



MRA ACT Newsletter

April 2012

The Inside Line

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Jennifer Woods
jenwoods@internode.on.net
0418 215 336

Snr VICE PRESIDENT

Kathleen Parsons
leen@canberrariders.org.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Major Events Coordinator
Trish Holdsworth
tonkatough10@hotmail.com

SECRETARY

Public Officer
Nicky Hussey
nicky@incanberra.com.au

TREASURER

Membership Secretary
Sylvia Sinfield
sinfield@netspeed.com.au

Committee Reports	1 - 3
Social Night	4
Motion Induced Blindness	5
Blanket Run	6
Road Safety Officer	7
Bogong High Plains Rd	8
National Inaugural Black Dog Ride	9
MRA ACT Calendar	10
Events of Interest	11

President's Report

I arrived home mid last week from a great trip to Mildura to attend the Ulysses Club AGM Event. I rode with a couple of friends, and we avoided the floods by heading down to Tintaldra via Rosewood and Tumbarumba. We had a great night at the Tintaldra Pub! Then onto Echuca via Walwa, Albury, Findley, and Deniliquin and then headed the next day to Mildura. The floods provided a good excuse (as if I needed an excuse) to wend our way there rather than going direct – which is what we riders do don't we? I headed home via the Hay Plain, still with plenty of "lakes" after the rain.

I spent time working on a Road Safety stand where we had use of the HART simulator to challenge many riders who felt they were gun riders but who had great difficulty completing the course without being "crashing" on the simulated course. I also participated in the Road Safety Forum as well as catching up with Shaun Lennard, Chair of the Australian Motorcycle Council. Shaun recently spoke at the second Urban Congestion Conference in Sydney.

"We all know why commuting by motorcycle makes sense, yet we're rarely part of the conversation," said Shaun.

Shaun's presentation highlighted a recent Belgian study which showed that replacing 10% of cars with motorcycles reduced congestion by 40%. Something morning commuters on Northbourne might appreciate!

"The focus is on public transport, cycling and inner-city living. It's time the benefits motorcycle riding can bring to addressing congestion were recognised. The good news is for all commuters, not just those riding."

If you'd like to hear more from Shaun, please follow him on Twitter@aust_rider

Ride safe

Jen Woods

0418 215 336

Executive Committee Reports

PROJECT MANAGERS

Peter Major
Black Spot
Discovery rides
Roads and Traffic

Robyn Major
Ride n Thrive

Jen Woods
Masters courses
Communications

Trish Holdsworth
Webmaster

David Ault
Quarter Master

David Ault
Triathlon support

Leen Parsons
Editor

Submissions for the next
edition sent to:

committee@mraact.org.au
or
leen@canberriders.org.au
by

Monday 30 Apr 2012

Snr Vice President's Report

Our first Social Night for 2012 was held on 23 March at Ming's Restaurant. There were twelve members present to enjoy an evening of food and chatter about bikes, riding and a whole range of other topics. See the article on [page 8](#).

Our next Dinner will be held at O'Connor on 22 June 2012.

An article on 'motion induced blindness' caught my attention in an email recently. I've been told that it's been around for a long time but I'd not seen it before so I'm taking it that will be others who haven't seen it either. Have a look on [page 5](#).

You'll find in this, and future editions, of The Inside Line that the hyperlinks will actually be hyperlinks to pages, website and hopefully the email addresses .

Leen Parsons

Life is a road; ride it!

Vice President's Report

It's that time of the year again. The leaves are changing colour and starting to drop. The days are getting shorter, and the nights cooler.

For many in our community, we are approaching a difficult and uncomfortable season.

The [MRA Annual Blanket Run](#) supports the Salvation Army to provide some basic necessities such as warm blankets, non-perishable foods and cash to those of us who may need a helping hand at this time.

Suffering is indiscriminate.
The weather unpredictable.
It is not a balmy 30 degrees.
We need you.
We need your support.
Your voice to the Canberra community.
Canberra is cold.

One small act of kindness can bring hope to so many.

Saturday 12 May. Grab your winter riding gear. Come for a ride. Bring your friends.

See you at the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House)!

