



WIMA News May 2016



Kerry Smith, Forbes, NSW
(ABC Central West by Melanie Pearce)

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WIMA Australia Committee

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>President Kathy O'Donnell Mob: 0409 856 865 aunty_ratbag@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Vice President Linda Rosowski lprosowski@bigpond.com</p> | <p>Secretary Wendy Taylor wendy.taylor@live.com.au</p> |
| <p>Treasurer & Membership Public Officer Lee Skinner mojoblu18@gmail.com</p> | <p>Publicity Officer Ordinary Member Moira Stewart mstewart4@vtown.com.au</p> | <p>Editor Margaret Stewart 0423 098 999 margaret.stewart@rmit.edu.au</p> |

Australian State Contacts

| | | |
|--|---|---|
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| <p>Queensland Margie Bath 0429 041 916 ail martig5@activ8.net.au or Julie Holmes 0407 591 672 j.holmes@ccpharm.net.au</p> | <p>West Australia Anna Noyelle 0418 659 678 anon_unknown75@hotmail.com</p> | |

International Contacts

| Name | Position in WIMA/Country | Contact |
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| Elisabeth Bernhard | International Treasurer | e-bernhard@gmx.net |
| Birgit Schremser | International Merchandise Officer | birgit.schremser@gmx.at |
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Girls on bikes and the roaring relationships of women on wheels

Reproduced from [ABC Central West](#)

Written by reporter [Melanie Pearce](#) Posted Tue at 4:54pm Tue 15 Mar 2016, 4:54pm



When Kerry Smith of Forbes in central west New South Wales bought her 940 CC Ducati ST2, she turned a few heads and attracted a few comments about 'that girl on that yellow bike'. According to her there have been similar comments over her nearly four decades of riding on various motorcycles. "There have been a lot of comments over the years like 'That's big bike for a little girl' and my response to that is 'Lucky I'm a big girl now'."

This health worker is a proud bike-owner and wants to debunk a few myths about motorcycles and their riders.

A PASSION BEGINS

Ms Smith said ever since she started riding as a teenager, she always wanted to get on board big bikes. "My mother gave me a 50CC postie scooter when I was 18, but all my friends in the basketball club had bigger bikes so I wanted a bigger bike."

Since then, she has always had a registered bike, even during pregnancy — although when her children were young she traded in her motorcycle for a sidecar so she could travel with them in their baby seats.

Ms Smith has now ridden more than 500,000 kilometres in Australia and overseas. "I just really enjoy the fun factor of it," she explained. "It's a passion in my life, it's my stress relief, it's my exercise, it's my social life. "It's an absolutely essential criterion for any partner I have."

I would never be without a bike; I've had a couple of joint replacements where I wasn't allowed to ride for three months which was excruciating for me.

DEBUNKING MOTORCYCLE MYTHS

Ms Smith said she has held various positions in motorcycle clubs over the years and always sought to change perceptions about motorcyclists.

"People don't expect when that helmet comes off for it to be a woman, particularly an older woman."

I've been to university and work in a professional field but a lot of people think that anyone on a motorbike is basically scum of the earth.

She said some perceptions could colour how people treated a rider while on the road.

"Sometimes they're a little bit careless on the road with invading our space or with overtaking in our lane, so I'd really like to remind everybody to keep an eye out for bikes on the road."

LOBBYING FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING

The death of a friend she made through motorcycling connections has prompted Ms Smith to educate the community about road safety for motorcyclists.

She said her [friend's bike collided with a car](#) coming over the crest of a hill near the central west city of Orange earlier this year after only recently gaining her bike L-plates in her 50s. "It was a new freedom for her she experienced such joy out of her motorcycle," Ms Smith said. "Her family said the smile on her face when she came back from rides was absolutely radiant."

A WOMAN'S FREEDOM ON TWO WHEELS

Ms Smith said she does not feel comfortable in a car. "I feel very contained in a car so when I get on a bike I'm a lot happier, I'm out in the weather and yes it rains sometimes but so be it."

She said riding her bike gives her a great sense of freedom and being in control. "Being in control of your own vehicle and also being very manoeuvrable and very nimble. Ducatis are particularly known for their nimble ability."

She said she has found particular friendship and community through various women's motorcycling groups and for several decades has belonged to the Women's International Motorcycle Association.

