



## August News

The biggest announcement for the month of August is that Motorcycling NSW has withdrawn the expression of interest to merge with the Motorcycle Council of NSW.

Motorcycling NSW thanked the MCC of NSW for their time, but have stated that the two organisations are not as closely aligned as first thought.

## CTP News

Once again the MAA advised that changes are in the wind and once again we advise all MCC Delegates to let their club members know to only renew for 6 month rego's till the reductions in CTP come through to us. These reductions are expected in Jan 2012. Like the fuel companies they are quick to stick the price up but slow to bring it down. The Ernst and Young audit of the CTP scheme which came about as a direct result of the CTP Protest in August last year is still sitting on the Minister's desk and there is still no news of when it is to be released. This is the report that reputedly shows how much we are getting ripped off on CTP in this state.

## Motorcycle Awareness Week (MAW)

Planning is well underway for this year's Motorcycle Awareness Week. The proposed launch will be set for 12:00 (Lunchtime) Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct in Wynyard Square Carrington St Wynyard.

This is right outside the front door of the RTA branch in Wynyard so we need all the riders we can get to attend so we can get to show the RTA, Clover Moore and the Minister for Roads Duncan Gay we mean business. Duncan Gay has confirmed his attendance and the launch will be MC'd by Jonesy of "Jonesy and Amanda" fame. There will also be a number of other events planned for the week including Breakfast Torque being planned by Janelle. Details to be advised as they come to hand.

## AMC Conference

Brian Wood and Guy Stanford recently travelled to Melbourne for the AMC conference. The Australian Motorcycle Council links all motorcycle rider organisations across the country and is growing and maturing, with links to the motorcycle manufacturers and Motorcycling Australia.

In the past, it was through AMC that front numberplates were stopped. We can now see a fledgling national motorcycle strategy emerging, with formal Position Statements negotiated, defining a framework to which all members will contribute, removing duplication of effort and bringing like minds to focus on particular issues.

All member organisations are contributing knowledge and transferring that to other States, with some notable successes. The West Australians in particular, have done well in the last year, actively utilising the networks of knowledge and notching up a string of successes to improve riding in WA. On big issues, such as helmets, the combined weight of organisation numbers gives all rider groups political and administrative leverage. The advantages come from being able to lobby in a co-ordinated manner, obtain assistance and advice from interstate and take on Austroads at their own game. Past MCC of NSW support for AMC is starting to pay dividends for us and for our brother organisations.

## Submissions to the Law and Justice Commission

Guy Stanford and Chris Burns put together a submission on behalf of the MCC of NSW to the Law and Justice Committee on the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and the Life Time Care and Support Authority (LTCSA). Both the submissions have been accepted and the Law and Justice Commission have asked for witnesses to be forthcoming from the MCC of NSW to advise them. It is expected that Guy Stanford and Christopher Burns will be facing the Commission to push for a better deal for riders in NSW.

## Helmet update

With any luck you should be able to get access to helmets from overseas in the not too distant future.

Last year the RTA introduced a new Road Rule for helmets in "use" on NSW roads, demanding special stickers. Only some helmets on sale have these special stickers. Recently the RTA informed members of the MCC of NSW that the NSW helmet road rule was to be implemented Australia wide through Austroads. The NSW Road Rules are retrospective and inconsistent with the Commonwealth Product Safety system for sale of helmets. The issue was escalated to the AMC for national action. AMC has met with the Commonwealth Minister for the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (Bradbury) arguing the inconsistencies, the restrictive trade practices arising from the NSW law and highlighting what we believe to be deceptive practices with labels on helmets. The ACCC is now examining the issues. We expect immediate and urgent action at the speed of a glacier. The part of this issue that affects riders directly is reported in Two Wheels. Look for more in October Road Rider.

So what does this mean for me, you ask? Essentially the changes proposed by the MCC of NSW and by the AMC, if adopted, will not only repeal a punitive, retrospective, bad law in NSW, but allow use in all States and Territories, of helmets with European, Japanese and USA standards in parallel with AS/NZS 1698:2006. These are the four best helmet standards in the world, with nothing between them in terms of protection. This will open up a whole new world of choice for riders, to make available helmets not currently available here.

## Resurrection of the MCC of NSW Rider Mentor program

5 riders attended the recent RTA training day for Motorcycle Club Rider Mentors from Dykes on Bikes, Sydney's riders, HunterDOG and Sydney Knights.

The idea behind this is that experienced active individuals from various clubs nominate to be mentors to junior riders within their clubs or ride groups in order to promote better riding habits and procedures for younger riders. Primarily, the idea is to have riders who are actively participating in club and group rides, to fire up conversations, kick stupid beliefs and demonstrate good risk management practice, it's a kind of "lead by example" training.

Each of the volunteer mentors attend a training ride with the RTA instructor Duncan McRae. Duncan has an uncanny ability to get the riders to think about what they do and why they do it and then to articulate this to others in an easily understood manner.

The goal of the program is to encourage new riders to ask questions and query actions in order to lessen the risk to themselves by improving their riding skills.

Previous participants of the Rider Mentor Program are asked to contact Christopher Burns.

## Tugalong Station Motocross park Development

Chris Burns compiled a submission to the Wingecarribee Shire Council in support of a Development Application at Tugalong Station Motocross complex.

The DA is for improved facilities for riders at the complex. This would then provide a better place for riders to take their families and teach younger rides the required skills for a lifetime on bikes. It was also used as a vehicle to promote tourism in the area to the Council and show how much money gets pumped into the local area by bike riders. Wingecarribee takes in places like Goulburn, Tarago and the Loaded Dog Hotel etc. The more we can show we are good for them, the more they can then do for riders in return.

## Dates to remember

- 20<sup>th</sup> Oct MAW Launch Wynyard Square
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct Pink Ribbon ride
- 30<sup>th</sup> Oct Breakfast Torque Loftus Oval
- 30<sup>th</sup> Oct Hard Ride after Breakfast Torque

## Volunteers required

- Bathurst V8 Supercar races (October)
- Sydney Motorcycle Expo (November)

Contact Brian Wood if you are interested in assisting.

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**MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL**  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

