

**Club Membership** stands at 73. Welcome to new rider, **Alex Nadelyaev**, riding a Honda CBR1000. He has been on quite a few rides now, joining on the impromptu Eildon Ride (24/12/11). He is now riding in a new set of racing leathers, replacing his distinctive leather trousers. We wish him many safe and fun rides.

The **Club web site** at [www.melbsportsbike.net.au](http://www.melbsportsbike.net.au) accumulated **474** hits during **December**, down **62** on last month. Total site visits are **72,641** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2011/2012 Ride Calendar page took **404** hits (total **20,268** since 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008) and Great Roads **122** hits (total **5254**).

For **December**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **4,737 km** (up 3154 km on last month – Xmas Camp at 2273 km the big ticket ride last month distorting the monthly totals). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **38,944**, up 13,655 on last month. The 2011 year total is **387,875 km**; the average calendar yearly total is 336,393 since 2005, so we did an extra 50,000 km this year. The people km per injury for 2011 is **55,411 km** – another couple of crashes this month not denting the average from last month but overall 2011 was well down on the long term average of 85,516 km per (serious) injury. (It was over 100,000 km up until this year.)

The **crash count** for the 2011 calendar year was 22, 15 of which people walked away without injury. Of the 22 crashes, 11 were inexperienced Club riders – either on their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> ride, or within three months of riding with the MSR. This 50% ratio of members/non-members crashing is very consistent year-on-year.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Carlton on Thursday **1<sup>st</sup> December**: Julie and Ben Warden, Ron Johnston, Trevor and Barb Rolfe Harris, John Willis and Lou Tickner, Tim, Angus and Noah Emons, Peter Philferan, Tony Stegmar, Marc Marais, Paul Southwell, Ian Payne and Rob Langer. **16 people**

Seen at the **Christmas BBQ** at Fairfield Park on Saturday **3<sup>rd</sup> December**: Ben and Julie Warden, Trevor and Barb Rolfe Harris, Geoff Jones, Kurn Bridgeman, Ha Du, Marc Marais, Ron and Julie Johnson, Bianca, Sam and Dennis Lindemann, Paul Southwell, Mirko Strasser, Tony Stegmar, Ian Payne, John Willis and Rob Langer. **19 people**

The **Club Participant of the Year** is based on aggregate points accumulated at 1 point per ride, an extra point for leading or being rear rider, and 1 point per magazine article (maximum 2 per magazine). Attending one or more days of a weekend event scores 3 points for leading, 3 for rear riding duties and 2 points for participating.

The count is for the 2011/12 year ending the ride before the 2012 AGM in July. After **six** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (47), **Pina Garasi** (35.5), **Ron Johnston** (34.5), **Marc Marais** (34), **Paul Southwell** (31), **Ian Payne** (30.5), **Rob Langer** (30), **Tony Stegmar** (28), **Misho Zrakic** (22) and **Tim Emons** (20). The same top ten, but some reshuffling of the order: Ron moved back past Marc, and Tony overtook Misho. Paul, Ian and Rob are very close.

**Front Cover:** Photo taken at the Club Xmas BBQ at Fairfield park (3<sup>rd</sup> December). Standing: Ian Payne, Tony Stegmar, Ron Johnston, Barb and Trevor Rolfe Harris, Bianca, Sam and Dennis Lindemann, Marc Marais, Mirko Strasser, Ha Du, John Willis, Kurn Bridgeman and Rob Langer. Seated: Ben and Julie Warden, Julie Johnston, Paul Southwell and Geoff Jones.

**Back Cover:** Photo taken at Briagolong on the Dargo Weekend ride (10<sup>th</sup> December) before the carnage. Standing: Rob Langer, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic, Ben Fuller, Paul Simonson, Frank Hutchinson, John Rousseaux and Byron Morrison. Kneeling: Peter Hill, Paul Southwell, Pierre Ong, Tony Stegmar, Tim Emons and Dennis Lindemann. Ben Warden behind the lens, Marc the title blocks.

The Club **Incident Register** at the 12 month mark. We have exceeded the highest yearly crash total (recorded back to 2005), another two this month, making a total of 22 crashes on Club rides this year.

Email from **Paul Simonson** (3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.) who crashed on the Dargo ride: "I ended up finding a 2011 RSV4-R APRC that was 6 months old with 2000kms on clock; seemed very tidy. Haven't really been for a ride on it yet. Still have to sort out gear, but that is all done now, so should be back out there soon I hope. Still have to get it registered in Victoria though as I picked it up from Bathurst NSW."

Email from **Mark Copeland** (2/1/12) "Happy New Year. Glad to hear the Christmas camp went well. Sorry I missed it.

I had a low speed off (40-50kph) due to unseen gravel on a left hand bend on the Falls Creek Road, about 5 km up from turnoff on Omeo Road. I think the bike landed on my knee and, although sore, it was at first OK and I continued riding. No other injuries. However, after we arrived at our overnight destination, the knee began to swell and I realised I wouldn't be able to straighten the leg enough to continue riding so called an ambulance and went to Wangaratta Hospital. They X-rayed, kept me in until the ortho doctor came in around 8.00am. He had nothing further to add and told me to visit another ortho doc in a few days.

Went home by bus and two trains. Then went to Sunshine hospital four days later. X-rayed again: no damage. They thought there may be ligament damage with all the swelling so sent me for an MRI last week. The MRI showed nothing significant damaged but I do have a huge haematoma on the knee that prevents me from straightening my leg. They say this could take six weeks or more to go away. They won't drain it as they do not want to risk infection. So I'm stuck on crutches, waiting for the haematoma to go away so I can work and ride again.

The bike sustained minor damage really, and I've already got all the parts for it and it will be ready to go again when I get the time to put it together. Bit of a bummer, but life happens :-) Hope to catch up with everyone as soon as possible."