

SolexOz

NEWSLETTER # 39 MARCH 2011

WWW.SOLEXOZ.ORG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
"SOLEXOZ"



Yes, it is four wonderful years since SolexOz was born and although our non-club has grown and matured, it still remains true to its original aims and philosophies.

Our group consists of a Non President, a non committee, non fees and non politics. More importantly our group consists of a group of non pretentious people with a passion for all things Solex and having large helpings of fun. This formula has served us well and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come.

Another element of our success is the way everyone pitches in and helps to run events, help with technical skills, guidance and parts procurement. We also should acknowledge the excellent work done over the years by our website crew including Brian, Mark and in recent years, the great work done by Uncle Joe.

Our wonderful photographer Frances has been with us since our very first run in 2007 recording the fun and history and converting it into great photomontages for our newsletter and galleries for our website and most importantly, wonderful memories.



Here's to another 4 years. yippee!

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

MARCH RUN.

Our planned South Gippsland Rail Trail event failed to happen in March due to nearly everyone having prior commitments including Operations, Weddings pending Births and other pre-planned activities. I received a large number of emails and phone calls from disappointed members hoping that we can re-schedule this event in the near future, so Don is working on another date, details soon.

A few members still needed there Solex Fix so a short run from Geoff's to Frank's in Brighton was made including the obligatory Coffee and Buns. Our thanks to Frank and Denise for their generous hospitality, as always.

APRIL RUN, "THE BIG ONE".

On Saturday April 16 our annual Geelong to Queenscliff Run will again take place. Arguably our best and most popular event of the year, this run covers about 70 kilometers of Rail Trail across the picturesque Bellarine Peninsula.

We will start at Neil's beautiful and historic home in Newcomb and dropping in at Bruce's country property in Leopold. Then on down the very scenic Rail Trail to Queenscliff for lunch and a short tour of this Historic Coastal Town, returning to Neil's for an afternoon drinks and nibbles under the garden rotunda.

Final details will be posted the week prior, please pencil this date into the diary, as a "do not miss" event.

BIKES AND PEOPLE

KEITH, CYCLE TRADING COMPANY, CHRISTCHURCH NZ.

Our good friend and member in Christchurch NZ, Keith has, like nearly everyone in that area, been affected by the recent disastrous earthquakes. Graham has been attempting to contact Keith for several weeks to make sure he is well. Last week Graham received news that Keith is indeed well but before and after photos have now come to light showing the damage to Keith's shop in Manchester Street Christchurch. Keith has been a very good friend to our members and those of us that have visited Keith were greatly relieved to know that Keith is OK. Our thoughts are with Keith and the loss and the work ahead for him. Best wishes Keith from all your friends at SolexOz.



OTHER NEWS

Don from Wauchope, just outside Port Macquarie on the North Coast of NSW, has sent us progress photos of his 1700 project. Don found this bike recently, as shown in the first photo, complete except for the motor. He has since acquired a motor from Stephane in France as well as a new set of new tyres from Geoff. The second photo show the excellent progress made so far and Don expects to be out and about in the not to distant future, well done Don.



My next-door neighbor John has purchased a 3800 that was originally bought to Australia from Germany by Markus 2 years ago. Markus rebuilt this Solex to a high standard to ride from Noosa Heads to Melbourne but eventually drove down with the bike in the car and attended several of our events before heading home to Germany minus the Solex. I was lucky enough to purchase the Solex from Markus upon his return to Germany and have enjoyed two wonderful years riding it in many events.

This Solex was one of the first in Australia with a three Port Cylinder conversion giving improved performance especially on hills. Neil has since become our local expert with this style of tuning and is happy to offer tuning advice and help to our members.

John has already been on several runs using borrowed bikes but is now excited to have his very own 3800 and is looking forward to many future rides with our group.

Ted is making rapid progress with his rare and beautiful old 45cc Solex. This is the oldest Solex in Australia being a year older than my identical model. Ted is being careful not to loose any of the lovely patina of this highly original bike and when finished should be almost an identical twin with my 45cc.

This model was the first production Solex that featured large 26" wheels some beautiful engineering. The following photo indicates the progress made with only wiring and motor still yet to be fitted.



Indoor Solex, Ted's 45cc in the living room.

Warning! Do not try this at home without carefully checking your pre-nuptial agreement?

PHOTOS FROM THE ARCHIVES



**For those that crave a little more power or maybe
a bit of colour matching.**

