

Club Membership stands at 72. Three new members signed up this month. Welcome to **Rod Silver** riding his highly desirable KTM RC8 who has found the role of rear rider to his taste. He joined us for the first time on the Towong Epic (crashes, speeding fines, 2000 km of twisties) and was with us every moment of every day. Also joining on the Lavers Hill via the Great Ocean Road ride was **Nigel Oman** riding a red and black Honda CBR1000 – making the 11th member with a CBR and another three prospective or lapsed members on the fringe. Nigel's first aid experience has been put to the test too many times already while riding with us. And finally, **Bill Kennedy** (Kawasaki Z750 – new “retro”) joined last Sunday, adding to the growing list of Kawasakis in the Club. In fact, on the last ride there were five Kawasaki's and only four Hondas, which hasn't happened this century. Mind you, a couple of Hondas had drowned on the way to the start point – see below.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **536** hits during **November**, up **59** on last month. Total site visits are **72,167** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2011 Ride Calendar page took **471** hits (total **19,864** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **293** hits (total **5132**).

For **November**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1583 km** (down 1,786 km on last month – Towong at 2120km the big ticket ride last month distorting the monthly totals). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **25,299**, down 17,882 on last month – no Towong. The 2011 year total is **348,931 km**; the average calendar yearly total is 327,813 since 2005. The people km per injury for 2011 is **49,847 km** – another few crashes this month denting the average; long term it is 85,516 km per (serious) injury.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Carlton on Thursday **3rd November**: Julie and Ben Warden, Ron and Julie Johnston, Dennis Lindemann, Tim Emons, Marc Marais, Pierre Ong, John Willis, Jacinta Thomas, Lyn Duncan, and Trev and Barb Rolfe Harris. **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 count is for the 2011/12 year ending the ride before the 2012 AGM in July. After **four** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (36), **Pina Garasi** (31.5), **Marc Marais** (29), **Ron Johnston** (27.5), **Paul Southwell** (23), **Ian Payne** (21.5), **Robert Langer** (20), **Misho Zrakic** (19), **Tony Stegmar** (18), and **Tim Emons** (16). The same top ten, but some reshuffling of the order: Marc moved past Ron, Ian overtook Rob and Misho overtook Tony. Pina's lack of bike and possible rear riding points didn't help her cause, but she should have it fully repaired by next Sunday's ride.

Front Cover: Photo taken at Lavers Hill (20th November). Back row: Misho Zrakic, Alex Nadelyaev, Jason Wilson, Marc Marais, Nigel Oman, Matt Considine, Rod Silver and Mark Copeland. Front row: Tony Stegmar, Pina Garasi, Bill Kennedy, Bill Simpson and Mirko Strasser. Ben Warden behind the lens. Thanks to Marc Marais for adding the title block.

Back Cover: Photo taken at Moe on the Licola ride (6th November). Front row kneeling: Tony Herman, Ron Johnston, Marc Marais, Dave Chisma. Front row standing: Ian Payne, Nigel Oman, Pierre Ong, Frank Hutchinson, Peter Fisher, Paul Simonson, Paul Southwell, Misho Zrakic, Pina Garasi, Damir Djikic, Paul Cail, Chris Pointon, Tim Emons. Back row: Michael Zrb, Roman Biaroza, Phil Tolsmer, Darryl Mills, Byron Morrison and Tony Stegmar. (Up to four of these could be incorrectly named – 26 bikes, 27 people, 10 new riders/ non-members.) Ben behind the lens.

Commiserations to **Ian Payne** and **Tony Stegmar** who drowned their Honda CBR1000s on the way to the Whittlesea pickup last Sunday 27th. They rode through flooded roads ingesting water via the front snorkels into the engine leading to hydraulic lock. Ian got his motor going again 9.30 pm that night and no news from Tony. Typically, recovery would involve spark plug removal, pumping the water out via the starter motor, and replacing the engine oil, and ...hoping.

The Club **Incident Register** is printed (see elsewhere) at the 11 month mark – as a not-so-gentle reminder of the danger of motorcycle riding. We have exceeded the yearly crash total, now up to 20, for as long as I have collated records – back till 2005. We have also had 5 separate police incidents, well up on previous years, though being booked for no helmet is extremely rare.

Dargo via Omeo, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December. **Tim Emons** is leading. This is an epic weekend adventure covering some of Victoria's greatest motorcycling roads, cutting in and out of the southern valleys of the Great Dividing Range. **Accommodation:** local B&B, bunks, twin share, doubles. Four houses: two sleep four, one six and another sleeps nine. Cost: **\$50** which includes a bacon and cheese burger and coffee for breakfast at the Dargo General Store. **Cancellation Policy:** money up front, no refund.

Refer to the 2011 Rides Itinerary Page and Google Group postings for the most up to date information.