



Chairman's Report

29th July 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the MCWA Delegates meeting for July. The number of road fatalities shown on the RSC website up to the 27th July stands at 127 with the year-to-date 5-year average being 97, up 23.6%.

They are categorised as follows :

1. Car Occupants:	77	(64 in June)
2. Motorcycle Riders:	21	(21 in June)
3. Pedestrians:	25	(21 in June)
4. Cyclists:	4	(3 in June)

As of this writing, there have been 21 motorcycle fatalities so far in 2026, which is 16.5% of total fatalities. The moral to the story is: **Ride like your life depends on it.**

Chris and Cathy Cobain

As everyone will now be aware, Chris Cobain was the new fatality for June 2026. The cause of the accident was an Aortic aneurysm, and although the subsequent crash would not have helped the situation, Chris died at the scene. Chris was the new MCWA delegate from the ORMTC and had emailed me only 10 days before the incident saying he was a passionate motorcycle rider and MCWA delegate. His wife Cathy has now been released from hospital as her mother has moved over from Adelaide to assist with her recovery. Chris's funeral will be held on the 31st of July with Cathy requesting only family, friends and members of the ORMTC to attend.

Activities

- **FAFM 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 will be returning 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 riders had the opportunity to attend the course for just \$20. I believe it would be appropriate for the grant to be allocated for FAFM to manage.

- **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_dmMCoDq8FQPgjbM

- **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 Action Plan from the meeting has been included with these documents.

- **Road Safety Commission**

Alisia Mumby, the Campaigns Manager for the RSC has been communicating with me about two upcoming advertisements to promote safe riding. We have had several email exchanges and an online Teams meeting to discuss important aspects of motorcycle safety and culture. They have modified their script slightly based on my comments, the email stream has been included with these documents.

- **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. I am yet to receive a reply.

- **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. It was determined that the stump of his femur was two centimetres too long to qualify for a payout. After sending a letter to the ICWA, the reply was not only a refusal to consider the case but was also riddled with errors. The case will continue.

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 have been completed ready for the AGM. These reports will then be included in the AGM Minutes of Meeting to be 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.
 - b. Treasurer's Annual Report plus.
 - c. General Business.
2. Declare all positions vacant.
3. Elect the AGM Chair.
4. Election of committee members.
5. New Chair's address.



- **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 reducing his activities within the MCWA this year while he concentrates on his recovery. I would therefore like to see more people put their hand up to help run the MCWA

- **Membership Renewals**

- Gorgeous Ladies on Wheels.
- Ducati Club of Western Australia Inc.
- Motorcycle Men's Shed – Perth W.A. Inc.
- Bikes Unlimited Inc.
- Rockingham and Surrounding Areas Riders.

- **Membership Renewals Outstanding**

- British Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club Inc.
- Ulysses Inc.
- W.A. Womens Motorcycle Riders Inc.
- Moto Guzzi Owners Club of W.A.
- Open Road Motorcycle Touring Club Inc.
- First Aid for Motorcyclists Inc.

General News

- **Australian Motorcycle Council Conference and AGM**

I will be travelling to Melbourne on the 30th of July on a self-funded trip to attend the AMC conference and AGM. I have nominated for a committee position to maintain a Western Australian presence on the AMC committee. There will be two speakers, Chris Hurran, Associate Professor in Textile Research, Director of ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres, Deakin Institute for Frontier Materials at Deakin University. Chris is best known for his work on MotoCAP.

The second speaker is Dr Yao Yu, PhD in Materials Engineering, Australasian Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Facility, Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM) at Deakin University. Dr Yao will highlight the current disparities in protective performance between women's and men's riding gear.

That is all for now:

Stay Safe

Jeff Thomas

Chairman