Trish Holdsworth

'Never ride faster than your Guardian Angel can fly'

Ride Co-ordinator's Report

Gordon White

MRA Social Ride to Young Sunday 18 March

Bikes, bikes, everywhere... The BP at Watson had never seen so many. Decisions. Where to go. Young with MRA or Captains Flat with Ulysses. And people choose! Half came with us and the other half decided that Gunther's big breakfast was too inviting.

But the Rollinon Inn at Bowning gave the MRAers a great morning tea to launch us towards Young.

Rather than through Wombat, we decided to go through Galong – that funny little town where you see no-one, that seems to be on the edge of existence... But they do have a railway station!

Then out past St Clements Retreat, the monastery, also in the middle of nowhere. Note to self... Must stop in and have a look one day.

We didn't miss the zigzag onto Moppity Lane as has been done from time to time and we all made it to the Orient Hotel in Young, without mishap... even though someone, who shall remain nameless... took a few brief 'excursions' at some junctions.

We grew old waiting for lunch at the Orient Hotel, but animated discussion about corner marking blocked out the sound of grumbling tummies. Mike ordered his salad first... and had to wolf his down after receiving his after the rest of us had already finished. It was a long trek to the garden to pick the lettuce (seemingly).

Instead of heading home via Moppity Lane, a nice constable

escorted us to Murringo. After passing the Ride Leader, he seemed to be in quite a hurry to leave us behind. Thank goodness for intercoms between Tail End Charlie and the Ride Leader – they paid for themselves on that day alone. The middle of the group were scratching their helmets, wondering why the front and back bikes were travelling comfortably well below the speed limit.

Boorowa was too soon after Mike's lunch, so we continued onto the golden arches at Yass for a reviving coffee and farewell. A fun, sociable day.

Rob Masters - Kawasaki ZX-14

Mike and Sharon Kelly - MBW 1200RT

Greg Prindable - Boulevard M50

Garry McCurley - Honda VFR1200

Trish Holdsworth - Yamaha XJ6

Gordon White - Tiger 1050

Mary Coutts - Kawasaki Z1000

Jennifer Buchanan - Honda Shadow 750



The next social ride is out to Captains Flat on Sunday April 15.

We will meet at the BP Servo at Watson (roundabout) at 9.30am for 10.00am departure. This ride is about 220 kms in length and should take 3 1/2 hours of riding (plus a meal break) It's for all riders and covers some sealed back roads to get there (via Tarago / Hoskinstown)

The next ride after that is an overnighter to Eden on 18 - 19 May.

We will meet at the Caltex Servo at Hume at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure.

This ride is at least 712 kms (341 + 371) in length but can be extended in many ways.

(See map <http://www.netspeed.com.au/gwhite/>) It's for riders who are "ride fit", and don't like traffic :-)

In Eden there are plenty of places to stay, but we will be booking at the Great Southern Hotel

(02) 6496 1515 in the middle of town. It has few ensuite rooms and a big backpackers room where the accommodation is really cheap (and so is the privacy).

Please book your own accommodation to avoid disappointment. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact :

Gordon - 0438 632 194 : gwhite@netspeed.com.au or

Trish - 0418 860 750 : tonkatough10@hotmail.com

MRA ACT Social Night

23 March 2012

On 23 March 2012 we held our first Social Night for 2012.

Twelve members attended our social night held at Ming's Restaurant in Phillip. After a bit of a hiccup with the steamed dim sims; the food was great! We ordered a banquet that gave us a pleasing range of dishes. We all had our fill for less than \$20.00 per person. A light beverage or two were enjoyed and there was plenty of conversation around and across the table. It was great to catch up with some 'regulars' and to meet new people.

Leen Parsons

Gordon and I really enjoyed the evening. Good food, stimulating conversation and excellent company! I know we said it on the night, but again, thank you for organising what was a lovely night out. An excellent opportunity to socialise and get to know each other a bit better. And, seeing Nicky and Chris on treadlies.....priceless! Although, Williams attempt to park comes a close second!

Trish Holdsworth



The Social Night dates for the rest of the year are:

Friday 22 June 2012 - O'Connor

Friday 21 September 2012 - TBA
(Belconnen or Gungahlin - suggestions welcome)

Friday 21 December 2012 - TBA
(possibly a venue at Griffith shops).

The December Social Night will be our Christmas Party.

Mark down the dates down now!

