

SolexOz

NEWSLETTER # 27, MARCH 2010



HAPPY 3rd BIRTHDAY SOLEXOZ

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, March brings up three wonderful years of SolexOz. Although we have grown beyond all expectations, we have remained true to our original aims of enjoyment and passion for all things SOLEX without the burden of being a Club. We are still just a group of friends whose only aim is to get together and enjoy our Solexes. Pure and unadulterated fun.

PAST EVENTS

Ern's February run was a corker, a great run through the Koonung Creek Bush Trail followed by the chance to give our bikes a run on Ern's very rare Mertens Solex Test bench (Dyno). This was all topped off with a superb morning tea prepared by June.

The Mertens Test Bench was supplied to Solex Agents in the 50's and 60's and used to test the output of the Solex as a unit when driven through the front wheel. An electric motor turns the front wheel and in turn starts the motor. The Electric motor then acts a load on the Solex motor allowing the operator to tune it to maximum performance.

Mertens Test Benches are now very rare: Ern's being the only known example in Australia that we believe came from the original Solex Agent in Brisbane in the early sixties. Even in France, they are quite rare and only found in Solex Museums and the odd private collection. It is quite a privilege to see one not only in fully operating condition but in also being able to put our bikes on it for a test, well done Ern.

Our thanks to Ern and June for giving us all a great day.

Attendees were Dom, Frances and Ted on 5000's, Glen on the 2200, Joe on the REX, Ern on the Pli, Saskia, Peter and Geoff on 3800's. Graham bought along some Solex parts he has recently restored, excellent workmanship.



FUTURE EVENTS

Our March Run will be held this coming Sunday, March 14, and will be a repeat of last years very popular Maribyrnong River Trail to the Boat House Café, details in the next few days.

We will have two events during April, the first on Sunday April 11, this being the Annual French Car Festival at Macleay Park Balwyn. We attended this great event last year with the French Car Clubs making us most welcome. Further details to be sent out in early April.

The second, on Sunday April 25, will be Don's Great Gippsland South Run from Anderson to Wonthaggi with a stop at the famous Kilcunda Pub for Lunch. The route will follow the scenic Rail Trail with the spectacular Bass Coast as a backdrop. Do not miss this one.

Our May Run will be our first All Day Bellarine Peninsula Tour, being organized by Neil, this should be a great day and a chance to give our Solexes a good run through this beautiful part of Victoria.

BIKES AND PEOPLE

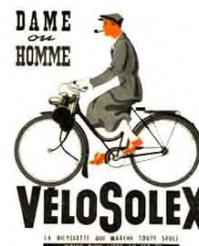
It has become obvious over the past 6 months that the availability of Solexes in Australia has diminished. About 80% of Solexes on our register were originally found within Australia but very few are now turning up. Some of our members have turned to overseas sellers to find the model they are looking for. The following members have bought Solexes into Australia over recent months; Ted, a Blue 5000 from Germany, Graham several 5000's from New Zealand, Glen, Joe and Marty have bought in 3800's from Germany and Geoff a 660 from the UK. Although we still may see Solexes turn up here in various parts of Australia, it is most likely that we will see many more imports.

The following Solexes are currently close to completion and should be seen on runs shortly, Joe's German Blue 3800, Glen's Baby Blue 3800, Graham's White 5000. Geoff's 660 has had its first start, looks, and runs really well.

On the first Saturday in March Marty bought his Blue 3800 Luxe and 1700 up to Glens for some work. Within a few hours new tyres were fitted and final assembly took place, the 3800 was walked 2 metres and fired up instantly, Marty's smile could be seen 100 meters away as he raced up and down the street outside Glens house. The 1700 also started not long after and although needing a little more work, is now usable.

This newsletter is a bit late as I Kerry and I have been touring the Wilds of Tasmania in the past week. The following page is yet another excellent photomontage by Frances, depicting last months run Koonung Creek Run.

A special thanks to all our members for their ongoing support and help over the past 3 years, we look forward to sharing many more fabulous years of fun and camaraderie.



Keep on Buzzing, Geoff.

KOONUNG CREEK RUN 13 FEBRUARY 2010

