



# MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

## NEWS

Our non club has reached the ripe old age of 8 years, as we enter our ninth year it is more than gratifying to look back to our humble beginnings and ponder our success. Our initial aim was get a few Solex owners together each month, go for a ride and have a coffee and this has remained our unswerving mantra ever since.

By not saddling ourselves with all the unnecessary trappings of an official club and the complications that such clubs often find themselves immersed in, we have continued to enjoy the pure and simple pleasure of just riding together for nothing more than fun and camaraderie.

Organising the runs and producing a monthly newsletter has never been a chore. Right from the very first run when Andrew McDougall, Mark McKibbin and I rode around Albert Park Lake in 2007 people have wanted to participate and help.

Frances was there on that very first day with her ever present camera to record happenings and has not wavered from this task to this day. Bryan Lewis, our first Webmeister, not only designed our website and got it up and running with Mark's help but also designed our regalia and logos. Many others have enthusiastically organised events as well as opening their homes to our group. Our small band of "technical experts" have always generously given their time to help maintain and rebuild bikes and motors as well as carry spares so members can ride reliable and safe Solexes, these include Neil Ellis, Frank Shine, Ern Miller and others. Joe Hovel has been a tower of strength not only as our current Webmeister but also as a true friend and mentor.

My original aim was to act as SolexOz Coordinator for 10 years but after much thought I now feel the time is right to hand over the reigns a little earlier.

I have come to this conclusion for two reasons:

Firstly and possibly a little selfishly, since retiring to the bush I am starting to enjoy a more simple and stress free lifestyle and would now rather be on the receiving end of all of the SolexOz enjoyment rather than of the instigator.

My passion now would be to sit back a little and just look forward to riding with friends each month without any pressure.

Secondly, I am of the opinion that my organisation of events and newsletter ramblings have become a bit repetitive and lacking in inspiration in recent times and believe that a new and fresh approach to SolexOz doings would ensure another 8 years of fun.

Two of SolexOz's strongest supporters and friends John M and Neil have kindly offered to take over the pedalling of SolexOz into the future. I am more than confident that is an excellent outcome for our group. I will be around to assist and organise the odd event whenever required, best wishes to John and Neil and the future of SolexOz. All future correspondence and newsletter articles should directed to John at: [jbmaertzdorf@olin.com.au](mailto:jbmaertzdorf@olin.com.au)

## PAST EVENTS

### Don and Dee's Venus Bay Weekend March 2015 Report and Photos by Hans and Tinie

Hello everyone!

Venus Bay Weekend was active and delicious and very enjoyable! We arrived on Friday afternoon and were straight away looked after by Dee and Don, our A-Van was positioned in a beautiful spot in the gardens. John and Elsie and kids arrived just in time for a quick ride around Venus Bay. We visited the no.5 Beach and several other beautiful spots. Just a warming up exercise for the next 2 big days. Pre dinner drinks followed by an excellently cooked barbecue. Not to mention the Venus Bay Special (coffee). Next morning 4 Solex's were loaded on Don's trailer and 2 on the back of John's car, we were ready for the Fish Creek trail. About 26 km one way, lunch at Fish Creek and back again via the sunny bush trail. Next day we left for Mirboo North. The first attraction: the Venus Bay tip's recycling centre, very interesting! :-)) The Grand Ridge trail, starts right next to the Brewery, maybe after the run...?? The run, about 12 km one way, was terrific. We had coffee at Boolarra and yes... beer at the Mirboo North Brewery after the ride. Again we were blessed with beautiful weather for the day. Then we got a bit in a time squeeze, as John and family had to catch the 6 pm ferry from Sorrento. Double D and the W's had a deliciously prepared food platter by Dee and we were anxious about what would happen, if John and Family would miss that last ferry. We need not have worried! They did miss it, but.... the captain, of a ferry, that had to be returned to Queenscliff, took them on board and they had a private sail from Sorrento, with all the left over food thrown in for good measure. Lucky them. Thanks to the host and hostess for looking after us so well, providing a Solex, camping spot with B&B and lovely company.

Regards Hans and Tinie





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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **BELLARINE PENINSULA RUN SATURDAY APRIL 18**

Our next event will be the sixth running of the Bellarine Peninsula Run, one of our most popular and well attended events on the SolexOz calendar. Our Geelong team always put on an exceptional day and this year will be no exception. As in previous years we will start at John and Elsie's in Curlewis and ride the Queenscliff Trail to the coast for a seafood lunch on the Queenscliff Jetty. Further details will be advised a week prior to the event.



**"The Queenscliff Jetty lunch 3 years ago"**