

Damien
for your info,
as requested.
Mary



**THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED (VICTORIA BRANCH)**

PO BOX 64 COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE 3000.
208 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE 3070
PH: (03) 482-2384

TO: MRA Gippsland Register
P.O. Box 1099
Morwell 3840

28th January '88

Dear members of Gippsland Register,

I have received a copy of the motion passed at the meeting of your Register on 16th December '87, concerning the behaviour of Damien Codognotto at the Toy Run '87 towards myself.

I thank you for your concern over this matter, but would ask that should such a situation arise in the future, that you discuss said matter with me before formally demanding any apology on my behalf.

You are quite right, however, in voicing your concerns over the public treatment of an MRA Committee member (or indeed, any MRA member).

When I arrived at the Toy Run, Damien was visibly upset at a number of things that had gone wrong on the morning of the Toy Run, and made his frustrations known to me in no uncertain manner. He did indeed yell, rather than speak, to me, and did use some (what could be termed as) offensive language, - however, I do not believe that this was directed personally at me, nor was I offended in any way by the language or the manner in which Damien spoke to me. (Although I must say I'm not rapt in being yelled at!!!)

Thus, I do not require any apology, in writing or otherwise, from Damien. Knowing Damien reasonably well, I accept the fact that when frustrated and upset, he voices said frustrations rather loudly. Furthermore, knowing the circumstances of events at the Toy Run, I could not construe his behaviour as a personal attack or affront to myself.

Your correspondence re this matter was discussed at the State Committee meeting on 27/1/88 and a motion was carried that I reply to your letter, and that the matter not be pursued any further. A further motion was carried that a "protocol" be developed for handling such situations as occurred at the Toy Run, in order that such occurrences do not again occur in public and so be open to misinterpretation by on-lookers.

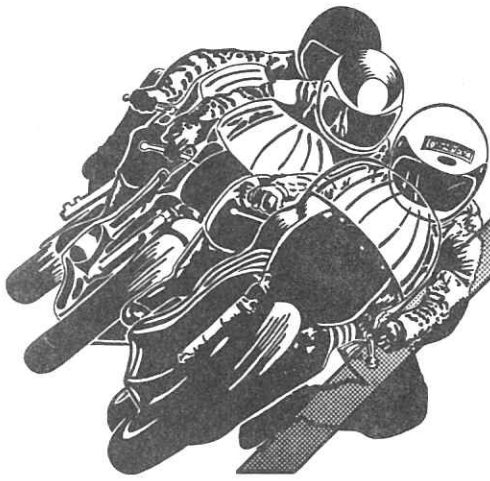
I trust this is to your satisfaction.

Ride Safe.

Marg Guthrie

Marg Guthrie. MRA(Vic) State Sec.

let those who ride decide



NMC

NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CONSULTANTS PTY. LTD. (INC. VIC) KOALA MOTORCYCLE TOURS. MRA MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE
P.O. BOX 389, CAULFIELD EAST, VICTORIA. 3145. TEL. (03) 211 5127.

11 February 1988.

The State Secretary.
Ms. M. Guthrie.
MRA Australia Inc.
Victorian Branch.

Dear Ms. Guthrie,

congratulations on the wording of your letter of January 28 in response to the demand from the Gippsland Register for a written apology from me for the Toy Run. "You are right" you tell them and proceed to explain in detail how wrong I was. Then in a ^{EXCELLENT MOVING} ~~move that can only make yourself look good~~ you casually brush aside the need for an apology.

It takes years for government bureaucrats to develop these kind of letter writing skills. ~~For example~~ When we proved yellow bricks were dangerous they would write to us and say they were not. **THEY NEVER ADMIT ERROR.**

I like the way you said I was "visibly upset over the number of things that had gone wrong!" That made it sound like the organisers had failed several times. Then you conveniently leave out what really went wrong. ~~You and I know what it was dont we?~~

MRA People who were supposed to be there to help, ^(MY TEAM EXCITED) ~~with the exception of my team,~~ did not turn up. From 5 AM on the Friday and the Saturday I was working for the MRA. I rang you at 6.45 AM, as your written instructions ordered me to do, ~~to say that~~ I had loaded the truck on my own and was about to go to Victoria Square to set the Toy Run up.

No worries you said. I'll follow you down there to help ^{THE COMMITTEE'S UP} you said, as you crawled back to bed for an extra 2 or 3 hours sleep. I did ~~your~~ work setting up the MRA stand as well as my own. By mid morning I was still short staffed and angry that bludgers could not even help out on this one special day each year.

I really like the way you left out the bit about me asking you, as State Secretary, and the only committee person available, ~~by mid morning,~~ to appoint some members to help me out for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour. And the way you asked Warren Coward, President of the Gippsland Register, to take his people and lend a hand. And the way not one of them did. But dont be too hard on them they were probably busy composing the motoion to get an apology out of me for working hard and giving the MRA the best Toy Run yet.

The staff warned me about you but I continually defended you as I did Scicluna when the MRA wanted to throw him out a couple of years ago. Congratulations again.

~~Regarding your letter to me of November 15, 1987 and the attached \$10 cheque. Since the MRA has had the advantage of my money for over 4 years I would like the money paid out for the electricity bond on the Elizabeth Street Shop returned to me within 30 days. Since I have personally signed more new members, run more events, gained more publicity of a positive type and been responsible for raising \$4723.32 to pay MRA legal fees I think you should do the right thing and pay me the money you owe me.~~

Daniel