Ms Smith will be part of a [Guinness World Record Attempt in Dubbo on April 9](#) for the most women on motorcycles at a female bike meet.

Audio from AM 549 at <https://soundcloud.com/abcsw/the-freedom-fun-and-friendship-of-being-a-female-motorcyclist>

Online story <http://ab.co/1YU8dTC> or http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-15/big-birls-on-bike-bikes-and-the-roaring-relationships-of-women/7248346?WT.ac=localnews_centralwest

Women riders around the world celebrate in May with the [10th annual International Female Ride Day](#).



Moira Stewart, Cheryl McKinnon, Linda Rosowski, Dawn Granland, Lee Skinner, Liv Anderson, Margaret Stewart, Kathy O'Donnell, Michelle Bloem, Sue Borg

**Draft Minutes of the National Annual General Meeting of Women's
International Motorcycle Association.
Echuca, 5 March 2016**

Chair: Moira Stewart
Meeting opened at 4.00 pm

Present

Liv Anderson, Michelle Bloem, Sue Borg, Dawn Granland, Cheryl McKinnon, Kathy O'Donnell, Linda Rosowski, Helen Ryan, Lee Skinner, Margaret Stewart, Moira Stewart

Apologies

Julie Homes, Liz Loke, Barb McEvoy, Wendy Taylor, Kim Wetzels, and Cat

Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Motion: that the Minutes be accepted without amendment.
Moved Kathy O'Donnell Seconded Liv Anderson
Minutes Accepted

National President's Report

Moira Stewart reported on the success of the 2015 International Rally. She pointed out that two-thirds of attendees at the Rally were from overseas. Active links with clubs in other countries is a distinguishing feature of WIMA which few other clubs have.

She advised that she was not standing for the position of President and that her expiring term as President, her third, would be her last.

Secretary's Report

Julie Homes is an apology.

Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is \$5384.00.

Motion that Barb McEvoy be removed as a signatory on the account, and Lee Skinner be a signatory on the accounts.

Moved: Moira Stewart Seconded: Michelle Bloem

All in favour

Action: Liv to contact the bank about the removal of Barb McEvoy and addition of Lesley Skinner as signatories.

Action: Liv to provide a statement of account for the next newsletter.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted

Moved: Margaret Stewart. Seconded: Helen Ryan

All in favour

Membership

Liv Anderson advised WIMA has 45 members, 17 of whom are new.

Action: Liv to send Moira the current membership list to Moira so she can send it to the International WIMA members.

Merchandise

The meeting discussed how to advertise merchandise.

Action: Liv to put prices and photos of merchandise on the WIMA webpage.

Action: Liv to send prices and list to Moira for forwarding to the International Website.

Editor's report

The newsletter comes out every 3 months.

Action: May issue to carry the national AGM Minutes.

Publicity: Moira Stewart has sent out press releases about the International Rally and amongst other articles

Kathy O'Donnell and Lee Skinner are going to the 2016 WIMA Rally in Hungary. Moira said anyone planning to go to the 2017 Rally in Estonia should book and buy tickets by November 2016.

International Rally: Michelle Bloem has written a report.

Election of new committee

1. President

Nominated Kathy O'Donnell Seconded Linda Rosowski. All in favour

2. Vice-President

Nominated Linda Rosowski. Seconded Lee Skinner. All in favour

3. Treasurer and Membership

Nominated Lesley Skinner. Seconded Moira Stewart. All in favour

4. Public Officer

Nominated Lesley Skinner Seconded Margaret Stewart

5. Publicity Officer

Nominated Moira Stewart Seconded Linda Rosowski. All in favour

6. Secretary

Nominated Moira Stewart Seconded Michelle Bloem All in favour

Kathy O'Donnell took the Chair and thanked the previous office holders for their work.

General Business

1. Refund of Rally fees for Switzerland Rally

Motion that Rose and Lee Skinner be given \$300 each as a refund for rally fees paid for the Swiss International WIMA Rally in 2015, but which they did not attend.

This is to be paid from what is known as the Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund is used to give financial support to members. Support is given, for example, to cover cost of travel to the AGM. Applications are made to the President of WIMA. The President discusses possible support with the Treasurer and makes a decision.

2. Correction of fault on the membership form

Liv advised of an error that she will be correcting

3. WIMA Australia Constitution

The Constitution needs to be amended to reflect the use of the title President instead of Captain. This change brings Australia into line with other countries.,

Action Liv Anderson to implement this.

