



Chairman's Report

28th August 2024

Welcome

August has seen an uptick in activity over the previous two months with two important first contact meetings being held with the RAC and Road Safety Council..

Activities:

9th to 11th August – Australian Motorcycle Council Inc. Conference and AGM

Attending the AMC Conference and AGM in Canberra was a pleasant surprise. The comradery and sense of common purpose evident throughout the two days. The time was spent sharing useful information, having a few laughs and a few wines over dinner. Next year's proposed venue will be in Brisbane, much easier to fly to. The minutes (written by Dave Wright) has been sent to all committee members and delegates. I was also privileged to Chair the AMC AGM.

There were five external guests at the conference:

1. Loren Turnbull, Principal Policy & Stakeholder Advisor from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) spoke about their "Ride to Zero Program". Loren is an inspirational speaker and conveyed her message quite well.
2. Australasian College of Road Safety presentation on Motorcycle safety.
3. Craig Newland, Director, Policy, and Research Federation with the Australian Automobile Association. Data Saves Lives campaign and the importance of better access to statistical data to better understand what is happening on our roads.
4. Sonia van den Berg, Founder and Managing Director of Riders Lane, a Canberra-based DIY motorcycle workshop and social enterprise and aimed mainly at women.
5. The CEO of the ACT Road Ready Centre, talking about their compulsory 10-hour course to get a learner's permit, (not road rules), but hazard perception, road positioning and one road safety. They also provide a course for drink drivers.

12th August made website contact with the RAC through a board member – Roger Farley (formerly of RSC). We discussed what the MCWA expected from the RAC.

13th August, I joined the Australasian College of Road Safety (self funded) – Ed Rose (MRDWA Road Safety Policy Manager) is the vice chair of the ARCS W.A. chapter.

13th August made email contact with Katie Hodson-Thomas, chair of the Road Safety Council. Katie rang me and is keen to start a discussion on motorcycle safety with the MCWA.

13th August sent agenda items to Emily Howell, (RSC) the MCWA would like to discuss at the next meeting on 5th September.

18th August, met with Roger Farley to discuss restarting the RAC being actively involved in road safety. We discussed motorcycle safety issues, their priorities, estimated timeline, cost and responsible government departments. From this discussion, I have created a document called "Proposed Safety Measures to Improve the Motorcycle Safety on Western Australian Roads".

23rd August, Dave Wright and I met with Katie Hodson-Thomas (Chair, Road Safety Council) to start a discussion on motorcycle safety. We discussed items around the MCWA document "Proposed Safety Measures to Improve the Motorcycle Safety on Western Australian Roads".



23rd August, I received a call from the RAC regarding a meeting before the September 2nd Round Table Meeting. I was asked on the MCWA stance on speed reductions on our roads. I replied, *"I think it was warranted where necessary, but it must be applied intelligently. I also stated that a blanket reduction of speed limits does not address the problems currently being experienced on our roads."* We agreed to meet, however I am yet to receive an invitation. It seems to me the RAC agenda is to push for lower speed limits on open roads.

A prime example where reduced limits does not work is Victoria, who are currently experiencing the same surge in accidents as Western Australia. Another factor is the size of our state where reducing the speed limit will require another hour of driving to get anywhere which introduces the fatigue factor.

28th August, MCWA AGM

Upcoming:

2nd September, the MCWA will be meeting with the government ministers and other parties for a round table discussion on road safety. Attending will be the Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA, Police Minister Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Hon Rita Saffioti, MLA and Minister for Road Safety, Hon David Michael MLA, Road Safety Council, Road Safety Commission and the RAC.

5th September, Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group meeting.
The agenda has yet to be confirmed.

MCWA Newsletter

1. The September newsletter will be completed and sent out to committee members, delegates and other interested parties in the latter half of that month.

Social Media and Website

1. I have started to be a little more active on Facebook with a couple of posts.
2. I have taken up Travis's offer to use his IT lady to develop the website for us which is underway.

General Items

1. The MCWA will be sitting down to develop a strategy going forward, including seeking a seat on committees to provide greater influence on the safety of motorcycling in Western Australia. Part of the strategy will be to increase our financial position with fund raisers and grants. All input is welcome.

Stay Safe

Jeff Thomas

Chairman