

SolexOz

JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

NEWS

Welcome to the July SolexOz newsletter, last year Joe put forward the suggestion that we should incorporate a few social events into our calendar each year. This turned out to be an excellent idea and the first of these was "La Night at the Boatshed" in May last year, followed by Don's "Descent into Darkness" in October.

This month saw our group enjoying another Boatshed event that followed last years successful format including a BBQ and some Solex Films that included a doco about the Impex Solex Factory in Hungary and the very funny movie, Jacques Tati's "Mon Oncle".

Neil and John M organised the venue and catering at the Wesley Boatshed and Joe put together the Films. This was a well attended and successful evening thanks to Joe, Neil and John and all their work and to June, Elsie and Kerry for assisting with catering.

Brian C bought along a beautiful and rare Motobacane for display and Neil organised a floorshow of several MFB fire engines after the BBQ set off the smoke alarms?

Participants were, Joe and Pam, Don and Marg B, Neil, John M, John G, Peter S, Jurgen, Brian C, Peter H, Ted C, Ern and Geoff.

The only downside, we were so busy enjoying ourselves that no one remembered to take any photos for our newsletter.

Apologies came from Frances and Andrew, Jennie and Peter, Frank S and Don S.



AUGUST EVENT

Our August event will take place in Kyneton on the Sunday August 11. Ted B has put together and tour around this beautiful part of the Macedon Ranges including a visit to a winery and some other interesting visits. This should be a great event and one not to be missed. Details will be advised the week prior.

BIKES AND PEOPLE

Frank and Denise are currently touring Europe including a cruise, Ern and June will make the long awaited move to Torquay later this month, Ern will advise contact details after the move.

WHY ARE SOLEXES SO ADDICTIVE?

Why do our members derive so much pleasure riding such a basic and un-pretentious machine as the Solex?

The original reason behind the popularity of the Velosolex (over 7 Million sold) was that it was the right machine for its time. Following the WW2 the French found themselves caught up in a period of abject poverty, even decrepit pre war motor vehicles were not affordable and new ones were just a dream. The French still needed transport, even if it was only to go to the village for their baguettes and croissants each day, so the cheap to buy and easy to maintain Solex became a part of everyday life in France as well as other countries such as the Netherlands and Germany.

Over the years that original requirement for transport turned into a cult icon and eventually a very collectable machine. But that in itself does not explain the reasons why grown men and women derive enjoyment nowadays; riding what essentially is a most basic form of transport?

In our group we have many members that could afford much more exotic forms of transport and in fact many have, in the past, owned highly collectable vehicles. Frank S has owned quite a collection of Rolls Royce's and vintage motorcycles, Jurgen is a collector of Mercedes Benz, Ern and I were members of the MG Car Club for many years and ran quite a collection of early MG's and I became President of the Club for some years, Ern was involved in Morris Minors and also became the President of that club. Andrew and Frances have for many years owned a collection of wonderful Veteran and Vintage cars, Brian C has a fine line up of classic motorcycles and list goes on. It is clearly not out of economic necessity that we collect and ride Solexes but most likely the simplicity and addictiveness of this wonderful and iconic machine.

We all enjoy the beautiful simplicity and functionality of the Velosolex as well as the camaraderie and un-pretentiousness of the people that choose to ride them.

Au Revoir