4. Location of WIMA Aust Post Office Box

President and Secretary to discuss this and decide.

Next Meeting

2017 AGM to be in Robe, South Australia, Friday 17th to Sunday 19th March

Criteria for deciding the date are

- not on a long weekend
- between the second week in February and Easter
- between the South Australia Labor Day and Easter
- not on the same weekend as the Sydney Mardi Gras

Meeting closed at 5.30pm

WIMA Australia - Committee meeting

Thursday March 31, 2016, 6.30 pm

RSL Club, 16 Station St, Ringwood

Meeting start: 6.40 pm

Minutes

1. Welcome

Kathy welcomed everyone to the 2016 WIMAA committee's first meeting.

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Kathy O'Donnell (president), Linda Rosowski (vice president), Lesley Skinner (Treasurer, membership secretary and public officer), Wendy Taylor

Apologies: Moira Stewart, Margaret Stewart, Liv Anderson, Sue Leischman

3. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Wendy said she was a long time motorcyclist, motorcycle safety advocate, and currently rides a scooter.

4. Confirm previous committee meeting minutes

The minutes of the previous committee's last meeting were not available.

5. Filling casual vacancy

Due to Moira's resignation as Secretary in the week following the 2016 AGM, the committee agreed to appoint Wendy Taylor to fill the casual vacancy of Secretary. The committee also appointed Margaret Stewart to the editor position. Moira will continue as a committee member and to work with Margaret and others on publicity. The **2016 committee** now comprises:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| President | Kathy O'Donnell |
| Vice President | Linda Rosowski |
| Secretary | Wendy Taylor |
| Treasurer | Lesley Skinner |
| Editor | Margaret Stewart |
| Ordinary committee member and publicity | Moira Stewart |

Lee is also the Public Officer and the membership officer.

6. President's update

6.1 The WIMA A website needs updating, including amending the sponsors page, committee page, and international rallies information.

Action: Kathy to contact Liv (web mistress) with amendments.

6.2 At the Z Owners Good Friday ride Kathy and Linda handed out WIMA cards.

6.3 The WIMA Constitution needs review.

Action: Wendy to review constitution and report back to the June committee meeting.

6.4 A new WIMA Canada division is in progress.

7. Treasurer's report

7.1 Membership (as at 31 March 2016):

Financial: 18

Non-financial 25

Action: Lee to email a reminder to those who have not renewed their membership.

7.2 Financials

Lee advised the account balances provided to the committee need to be confirmed to the bank statements:

Rally account: \$1335.06

General account: \$4461.50

Action: Lesley Skinner to arrange for the relevant 2016 committee members (president, treasurer and secretary) to become the WIMA bank account signatories.

7.3 Accounts

The WIMA contact address for Victoria is Kathy's post office box. The committee agreed to a 50% subsidy of the PO Box rental account, to March 2017.

Action: Lee to reimburse Kathy \$60.

8. Correspondence

Discussion and agreement that Kathy and Lee, who clear the WIMAA post office box rentals (in Victoria and South Australia), will forward (via snail mail or scanning) incoming correspondence to Wendy for information or action.

Action: Kathy and Lee to forward relevant mail to Wendy.

Kathy tabled a letter from member Kim Wetzels

General business

9.1 membership drive discussion

WIMA strength includes access to like-minded riders, international rallies, and events like the solstice dinner. How to attract new members? What about promotion opportunities including upcoming motorcycle expo in Melbourne (25-27 November 2016)?; rides with other clubs and events?; advertising? Part of promotion should include info about upcoming Hungary rally. Before recruitment drive need to update the WIMAA website and also Facebook page.

Action: All - further discussion at June committee meeting.

Action: Kathy will liaise with Margaret about publicity opportunities

Action: Kathy to liaise with Liv about updating WIMAA website and Facebook wall.

9.2 Solstice dinner 2016

Saturday June 25, 2016 was agreed. The time and venue is to be advised.

Action: Linda to follow up.

9.3 Newsletter

Kathy tabled advice from Margaret that newsletters are planned for May, August, November and February. Content discussion: (for May edition) committee members photo and paragraph, and an article by a WIMA international member. Is it possible to include in the Australia newsletter an annexe which would be a WIMA internal division newsletter?

Action Kathy and Margaret to liaise.

