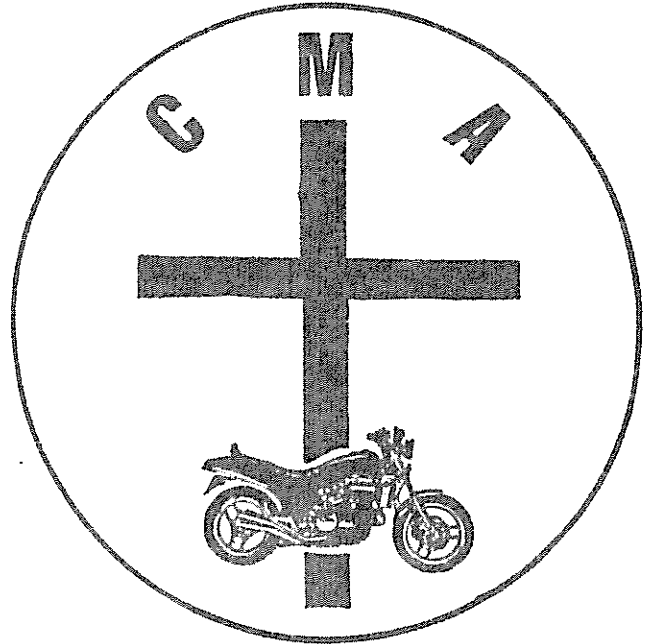


CHRISTIAN
MOTORCYCLISTS' ASSN
OF N.S.W.



NEWSLETTER

Printed in Australia

C.M.A. NEWSLETTER

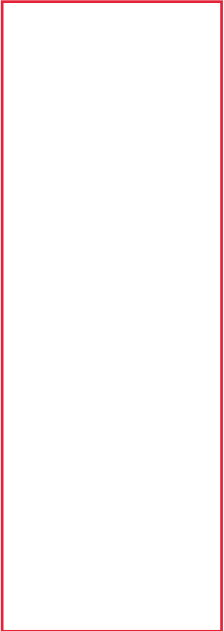
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CHRISTIAN CLUB

TEACHING W'END

On- May 21st + 22nd

Cost- \$25.00 members

\$30.00 non-members

At- Gilgandra

+ \$5.00 after 14th May

Topic: Evangelism

Speakers: Greg Hirst

Peter O'Donnell

Greg Pendlebury

Cabin accommodation and meals provided.

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication intended to keep members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association informed about activities within the Christian biker scene, to allow discussion of issues relevant to Christian bikers and to be a medium where members can share with each other some of the things that God is doing with their ministry. This newsletter is distributed to the home address of all financial members of CMA and to the club address of all Christian motorcycle clubs in Australia.

CMA committee members are:

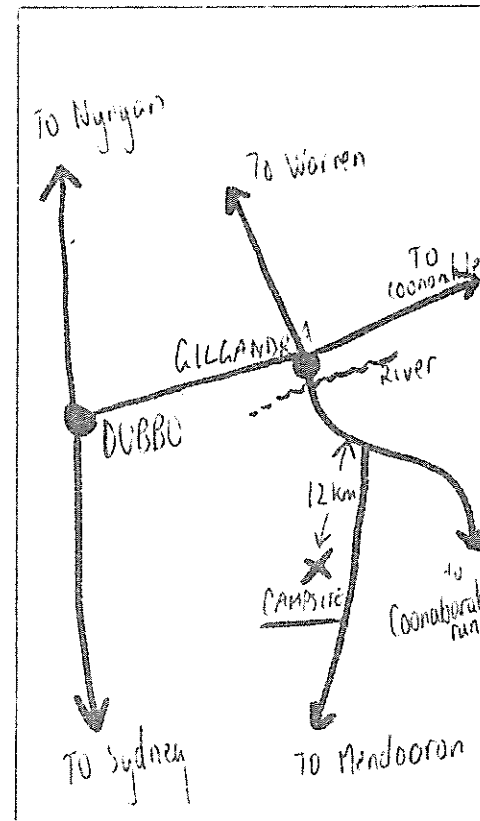
Chairman - Peter O'Donnell (047) 54 2039
Secretary - Greg Pendlebury (02) 659 7288
Treasurer - Michael Cavanagh (02) 658 4052
Publicity - Dave Sharpe (02) 628 2384

Feel free to contact any of these people (at a reasonable hour) if you wish to discuss any matter relating to CMA.