All are welcome!

Motion Induced Blindness

You may already have seen this; it's an example of 'target fixation,' 'tunnel vision,' or as this says 'motion induced blindness.' It is offered a reason they 'look - but don't see'

It works exactly like it says, and is one major reason people in cars can 'look right at you' (when you're on a motorcycle or bicycle)---AND NOT SEE YOU.

From a former Naval Aviator:

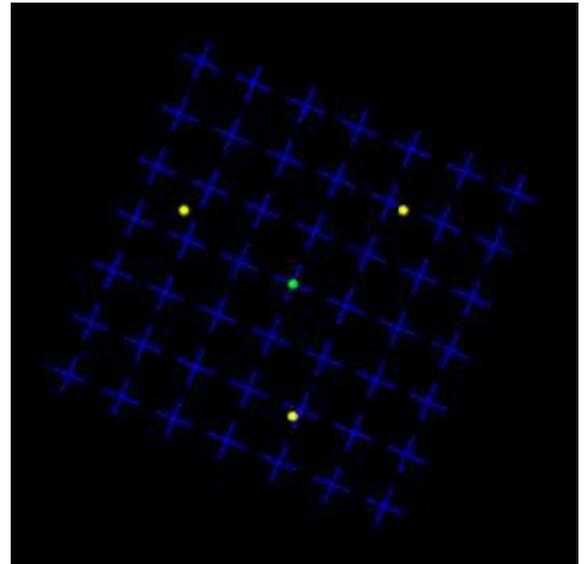
This is a great illustration of what we were taught about scanning outside the cockpit when I went through training back in the '50s.

We were told to scan the horizon for a short distance, stop momentarily, and repeat the process.

I can remember being told why this was the most effective technique to locate other aircraft. It was emphasized (repeatedly) to NOT fix your gaze for more than a couple of seconds on any single object. The instructors, some of whom were WWII veterans with years of experience, instructed us to continually "keep our eyes moving and our head on a swivel" because this was the best way to survive, not only in combat, but from peacetime hazards (like a midair collision) as well.

Motion Induced Blindness - A safety issue

<http://www.msf-usa.org/motion.html>



Rolfe Classic BMW

Sales
Service
Parts & Accessories
Rider Equipment
Finance

The Ultimate Riding Machine

3asy Ride

UNSTOPPABLE ALLERTON.

Glenn Allerton and the S 1000 RR have dominated the first four rounds of the ASBK Championship, bringing BMW closer to its first Australian Superbike title. You, too can ride the awesome S 1000 RR Sport, so talk to Rolfe Classic BMW Motorcycles about a test ride today!

**3ASY RIDE.
BMW FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

S 1000 RR Sport
from
\$79.80 p/w
with \$8,127 deposit*



Rolfe Classic BMW Motorrad

2 Botany St, Phillip ACT 2606
Tel : 02 6208 4135 Fax : 02 6208 4112
motorrad@rolfeclassic.com
rolfeclassic.bmw.com.au LMD17000534

*Offer applies to consumer loans at 10.74% pa on the manufacturer's recommended ride-away price for the S 1000 RR Sport of \$24,224.60 for ACT, over a 36 month term, \$8,127.37 upfront deposit & \$8,127.37 residual payment (comparison rate 11.31% pa). Fees & charges are payable. Ride-away price may vary according to individual circumstances & between BMW Motorrad dealers & states/territories. Interest rate subject to change. Total amount payable when contract fully paid out at contract end is \$28,705.45. Comparison rate based on monthly repayments for a 5 year secured consumer loan of \$30,000. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the example given & may not include all fees & charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Offer available at participating BMW Motorrad Dealers & cannot be combined with any other offer. Consult your participating BMW Motorrad Dealer for further details. All consumer loan applications for finance are subject to BMW Australia Finance's normal lending & approval criteria. Terms & conditions apply. This offer does not take into account your personal circumstances & you should seek independent legal or financial advice relevant to your specific circumstances.



2012 Motorcyclist's Blanket Run for ACT and Region

12 May 2012

**proudly supporting
Salvation Army**

**8:30 for 10:00 departure from
Museum of Australian Democracy
(Old Parliament House)**

Breakfast and coffee

available from 8:30

Ride leaves at 10:00 for

Garema Place via

Adelaide Ave

Bring new blankets, cash

and non-perishable food.

