



NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CONSULTANTS PTY. LTD. (INC. VIC.) BIG KOALA MOTORCYCLE TOURS. NMC MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE
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20 June 1989.

MRA CALENDAR.

BOLD

Italics

Many people have urged me to get back into motorcycle politics over the last couple of years. In the late seventies I was elected founding president of the Motorcycle Riders' Association. About five years later Tony Scicluna took over. He talked me into running again the night before the 1983 election.

By 1985 the MRA in Victoria had a business in the city, over 5000 members and a turnover exceeding \$120,000. I resigned at the end of the year because I could not convince the committee that the MRA had to go professional. I swore never to go into MRA administration again. But it's hard to watch something you have believed in for more than a decade falling apart. Times change. As Aunty Jack said, sliding her black Harley outfit to a halt in Wollongong, "I'm back".

But do not expect a free ride. I expect all of you who have let your memberships lapse to rejoin. Many people who have been whining about the MRA's image, the fact it hasn't had a legislative win in the last half of the eighties and the lack of member services in Victoria. It's time you put in to help us changes the situation.

The very least you can do is pay your annual membership fee to support those who are defending your safety and rights. Membership fees in Victoria must rise on January 1, 1990. I'll post you a membership form if you give me a call on 03) 211 5127. Leave a message on the machine if you cant call in business hours.

NSW President, Ryan Wilson, faces similar problems. He needs members too. Lack of manpower, funds and facilities

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make it difficult to be an effective lobbyist.

Motorcyclists in NSW are looking at massive increases in third party premiums and fundamental changes to the way the scheme operates. Some say a bike over 300cc in Sydney will cost an extra \$115 per year in compulsory third party insurance fees.

There seems to be a decrease in the size of the motorcycle community in NSW. But it's still the biggest bike state with well over 100,000 road riders. Being conservative it is reasonable to expect five per cent of the motorcycle community to care enough to spend twenty dollars a year on their lobby group. Ryan should have a annual budget of at least one hundred thousand dollars.

If Ryan and I each had a hundred grand to make things happen the work we would do for you would amaze.

I am enough of an optimist to aim for ten per cent of Victorian motorcyclists as members of the new-look MRA. To get them to join we have to perform and be seen to be performing in the media. We have to take our image up-market without forgetting our roots. We have to pay our bills and improve our services. We committee people will perform and the more of you who support us the more we will get done for you.

If you want a better deal for motorcycling from society you have to contribute. In this case it's MRA membership fees.

NSW BRANCH. From August first Branch fees will be due on that date each year. A pro-rata system will apply so riders can join up any time. However, if you join now you get July free. Ring 047) 21 2502 to have a membership form posted to you.

Frank Knight is the Rider Training Co-ordinator and the MRA training scheme is called "Ride Safe". A number of members are licenced instructors and others are studying for the licence. They have five 250cc bikes and a number of helmets supplied by Ian Palmer Motorcycles. This is the way for novices to begin riding. For information call 047) 21 3037 after 5pm.

WA BRANCH. The President in the west is Jude Simmondson. The MRA office is in room one at the Peninsula Community Centre, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. Mail should be sent to PO Box 705, West Perth 6005. General meetings are

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held at the above address, in the Moontime Hall at 7.30pm, on the last Tuesday each month. All welcome.

NOR-WEST REGISTER. A long way north of Perth, in the Pilbara, is the sole, remaining WA Register. Many riders from the east and around the world tour WA. Most of them dont know the locals or the terrain. It makes sense to have a yarn to motorcyclists with a bit of local knowledge. Your trip can be beter fro contact with a local MRA. If you're in the north west why not give President Chris Hill 091) 85 4595, Vice President Glynn "Ned" Rowan 85 4097 or Treasurer Bob Day 85 4679, a call.

VICTORIAN BRANCH. The new committee has been elected to get the MRA back on it's feet. Some hard decisions are being taken. These will be implemented quickly.

From July 1 there will be new membership and financial systems. From January 1, 1990, there will be an increase in membership fees. Join now and save. Call 03) 211 5127 to have a membership form posted out.

Toy Run '89 will be held in Melbourne on the traditional, second weekend in December if the MRA"s finances improve. It will be in Victoria Square, Elizabeth Street, as usual. But it will move from the Saturday to the Sunday.

Saturday toy runs are a problem in the city. The reason the event has been held on Saturdays was to involve the motorcycle industry. Permits have been obtained so the Elizabeth Street traders could stay open longer on toy run days to take advantage of the crowds of potential customers. We hoped they would hold Christmas sales and so attract even more people to Australia's only capital city street festival for motorcyclists. Most of the trade have not been enthusiastic about getting involved with the people who buy their product. This is embarrassing when you have Mayors, top Police and Transort Ministers on stage to do honour to motorcycling and to our Grand Prix stars. Year after year the industry has been conspicuous by its absense.

Toy Run '88 was funded to the tune of \$12,000 by the Federal Government. The rest was paid for by the sponsors and the National Motorcycle Consultants who organise the event. If it's on it will be on December 10.

The new committee has sent a letter to all Victorian

Registers requesting membership and financial information. It also wants details of when and where meetings are held, committee contacts and a calendar. Dates in 1990 do not have to be firm but the committee needs the information to preppare for next year.

All mail should be sent to the new PO Box in Melbourne. The address is MRA, GPO Box 1933R, Melbourne 3001.

General meetings will be held quarterly rather than monthly in future. They will be on Sunday afternoons instead of week nights so more members can attend.

Dates for general meetings in 1990 will be February 4, May 6, August 5 (elections) and November 4. There will be one Registers' Conference per year. It will be held on the Moomba Weekend in Melbourne. The 1990 Registers' Conference will be March 10, 11 and 12. Put these dates in your diary now.

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Winter is a quiet time for MRA events but spring is just around the corner. Put pressure on your local MRA committee to plan well ahead and get the information in to this column as soon as possible. The more material I get the more I can promote your local MRA. Just send the information, preferably typed, to PO Box 389, Caulfield East 3145.