



**Motorcycle Riders Association
of the Australian Capital Territory**

MRA ACT Newsletter

August 2010

EXECUTIVE

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President's Report

The Annual General Meeting for the MRA ACT will be held at the September meeting – 14th September. Please consider taking a position on the Committee as all positions will be declared vacant. A nomination form is available on the website, or with the newsletter. Please check however that you have renewed your membership – or better still, become a member if you aren't already.

I will be attending the AMC AGM in Adelaide next weekend, as will Kathleen Parsons and Pete Major. I will report on the event when I return. The MRA ACT is a member of the Australian Motorcycle Council and the AGM is always interesting as it presents a chance to exchange ideas and see what is working / not working in the other states and territories.

The Motorcycle Awareness Week is being launched on 23rd October in Garema Place. As mentioned by Dave in his report, we are pleased to have a much better representation on the organizing committee this year and with more ideas and people spread the workload, it will should be

a great series of events. The week will end with BikeFest on the 30th October.

The website is becoming a better vehicle for communications from the MRA ACT – thanks to Lurch who is spending time improving it. Please provide feedback as we change and develop. And yes, the auto pay facility is not working – sorry – please contact Sylvia to make a payment if necessary.

I (and Pete Major) will be attending the next Road Safety Roundtable and Workshop next week. The work groups will be considering priority areas of enforcement, rules and regulations, infrastructure and education and awareness, so it should be interesting. Certainly we will ensure that there is a consideration of the views of motorcyclists in these areas.

Ride Safe and take it easy out there.

Jen
0418 215 336

ACT and Districts Motorcyclist's RIDE OF REMEMBRANCE 5th September 2010

Where: Old Parliament House forecourt

When: 10:30 for 11:00 departure

ACT MRA: AGM September 14

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

Various things are gathering momentum – steered by President Jen, towards the Motorcycle Awareness Week for the last weekend in October! Ideas, venues and activities are being discussed to make our presence more visible to the general travelling population. We welcome your thoughts on how we can make this bigger and better and invite you to come along to our meetings to discuss options & possibilities. We are also looking for people who can take on some small portion of the activities of MAW so that the tasks do not become too onerous on the current few. With your help, we are really looking forward to this event being bigger and better.

.....
 It's time for our AGM to soon reoccur. Please make sure that you have renewed your membership so that your thoughts and votes can be counted.

.....
 Thanks again to the boys for continuing to update our website. The graphics and articles certainly help us to focus on topical and pertinent subjects close to our hearts. If there's something that you think we should add or change – let us know – it's your website as well.

.....
 There is to be a (bigger) focus and crackdown on drivers using mobiles when mobile. For the months of August & September ACT Policing will "ramp up" their zero tolerance campaign against the use of a handheld mobile phone when driving to address the ever-increasing problem of driver distraction. We have welcomed this approach for what should be an already existing automated process.

.....
 See you at Tuesday's meeting – after I've run my 3rd City2Surf 😊😊😊😊

David Ault

Committee Reports

Vice President's Report (Kathleen Parsons)

ACT Policing have started a great campaign on road user attentiveness which has been identified as a major cause of road trauma. We have been focusing on rider education and community awareness. This year's Motorcycle Awareness Week (or month) is shaping up to be a great event with the work Jen, Gary and others are putting in to the events. Saturday's launch with the kick off of the Joe Rider competition; Wednesday evening's Let's Learn event for riders and the community will be entertaining; Friday morning is Ride to Work Day and Bikers' Breakfast with the winner of the Joe Rider Competition being announced, Friday evening Shiny Bike competition at the Stromlo High School 20th Anniversary Fete; then a celebration of motorcycling at BikeFest!

Wow, what a week... maybe that should be WAW not wow?

Other than all that, I'll be off to represent MRA ACT at the Australian Motorcycle Council AGM in Adelaide next week. I'm very excited to be the official MRA representative. Peter Major will also be there to give me support; as will Jen in her dual role with National Committee for Ulysses.