More info - www.mraact.org.au or 0418 215 336

A few ravings by the

MRA ACT Road Safety Officer

Pete Major

A recent report on Channel 10 morning show actually stated that the ACT Govt will not reap its \$4,000,000 a month from the point to point cameras as forecast and publicly advertised (safety not revenue: a tad bovine excremental in my



opinion), and is more likely to achieve \$80,000 per month. In addition, the NRMA has indicated that in the same period the number of minor crashes has increased markedly as drivers jam on the anchors as they approach the second camera. I would also note that after the treatment of the blackspot by installing Jersey barriers across the top of Mt Mugga Mugga the vast majority of crashes are animal strikes caused by poor ambient light levels that the Govt. won't address as it will upset O'Malley residents. Oh yeah, at a transport meeting it was mooted that the speed limit on Hindmarsh drive over mount Mugga Mugga should be at least 90kph (De javu GDE).

The Government bureaucrats keep coming up the three point plan:

Safer cars – are a joke as for every safety feature they introduce they increase the distraction devices within the vehicle and limit visibility out of the vehicle – driver safe!! the rest of us dead.

Safer Roads – roads are never unsafe per se, it's the road users that make them that way. Yes we all bitch about barriers (especially me) pea gravel on corners, diesel spills etc., but if we actually adjusted to conditions would that surface or road be so dangerous?

Safer Road users – Treatment, just fine them and punish them into submission – FAIL big time, but won't be addressed! That would mean you are actually doing something positive and politicians fear the fall out and bureaucrats find it too hard. Improve and regularly reassess our road users. This is a strategy put forward by the MRA ACT at many forums and have been told its logistically to hard, we have no stats and its politically unwise. Personally, Robyn and I have scars on our foreheads from this wall; it's rough, hard and immovable at this point.

How many of us are trained to use Anti-lock Braking Systems, Automatic Traction Control, Automatic Stability Control? While not zero it would be close to it. Who has a regular medical to see if they are fit to drive or ride, who take prescription meds that will impact their vehicle control, who know all the salient road rules, who employs road craft every time they operate (walk, cycle, ride or drive) on the road or footpath?

To make the environment safer (geez I hate the safety word as it means abrogating responsibility for your own stupidity) I prefer enhance survivability (problem belonga you brudda) we need:

Initial Road Rules and Skill Assessment

ALL Road users need a basic understanding of the road rules;

ALL vehicle mounted road users must have a certificate of competency to attest their knowledge meets a basic standard

ALL Powered road users need a certificate of competency in vehicle control and vehicle craft pertinent to the class and capability of the vehicle they choose to operate.

Reassessment

ALL vehicle mounted road users must be reassessed for road rule knowledge at regular intervals (TBD)

ALL powered road users must be reassessed for vehicle competency and craft at regular intervals (TBD)

ALL powered road users must undertake a medical to attest their fitness to control their vehicle at regular intervals.

Licensing

Licensing for vehicles should be graded for weight and power.

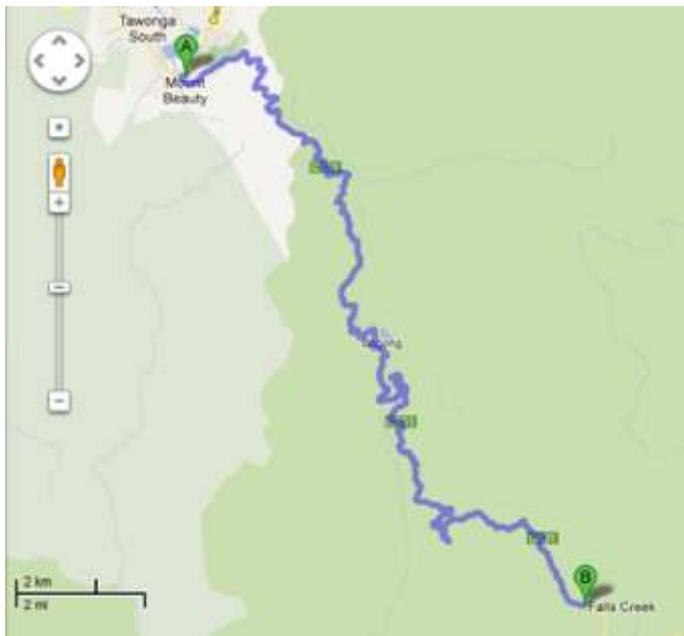
Currently you can drive any vehicle up to 5 tonne with the same licence you drive a mini-car, yet handling characteristics are vastly different.

