

Who's News August 2012

Club Membership stands at a very healthy **84** after two months of renewals. Welcome to new member Quinn Myers riding a Kawasaki ZX14. He has already been on four rides and has written a great article in this month's magazine. Also joining this month were Dean Bonthorne (Suzuki GSXR750) bringing his racer heritage and Marty Ruschena on a BMW K1200R bringing the sporty end of the touring market. We wish them many safe and happy rides.

The **Club web site** at www.melbsportsbike.net.au accumulated **992** hits during **August**, up 570 on last month, an amazing jump. Total site visits are **77,278** since April 1996. The counters on the other pages after another month indicate that the 2012 Ride Calendar page took **749** hits (total **24,442** since 28th October 2008) and Great Roads **104** hits (total **6075**). All counters are significantly up, the five ride month and slightly better weather helping.

For August the official kilometres (sum of ride lengths) for the month is **1465 km** (down 184 km on last month). Official Club kilometres for the month (people x ride length) is **26,789**, up 150 km on last month. That means shorter rides but with higher average attendances. The shorter rides makes sense in the middle of winter. The higher average attendance is becoming a trend though we did have two Sundays where the weather forecast was brilliant (ie no rain) predicted a week out. Having said that, Daylesford with 27 bikes happened on the coldest day – 14 deg. and windy.

The average calendar yearly total is 336,393 km since 2005. This year we are up to **227,943** km with a total of fifteen crashes (up five in the month). Luckily, all of the crashes were very minor in nature with no injuries sustained and the all bikes able to be ridden away. See articles for more info.

Seen at the **Social Sip** at **Il Gambero** in Carlton on Thursday 2nd August: Ben and Julie Warden, Dennis Lindemann, Ian Payne, Ron Johnston, Simon Wastney, Paul Southwell, John Willis, Lou Tickner, Jesvin George, Rob Langer, Tim Emons, Marc Marais Jacinta Thomas & Milan. **16 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 2012/13 count is up and running and after **two** months the top ten positions are: **Ben Warden** (18.5), **Cliff Peters** (12), **Rob Langer** (11), **Simon Wastney** (10), **Pina Garasi** (10), **Andrew Newbury** (10) **Paul Southwell** (9), **Ron Johnston** (8), **Misho Zrakic** (7) and **Dave Byrne** (6). The usual suspects are in the mix though it is good to see some newer members becoming addicted and getting amongst the points.

Front Cover: 12th August, **Eildon Jamieson Road**. Back row: Cindy Lee, Steve Mudford, Tony Stegmar, Aiden Baker, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic, Willem Vandeveld, Paul Southwell, Dave Byrne, Ron Johnston, Andrew Newbury. Front row: Rob Langer, Jason Wilson, Tony Ripepi, Dean Bonthorne, Simon Wastney, Marty Ruschena. Ben Warden behind the lens. Fiona Warden banner artwork.

Back Cover: 26th August, **Yarck**: Back row: John Willis, Jesvin George, Quinn Myers, Nigel Holden, Steve Mudford. Front row: Cliff Peters, Pina Garasi, Misho Zrakic, Mark Copeland, Pierre Ong, Paul Southwell, Andrew Newbury, Rob Langer, Tony Stegmar, Mick Canny and Dave Williams. Ben Warden behind the lens.

Email from Rob Langer (11/8/12): It is obvious after looking at our website a lot of time and hard work has been put in to these updates to ensure we have a continuous record of Club activities since its inception . I congratulate Ben and all others involved for their efforts.

Email from Jesvin George (24/8/12) who visits **Peter Philferan** regularly. "Peter turned 80 on the 21st August and received an official letter from an MP congratulating him on his 80th birthday. He will get a letter from Queen when he turns 100 but reckons he won't make it. I told him he will make it but I doubt the Queen will. There was a big party at Altona on 19th August with his relatives from Gippsland. His favourite present was a box of Whitman's chocolates weighing 1.34kg. It's another big day tomorrow with his nieces and nephews at the RACV restaurant in the city. He will get picked up at 12pm. He is happy as ever and reckons my 10,000 km local riding is peanuts and gave me some cornering advice." ☺

Email from **Geoff Jones** (20/8/2012) after retiring hurt from Camperdown when his rear shock absorber lost all damping: Past "limp home" efforts were usually on the RZ350 running on one cylinder. Today's trip, after losing damping on the rear shock at Camperdown, was more a "bouncy all the way home". Not bad on the straights but interesting in the rougher corners. Faulty unit swapped for a shed spare and now to have a deep and meaningful chat with the repair place in Sunbury.

Note next month is a **General Meeting** at **Hawthorn** and we have a guest speaker for your entertainment and education, Dave Edgecombe, owner of Dynobike. His topic will be "Fuel Injected Motorcycles - the importance of retuning when exhausts systems are modified." Dave is an extremely knowledgeable speaker and as quite a few riders have headed down the performance route with their bikes, it is very appropriate that he have an informal chat with us. If there is a demand, then a "Dyno Day" may be organised on a Saturday, something we have done a few times in the past.