

Club Membership stands at 74, one up from last month. Welcome to **Aiden Baker** riding a Kawasaki ER6-N. He is a personal trainer so should be up to the rigours of our rides. We wish him many happy, safe and fun rides. Please have a chat with him on your next ride.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **534** hits during **January**, up **64** on last month. Total site visits are **73,175** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2012 Ride Calendar page took **438** hits (total **20,706** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **113** hits (total **5367**).

For **January**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **3,894 km** (down 843 km on last month – Xmas Camp at 2273 km the big ticket ride last month distorting the monthly totals). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **49,960** up 11,016 on last month. Lots of rides with high participation rates during January inflate the figures.

The **2011** year total was **387,875** km; the average calendar yearly total is 336,393 since 2005, so we did an extra 50,000 km last year. The people km per injury for 2011 was **55,411 km** - 2011 was well down on the long term average of 102,381 km per (serious) injury. The **2012** January total is **49,960** people km with no injuries.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Carlton on Thursday **8th January**: Julie and Ben Warden, Tim Emons, Kurn Bridgeman, Tony Stegmar, Rob Langer and Ron Johnston. **7 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 **seven** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (57), **Pina Garasi** (40.5), **Ron Johnston** (40.5), **Marc Marais** (36), **Rob Langer** (35), **Ian Payne** (34.5), **Paul Southwell** (34), **Tony Stegmar** (33.5), **Tim Emons** (25), and **Misho Zrakic** (24). The same top ten, but some reshuffling of the order: Rob jumped a couple of places, Ian moved past Paul and Tim moved past Misho. Pina and Ron are neck and neck, tied for second place.

Front Cover: Photo taken at Moe on the Coalville Ride (15th January December). Back row: Tony Stegmar, Peter Jones, Paul Southwell, Cameron Bower (?), Tim Emons, Marc Marais, Pina Garasi, Andrew Newbury (?), Damir Djikic, Jason Wilson, Steve Cowburn, Aiden Baker, Jesvin George (?), Ian Payne and Steve Mudford. Front row: Ron Johnston, Rob Langer, Dennis Lindemann, Cindy Lee and Alex Nadelyaev. Ben Warden behind the lens, Marc Marais the title block.

Back Cover: Photo taken on the Wee Jasper Road at the end of the bitumen, 48 km east of Tumut (27/1/2012). Back row: Phil Hotschilt, Tim Emons, Darryn Hutchinson, Ben Fuller and Rob Jones. Front row: Rob Langer, Misho Zrakic, Pina Garasi, Rod Merrett and John Rousseaux.

On Tuesday 24th January **Cliff Peters** was re-admitted to hospital for a hip replacement. The screwed and pinned ball joint had died, low blood supply a possible reason. As the joint deteriorated, the pin eventually pressed on the hip bone leading to increasing pain levels and eventual discovery. I spoke to Cliff on Monday 30th, still in hospital but hoping to be released. The operation was successful with a new hip joint installed and the existing plate and 4 pins removed, including the savagely bent one. Cliff sounded like the pain was pretty extreme but he was hopeful of beginning rehab soon. We wish him a rapid recovery and look forward to seeing him soon.

With Cliff out of action for at least the next few months, **Ron Johnston** has agreed to act as Club Captain. Hence, we now have a vacancy for the Vice Captain position till mid year. Any takers?

VicRoads put a flyer in the paper back in November: "From 21 November 2011 motorcycles and scooters will be permitted to use the Hoddle Street bus lane southbound between the Eastern Freeway off-ramp and Victoria Parade Collingwood. This trial will conclude in mid-2012 and will assess travel times and other benefits for motorcycles. The trial will also collect feedback from the community and consider any impacts on buses and other road users. The trial will inform any decision on whether or not to allow motorcycles and scooters to use bus lanes." See motorcycletrial@roads.vic.gov.au for more info.