Let's get all our licenses standardised across Australia, my Heavy vehicle license is. The Australian Motorcycle Council has been pushing the collective line from all motorcycling organisations to achieve this outcome.

As you can see, by addressing the vehicle user in a holistic way you would get a better outcome than just attacking a single element, in Australia's case SPEED. Note Victoria the land of the Speed Camera is having one of the worst years on record re fatalities and crashes. The NT with the highest speed limits and no points on their licences the fatality rate is very low per 100,000km travelled with the greatest numbers of crashes they experience being in the urban, inter-urban, and off road areas rather on the higher speed roads (the higher Aussie dollar is also curbing tourism too).

Food for thought!

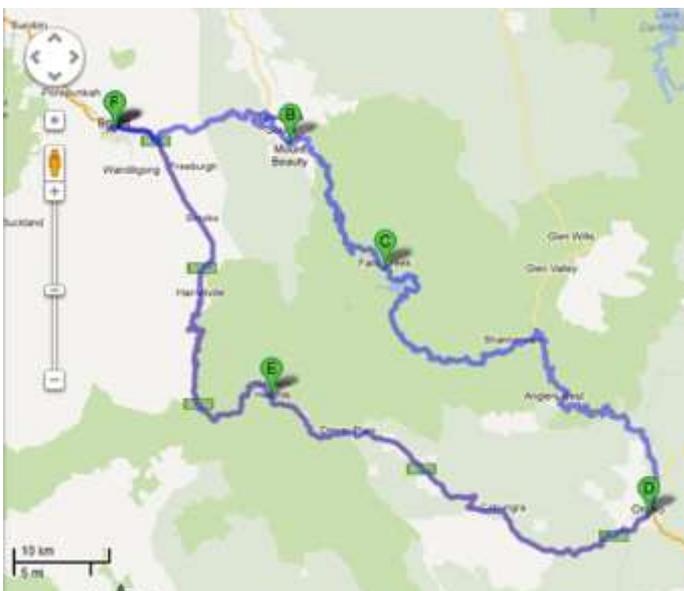
Bogong High Plains Road



The recent sealing of the Bogong High Plains Road through to Omeo now makes Falls Creek part of one of the most enjoyable touring loops in Australia, for both riders and pillion passengers alike. The Bogong Alpine Way circumnavigates the Bogong Alpine National Park, past the 3 of the highest peaks in Victoria and through picturesque mountain towns including Falls Creek, Omeo, Dinner Plains, Mt Hotham, Bright, Mt Beauty and Bogong Village encompassing a wealth of pristine beauty and historical landmarks.

Thanks to the Falls Creek Country Club for bringing the new developments to the Bogong High Plains Road to the attention of Canberra riders.

The Falls Creek Country Club is a 6 storey apartment complex, nestled amongst the snow gums, visible as you first arrive in Falls Creek and overlooking the Bogong High Plains. To view our facilities and take a virtual tour of our accommodation options, please visit www.fallscreekcountryclub.com.au



For larger groups, they can tailor make an accommodation and meal package.

Looking at this map, it seems quite appealing for an extended weekend ride on the bikes.

I might consider organising a weekend!

Falls Creek Country Club

P.O. Box 252
Falls Creek, VIC, 3699.
03 5758 3391
03 5758 3481 (F)





WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT TO RAISE AWARENESS

Depression awareness initiative, the Black Dog Ride, revs up its inaugural National 1 Day Ride around Australia in late April to raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention.

Motorbike riders from every state and territory will embark on the locally coordinated ride. Many will carry a black dog mascot on board, in an attempt to break the world record for most black dogs on motorbikes.

The Black Dog Ride National 1 Day Ride will also aim to raise money for Lifeline. The nationwide telephone crisis support service speaks to around 1400 callers a day. On average, 50 of those calls are from people at high risk of suicide. "We hope this ride will help raise awareness of our shocking suicide death toll, and help us towards realising our vision of an Australia free of suicide," Lifeline's Director of Communications Chris Wagner said today.

