

President's Report – July 2013

Another year has passed for the “Melbourne Sportsbike Riders” with the last 12 months being very positive as we have had a continual increase in membership and that in turn has maintained our financial stability. With regards to incidents, crashes had been few and of a minor nature up until the early part of 2013. Then we had a spate of serious crashes where the Club members required hospitalisation. What is more detrimental to our motorcycling enjoyment is the ever expanding suburbia with its lower speed limits which are vigorously enforced. We then need to travel further afield which makes our rides longer and more costly.

Membership Numbers: Our membership continues to rise and recently passed the 100 financial member mark. This is major milestone with these numbers not seen since the early 1990's and although this gives us financial strength it is offset by the extra effort needed to produce magazines to cater for all these members! But it does confirm that we are doing something right and that sport motorcycling still appeals to many riders.

Social Events: Il Gambero has proven to be an ideal social spot, although with a monthly average of only 12 members and friends in attendance it is of some concern but until the venue is unhappy with these numbers we will continue our patronage. The Tower Hotel, where our formal meetings are held, is also popular. Having a separate room all to ourselves is a bonus that allows members to enjoy a meal, socialize and participate in the subject matter of the formal meeting.

Membership Fees: To enable an accurate assessment of our fee structure, the Committee recently reviewed the costs associated with running the Club and, based on this review, it was decided that there is no need for an increase in membership fees. This review also showed the true cost of printing and postage of the Club magazine and from that it was decided to offer members an electronic magazine for a substantially reduced membership fee.

Club Magazine: The continuing high editorial standard of our magazine continues and as previously noted we will now offer an optional E-magazine for those members who don't need a physical publication to read. This initiative not only saves printing and postage costs but also reduces voluntary time and effort put into this task by the Editor. Thanks to Ben for another excellent year's work not only in the magazine production but also in the many updates and changes he has generated on the MSR website.

Committee: As per usual over the year, the Committee has dealt with many and varied tasks, some unprecedented but these issues were resolved in a professional and efficient way.

Unfortunately, this election sees the retirement of:-

- Paul Southwell. Paul joined the club in 2003 and a year later was on the Committee where he has remained ever since. I thank him for all his efforts over the years.
- Cindy Lee. Thankfully Cindy has agreed to continue as moderator of our Facebook page and Google Group. I thank her for bringing her viewpoint to many of our discussions.
- Ron Johnston is also stepping down but hopes to return to a Committee position at a later time.

I would like thank all Committee members for their dedication and endeavors over the last 12 months:-

Vice President - Paul Southwell
Treasurer – Marc Marais
Secretary/Editor/Public Officer - Ben Warden
Captain – Cliff Peters
Vice Captain – Ron Johnston
Assistant Secretary – Cindy Lee
Committee Member – Robert Langer
Committee Member – John Willis

To all members I thank you for your participation and friendship and look forward to your continuing support.

Ian Payne

President 2012/2013