No part of this magazine may be reprinted without the written consent of the CMA committee.

Articles, letters etc from members (and others) are always welcome and are published at the discretion of the editor.

Advertisements of a personal nature will be published at no cost to members. There is a small charge for advertising of businesses.



MOTOR CLUB DISPLAY

CMA again had a stand at this show in April. This is the third time we have been involved and this years was our best display yet. Unfortunately we did not pick up a prize but I reckon we must have come close.

The bikes involved were:

Yamaha 250	-	Michael Cavanagh
1955 Triumph	-	Starch
1963 Triumph	-	Dave Sharpe
Kawasaki 1300 and trailer		
	-	Paul Whiting
Harley Softail	-	Greg Hirst
Dnepr Outfit	-	Greg Pendlebury

Those helping on the stand over the weekend were: Greg Hirst, Dave & Kerry Sharpe, Peter O'Donnell, Neil Cameron, Jeff Withers, Greg Pendlebury, Paul & Sarah Whiting, Peter Robinson, Andrew Carter, Greg & Carolyn White, Leone McNeil and others that assisted from time to time.

Special thanks to all those mentioned above (I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!) We still have a problem getting assistance to set up the display so keep this in mind if we decide to participate next year.

Putting on a display such as this is a continual drain on the financial resources of CMA. If you would like to make a special donation towards this cost please do.

It's hard to know how effective an activity like this is. Our aim is to let people know we exist! Quite a few of our leaflets were taken and some on the stand were able to have worthwhile discussions with enquirers. Please pray for wisdom as the committee evaluates this activity and plans for next year.

APRIL - MAY 1988

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***** STOP PRESS *****

The CMA cloth badges have finally arrived! Financial members (only) may obtain one by sending \$5 to the CMA address.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

A mechanic would not justifiably be able to call himself a mechanic if he had no idea what a spanner was, nor a carpenter a carpenter if he didn't know what a hammer was. Similarly we cannot call ourselves Christians if we do not know what the gospel is, and live by the things contained in it. Clearly the gospel is the key to our Christian lives - we must have been exposed to the gospel in order for us to believe. However, since that time we may find it difficult to recall the things told to us which in turn means it is difficult to tell others why the change has occurred in our lives.

So in order to tell others we need to know and understand what the gospel is. Without this understanding we can at best tumble our way through what God has done for us, leaving the person we have spoken to confused and unsure of what is required of them.

Firstly let's get it clear that the gospel belongs to God. This is both reassuring and also forboding. It is reassuring in that if people reject the gospel they are not so much rejecting us (though it may seem that way at the time) but rather God's message for them, and consequently it is God they are rejecting. It is forboding in that if we change the message of the gospel in any way, be it minor or not, we are responsible to God for that change. It is not up to us to try to make it seem more attractive by leaving out bits or adding bits. If someone responds to our altered message they are not responding to God's message, and He will hold us responsible for their eternal future. The gospel as it is is a powerful message - the Bible tells us so! (Rom 1:16). It is powerful because it comes from God! Something which is like it but does not come from God will not have that power and will not permanently affect the lives of those who hear it.

We have to realise that we have been given the task of being messengers. God has given us the privilege of being involved in His task of redeeming the world. As messengers it is our task to pass on the message exactly as it has been given to us in the Bible.

UP AND COMING DAY RUNS

MAYDAYRUN

MAY DAY RUN

MAY DAY RUN

MAY DAY RUN

MAY DAY RUN

MAY DAY RUN

NOTE: THE PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DAY RUN ON SATURDAY MAY 7TH HAS BEEN CHANGED - IT IS NO LONGER TO JENOLAN CAVES BUT INSTEAD WILL GO TO CANBERRA TO LINK UP WITH THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TO BE HELD AT THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

----->THE RUN WILL STILL LEAVE FROM NORTH PARRAMATTA POST OFFICE AT 10 am. FOR THOSE WISHING TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN CANBERRA, C.M.A. MEMBERS IN CANBERRA ARE WILLING TO ACCOMODATE UP TO 16 PEOPLE. RING (047) 54 2039 TO RESERVE A PIECE OF FLOOR OR TAKE POT LUCK ON THE DAY. A COUPLE OF SPOTS OF BACKYARD ARE AVAILABLE FOR TENTS TOO!

