and entry form has been included as a looseleaf addition to the Centrestand so stick it on your fridge to remind you that it's coming up. If you send in your entry fee ahead of time this will give the Association an indication of how many badges are needed for the weekend and can order more if necessary. Badges can be collected on the day or beforehand from the Offices of the Childhood Cancer Association, 138 Payneham Road Stepney. Previous years' badges are also available if you missed out.

Volunteers are also needed to help out on the week-end, so if you think you can spare an hour or two to help a good cause and have some more fun then ring Christine or Koulla on (08) 8363 5882

This year's event looks to be bigger and better than previous years, so think about going on at least one of the days if not on the Run.



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# **AGM REPORT**

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The complete results of the Annual General Meeting election can be found in the masthead section of the magazine on page 3. In short, Harald Lindemann is once again the President, Fiona Scott is now the Membership Officer, Aidan Hanafin is the new Road Safety Officer and David Povey volunteered to take on the Publicity portfolio. Not much else changed from the previous year but a few new members attended and showed an interest in becoming involved later on. Thanks to Peter Mount for once again doing the honours and running the election.

A highlight of the evening was the conferral to David Povey of Life Membership of the Association and the presentation of a plaque commemorating the occasion. Congratulations David on a well deserved recognition!

The business of the evening over we settled down to listen to Dennis Richards of Transport SA give a talk on pavement marking. He discussed the history of the development of various road furniture (ie cats eyes) and road markings (ie non-skid paint), how materials were tested and assessed for efficiency and costing and the different equipment used. The talk was complemented by a slide show which illustrated the various issues of reflectivity investigated in the course of development. An intensive question time followed the talk. Many thanks to Dennis for taking the time to discuss this with us.

Thanks to Vivian and Brian of the Gov' for letting us use the back room for our meeting and for putting on a great supper.

# RACING ACTOR OR ACTING RACER?

(FAMOUS BIKERS NO. 2)

In 1963 Bud Ekins attempted a 20 metre leap over barbed wire on a 1960s Triumph Trophy and Steve McQueen rode into motorcycling history.

The motorcycle chase in the film "The Great Escape" was not in the screenplay until Steve McQueen convinced Producer John Sturges, to include it in the film. Steve did many of his own stunts for the film, in some instances giving the German stunt men a run for their money. Excellent rider that he was, he admitted himself that he wasn't good enough to do that final stunt, the leap across the barbed wire. He noted to an interviewer that he did attempt it but "landed on his bean (head)". Discretion won the day and Bud Ekins, whom Steve had invited to work on the movie, made the jump. Ekins was a professional rider and mechanic from California who taught Steve his professional skills. His work on the film actually started him on a successful stunt career in film. Steve enjoyed the riding in the movie so much that he would also double himself when he could get away with it and also doubled as the German riders who were chasing him although he wasn't allowed to do the crash stunts.

The riding in the film has been hailed as some of the best motorcycle footage ever put onto film. But it was more than that. For the first time motorcycle riding was presented to the general public as something respectable. Here was this clean cut, sexy young American star riding a bike in a heroic cast and winning (nearly). This was in stark contrast to the biker movies provided to the public in those days, movies such as 'The Wild One", "Hells Angels On Wheels", and "Rebel Rousers" which tended to sensationalise the off side of biker lifestyle. Steve McQueen helped give biking some respectable cool.

As a struggling actor Steve supported himself by poker games and drag strip racing at Long Island, at which not surprisingly he was competitive. Loving things mechanical all his life he also worked for a time as a motorcycle mechanic and once fettled James Dean's bike. He said "All the room I needed for my freedom was the room for my hands on those little handlebars, and once in a while a bug goes splash on yer forehead, you know what I mean?"

His associates would say of him that he was always in a hurry, to get ahead, especially on a bike. He was a terror through traffic. The only thing that would stop him was a New York traffic jam.

Paradoxically he fought the image that publicists tried to foist on him as an angry young man. He always claimed that every day of his life was "a ball" The Triumph he owned in the early 60s had a sign hung on it bearing the legend "The Mild One" an image he would shatter every day when he left the studios after shooting, with an ear shattering roar, having little regard for equipment or pedestrians who got in his way.

Steve loved his machines, cars and bikes and if at all possible he kept them, restored and maintained until he owned more than he could possibly use. He maintained a sense of ownership over his vehicles even when he sold them and friends selling a bike or car which once belonged to Steve lived in fear that he might find out.

Talking about his motorcycling, he explains: "It drains me. It cleans me out. I ride off all the anger that's in my guts at the

phonies I have to meet and work with. ... They bug me. So I burn it out on the road and keep cool on the set. I must be a peace loving man to go to so much trouble to stay out of trouble."

"There's nothing like comin' to a nice tight curve in the road at about a hundred per to tune your reflexes. It clears your brain and purges your heart. ... The only thing I'm thinking of is making that next tight curve and coming out of it in one piece." At the same time his professional racing helped him keep his feet on the ground. "... racing a motorcycle, the guy on the next bike doesn't give a hoot who you are ... if he beats you in the race, well, it means that he's a better man than you are. Racing makes it difficult for me to believe that I'm God's gift to humanity."

The image of working movie stars at the time was that they took care to not place themselves in any situation where their careers might be threatened by personal injury. Steve was an exception to the rule. On set he would use the filming opportunities to show his racing and speed skills if he could convince the producer to let him. Off the set he went his own way. As he said, "I have to hang up my racing when I go to work." However, there was no point in anybody trying to coerce or coax him to give up racing altogether. "Racing's part of my life."

