



MAY NEWSLETTER

CURLEWIS TO QUEENSCLIFF RUN

ATTENDEES : Neil(45), Frances and John M(1700's), Don S(3300), Al, John and Charles(3800's), Geoff(5000) and Ern(support crew).

Our ride day started off cool and cloudy with not much wind. We had had a bit of rain lately but overall this had served to pack the gravel down nicely and cause a minimum of dust.

We left Curlewis shortly before 10.00am and the track from here to Drysdale is smoothly paved bitumen. Progress was good. Frances had borrowed John's beige 1700 for this run and was quickly getting used to it although she did mention that it was quite different to her 5000.

Once past Drysdale the track turns to firm gravel and there wasn't much in the way of traffic so, once again, we made good progress. Soon we passed Suma Park and the former Lakers shell grit site. Just past this point we are on the outskirts of Queenscliff and the track ceases for a while and riders must take a quiet bitumen road called Fellows Road. This road is straight from the start for about 1500metres and we affectionately call it our "mad mile". We all assembled at the start for a race to the end to ascertain the fastest bike. It is amusing to see riders going flat out crouching as low as possible to minimise wind resistance. Frances, however, was having none of this. She promptly took the lead and absolutely blew all challengers to the weeds..... Sitting totally upright the whole way.

Soon we were in picturesque Queenscliff. Queenscliff is a former 1800's seaside resort and as such has many fine old buildings and a great amount of old world charm. Many people are attracted to cafes, picturesque walks and bike rides restaurants and accommodation. It is also a very popular destination for owners of classic cars and motorcycles. Queenscliff also overlooks "The Heads" (the notorious entrance to Port Phillip Bay and has a wonderfully restored old train station with operating old locomotives and carriages operated by very dedicated people.

We headed for the marina which has many food shops where we could sit down and enjoy food, drink and conversation. Once again, our Solex bikes caused quite a bit of interest.

After lunch we rode along The Esplanade and briefly checked out the old military fort which was built in the 1800's to guard the entrance of Port Phillip Bay. From here we rode to a lookout location behind the fort to enjoy panoramic bay views towards the heads. We then rode our bikes down the main street to rejoin the rail trail right next

the old train station. As luck would have it, there was an old steam locomotive with two carriages ready to depart for Drysdale. We set off with great enthusiasm but the train was trundling along quite slowly so we waited at a good vantage point to enable some nice photos. The driver seemed to like our bikes and blew the steam whistle whilst passing. We then remounted and gradually caught up with the train and passed it. We repeated the “stopping to watch” process a few times before parting company.

After a what seemed a short time we were back at Drysdale and then Curlewis. It had been another very nice ride and the train had added quite a bit of interest.





Our mad mile winner. Welcome to the world of speed Frances



More powerful than a locomotive. Great Caesars Ghost. It's Super Solex

AN IMPROMPTU RECONAISSANCE

The Venus Bay weekend run was often run at this time of the year but hadn't really enjoyed the attendance it deserved. This was possibly due to it requiring either a very early morning start from Melbourne or Geelong or a Friday and Saturday stay at Don and Dee's place at Venus Bay.

Don, Dee, Neil and myself got together to see if the run could be held without a Friday night stay but still give Melbourne and Geelong attendees plenty of time to arrive at the starting point and then enjoy a reasonably decent run with an overnight stay and then return along the same track back to our starting point.

The starting point (which could done from around midday in order to give attendees plenty of time to get there) is at a small village called Koonwarra and the trail is called "The Great Southern Rail Trail" and it is blessed with panoramic views of lush

bushland, temperate rainforest and pristine seascapes. The Great Southern Rail Trail winds its way through South Gippsland and the surface of the track is quite similar to the Queenscliff rail trail. There is very little traffic and virtually no public road riding. The ride would encompass riding from Koonwarra to Port Welshpool and return for overnight accommodation at Welshpool hotel/motel which is quite inexpensive and has excellent evening meals. The following morning after breakfast the return journey would take us back to Koonwarra. The total distance travelled would be 135 klms.

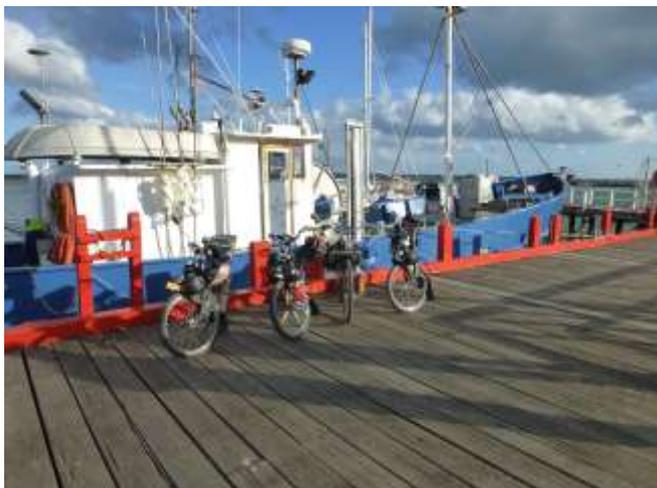
Here are some notes of our reconnaissance run :

Start at Koonwarra- a very picturesque village known for its fresh produce at a once a month farmers market and enjoyable café offering good food and coffee. The track from here to Fish Creek is just over 25 klms and skirts green pastures and semi bushland. Fish creek has some very good cafes offering good food and drink. After leaving here we follow the track which by passes Foster and Toora. Again, the track had beautiful scenery which by now gives glimpses of the sea and the distant hills of Wilson Prom. Along this stretch we pass undulating very green farmland and even some rainforest. Toora is an historic town situated at the foot of Mt Best and Mt Fatigue and as such it offers terrific views towards the mountains but also spectacular views to Corner Inlet and Wilsons Prom. From here we head to Port Welshpool and are greeted by a coastline complete with fishing boats, picnic and BBQ facilities and the end of the trail.

We then double back to our overnight stop at Welshpool which is nestled in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges and, once again, offers terrific views. The hotel/motel here offers a very good evening meal but not breakfast.

Next morning we had breakfast at a café across the road which was ok but not something to enthusiastically return for. We then started the return journey which has some nice long straights to Toora and from there the already mentioned scenery to Koonwarra which took around 21/2 hours.

Now this is quite a long run but would have to be one of the best Solex runs I have ever done. Right up there with the weekend run we did a few years ago to Bright. I would like to do this run with our group and encourage you to convey your interest or comments to either Don, myself or Neil so that we can make it happen.





BIKE FOR SALE

Bob has a nice model 2200 for sale and can be contacted on 0417110143
Good original condition.
New tyres / Strong motor (can keep up with Neil.) Asking \$1500.00



OUR NEXT RUN

THE JUNE SOLEX RUN WILL BE ON SATURDAY THE 16th AND WILL START FROM DON & DEE'S PLACE 14.KALYMNA GVE CHADSTONE 3148. WE WILL BE LEAVING AT 10 AM. THE RIDE IS TO JELLS PARK WHERE WE WILL HAVE MORNING TEA . A ROUND TRIP OF SOME 50 KM. MOST OF THE RIDE IS ON A VERY PRETTY BIKE TRACK SOME OF WHICH YOU WILL HAVE DONE BEFORE ON THE NIGHT RUN. YOU WILL SEE MORE THIS TIME. JELLS PARK IS EXTENSIVE AND 3 OTHER BIKE TRACKS END THERE. SOMETHING FOR ANOTHER TIME ?. ON RETURNING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SCUTTS.