

SolexOz

NEWSLETTER # 31, JULY 2010

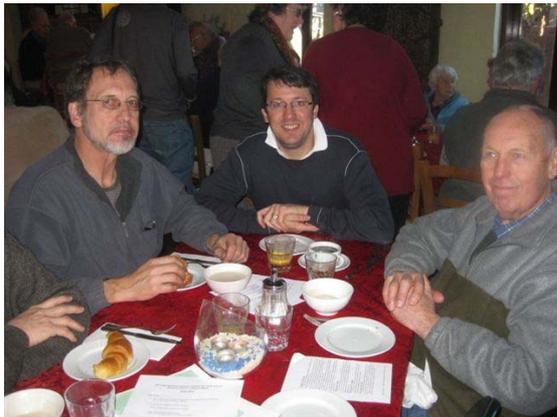
NEWS

Our July run was the annual Bastille Day event. As in previous years, member Ted had invited us to share this patriotic French Day with the Citroen Car Clubs. Although the weather had been marginal all week, the French Weather Gods smiled upon us and the ride from South Melbourne to Williamstown turned out to be a Buzz.

Blue skies and a stiff following breeze bought out the competitive spirit and the ride along the Yarra to the old port of Williamstown was a fast and furious fun. The return journey home into the breeze with a ballast of pastries, crêpes and coffee was somewhat slower but still very enjoyable.

The fine fare and conviviality together with a magnificent rendition of "La Marseillaise" led by Monsieur Ted rounded off this very enjoyable breakfast.

Riders were; Glen on the 330, Tiby on his 1700, Joe on the REX, Ern and Geoff on 3800's and Frank on his 5000. Other members present at the breakfast were Bruce, Bev, Bob, Saskia, Helen and Ted with Dom and Neil arriving later in the morning.



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1. Joe, Tiby and Ern
2. Team SolexOz upon arrival at Café Breizoz
3. Glen, Frank, Geoff, John with Bruce in front proudly displaying the colours of France complete with period Beret.



FUTURE EVENTS

Our next run will take place on Saturday August 14 and will be a loop around Melbourne following the Old Inner Circle Rail Trail. This will start from Richmond and travel through Kew. Clifton Hill, North Fitzroy, across to the Zoo and Royal Park then South to the Docklands, Southbank and back along the Yarra to Richmond. Full details and start point will be sent out during the week prior, so please mark this in your Diaries, this should be a fascinating run.

BIKES AND PEOPLE

New members this month include Miguel who operates an Antique shop in Malvern and has a very original 2200. Miguel sold this Solex some years ago, has recently repurchased it, and hopes to ride it on future runs with our group.

Chester from Bentleigh is involved in Veteran cars and a good friend of member Andrew. Chester has purchased a very nice 3800 from Glen and we look forward to seeing him out and about with our group.

A warm welcome to both Miguel and Chester from all SolexOz members.

Joe is making good progress on his two Solex projects. The 3800 luxe has been completely zinc coated and will receive a top coat of its original Blue colour. Joe is also beavering away on the exciting 3800 "Triporteur". When finished it will be the only one of its type in Australia and should create quite a stir on future runs. Very few of the three wheel Triporteur's were manufactured and even fewer have survived in Europe.



A very smart three wheel "Triporteur".

Ern has acquired his "second" Mertens Test Bench. These are very rare and few have survived in Europe, but to have two side by side in Australia is an exciting development and quite remarkable.

All Velosolex dealers were required to have a standard workshop setup including a Mertens Bench as part of its equipment. They were used as Dynamometer to test and tune the output of the Solex motor by running the motor whilst attached to the frame.

An electric motor started the Solex Motor as well as applying a load so testing could determine output.

The test bench included a Cooling fan, an Exhaust Gas Extractor, and a Speedometer to indicate output.

There were four Solex Dealers in Australia, one each in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide in the early 1960's.

Ern's first Mertens bench, found by Geoff in Mackay Qld, and is believed to have come from the original Brisbane Dealer. Ern's recently acquired model came from the Original dealer in Christchurch, New Zealand, "The Cycle Trading Company" that is still run by member Keith.

The Mertens, built for Solex were all numbered including the year built. Ern has restored the first bench and was demonstrated on a recent Run at Ern's house with members being able to try it.



Early Solex mounted on a Mertens Bench.