In 1964 Steve was part of a six man US team competing in the International Six Day Bike Trials in East Germany which involved 1,500 miles of gruelling flat out racing. Both Steve (trying to avoid a spectator on the track) and Ekins (unable to avoid a brick wall) crashed out and the team only received individual medals.

He had the ability to become a champion, but his acting always interfered with his time on the track. He would finish his races ahead of some notable experts but his overall lack of points would always keep him in the amateur classes. Nothing however, would keep him away from the Baja 500 where he and his friends went to hang out and have a good time. They "...slept in sleeping bags, got drunk, yelled at each other and carried on." and then ran the entire 500 miles on their bikes.

To get in some endurance training for the Sebring 12 Hour Enduro in 1970 Steve entered the Mount Elsinore Trial. This is a hundred mile race over desert trails, jumps, sand washes and a mountain trail with 300m drops. Out of 500 competitors Steve finished 10th after a crash that broke his right foot in six places. At Sebring he raced with his foot in a cast resulting in he and his co-driver winning their class in a 908 Porsche and posting a time of 22 seconds behind the overall winner.

Steve set up his own film production company, Solar Productions, which gave him more control over his films and which produced such gems as "Le Mans", "Bullitt" and the motorcycle racing documentary "On Any Sunday" in which he featured.

Despite all his acting and production success Steve always felt that acting was, as he called it, "candy ass", not a fit occupation for a mature man. True, it was how he made his money and he was proud of his success, but racing to him was a truer calling and he made sure that everyone knew that he was up to it.

References: Steve McQueen by Penina Spiegel, Fontana, 1987; Steve McQueen - The Legend of a Rebel Superstar by Malachy McCoy, Coronet, 1981

# TOY RUN REPORT

That time of year is here again (has it been 12 months already)?. By the time you read this article, you should have all your toys ready, the pride and joy cleaned, serviced and be ready for the largest motorcycling event in Australia. the TOY RUN, yes, we in this small state hold the largest Toy Run in Australia, so we can be proud of that.

Now would be a good time to thank all those on the Committee who have been involved with this year's run and the jobs for which they were responsible.

Barry, Council Liaison: To make sure that equipment needed for road closures, parking etc. is supplied. Brenton, Trade Sites: Organises where the trade sites are to be placed on the oval. David, Marshal Co-ordinator: Organises the marshals and liaises with the police to make sure we have a smooth run to the oval. Fiona, Entertainment: Organises the bands and children's entertainment. Harald, Catering: Makes sure there is enough food stalls for the thousands of people attending. Lynette, the rep from St. Vincent de Paul who organises helpers on the day. Robyn, Quartermaster: Organises all the equipment needed for the day including the trucks for the stage and makes sure it all gets to the oval on time.

Without the above people working as a well-knit team, the Toy Run would not be as successful as it is. My thanks goes to all of them for the long hours they put in. And last of all there is me, whose job it is to give other people jobs, possibly the easiest job on the committee.

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As this is our 20th run, look out for a new badge, keyring and T-Shirt. These will be available from the MRA stock tent, which is located next to the BBQ tent, look for the "STOCK" banner.

This year we are encouraging you to decorate your bike with Christmas tinsel so that the occasion will have a suitable festive air. If you do not have any, there will be people down at the Bay who will sell it to you at a very reasonable price.

Don't forget to tell your mates and anyone else who rides a bike to come along. Those who have friends who want to come in cars, the best time for them to be at the oval is before 11.30, that way they can see the spectacle of the bikes arriving. After that time they will find it just about impossible to get a park anywhere near the oval. We have provided free car parking opposite the oval. No cars will be allowed in the Oval precints, this is totally reserved for bikes.

Don't forget, entry is by way of a toy of reasonable value. For non riders, either a toy or gold coin donation at the gate. May the gods be kind and give us a fine day and a safe ride. Remember to follow the directions of the marshals and the Police.

See you at the oval.

Paul Morgan, Toy Run Co-ordinator.



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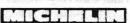




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# MA(SA) NOTICE

Anyone wanting information regarding dates of 1998 competition fixtures in SA for 1998 should contact Motorcycling Australia (SA), 251 The Parade, Beulah Park or on (08) 8332 9000 ph. (08) 8332 9100 fax

for a free copy of the 1998 Fixtures SA Brochure

# MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.



# 1998 TOY RUN



PRODUCED AND PUBLISHED BY THE MRA (SA) INC.

In 1998 the MRA celebrates its 20th Toy Run on Sunday December 13th and invites you to share it by coming on the Run (bikes only) and joining us at the Hahndorf Oval for a day of enjoyment biker style. We will be presenting stalls from the major motorcycle shops of Adelaide who will be showing off the latest in bikes and accessories. Some stalls will be selling t-shirts and curios of interest to bikers and a wide range of food stalls will be available for your delectation. The bands 'Sudden Comfort' and 'Vishus Fish' will be playing on the day for your entertainment. Free children's entertainment has also been arranged.

The run will be headed by **Santa** in the MRA sleigh followed by the sidecars and the **Ulysses Club**, our guest club for the front of the Run this year. As usual we will be flagged off by **Glen Dix** and the convoy will make its way up Anzac Highway, Cross Road, the South Eastern Freeway to Hahndorf.

