

In this bulletin:

040601 WELCOME TO THE FIRST MRA E-BULLETIN  
040602 MRA BOARD MEMBER EMAILS  
040603 QUARTERLY MRA NEWSLETTER  
040604 RESPONSE TO POLICE REPORT  
040605 NEW ROAD LAW?  
040606 WHERE YOUR \$50+ IS GOING  
040607 INQUIRY INTO ROAD RAGE  
040608 WORKING GROUPS  
040609 IMPROVING ACCESS  
040610 RECENT EVENTS  
040611 MRA OZ GP RUN 2004  
040612 MRA TOY RUN 2004  
040613 SUPPORT FOR NEW RIDER LEARNER PROGRAM  
040614 VICTORIAN MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL  
040615 DISCRIMINATORY REPORTING  
040616 MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE  
040617 MRA HELPLINE  
040618 MAKING CAMPAIGNS WORK  
040619 SNOWY RIDE, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2004  
040620 ROSS ST LEASE  
040621 GP PARKING NO MORE?  
040622 MISSING RECORDS  
040623 EXPENSE CLAIM  
040624 ROAD USERS' COLLABORATIVE  
040625 EMAIL PROBLEMS  
040626 BILLS  
040627 BUILDING BROKEN BRIDGES  
040628 NEW LOBBY GROUP FORMED  
040629 DIRT BIKE HEAVEN  
040630 MEMBER DISCOUNTERS  
040631 MRA E-MAIL GROUP  
040632 ROAD HAZARD LINE  
040633 DIARY DATES  
040634 ADVERTS

#### **040601 WELCOME TO THE FIRST MRA E-BULLETIN**

This e-bulletin is the first of what will be approximately monthly no-frills email bulletins to inform members and supporters of the MRA's work. It is in addition to the paper newsletter, which will continue to be mailed quarterly to MRA members.

The e-bulletin will be sent to everyone on the MRA's email database. If you do not wish to receive it, please send a blank email titled 'Unsubscribe from e-bulletin' to [membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au)

Our apologies for its length – it combines several months' work, as we had difficulties with our email system (see Email Problems).

#### **040602 BOARD MEMBER EMAILS**

If you have any specific queries, MRA board member contact details are below.

Brian Beardon, President  
[president@mraa.org.au](mailto:president@mraa.org.au), 0433 133 327

D.J. McCarthy, Vice-President  
[vicepresident@mraa.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@mraa.org.au), 0403 997 213

Derek Clarkson, Secretary,  
[secretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:secretary@mraa.org.au), 0404 053 463

Gavin Stilgoe, Treasurer,  
[treasurer@mraa.org.au](mailto:treasurer@mraa.org.au), 0415 388 833

Mick Doedee, Membership Secretary,  
[membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au), 0411 183 258

Sarah Merrill, Ordinary Board Member,  
[sarah@mraa.org.au](mailto:sarah@mraa.org.au), 0409 330 374

Shane Brightman, Ordinary Board Member,  
[shane@mraa.org.au](mailto:shane@mraa.org.au), 0428 391 159

#### **040603 QUARTERLY MRA NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter has a new editor, Martin Taylor. The newsletter will continue to be the MRA's main means of communicating with members. Paid advertising will help fund it. If you know of businesses that would benefit from reaching our members, please forward details to [membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au), with subject heading of 'Potential advertiser' so that they can be approached.

Because of the print and post costs, members are invited to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by post. If this suits you, please email [mraa@mraa.org.au](mailto:mraa@mraa.org.au) with subject heading 'Electronic newsletter please', phone 03 9699 1811 or fax 03 9699 1833.

#### **040604 RESPONSE TO POLICE REPORT**

With no advance notice of the "alleged 80% at fault" report from police, and no copy of the report, we were unable to give an immediate response. However, we have now reviewed the report and have raised a number of mistakes and concerns with police.