"The National 1 Day Ride will not only raise awareness about depression, but help Lifeline continue to provide a crucial community service. Our crisis support volunteers are always available for help with a crisis. One call to Lifeline could be the difference between a suicide attempt and the road to recovery," Mr Wagner said.

The one day rides will take place on 29 April in every state and territory, except Tasmania which will take place on 22 April. They will be real community events with a range of activities at both the origin and destination of each ride.

The ride is the brainchild of Steve Andrews. After losing his mother and several friends to suicide, he aspired to help remove the stigma associated with depression. "Four weeks after the birth of my fourth child, my mother tragically took her own life. I did not understand why at the time, but have subsequently discovered that she had, for many years, battled depression," Mr Andrews said.

"Depression is an illness, not a weakness, and effective treatments are available. If we talk about depression and work together we can make a difference."

"Steve's motivation is palpable and we hope our involvement will help instil and drive his passion for suicide prevention into as many people as possible," Mr Wagner said. All licensed and competent riders are invited to join in. The rides are for people who are enthusiastic about motorbikes and want to make a difference in our community.

For information, including location and start times, go to www.blackdogride.com.au

MRA ACT Activities

	April	May	June
Mon			
Tue		1	
Wed		2	
Thu		3	
Fri		4	1
Sat		5	2
Sun 1	Ulysses AGM	6	3
Mon 2		7	4
Tue 3		8	5
Wed 4		9	6
Thu 5		10	7
Fri 6	Good Friday	11	8
Sat 7		12	9
Sun 8		13	10
Mon 9	Easter Monday	14	11
Tue 10	General Meeting	15	12
Wed 11		16	13
Thu 12		17	14
Fri 13		18	15
Sat 14		19	16
Sun 15	Social Ride Captians Flat	20	17
Mon 16		21	18
Tue 17		22	19
Wed 18		23	20
Thu 19		24	21
Fri 20		25	22
Sat 21	Discovery Ride	26	23
Sun 22		27	24
Mon 23		28	25
Tue 24		29	26
Wed 25	ANZAC Day	30	27
Thu 26		31	28
Fri 27			29
Sat 28			30
Sun 29			
Mon 30			
Tue			

Discovery 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 introduces new and returning riders to group riding with no pressure and promotes road craft and rider safety

Social Ride - Please contact **Gordon (0438 632 194)** or **Trish (0418 860 750)** to advise your participation. [More Info](#)

☺ Captains Flat - 149 kms It's for all riders. Departure: 11:30 am from Watson Servo

☺ Eden over the Hill - 712 kms (341+371) Book your own accommodation, suggest Great Southern Hotel 6496 1515. Departure 10:00 am from Hume Servo

☺ Sutton Forrest - 338 kms for all riders through highland back-road townships. Departure 10:00 am from Watson Servo

Blanket Run - See details on [page 6](#)

 Events of interest on the [following page](#)

Events of Interest

15 April 2012

www.autoitaliacanberra.com



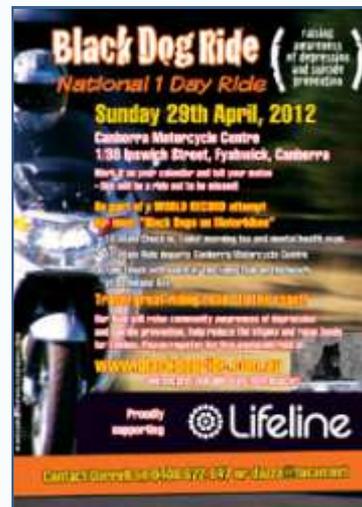
27 - 29 April 2012

www.angelfire.com/in/tvrmc



29 April 2012

www.blackdogride.com.au



10 May 2012

Deb 0449 043 606

debs.sporty@gmail.com



11 - 13 May 2012

lynneandjim@grapevine.com.au



12 May 2012

www.greghirstenterprises.com.au



26 - 27 May 2012

www.trials.com.au



Is your event missing from here?

Email your flyer to committee@mraact.org.au

and have your event included!

Is there anything happening in June 2012?

14 - 15 July 2012

