



Chairman's Report

27th August 2025

Welcome

The MCWA's second anniversary since incorporation occurred on the 1st August. The 1st of October will also mark the second year since the MCWA opened our doors for business. During this time, the W.A. Government has come to view the MCWA as the premier motorcycling group and readily contact us for our opinion and engage on various motorcycle safety issues. I am pleased that the MCWA has achieved such a position in a relatively short time, thanks to the support of our members who have been sensible and respectful in our dealings with others.

Advocacy News

I have been following up on our vice chair, Gary Pontifex's accident while he was riding on Henty Road in the Ferguson Valley. Henty road has quickly developed from a farmers' service road to a busy tourist drive, however the road infrastructure has not been developed to cope with the increase in traffic. After some emails, the Dardanup Shire council which Ferguson Valley is part of, stated that they have put Henty Road on the Black Spots program which releases Federal funds to start repairs on the road. They have also put shire funds into intermediate road repairs such as guidepost installation. WALGA supported by speaking with the Road Safety Advisor at Dardanup shire who advised that the shire may be in line for other funding (Regional Road Safety – Local Roads) to seal the shoulders and apply audible edge lines to Henty Road. It is good to see something is being done to stop preventable accidents from occurring.

People may be aware of an accident where the rider (Dean English) and his pillion (Sharon) both lost their right leg, and the story has been featured on the news. I have spoken with Dean English who is rightly upset by the experience and the way he has been treated by the police investigator and the Insurance Council of W.A. I have emailed Dean for his permission to advocate on his behalf. Dean has replied in the affirmative.

Activities:

- **22nd July - WALGA Meeting** to finalise the "Making Roads Motorcycle Friendly Resource". The meeting included Terri-Anne Pettet and Jaxon Ashley from WALGA, Ed Rose from MRWA, Dave W. and myself. The document has been successfully finalised with Dave providing updated photos to embed into the guide, laying the groundwork for the release of an updated road engineering guide. Dave has also suggested that a checklist be added to the end of the guide in the same vein as the Victorian guide. The MCWA logo will also feature on the new guide.
- **22nd July - Australian Motorcycle Council Delegates Meeting**
For the AMC delegates meeting, I had produced a report, however the meeting was cancelled due to ongoing issues with their email system. Intentions were good, perhaps next time.
- **8th to 10th August – Australian Motorcycle Council Conference and AGM**
I travelled to Brisbane on a self-funded trip to attend this year's AMC Conference and AGM. I presented our annual report to those present at the meeting which detailed some of our achievements and firsts (such as the YMCF). The MCWA has also formally joined the AMC as a full member, with the membership fee kindly donated by Kean Legal. I will produce a report to be tabled at the next MCWA meeting. My wife travelling with me, and stayed with me in Brisbane for a further 10 nights, returning to Perth late on the 20th August.



- **6th August – Department of Transport Meeting**

This scheduled meeting to discuss the Motorcycle Graduated Licensing System proposal by DOT was cancelled as they were still in discussions with the Minister's office. The meeting was rescheduled for the 28th August.

Upcoming Activities

- **27th August – Western Australian Motorcycle Council AGM**

The second AGM is being held tonight. Cathy Thatcher, Gary Pontifex and Cindy Hooyberg have not renominated for a position on the committee. I would like to thank them for their work in assisting in the committee. They will still be around as delegates of their respective membership.

There have been nine nominations for committee positions which is a good number for now. The maximum number of committee positions is four management positions and eight general committee positions. The committee can decide if any other general or specialised positions are to be filled and can vote to offer the position later as required.

- **28th August - Department of Transport Meeting**

As stated earlier, this rescheduled meeting will be to discuss the proposed Graduated Licensing System (GLS). The meeting will now include the office of Hon. Jessica Stojkovski MLA, the minister assisting the minister for transport.

- **10th September – Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group**

I have sent an email to the Chair of the Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group requesting that item 6 on the MCWA Proposed Safety Measures to Improve Motorcycle Safety in W.A. This involves No Blame accident investigation and involve specialist investigators to determine why the accident happened to help prevent future repeat accidents. The meeting will also discuss items on the action list, such as Motorcycles in Bus Lanes, Statistical Crash Data, First Responder training and advanced rider course..

- **23rd September – Australian Motorcycle Council Delegates Meeting**

I will be travelling to South Australia on this day, so I have already sent my apologies to the AMC. I will however, write the delegates report beforehand and send to the AMC secretary and distribute it to the committee as well. Perhaps Dave W. can read it for the MCWA although Dave is already busy with his duties for the AMC

Membership

Renewed Membership

- Ducati Owners Club of Western Australia.
- Gorgeous Ladies on Wheels.
- Motorcycle Men's Shed – Perth Inc.
- British Motorcycle Enthusiasts of W.A.
- Ulysses.
- Western Australian Women Motorcycle Riders Inc.

New Membership

- The Open Road Motorcycle Touring Club (ORMTC).
- Moto Guzzi Club of Western Australia.



Membership renewal notices sent (25/08/2025)

- Bikes Unlimited Inc.
- Rockingham and Surrounding Areas Riders.

Please note, all non-financial members will lose their membership status on the 1st October 2025.

Updating Membership Details

To keep our membership records up to date, can all members please send me an update on the following details.

1. Main Contact - Name, Telephone and Email address.
2. First Delegate - Name, Telephone and Email address.
3. Second Delegate - Name, Telephone and Email address.

Please note, that any new delegate names put forward will require the approval of the committee as per the MCWA constitution and bylaws.

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. The trainers are also happy to train someone local who possesses a TAE40110 certificate and would be keen on training for them here in W.A. The Road Safety Commission has responded to a funding request saying that they will assist the MCWA with an application in the next round of grants (possibly November). A number of clubs have expressed keen interest in the training, so I will canvas the members for an idea of how many people are interested in attending the course to get a better idea of numbers and costs.

Communications

1. **Minister for Transport** – I will be requesting a meeting with Hon. Rita Saffiotti MLA to discuss the ICWA legislation defining Catastrophic Injuries.
2. **Minister for Road Safety** - I will be sending a letter soon to Hon. Reece Whitby MLA on the following topics:
 - a. A meet and greet to let him know who we are and what we do.
 - b. To discuss among other items, Motorcycles in Bus lanes and unpainted curbing.

Electric Scooters

Currently, any accident with a non-compliant electric Scooter or Bike becomes a motorcycle statistic. The MCWA will take the position that any form of transport that is not a registerable motorcycle is not a motorcycle and therefore should not be included in motorcycle statistics. A statistical category for any illegal electric Scooter or Bike must be created to stop distorting motorcycle statistics.

Stay Safe

Jeff Thomas
Chairman