Key things of concern:

- the report concludes 80% of riders are at fault in crashes involving a motorcycle. This figure includes single vehicle crashes where, of course, the rider will be deemed a fault unless road conditions are considered
- TAC statistics suggest that road conditions are a major contributing factor in 15% of motorcycle crashes. Road conditions have been ignored in the report
- in dual vehicle crashes, the very limited study shows rider fault at 63%. We believe this is inflated as riders so often have to take extreme evasive action to avoid inattentive people changing lanes, turning in front of them etc. The other person invariably continues on their way, leaving destruction in their wake, which is treated as a 'single vehicle' crash
- police have claimed that speed, alcohol and cannabis are key factors but the report shows no such thing. ALCOHOL 87% of riders had no alcohol in their system or were below 0.05. This is far better than the 75% of all road users. CANNABIS 13% of riders had cannabis in their system but this does not mean they were under its influence, as cannabis stays in the blood for 30 days. SPEED & FAULT Police haven't explained how they determined speed, despite requests, nor have they explained how they determined who was at fault.

We believe the report should never have been issued with the number of mistakes it contains and with its clearly biased conclusions that the statistics do not support. Other government authorities have expressed the same concerns.

We have proposed that police implement internationally-uniform methodology for motorcycle crash investigation. This will ensure Australian statistics can be compared with overseas statistics. Currently, overseas bodies regard Australian statistics as unreliable because of flawed methodology. Adopting international methodology will also avoid costs associated with developing methodology, which will effectively be re-inventing the wheel.

#### **040605 NEW ROAD LAW?**

The Victorian government is proposing a new offence of "dangerous driving causing death". This aims to ensure that people who kill others while driving negligently, but are unlikely to be convicted of "culpable driving causing death", are penalised in some meaningful way.

The new offence could apply to people who drive while fatigued, fall asleep at the wheel, use a mobile phone, drive while under the influence of drugs or cause the death of a foetus. Large fines and jail sentences may result.

The MRA supports the introduction of tougher sentencing as it believes it will lead to more responsible motoring. The proposal follows lobbying by the MRA after Geelong rider, Grahame Clarke, was killed when a driver failed to give way. The driver was fined \$500, with no loss of licence.

Copies of the discussion paper are available at <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au>, keyword 'Culpable and dangerous driving laws'.

#### **040606 INQUIRY INTO ROAD RAGE**

The MRA recently gave evidence on 'road rage' to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Violence Associated with Motor Vehicle Use. We raised a number of issues and ameliorative strategies for the panel to consider.

We presented at the same time as Bicycle Victoria, and it became apparent how many issues cyclists and riders share with respect to lack of tolerance from other road users.

The submission went well, with panel members commenting favourably on a number of our suggestions.

Thank you to those who gave us details of your experiences and information about others' views of riders - they were very useful.

For details of issues we discussed, go to <http://www.mraa.org.au> --> Issues --> On-road aggression & violence

Terms of reference for the inquiry are at

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/dcpc> --> Current inquiries --> Inquiry of Violence Associated with Motor Vehicle Use. If you would like a copy of the Discussion Paper, contact Sandy Cook, Ph 03 9651 3541 or [sandy.cook@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:sandy.cook@parliament.vic.gov.au)

The inquiry will report to Parliament in September 2004.

#### **040607 WHERE YOUR \$50+ IS GOING**

After much lobbying, the state government agreed that the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Group (VMAC) would determine how your \$50 motorcycle tax should be allocated. This is the most appropriate controlling body, far better than other bodies that were mooted for control of the money, like Monash University Accident Research Centre (which encouraged the government to install wire rope barriers).

However, VMAC has a diverse membership that includes government departments. Some representatives have proposed projects that the MRA believes should be funded from general revenue, not by motorcyclists.

\$10M will be taken from riders over the tax's three year life. \$3.3M has been spent so far. To date, there are 56 projects, 24 of which have been completed, including six on the Great Ocean Rd.

Work has included placing signs at high risk locations, sealing driveways on curves to prevent gravel spilling onto the road, improving road shoulders on bends, upgrading roads and intersections, revising the learner handbook and developing a mentoring program for riders.

The MRA continues to oppose the additional tax. The MRA believes road maintenance, and handbook reviews, should be funded from general revenue, not by individual road user groups.

The projects on which the money is being spent highlights the need for governments to incorporate motorcyclist safety into all transport planning, not treat it as an afterthought when people have died.

#### **040608 WORKING GROUPS**

Anyone who's been involved in the MRA knows the mountains of work that's involved. Thinking six board members can manage it all is fantasy land. To share the load, and to ensure we make the most of members' skills, we have re-launched a number of committees that stalled over the last couple of years and set up some new ones.

