



Chairman's Report

24th June 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the MCWA Committee meeting for June. The number of road fatalities up to the 23rd June stands at 109 and categorised as follows :

1. Car Occupants:	Sixty Four	(64)	(48 in May)
2. Motorcycle Riders:	Twenty One	(21)	(20 in May)
3. Pedestrians:	Twenty One	(21)	(15 in May)
4. Cyclists:	Three	(3)	(2 in May)

As of this writing, there have been twenty one motorcycle fatalities so far in 2026, which is 19.2 % of all fatalities. Moral to the story: **Ride like your life depends on it.**

Chris and Cathy Cobain

As everyone will now be aware, Chris Cobain is the new fatality for June 2026. There is a belief among those present that Chris had a medical episode which caused him to run off the road and into a ditch. Chris was the new MCWA delegate for the ORMTC, and he had emailed me just 10 days earlier telling me he was a passionate motorcycle rider and MCWA delegate. Chris died at the scene. His wife Cathy is still in intensive care with a broken leg, hip, ribs, shoulder, and neck. Fortunately, there was no damage to her brain and spine. The MCWA wishes her a speedy recovery, although the healing for the loss of Chris will take a lot longer. We will keep people informed of any future developments and funeral arrangements.

My congratulations to those present who successfully used their recent First Responder Crash Management training to maximum effect, well done to you and take care, the trauma of witnessing this event cannot be underestimated.

Activities

- **Future Crash Management Courses**

The experience with Chris and Cathy Cobain has highlighted that although people hope to never have to use these skills, it does prove just how important such training is.

FAFM have stated that they will return in September for the next round of courses. As the previous grant system was less than satisfactory, I will be applying to the government as soon as possible for a grant similar to the Victorian model, where a substantial sum of money was allocated so that every rider in the state had the opportunity to attend the course for just \$20. It could mean the grant is directly allocated to FAFM for them to manage. I am yet to see how the grant application plays out but it is worth the try.

- **University of Western Australia**

Professor Teresa Senserrick of the UWA Centre for Road Safety Research is conducting a voluntary study to better understand motorcycle riders in Western Australia, with a special focus on mature returning riders (aged 50+ who have taken a break of one year or more before returning to riding). They aim to explore riders' motivations, training and education, riding experiences, views on risk, and unique safety needs. This project has Human Research Ethics approval (2025/ET000944) from The University of Western Australia.

I recommend that all MCWA members complete the survey. Follow the following link:

https://uwa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmMCoDg8FQPgjbM



- **Graduated Licensing System**

The Department of Transport had been conducting a survey on motorcyclists' viewpoint for the proposed and upcoming Graduated Licensing System. The survey is now closed, however I hope everyone had an opportunity to have their say. The MCWA was contacted by DOT to enquire if we had received and completed the survey.

- **Road Safety Forum Stakeholder Engagement Workshop**

The MCWA was invited to the Road Safety Forum as a stakeholder by the Minister for Road Safety on Friday June 12th held at the University Club of Western Australia, in the UWA grounds. The purpose of this forum was to shape the action plan from the *Driving Change – Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030*.

The following documents are attached to this report:

- 20260612 Road Safety Agenda – compiled by Dave W. and myself.
- Driving Change Action Plan Workshop – compiled by Dave W.
- 20260612 Driving Change Strategy Meeting Minutes – Unofficial minutes.

- **MCWA / Police Combined Community Ride**

I have spoken with the Deputy Commissioner of police regarding a combined ride with the police, with the intention of creating an interaction with the police in happier circumstances. Below is the email I have sent.

“Further to our conversation at the Road Safety Forum regarding a combined ride with the police and members of the Motorcycle Council, there has been a lot of enthusiasm from our members. As the MCWA is not a ride group, I have approached the Ulysses Perth group and the Motorcycle Men’s Shed (MCMS) to host the event, although the MCMS have shown they are very keen to host. The chairman of the MCMS is himself a police sergeant and I am a committee member. Proposed dates would be either October 2026 to coincide with national road safety week or March 2027 to coincide with the W.A. road safety week, perhaps in the runup to the York Motorcycle festival where the MCWA runs a stand with road safety messaging. The forward dates will give me a chance to apply for a grant to pay for the proposed coffee and donuts. I will wait for a reply from either yourself or your ride coordinator.”

- **Insurance Commission of WA.**

I have discussed with the General Council for the ICWA, the situation regarding Dean English and his rejection from an insurance payout due to the onerous nature of the catastrophic injury definition. Below is the email I have sent to him:

“Thankyou for listening to me at the Road Safety Forum in regard to the case of Dean English who suffered catastrophic injuries as a result a collision with another vehicle. The purpose of this email is to highlight the injustice that can be experienced by road accident amputees with the onerous catastrophic injury definition and to request that this definition be modified to become inclusive to those in genuine need and distress.