----->ALTERNATIVELY MAKE YOUR OWN WAY TO QUEENBEYAN AND MEET CHRISTIAN RIDERS AND OTHERS AT MCDONALDS ON MAIN STREET AT 10 am. FURTHER ENQUIRIES TO NIGEL HOLMES (042) 32 2488

Saturday 4th June: The Dam Run. To a dam south of Sydney for a day of run and games. Bring a picnic lunch with you.

Saturday 2nd July: Mystery Run. Total distance not more than about 250 kms. Plenty of time for a leisurely lunch.

-----> REMEMBER: ALL DAY RUNS START FROM THE NORTH PARRAMATTA POST OFFICE AT 10 am, CORNER CHURCH AND GROSE STREETS, NORTH PARRAMATTA.

Now Paddy became very sick and eventually died of his sickness. All of Dublin was mourning the loss. Paddy had been so loved by everyone that they all felt as if they had lost a family member. And Shamus too was beside himself - he had lost the only true friend he had ever had. Now it is the custom in Ireland to hold a wake when someone dies - a sort of big party to comfort those who have suffered the loss. Part of this custom is the placing of money in the coffin, the Irish believe it will help get the deceased off to a good start in the next life. Now with Paddy being so loved it was expected that a very large sum of money would end up in the coffin. Half way through the wake (which had been going for many hours) Shamus arrived. It was immediately obvious that he was very upset and had been drinking heavily and was by now quite tipsy. The locals decided to tolerate Shamus as they knew that Paddy had been his only friend. But then Shamus started shooting his mouth off and quickly became very unwelcome. "You think you loved him!" Shamus yelled out. "I loved him more than the lotta yas, and I can prove it. However much money yas all put in Paddy's coffin, I'll match it!" With this Shamus stormed out of the room.

Well the locals looked at themselves, and their eyes lit up. They were all thinking the same thing. This was their chance to get Shamus back! And it would get Paddy off to a good start in the next life. Word spread around the town, and very soon all the locals were coming back with every penny they could possibly spare, and a few they couldn't. They would ruin Shamus - there would be no way he could match the sum of money they would raise and still stay in business. About a quarter of an hour before the wake was due to end, Shamus returned. The count was now £10,000 and the people were certain this would ruin Shamus. Everyone was there watching, looking forward to this moment. "Now you all remember my offer to match the sum of money all of you people put into Paddy's coffin?" All the people nodded in silent agreement. "Well how much do you have?" He was quickly told £10,000 but Shamus didn't bat an eyelid. "Right, bring it over here." The money was brought to Shamus and he placed it in his bag. The people were becoming suspicious. "Now all you people raised £10,000 for Paddy, and I said I'd match it. So that gives Paddy a total of £20,000 for the next life!" Without saying anything more Shamus picked up his bag containing the money, and walked out of the room, dropping a cheque for £20,000 in Paddy's coffin on the way out.

But what is the gospel? We need to have a good understanding of what the gospel is if we are going to tell others about it. Telling others of how wonderful our life has been since becoming a Christian is not telling someone the gospel. It is a bit like telling someone about a wonderful holiday spot but not telling them how to get there - they might appreciate what you are saying but they will never experience it for themselves as they do not know how to get there! The other problem with this is that we are glorifying the work of the Holy Spirit - i.e. the change in our life since becoming a Christian. This is wrong as the Holy Spirit's job is to bring glory to the Son so we must be conscious of bringing glory to Jesus.