Members are invited to get involved with groups of interest – most meet monthly.

##### **(a) Advocacy**

One of the MRA's longest running and most important committees, this group works for fair and appropriate laws and consideration of motorcycles in transport planning. Key issues now being addressed are the \$50 tax, roadside hazards including wire rope barriers, unriders and appropriate judicial responses when riders are killed or injured by other road users.

The group is developing formal policies on relevant issues to ensure the MRA is ready to respond as they arise. Michael Czajka, Wendy Taylor, Dean Nightingale, Rick van Zuylekom, Dave Bowker, Mick Doedee, Alan Riley, Peregrine Horton and Marcel Smits are involved.

If you have an issue you feel needs to be addressed, particularly if you are willing to pitch in yourself, please contact Michael Czajka on 0403 073 055 or [mc1@pobox.com](mailto:mc1@pobox.com)

## **(b) Events**

This group coordinates the wide range of MRA events including the Pink Ribbon Ride, Dr John Poker Run, MRA Oz GP Run, the monthly social rides and, of course, the Toy Run. With so many events held each year, it is the group in most need of large numbers of volunteers for marshalling, badge selling etc. It's also probably the most sociable group to help – at events, you get to speak with all sorts of interesting riders.

Gavin Stilgoe (Treasurer), Shane Brightman (ordinary board member), Sarah Merrill (ordinary board member) and Dale Maggs are part of the team.

## **(c) Communications**

In recent years, the MRA has been criticised for not communicating enough with members. We'd like to turn this around and have set up a Communications Team. The purpose of this group is to keep members abreast of our various projects, ensure the website is up to date and prepare information for the media.

Tony Molina, Neal Collins, Steve Kealy, Martin Taylor, Tony Ellis and Lee O'Mahoney form the team.

The website will be changed to make it more user-friendly and it will be regularly updated. More links to motorcycle-related sites will be added.

For website issues, contact Tony Molina on [pepito@foobox.net](mailto:pepito@foobox.net) or Neal Collins on [ncc@staddle.net](mailto:ncc@staddle.net) . For general communications issues, contact Lee O'Mahoney on [leeomahoney@optusnet.com.au](mailto:leeomahoney@optusnet.com.au)

## **(d) 4B's**

We are keen to get the 4B's up and running again. to provide hospitalised riders with moral and motorcycling comfort from other riders. Anyone who visited Valerie Gear following her horrific crash last year, or who's been hospitalised themselves, will know how much this can boost spirits, maintain motivation and aid recovery. A recent email from a 'banged up' member, as he put it, highlighted how important this service would be. If you'd like to get involved, contact Derek Clarkson on [secretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:secretary@mraa.org.au) or 0404 053 463.

## **040609 IMPROVING ACCESS**

In the absence of full time staff, it can be several days before messages left on the MRA office phone number are responded to. To address this, we are now re-directing the office phone number to board members on a rotating basis, so that all calls are answered immediately.

## **040610 RECENT EVENTS**

### **(a) Dr John Poker Run**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr John Pigot Poker Run was blessed with beautiful weather, approximately 60 riders, a great route, good road conditions and quality tucker at Gembrook's Ranges Hotel. A dozen riders got their left and right mixed up at a marked corner but soon re-joined the group. Dale Maggs also had directional issues, misplacing his helmet, which he later found safely underneath his bike.

Our thanks to the following companies for donating prizes:

Draggin' Jeans - jeans

Torrini Leathers – Black Rose leather vest

Bike Mart – gloves & neck warmer

Lonely Planet – travel books

Yamaha in Geelong – T-shirt

Marysville's In Neutral Café & Bakery – meal vouchers

TAC and Sharp Tune - videos

Approximately \$1,000 will be donated to the Stroke Foundation. Many thanks to the riders who supported the event.

### **(b) Cranbourne Car and Bike Show**

Those Cranbourne people sure like their cars and bikes, with approximately 6,000 – 10,000 people attending this major annual event. MRA volunteers ran a stall, promoting the MRA and its work.

### **(c) Superbikes**

Although we didn't have a stall of our own, as we deemed it not cost-effective, Moto Freestyle kindly gave us space on their stall. The continual playing of stunt riding DVD's drew an ever-changing stream of visitors to the stall, enabling volunteers to talk to them about the MRA's work.

