



## **MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER**

### **NEWS**

Last month was my first newsletter. I felt that it would be very hard to attain the same high standard that Geoff had set. I was, however, very gratified by the positive feedback I received from a number of people including Brian Solex from the USA. I sincerely thank you for your encouragement. I'm just not quite sure how my humble personality will handle becoming a household name !

We have a number of runs which are usually run on an annual basis. These include the Curlewis to Queenscliff, Skipton rail trail, Evening BBQ at the boatshed, and Dons excellent Venus Bay weekend and night run. If anyone has come across any good ideas for future runs, please feel free to bring the idea forward.

### **TECH TIP**

**Do the easy and obvious checks first.**

Hans has recently given me a translated extract from a 1950 Dutch user manual concerning the Solex carborundum roller. " The main cause of the failure of the Solex roll is caused by keeping the roll in contact with the tyre, such as waiting for a traffic light or waiting to cross a road. Understand that the automatic clutch never completely disengages, you feel this by the motor slightly pulling while running stationary. Because of the friction of the clutch, heat builds up, and with some Solexes the clutch housing can be coloured blue, which means that the temperature at some stage has reached 600 degrees, the point where steel temperature changes colour. The core of the Solex roll is made from aluminium that expands with heat ; the carborundum roll cannot cope with this, and causes cracking which , in turn, will cause disintegration of the roll"

Food for thought. I have had roller failure on both my bikes. Replacement can be done with the motor in situ and the job is not too difficult with the right tools but it still can be a pain in the proverbial.

### **INNER CIRCLE TRAIL RUN**

There were 10 attendees: Neil on a 1010, Peter S, John F, Libby, Andrew, Charles and Geoff on 3800's, John M on a 1700, Frank and Peter H on 4600's.

There was a bit of concern about the weather leading up to this run as all week it was quite terrible with plenty of wind and rain. The long range forecast, however, was for nice weather all weekend and this proved to be the case.

The meeting point was in the carpark at the Melbourne Zoo. Before long we were on our way through lots of parkland. The trail eventually follows the Merri Creek and it is here that the scenery becomes more bush like (hard to believe we are in the middle of a very large city).

All too soon, we arrived at the old convent in Abbotsford and settled down to coffee/tea, nice cakes and pastries. Ten Solex bikes all parked in a row nearly always spark a lot of interest with many people surprised that most of the bikes are approaching or exceeding 50 years of age.

The return journey saw a split in numbers and into several different different directions. This was another great run.



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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **LARA TO GEELONG WATERFRONT JUNE 13**

Details to follow.

### **BIKES FOR SALE**

Ern is selling a wonderful, original example of the very rare (only 2,500 made worldwide) folding Plisolex. Ern states that the bike is a pleasure to ride and attracts interest whenever displayed. It has been kept undercover and only ridden on group runs. The motor is sound with smooth take up of the auto clutch. He will pack and ship interstate at buyers cost. He can be contacted on 0419427246. Photo below.