Vehicle entry to the Oval precincts will be for motorcycles only. All cars and trucks will be accommodated free of charge in car parks adjacent to the oval. Motorcycle parking will be on the outskirts of the main oval and on the soccer oval. Special parking provisions have been arranged for the day so watch for the signs and take notice of the Marshals who will be there to ensure that the arrangements are both safe and convenient for you. Walk in guests will be charged a toy or gold coin donation.

**Toilet facilities** are situated off the main oval on the South side. **St. Johns Ambulance** officers will be providing first aid care from the change rooms near the toilet blocks. Keep an eye out for the signs.

HAHNDORF ROAD CLOSURES: The cavalcade will leave the freeway at the Mt. Barker exit, travel along the Mount Barker Road (one way) to Hahndorf, left at Pine Avenue to the Oval. Pine Avenue will be a non parking area for the day. Main Street, Hahndorf will be temporarily closed at Pine Avenue while the bikes go through. The Echunga Road South of the Oval and Von Doussa Road North of the Oval will be closed to traffic until 1.00 pm. Exit from the Oval prior to 1.00 pm will be from the rear of the Oval North along Fairview Road to Adelaide, Hahndorf and Mylor and to the South to Echunga.

For their assistance in making the Toy Run successful the MRA would like to thank the our sponsors; West End Meats, Toll SPD, Rainbow Press, Vili's Cakes, B&C Security Services, and special thanks for their assistance to; the SA Police, Mt. Barker Council, Hahndorf Smallgoods, Hahndorf Inn, Department of Transport, Glen Dix, Lions Club of Mt. Barker, Mt. Barker SES, EH Cambridge & Co., the Hahndorf Oval Committee, the Hahndorf Traders Association, Tip Top Bread, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Youth Group, City of Holdfast Bay, Mark Povey, and all the marshals who volunteered their time on the day.

The Toy Run Committee are; <u>Coordinator</u> - Paul Morgan, <u>Marshalls, Sponsorship and Publicity</u> - David Povey, <u>Quartermaster</u> - Robyn Gaden, <u>Site Coordinator</u> - Brenton Mattiske, <u>Catering</u> - Harald Lindemann, <u>Entertainment</u> - Fiona Scott, <u>Council Liaison</u> - Barry Edwards, <u>St Vincent de Paul Liaison</u> - Lynette Walker

#### TRADE DISPLAYS

MRA -Toy Run Badges & key rings, MRA Stock, information and membership

Pitmans BMW Pitmans Yamaha Kessner Suzuki Bike Centre C&D Motorcycles Docteur Desmo Peter Stevens Honda Shop

Honda/Yamaha World Southern Yamaha

Walden Miller - leather motorcycle wear

Swann Insurance

Protech Vehicle Security

Link Products - car & motorcycle curios Williams Screenprints - t-shirts etc

Hysider - t-shirts, sportsware

St. Vincent de Paul - 2nd Hand Clothing

#### FOOD STALLS

MRA - steak, sausage sandwiches
Halayr Mobile Catering - hot dogs
Sugar & Spice - doughnuts, fairy floss
Maxine's Hot Potatoes - baked potatoes
Barclay Soft Serve - ice cream
Strawberries Galore - ice cream, pancakes,
milkshakes
Halindorf Inn - Chinese, goulash, soup

Wurstmax - German style food Grumpy's Diner - Aussie gourmet foods Vilis - pies, pasties, cakes

# **CLUB DISPLAYS**

AJS Club - club stall
Rider Sufe - display & stall
Ulysses Club - display and stall
Riderskills/Roadskills - display & stall

#### CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Santa and free giveaways, lollies Free Face Painting Free Bouncing Castle Ice cream, fairy floss for sale

Buy a ticket in the raffle - great prizes.

Don't forget to dress your bike up a bit. After all it is Christmas - let's make it look like it. Tinsel will be for sale at Glenelg.

This liftout is for distribution to members of the MRA and the general public and not for sale. Permission is granted to reproduce it all or in part in any media format on the condition that any payment made and received, is limited to the cost of reproduction only.



# **MOTORCYCLE RIDERS**

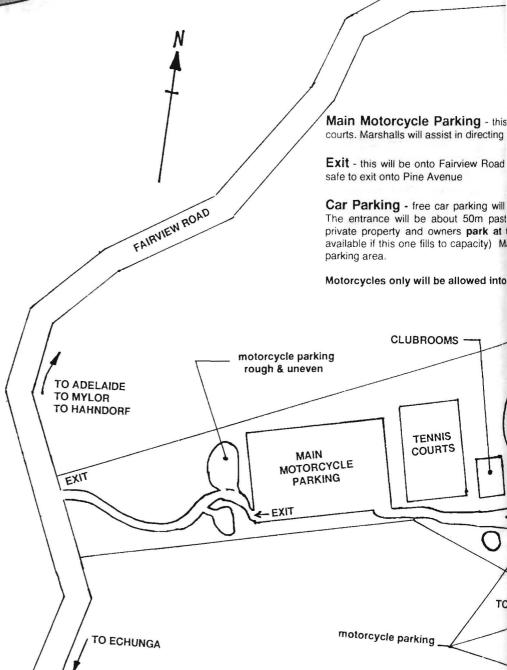
# **TOY RUN SITE 13 DECEMBER**

# **TOY RUN HISTORY**

The first Toy Run was held in California by a motorcycle club back in early 1970s the collecting for toys underprivileged local children at Christmas. As with most good ideas it wasn't long before other motorcycle groups took up the challenge and did the same thing in their areas.