### **(d) HART**

Volunteers also gave the MRA a presence at HART's open days at Tullamarine.

#### **(e) Moto Freestyle**

Moto Freestyle is a form of freestyle stunt riding and is a recognised sport. The first international Moto Freestyle Challenge was held at Calder Park on 15<sup>th</sup> May and the MRA ran a stand, manned by volunteers.

#### **(f) Social rides**

Our social rides continue to be popular and we are now running them every fortnight instead of monthly. We are very aware that those new to motorcycling benefit from riding with more experienced riders and will be including regular 'C' class rides on less challenging roads. L and P platers are very welcome. Check out Diary Dates below for impending rides.

The MRA Board 'Meet and Greet' ride on 13<sup>th</sup> June saw nearly 50 bikes traverse the roads to Noojee, with board members donning the aprons to provide a BBQ lunch at Mossvale Park. We have had great feedback on the ride and intend to hold them at least annually so that members can meet their reps in a social setting.

#### **040611 MRA OZ GP RUN 2004**

Shane Brightman and Sarah Merrill are helping coordinate this year's event, where thousands of riders travel en-masse from Cranbourne to the Phillip Island Grand Prix in October. The organising committee comprises MRA representatives, police, City of Casey representatives and a community representative.

Put the run in your diary – Sat 16 Oct 2004,

#### **040612 MRA TOY RUN 2004**

Planning for this year's MRA Toy Run, the 27<sup>th</sup> on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2004, is progressing well under the management of Gavin Stilgoe. With no opportunity for any handover from former board members, and no records at the MRA office (see Missing Records), Dale Maggs and Damien Codognotto have offered to help coordinate the event.

A TV advertisement has been produced promoting the Toy Run. We have made it generic so that the numerous Toy Runs held around Australia – 32 at last count - can also use it. The ad will be aired as a community service announcement. All people and companies involved donated their services. Our thanks to the National Three Wheeler Association, Ulysses Club, Scooter City, Kevin Poulter Studios, Apocalypse Films and MRA members who assisted with filming.

Clubs are being very supportive of the event, as is this year's beneficiary, the Salvation Army. The Salvos estimate that publicity received from the event is worth \$0.75M.

The MRA is establishing a website, [www.toyrun.org.au](http://www.toyrun.org.au), which all Australian Toy Runs can use to promote their charity event.

#### **040613 SUPPORT FOR NEW RIDER LEARNER PROGRAM**

The City of Casey, in Melbourne's south-east, has responded favourably to the MRA's proposal to develop a pilot motorsports and rider awareness program.

The plan will target secondary and tertiary students about to get their first road user licence. It will include a rider training program, in conjunction with driver programs, and will be led by the Victorian Police and TAC with assistance from the MRA and the Ulysses Club.

Representatives from the MRA, City of Casey, Victorian Police, Motorcycling Australia and the TAC are involved in developing the pilot program. If successful, it will be broadened to run Victoria-wide.

The MRA is also proposing a training course for primary students, similar to the very successful Hector the Safety Cat program that ran in the 1970's.

#### **040614 VICTORIAN MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL**

The MRA is working with the Victorian Motorcycle Council (VMC) to grow the organisation. The VMC was formed to ensure all Victorian motorcycling organisations have a voice at the national level.

#### **040615 DISCRIMINATORY REPORTING**

The MRA is targeting discriminatory reporting about motorcyclists in the media. Very often, crashes involving motorcyclists are reported with clear blame apportioned to the rider eg 'rider lost control'. In stark contrast, crashes involving cars, trucks and buses are reported as if the vehicle was at fault eg 'vehicle ran off the road'.

The different styles suggest incompetence and error in the rider and innocence in the other type of road user. We believe this is discriminatory, is in breach of media codes of ethics, perpetuates negative stereotypes and ultimately leads to less consideration of motorcyclists' safety needs.

If you hear, see or read discriminatory reporting, please report it to [mraa@mraa.org.au](mailto:mraa@mraa.org.au) with a subject heading of 'Discriminatory reporting' or phone 03 9699 1711 so that it can be followed up with the offending media outlet. Please give as much detail as you can – media outlet, date, time, program/section, announcer/reporter, what was said/written/filmed.

We also encourage you to make a personal complaint directly to the media outlet and the reporter/announcer - outlets do not wish to offend their customers.

