



## **JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER**

### **NEWS**

2013 is up and running, only two weeks into the new year and the Melbourne group have already had their first run. Also one of our very active members, Ern, celebrated his 80th birthday in early January (see Members Profile).

This year promises to be another great year for our group with an exciting round of runs and social events planned throughout 2013.

#### **RECENT EVENTS**

On Sunday January 13, Peter and Hazel hosted the Fairfield Boathouse Run. This was a well attended and extremely enjoyable event, the weather was just about perfect with a light breeze and a balmy 20 degrees making for perfect riding conditions.

The run commenced from Peter and Hazel's home in Kew and followed the scenic Boulevard through Yarra Bend Park to the historic Fairfield Boathouse for a nosh and Coffee. Its hard to believe that it has been 2 years since our last visit to this great spot.

It was great to see Ted back in the saddle after being sidelined for most of 2012. Our sincere thanks to Peter and Hazel for their kind hospitality and organization.

Riders on the day included: Tiby, Ern and John M. on 1700's, Geoff on the 2200, Andrew, Peter S, Peter H and John F. on 3800's with Frances and Ted on 5000's Apologies came from Joe, Frank, Neil, Don and Brian C.

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Due to the success of our social events such as "La Night at the Boatshed" last May and "Don's Descent into Darkness" in October, we have had requests for more of this type of event in our calendar each year. So our February event will be the first social event of 2013.

On Saturday February 23 the gates of the new Solex Central will open for the day. Geographically located right in the centre of Victoria at Trentham, we will enjoy a day that will include a BBQ lunch, a few short rides around this historic town and a chance to see the new SOLEX Shed, a slightly larger version of the cramped South Melbourne 4 square metre version. (The Trentham one being a staggering 54 square metres), enough room for more Solexes at last??

Final details of the day will be advised in the week prior.

### **BIKES AND PEOPLE**

A friend of SolexOz member Katsuya's, Andrew W, runs a shop in Prahran that specialises in French Antiques. In his latest shipment of antiques Andrew bought in two 3800's, one a very early model as well as a later MBK model. Andrew is keen to get them both going and has requested help and support from our members and hopes to

join us on our runs. Anyone passing Andrew's shop at 529 Malvern Road Prahran would be most welcome to call in to say hello to Andrew and talk Solexes.

Andrew B works for V-Line in Bendigo and is about to start restoring his 1700, he has owned this Solex for over 10 years. Andrew is chasing parts and advice and hopes to have the 1700 up and running in the not to distant future.

A warm SolexOz welcome to the "Two Andrews".

Geoff has purchased Tiby's 2200 recently and used for the first time on the January Run. Tiby purchased the 2200 last year whilst on holiday's in France and has always had a soft spot for 2200's as he was given one by his father for his 18th birthday when living outside Bordeaux. Tiby rode his old 2200 regularly before moving to Australia.

This 2200 was a one owner Solex with the owner receiving it upon completing his schooling as an 18 year old. It is a highly original Solex and goes really well and has great patina having never been restored or altered in any way.

## MEMBERS PROFILE

I had the privilege of attending Ern's 80th Birthday surprise party on Sunday January 6. Ern's wife June needed a distraction to get Ern out of the house whilst his family organised and assembled the guests.

My part in this devious plot was to cart Ern off to Ted's using old cars and coffees with Peter H to keep him out of the way for a few hours.

I first came to know Ern in 1980 when we both sailed Solo Class single handed dinghies at the Albert Park Yacht Club. Co-incidentally one of our fellow sailors in this class of Yacht was none other than Frank.

Ern and June became good friends with our family and since that time Ern and I have shared several passions including vintage MG's and other motoring pursuits.

It great to be still sharing our hobbies, especially riding and working on our Solexes and one hopes this will continue for many years to come.



Ern and Geoff on the "Grid" at the Albert Park AGP circuit in 2008.

FAIRFIELD BOATHOUSE RUN JANUARY 2013