The first Toy Run in Australia was organised by the MRA nationally in 1978. Toy Runs continue to be held in all capital cities around Australia.

In South Australia, as well as the Adelaide Toy Run, there is a Toy Run organised by the South East Register of the MRA SA which runs through the major centres of the South East ending in Mt. This year's Gambier. will be held December 5th. In Port Pirie. the Flinders Tourers Motorcycle Club also stage a Toy Run. Come along and bring



# THE 1998 MRA TOY RUN IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY









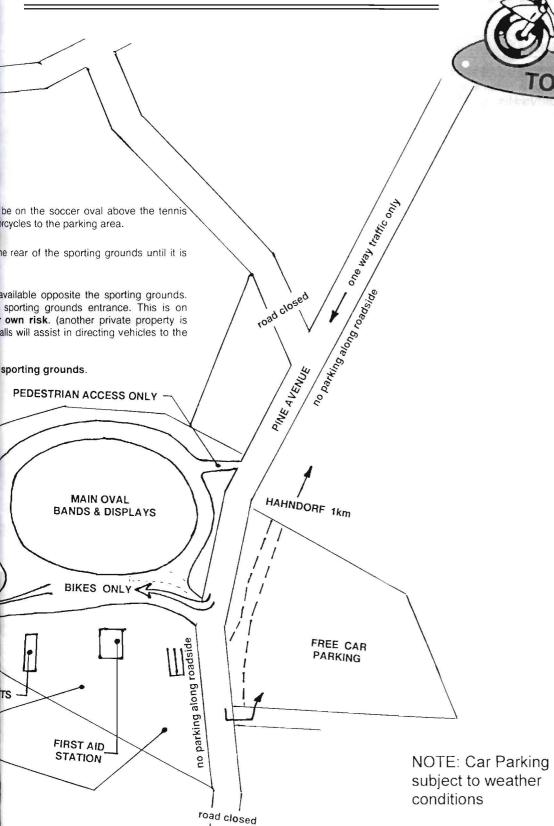






# ASSOCIATION OF S.A. INC.







The toys and perishable foodstuffs are collected prior to and after the run as well as on the day. Donations are made by individuals, families and worker groups; bikers and non-bikers.

The donations are all handed on to Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Members of the SA chapters converge on their Adelaide warehouse after the run with their lists and by the evening of the same day all the donations are on their way committed to new homes for Christmas.

The thousands of bikers taking part in the run, which is the biggest in Australia and probably the Southern Hemisphere, come from all over the state, as individuals and as club and ride groups, everything from scooters, postie bikes and trail bikes to full dress tourers. Models range from the latest to vintage. Allwelcome to attend.

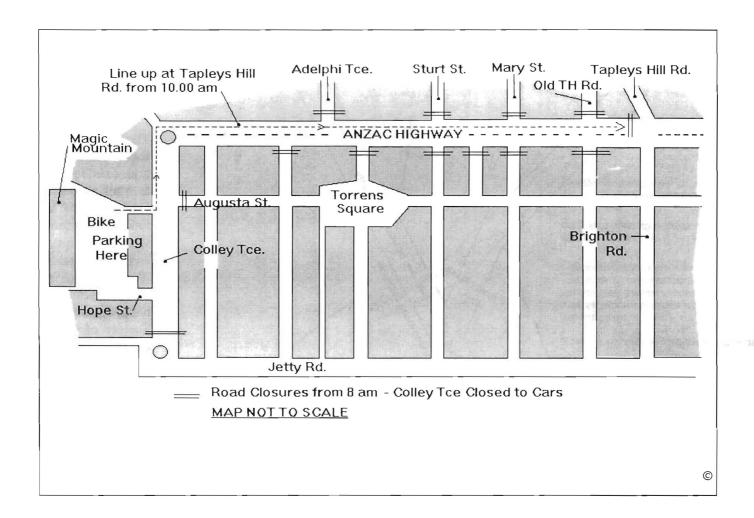
THE 1998 MRA TOY RUN IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:







# WHERE WE MEET: AT GLENELG



# ROAD CLOSURES & OTHER INFORMATION

Adelphi Terrace, Sturt Road and Mary Street on the North side of Anzac Highway; Sussex Street, Nile Street, Waterloo Street, Henry Street, Byron Street and Gordon Street on the South side of Anzac Highway will be closed off to traffic. Four wheeled traffic coming down Anzac Highway will be diverted down Durham Street near the round-about to Jetty Road. No parking zones will be posted for the South side of Anzac Highway West of Gordon Street to the round-about (8.00 am to 12 noon), Colley Terrace and Hope Street (2.30 am to 12 noon) to allow for a smooth flow of bike traffic in that area.

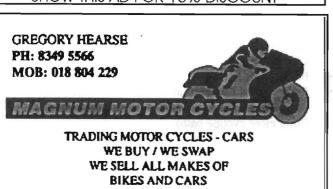
Bike parking will be available in the Magic Mountain carpark and its extensions and in Colley Terrace.

The official order of the Run will be Police Bikes, Santa, MRA Marshals, a row of chairs, Ulysses Club group, everyone else. The Run will leave at 11.00 am sharp and the route will be along Anzac Highway, right at Cross road (controlled lights all the way) and on to the South Eastern Freeway to the Mt. Barker exit. The Run will slow down 2k prior to the Mt. Barker exit to allow the procession to bunch up. Helmets must be worn by all participants and the speed of the Run will be no faster than 60 kph. Take notice of the Marshals who will be wearing red dayglo vests - their instructions will be for yours and others safety.

