

Who's Bruised March 2012

It was an incident packed month with 7 rides producing 6 crashes, three speeding tickets, one out of petrol, and a group lecture by the police. In chronological order, below are some comments and emails related to the crashes:

Steve Mudford: Licola ride, 4th March. Minor cosmetic, rock fall on road contributing factor, broken blinker, aches and pains, back riding later in the month. See Peter Jones' article.

Nigel Oman email to the Google Group on 14th March. I survived my first roo accident. I was heading towards Yarra Glen Sunday (11/3/12) morning when a huge kangaroo jumped in front of me... not sure who was more surprised, me or it. It was about 9.30am. Unfortunately for me, I had no time to brake or swerve... flipped over, rolled and somehow landed on my feet. I looked around to see a naked CBR1000 surrounded by shrapnel where mine should be. The kangaroo was holding its guts, rolling on the ground. My head was feeling light from the massive pain shooting from my legs and ankles. I lowered myself to the ground rather than fainting. Next, a chopper flight, two screws with metal plate in right ankle, two small fractures in discs, lots and lots of bruising, and three days of hospital food. I'm now at home feeling much better.

I had recently upgraded my gloves to the Revit brand - they have titanium in the knuckle and wrist. After seeing deep dints and scratches in the metal I could see they saved my hands and wrists from being smashed about as well. I would still be in hospital if I couldn't use crutches. And I think my seven year old daughter is happy Daddy is okay too. They say six weeks till I can put any weight on my ankle, and probably a bit longer to strengthen the leg. I hope the rest of you are keeping safe. I look forward to catching up.

Recent new members **Andrew Newbury** (Kawasaki ZX10) and **Gordon Heydon** (Kawasaki ZX6R) were involved in a crash on the Simpson ride, Sunday 25th March. They tangled just outside of Lara, 30 minutes into the ride. A car turning right was a contributing factor. Both riders walked away, though Gordon received a sprained ankle, later confirmed at the hospital. Both bikes were effectively destroyed in the crash. Tow trucks and wives attended the scene to recover bikes and husbands respectively. The ride continued.

Pierre Ong crashed his beautiful Ducati 1098, 24 km north of Bruthen on the Great Alpine Road, on our way back from Omeo. This was Day 1 of the Dargo ride, Saturday 31st March. Ben pillioned him to Bruthen and then Bairnesdale Regional Hospital for a check up. Billy escorted the pair bringing Pierre's gear. The bike was left where it lay. The crash happened around 3.15 pm and his wife picked him up from the hospital. They got home at 2 am.

An hour later Dennis Lindemann slipped off on the Dargo 13 esses which had recently been resurfaced leaving a thin layer of gravel. He lost front and back simultaneously at relatively low speed. The bike was completely rideable, Oggy knobs doing a great job. His visor was ripped off but silver tape had him going soon enough.

I rang Pierre late Sunday afternoon (1/4) after the ride to find out how he finished up. All good with no broken bones, despite the look of his right hand index knuckle. They slit open his arm between the two "divets" to better facilitate gravel removal, and then stitched it all up. He also had gravel removed from his back. Sore and sorry, black and blue, but happy to be walking around talking to his kids. **Paul Simonson** recovered his bike today (1/4/2012) from a farmhouse near Bruthen.

Today (3/4/12) Pierre's wife rang to say that Pierre had been readmitted to hospital, his arm swelling up with a severe infection. The wounds have been reopened and cleaned and he will likely spend a few days in hospital. He will have an MRI to see what else is going on.

Email from **Dennis Lindemann** (3/4/12) Thanks again to everybody for helping out. Much appreciated. Had a great weekend nonetheless. Still not sure whether I should claim or not. It's actually just the helmet that needs replacing; \$400 excess and \$440 for a new helmet. I probably would get new leathers as well and the straighten the foot brake lever or replace it. Not sure if this is worth putting a claim in and increasing the premium.

Google email from **Paul Simonson** (4/4/2012): Just an update: Pierre has gone back to hospital. His arm is infected. Still gravel in there. He is having surgery tonight at Box Hill hospital. Probably be in there for a couple of days. Insurance still haven't picked up his bike yet either.