

## Who's News                      July 2011

**Club Membership** stands at 56 with 55 renewals and one new member **Peter Ng** riding an MV Augusta 1078 Brutale. Peter travels back forth across the globe looking after business while his children are being educated in Australia. We welcome Peter to the MSR fold and wish him many safe and fun rides. He just needs to fix the rock hard suspension on the MV!

The **Club web site** at [www.melbsportsbike.net.au](http://www.melbsportsbike.net.au) accumulated **508** hits during **July**, down **44** on last month. Total visits are **70,012** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2011 Ride Calendar page took 421 hits (total **17,982**, down 55) since 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and Great Roads 74 hits (total **4581**). Three of the five rides during the period were wet and cold, a good pointer to lower ride numbers and people searching on the web.

For July, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1,555 km** (down 150 on last month). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **13,686**. The 2011 year total is **239,331 km**; the average calendar yearly total is 327,813 since 2005. The people km per injury for 2011 is **59,833 km** – four serious crashes this year; long term it is 98,344 km per (serious) injury.

Seen at the **Annual General Meeting** at the **Tower Hotel** in Hawthorn on Thursday **1<sup>st</sup> July**: Julie and Ben Warden, Ron Johnston, John Rousseaux and Kate Stewart, Marc Marais, Tony Stegmar, Ian Payne, John Willis, Cindy Lee and Steve Mudford, Peter Philferan, Mirko Strasser, Chris Pointon, Pina Garasi, Joe Klopfer, Peter Feistl, Paul Southwell, Kurn Bridgeman and Dennis Lindemann **20 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 **one** month the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (7), **Pina Garasi** (6), **Paul Southwell** (5), **Ron Johnston** (5), **John Rousseaux** (5), **Marc Marais** (4), **Tim Emons** (4), **Chris Pointon** (3), **Damir Djikic** (3) and **Misho Zrakic** (3). Early days but the usual suspects are to the fore except for **Cliff Peters**.

**Front Cover:** The top two photos were taken at Upper Yarra Reservoir on the Reefton and Black Spur ride on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Top left photo in full wet weather gear are Mark Copeland, Steve Mudford, Cindy Lee, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic and Jason Wilson. Top right Steve, Cindy, Mark and Pina. The bottom two photos were taken on the Licola ride (Sun 3/7). We stopped off at The Crash site. From left: Ron Johnston, Marc Marais, Jason Wilson, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic, Paul Southwell and Damir Djikic. Ben Warden behind the lens. Peter Feistl digital mastery.

**Back Cover:** Childers ride, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, at Darnum. Back row: John Rousseaux, Paul Southwell, Peter Jones and Pierre Ong. Front row: Ron Johnston, Marc Marais and Rob Langer. A couple of faces not seen for quite a while. Ben Warden behind the lens. Peter Feistl digital mastery.

**John Willis** is heading off to England for a couple of weeks to visit his mother and sisters, so will miss another couple of rides and other "Club stuff". We'll miss him too!

**17/7 Email from Henry Wright:** I'm back from my Europe trip! We visited France, Germany, Prague, Athens, The Greek Islands, Istanbul, Cappadocia and finally England! We dodged the riots and the strikes as best we could and came back with some great memories. You might remember that I sold my Triumph before I left, and, for a variety of reasons, I don't currently have a plan to buy a new bike (time, money mostly). So I won't be continuing my Club membership. I had a really good time riding with the Club. I loved the camaraderie and the simple pleasures of riding to new places with friends. The welcoming nature of the group, especially when I was new, was also a highlight. Perhaps in the future I will get another bike and, if so, I will drop you a line. But for now, so long and thanks for all the kilometres! Best regards to everyone in the Club, especially to those recovering from accidents.

**17/7** Email from **Bill Wee**: Dave Karlotski does it as well as anyone in his essay *Season of the Bike*. *A ride on a summer afternoon can border on the rapturous. The sheer volume and variety of stimuli is like a bath for my nervous system, an electrical massage for my brain, a systems check for my soul. It tears smiles out of me: a minute ago I was dour, depressed, apathetic, numb, but now, on two wheels, big, ragged, windy smiles flap against the side of my face, billowing out of me like air from a decompressing plane. Transportation is only a secondary function. A motorcycle is a joy machine. It's a machine of wonders, a metal bird, a motorized prosthetic. It's light and dark and shiny and dirty and warm and cold lapping over each other; it's a conduit of grace, it's a catalyst for bonding the gritty and the holy.*

**17/7** Email from **Ern Reeders** re Bill's post: For me it's partly the immediacy of experience: the smells, the slight change in pressure against the chest as you drop into a gully of cooler air, the feeling of changing G forces as you rise and drop into the next turn. And the fact that to ride well you have to have a calm mind but at the same time a hunger for the feeling of those G forces; when it works the bike becomes a part of the body's proprioception and you *feel* your way through the twisties. Plus the adrenaline of a 'moment'! On the downside: (i) the ooze of water slowly chilling your chest when your '100% waterproof' jacket fails on a drizzling day, (ii) pulling on yesterday's waterlogged gloves, and (iii) meeting a 4WD on your side of the road in a blind corner. Cheers from Mt Beauty ... where I've seen only two road bikes in two weeks. No wonder. Minus 4 here on Thurs. night.

**27/7** Google post: **Pina Garasi** has received a copy of the police report from The Crash. Nothing damning. Very minimal: the facts and a few photos. Maybe enough supporting evidence for a claim. Ben Warden has a copy if you want a one.

**23/7** Email from **Ern Reeders** skiing at Falls Creek, but really missing MSR riding: Well there's always one topic of conversation in the street and it's the state of the snow. The technical term for its current condition in the back country is 'snot'. We've had above zero days and some drizzle; given the amount of cover out there, that means it's deep, soft and wet. I skied one of the lower groomed trails out of Falls Creek on Thursday, with a fresh wind driving drizzle along with it, cloud rolling in and out, and the moisture in the snow making it very slick. In the township it's mild and sunny today again ... clothes washing weather. The landlady has a bird feeding station in the front yard and it attracts the extraordinary King Parrots, Galahs, Crimson Rosellas and the inevitable loud-mouthed Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

Life up here is very easy. The Bakery is back to doing decent coffee and is just five minutes walk away. You know you're a local when they start remembering your caffeine preferences. Also when the regulars invite you to join them at a table and they know more about you than you do about them! (It's a mistake to tell anyone what your user name is on the main ski forum in Australia if you're concerned about privacy.)

The butcher does his own smoking and his ham off the bone is fabulous *and* cheap. The supermarket is well stocked and allocates a proportion of takings to local schools, clubs and other organisations; about half a million dollars has been donated so far.

PS: I've been told that what I'm doing is trying a career change as a ski bum. Experts in this career say if I'm cooking and washing clothes I've failed two key tests already ;-}