



MRA ACT Newsletter

MAY 2010

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Committee Reports	2
MRA Activities	4
Footpath Parking Rejected	5
General Meeting Minutes	6
Monthly & Status Reports	8

President's Report

By the time you read this, the Blanket Run for 2010 will have been and gone, but as I write this I am hoping we get a great turn out from the motorcycle community in the ACT.

The MRA ACT committee has been active in organizing and promoting the event, under the leadership of our major projects coordinator, Kathleen.

Planning for this year's Motorcycle Awareness Week in October has begun – the ideas are flowing over the email and this year's event looks to be bigger and better than ever. We are always after new ideas, so drop me a line (jenwoods@internode.on.net) if you have something to share, or if you'd like to be involved in assisting with this year's event.

Raising the public's awareness of riders and our needs is critical, and the crashes this year already serve to remind us to keep our wits about us, and maybe consider a refresher training course to brush up on skills.

I received the discussion paper and Draft ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2010, as did Peter Major, and we will of course be providing feedback. Peter does a lot in

terms of reviewing and providing feedback on our behalf, and I'm very grateful to Pete for that work.

Have you checked out our website lately – you will be very pleasantly surprised – it's had a facelift!! Give us your feedback on it. We're also looking for content for the site – photos, ride reports, alerts, links – send them to us – you'll find the webmaster's contact details on the site.

I'm away this weekend at the Ulysses Club Road Safety Committee meeting, with delegates from the other states, and as usual this promises to be an informative meeting. I'll let you know of anything interesting at the next MRA ACT general meeting.

Ride Safe and take it easy out there
Jen

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Committee Reports

PROJECT MANAGERS

Peter Major

- Communications
- Black Spot
- Discovery rides
- Roads and Traffic

Robyn Major

- Road safety
- Social rides & functions

Terry Butters

- Masters courses

Stuart Couper

- Triathlon support

Jason Weber

- Webmaster

Trevor McLeod

- Editor

Vacancy

- Quarter Master

Snr. Vice President's Report (David Ault)

The organising for this year's Blanket Run is well underway, Kathleen as the MRA's Major Event's coordinator has a firm grasp of the proceedings and has enlisted the support of many from our Association. Thanks to those who have volunteered to take an active role in this activity. Hopefully the day will shine as it has for prior events.

Following the conclusion of the Blanket run, I will be moving on to the Hall Ute Competition www.hallutecomp.com which is another family friendly focussed and Charity activity with the proceeds going to Camp Quality.

Our website has undergone some updating of late – we envisage these changes to be more in keeping with drawing and maintaining interest, while enticing people to participate in the wide variety of events, activities, meetings and training that we have available.

Certainly, our website is an “in progress” document that we welcome your opinion & comments on.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there are too many accidents and fatalities in the ACT this year. There has recently been another motorcycle fatality -this time in Belconnen. The 20 year old collided with a car that had turned in front of and across his path. This was an accident that needn't have happened, yet did. I went to his funeral, which was very well attended, the Crematorium was packed and parking was at a premium. Many of his young friends and family were in attendance and the event was very moving for many of them. His sister was one of the speakers at the service. She narrated how, even though they were very sharing and caring towards each other, they had recently had an argument and had not got to talk with each other since. As a result of his untimely death, she will never get to make amends with him. This struck me as one of the issues about life – while enjoying it, to seek to balance it with caution – especially while on the road and to recognise hazards before they may consume you. “Unfinished business” is one of the perils of life.

While on the sad and often difficult topic of untimely departures, Page 3 of Saturday April 24th's Canberra Times, an article narrates that a motorist was acquitted (of negligence) by a jury for the death of a motorcyclist in 2007. This was another instance of a young rider (21), who, after succumbing to injuries from the accident, was in the Canberra Hospital for 9 months before he passed away. From the article, what I can make of it, the motorcyclist may have been difficult to see – being crouched over the petrol tank and not having his headlight on.... It is not my place to adjudicate on the event, but it reinforces the particular vulnerability of riders to hazards – be they static or mobile.

