

Club Membership stands at 86, up 2 on last month. Welcome to new member Richard Paulsen riding a Kawasaki 650R and welcome back to Michael Srb on his Suzuki GSXR1000.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **569** hits during **April**, down **93** on last month. Total site visits are **74,851** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2012 Ride Calendar page took **536** hits (total **22,231** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **99** hits (total **5684**).

For **April**, the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **2,070 km** (down 1558 km on last month which had 7 rides). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **22,940**, down 23,446 on last month – loaded with weekends away.

The average calendar yearly total is 336,393 km since 2005. This year we are up to **135,998** km with only minor injuries, all incurred last month.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at Il Gambero in Lygon St on Thursday **5th April**: Julie and Ben Warden, Ian Payne, Rod and Leslie Merrett, Mirki Strasser, Ian Payne, Paul Southwell and Marc Marais. 8 people. New rider Ken King turned up just as we were leaving and spoke to Ian for half an hour. He came on a ride a couple of weeks later.

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 **ten** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (87), **Pina Garasi** (56), **Rob Langer** (53), **Ron Johnston** (52), **Marc Marais** (51), **Ian Payne** (50.5), **Paul Southwell** (47), **Tony Stegmar** (34.5), **Tim Emons** (33), and **Misho Zrakic** (32). The same top ten, but some minor reshuffling of the order: Ron dropped another position down to fourth. It is still very close between Ron, Rob and Marc.

Front Cover: Photo taken outside Woodend Bakery on the Greendale Ride, Sunday 29th April. Back row: Tony Ripepi, Rob Langer, Ian Payne, Cliff Peters, Mark Copeland, Geoff Jones, Bill Simpson, Marc Marais and Phill Hotschilt. Front row: Steve Mudford, Cindy Lee, Ron Johnston, Craig Morley, Misho Zrakic, Pina Garasi, and Mark Edmonds. Ben behind the lens (and in reflection between Geoff and Billy!), Marc Marais the title block.

Back Cover: Photo taken at the Moe, Thomson Dam ride (15/4/2012). Back row: Matt Considine, Ian McPherson, Michael Srb, Aiden Baker, Roman Berjoza, Roger Holt (1975 member), Chris Pointon, Damir Djikic, Marc Marais, Pina Garasi and Ian Payne. Front row: Tim Emons, Dennis Lindemann, Ron Johnston, Tony Ripepi, Rob Langer, Dean Bonthorne and Paul Southwell. Ben Warden behind the lens.

Email from **Pierre Ong** on 11th April: Just giving you an update on my recent crash on the Dargo ride. I was able to walk away suffering deep lacerations to my left elbow, bruising to right hand, contusion of the chest and shoulder. The GP at Bairnsdale removed a substantial amount of gravel and rock from my left arm. Unfortunately it became infected two days later and I was taken to Emergency department, placed on an IV drip. The plastic surgeon decided to operate and I spent the next few days in hospital. Out of hospital now and will have a nurse visit me over the next few weeks to attend to the wound. It's a deep laceration and has to heal from the inside requiring re-packing daily. Very painful. Not as painful, though, as to the outcome of my bike. The frame took a decent whack when it hit the side of the embankment. Unfortunately, it's been declared a statutory write-off. Thanks to Paul Simonson and Frank for collecting the bike and to Ben and Bill for taking me to the hospital at Bairnsdale. Also thanks for your calls. Hope to be back soon.

Email from **Ron Johnston** after last Sunday's ride to Greendale: "When we left Bacchus Marsh, not only did the zip on my wind jacket shit itself, but the back wheel collapsed a right hand side wheel bearing, I didn't find out what the problem was until I got home. It was making a terrible noise. I stopped three times to see if I could find what it was. No go. I nearly got my son to pick me up with the car and trailer at the back of the airport. The only thing left of the bearing was the outer race and the balls."