



## **NEWSLETTER #41 MAY 2011**

### **NEWS**

Welcome to our May 2011 newsletter, after many years of dry conditions that included mild Autumns and Winters in Victoria we are, unfortunately for Solexists, getting back to more normal colder weather. So cold and inclement that our planned May Frostbite Coastal Run had to be cancelled at the last minute due to Rain, Hail and 40 km/h winds whipping up from the Southern Ocean. We cannot complain though, over the passed 4 years we have only had to cancel a couple of previous runs, not a bad record.

Ern has finally been given the green light by his Surgeon to get back on the Solex after long layoff following a major foot operation, we look forward to seeing him out on his latest resto a beautiful 5000 Pli Solex. This Ern's third Pli.

Cath and John are currently away on a European jaunt for 3 weeks and so far have not sighted one Solex, I have suggested to John that he may have return home if he wishes to see a bunch of Solexists enjoying themselves.

Andrew and Frances have just arrived in Paris at the start of a 3 month tour of Europe including a National Alvis Rally in the UK. They have spotted a 2CV but no Solexes as yet.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our next run will take place on Saturday June 18. The Run will start and finish at Ted's Factory in Dandenong and will follow the trail along the Patterson River to Carrum Beach for a coffee stop. Upon our return we will have the chance to see some of Ted's exotic French machinery. Further details to be posted a week prior. Mark this date in the Diary.

Planning for our 2 day Alpine Adventure Run in October is going very well and we have had an excellent response from those wishing to reserve accommodation. Cath and John have kindly offered several of their rental apartments in Bright for our use at a minimal price just to cover cleaning costs. We plan to arrive in Bright on Friday afternoon and spend the next two days touring this wonderful Alpine region using the spectacular rail trails around Beechworth and Bright. Some of Victoria's best gourmet food and wine is produced in this area and we plan to visit some of the best of these during our rides.

# **BIKES AND PEOPLE**

## **BARN FIND**

In early May, Andrew and Frances were attending a Vintage Alvis Rally in NSW. During a visit to an historic home in Bathurst, Andrew wandered out back for a poke around the barn (what else does one do) and, unbelievably, found a dusty early model Solex. It turned out to be a 1954 330 gooseneck, very rare. Only one other French 330 is known to exist in Australia and belongs to Glen here in Victoria as well as one Dutch 330 belonging to Geoff. Andrew did a deal (while Frances was looking the other way) with the owner who told Andrew that he had purchased the 330 in Shanghai many years before. Well done Andrew.

The total of very rare early clutchless model Solexes continues to grow and now totals 12, with the following now on our latest list.

2x 45cc 650 wheel models, 1x 45cc 600 wheel, 3x 330's, 2x 660's, 1x 1010 and 3x 1400's.



## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UPDATE**

Rolf finally has his 3800 up and running after it arrived in a box from Peter in Melbourne in early May. Rolf has been buzzing around the Adelaide Hills on his first Solex and is having a ball.

## **MBK on eBay**

A rare 1985 Red MBK Solex appeared on eBay a few weeks ago, this is another virtually unused Solex having only been un packed from its packing case last year and has traveled only 30 Kms since. Shiny Frank pounced, to win this gem from several other bidders and hopes to have it shipped from Queensland to Melbourne in the next few weeks. Good move, Frank. The only other known MBK in OZ is Peter's metallic Blue 1987 model.

The MBK was the last true French Solex built before production ceased in the late 1980's.

## **FOR SALE PAGE**

The following Solexes are currently available for sale; please contact the owners for more details.



### **3800, (1967)**

Ern is offering his fully restored 3800 for sale. Rebuilt motor, all chrome done, new tyres and motor guard all correct detail. Since restoration in 2009 this Solex has only traveled about 200 kms. Goes really well. Contact Ern on Mob. 0419 427246



### **1700, (1959)**

Complete early model 1700 project. All the hard work done incl. sand blasting and priming. Comes with all the hard to get parts incl. good headlight and fuel tank. Bargain price of only \$750. Contact Zoran on 0414 953261



### **DUTCH 330, 1954)**

Bought into Australia by original owner in 1956 and used regularly until 1997. This very rare gooseneck frame Dutch 330 has been carefully rebuilt to original and correct specs incl. rebuilt motor and new 24" tyres. This is the only Dutch 330 in Oz it is in immaculate condition and rides beautifully. Contact Geoff on 0403 359876