

Club Membership stands at 69. One renewal this month – Ben Fuller after the Towong Epic.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **477** hits during **October**, down **219** on last month – potentially due to the generally cool to cold and wet weather and the MotoGP at Phillip Island providing competition. Total site visits are **71,631** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2011 Ride Calendar page took **437** hits (total **19,393** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **130** hits (total **4939**).

For **October**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **3,369 km** (up 1,186km on last month – Towong at 2120km the big ticket ride). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **43,181**, up 21,725 on last month – Towong boosting numbers. The 2011 year total is **323,632 km**; the average calendar yearly total is 327,813 since 2005. The people km per injury for 2011 is **46,233 km** – another few crashes this month denting the average; long term it is 85,516 km per (serious) injury.

Seen at the **Social Sip and General Meeting** at the Tower Hotel in Hawthorn on Thursday **6th** October: Julie and Ben Warden, Ron and Julie Johnston, Dennis Lindemann, Ian Payne, Tim Emons, Paul Southwell, Marc Marais, Tony Stegmar, John Willis, Rob Langer, Jason and Angela Wilson, Pina Garasi, Kurn Bridgeman, Paul Cail, Peter Philferan, and John Rousseaux and Kate Stewart. **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 **four** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (27), **Pina Garasi** (26), **Ron Johnston** (21.5), **Marc Marais** (21), **Paul Southwell** (19), **Robert Langer** (19), **Ian Payne** (16.5), **Tony Stegmar** (15), **Misho Zrakic** (14), and **Tim Emons** (13). Again lots of movement this month with Ben squeezing past Pina for the lead, Ron jumping a couple of places and Marc moving up another place at the expense of Paul. We are a third of the way through the year, so refer to the printed copy to see your score.

Front Cover: Photo taken at the end of the 6 km dirt section heading for Adjungbilly, Day 2, Melbourne Cup ride to Towong. From the left: Ian Payne, Marc Marais, Dennis Lindemann, John Willis, Mitar Marescuk, Dave Ward on bike, Rob Jones with tinted visor, Ben Fuller, Mark Copeland and Ron Johnston. Ben Warden behind the lens. Marc Marais overall digital mastery.

Congratulations and best wishes to Club Members **Kate Stewart** and **John Rousseaux** who are getting married on 11/11/2011. Combined with marriage preparations, building a house and looking after three kids on occasion, life is pretty busy! But John assures us he will be back riding soon.

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.

A month of crashes saw **Tony Stegmar** fall on the Korumburra Warragul road on the Loch ride, losing the front end on wet roads. He walked away, thankfully.

On the Towong weekend **Kurn Bridgeman** crashed at Dartmouth Dam on Day 1 and broke his leg picking the bike up. He is back home now, walking on crutches, a steel rod inserted in his lower leg.

A day later **Pina Garasi** overshot a corner and hit a closed steel gate. She walked away with a cut chin requiring stitches and possibly a hairline fracture in her arm based on the degree of swelling.

Low blood pressure saw an overnight stay at Wagga Hospital. We wish everyone a speedy recovery. See more info in articles.

VicRoads statistics reveal that while motorcyclists comprise just one per cent of traffic volume and four per cent of registered vehicles, riders account for 14 per cent of the road toll.