



## NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

### A DAY IN TRENTHAM.

**Attendees :** Neil (5000), John M, Don S, Leon, Geoff (1700's), Charles, Alvin, Neville, John Mc, Graham (3800's), Kerry, Sue, Pam, Wendy and Di (support crew)..

The weather forecast for this run was for 28 degrees and a good chance of a thunderstorm. The day dawned cloudy but warm. The mix of Solex models and riders was a bit different than usual. There were four model 1700's instead of the usual one or two and no 4600's (the weapon of choice for the two Dons). There was a large contingent of 3800's. Neil was the sole representative of the 5000. Although Alvin was riding a 3800 he had also brought along a very interesting and good looking 1956 model 660. Leon's model 1700 was also a great looking bike – black with good chrome and white wall tyres is always a great combination.

We assembled at Geoff and Kerry's place and admired his early 2CV and silver Amilcar. This year saw a new edition to Geoff's fleet- a 1925 G series Amilcar roadster. The classic lines and dark blue paintwork make this quite a stunning car.

From Geoff and Kerry's we were to ride to John and Pam's for coffee and cake and to plan our Solex race with a difference. My bike with its freshly rebuilt top end (after the mishap on the last run) and good turn of speed was to be of no avail because this race was to be won by the slowest bike on the designated course. Move over Neil and Frank – this was not your type of race either! Geoff had leaked the idea prior to the event and in the spirit of creativity and creative rule bending one rider was going to tow a heavy bluestone block and another rider was going to tow a hand trolley loaded with firewood! I shall not quote any names.

The race started off in earnest. I hope John and Pam's neighbours were warned about what was to happen because otherwise they would have been very dismayed and been tempted to call the men in white coats with straight jackets. John M and Neil lost patience very quickly and decided to burn bitumen whilst the still carried on seriously. Eventually – and I mean EVENTUALLY it was Charles who emerged as the victor. He obviously has a talent for maintaining balance whilst being overtaken by the other riders – and the occasional slater bug or ant.

The real word that comes to my mind today is “snail”. Some things happen in threes. Charles won the snail race. We had two Citroen 2CV’s (tin snails) on display today Please refer to photo below – we caught a real snail humping Geoff’s 2CV. What the result will be who knows! Happy fatherhood Geoff.



**Charles the victor.  
Neil the vanquished!**



**Aw c'mon  
fellas, it was  
only a joke.**



**SNAILS**



**Model 660**

### **A few words from Don B.**

Hello again John and Geoff

I've attached the information and proposal distributed and discussed briefly with Solex riders earlier this year at the Boathouse.

Marg and I have pretty well finalised our plans for the next 6 months or so, including a possible "High Plains Ride" for those interested.

**In summary, we plan to spend around two weeks "camped" in the Blue Duck/Glen Wills area just after Easter next year!!**

**We would be happy to arrange a ride program for anyone interested in taking up this opportunity, including the two rides outlined in the attachment.**

Could you please circulate this info to all members of the Solex group, with our invitation for them to contact us directly if they want more information.

Thanks for your assistance

**Don & Marg Buckmaster**

**0419 546 065**

## SOLEX HIGH COUNTRY CHALLENGE

I've included this suggestion because Marg and I have spent a great deal of our most memorable time in these mountains, skiing in winter and trout fishing/camping in the warmer months, and we still love the place and are always looking for another way to keep the flame alive.

The area is pretty remote in one sense, with few full-time residents and a relatively long way (approx 6 hour drive) from Melbourne.

There are two quite different rides (both on-road) waiting for you in the area :-

**The first is a return ride along the Omeo Valley Highway** from Angler's Rest (Blue Duck Hotel) to Glen Valley/Glen Wills, following the Mitta Mitta River with endless river views and glimpses of Mount Wills and surrounding peaks along the way.

There are few permanent residents along the way, including Payne's Hut and the Mittagundi Youth Camp which we could visit by arrangement if you wish.

**The second is a return ride across the Bogong High Plains** from Trapyard Gap/Faithfull's Hut (some 1500 metres above the Mitta Mitta River) to the Falls Creek ski village. I have done the trip both ways on my trusty Solex, and had no trouble whatsoever apart from some pedalling on a few really steep pinches AND the views are truly sensational.

Be assured, there is no way our brave Solexes could manage the climb up onto the High Plains from the Mitta Mitta River (or be able to stop going downhill the other way), so we would need to transport bikes from the valley by car to our agreed rendezvous/starting point on the High Plains.

I suggest this junket would be best undertaken during the week outside school/public holiday periods, mainly to avoid peak traffic periods along the

**Accommodation** is available in **Omeo** (caravan park, hotels, motel), **Blue Duck/Angler's rest** (cabins and riverside free camping on Cobungra River, **Joker Camp** (riverside free camping on Mitta River) and at **Paynes Hut B&B** (at Shannonvale) if you want a truly unique B&B with mountain views towards Mount Bogong.