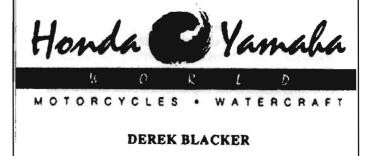
The MRA Volvo, courtesy of Povey Motors, will bring up the tail end and will be available for members and friends to deliver toys that can't be taken on bikes. Santa will be handing out sweets to the kids at Glenelg along the route and at the Hahndorf Oval as long as his lolly bag holds out.







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- (a) Falsley represent that goods or services are of particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model,
- (b) Falsley represent that goods are new;
- (c) Represent that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits they do not have;
- (d) Represent that he or it have a sponsorship approval or affiliation he or it does not have;
- (e) Make false or misleading statements concerning the existence of, or amounts of, price reductions,
- (f) Make false or misleading statements concerning the need for any goods, services, replacements or repairs;
- (g) Make false or misleading statements concerning the existence or effect of any warranty or guarantee.

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# **AMC** Report

by Peter Mount

# NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY SUMMIT

The Federal Office of Road Safety organised Australia's first National Road Safety Summit in Canberra on September 16 - 18. The purpose of the Summit was to assess the effectiveness and currency of the National Road Safety Strategy Action Plan and to provide a forum for community and stakeholder participation in the development of a revised Action Plan to take us to 2010.

The Summit was highly intensive and interactive, and was well-supported by over 300 delegates and 55 presenters and speakers. The outcomes were particularly valuable in that they were not only innovative and constructive but, in most cases, sufficiently practicable to enable realistic objectives to be set for improvements in road safety to the year 2010. Interestingly, especially to us motorcyclists, the most prevalent and recurring concepts for advancing road safety were consultation, cooperation and partnerships.

The following is an extremely abbreviated and generalised summary of outcomes.

# Identified issues (health):

- Motor vehicle injuries account for 25% of health costs
- Need to change cultural perception of safety on the road
- Programs more successful in city/urban than rural/remote
- · Strategic planning can only make roads safer, not safe
- GPs' link to road safety e.g., knowledge of health matters which could affect driving ability

### Strategies (health):

- Mutual recognition of expertise in sectors and disciplines which have any connection or relevance to road safety
- Develop health networks, partnerships and broad injury prevention strategies
- · Improve dissemination of information re local strategies

Ethics (i.e., points to consider when developing strategies):

- Balance of road safety strategy benefits and social acceptability
- · Action is often slow
- Sometimes action is not implemented even when the solution is known
- All responsibility for safety is placed on the road user little recognition of contributing factors or shared responsibility with the rest of the community

<u>NOTE</u>: We must be careful not to change the system by changing the inequities

# Targets:

- Targets are a good guiding force so that we don't think in terms of inevitability
- A zero fatality target (Vision Zero derived from the Swedish target) is reasonable when taken in context, i.e. it is the ideal for which we should strive even though it is not achievable, for not only will it induce us to minimise mistakes without restricting mobility, but it will prevent our thinking of any higher target in terms of an absolute. Life (and therefore zero) is the only absolute (although creationists, metaphysicists, reincarnationists and others may disagree), and it is therefore incumbent upon all levels of the community to address road safety from that perspective
- The original target was a maximum of 10 deaths per 100,000 of population by the year 2001. This has already been bettered and is currently 8 / 100k. However, other countries

such as UK are 6 / 100k and aiming for 3. Sweden is targeting zero

# Strategies/sanctions:

- Improve vehicle occupant protection
- Improve roads and infrastructure
- Increase Black Spot funding
- Reduce exposure
- Introduce alcohol interlocks
- Zero BAC
- Speed limited vehicles
- Identify impaired drivers
- · Improve road user behaviour
- Improve health services/trauma care
- Reduce speed limits
- Increase enforcement
- · Reduce enforcement tolerances
- Introduce ITS
- Compulsory carriage of driving licences
- More attention to drugs

#### Variables:

- Gains dependent upon:
  - how much money is spent
  - how expenditure is targeted

Additional strategies/options/recommendations:

- Reduce mobility
- Increase and improve road safety auditing and link to funding
- Develop concept of community participation
- · Target youth re attitudinal changes
- Develop more uniform road safety initiatives throughout Australia
- Put more energy and money into existing strategies which are shown to be useful and effective (including community group initiatives)
- Re-endorse priority of road safety on Australian Transport Council agenda
- Increase road safety education
- Encourage use of alternative transport public transport, bicycles (rollerblades?) and promote health benefits
- Build more cycling paths
- More widespread publication of cost of road trauma to community
- Clear prioritisation of NRSS action items in terms of impact
- Broaden stakeholder participation in and ownership of safety strategies
- Encourage sharing of and building on best practice between states and local jurisdictions
- Improve NRSS reporting mechanisms
- Develop and promote link between safety and environmental issues
- Develop targets for subgroups, i.e. apply specific focus to and address specific needs of minority groups, especially motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians

All the above suggestions and recommendations are, at this time, no more than that, for they must first be considered, approved and prioritised by the NRSS Panel before being included in the new Action Plan. Their approval will depend upon a number of factors such as cost, community benefit, community acceptability, ethics, practicability, market forces, technology, sustainability and others. The Panel is due to meet in December to consider the outcomes of the Summit.