To me, amongst other issues, these events reinforce that hazard perception and skills acquisition do not stop on getting a licence but are a part of an ongoing process.

Committee Reports

MRA offers opportunities for riders to acquire these through various weekend rides and more formal courses. Please consider making use of these valuable and perhaps life saving activities. In this newsletter, there is also scope for feedback and articles for riders to share their experiences with like minded people.

We welcome your contributions in sharing your experiences and insights. Please consider writing a story or article which you would like to share.

Vice President's Report (Kathleen Parsons)

- Nil Report

Secretary (Nicky Hussey)

- Minutes of April General Meeting at *Pages 6-7*.
- Monthly and Status Reports at *Pages 8 –10*.

Treasurer (Sylvia Sinfield)

- Monthly Financial Report at *Page 8*.

MRA ACT, Recreational Riding, Charity Rides And Other Motorcycling Activities For May 2010

Hi Everyone,

Saturday 8th May - ACT and DISTRICTS MOTORCYCLISTS BLANKET RUN

-form up Old Parliament house and ride to Garema Place see attached flyer. Kathleen needs a couple of marshals for Garema place if you can help call Kathleen on 0409 984 008

Tuesday 11th May - MRA ACT general meeting, come along and have your say about how we can improve motorcycling in the ACT. The MRA meets at the Harmonie Club at Narrabundah with the meeting starting at 1930 and dinner and a chat starting at about 1830.

Saturday 15th of May - Discovery Ride led by Pete, meeting at Robbo's

Fyshwick at 0930 for a 10:00 departure. The ride is tailored to the needs of the group and is paced at the speed of the slowest rider. It is to introduce new and returning riders or riders looking for a no pressure ride to riding in a group environment and promotes roadcraft and rider safety.

Sunday 16th of May Social Ride - Robyn will be taking a great ride to Kiama - Meet up Caltex Watson 0900 for 0930.

Sunday 23rd May - Family Ride leaving Fyshwick Macca's at 9:30am This ride will be led by Gordon and is a self paced relaxing ride for all riders. (Queanbeyan, Captains Flat Road to the art café. Return by the same route.)

I'm certain there are other events coming up and will add them as they come to hand. Other clubs and motorcycling bodies if you would like me to add you to the list just drop me a line.

Ride Safe,
Pete
0419 866 126

"We don't inherit the earth from our parents. We borrow it from our children" Anon

ACT Government position on foot-path parking for motorcycles.

PAGE 5



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mr Peter Major
Motorcycle Riders Association – ACT
GPO Box 1768
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Major

I am writing in relation to the request by the Motorcycle Riders Association – ACT (MRA-ACT) for the ACT Government to consider whether motorcycles could be allowed to park on footpaths in Civic.

As you are aware the ACT Government convened a working group involving the MRA-ACT and a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of pedestrian and cycling groups, the disability sector and the business community to provide input on this proposal. The group met in October 2009 to hear more about the proposal from the MRA-ACT, to express their views on the proposal and to identify issues or concerns arising from the proposal. I thank you for your involvement in that forum. As you would appreciate, from the range of matters discussed at the working group meeting, allowing motorcycles to park on footpaths raises a number of issues that must be considered, including the impact on pedestrians generally, and more particularly persons with disabilities such as visual or mobility impairments.

Following the meeting of the working group the opportunity was also provided for interested stakeholders who were unable to attend to provide input on the proposal, in writing. The Chief Minister has now been briefed regarding the views put by those who participated in this process and the particular issues that were raised.

It is certainly appreciated that the MRA-ACT is genuinely interested in achieving an outcome that improves the look and feel of the city but does not disadvantage users of footpaths where motorcycles might be parked. However, it is equally evident that other stakeholders have serious concerns about the impact of allowing motorcycle parking on footpaths and are not persuaded that these concerns can be fully addressed. After thorough consideration, it has been decided that issues identified during the consultation are such that it is not, on balance, going to be productive to further progress the proposal to allow motorcycles to park on footpaths.