Access to the area is all by sealed highway :-

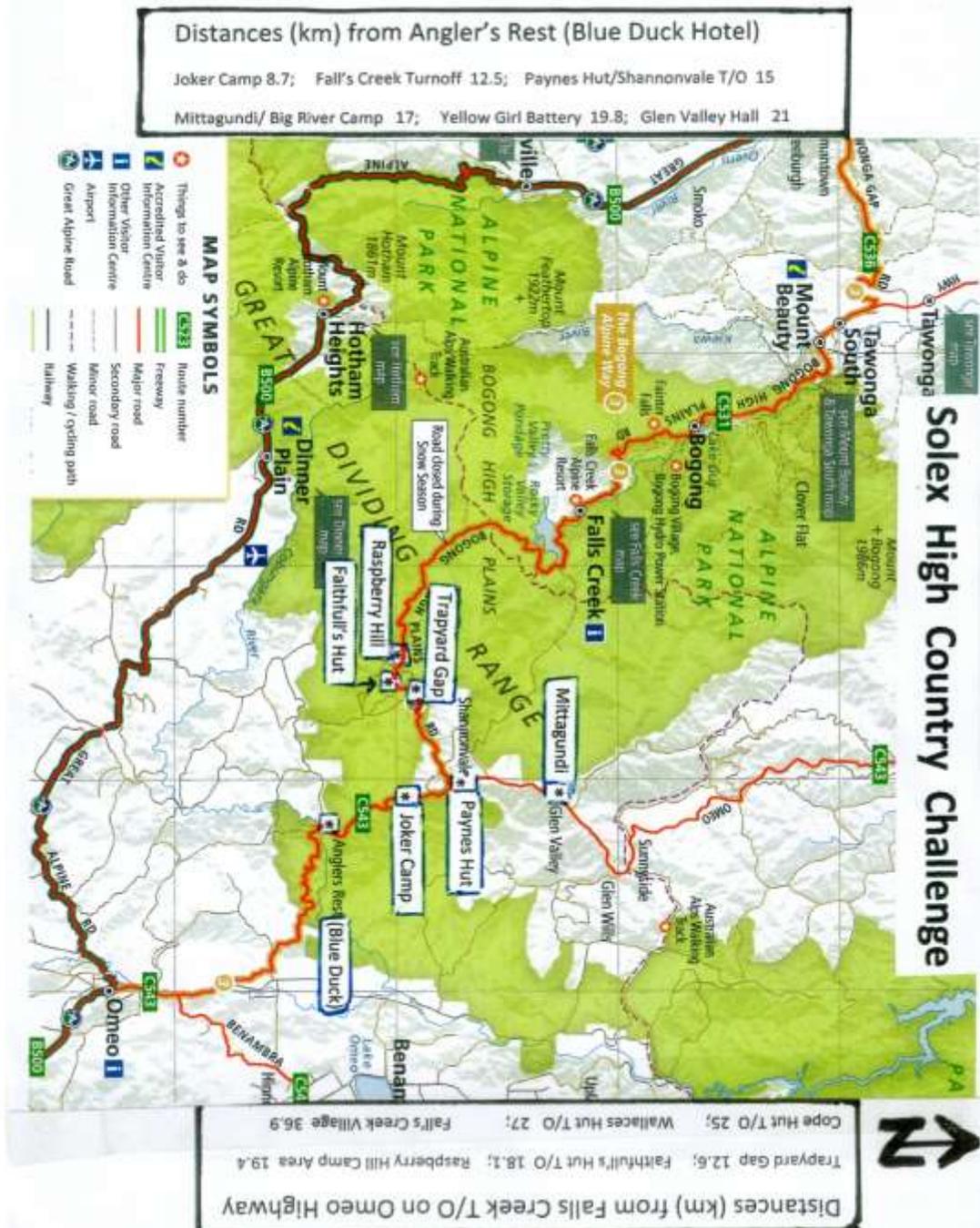
via Gippsland and Omeo from the south, or

via Hume Highway, Bright & Mt Hotham, or

via Hume Highway, Wangaratta & Falls Creek

There are endless options for incorporating a unique Solex ride into a bigger holiday plan, and the Buckshots would be happy to assist with any forward planning on request.

Happy to spend some time discussing anything at all about the above when convenient ...  
Don B



## DECEMBER RUN

Our last run of the year will be the Scarsdale to Skipton rail trail on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>. On this run we will present our perpetual trophy to a well deserving recipient. This is a very long run on a relatively deserted track so there is plenty of opportunity to clear the cobwebs from your Solex. It might pay to give your bike a good check over prior to this run because it is quite long and fast. It could be a long

way back to your car if a breakdown occurs. A reminder with details will be sent in the week leading up to the run.