



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

DON'S DESCENT INTO DARKNESS RUN.

Attendees : John M and Geoff (1700's), Alvin, Charles, John and Peter (3800's), Neil (5000), Don S (4600) and Dee(no bike due to catering purposes).

Friday 13th – what could possibly go wrong? I mean, who, in this day and age harbours superstition?

The run Neil and I had from Geelong to central Melbourne was quick and easy. From then on, it was a nightmare with Neil stating more than once that he was so glad that he didn't have to commute to Melbourne for work on a regular basis anymore. We rang ahead and advised the rest of the group of our pending late arrival and that the first (daylight) run should proceed without us, We finally arrived to a warm welcome from Dee about 10 minutes before the group returned. This gave us an excuse to sample some of the food and wine.

After the arrival of the riders and the usual social chatting, Don fired up the BBQ whilst Dee brought out some terrific food to accompany the meats. Neil had also brought some of his famous chocolate mousse and Charles supplied some very tasty home made cakes.

Good food and drink combined with good people equals one of the pleasures of life. Combine this with good night riding weather, Solex bikes and virtually empty bike tracks and you have the recipe for a great run. We all headed off in a haze of two stroke with light blazing and Don as leader of the pack. Don had picked some great tracks. About 5 kms into the ride, Peter's headlight stopped working. Geoff and I stopped to render assistance. The problem was simple to fix and we were soon on our way again. However, after restarting, my bike felt sluggish and after about 500 metres, I reported to Geoff that there seemed to be a problem. About 30 seconds after this the motor gave an alarming HARRUMPH noise and locked solid!

Geoff kindly went ahead to tell the others we were going to return to Don's with his bike under power and mine under pedal. Solex bikes have many redeeming features but proceeding under pedal power alone is not one of them! Every hill we traversed prior to the breakdown basically went un noticed but I certainly noticed them without an engine to assist me!

By the time we got back to Don and Dee's I was hot and exhausted. Dee was quick to supply some water and a drink of coffee. I felt much better. Soon the others arrived back at base with reports of Don succeeding yet again in conducting and planning another great ride. We settled down to some more drinks and socializing.

It was well after 10.00pm that we headed for home.

A very big thank you to Don and Dee for all their effort, planning and provisions for such a good run.

It seems to me that superstition over Friday 13th belongs in the dark ages. But just to cover myself, if I ever do another run on this date again I intend to walk three times backwards around my bike with a lit candle chanting some sort of incantation!





Lights,
camera
-no
action.



Oh dear.
Slight
problem here!

Out next run:

A DAY IN TRENTHAM.

Time to enjoy another "Day in Trentham" on Saturday November 18th. Arrive between 10 to 10.30 at 28 Cosmo Road, use side entrance in South Street. After un-loading the Solexes we will ride to John and Pam McCallum's in Rocke Court Gonyah Bend (5 minute ride) for morning coffee and prepare for our Solex Race??

As Slow events have become popular with Slow Food and Slow Living it seems logical to have a Slow Solex Race. This will include a mass start then around short course of about 300 metres. The winner be the last Solex to arrive back at John's, the only rules are riders feet must not touch the ground once started and the Solex go straight ahead with no noticeable zig zagging, marshals will be on the course to disqualify any rule breakers, this should be a fun event and the prize will be knowing that you are slowest Solex rider in Oz.

Even before the event we already have one protest lodged from an N. Ellis Esq. of Geelong. Ellis claims that his Solex is not capable of going slow, the adjudicators have conceded and allowed Neil a handicap being a bluestone block to be towed around the course to help slow him down, it is believed that other riders have protested against Neil's protest??

We will then ride back to Walters Farm for our usual lunch of hot roast

pulled pork in bread rolls served with salads, Neil will be making his famous Chocolate Mousse yet again to sweeten things and John may bring along his famous Dutch Sour Cheery Cake, you only need to bring along your favourite drinks for a most enjoyable day.

After lunch we will undertake a short ride around the quiet country lanes and byways as well as a look around the historic Hamlet of Trentham.

The Scott's property was originally known as "Walters Farm", the Walters Family ran dairy cattle on 48 acres for over 85 years but much of the farm was subdivided about 12 years ago leaving the old farmhouse and milking shed on two thirds of an acre.

Bring along the Family as there will be plenty to do including a walk around this historic town, maybe a coffee and bun at the famous Red Beard Bakery with it's 100 year old Scotch Oven, visit other shops and cafe's as well as a chance to purchase some of the local gourmet produce from the surrounding areas.

This is a strictly RSVP event for catering purposes, a reply email or phone no later than Tuesday November 14 advising numbers is essential.