Roads ACT will continue to maintain existing designated motorcycle parking spaces and monitor the need for any increase in parking space provision having regard to other competing parking demands. If you have a concern about motorcycle parking in a specific location, you may wish to contact Roads ACT at roads@act.gov.au so that further investigation and appropriate action may be taken.

I wish to thank you and the MRA-ACT for raising this matter with me and for your contribution to the discussion on this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Gary Byles
Chief Executive

20 April 2010

MINUTES

Motorcycle Riders Association of the ACT GENERAL MEETING

13th April, 2010

Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah

Items 1 & 2: Declare meeting open - Welcome

The President welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open at 19:39.

Item 3: Apologies

Stu Couper, Peter Major, Robyn Major.

Item 4: New members and visitors

Peter Greig (Yamaha V-Star).

Item 5: Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were **accepted** by Trish Holdsworth and **seconded** by Sylvia Sinfield.

Item 6: Monthly Reports – Appendix A

<i>President</i>	<i>Jennifer Woods</i>
<i>Senior Vice President</i>	<i>David Ault</i>
<i>Junior Vice President</i>	<i>Kathleen Parsons</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Sylvia Sinfield</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Nicky Hussey</i>

Item 7: Status Reports – Appendices B and C

<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Sylvia Sinfield</i>
Road Safety, Communications, Discovery Rides, Social Rides	<i>Peter Major</i>
Family Rides	<i>Gordon White</i>
Duathlon	<i>David Ault</i>
Major Events: Toy Run and Blanket Run 2010 Toy Run 2010 Capital Rally 2011	<i>Kathleen Parsons</i>

Item 8: Activities (Finished, Soon, Future)

- Discovery Ride – 20th March
- Social Ride – 21st March
- Fund Raising Ride Launch (Aust. Marine Conservation Society) – 27th March
- Family Ride – 28th March
- Discovery Ride – 3rd April
- Vietnam Veterans MC Poker Run charity ride – 17th April
- Discovery Ride – 17th April
- Social Ride to Mallacoota – 17th – 18th April
- Family Ride – 28th April
- Discovery Ride – 1st May
- Charity Ride – PET scanner for Sydney Children's Hospital – 1st May
- Blanket Run – 8th May

- Discovery Ride – 15th May
- Social Ride – 16th May
- Family Ride – 23rd May
- Discovery Ride – 15th May
- Social Ride – 16th May
- Family Ride – 23rd May

Item 9: Other Business

MRA Website

Jason Waddell is now responsible for the content of the site and the updated website looks much better! There are still some links etc. that don't work properly – if you come across any, let the Committee know. More content is also needed, especially ride write-ups (with pictures!). If you'd like to contribute anything, again please send it to the Committee.

Membership Period Confusion

The Committee is working on fixing this, getting Constitution, website and on-line renewal system in line.

Events

The Trials Club will be holding a trial in Cook this weekend, aimed at younger riders and tying in with National Youth Week.

Item 10: Declare meeting closed

The meeting was declared closed at 20:09.

APPENDIX A: MONTHLY REPORTS

President, Senior and Junior Vice President

As per April newsletter.

Treasurer

- Monthly report – Mar 2010:

S1 ACCOUNT – Opening balance, 01.02.2010		12,523.86
Income		
Sponsorship – National Capital Cartons	500.00	
Membership	69.14	569.14
		13,093.00
Expenditure		
Optus	996371	22.40
Australia Post (mailbox renewal)	996372	137.00
Oamps (insurance renewal)	996373	2,037.31
		2,196.71
Closing Balance, 28.02.2010		10,896.29
Closing Balance per Bank Statement (S1 A/c)		12,523.86
Opening and closing Balance per Bank Statement (S2 A/c)		28,182.62
Closing Balance per Bank Statement (S3 A/c-MAW)		2,004.27

- The insurance cheque has been cashed, although we are still waiting for a copy of the policy and certificate of currency.

