

40 years of the
Christian Motorcyclist's Association
in Australia

1979 to 2019



Celebrated at the CMA National Run
18 - 21 October 2019
Anglesea Victoria

1979 The Christian Motorcyclist's Association was formed in Australia in 1979 by two Sydney Christian Motorcyclist's Clubs and a number of lone riders. The original idea came from Greg Hirst of the Brotherhood CMC. Brotherhood CMC and Disciples CMC decided upon the name of the association without any knowledge of the Christian Motorcyclist's Association of America. *(RB 2002)*

The Christian Motorcyclists Association was formed in America in 1975 by Herbert Shreve (Senior). *(CMA I 2019)*

CMA was called an association and not a club so that Christian riders, who did not want to belong to a club with the responsibility of club involvement, could be linked with Christian motorcyclists wherever they lived without being deeply involved. It also meant Christian motorcycle clubs could join and fellowship with other Christian bikers in a fellowship setting, rather than because of any evangelistic or task orientated purpose. Newsletters kept members informed of activities. *(RB 2002)* The original statement of CMA noted that an aim was to encourage each other. The leadership title Chairman was used as it was less associated with club titles. *(RB 2019)*

It was the intention that CMA be a national association led by a national committee. *(NltrNSWOct89)*

The CMA logo was designed. *(CMcA 2019)*

1979 The first get together of CMA members from NSW and Vic was held at Yackandandah, Vic. *(CM 2013)*

1980's The motto 'Unity in Diversity' was being used. *(BD 2019)*

1980 The first more official CMA meeting was held at Hume Weir NSW with members attending from NSW, Victoria and Queensland. *(RB 2013)*

1981 The next annual CMA meeting was held in 1981 at Hume Weir, NSW. *(RB 2013)*

1982 The first CMA National Run was held at Hume Weir, NSW at the Spillway Caravan Park. *(JW 2019)*

1983 Newsletters were typed on typewriters and sent via Australia Post until at least October 1989. *(NltrOct83, NltrNSWOct89)* By 1996 newsletters were created on computer *(NltrNSWApr96)* and in later years, sent by email.

1983 Greg and Colleen Hirst travelled to the US hoping "to be able to tie up an international agreement for the world wide promotion of Christians in motorcycling" however, the trip overall was "disappointing" *(NltrOct83)*

1987 CMA Perth was in the process of being established. *(NltrNSWMay87)*

1987 Members in Qld wished to set up CMA in Qld. To uphold the aims, purpose, organisation, administration, integrity and consistency of CMA in Australia, CMA NSW provided strong requirements. *(Ltr 17/8/1987)*

1987 A deeper understanding of outlaw clubs and back patches was gained with many Christian clubs dropping their patches. CMA developed a stronger identity in the social motorcycle scene. *(KB 2018)*

1989 10th Anniversary of CMA in Australia. Activities for spreading the gospel was a fundamental goal *(NltrNSWOct89)* and CMA was becoming more known and respected in the motorcycling community. *(NltrNSW89)*

1989 CMA Queensland and CMA Victoria became established. CMA NSW provided support and almost identical constitutions were set up. *(NltrNSWOct89)*

1989 The possibility of CMA SA starting was discussed by CMA Vic. CMA NSW suggested CMA Vic hold the CMA membership list until SA had enough members to establish their own association. *(NltrVicNov89)*

1989 It was hoped that a National Committee with representatives from each state would be formed to oversee all CMA's in Australia. *(NltrNSWOct89)*

1989 Lawrie Heaney CMA Vic Chairman (*LH 1989*) had contact with CMA USA and noted the phenomenal scale on which it operated. (*NltrVicNov89*) Australia could have attended the International Rally of CMA. (*RB 2002*)

1990 CMA NSW put forward a proposal for a CMA National Committee. (*NltrVicDec90*)

1990 CMA Vic received a letter from some Christian riders wanting to start CMA in Tasmania. (*NltrVicMar90*)

1990 In October 1990 CMA Vic's membership included 5 SA members and 1 Tas member. (*NltrVicOct90*)

1990 At CMA Vic's first Teaching Weekend and AGM, CMA NSW and CMA Qld phoned into a joint prayer session. (*NltrVicMay90*)

1992 CMA SA was formed with about 10 members and operated under the CMA Vic Constitution (*NltrVicSAAug92*) with a combined newsletter. (*NltrVicSAApr92*)

1992 CMA NSW and CMA Qld commenced holding half-way meets. (*RB 2002*)

1992 Herbie Shreve (Jnr) from CMA USA attended the CMA National Run 1992. (*RB 2002*) Herbie was happy with what we were doing. (*RB 2019*) A member from CMA England also attended this National Run. (*NltrVicSAJan93*)

1993 CMA South Australia became an independent branch of CMA. (*NltrVicSAJan93*)

1993 CMA Tasmania was formed. (*NltrVicSAJan93*)

1993/94 CMA NSW became incorporated. (*RB 2002*)

1994 A CMA Vic newsletter had a CMA international page with an article from CMA USA mentioning their size, Goodies, activities and provision of motorbikes through Open Doors and Missionary Ventures. (*NltrVicDec94*)

1995 Barry Huggett CMA Vic attended CMA's 20th Anniversary International Rally in America. Barry's letter from CMA Vic "received tumultuous applause". (*NltrVic#1 96*) Barry brought Goodies back to Australia. (*NltrVic#5 95*)

1996 CMA Vic and SA commenced mid-way meets. CMA Vic also supported CMA SA's Hole in the Wall weekends. (*JW 2019, MN 2019*)

1996 A National Chairman was elected with the position passing to the Chairman of the state hosting the next national run. Norm Carter, CMA NSW was the first National Chairman. (*NltrVic#6 96*)

1996 The CMA International Coalition was provided to CMA Australia outlining the purpose of CMA and the CMA International Coalition, what the Coalition will not do, the benefits, naming of CMA groups, wearing back patches and Goodies policies. (*NltrVic#4 96*) CMA states voted to join. CMA in Australia would be autonomous, continue in our unique way and countries wouldn't impose. Info and support, and Goodies were available. (*NltrVic#6 96*)

1997 CMA Vic proposed that states change their names to CMA Australia (State) Chapter. (*NltrVic#6 97*)

2000 CMA Western Australia commenced and had its own mission and processes. CMA Tas provided information. CMA WA had their first representative at the 2000 National Run in Tasmania. (*RW 2019*)

2001 CMA Vic held the CMA National Run 2001 at a fully catered camp venue. Attendances exceeded 100 for the first time. (*JW 2013*)

2001 Joel Wise, CMA USA, attended the CMA National Run 2001. Australia was still a separate identity. (*RB 2002*). Joel outlined how CMA of Australia should come under the one banner and patch of CMA USA. However the fine details didn't align with the International Coalition. (*SW 2019*). This raised concern and a lot of deliberation especially about Australia's independence and back patches. Australia voted to not accept the proposal. (*JW 2019*)

2001 The CMA Australia website was set up by Barry Day CMA NSW. *(BD 2019)*

2002 Some CMA SA members completed the international training, wore the international back patch and were invited to the International Rally in America. *(WS 2019)*

2002 CMA Vic commenced the Bikes for Pastors Appeal to raise funds for motorcycles to donate to ministries for pastors in developing countries where transport and travel was difficult. *(BPF 2019)*

2002– 2003 The CMA International branch of CMA USA informed Australia that the previous Coalition agreement was cancelled and for Australia to join CMA International “under one banner and patch”. We didn’t and wouldn’t wear a back-patch. CMA Australia voted to remain as Australia. *(RB 2007)*

2003 A national body with the united title of CMA Australia (State) Chapter Inc. was loosely formed. *(BD 2019)*

2003-2007 Barry Day, CMA NSW, was CMA Australia’s first National Coordinator from 2003 to 2007. *(JW 2019)* States progressed to becoming a national body. National communication and unity was established. *(BD 2019)*

2004/05 Rod Williams, CMA WA Chairman, visited the UK. *(RW 2019)* CMA UK had also established independently from CMA USA. *(LM 2019)*

2004 The 25th Anniversary of CMA in Australia was acknowledged at the CMA National Run 2004. *(WS 2019)*

2004 States worked towards legally changing their entity names to CMA Australia (State) Chapter Inc. *(BD 2019)*

2005 – 2007 States worked as a national body towards accepting the invite to join CMA International. Many factors were considered with mutual alignment of all states required for a commitment. *(BD 2019)*

2005 32,000 copies of the Riding with Purpose booklet were produced by CMA SA and the Bible Society in Australia. All CMA states donated funds and received copies to distribute. *(WS 2019)*

2005 Geoff McIlroy CMA Vic, Barry Day CMA NSW and a non CMA member travelled with Missionary Ventures to the Philippines to service and repair CMA USA gifted motorbikes. *(BD 2019)* John Ogden, Senior CEO CMA USA later contacted and visited Barry and gained a greater understanding of previous CMA Australia and CMA USA relationships. John apologised for their inadvertent misunderstandings. Barry presented the apology at the CMA National Run 2005. *(BD 2019)*

2005 CMA USA came under the banner of CMA International. *(CMA I 2019)*

2006-2007 Barry Day attended the CMA USA National Rally and International Leaders Conference in 2006 and the CMA National Run and CMA International Conference in 2007. Relationships were reunited and deeper relationships built with CMA USA and other countries. CMA in Australia remained independent. *(BD 2019)*

2006 CMA Tas introduced post run tours. *(LM 2019)*

2006 CMA Australia considered the previous non-negotiable statement “under one banner and patch” as being a mis-understanding by a CMA USA member. We started working separately with CMA International. *(RB 2007)*

