

MINUTES OF MRA QGM MEETING
May 25 2002, 1.00PM - Bells Hotel South Melbourne.

1. PRESENT: As per attendance register

2. APOLOGIES: Garry Yip.

Due to the unexpected death of MRA President Dr John Pigot on May 10 the agenda as circulated was amended.

3. WELCOME

Acting President Marcel Gomperts Addressed the Meeting. The past three weeks have been very difficult as we try to come to terms with the sudden death of our President Dr John Pigot. John took on the role of President at a time when no one else would. He accepted a difficult task in setting the direction for the MRA as various groups have different opinions on the MRA's future. John aimed to build the MRA into a coherent group. He recognized that the infighting which has gone on in the past prevents people from getting involved. Marcel asked all present to reflect on what John was trying to achieve and asked for a minute silence.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: - 23 February 2002. Minutes moved Damien Codognotto Seconded Alex Money with amendments as submitted by Michael Czjaka. Michael requested that this not be voted on until later.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – Michael enquired whether the minutes had been posted on the internet and was advised that they had not.

5. BOARD REPORTS:

Vice President:

Marcel advised that the position of President will not be filled until the AGM. Nominations for the position can be submitted. Garry has resigned as membership secretary and nominations for this position can also be submitted.

Damien enquired whether the new constitution had been accepted yet and was advised that we are still waiting for approval. Until this is received we are working under the old constitution.

Membership Report: Attached.

Treasurers report: Faye advised that \$3,800 was made from the running of the F1GP parking. Finances are stable with memberships continuing to come in. We are still paying off the long term debt to Damien.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding (Grants) This committee was being chaired by John Pigot. Those who have expressed an interest in this committee are Nigel Bickerstaff, John Karmouche, Lee O'Mahoney, with Faye as the Board Rep. John Karmouche reported that the committee have been gathering data and that events have rapidly overtaken the committee. They are aiming for funding of \$500,000 over five years. Discussions are being held with the TAC.

Major Events Marcel advised that there are several people interested in this committee, they have not yet met. They are Jason Allen, Sarah Stokes, Anton Lange, Dale Maggs, with Marcel as Board Rep. This committee looks after the Toy Run, GP Run, Motorcycle Expo, F1 GP parking, Blood Challenge and other major events the organization participates in from time to time. The Toy Run is moving ahead and the Event Management plan for this year has been submitted.

Member Benefits. This committee has not yet met however several people have been involved in the running of MRA social rides which are part of this committee. Members interested in this committee are Marcel Gomperts, Anton Lange, Sarah Stokes, Brenda Gottfried, the Board Rep will be the Membership Secretary. The committee will look after social events, discounts, and other member benefits.

Media and Communication This committee has not yet met however several people have expressed interest, they re Roger Hammond, Roger Burns, Alex Money, John Beckley and Jason Allen. The website is in need of updating and will be looked at. This group also looks after the e-groups and the newsletter.

Advocacy Committee: This committee has been functioning for some time on a limited basis, those on or interested in the committee are Michael Czajaka, Wendy Taylor, Nigel Bickerstaff, Damien Codognotto, Marcel Smits, Bill Wintels, John Karmouche, Perrigrine Horton, Jason Allen, to date the Board Rep has been Kerri.

Marcel read a letter regarding VMAC. The letter suggested that we nominate one male and one female member as MRA representatives and the decision of who would be MRA Rep will be made out of these two. There was considerable discussion on this point. Members did not accept this feeling that it was up to us to choose the best person for the role from our membership.

Motion Michael Czjaka to be the MRA rep on VMAC.

Moved Marcel Gomperts Seconded Damien Codognotto Carried

Marcel advised that he will respond to the letter in writing stating the MRA wishes.

The chairman did not call for reports to be accepted.

7 Future of the MRA. John had posed the question to members "Is the MRA "dead in the water" or does it have a viable future?" Marcel stated that the Government has put us back on top with the introduction of the \$50 levy. This is the best thing to happen to us. For years Damien and Michael have been fighting now with the threatened introduction of the levy we have recognition. The levy can be fought but it has sparked the interest of other Motorcycling organizations. They realize we must unite in order to fight this. We have been talking with the TAC and it has been very positive.

Damien has been invited to a meeting with the TAC and the company that did the research. Gray advertising were commissioned to do this research. They have prepared a document which we have been asked not to circulate. It is nothing ominous, it looks at advertising and is not related to the \$50.

The RACV who were mentioned as the administrator of the \$50 levy were not consulted or advised about this before the announcement.

The levy has played into our hands as both sides of the Government are now recognizing the need for safety initiatives.