Further down the track at home; the badges for this year's Toy Run have been ordered. I'm hoping the promotional material will be completed soon to get out to the magazines for their deadlines. All the applications should be lodged in the next few weeks so everything is on track for a bigger and more successful event for the 30th MRA ACT Motorcyclist Toy Run. And remember, this year there will be an award to the group with the Largest Participation in a Distinctive Christmas Theme.

Secretary (Nicky Hussey)

- Refer to Minutes

Treasurer (Sylvia Sinfield)

- Refer to Minutes



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ACT and Districts Motorcyclist's RIDE OF REMEMBRANCE

5th September 2010

ALL
MOTORCYCLISTS
WELCOME



Fellow Motorcyclist's and Friends

To commemorate the lives of fallen riders a remembrance ride has been organised by the MRA ACT and Robbos Harley Davidson for the **5th of September 2010**.

This ride is to not only celebrate the lives of our fallen brothers and sisters but to raise awareness of motorcycles and scooters throughout the ACT.

If you have lost a friend or family member in a motorcycling incident and want them added to the Roll Call please advise John at Robbos. (harleysales@robboshd.com.au).

Form Up:

Where: Old Parliament House forecourt
When: 10:30 for 11:00 departure

Route: Old Parliament House, Canberra Avenue, Adelaide Ave to Phillip Roundabout, Back up Adelaide Ave to Canberra Ave, Canberra Ave around City Hill, Canberra Ave through Manuka to Robbos at Fyshwick

A Roll Call will be held and a commemoration spoken by Pastor Wayne Lyons (11:30am)

Help us raise awareness of road safety and remember those motorcyclists who have passed on.

Cafe will be open for coffee and light snacks.

Your participation in the ride would be greatly appreciated.

Ride Safe

Pete
Peter Major
0419 866 126
MRA ACT Road Safety and Communications Officer

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

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Hi Everyone,

Do we have several months of activities coming up to keep your weekends full and your engines running. Also, ALL riders are welcome on MRA rides, members or not.

The MRA ACT also offers coaching and feedback to riders preparing for the MOST and in all areas of Roadcraft. This is a free facility provided by the MRA ACT to support a fun yet safer motorcycle riding community, just call Pete.

Rec Riding is very light on as the ACT MCC has just allocated us some dates. In the interim keep your eyes on <http://actmcc.com/pages/calendar/2010calendar.html>

Tuesday 10th Aug - Ride for Democracy

On **Tuesday 10th August**, there is a ride to the Governor Generals residence in support of the Ride for Democracy. About 20 riders will come from Sydney, and we will need about 50 from Canberra. Jen is coordinating the Canberra "leg". We will muster at the **Southern Cross Yacht Club**, (off Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla) from **9.15am** anticipating the arrival of the Sydney riders at 9.30am, and from there as one group to Government House.

We will follow the plan as outlined in the Event Brief and fit the flags as supplied, and set off for morning tea with the Governor General. We are scheduled to finish about 11.00am.

PS: The people who are organising the ride will provide fuel and accommodation for one rider to attend Broken Hill after the launch in Canberra and before the Launch in Broken Hill in early September. They will also provide fuel and accommodation for one rider to go to Perth

Tuesday 10th Aug - 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.

Sunday 15th Aug Social Ride - Ulladulah or Duras for Lunch led by Garry. Meet at BP Watson 0930 for 10:00 - relaxing!! ride to Ulladulah or Duras to enjoy a seafood repartee.

Saturday 21st of Aug - Discovery Ride led by Pete. Meet 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 22nd Aug - 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 September 2010**

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Saturday 4th Sept - Discovery Ride led by Rob. Meet 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 5th Sept - Motorcyclist's Memorial and Awareness Ride. The ride details will be promulgated a little later but the ride is to remember those riders that have fallen and ridden on, and to raise awareness of motorcyclists on the Road. The ride is supported by Robbos in memory of Josh who passed away on the 17th of July as the result of a fatal crash in Fyshwick. So please keep the date free as the ride will start around 10:00 and finish at Robbos for a Roll Call , a brief service conducted by the Vets, and a BBQ.