2007 – 2010 Rod Williams, CMA WA, was National Co-ordinator of CMA Australia from 2007 to 2010. *(JW 2019)* Many benefits and concerns of a national body were considered. Back patches were debated. States wanted to retain their identities, ministries and activities with the overall aim to proclaim the gospel of Christ. *(RW 2019)* Johan & Charmaine Claassens, from CMA South Africa and CMA International, came to Australia to live. *(RW 2019)*

2010 – 2016 Lisa Clarke CMA NSW was National Coordinator of CMA Australia from 2010 to 2016. *(JW 2019)* More connecting, national and international communication and unity occurred between the states. *(LM 2019)* There was a shift for state leaders to be referred to as President instead of Chairman. *(ID 2019).*

2011 – 2016 Lisa attended the CMA Changing of Colors Rally and CMA International Leadership Meetings in 2011 and 2014. Further relationships and networks developed, advocacy for Australia increased and ideas were brought back to Australia. *(LM 2019)*

2010 The “Memorandum of Understanding forming the Christian Motorcyclists Association of Australia by simple consensus of the states” was signed by each state President/Chairman on 9 October. This was a simple agreement bound by God with amicable agreements on many national topics debated over the years. *(MoU A 2010)*

2010 The “Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Christian Motorcyclists Association Member States” was signed by each state President/Chairman on 10 October. *(MoU S 2010)*

2010 The “Memorandum of Understanding between CMA Australia and CMA International” was signed by the Australian Representative of CMA International and each state President/Chairman on 10 October. *(MoU I 2010)*.

These three memorandums provided amicable resolutions to many topics deliberated for many years and allowed CMA Australia to function in harmony with CMA International. *(MoU I 2010)*

2010 The terms “badge” and “back emblem” were a solution to “back patches”. *(ID 2019)* The large International back emblem and the small CMA International badge were optional after completing the CMA International training. *(ID 2019)*. Protocols were made for wearing the CMA Australia logo and international emblem. *(CP 2019)*

2010 Ramon and Natalia Changuion from CMA South Africa attended the CMA 2015 National Run. *(LM 2019)*

2011 International training officially started in 2011. Some WA members had done the training in 2010. *(ID 2019)*

2011 Kerry Gibson from CMA International became CMA Australia’s international liaison and attended CMA National Runs in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016 with strong relationships formed and CMA Australia acknowledged and supported. *(LM 2019)*

2012 Ian Dodd CMA NSW was recognised by CMA International as the National Training Coordinator. *(ID 2019)*

2013 The CMA Australia logo was revised with consistent text and bike design across the states, a larger size, and with a new shade of blue and red border added to encompass elements of the international logo. *(ID 2019)*

2014 The 35th Anniversary of CMA in Australia was celebrated at the National Run with Roy and Jenny Breyley, members since 1979, attending. *(BD 2019)*

2014 Efforts were made to establish CMA in the Northern Territory. Members in Alice Springs joined, rides were organised and a bbq and ride organised for the Ulysses AGM. *(LM 2019)* Due to the transient population, rides ceased. Some members connected with CMA in Qld and SA. *(WS 2019)*

2015 Helen Webb, a CMA member from Portugal *(HB 2019)* moved to Alice Springs NT in 2015 and met with CMA riders in Alice Springs. *(LC 2015)* Helen attended the CMA National Run 2015 at Busselton WA. *(HB 2019)*

2015 A National Board with a member from each state, a unified National Newsletter with input from each state and National Prayer Coordination for state, national and international prayer were proposed. *(LM 2019)*

2016 Chris Pilgrim CMA Qld became National Coordinator of CMA Australia for a 3 year term. *(JW 2019)*

2016 The National Newsletter was published and Australia’s first Prayer Coordinator was appointed. *(LM 2019)*

2016 A national email account was set up for national leader and international communication. *(LM 2019)*

2016 – 2019 National unity, moving forward with what is established and regular leader contact and communication has been continued in order to maintain a common vision and direction. *(CP 2019)*

2017 Chris Pilgrim attended the International Colors Rally in 2017. Relationships with CMA International and other CMA countries were strengthened, and networks, communication and prayer requests increased. *(CP 2019)*

2018 The National Committee started establishing guidelines for CMA Australia Life Membership. *(DG 2019)*

2019 The 40th Anniversary of CMA in Australia was celebrated at the CMA National Run 2019. Members from 1979 attended. *(JW 2019)*

2019 All CMA Australia states support the Bikes for Pastors Appeal. \$78,875 has been raised and 38 bikes donated to 29 ministries. *(BPF 2019)*

2019 Forming a legal national entity is a goal however is implicated by state legalities. *(CP 2019)*

2019 CMA Australia is recognised even more and held in regard by other CMA nations. Prayer networking has increased. CMA Australia also contributes to the CMA International Newsletter. *(CP 2019)*

2019 International training is encouraged for CMA Australia to gain a greater presence as CMA. *(CP 2019)*

*Researched and compiled by Jackie Waterman CMA Vic for the 40th anniversary of CMA in Australia.
For an expanded version and references visit the CMA Australia website www.national.cmaaus.org*