#### **040616 MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE**

MRA membership continues to grow. The new Membership Secretary, Mick Doedee, is keen to grow the member benefits program and membership itself. If you'd like to help, please email [membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au](mailto:membershipsecretary@mraa.org.au) or phone 0411 183 258.

#### **040617 MRA HELPLINE**

The MRA would like to establish a network of volunteers to help riders experiencing bike problems away from home. We are seeking people willing to:

- help get the bike going again - mechanical repairs, jerry can of fuel, puncture repair, etc.
- help riders get their bike home or to the nearest bike shop
- store a bike at their house until the owner can organise transport

If you'd like to become part of this network, leave your contact details and what help you're willing to provide by contacting the MRA office, phone 03 9699 1811, fax 03 9699 1833 or email [mraa@mraa.org.au](mailto:mraa@mraa.org.au) with subject heading 'MRA Helpline'.

#### **040618 MAKING CAMPAIGNS WORK**

Any time you ride past miles of wire rope barrier, you may well think motorcyclists' campaigning skills could be improved. To ensure the MRA can better represent riders, one member has completed training in advocacy and campaigning at RMIT. A briefing session based on the course is being held for MRA committee members and other interested members. The presenter is an experienced trainer and aims to make the session interesting, interactive and transferable to non-motorcycling aspects of your life. We encourage all people involved with the MRA, and other interested people, to attend.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm, Bells Hotel, Cnr Moray & Coventry St, South Melbourne.

Bookings essential. To register, email [leemahoney@optusnet.com.au](mailto:leemahoney@optusnet.com.au) with a subject heading of 'Advocacy session' or leave a message with your contact details on 03 9699 1811.

Entry by gold coin donation for MRA volunteers, \$5 for other members.

#### **040619 SNOWY RIDE**

Come to the top of Australia and help raise the roof on children's cancer. The MRA is promoting this year's charity Snowy Ride, an annual event held in NSW's Alpine Region. Since starting in 2001, over 5,500 riders have raised more than \$500,000 for the Steven Walter Fund. Steve died in July 2000 after an eight year battle with cancer. A keen motorcyclist, one of his final requests was that a motorcycle fundraising event be held to help find a cure for childhood cancer. The ride also helps Snowy Mountain volunteer organisations raise funds for their own work.

Entry is by raffle ticket purchase to win \$22,000 worth of Honda motorcycle(s) of your choice. To be in the running for minor prizes, take whatever route you like, get your card stamped at three Snowy Ride checkpoints and get it to the final Thredbo checkpoint by 4pm Saturday 13th November 2004.

Go to <http://www.snowyride.com.au> → The Snowy Ride for more details, phone/fax 02 9589 3339 or email [snowyride@optushome.com.au](mailto:snowyride@optushome.com.au)

#### **040620 ROSS ST LEASE**

The lease of our South Melbourne building is due for renewal later this year. We will not be renewing it as we believe the rent - a huge proportion of our annual budget – can be better spent elsewhere. Instead, we will use other venues for meetings

and gatherings, as we have been doing for QGM's and AGM's since 2000. Although this means we will have no official 'home' for the moment, we believe it is in the best interests of the organisation.

#### **040621 GP PARKING NO MORE?**

The MRA has, for a number of years, managed parking at Melbourne's Formula 1 Grand Prix, which generated a valuable source of income and gave the organisation public exposure. 2004 was the first year the MRA didn't coordinate parking, after the former board declined to continue and returned the contract to the GP Corporation in 2003. We are currently negotiating with the GP Corp to coordinate parking for the 2005 event.

#### **040622 MISSING RECORDS**

Some former board members have advised that they are in possession of MRA documents. A lawyer has requested their return, so far without response. Correspondence, documentation and financial records for many years are missing, making work difficult.

To ensure the MRA's intellectual property and records are protected, we are now scanning and archiving key documents.

#### **040623 EXPENSE CLAIM**

Former president, Alex Money, wrote to the MRA claiming more than \$4,200 in mobile phone expenses. This was followed by a request from lawyers Corrs Chambers Westgarth for more than \$3,400.

This is in breach of an agreement Mr Money, and most former board members, made to pay for these expenses. We have been informed that other former board members intend to submit similar claims if Mr Money's is paid. We do not intend to pay the claim.

