

3 February, 1988.

Dear Mrs. Coward,

as you will no doubt have heard by now I have been sacked as MRA office supervisor. I feel that this was unjust so I am Appealing the decision. All I am guilty of is working very hard for the good of the MRA's membership.

The string of events that may or may not be related to the sacking went something like this. Monday, January 18 Tony Scicluna rang and threatened to sack me twice if I went ahead with a column promoting the MRA in Australian Motorcycle News. He did not want the column at all but if it had to appear he wanted to make changes. I told him that as a journalist I had a right to report on anything I liked if I stayed within the law and he had no right to threaten me with dismissal on those grounds. It would be like me telling you that if you did not quit the MRA I would see you lost your job. It just was not on.

Anyway, during the next week or so, Dave Hornsby rang Guy Allen, Editor of AMCN, and asked if the column could be stopped. Guy told him that the magazine would not bow to pressure from any group as to what was printed. Guy was a bit puzzled as many other MRA Committees see the value of the new column and are sending in material. It seems to me that they want it stopped as a power play and they don't care whether or not it's good for the members. Maybe I'm wrong.

On the night of Friday, January 29, the 3 members of the CEP Steering Committee (effectively my bosses) were in contact by phone. Margaret Guthrie said she rang Tony Scicluna who spoke about dismissing me. I assume Scicluna rang Dave Hornsby because Guthrie told me that Hornsby rang her and all agreed to get rid of me.

At 11.45 AM on Monday, February 1, Guthrie got to do the dirty work for the Committee yet again when she presented me with the letter of dismissal. She admitted it was incorrect later and supplied an amended copy by post. I denied all 3 allegations and believe I have performed very well for the members under constant attacks from the same group of people and under extremely difficult working conditions. I don't attack and I have no power to alter Committee decisions. I have no vote. I was asked to come back by Tony Scicluna because the MRA was in trouble. On two occasions he has asked me to run against Hornsby. The last time he called me gutless because I refused. When I defend myself I am called a trouble maker. So there you have it. I am no longer with the MRA as an employee so you may not want to have me at your meeting.

Please find enclosed an audio tape of the highlights of Toy Run '87. After you have heard it I think you will agree that considering it cost the Association nothing (they actually made a profit) it was a top event that was great for the MRA's image. Listen to what the Mayor had to say and the Gardner presentation.

The next Toy Run will be on December 12 at the same venue. Please send me details of your Toy Run so it can be included on this year's colour poster. I will need a time, place and contact phone number by the end of February.

Sincerely,



Damien Codognotto.