Michael commented that what we now need to do is show the levy is not necessary to achieve this.

Detlef stated the benefit to the MRA is it gives us an opportunity to show leadership on the streets with protests.

Marcel advised it gives us the opportunity to work on having clubs align with us as associate members at a reduced rate. We could also use this to do a membership drive at reduced rates for one year then reverting to the standard rate. Marcel believes that under the constitution this must go before the AGM.

There was much discussion on “membership”.

Including that members join different organizations for different reasons. We could have organizations such as Ulysus endorse MRA to encourage their members to join.

Motion: The meeting endorse the board to look into a membership drive.

Moved Damien Codognotto Seconded Aussie Sadler Carried.

Detlef commented he was actually endorsing protests.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: - 23 February 2002. (vote as held over) Carried

8 ITEMS SUBMITTED

8a. “That it be MRAA Inc. policy to Elizabeth Street, Melbourne as the destination of the 25th annual Melbourne Toy Run even if the main collection site is in the Queen Victoria Market area” – submitted by Damien Codognotto OAM. Damien advised that this didn’t mean a major change and would support the 100 years of motorcycling in Elizabeth St. The stage could remain in Vic Market. Bikes would come down LaTrobe st. Damien stated he put in a complaint to the Police Commissioner regarding last years event. No event is perfect and the risks faced by the Toy Run are very real. It is imperative that the route be by LaTrobe street.

Marcel advised that Elizabeth St was used as parking last year and that it is not a good destination as traders are not open and have advised that they do not wish to open. People who did park there were not happy as it was too far from the stage at the market.

John Beckley stated that he didn’t believe MCC supported Elizabeth St as a final destination. The Vic Market site works and we already have a plan in place. Those who wish to go to Elizabeth St could walk down there. Why make waves for ourselves.

Marcel Smits commented that Motorcycles in Melbourne Committee have not expressed any feelings at all regarding the Toy Run.

John Karmouche felt that although we should support the historic precinct of Elizabeth Street we should keep the market as the destination for the Toy Run. Elizabeth Street is not viable for this event.

Damien advised that everyone was missing the point there were problems associated with the route.

Detlef raised a point of order. Item 8a mentions nothing about the route it talks only about the destination and only about the 25th annual Toy Run.

After further discussion Damien withdrew the motion and the meeting agreed to mention Elizabeth St in publicity for this years Toy Run.

8 b. “That the 25th Melbourne Toy Run be held on the traditional date, that is, the Sunday of the 2nd full weekend in December, Sunday, December 15th 2002” – Submitted by Damien Codognotto OAM. Damien stated this date was originally set so as not to clash with events such as Broadford. Damien stated that he has organized a tree at Daimaru for the 15th.

Lee O'Mahoney commented that this is the MRA Toy Run and should not be about fitting in with what individuals have organized. It is destructive and confusing to have individuals organizing separate activities without consultation.

Marcel advised that the 8th is a better date as more people are available and it give the charity more time to distribute toys prior to Christmas.

Damien withdrew the motion.

Motion: The second Sunday in December be the official date for the MRA Toy Run.

Moved Michael Czjaka Seconded John Beckley Carried

8c Damien withdrew the motion.

9 Items from the floor.

Has a returning officer been appointed? No. Kerri advised that in the past she has acted as returning officer however as her position is up for election this would not be appropriate. Detlef suggested that as long as someone was appointed before nominations are made this would be OK

Motion: Detlef be appointed returning officer.

Moved Marcel Smits Seconded Damien Codognotto Carried.

Netrider Protest: Sarah requested assistance with the western rally point for the protest scheduled for 31st this month. There will be two groups. One leaving Waverly Gardens and one leaving Airport West, at about 8.00am. The aim is to focus media and public attention on our concern at the \$50 levy.

TAC meeting. Michael advised he is meeting with the TAC regarding stats and would like someone else to attend. Georges expressed interest. Michael also commented that VMAC protested against the levy and the lack of consultation. The role of the ACM is to network with other groups and to share work and ideas.

Concern about slanderous emails. Lee expressed concern at some of the emails circulated by Damien that are slanderous to the MRA, the board and individual volunteers. She stated that it is very negative for the MRA and discourages people from becoming involved.

Damien demanded to see copies of offending emails then and there. Lee had not brought copies with her.

Sally McKerrow advised that as a recipient of some of these emails she supported what Lee was saying and stated that her reputation as the author of the Toy Run plan had been tarnished as a result of these actions. Sally went on further to state that she would withdraw permission to use the plan as a consequence of this.

Considerable heated discussion and debate took place.

Marcel suggested we need to focus on the removal of the \$50 levy.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm.