



## Chairman's Report

25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Welcome

May and June were quiet with no government meetings being held so there is nothing to report at this time. The May Newsletter was sent out a bit late in early June. The May committee meeting was also subsequently cancelled as there was no pressing business needing attention.

### General News

As everyone will now be aware, Gary Pontifex, our Vice Chair, has been involved in a serious accident while riding through the Ferguson Valley. Gary is now out of hospital and is in rehabilitation in the Bently facility, last week he went to stay with family to see how he will cope but will be out of rehabilitation soon. I wish Gary a speedy recovery from his injuries, the beloved Indian however is a write off.

In some more worrying news, Tony Beeson has just undergone heart bypass surgery but will be home recuperating by the time this report is read. Tony had a routine CT scan to determine his cardiac calcium score, the results of which earned Tony an immediate transfer into hospital for the operation. Fortunately, there has been no damage to his heart and after a recovery period of three months, Tony will be back brighter and noisier than anyone can remember. Speedy recovery mate and we will see you soon. Also, Tony's efforts have earned himself an automatic renomination to the committee.

### Activities:

- **30th April – Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group.**

The meeting was attended by Dave and myself and was 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.

- **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. WALGA has since requested and received our logo which will now feature on the new guide.

- **Midland Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.**

Dave W. has sent an email thanking the MCWA for the fantastic effort displayed in keeping the hungry hordes fed and happy. Thanks to all who participated.

- **Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc.**

In a recent AMC delegates meeting, I discussed the project being undertaken by the RTRA and their Manjimup affiliates who are working on a \$4 million project for adventure bike riders, including a car park, toilets and showers. The project aims to increase tourism into Manjimup. The Motorcycle Council of NSW contacted me and requested contact details as they are trying to resurrect their own trail bike association.



- **Australian Motorcycle Council Delegates Meeting**

For the AMC delegates meeting, I had produced a report that had some photographs of our stall at the York Motorcycle festival. Brian Wood of the MC of NSW noticed the flyers (Fatigue, Hydration and Tips for Riders) that I had modified with our logo for the festival. He requested copies of the flyers, so I forwarded the pdf version of these flyers for their use. These flyers still have the MCWA logo on them. A copy of the AMC report will be available for this meeting.

- **30th May to 1st June – NUMDUC Rally.**

The rally was held by the Ducati Owners Club of WA (DOCWA) on Grunters farm as usual near Dowerin on the Meckering Road. It was expected to be a wet weekend, however I will be there to help support DOCWA in any way I can. DOCWA is a member of the MCWA and also significant donor and supporter of our cause.

I stopped in Dowerin Saturday morning on the way up to visit the local facilities. On returning to my bike, I noticed another rider on the side of the road looking at a map. I rode over to offer assistance, and it turned out to be Barry from the Moondyne Men's Shed who is also a member of the Motorcycle Men's Shed.

We set up camp in the rally alongside each other and drank some beer while having a great yarn. Sunday morning had a thick fog which caused everything to become damp. I was more fortunate than most as my bed was well off the ground. Most people had to climb out of their tents onto soggy ground.

The rally numbers were down from the previous rally, more likely due to the forecast of heavy rain and thunder, with Monday's forecast being particularly bad. Many riders were packing up on Sunday to leave to avoid the forecast storm. I decided to head home as well, as I was not looking forward to towing a trailer in stormy weather. Unfortunately, Monday was not as bad as predicted so I could have stayed the extra night. I will console myself with the notion that if you make a decision for safety purposes, then it will always be a good one. I ended up spending Monday drying out all my equipment.

Great Rally DOCWA, I look forward to the next one.

## **Upcoming:**

### **Annual General Meeting.**

Refer to the MCWA Constitution, Division 3 Rules 31 to 35 and Rule 50.

The dates for this year's AGM are as follows:

- 16<sup>th</sup> July – Notify all members of the AGM with invitation to nominate for the committee.
- 30<sup>th</sup> July – Committee nominations close.
- 20<sup>th</sup> August – Send out the AGM agenda and committee nominations.
- 27<sup>th</sup> August – Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman's Annual Report and the Treasurer's Annual Reports are currently being written to be ready for the AGM. These reports will then be included in the AGM Minutes of Meeting which is then submitted to DEMIRS as required by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

The AGM will operate as follows:

1. General Meeting.
  - a. Chairman's Annual Report plus Q & A.
  - b. Treasurer's Annual Report plus Q & A.
2. Declare all positions vacant.
3. Elect the AGM Chair.
4. Election of committee members.
5. General Business.



## **Renewed Membership**

- Ducati Owners Club of Western Australia.
- Gorgeous Ladies on Wheels

## **New Membership**

- The Open Road Motorcycle Touring Club (ORMTC) have paid their membership fees.

## **Possible New Membership**

- Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc.
- Moto Guzzi Club of Western Australia (a letter of invitation has been sent).

## **First Responder First Aid Training**

I am currently in discussion with the Director of Operations, First Aid for Motorcyclists, to conduct First Responder First Aid Training here in Perth. I will also be talking to government and other institutions regarding any subsidies that can be given to lighten the financial burden for participants. They are also happy to train someone local who possesses a TAE40110 certificate and would be keen on training for them here in W.A.

## **Letters**

1. **Main Roads W.A.** - I have sent an email to Edward Rose, Road Safety Policy Manager, Planning and Technical Services Directorate. I have asked him if there is anything that MRWA can do to pressure the Ferguson Valley local council to repair Henty Road to prevent further incidents such as Gary's. There is no reply as of this meeting date. (I have sent a follow up reminder).
2. **Minister for Road Safety** - I have sent a letter to Hon. Reece Whitby MLA on the topic of Gary's accident and the lack of response from MRWA.
3. **Road Safety Commission** – I have sent an email to the Chair of the Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group requesting any information of possible part funding for the First Responder First Aid Training.
4. **Minister for Road Safety** - I will be sending a letter soon to Hon. Reece Whitby MLA on the following topics:
  - a. Possible funding for the First Responder First Aid training.
  - b. Requesting a meeting to discuss among other items, Motorcycles in Buslanes.

I hope that the response from these communications brings some results.

## **Electric Scooters**

The recent death of a pedestrian in Perth city recently who was struck by an E-Scooter being driven by a person under the influence of alcohol. The Cities of Perth and Vincent then decided to temporarily ban these devices that are seen parked on many of our street corners. I am aware that the owners of these scooters are franchises, and this will affect their source of income. However, until suitable laws come into effect to limit the speed on these machines, then I support the ban.

## **Insurance**

A discussion is required on whether the MCWA requires insurance, what are the types of risks we are exposed to and therefore the type of insurance that may be required.

Stay Safe

**Jeff Thomas**  
**Chairman**