

Who's News September 2011

Club Membership stands at 68. No renewals this month.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **696** hits during **September**, up **250** on last month – three fantastic days weatherwise for riding. Total visits are **71, 154** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2011 Ride Calendar page took 590 hits (total **18,956**) since 28th October 2008 and Great Roads 162 hits (total **4809**).

For **September**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1483 km** (up 132 on last month). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **21,466**, up 1812 on last month – three big rides boosting numbers. The 2011 year total is **280,451 km**; the average calendar yearly total is 327,813 since 2005. The people km per injury for 2011 is **56,090 km** – five serious crashes this year; long term it is 93,661 km per (serious) injury and falling.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Carlton on Thursday **1st** September: Julie and Ben Warden, Trevor and Barb Rolfe Harris, Ron Johnston, Dennis Lindemann, Ian Payne, Tim Emons, Paul Southwell, Marc Marais, Tony Stegmar, Geoff Jones, Kathy Skelt, Chris Pointon, John Willis, Mark Copeland, Rob Langer, John Rousseaux and Kate Stewart. **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 **two** months the top ten positions are: **Pina Garasi (20)**, **Ben Warden (19)**, **Paul Southwell (16)**, **Marc Marais (16)**, **Ron Johnston (15.5)**, **Robert Langer (14)**, **Tony Stegmar (13)**, **Ian Payne (12.5)**, **John Rousseaux (10)**, **Tim Emons (10)**, **Geoff Jones (10)** and **Misho Zrakic (10)**. Lots of colour and movement this month with Pina taking over the lead, Marc moving up another place, Rob Langer jumping into contention and Geoff Jones breaking into the top 10.

Front Cover: Photo taken at Trentham (2/10). Back row: Willem Vandeveld, Jason Wilson, Duane Rafferty, Paul Cail, Ed Simonis, Mark Copeland, Geoff Jones, Nigel Oman, Bill Kennedy, Darryn Hutchinson, Kurn Bridgeman, Graeme Tattersall and Boris Papuga. Front row: Pina Garasi, Mirko Strasser, Ross Smith, Rod Merrett, Marc Marais, Paul Southwell, Tony Stegmar and Ian Payne. Ben Warden behind the lens. Peter Feistl overall digital mastery.

The **Melbourne Cup Weekend, Towong** is ... booked out. No reason not to come; you'll just have to organise your own accommodation. So far 20+ people.

Dargo via Omeo is on again. Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December. **Tim Emons** has been coerced into 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 breakfast at 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.

Update from **Barb Peters** re Cliff's rehabilitation status after his big crash. "I posted two pictures of Cliffy on the Club Facebook page (much to his disgust lol). He is now walking around with the use of crutches and is getting the muscles back in his legs. He uses the treadmill we have, on very slow, a few times a day and also walks up and down the street. He is still having physio and using both the pool at Grace McKella and our local one. **Tony Stegmar** has visited him almost every Wednesday, which he looks forward to, and Tony often takes him driving around. It was my turn last week when Tony came. We went into the city and had lunch in a lovely Spanish restaurant, then drove out to Point Henry and around this area.

As **Pina Garasi** alludes to in her article, **Ben Warden** crashed coming down Mt Donna Buang, breaking heavily for a left hand corner, the front wheel tucking under. Ben was knocked out and

woke up in a ditch. **Jason Wilson** and **Ian Payne** rescued him, and got him mobile again after about 20 minutes. The bike (Honda 954) was quite rideable, having backed itself in to an embankment, luckily the controls, tank, forks, instruments and most of the fairings intact. The bike was only missing a mirror and blinker with rear sub-frame and tail light damage.

Ian escorted Ben on the long trip home – much appreciated. MotoGP Sunday night. Ben spent the next day (9.5 hours) in the Royal Melbourne Hospital running the full medical gauntlet, **Julie Warden** taking a day off to drive Ben around. Thankyou.

Misho Zratic assisted with all things mechanical over the next few days, including dropping the bike off at C&C Thursday night for insurance assessment Friday morning. A statutory write-off saw the new bike procurement process begin.

On Wednesday **Lyn Duncan** chauffeured Ben to the doctor's to organise physio referrals and then out to C&C to talk the good talk. Thanks Lyn.

Ben was back at work after three days – email waits for no man. He missed the next Sunday's ride and did five hours work instead.

Ed Simonis looked after Ben very well at Peter Stevens as a whole new riding outfit was required.

Twelve days after the crash Ben (and Julie) committed to a new 2011 CBR1000. Ian Payne again came to Ben's aid chasing down the best insurance deal – first crash in 12 years or close to 500,000 km helped. Thanks Ian. New bike ridden away Friday night in rain, tram tracks, peak hour traffic chaos, dodgy body, all new stiff clobber. What could go wrong?

Ben rode Sunday, a cripple Monday. Sitting just off the seat to avoid the worst of the way-out-west bumps saw his thighs “burning” and it took three days for his legs to recover!

Steve Mudford invested lots of time and effort fitting a new TTX shock today, and **Ern Reeders** purchased the old one for Steve to make perfect again. Thanks Steve and Ern.

And thanks to all the well wishers communicating via text, email, phone and visiting. Ben had three serious offers of bikes. Much appreciated.