Tuesday 14th Sept - MRA ACT Annual 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 18th Sept The Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance

<http://walltowallride.com>

On September 18 this year police from around Australia will ride to the National Police Memorial in Canberra for a special service to honour police who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty in the inaugural *Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance*. *Riders of the ACT and Districts are encourage to support the ride. More details will be posted closer to the time.*

Sunday 19th of Sept Social Ride. Down to Candelo for Lunch or maybe further :-)
0900 for 0930 Ampol Williamsdale

Saturday 25th of Sept- Discovery Ride led by Pete (note this ride has moved due to the wall to wall ride). Meet 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 26th Sept - 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. Destination decided on the day.

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
12th July, 2010
Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah

Item 1: Declare meeting open - Welcome

The President welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open at 19:24.

Item 2: Apologies

Terry Butters, Robyn Major.

Item 3: New members and visitors

Adrian Carter, Glen Takkenberg, Heidi Pritchard.

Item 4: Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were **accepted** by Peter Major and **seconded** by Gordon White.

Item 5: Executive Committee monthly Reports – Appendix A

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

Item 6: Project Manager status Reports – Appendices B and C

<i>MASTERS Courses</i>	<i>Terry Butters</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Sylvia Sinfield</i>
Communications, Social Rides	<i>Peter Major</i>
Road Safety	<i>Peter Major, Jennifer Woods</i>
Webmaster	<i>Jason Weber</i>
Major Events:	

Item 7: Other Business

Newsletter

The Committee wanted to record special thanks for Trevor Mcleod's production of the monthly newsletter.

Greens Senate Candidate

Lin Hatfield Dodds has contacted the MRA and requested a meeting. Jen will follow up.

Visiting Other Motorcycle Clubs

Jen also wanted to start this, so as to strengthen our engagement with them.

Australian Motorcycle Council AGM

Jen is attending the AGM in Adelaide, but on behalf of Ulysses. The meeting approved the travel expenses for Kathleen to attend on behalf of the MRA ACT. Pete Major will also attend as we are allowed two delegates.

Item 8: Declare meeting closed

The meeting was declared closed at 20:50.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORTS

President

- As per July newsletter.
- It hasn't been the best month for motorcyclists, so she is focusing her efforts on a really good Motorcycle Awareness Week.

Junior Vice President

- As per July newsletter.

Treasurer

- Monthly report – Mar 2010:

S1 ACCOUNT – Opening balance, 01.06.2010		8,356.40
Income		
ACT Cross Country Club (Triathlon/Duathlon)	75.00	
Membership	105.26	180.26
		8,536.66
Expenditure		
	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance, 30.06.2010		8,536.66
Closing Balance per Bank Statement (S1 A/c)		8,536.66
Opening and closing Balance per Bank Statement (S2 A/c)		28,189.65
Closing Balance per Bank Statement (S3 A/c-MAW)		2,004.27

- Report **accepted** by Peter Major and **seconded** by Peter Greig.

Secretary

- Thanked Kathleen for taking the June General Meeting minutes and Jen for picking up the post during her absence abroad.

APPENDIX B

PROJECT MANAGER STATUS REPORTS

Communications

- Canberra Times article from 11th July – Peter thanked the Canberra Riders members attending the meeting for prompting him to get an article about driver inattention. The title was a little emotive, but getting the information out is the most important thing. The CT reporter is keen to keep in touch to report on motorcycling activities.
- There was much discussion about emotive language and the danger of quotes and statistics being twisted in the press.
- Several people thought that the MRA's communications were unclear or inconsistent on occasion.
- It was agreed to review and update the old MRA position statements and to include, if not already there, one on random drug testing.

