

**Club Membership** stands at 87, up one on last month. Welcome to new member **Stuart Hosking** riding an Aprilia Tuono 1000cc. He has duly completed his three rides and his "mate" Andrew reckoned it was time he coughed up the dosh. So after the ride to Castlemaine, while standing under the Tullamarine flight path at Bulla, money changed hands as the sun set. It surely looked like a drug deal. He is pretty keen as he has been on some of the toughest rides, weather-wise, over the last couple of months and keeps coming back for more. We wish him many fun and safe rides.

The **Club web site** at [www.melbsportsbike.net.au](http://www.melbsportsbike.net.au) accumulated **625** hits during **May**, up 56 on last month. Total site visits are **75,476** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2012 Ride Calendar page took **582** hits (total **22,813** since 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008) and Great Roads **95** hits (total **5779**).

For **May** the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1961 km** (down 109 km on last month). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **24,048**, up 1,108 km on last month. So that means we had shorter rides but more people on them.

The average calendar yearly total is 336,393 km since 2005. This year we are up to **160, 046** km with a total of nine crashes. Refer to crash data analysis elsewhere.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Lygon St on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Tim Emons, Michael Henriksen, Gordon Heydon, Ron and Julie Johnston, Robert Langer, Ken King, Dennis Lindemann, Steve Mudford, Ben and Julie Warden, John Willis and Lou Tickner. 13 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 2011/12 count ends on the ride before the 2012 AGM in July. After **eleven** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (97), **Pina Garasi** (62), **Rob Langer** (58), **Ian Payne** (55.5), **Ron Johnston** (54), **Marc Marais** (52), **Paul Southwell** (50), **Tony Stegmar** (40.5), **Tim Emons** (36), and **Misho Zrakic** (36). The same top ten, but some minor reshuffling of the order with Ian jumping a couple of places as he is attending more rides and nabbing the rear rider position.

**Front Cover:** Photo taken in Licola on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Back row: Fred Stolk, Mark Edmonds, Ian Payne, Tony Stegmar, Ken King, Rob Jones hiding, Gordon Heydon, Darryn "Bart" Hutchinson, Paul Southwell. Front row: Yvette Stolk, Michael Henriksen, Pina Garasi, Cliff Peters and Peter Fisher. Ben Warden behind the lens, Marc Marais the beautiful new banner artwork.

**Back Cover:** Photo taken at the start of the dirt on the Grand Ridge Road, Boolarra ride, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Back row: Tony Stegmar, Ian Payne, Paul Southwell, Andrew Rijs (1<sup>st</sup> ride), Andrew Newbury, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic, Cindy Lee and Steve Mudford. Front row: Wayne Cartwright (1<sup>st</sup> ride), Cliff Peters, Pierre Ong, and Stuart Hosking. Ben Warden behind the lens.

The **Club Incident Register** for 2012 is printed (see elsewhere) at the 5 month mark – a not-so-gentle reminder of the danger of motorcycle riding. At nine crashes and six police bookings in five months, it makes grim reading.

Email from **Pierre Ong** 4<sup>th</sup> May: Picked up an Aprilia RSV4 Factory. Didn't want to wait six months for the Ducati Panigale. Went for a short ride last night. My arm is still sore and movement is slowly coming back. Hope to be out again with the Club next week.

Email from **Nigel Oman** 6<sup>th</sup> May: (Nigel hit a kangaroo on the Christmas Hills Road on the way to a Yarra Glen ride start): "Hi Marc, thanks for checking up on me. I think it is almost 8 weeks since the accident. I started work on reduced hours two weeks ago, the plaster came off the same week and they put me in a boot. I have also started assisted walking on both feet. They said the two screws should be out in 3-4 weeks and about a week after that I will be totally off crutches. At that point I can drive and ride again. My back feels tight at times, otherwise it seems to be okay. The insurance company is sorting out the last details, but it looks like I should get a black CBR1000 2011 with ABS. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone sometime soon. Nigel."

Facebook from **Marc Marais** 8<sup>th</sup> May: Got back tonight at 6:30pm, rode to Canberra yesterday morning 7am. I took the scenic route via Bonang, Bombala, Pambula, Tathra, all the way up to Batemans Bay and then over to Canberra arriving at 8pm - pitch black and freezing! Didn't measure number of km but was over 1000km I'm sure. After going to the embassy today and getting my temporary South African passport for some contract work over there, I took the direct way back via the long boring Hume, 8 hours of it. I'm knackered!

**Eildon Ride**, 13<sup>th</sup> May: **Ron Johnston** survived his low speed crash (diesel on wooden bridge, 26 km into the ride), with a bit of fluid on his hip but no structural damage – checked out at the hospital. The bike (CBF1000) was unrideable as the Oggy knob ripped open the crank case, dumping all the oil. A likely write-off. Makes you seriously consider the value of Oggy knobs.

**Ben Warden** to Google Group 15<sup>th</sup> May: When Cliff asked who's leading next Sunday, I said "You!" and I took the slight pause as an affirmative. Thanks Cliffy. Hopefully it won't rain all day like last Sunday, especially after the ride finish when it pelted down.

Email to the Google Group from **John Willis** 17<sup>th</sup> May: I for one would like to thank **Ben** for his seemingly endless dedication to the Club, in this case with the re-organising of the ancient Club magazines, with a whole heap of help from **Barb**. Well done both. I'm sure we will all, at some point in time, enjoy re-reading them. And it's great to see **Cliffy** back in his rightful place leading rides and generally being about the place.

Talking of being about the place, I haven't been on a ride for too long. Since moving house in January this year, there have been some essential projects to get out the way on the new gaff, but I have been enjoying said tasks, with Lou's help, and have just about completed things so that I can operate as a motorcycling, model aircraft flying, tradey, type person again.

Email from **Marc Marais** 19<sup>th</sup> May, 9.21 pm: Have a great ride tomorrow - sorry I can't lead or make it. I'm off to South Africa for contract work, back in 4 weeks. My next MSR ride will probably be the 24th June.

Email from **Yvette Stolk** 2/6/2012: Fred was doing safety check of our bikes and discovered a drip of coolant on the outside of my radiator. So after pulling the fairings off he found it was just a hairline crack in the coolant overflow container, and very, very luckily, he had a spare and changed it over. So, very fortunately, we are all set for tomorrow. We'll be at the T intersection of Church Street, just south of the Drouin Pub at approx 10.30am, unless something unforeseen happens before then but I doubt it. I have stored your number just in case. Both Fred and I are looking forward to it, see you tomorrow.

**Rob Jones** sent me a flyer from Hands-On Kawasaki touting their up-coming ride day. He has a relationship with the owner who specifically ask that our Club be invited. It is on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 123 Beresford Road Lilydale. Test ride the new Kawasaki demo range including ZX-6R, ZX10-R ABS, ZX14-R ABS, Versys 1000, W800, Vulcan 900, Vulcan 1700 ABS, There is a free BBQ, and a "special guest". To book a demo bike ring 03 9735 3171 or visit their website [hands-onkawasaki.com.au](http://hands-onkawasaki.com.au) and book on-line.