

# It's All Happening

TWO WHEELS. JULY 1986.

## EDITORIAL

# Keeping the Faith?

A chirpy little press release recently landed in the office. It came from the Australian Motorcycle Council, based in Canberra, and refers to an 11-point "Motorcycle Safety Package" worked out by ATAC (Australian Transport Advisory Council), with input from the AMC. The AMC, according to the press release, is "happy with the way the package is proceeding." Fair enough.

Some days later, another press release lobs on the desk announcing that Damien Codognotto, ex-president of MRA Victoria, has been appointed as AMC's Assistant Secretary. His appointment, the release notes, drew expressions of "delight" from AMC Chairman Colin Rosewarne and MRA President Hal Caston. Even Paul Edstein, who has copped heaps from Codognotto in the past (and given a bit back) is "prepared to work with him!" That's nice.

Have a look at the adjoining extract. It covers Items Three through to Seven of the actual "Motorcycle Safety Package" mentioned above. We'd like to draw your attention to the Recommendation beneath the heading "Item 5". It reads:

**"Daytime motorcycle lighting will be beneficial in improving motorcycle visibility, ie some form of lighting is better than no lighting."**

Item Five goes on to discuss the development of an ADR (Australian Design Rule) for new bikes with a view to providing standard running lights (modified indicators). It stresses that they should not be compulsory, but Item Six recommends that:

**"To maximise the benefits from voluntary use of twin running lamps, motorcycle associations will positively support and appropriately promote such use."**

Rosewarne and Codognotto, who criticised so strongly the "lights on" poster run in Revs and TWO WHEELS last November, have had a change of heart? Both are involved with the organisation which helped formulate these recommendations, so presumably they now endorse the concept, stated in Item Five, that **"some form of lighting is better than no lighting."**

Isn't a headlight a better, stronger light than an indicator? Yet Codognotto saw

the "lights on" poster as an "insult to motorcyclists", and Rosewarne has criticised it also.

Codognotto recently claimed that there's a rumor circulating in the motorcycle community (started by whom, we wonder) that the poster was part of a conspiracy between doctors and the car industry to get motorcycles off the road altogether.

We're confused. The AMA poster encourages you to ride with your light on. There's nothing compulsory about it. Still it drew plenty of criticism from Codognotto and Rosewarne.

That's OK. They're entitled to say whatever they like.

But hang on. They're now

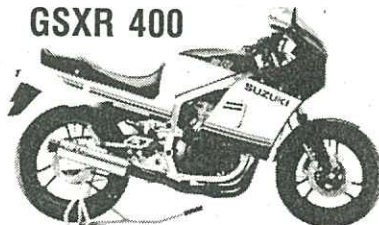
endorsing the very same idea presented in the poster (lighting improves visibility), but reckon that modified indicators rather than headlights are the way to go if you want to be seen. What? And they're supporting the development of an ADR so that they'll be fitted to all new bikes.

When the AMC, presumably one of the associations which will "positively support and appropriately promote" running lights, comes knocking on your door trying to sell you the idea, you might feel a bit cynical about the whole deal. That's fair enough, too.

But then, it's only natural that the more one becomes involved in politics, the more one behaves like a politician.

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