The gospel is about Jesus. We must be very aware of this when we are speaking to people. The gospel neither originated from man or has its content in man. The gospel is all about Jesus Christ the Son of God. When telling someone the gospel we need to be very sure that our message focuses on Jesus - it is only through Him that people can and must be saved! (Acts 4:12, John 14:6). It is good for people to ask us questions that cause them concern on spiritual matters, but we must be careful that these questions don't become red herrings that lead us off the track of presenting the gospel to people. In answering questions we must always be trying to lead the person back to the person of Jesus. If we do not do this then we will not be able to properly present the gospel. How can people commit their lives to Jesus if they are not presented with Him?

The gospel must start with God. With His making the world and everything in it, then setting Jesus up in charge of everything. Then we need to look at man's rebellion against God and the way we stuffed everything up by rebelling against Him. But from here we move onto the good news, what God has done to restore us to Him through Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross. But the message doesn't stop here, we need to tell them what will happen if they do accept the gospel, and we also need to tell them what will happen if they don't accept the gospel.

Obviously this is a very brief outline of what the gospel is. But it is exactly that, and this is its strong point. It is only 5 points (that corresponds in a direct 1:1 ratio to the number of fingers the average person has on each hand to make it simple) and so should be easy to keep track of where you are, where you are going, and where you've been. You fill up the outline with your own words - the way you would explain it. That will make it your own unique presentation, not something obviously memorised out of a book that if you get interrupted (which you usually do) you forget where you're up to. Develop a few stories that help you explain the truths in the gospel.

Remember, keep it simple. God made the gospel message simple so that everyone could understand it - you don't need a university degree to be a Christian, so don't try to make the gospel complicated - it's not.

GROAN SPOT

Finally, if you wish to use your own personal testimony - fine! But beware! The reason you are doing this is to help the person see the need for Jesus. So don't try to show how bad you were and how good you are now. This only points to the impact in your life the Holy Spirit has made, and the Holy Spirit works in different ways in different people. So the experiences you are telling this person may never happen to them. But Jesus has done the same for all of us. Make sure your testimony points to what Jesus has done for you and everyone else and the need to accept Him.

And most of all, PRAY. Pray before you go out, after you come back, and if possible, during the time you are sharing the gospel.

Reading other people's ideas on evangelism is also good. They will help you develop ideas and methods. One good book I'd like to recommend is John Chapman's Know and Tell The Gospel. The above five point gospel outline comes from that book, and he has lots of other good things to say.

- Peter O'Donnell.

One morning, after a very hectic night, President Gorbachev woke to find himself running late. As he had spent the night in the country estate he felt almost certain that he would not make the important meeting he had in the Kremlin first thing that morning. So after gulping down his breakfast he ran outside to his waiting car and told his driver that as he was running very late and needed to get to the Kremlin as fast as he could, he would drive. So the driver got in the back and Gorbachev jumped into the drivers seat and the car sped off down the road. On the way the car sped past two motorcycle cops, and one gave chase. About 20 minutes later the cop returned and his mate asked whether he had caught the speeding car. The first cop replied that he had. The second cop asked if he had booked the speeder. The other cop replied that he had not. "But why?" his partner asked him. "You know that we're supposed to book anyone, no matter who they are, if we find them breaking the law." The first cop replied that this time he couldn't as the person was too important. "Who was it that was so important that you couldn't book him?" asked the second cop again. "I don't know," replied the first cop, "but his driver was Gorbachev!"

- from R. Reagan,
C/- The Whitehouse,
Washington, U.S.A.

(Bet you didn't know we had sources in high places! -Ed.)

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PRAYER POINTS

- * For the NATIONAL GATHERING of Christians in Canberra.
- * For the preparation of the speakers at the Club Teaching weekend.
- * For the planning of future CMA activities.
- * For wisdom and enthusiasm of the committee.

Shamus O'Flaherty was the most unpopular man in the whole of Dublin. He was unscrupulous in business - he didn't care who he ripped off so long as he made a good healthy profit. And so he became very rich, and as he grew richer, more and more people grew to dislike him. The only friend Shamus had in the whole of Dublin was Paddy McGorky. Now Paddy was a wonderful bloke - everyone would tell you so. He was loved by everyone in Dublin. So it was no wonder that he was able to be a friend to Shamus, and in his own strange way Shamus liked Paddy and appreciated what he was doing for him.