Report **accepted** by Derek Holyoake and **seconded** by Indra Silins.

- Annual accounts:
 - 2007-08 and 2008-09 audited accounts were presented to the members.
 - The President thanked Sylvia for her efforts with this.

The two years' accounts were **accepted** by Derek Holyoake and **seconded** by Marilyn Starick.

Secretary

Post received during month included:

- An invitation from Antis Café in Phillip for members to try their coffee and food.
- Information from Frogmore Bike Park in Boorowa about their facilities. Indra commented that she had been to the bike park and advised that members check which tracks are open when they visit, plus the insurance status.

APPENDIX B: STATUS REPORTS**Membership Secretary**

- One new member joined during the month.
- Total membership is now around 80.

Road Safety, Communications, Discovery Rides, Social Rides

- See appendix C.

Family Rides

- There have been an average of 7 members attending these.

Duathlon

- Winter duathlon season – we are still waiting for the event dates for this.

Major Events

- **Blanket Run 2010**
 - VIPs – see Pete's report in Appendix C.
 - AFP are sending two motorcycle police to accompany the ride.
 - Sustenance – Suzie will be running the coffee van and Caffè e Cibo will be providing brekkie and hot chocolates.
 - Badges – no badges are produced for the Blanket Run.
 - Flyers:
 - Have been distributed northside already.
 - Sylvia is delivering them southside.
 - A3 and A4 were made available at the meeting.
 - If anyone wants them in electronic form, go to the MRA website.
 - Merchandise and information table to be set up – volunteers needed to man it.
 - Parking – more volunteers sought by David.
 - Photographs – the Toy Run photos produced by GlossyFX were good and it would be great if they could do photos of the Blanket Run too.
ACTION: Kathleen to contact them.
- **Toy Run 2010 and Capital Rally 2011**
 - Both will be celebrating their 30th years next time.
 - If anyone has any ideas for something special to do to celebrate these milestones, either let the Committee know or come to the next meeting.

From Pete Major, Communications and Road Safety Officer

Road Safety

- This has been a quiet month with submission put into TaMS on a Black Spot treatment and the Kings Highway upgrade. We've had a win with the latter, in that I have been advised neither Brifen Wire Rope Barriers (WRBs) nor ET 2000 terminals will be deployed and the engineers stated they will investigate rub rails.
- I am preparing a submission for the Random Road Side Drug Testing discussion paper; the submission is due by the 23rd April.
- Jen and I will be attending the Road User Working Group (RUWG) meeting next week.

Communications

- Blanket Run promotion is underway and we have had a back pager in the Canberra Times already. The press release has been prepared and will be issue two weeks out.
- The yahoo group has been quite active of late with some interesting discussion taking place, and I encourage all members that have Internet connection to get onto the group. You can self enrol or write to me and I'll send you an invite. The group has several administrators, Sylvia, Sue, and Gordon plus me.

Discovery Rides

- The first of the month rides have been going well taken by Rob with the 2nd ride of the month taken by several riders in my absence at the Ulysses AGM.
- I'll be taking the ride out this Saturday, and then heading down to Mallacoota to catch up with the Social Ride.

Social Ride

- This month is Mallacoota for a weekend away leaving Ampol Williamsdale Saturday morning at 09:30 and if you want to go you **MUST CONTACT ROBYN 0400 305 760** to book accommodation. She has a few vacancies left. I'll be leaving EPIC around 12:00 or a bit earlier depending on the numbers at the Discovery ride and riding straight to Mallacoota, so if you want to come down later let me know and I'll take a second group down, but you must book accommodation through Robyn. My number is **0419 866 126**.

Blanket Run

- Posters printed and with Sylvia.
- VIP invites sent and accepted – pillion riders already in place.
- I have the banner, yellow vests etc. at my house.
- Media info sent already, with follow up going out closer to the date.
- Certificate prepared with several options for the committee to choose from.