#### **040624 ROAD USERS' COLLABORATIVE**

The MRA has held a position on the Road Users' Collaborative committee since it founded the group many years ago. This committee represents road users including motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians and car, tram and bus drivers.

A former board member was representing the MRA. On leaving office, he transferred the MRA's position to a new group he is involved with, without permission. The MRA is working to re-gain its rightful position on the committee.

#### **040625 EMAIL PROBLEMS**

Our email system was down for over a month as the account had been transferred from the MRA's to a former board member's name. The person refused to transfer it back. The matter has now been rectified by dealing directly with the ISP.

Our apologies if you experienced slow responses to queries while the system was inaccessible.

#### **040626 BILLS**

A. Rehome Pty Ltd has sent a bill for more than \$10,000 for media research services. We have not received a response to requests for an itemised statement of services. Requests for services were made verbally by a former board member and it appears the former board did not approve the expense.

B. We've received a bill for office supplies. Some of the items are for office equipment the MRA does not have. This, again, is of concern.

#### **040627 BUILDING BROKEN BRIDGES**

Relationships with a number of organisations and government departments have been damaged by past actions. This includes the GP Corporation, City of Casey, TAC, Williamstown Motorcycle Club, Western QBE, Assured Insurance, The Smith Family, the Salvation Army, RACV, the NSW Motorcycle Council and Victorian motorcycle clubs. We are working to re-build relationships with these bodies.

#### **040628 NEW LOBBY GROUP FORMED**

A new lobby group has been formed to represent motorcyclists. Named the Victorian Motorcyclists' Union, it has been established by a number of former MRA board members. Former president, Alex Money, former vice president, Marcel

Gomperts, and former treasurer, John Karmouche, are all part of the 'expert management team'. Vic Fkarias and Jason Allen are also involved.

The group aims to promote motorcycle awareness in Victoria, represent Victorian riders on regulation changes, liaise with government authorities on safety issues and motorcyclist rights and maintain a register of road and traffic conditions.

#### **040629 DIRT BIKE HEAVEN**

An off-road motorcycle park has been proposed at Cardinia Shire in Melbourne's south-east to cater for the large number of off-road riders, including juniors. First aid services and marshals are included. For further info, contact Wayne Maslen on 03 5941 5345 or 0417 054 946 or Dale Maggs on 0412 910 383 or [dale.maggs@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dale.maggs@ozemail.com.au)

#### **040630 MEMBER DISCOUNTERS**

Make the most of your MRA membership by using the following outlets to get a member discount.

##### **(a) Melbourne**

A1 Motorcycles, Brighton & Ringwood - 10% parts & accessories  
Allied Commercial Wreckers, Dandenong - 10% 2nd hand parts  
Balwyn Jewellers - 10% most goods  
Bike Barn, City - 10% most items  
Bike Mart, Ringwood - 10% most goods  
Draggin' Jeans - 10% clothing  
Express Office Systems, suburb - 25% PC peripherals excluding printers;  
50% off printer service fee  
Grace Placencio, Davies & Co. Lawyers, Melbourne  
Mars Leathers, City - free gloves with any purchase over \$300  
Pablo's Tyres, Mulgrave - 5% tyres, 10% accessories  
Promoto Tyre & Service Centre, Abbotsford - 10% radial tyres & accessories  
Redwing Honda, Heidelberg - 10% most parts & accessories  
Stafford Motorcycles, Heidelberg - 10% parts & accessories  
Top Gear Motorcycles, Seaford  
Wiseco Pistons, Heidelberg - minimum 10% excluding sale items

##### **(b) Healesville, Marysville & Buxton**

Buxton Pub, Buxton - 10% meals  
Country Looks, Healesville - 10% food & drinks, up to 20% crafts  
Great Australian Ice Creamery, Healesville - 15% all food & drinks  
Marysville Bakery - 10% excl. cold drinks

##### **(c) South Australia**

Bike Centre, Parafield - 10% parts and accessories  
Bike City - 10% parts and accessories  
Boltons - 10%  
C&D Motorcycles - 10%  
City Cycle Electric - 10%  
G.P. Motorcycles - 10%  
Honda Shock - 15% parts, 10% accessories  
Honda World - 10% parts & accessories  
Kessner Suzuki - 10% parts & accessories  
Peter Stevens - 10%

A new discounter: Kelly's on the Hill, Olinda – tavern/restaurant. One of the owners is an ex production racer and has recently returned to riding, currently serving his 250cc probation. They welcome riders with open arms, as they know the importance of motorcycling to tourism. If you'd like a yarn with a friendly ex racer, ask for Bill. See advert below.

