

# MRA ACT Newsletter

June 2010

## EXECUTIVE

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### SECRETARY / Public Officer

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### TREASURER / Membership Secretary

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## President's Report

Pete and I had a meeting to start the work in creating another Motorcycle Awareness Week, from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October this year. This event takes a lot of organizing – if you'd like to be involved in making it all happen, please let me know. We have a good framework now so a lot of the week long event is set, we just need some hands to help. Gary McDonald also forms part of the organizing team – it's a good team, come and join us.

The website continues to grow – we always need input, especially comments about the site – what works, what doesn't, but we also need content - photos, stories, ride reports, product evaluations etc etc – you know the drill.

The road toll in the ACT continues to rise alarmingly and we hope it doesn't develop into another horror

year like 2005. Please take extra care, especially in the wet weather and on frosty mornings. Really, just be careful and mindful of other road users - expect them to be unpredictable and ride accordingly.

Our MRA ACT Secretary is holidaying in the UK currently, so I expect we don't have Minutes for the May meeting. Priorities – some things are more important!!

Ride Safe and take it easy out there.

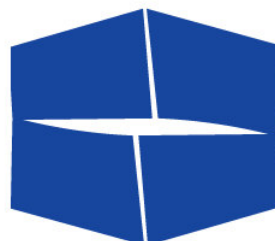
Jen

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# Committee Reports

## PROJECT MANAGERS

### Peter Major

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

### Robyn Major

- 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)

Several things come to mind for this month:

Motorcycle Awareness Week – Last week in October -23-30th.

We are looking for ideas and opportunities to raise our profile in the community. If you have ANY ideas about how we can go about this, please make your thoughts known to the Committee so that we can develop and promote this event. Some activities are pencilled in, but we have scope for a lot more – So get those thoughts flowing and share them with us.

Rising fatality rate of road users in the ACT:

The Road Toll in the ACT has taken a bit of hit this year but that is primarily due to multiple casualties in single crashes an unfortunate turn of events. On the motorcycling front we've had three unfortunate deaths in the ACT and three outside. We as riders need take lessons from every event we experience or unfortunate tragedy that happens as these events allow us to analyse how we should ride and respond to avoid potential crash situations. Blame or fault attribution is for the police and courts we must just look at lessons we can learn.

So – Look after number 1 first and foremost as you are the only person that really cares about your safety. Then treat all other road users with the respects they deserve.

Photos for our Newsletter:

Although we have many rides during each month, our newsletter is still short of pics from these events. If you feel inclined, please share some happy 'snaps with others as our newsletter goes out to many and some colour (and perhaps words) would add to its appeal.

National Trials event: Sunday 4 July (day after the Saturday Discovery Ride)

A National Open Trial – including the annual Australian *Sherco* Women's Cup, will be held on a property 35km along the Captain's Flat Road (or 5km short of Captain's Flat if this helps).

Start time is 10am. On site catering will be by the local Captain's Flat P& C.

## Vice President's Report (Kathleen Parsons)

- Nil Report

## Secretary (Nicky Hussey)

- Minutes of May General Meeting at *Pages 6-7*.

## Treasurer (Sylvia Sinfield)

- Nil Report

# Communications and Road Safety

We put in two submissions one to the pre-public release of the Road Safety Roundtable discussions (Talkfeste) and another to the Random drug testing (RDT) in the ACT. We haven't seen the outcome of the Roundtable redraft but we did get excellent traction with the RDT as most of the suggestions we put forward are in the draft legislation (we'll claim credit ;-).

I listen with amazement at the road safety strategy when all they rave about is speed, yet the majority of fatalities in the ACT are caused by not looking out for other vehicles and driver incompetence. In fact if you look at the last four fatalities they happened at or below posted limits and speed was not a determining factor. The Taswegians claim that speed only contributes to 15% or less of fatal crashes yet if you look at the latest strategy the Chief wants point to point camera systems for the ACT (I wonder if anyone will tell him they won't work). Oh well easy revenue raising if nothing else.

Some good stuff has been put forward about reviewing licensing and considering through life assessment and road rule refreshers, all driven by the MRA ACT so be proud of taking constructive steps to road safety and not toeing the line with the X-Spurts. On thing that is getting my goat and that's the ability to waste money on variable signs yet not invest in road side furniture that enhances safety not detracts from it, more lobbying and shouting and unfortunately more deaths. Maybe next time someone is killed hitting a pole or sign we take the engine out and call it a push bike, maybe then we'll get some traction.

Discovery rides are still going strong with at least 8 riders attending most Saturday rides and a number of riders doing individual training sessions.

The May social Ride led by Robyn and swept by me was a hoot to Kiama, as we had three scoots come along from Atomik Scooters. The 600 was an orange rocket and ridden appropriately, the 250 lacked the zest on the hills but made up for it on the straights and corners. One of the best low sides ever was when the little scoot went into the corner a little hot, too much front brake and a gracefully executed swan slide off the road. Both rider and machine got off unscathed even though a little shaken and continued on the ride as if nothing happened. I was impressed by the composure of the rider and resilience of the little scoot. The third scoot only went as far as Goulburn then had to get home – leave pass expired. The rest of the ride to Kiama was uneventful and very enjoyable (not too cold)

The fish and chips at Kiama are still one of the best even if the queue was 5 miles long. The ride home back tracked the way we came and flowed uninterrupted to Marulan where we stopped for a final fill, farewell and some black dishwasher called coffee (it was crap). Unfortunately with winter approaching and light fading we took the path of least resistance and headed home via the boreway.

