

Dear MRA Australia Member,

I was a founder of the MRA and have been President 3 times since 1978. Each time the MRAA has grown. In '89 the MRAA was debt ridden, had no magazine and just 500 members. My team has paid the bills, given you a glossy mag and the membership is now 2258 across Australia and growing. MRAA again has a positive image and political muscle to represent you to the Federal Government and internationally. In August alone I represented riders in more than 30 hours of meetings with government and industry. Most of these were in business hours. MRAA has a bright future as a national organisation. It can give the motorcycle community national services and benefits never seen in Australia before. BUT, only with good policies and strong management.

The past Vice President, Chris Lamblin 03 736 3059, ran for President at the August AGM. There was a UNANIMOUS vote to accept the rulings of the Returning Officer, Detlef Lamp 03 367 1271. Now that meeting and the election are questioned. Chris heads a local faction that wants control of your MRAA. But this small Melbourne group has minimal experience in business or politics. They are unlikely to give up jobs to represent you at all the meetings MRAA is committed to in Melbourne, Canberra and elsewhere. If they take over my team will retire permanently. Head Office and its staff will resign as members and your glossy magazine will not be produced. This decision should properly be made by MRAA members across Australia. But, don't take my word, call Chris, Detlef and Dean and get their side of the story. Its your future. You decide.

Damien

Damien Codognotto - MRAA President.

NEWS

CODOGNOTTO RE-ELECTED IN MRAA AGM SHAMBLES

Long-time president of the MRAA, Damien Codognotto, was re-elected for another year at the organisation's August 1 annual general meeting. The meeting however was a shambles, which highlighted some weak points in what many MRAA members regard as an outdated constitution.

In an initial ballot for the presidency, Codognotto was not allowed to run thanks to a clause in the constitution which forbids an incumbent (of two or more years standing) to run if there are two or more other candidates who can each net better than 20 percent of the vote. This is the first time in the organisation's 15-year history that this clause has been called into operation.

The two other candidates were former Vice-President Chris Lamblin and a previously 'unknown' member, Duane Cox. The latter gave every appearance of running as a 'dummy' candidate who had no intention of being elected. He was there simply to force Codognotto out of the running and in fact exhorted people to vote not for himself, but for Lamblin.

Such was the resentment at Cox's move that the majority of people abstained from the first ballot.

Technically Lamblin was elected and, when he spoke to *Motorcycle News*, he denied any involvement with Cox's decision to run. In fact he requested a second ballot, "for the good of the organisation", in which he ran against Codognotto. The result was 51 to 50 in Codognotto's favour.

Attended by 106 members, plus a few observers, the meeting raised some other problems with the MRAA constitution such as there being no age limit on voting. A five-year-old was allowed to join the ballot.

Other officers elected on the day were: Vice President — Lloyd Williams; Treasurer — Gus Cummings; Secretary — Linda Rosier; and Membership Secretary — Jerry Hall.

According to Codognotto, the MRAA is "Looking forward to a pretty hard year so far as workload is concerned, but a positive one". MRAA has revived its magazine, The Deciding Factor, and currently has around 2100 financial members. Apparently the current trend is that most of the new and renewed memberships are coming from outside the organisation's home state, Victoria.

Guy Allen

Dear Friend,

the acting President Damien Codognotto, was not elected in accordance with the Constitution of the MRAA and further that in the opinion of many members of the MRAA, he is not a workable President who can unite motorcyclists to advance our interests, we therefore believe that he should step down.

Dean Mitchell