#### **040631 MRA E-MAIL GROUP**

The MRA has its own e-mail discussion group, which aims to disseminate information to members about the MRA's work and facilitate discussion of relevant issues. To subscribe, send a blank message to [MRA\\_Forum-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:MRA_Forum-subscribe@yahoo.com)

## **040632 ROAD HAZARD LINE**

Don't just whinge about road hazards or traffic light problems – report them to VicRoads' motorcycle-specific road hazard line.

Reporting by email seems to be more effective than phone. Be courteous – staff fixing the hazard are unlikely to have caused it. Depending on the nature of the hazard, it can take time to fix, but you will generally receive a response. Recent things that have been fixed include a deep trench in the Monash Freeway inbound that could have flipped a bike, removal of sand on a corner and upping the detection limits of a number of traffic lights so that motorcycles are detected.

If you aren't getting any action, politely report the hazard again. Phone 03 9854 2899, email [ymac@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:ymac@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au) or lodge the report via [www.ozmotorcycles.com](http://www.ozmotorcycles.com). Reports via the website are automatically lodged with VicRoads and are also displayed on the website, so other riders can be forewarned.

Tell your mates about the line – the more it's used, the safer we'll be. Should a rider be injured or killed from an unsafe condition that's been reported, it may also give them and their family some legal redress.

## **040633 DIARY DATES**

### **JUNE**

Mon Jun 28 - Training session - Making campaigns work (details in this bulletin)

### **JULY**

Sat Jul 3 – BMW Icicle Ride – don your thermals and ride midnight to dawn with other hardy souls

Tue Jul 6 – Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne

Sat Jul 11 – MRA Dirty Poker Run – cheating is not allowed, it's required...for a fee.

Sun Jul 25 - Social ride - Castlemaine

### **AUGUST**

Tue Aug 3 – Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne

Sun Aug 8 - Social ride - Eildon

Sun Aug 22 - Social ride - Daylesford

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sun Sep 5 - Social ride - Port Albert

Tue Sep 7 – Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne unless otherwise advised

Sun Sep 19 - Treasure Hunt

### **OCTOBER**

Tue Oct 5 – Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne unless otherwise advised

Sat Oct 16 – MRA Oz GP Run – join thousands of riders travelling en-masse to the Phillip Island GP

Sun Oct 24 - Pink Ribbon ride

### **NOVEMBER**

Tue Nov 2– Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne unless otherwise advised

Sat-Sun Nov 13-14 Snowy Ride (details in this bulletin)

### **DECEMBER**

Tue Dec 7– Board meeting, 22 Ross St, South Melbourne unless otherwise advised

Sun Dec 12 – MRA Toy Run

If you'd like to talk to the board about any issue, we encourage you to attend a board meeting so you can talk to everyone at once and avoid long-winded email exchanges. Until the Ross St lease expires later this year, board meetings will be held at 22 Ross St, South Melbourne, off Clarendon St, unless otherwise advised.

## **040634 ADVERTS**

### **Kelly's on the Hill**

This log cabin tavern and restaurant in Olinda is a great destination or pit stop for motorcyclists travelling to or through the Dandenong ranges.

Located on the corner of Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd (the road up to the Mt Dandenong Observatory) & Ridge Rd in Olinda, Kelly's on the Hill is a heritage-listed solid log cabin built in 1893. Now owned by motorcycle enthusiasts, it has a unique ambience and fully stocked Irish bar with a number of tap beers available.

Whether you are dropping in for a quick pit stop and great cup of coffee (all types available) or staying for a big feed and relaxing afternoon in front of the roaring open fires catching up on your motorcycle news reading, Kelly's is a beaut way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. In fact it's a great way to spend any time at all!

Drop in and say hi to Bill, De or Alan, enjoy our great hospitality and get 10% off your bill.

Dinner Wednesday to Friday 5.00pm to late. Breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday & Sunday. Live music Friday and Saturday night.

Look forward to seeing you soon. If you want to book, call 03 97511056

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