



## **Chairman's Report**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

### Welcome

With Christmas done and dusted, I hope everyone had a wonderful season celebrating with family and friends. The shocking part is that January is nearly finished already. This summer has been generally quite mild so far with only a few hot days, so it has been great weather for riding. A cautionary note to all; with the good riding weather, we have seen some quite horrific motorcycle accidents occurring this year. It is always difficult to comment on the causes without knowing the details or the results of investigations, so please be careful out there. Ride like your life depends on it.

### Upcoming Events

- **First Responder First Aid Training**

There has been no news on whether the grant application for the training has been approved. Government processes seem to be very slow so we will need to be patient. I have been in contact with FAFM regarding the grant explaining that the MCWA cannot commit to booking the training until the grant is approved, and whatever the outcome, we would assist in promoting the course to the greater riding community and can FAFM re-confirm their proposed training dates. To date, I have had no reply.

- **Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of February. The MCWA has been notified that the agenda will be sent closer to the time. The Insurance Commission of Western Australia has been invited to this meeting to discuss their policy on catastrophic injury definitions and what can be done to relax the requirements. I have also sent out the Meeting notes and the Action list from the previous meeting.

- **York Motorcycle Festival**

The YMF will be held on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The MCWA voted to attend the festival, however I realised later that I will be interstate during March. For the attendance to go forward, I will need a number of volunteers to pick up the equipment, transport to York, setup, man the stalls and then return the equipment to the sea container. I am happy to resume organising the equipment and venue with hardwired entertainment to get the best possible price and position.

### General News

- **Banking Officers**

I have been to the Bendigo Bank to apply for the change in signatories. The bank was very friendly, however they wanted the two new signatories and one previous signatory to attend the bank and sign their papers. Given that we were coming up to Christmas and people were busy with new family or away, I decided to let it drop until we can organise better. Sometime in February would be opportune.

- **Gwendalyn Kean**

On behalf of the MCWA, I would like to congratulate Travis and Kiki on the arrival of their beautiful daughter Gwendalyn. She is certainly better looking than her dad! Children are a very rewarding learning experience, although I hope the parents get many restful nights.



- **Vice Chair and Safety Officer**

Dave W. has been undergoing some serious medical treatment over the last couple of months. Fortunately, Dave seems to be well on the mend, and I look forward to seeing him back. I spoke with him recently and he was happy and smiling and past the worst of his treatment. On behalf of the MCWA, we wish you all the best.

- **AMC Delegates Meeting**

I have sent out an email from the AMC I received on Christmas eve from the chairman of the Australian Motorcycle Council for your information.

- **Western Australian Local Government Association**

The WALGA Manager for Road Safety, Terri-Anne Pettet, is now on long service leave. Terri-Anne has been our main contact with WALGA and has been replaced by Suzanne Butler. I will contact Suzanne for an introductory meeting.

- **Chairman's Absence during March**

I will be holidaying in Tasmania from the 2<sup>nd</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and not thinking about much from W.A. My wife and I have rented a motorhome for 18 days to allow us to explore as much as possible and have the ability to stop anywhere overnight. I am looking forward to the trip.

#### Action Items to be completed

1. Contact CEO of ICWA regarding Catastrophic Injury criteria.
2. Contact the Minister for Transport to discuss possible amendments.
3. Change banking officers to those selected at the AGM.

Stay Safe

**Jeff Thomas**

**Chairman**