There was considerable disappointment that, although road trauma costs our community some \$6,000,000,000 annually, which we have been led to believe is of great concern to all levels of the community from individuals to community groups and local, state and federal governments, not one political representative from the Federal Government saw fit to attend the Summit, despite there being an election in two weeks' time.

Nevertheless, all delegates agreed that the Summit had been extremely successful, even beyond what had been anticipated, and that it had been organised exceptionally well.

# WIRE ROPE RESEARCH

Lobbying by the AMC and other concerned motorcycle groups has resulted in the Federal Office of Road Safety establishing a working party to examine contentious safety factors associated with wire rope safety fencing (WRSF). Members of the working party are from FORS, AMC, Ulysses, NSWMCC and MRAQ.

The main tasks of the working party are to collect international research evidence on the safety performance of wire rope fencing and other barrier types with respect to motorcyclists and other road users, gather information regarding installation costs, maintenance costs and engineering considerations relevant to the choice of barrier type, and gather information about specific installations of concern to motorcyclists.

The working party is expected to report its findings to the Federal Minister for Transport within the first quarter of 1999.

Any motorcycle groups or individuals who have experience or information regarding WRSF which may assist the working party in its endeavours are urged to write to me through MRA SA.

# DEMOCRAT'S CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Deputy leader of the Democrats, Natasha Stott Despoja, launched her campaign to retain her seat in the Senate at a well-attended & highly interactive cocktail party at Gekkos Restaurant on July 4.

Senator Stott Despoja, who attended the 1997 Toy Run, is keen to maintain the viability of the Senate as a house of review, to strengthen the position of the Democrats within the political arena, to strive for equitable, balanced and responsible representation and to ensure full accountability by the government.

The Senator is supportive of issues affecting motorcyclists, and has offered to assist in raising these in federal parliament.

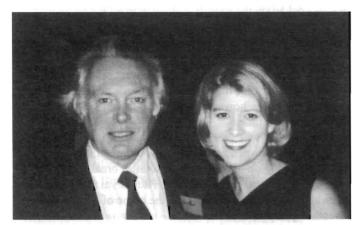


Photo: Senator Natasha Stott Despoja with Peter Mount, AMC and MRA(SA) representative, at Natasha's campaign launch

# DRUGS AND DRIVING WORKING GROUP

Following endorsement by the Australian Transport Council (which comprises the federal and state Ministers of Transport) at its November 1997 meeting, the Working Group on Drugs and Driving has been established under the (Austroads) National Road Safety Strategy Panel. The Working Group will focus on those issues relating to drugs and driving which need to be addressed at the national level.

Membership of this group consists of representatives from the Federal Office of Road Safety, state Departments of Transport, state police, Department of Forensic Medicine, Australian Advisory Committee on Road Trauma, NH & MRC Road Accident Research Unit, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the AMC.

The DDWG's defined purpose is to coordinate national directions for drugs and driving issues.

The DDWG's objectives are:

- Consult with key stakeholders in proposing any changes to existing programs or procedures.
- Identify a suitable program for all states and territories to participate in ongoing fatality and injury crash studies to determine the incidence of drug driving in Australia.
- Identify and monitor current and proposed research initiatives and make recommendations on future research studies.
- Contribute to the development of education and information programs to increase awareness for health professionals, patients and the general public, of the effects of drugs on driver performance.
- Develop information on the effects of drugs on driver performance for integration into training courses for qualified and student health care professionals.
- Establish standard analytical methods, quality control procedures and performance targets for screening blood and urine samples for drugs and encourage their adoption in all states and territories.
- Encourage the development of a national research strategy on drugs and road safety to guide the conduct of future investigations, assessment and data recording methods.

The issues associated with drugs and driving are complex, and it is important to coordinate national directions. One vital role of the DDWG will be to monitor and report on current and proposed research initiatives of relevance.

The AMC is fortunate to have been invited to participate as a member of the Working Group, for motorcyclists have unique problems in this area which may require unique solutions, and which our involvement will facilitate.

The inaugural meeting of the DDWG will be on July 1. The Group will complete its work by June 1999, and will be required to provide progress reports and a final report to the NRSS Panel.

# REGISTER LIAISON REPORT

Unfortunately, due to various financial and social difficulties, I missed out on the Bushpig Rally conducted by the Mid North Register on 19/20 Sep 1998 at the Crystal Brook MCC track, so I've no first hand report to give on it, however I understand that it was quite a success with a similar number attending as at last year's rally, only this year more people paid! They ran out of T-shirts and Rally Port so I guess it must have had the organisers smiling! I've heard that they're designing a new badge for the new millennium, I suppose it will be a 21st Century Pig!

The Mid North Register meets monthly at different venues, the 26 Nov meeting is at Murray Town, the 17 Dec is at Farrel Flat, and next year's meetings commence on 28 Jan at Port Broughton, and Friday 26 Feb at Morgan.

The South East Register Toy Run is on Sat 5 Dec this year, and the Xmas breakup will be at Bill & Vicki's place on 19 Dec.

That's all for now. Leslie Dicker (Uncle Pervie to you!)

# **CAMELOT CASTLE CAPERS**

It was the day of the great victory of the Crows over the hated Kangaroos that we all gathered at Camelot Castle set high in Basket Range on the wonderful Lobethal Road, to bear witness to Kiwi taking the plunge and doing the right thing by Cheryl and finally tying the knot!