Action: Linda to liaise with committee members and Margaret about committee write-up and photo.

9. Next committee meeting 2016 WIMAA committee meeting schedule:

| Date and day | Time | Venue |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Friday, June 24, 2016 | 6.30 pm | RSL Ringwood |
| Saturday, September 24, 2016 | TBA | South Australia |
| November, 2016 | TBA | TBA |
| Feb (?) 2017 | TBA | TBA |

Meeting closed: 8.15 pm

Introducing WIMA National VP Linda Rosowski

Why did I join WIMA? Well.... Friends said 'you don't have to ride to be a member, you just need to have an interest in motorcycles.'

That was many years ago now. At the time my daughters were still in Primary School (I was still with their dad!) Going to the WIMA monthly meetings meant I got to take a 'night off', and take some time for myself. I LOVED IT!



Linda Rosowski on the Kawasaki with Kathy O'Donnell at the 2015 Rally

I have made some wonderful friends that I know will last a lifetime, as well as met some very interesting ladies just passing through. From each of them I have learnt so much and found the necessary inspiration to make the move from the pillion seat, to the front of the bike. OH YEAH.....once I was there I was hooked! A Suzuki GS500E was my first bike (even if it didn't belong to me!) On my first club ride as a rider, it was noted that the smile NEVER left my face. WHOO HOO! I am proud to have been involved in the beginning of the 'PINK RIBBON RIDE', back when it was run entirely by WIMA. Doing photo shoots for the local paper standing by our bikes draped in pink feather boas....What a blast.

Victoria's 'Moondyne Rally' was my daughter's favourite rally, with gymkhana events such as the 'Dummy spit', 'Handbag Toss' and 'Shock Frock'. Back in the days before Facebook was invented, people were prepared to do all sorts of hilarious stuff! (PS I have photo's)

I spent a few years without a bike of my own and need to send out a big “Thank you” to Kim Wetzels and Sue (Suss) Leishman for lending me their bikes for the occasional event. Xoxo I finally bought a bike of my own; a Kawasaki GPZ750. At just 160cm tall it was a big bike for me, and my only form of transport for about 7 months. The first rally I took it to on my own was the Kawasaki Z owners ‘Last Chance Rally’ where I met Joe. We’ve been together ever since.

Since then I’ve sold that bike and bought the Kawasaki Zephyr550 that I used to borrow off Kim. I’ve also bought a Kawasaki Z650 which is a bit of a project bike. A project for Joe, as I’m not that mechanically minded ☺

I’ve ridden to South Australia a few times and New South Wales a couple of times, and have done numerous Victorian rallies. The best of these was the WIMA International rally, where I got to experience for the first time what it really meant to be part of an International club. For me especially as I’ve never travelled outside of Australia before, to realise that even though we are separated by distance and experience, we really are in fact still very similar. It has got me excited to travel overseas to do another International Rally, which I have to say is something I thought I would never do.

My eldest daughter now has a motorcycle of her own, and I am encouraging her to become a part of this great big extended family, so that she too can make lifelong friends and wonderful memories. See you on the road,

Linda

Women Riders World Record Smashed

The World Record for the most number of women at a Women’s Only Motorcycle meeting was smashed at Dubbo on Saturday April 9. Riders came from Perth and the Pilbara in Western Australia to join around 500 riders from NSW, as well as more than 100 each from Queensland and Victoria. The Dubbo Showground was awash with a sea of over 880 bikes, all ridden by women.



There were big Harleys, fast Italian sports bikes and a whole range of two, and some three, wheeled machines in between. L platers lined up next to women who have been riding for three or four decades and every age group from teens to seventies was represented.

The official ride shirts were purple and many women use pink or purple to dye their hair or highlight their jackets, boots or helmets to show other road users they are a female riders and proud of it. To validate the World record, all ladies had to ride into the Showground in single file to be videotaped and counted at both the start and the finish of a 25km ride around Dubbo. Community members showed their support by waiting by the kerbside and waving to or videotaping the procession of women riders.

The After Party at the Macquarie Inn provided live music for a night of energetic dancing and the blossoming and rekindling of new and old friendships.

