

Club Membership stands at 76. No crashes for the month. – the second in a row.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **445** hits during **February**, down **89** on last month. Total site visits are **73,620** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2012 Ride Calendar page took **377** hits (total **21,083** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **93** hits (total **5460**).

For **February**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1,343 km** (down 2551 km on last month – no weekends away). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **16,702** down 33,258 on last month.

The average calendar yearly total is 336,393 km since 2005. This year we are up to 66,662 km with no injuries.

Seen at the **General Meeting** at the Tower Hotel on Thursday **2nd February**: Julie and Ben Warden, Tim Emons, Barb Rolfe Harris, Jacinta Thomas, Lyn Duncan, Ian Payne, Marc Marais, Rod Silver, Paul Southwell, Paul Walkley, John Rousseaux, Dennis Lindemann, Rob Langer and Ron Johnston. **Paul Walkley** gave a very interesting talk on his latest projects: building a stationary motor from scratch (2nd one) and riding across Siberia amongst other things. **15 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 **eight** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (65), **Ron Johnston** (44.5), **Pina Garasi** (43.5), **Rob Langer** (42), **Marc Marais** (42), **Ian Payne** (39.5), **Paul Southwell** (39), **Tony Stegmar** (34.5), **Tim Emons** (27), and **Misho Zrakic** (24). The same top ten, but some minor reshuffling of the order: Ron slipped past Pina into second position and Rob Langer is now equal with Marc Marais.

Front Cover: Photo taken at Heathcote (12th Feb.). Back row: Ron Johnson, Aiden Baker, Phil Hotschilt, Damian Jones, Paul Southwell, Geoff Jones, Darryl Mills, Marc Marais, Andrew Newbury, Cindy Lee and Steve Mudford. Front row: Rob Langer, Chris Bouwmeester, Pina Garasi, Ben Warden, Bill Kennedy, Willem Vandeveld. Stranger behind the lens, Marc Marais the title block.

Back Cover: Photo taken on the Grand Ridge Road Boolarra South, (19th Feb.). Back row: Michael Henriksen, Damir Djikic, Marc Marais, Paul Southwell, Mark Copeland, Aiden Baker and Steve Mudford. Front row: Ian Payne, Rob Langer, Pina Garasi and Tim Emons. Ben behind the lens.

With **Cliff Peters** 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?

Wed (22nd Feb.): Brad Cummins is looking for 55 volunteer motorcyclists to assist in ferrying various people up and down the **Ironman Melbourne** event on March 25th. The event is based in Frankston. It could be a very interesting experience. Please contact Brad on any of his contact details (below) for more information. Bradley Cummins, Staff Services, Ironman Asia Pacific Championship Melbourne, Mob: 0402 392 644, brad.cummins@ironman.com or visit the web site: www.ironmanmelbourne.com

Dargo Ride coming up and we are looking for a leader for Sunday 1st April to cover for when a number of regulars are away. Mt Baw Baw? Lake Mountain? Trentham? Woodend? Daylesford?

In the same vein, we need a leader for **Easter Monday** (9th April). Any start point, any destination. Assistance can be provided for route selection.

Former Life Member **Les Leahy** had open heart surgery last Friday (24th Feb.) and has now moved out of intensive care into a ward at the Austin. He should be there for another 4 or 5 days at least. Visitors welcome.

Christmas 2013 will be the **40th Anniversary** of the MSCAV (one of our previous names) **Tour of Tasmania**. I have been contacted by **Heather Jones** who was on that group ride and is interested in having a reunion or even organising a ride to Tasmania. There were 46 bikes and 50 people on this ride and they were feted by the locals wherever they went. She can be reached on: (02) 6495 3937 or mobile 0437 841 661. She currently lives in Merimbula.

Email from **Mirko Strasser** (4th Feb.) Today I replaced the stator on my Honda CBR929 which was the cause of my battery troubles in Anakie two weeks ago. Normally I would never undertake such a project as I have limited experience but after talking to **Ben Warden**, he invited me around to his home to demonstrate on an old 954 engine how to do it. So off I went and got stuck into it. It cost \$406 for a new stator, gasket and new headlight bulb. Now the bike is up and running just fine. I will participate in tomorrow's ride to put the bike through its paces. See ya there. Thanks Ben for saving me \$400 as a dealer quoted me \$800 to fix it.

Email from **Mirko Strasser** (9th Feb.) Today I received the promised infringement notice from my encounter with the police on the Reefton Spur ride last Sunday! The outcome is \$244 and 2 demerit points for my efforts of "fail to keep left - overtaking over continuous divided line". Hmm. Looks like my plan to improve the front suspension has to wait a little longer. I did enjoy the ride nevertheless. Thanks to **Rob Langer** for leading.

Email from **Phil Hotschilt** (12th Feb.) The Hyabusa was running pretty badly during the Jindabyne trip on the Australia Day Weekend. It had issues with its fuel filter and fuel pump. I took it to *Raceway Suzuki* last week on the 7th February for a major service and to check fuel issues. After getting it back and going for ride on Sunday, the bike is running like new. I'm so happy with the service from Raceway Suzuki. The bike is flying! I recommend them to others for any work needed. And thanks to **Paul Southwell** for leading the ride on Sunday. A good day's ride.