Many of the motorcyclists attending donned 'ye olde tIme clothes' to look the part as I think the theme was 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail', I didn't do so but someone put a horny helmet on my head and took photographic evidence of it. I got even later on when I drove them home in the mini-bus, just ask the survivors!

After the vows were made and the rings exchanged, much feasting and merriment took place punctuated by the cry of 'What's the score?' or 'Beauty! the Crows are in front!' Congratulations to Kerry and Cheryl Turnwald, we wish them many years of happiness together, with the hope that the next time they get married they pick a day that doesn't coincide with the Crows playing in a grand final!

Uncle Pervie



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# REDBACK RALLY 1998.

by Les Dicker

The Redback Rally is organised by the Redback Tourers and was at the usual site on a reserve behind the pub at Overland Corner, which is between Morgan and Renmark This is an easy ride from Adelaide and attracts rallyists from Broken Hill and Mildura.

I rode up with the Whale on Friday afternoon and just for a change of scenery we decided to go through the Barossa Valley and then go the rest of the way on the main drag. Well it all went fine up until we got to the Sturt Highway intersection at Nuriootpa, when due to roadworks we were diverted onto a horrendous detour which eventually took us to Truro! I managed to keep the ZZR in a vertical mode during this section of the ride. The rest of the trip to the rally site was quite good.

We got to the control tent about five o'clock, checked in and got our badges, which strangely enough have a redback spider on them! We got some raffle tickets for the table sitting in front of us was full of great prize and then we went to our favourite spot and set up our tents and got a fire going.

The Whale went to the pub for a counter meal, but I had brought my own so I set about cooking on the fire enjoying a meal at sundown. There was a good crowd for a Friday night. The weather was clear with a sky full of stars, so we did a campfire crawl and had a great night's socialising before turning in.

The next morning was clouded over and as the bikes began to arrive I checked out what was there and got a photo of anything unusual or exotic (not erotic!). As the day progressed the weather got uncomfortable with a hot dusty strong wind springing up before lunchtime. This didn't discourage the rallyists, who are a hardy lot and kept arriving despite the weather. The conditions had a bad effect on Norm, who stripped down to his brightly coloured jocks and bandanna and rode around the site on his Honda Blackbird until Wendy arrived and got him under control!

There was the usual number of day trippers at this rally, enthusiasts who go for a ride and check in at the rally for a few hours of fun. Steady Eddie arrived on his faithful Goldwing, followed closely by Johnnie on his incredible BMW, Jeff on his YZF and Robyn on her Trixie. The uncomfortable weather made us all gravitate to the shelter of the pub's beer garden and we spent most of the afternoon there as the organisers wisely decided that a gymkhana was not a good idea in those conditions.

That evening the Whale treated me to one of his excellent steaks which he cooked on the campfire along with all the trimmings, and a better meal you could not get! During the evening the light of our fire attracted quite a few visitors who spent a while getting merry and spreading rumours about various matters not necessarily to do with motorcycling. We went up to the control tent during the night for the presentation of the awards, and the drawing of the raffle, however but I failed to win anything, Ah well, perhaps next time.

Sunday morning dawned reasonably fine although it did look like some rain brewing up in the distance, so after breakfast we packed up all our gear and the Whale, Paul Levai and I set off for home which was by way of Morgan (the home of Meat Axe!) and the weather behaved itself!

Well that's all for now, hope to see you at a rally soon.

# "PICK YOUR DATE"

Motorcycle Riders
Association of S. A.
Calender of Forthcoming
Events: Dec '98 - Mar '99

# **DECEMBER**

Tuesday 1 st 4B's Meeting 7:30 pm Flagstaff Hotel Franklin St City.

Saturday 5 th
South East Register TOY RUN

Monday 7 th Toy Run Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Sunday 13 th
Adelaide 1998 TOY RUN
Meet at Glenelg/Run to Hahndorf

Monday 14 th Committee Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Thursday 17 th Mid-North Committee Meeting Farrell Flat Saturday 19 th 4Bs Christmas Dinner Flagstaff Hotel Franklin St City.

South-East Register Christmas Drinks Bill & Vicki's Place

Monday 21 st Christmas Drinks 8:00 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

**JANUARY** 

Tuesday 5 th 4B's Meeting 7:30 pm Flagstaff Hotel Franklin St City.

Monday 11 th Committee Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Monday 25 th General Meeting 8:00 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Thursday 28 th Mid-North Meeting Port Broughton

**FEBRUARY** 

Monday 8 th Committee Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh Tuesday 9 th 4B's Meeting 7:30 pm Flagstaff Hotel Franklin St City.

Monday 15 th Toy Run Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Monday 22 nd Social Sips 8:00 pm "The GOV"Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Thursday 26th Mid-North Meeting Morgan

MARCH

Monday 8 th Committee Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Tuesday 9 th 4B's Meeting 7:30 pm Flagstaff Hotel Franklin St City.

Monday 15 th Toy Run Meeting 7:30 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

Monday 29 th General Meeting 8:00 pm "The GOV" Port Rd Hindmarsh.

# **4B'S REPORT**

by Greg Janzow

Once again there's not much to report from the hospitals this time, except to say that as Spring broke there was a slight increase in the number of "customers". So keep aware and keep upright as the warmer weather approaches.

