

SOLEX OZ

September 2007 Newsletter.



**Beautiful 1700 Restoration by member Martin W. of Ballina
N.S.W.**

PAST EVENTS

Spring Run

The first day of spring saw our inaugural Solex Oz run. Although only a small turnout, caused mainly by a last minute change of dates, but nonetheless a good day. It was great to see Mark come down from Drouin with his 2200 to join in the run. Andrew Mc. on the 5000 and myself on the 3800 headed down to Powerhouse for the start.

Unfortunately, Don D's Plisolex 5000 broke down on his way to the start and was not able to join us.

After a thrash around Albert Park Lake and back along the beach to Port Melbourne swapping bikes several times enroute, we retired to the Solex central for French toast, maple syrup and lashings of coffee and many lies about how fast we were all going.

Whilst the run was in progress, Ted C and Peter H were at home preparing their bikes for the next day. Both were later blaming each other for the confusion!

Tech Day.

A few weeks later, we had an informal tech day at my place. It was chance to get better acquainted with our bikes and get some of them going a bit better, attendees included Ern M, Don D, Andrew McD, Ted C, Peter H and myself. After some fiddling with the Solexes and some morning tea, we had a buzz around the back streets of Albert Park trying each other's bikes out. Although planned as low-key event, everyone had a great day. We will have another soon, hopefully in the next few months.

COMING EVENTS

Our next run will take place on Sunday morning, 18th November. Details will be emailed early November. Andrew McD. has kindly invited us to finish the run at his fabulous warehouse of automobile treasure's, this is not to be missed.

NEW ZEALAND

Earlier this year Don D. bought along an excellent 3800/5000 workshop manual (in English) from the 1970's, for our group to reproduce. On the cover was a stamp of the original supplier and Solex distributor, the Cycle Trading Company and an address in Christchurch N.Z.

I was recently in Christchurch and decided to see if the company still existed. To my surprise, they were still operating although at a different address. The owner Keith an enthusiast of early cycles was most helpful and allowed me to go through his stock of Solex parts. I was able to purchase some hard to find items (NOS). Keith also took me to visit an old friend of his, Leon who drove steam locos for over 40 years and has one of the best collection's of ancient cycles I have ever seen, he also had a few Solexes and a beautiful 1950's Mobylette which I rode. Although it was 49cc it went like a rocket and was great to ride. Thanks to Keith and Leon for being so helpful, they will both be in Melbourne sometime early in 2008, so I hope we can have a run and coffee with them.

TECHNICAL

Andrew McD. has some parts to complete his 1700 resto with the help of Mark Mc. who was in Paris recently. Peter H. has got his yellow 5000 running after much work, we hope to see this on the next run. I also have the 3300 running but it still needs a new set of rings before it will be reliable.

Well that is all for this newsletter, with the good weather we should see more Solexes out and about. If anyone needs help to get there bikes going please call out for help, and if you need an update of the members contact list email us on solexoz@gmail.com

Attached are some photos of our springtime run departing Powerhouse, thanks to Francis McD.



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