Action: Peter Major to send old position statements to the Committee.

MASTERS Courses

- Terry and Sylvia to liaise to ensure their records of expenditure agree.

Membership Secretary

- 2010-11 memberships are now due – we need to chase people up!
- Prior year income from memberships:

2009-10	\$2,585.70
2008-09	\$1,835.00
- 2009-10 membership fee income was bolstered by some 3 yearly memberships, so she expects income in the new financial year to drop back.

Roads & Traffic

- Motorcycle Safety Consultative Committee (MSCC) membership and participation is important – it ensures consistent messaging between the State and Federal levels of government. Wayne Gardner is on the National Road Safety Committee (NRSC) and (Jen met with the NRSC as a member of the MSCC in June); he will be a great asset for the motorcycling cause.
- Jen is also attending one day of the Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, which is being held in Canberra in Aug/Sep.
- The Ride On CD has been updated – Jen bought some copies to the meeting and can get some more if people want them.

Social Rides

- The last social ride had an excellent turn-out, with the 20 riders almost filling the motel!
- The next social ride is to the Southern Highlands.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

PROJECT MANAGER STATUS REPORTS

Webmaster

- Much content has been added to the website by Jason Waddell.
- New content now automatically goes onto the MRA Facebook page – a link will be put on the MRA website to the Facebook page.
- Other forms of communication were also discussed – forums, members only sections of a website, the current Yahoo group, email distribution lists. There are pros and cons to all forms of communication. The aim is to engage and to have a branded online presence.

Major Events

Motorcycle Awareness Week (MAW)

- The MAW Committee is now down to just three people. More people are needed with new ideas and passion! The Committee is now meeting fortnightly.
- The MAW is not just an MRA event – it's for all motorcyclists and clubs.
- Discussion about the MRA keeping the MAW activities and funding at arms length – the MRA also aims to represent all motorcyclists and clubs.
- Discussion about who the MAW is aimed at – really just for the two wheeled fraternity, not the general public?
- Discussion about promoting the MAW. Radio (e.g. for Joe Rider) and the stand in the Canberra Centre worked well last year – we should build on this. Other suggestions included stands in other town centre shopping malls, using the variable message boards on the roadside and adverts on the side of buses.
- Engaging with community groups may also help spread the MAW message. This is successful for the Ulysses when they hold their AGM in a town (allaying fears over an influx of motorcyclists!).
- Rider Aware Stickers – the meeting approved \$1,000 for the printing of these (the approximate price for 500 stickers). These can be sold at MAW.
- Jason Weber is in the process of designing a poster for the MAW. He's thinking retro...!
- Home & Leisure Show at EPIC coincides with the MAW launch. David Ault is looking into a motorcycle and scooter display / presence at the show.

Toy Run 2010

- Jason Waddell is designing the flyers as he did such a good job last year.
- Trophy for best group dressed in a Christmas Theme.
- Discussion about the Christa Powers memorial trophy – this is always for the largest club attendance.
- It was decided to award two trophies this year.

Nominations for Committee Positions

MRA ACT

Nominees Name: _____

Position Nominate For: President/Secretary/Treasurer/Snr VP/Jnr VP/Committee member

Circle desired Position

Nominees Agreement to Stand: Signature _____

Nominated By: Name: _____ Sign _____

Seconded By: Name _____ Sign _____

Nominees Name: _____

Position Nominate For: President/Secretary/Treasurer/Snr VP/Jnr VP/Committee member

Circle desired Position

Nominees Agreement to Stand: Signature _____

Nominated By: Name: _____ Sign _____

Seconded By: Name _____ Sign _____

Nominees Name: _____

Position Nominate For: President/Secretary/Treasurer/Snr VP/Jnr VP/Committee member

Circle desired Position

Nominees Agreement to Stand: Signature _____

Nominated By: Name: _____ Sign _____

Seconded By: Name _____ Sign _____