The World Record Attempt was organised by 2 Wheel Babes from the far North Coast and their next two events are weekend Babe Raids at Byron Bay in September and Echuca in November



Catherine Stewart and Kerry Smith

Ride with Kerry and Cath

Any girl riders from Forbes and the Central West who would like to ride with other women and men passionate about their riding are welcome to contact Kerry on 0449 744 679. Both Kerry and Cath ride with Mid State Motorcycle Club, who will be holding their Annual Dice Run for all motorcyclists on 14 May, in support of the Orange Ronald McDonald House.



Liv Anderson (top left) and a contingent of South Australian women at the World Record Rally

WIMA International Rallies

The 2016 international rally will be held at Esztergom, 50kms north-west of Budapest, on the river Danube from 11-16 July. Cabins, bunkrooms or camping accommodation available. Cost will vary from \$400-450 depending on choice of accommodation.

2017 Estonia 17th from 22nd July 2017

2018 Finland in Moominland from 30th July – 3rd August

2019: Curaçao and UK

2020: Germany



Membership Renewal

\$30 for 1 year or \$15 for 1/2 year.

Bank details BSB 803 228 ac no 77805 WIMA Australian Division

Pay online

www.wima.org.au Click on Membership, then on application form. Treasurer will send you out a new card.

Pay by cash or cheque

www.wima.org.au Click on Membership, and download the application form. Complete it and post to The Treasurer, WIMA Australia P.O. Box 88, Mt Evelyn, Vic 3796

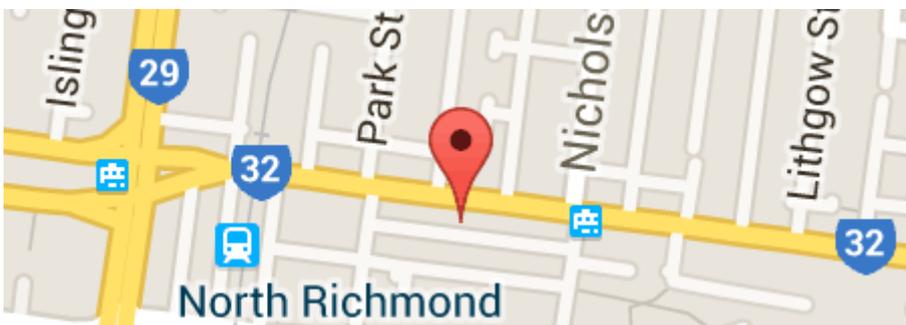
WIMA Victoria Events

Solstice Dinner, Melbourne Saturday June 25, 2016.

Minh Minh Restaurant 94 Victoria St, Richmond VIC Bookings to Linda Rosowski email

lprosowski@bigpond.com

BYO. Good footpath bike parking opposite in side street.



**WOMENS INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

RECEIPTS FROM:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Membership Fees | \$980.00 |
| Merchandise | \$143.00 |
| Members Dinner | \$100.00 |
| Bank Interest | \$.77 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS: | \$1,223.77 |

PAYMENTS TO:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Liability Insurance | \$135.00 |
| Merchandise | \$ 70.00 |
| Rally Hoodies | \$316.80 (3 Paid for at Rally) |
| Stationery | \$ 45.56 |
| Printer Ink | \$113.00 |
| Bank Fees | \$ 82.50 |
| Transfer to Rally Account | \$ 20.00 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS: | \$782.86 |

WIMA FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

BIG SKY ACCOUNT 777805 S1

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Opening balance as at 1st January 2016 | \$140.06 |
| Plus Receipt from; | |
| Membership | \$210.00 |
| Rally Deposits L. Skinner | \$985.00 |
| Healesville ticket | \$ 15.00 |
| Less Bank fees | \$ 15.00 |
| Closing Balance as at 30th March 2016 | <u>\$1,335.06</u> |

BIG SKY ACCOUNT 77805 S40

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Opening balance as at 1st January 2016 | \$680.70 |
| Plus receipts from ; | |
| Membership | \$ 240.00 |
| Transfer money Wima NSW Account | \$4,800.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$5,040.00 |
| Payments to; | |
| Rally Refunds to L.Skinner & R. Pappalardo | \$600.00 |
| P.O. Box 172 Rental | \$121.00 |
| Shamrock Hotel 3 dinners | \$ 77.30 |
| Website payment | \$440.00 |
| Stamps/Stationery | \$ 20.90 |
| Total Payments: | \$1259.20 |
| Closing Balance as at 30th March, 2016 | <u>\$4,461.50</u> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL MONEY IN BOTH ACCOUNTS | \$5,796.56 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|