



Chairman's Report

30th April 2025

Welcome

As everyone will now be aware, Gary Pontifex, our Vice Chair, has been involved in a serious accident while riding through the Fergusson Valley. The road had a lot of curves, and due to vehicles cutting corners, gravel had been sprayed onto the road. Gary experienced a front wheel slide on a left hand bend which moved him into the right lane. While trying to avoid an oncoming car, he went down a one metre embankment and into a farmer's fence.

Fortunately, Gary had some very capable riders following him. The closest to him put Gary into a recovery position and helped stabilise him until an ambulance arrived. Another rider thoroughly documented the scene, taking photographs, GPS coordinates and talking to the farmer whose fence was now damaged. The farmer stated that he had approached the local council about the previous seven accidents on that corner, however no action has yet been taken.

I wish Gary a speedy recovery from his injuries, the beloved Indian however is a write off.

Activities:

- **3rd April –Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group.**

Dave W. and I attended the meeting in the Adelaide Terrace Perth. The MSAG is making slow but steady progress in motorcycle safety. I will read out the Action List and the Meeting Notes for the meeting. The RSC has made available some safety electronic messaging which I will be putting onto our Facebook page from time to time.

- **6th April - York Motorcycle Festival.**

We arrived early to set up our marquees and arrange the video screen, flyers, booklets and giveaways. The day proved to be quite successful with many people taking an interest in motorcycle road safety although there were those who were mainly lured in by the free giveaways. Quite noticeable were those who are either "too tough to care" or "afraid to ask" about road safety. Professor Chris Curren from the Deakin University was also set up in our marquee to display and talk about MOTOCAP to people who came by.

A big thanks to Tony B. who trailered the large and heavy items to York and helped to setup and man the marquee throughout the day.

Also, a big thanks to Chris M. and Su L. who stayed overnight in York and helped to setup and keep things running throughout the day. Also, thanks to Bruce B. who came up for the morning to see if he could help.

Thanks also to those who donated items:

- Chris M. and Su L. – 50-inch Smart TV screen.
- Dave W. – 1.5 litre kettle.

- **8th April - Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc.**

I was invited to a RTRA meeting to give presentation on the MCWA history, the way we operate and what we have achieved so far. At first the chair thought he would not be able to make a quorum, however a few late arrivals made up their minimum. The committee were interested in becoming a member of the MCWA and were going to email me for more information, however I have not heard anything yet. I will remind them soon of the benefits of becoming a member.

The group has 625 members, but they seem to have a lot of trouble getting anyone to put up their hand to be on the committee. That said, they are currently involved in projects around Manjimup where they are trying to get a government grant of four million dollars to build off road facilities for registered adventure bike riders, including parking, showers and toilets and well-maintained dirt roads.



- **11th April – WALGA Meeting** to finalise the “Making Roads Motorcycle Friendly Resource”. The meeting included Terri-Anne Pettet from WALGA, Ed Rose from MRWA, Dave W. and myself. The review has been successfully finalised, laying the groundwork for the release of an updated guide.
- **13th April – Midland Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.**
The Ulysses group and MCWA will be co-running the sausage sizzle at the Midland Bunnings. Proceeds will be divided between the two groups.
- **30th April – Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group.**
The meeting focussed on the discussion of and review the “Graduated Licensing System Consultation Paper” created by DOT. As these documents are not yet finalised, the contents will remain confidential. However, at least a motorcyclist’s perspective has been added.

Upcoming:

- **3rd May** – Federal Election. Do not forget to vote!
- **5th to 19th May** – I will be in Murray Bridge South Australia with my father during this period. I will still be able to answer phone calls and any emails that may be sent.
- **30th May to 1st June** – NUMDUC Rally.
The rally will be held on Grunters farm as usual near Dowerin. I have included a flyer for those who are interested in attending.

New Membership

Possible new membership:

- The Open Road Motorcycle Touring Club (ORMTC). I sent an invoice for the membership fee on the 23rd April, but so far have not had a reply.
- Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc.

Stay Safe

Jeff Thomas

Chairman