It's also that time of year when the 4Bs reconsider the arrangement for the coming year. It took a record short time during the October meeting to decide to maintain the status quo in the group: viz, I am still Coordinator and Rosemary remains Secretary-Treasurer. Again I'd like to thank publicly all members of the 4Bs for their continuing hard work and support, with a special mention of our country members.

At our last meeting we also decided to hold our annual Christmas Dinner as usual. It will be on the 19th December at the Flagstaff Hotel in Fanklin Street at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. The cost will be \$22 per head which represents good value if previous years are any indication. All members and families are welcome.

If you are interested cal me on 8346 8068 and I'll make the booking for you.

There was a positive response to my plea for magazines in the last Centrestand. Thanks Allan Cox for your contribution.

So much for now. Don't forget, if you are still giving blood, to mention the MRA. Have a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Upright New Year and Il'll see at the Toy Run.

Cheers, Greg



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# **HEADY STUFF ON TOP**

by Sammi Ross

To buy or not to buy? that is the question. Buying a new helmet can be a worrying time.

My first helmet, an Arai bought in 1983, served me very well until I lent it to a friend to wear to Broadford in 1990. The helmet returned, minus the visor and a necessary screw which attached it: replacement visors were non-existent.

Considering that I had resisted replacing the helmet for longer than the highly recommended 4 years expounded by the rider-trainers in 1983, I decided that, when I picked up my new bike from Moree, northern N.S.W., I'd shout myself a new helmet too.

Fortunately for me, the Moree motorbike shop had a small Arai helmet into which I managed to squeeze my head and prise my spectacles' legs. I spent the next day and a half 'ride the bike in' trip to Adelaide resisting the urge to extricate the offending tormenting spectacles, and fling them away, leaving me sightless. At each stop I carefully removed the spectacles and persuaded the helmet to let go of my head, no doubt displaying bright red, blood-filled, creased ears.

Over the last 8 years the helmet has adjusted to my head shape and spectacle manipulations. (Writing about spectacles is another story — going to the optometrist with your helmet on so that you know that the spectacles' legs will be able to be persuaded inside and around your ears . . .)

Now I have again given in to my feeling of guilt at having a helmet for longer that 4 years. I have not had reason to lend this helmet so I am not in need of a new visor (which will undoubtedly be unavailable), nor the attachment mechanics (neatly hidden under black sideslabs of plastic). Mind you, the visor should have been replaced from the start, being tinted and requiring much concentration for night riding.

I took the plunge and went looking for a new helmet, keeping in mind just how much of a gamble so many things related to motorcycling are: for example, the purchase of a bike after a quick test-ride (if they let you), the designing of a leather jacket that fits properly (to find that it rides up at the back, or lets cold air through the zippered front), the fitting of boots (which don't allow for muscular calves, or are buckled on the inside, so nicely removing the gloss off the bike's sidecovers), and so on.

I find many of the designs on new helmets colourful and exciting, but the more artistic and attractive they are,

the more expensive. Now, I would like to support the creative illustrators but, knowing the gamble, I went for the \$99 Sale Special, Bieffe (found later for \$75 in a different bike shop). Unfortunately the 'small' helmet was too large for me but they promised that they'd order an extra small for me.

A week later, on a Saturday morning, when all of the usual staff were out promoting their wares at a social event, I collected a boxed Bieffe.

'Buyer beware' should have been my motto. The following day I donned the helmet and thought, as I rode to Goolwa and back, 'This helmet's still too large.' After I'd used up all my patience undoing the strap clip (not the familiar simple two ringed gizmo), I slipped the helmet off and found, on peering inside for the size, a neatly texta-ed X in front of the S!

So another lesson is learnt – well, maybe not. To fill in the excess space I now wear a beanie inside the helmet. I studied the plastic clip clasp until I understood its mechanics but doubt it will last the next 8 years: besides which it digs into my throat. But it does have a clear visor, albeit with delicately balanced opening positions, and two vents, which seem to make no difference; opened or closed.

Mind you, I've worn the helmet only twice since the first day, preferring my scratched tinted visor, ear-squashing old Arai which fits like an old shoe.

If you have any stories about helmets that you would like to share, I'd love to hear from you. I am currently looking into different types as regards safety, comfort, affordability. If we have to wear them, lets make sure they're working for us, not against us. I'd particularly like to hear about open-face and 'dirt-bike' helmets.

Sammi Ross, I Main Road, Littlehampton 5250.



Les models the latest in Safety Head Gear from Scandinavia

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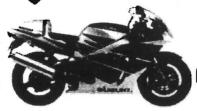
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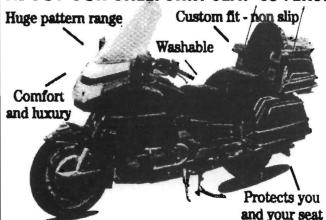
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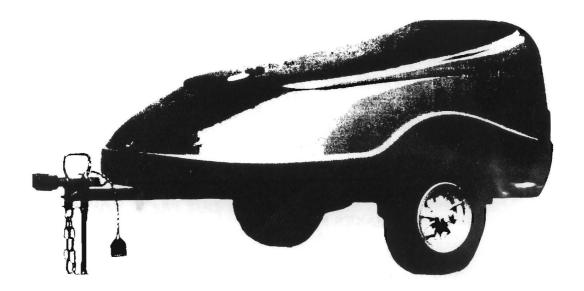
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