The sequence of events for the accident and aftermath is as follows:

- *Dean and his partner Sharron collided with a truck towing a caravan while riding a motorcycle near Meckering approximately eighteen months ago.*
- *The responding Meckering police determined that the truck driver was at fault for the accident.*
- *Follow up by another Meckering police patrol then determined that Dean was at fault.*



- An investigator from the Perth Police department then determined that fault could not be attributed to either party. Given that Western Australia has a fault system for insurance payouts, Dean was left in a legal no-man's land.
- Dean lost his right leg at the femur and his right index finger in the accident. The hand injury is so severe that the hand is frozen in place and cannot be used.
- Sharron lost her right leg at the Tibia and was covered by third party insurance.

The Regulations for the definition of catastrophic injuries I refer to are as follows:

Motor Vehicle and Workplace Accidents (Catastrophic Injuries) Regulations 2016, Part 2, Division 1

9. Amputations

(1) The criteria for an injury resulting in amputation, or the equivalent impairment, are —

(a) the criteria set out in subregulation (2); and

(b) the injury occurs —

(i) if the injury is a motor vehicle injury — on or after 1 July 2016; or

(ii) if the injury is a workplace injury — on or after 1 July 2024.

(2) For subregulation (1)(a), the criteria are —

(a) a brachial plexus or lumbosacral avulsion equivalent to an amputation; or

(b) one amputation of either of the following types —

(i) forequarter amputation or shoulder disarticulation;

(ii) amputation of a lower limb at or above 65% of the femur; or

(c) more than one amputation of either or both of the following types —

(i) amputation of a lower limb at or above 50% of the tibia;

(ii) amputation of an upper limb at or above the first metacarpophalangeal joint of the thumb and index finger of the same hand.

When Dean applied for catastrophic injury insurance, He was denied insurance based on the following items:

1. *Dean was placed in front of an Xray machine and was subsequently told the stump of his femur was two centimetres too long when reference the regulations 9(2)(b)(ii).*
2. *Dean's thumb was intact although it cannot be used and therefore denied by 9(2)(c)(ii).*

Dean was relying on the NDIS for support, however with the recent cutbacks this support has now ceased.

Dean has stated that his main objectives at the moment is as follows:

1. *Support while he still has mortgage payments to make.*
2. *A prosthetic leg that can bend at the knee instead of renting a "stick" to walk around.*
3. *The widening of his bathroom doorway to fit his wheelchair. Currently Dean has to hop through the door to use his bathroom.*

Given the definitions above are part of a regulation, they should be easy to modify. May I suggest the following amendments:

1. *Consider each case as they arise and*
 - a. *Relax the onerous nature.*
 - b. *Be more inclusive for those who are in genuine need and distress.*
 - c. *Means test approvals*

Dean and I are happy to meet with the ICWA at your convenience to discuss this email and to further clarify Dean's current situation as required. I have copied Dean into this email.

The question I ask you is "when is a catastrophic injury not a catastrophic injury?

Looking forward to your reply."



Upcoming Events

- **2026 Annual General Meeting**

The 2026 AGM will be held on Wednesday the 26th August.

Key dates for this event are as follows:

- Wednesday 15th July Notification to members of the AGM dates with committee the nomination forms. Please note that to qualify for a committee nomination, the person must be an active delegate member of the MCWA or as otherwise approved by the committee.
- Wednesday 29th July Committee Nominations close.
- Monday 17th August An AGM reminder will be sent out to all members and delegates complete with the list of nominations.
- Wednesday 26th August Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman's and the Treasurer's Annual Reports will be completed ready for the AGM. These reports will then be included in the AGM Minutes of Meeting which is then submitted to Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) 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.
- **MCWA Committee Positions**

Over the last twelve months, the MCWA has become a trusted source of information within the state government who have been fulfilling their commitment to liaise with the MCWA for information Dave Wright has indicated that due to personal circumstances, he will be unable to nominate for a committee position this year. I would like to see people put there hand up to help run the MCWA

General News

- **Australian Motorcycle Council Conference and AGM**

I will be travelling to Melbourne late July on a self-funded trip to attend the AMC conference and AGM. I have already signalled my intention to nominate for a committee position to maintain a Western Australian presence on the committee.

I have informed the Motorcycle Men's Shed and the Vicent Community Shed that I will not renominating for a committee position this year to allow more time to concentrate on the MCWA and the AMC.

That is all for now:

Stay Safe

Jeff Thomas

Chairman