This month's ride is a weekender to Bethungra details below. Last year's ride to Bethungra was an absolute hoot and we found so many roads that we didn't know existed and I'm sure Robyn will be more creative this year.

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

**Saturday 5th Jun - Discovery Ride led by Rob-** 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.

**Tuesday 8th Jun - 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 19th of Apr - 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.

**Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th of Jun Social Ride - Weekend to Bethungra led by Robyn. Meet at Caltex Federation Square 0900 for 0930** - Riders are required to book their own accommodation direct to the Shirley Hotel (details of Shirley B&B attached) – advising they are with ACT MRA and then please advise Robyn (Txt or message 0400 305 760) they have booked as Robyn knows how many are coming and who hopefully not to have to wait for ;-).

Non riding partners of riders are welcome to come by car – only a short 2 hour direct run from Canberra to Bethungra via Cootamundra.

We will be having dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning at the B&B. BYO drinks for pre dinner lounge get together and dinner can be bought at the local store.

Saturday 19 June - Day One ride via Boorowa, Young, Cootamundra to Bethungra  
Sunday 20 June - Day Two Ride to Junee Liquorice Factory for morning tea, return ride weather and rider dependent.

As I will be taking the discovery ride out on the Saturday anyone wishing to leave later please do all your bookings etc and let Robyn and me know so I can tee up a time and RV for the late departure.

**Sunday 27th Jun - 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. Destinations and routes will vary from ride to ride but will always be interesting**

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

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**Saturday 3rd Jul - Discovery Ride led by Rob-** 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.

**Tuesday 13th Jul - 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 17th of Apr - 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 18th of Jul Social Ride -** Southern Highlands ride up and back by all the back roads. **Meet at BP Watson 0900 for 0930**

**Sunday 25th Jul - 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. Destinations and routes will vary from ride to ride but will always be interesting

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

**MINUTES**  
**Motorcycle Riders Association of the ACT**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**11<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**  
**Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah**

**Items 1 & 2: Declare Meeting Open – Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open at 19:35.

**Item 3: Apologies**

Kathleen Parsons, Peter Grieg and Robyn Major.

**Item 4: New Members and Visitors**

None.

**Item 5: Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted by Sylvia Sinfield and seconded by Jason Waddell.

**Item 6: Monthly Reports - Appendix A**

President	Jennifer Woods
Treasurer	Sylvia Sinfield
Secretary	Nicky Hussey

**Item 7: Status Reports – Appendix B**

Road Safety / Communications / Social Rides	Peter Major
Membership Secretary	Sylvia Sinfield
Webmasters	Jason Weber / Jason Waddell
Major Events Coordinator: Blanket Run	Kathleen Parsons

**Item 8: Activities (Finished, Soon, Future)**

Vietnam Veterans MC Poker Run charity ride - 17<sup>th</sup> April

Discovery Ride - 17<sup>th</sup> April

Social Ride - Mallacoota - 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> April

Family Ride - 28<sup>th</sup> April

Discovery Ride - 1<sup>st</sup> May

Charity Ride – PET scanner for Sydney Children's Hospital – 1<sup>st</sup> May

Blanket Run - 8<sup>th</sup> May

Discovery Ride – 15<sup>th</sup> May

Social Ride – 16<sup>th</sup> May

Family Ride – 23<sup>rd</sup> May

See MRA website



**Item 9: Other Business**

**Triathlon / Duathlon**

- Next event is on 29<sup>th</sup> August – 2 bikes are needed.
- Discussion about whether the last few summer triathlon events were invoiced or not (probably yes, but to be confirmed).
- David Ault was nominated by the President to be the Committee coordinator and to supervise invoicing.

**Motorcycle Awareness Week / Home & Leisure Show**

- The Trials Club are putting on a display at the Home & Leisure /4WD Show (22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October).
- When discussing this with the event organisers, David Ault promoted the idea that motorcyclists are also part of the leisure scene, perhaps by having dealer / club 'shop front' displays in the pavillion.
- May be able to launch Motorcycle Awareness Week at the show? To be considered.

**Canberra Riders – Thanks and Support**

- Jason Weber passed on the Canberra Riders' thanks to the MRA for organising the Blanket Run, and said that the MRA will always have the club's support.
- Jason offered Canberra Riders' help with the Bike Fest, which is again to be a part of Motorcycle Awareness Week this year. He will start looking at logos and suggested alternative venues such as the University of Canberra.
- The annual Veteran and Vintage MC swap meet is being held on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Perhaps we should ask them whether they would like to make this part of MAW.
- There are some good amateur photographers in the club, if we wanted additional photographs of events.

**Item 10: Meeting Declared Closed**

The meeting was declared closed at 20:30.



**Lastly... See something that's not right ...report it**

