

President's Report January 2010

First of all I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe new year on behalf of the MRAWA committee.

We have not started the year off too well as there have been far too many serious and fatal motorcycle accidents. So please be forever vigilant on the roads especially during these hot days when concentration levels tend to drop by motorcyclist and other road users who are often sitting in their air conditioned vehicles with their windows up listening to the weather forecast and will not hear your motorcycle. Remember people are fallible and frangible so please take responsibility for your own safety on the road and always place yourself in the safest position you can on the road and be prepared for other peoples mistakes.

In this issue of The Edge you will find information on the Main Roads Department Road Safety Audit course that they are running in March are sponsoring a position for a motorcyclist to attend. This is a three day course and is usually valued at almost \$1,000.00 but is free to the successful applicant. I completed this course in October last year and can highly recommend it to those who have a interest in safer road designs not only from a motorcycle perspective but from a total balanced system of how road designs have to look at all road users.

I attended a United Motorcycle Council rally last Sunday to protest about the Governments so called anti association laws. They had guest speakers which included a civil libertarian a Q.C. and a liberal party member all of who spoke against the legislation because and I agree that this would be a major blow to our rights. This legislation will mean a person can be ordered by the courts that they cannot associate with a particular person or group of people. This will have consequences for people's employment and social events (imagine not being allowed to attend a friends daughter's wedding because of other people who have also been invited. I believe this goes against the most basic rights of freedom and totally against what we believe and should be our birth right as Australians. We had a discussion on this issue at our last MRAWA General Meeting and a proposal was put forward to support the United Motorcycle Council in any way we can in their fight against this legislation and this proposal was passed unanimously. As stated in our constitution we will always fight for sensible motorcycle legislation and in this case we will fight against legislation that takes away any motorcyclist freedom. On a last point this legislation whilst aimed at outlaw motorcycle gangs is worded to outlaw any "organization" and if passed can be used against any group in Western Australia Based on what they call secret information. The United Motorcycle Council is organizing a protest ride for Saturday 13th February departing E Shed Markets at 11.00am and I encourage anyone who values freedom to join in and let the politicians know that we are united on this issue. A call from the Eureka Stockade conflict comes to mind that seems fitting.

WHEN INJUSTICE BECOMES LAW, RESISTANCE BECOMES DUTY.

Dave Wright