

SolexOz

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

MELBOURNE NEWS

Happy New Year to all of our SolexOz friends, we look forward to yet another year of enjoying the simple pleasures of riding a Solex with a great bunch of people and having lots of fun.

Our plan for January was to give our crew a break and have our first ride in 2012 in February. Mistake No.1: The phone calls started a few days after the beginning of the year. Pleading for a run during the summer break, withdrawal symptoms had set in. We then decided to have a short informal run for maybe just a few members? Mistake No2.

The January run turned in to one of the best-attended runs for some time with 13 members eager to enjoy the day.

Setting out from Solex Central in South Melbourne, we headed towards the Australian Grand Prix Track at Albert Park Lake for some fast laps. It was a great chance to open the throttles without having to avoid the usual assortment of dogs, joggers and oversized prams.

After a few antics and fun on the main straight, (see photo below) we then headed to the Old Gasworks Farmers Market to meet up with family and friends for thoroughly enjoyable coffee and chat. Our visit created quite a bit of interest in our Solexes from passers by at the market.



Members react in funny ways when deprived of a Solex ride. Dr. Frank trying to analyze Cath's unusual symptoms



The grounds of the Gasworks café. A perfect place to finish a truly great ride.

Participants were: Cath and Frances on 5000s, Andrew, Frank, Glen, Jürgen, Libby (and Minnie), John and Ern on 3800s, Neil on his "new" Trojan, John on the 1700 and Geoff on the ancient 45cc. Waiting for us at the café were family and friends including, Tiby, Tara and children, Kerry, Saskia and Maiya and many more.

This was also the first outing for Jürgen's beautiful and rare white 3800 deluxe and Neil's recently completed Trojan Powered 28" classic. Good to see these new additions to the fleet.

Our thanks to everyone who attended this top event and a special thank you to Frances and Jürgen for taking the excellent photos accompanying this newsletter.

Joe has posted a great selection of photos from this run in the Gallery on our Website: www.solexoz.org, go to Gallery then January 2012. A big thank you to Joe.

FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

The February run will take place on Saturday 18. Details of this to be advised the week prior.

MARCH

Don's Gippsland Challenge will take place Mid March. This great ride will start at the Anderson Turn Off and traverse the spectacular coastal Rail Trail to Wonthaggi. Details and dates will be announced in the February Newsletter.

APRIL

Get set for the big one, our Annual Geelong to Queenscliff bash. Neil and John will host this hugely popular run again this year. Details and Dates will also be in the February Newsletter.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS



Bonjour Les Solexians

"Billy garçon" *et moi* have had a conversation last night and *nous décidé* that le McLaren Vale VeloSolex Ride will be organised at a later date, due to the heat *la chaleur...*

This will also give us more time to plan *le jour* (the day). Thinking this ride may be Saturday the 5th of May...or the 19th.

But meanwhile, I have picked some dates to give us a little Calendar Start, for our VeloSolex Aventures.

First Date: I suggest Sunday 19th of February at 10.30 am, *pour "Les Aventures de Tintin Ride"*.

Starting from the Netball Courts Car Park on Anzac Highway, West Tce. Cemetery side and traveling along West Park lands cycleway down to River Torrens all the way to West Beach and along the Esplanade to Henley beach Sq *pour cafe au lait* or fish & chips... All up about 25-30 km. I will have a car & trailer and driver organised if we have problems. I hope everyone will oil their machines before we explorer *les Aventuers de Tintin*.

Second date: Prisoners of the Sun. Saturday March 17th St Patrick's day, a great day usually a hot summer's day, so perhaps a beach ride. Anyone can claim this ride so feel free to suggest your intentions to the Solexians. (Keep it clean)

Third Date: The Shooting Star. Friday the 13th April. A ride from the Goodwood Hotel to Glenelg along the Tramline cycleway and ending up at West Beach Sailing Club about 30km return.

Fourth Date: Saturday May 5th . *Voulez-vous aller avec Les Badasses tour de McLaren Vale wine & dine en français*. Billy garçon will inform us all at a later date in May (lunchtime event).

Fifth Date: 14th of July, for Bastille Day. It's a Saturday – anyone can claim this day – *vive la révolution*. Feel free to suggest a ride.

Sixth Date: Friday night @ 7pm August 17th. *Les Badasses* call for a winter ride... *La Résistance* will meet at the Weir No1 on the Torrens River where the Pop-eye turns around.

It's a new moon – it will be cold – don't forget a little port for warmth. It will be fun. Most of our rides are in winter, as the Boneshakers, a group of friends that build their own old school chopper bicycles.

So I know this may not suit everyone so pick and choose what you like in the way of rides or make a change to any, its no problem. Just let Rolf or me (Pascal) know. We can change any ride at this time.

A big welcome to a new friend Dan Burt who has just purchased one Solex from Frank Shine in Melbourne - a nice 1700. It arrives this Thursday.

*Merci beaucoup,
a bientôt, Pascal, Billy & Rolf*
(PS: Happy new year Solexoz)

BIKES AND PEOPLE

The interest in older bikes is growing and Neil has created a true classic to give Joe and Geoff a bit of competition in the ancient class. The Frame dates from the 40 to 50's period with classic early style frame with 28" wheels. Neil sourced an early Trojan Mini motor that he has cleverly attached to the front wheel driving through a roller onto the tyre as in a Solex.

Not only does this beautiful classic look superb but as with anything Neil puts his mind to it is no slouch. It was a pleasure to see this classic bike on its first outing.



Trojan Mini Motor installation, very well engineered by Neil including a Soles Roller.

Jürgen introduced his recently purchased 3800 White Deluxe on our January Run. Brought out from Europe late last year and assembled by Ern. This is the first of its type in Australia. The deluxe was an up-market 3800 model and even sported a Chrome Exhaust as well as other deluxe features. Jürgen is awaiting the arrival of another rare 3800 from Germany, being an early export model with some unusual features, we look forward to its arrival in OZ shortly.



Jürgen's "White Knight" 3800.

John is steaming ahead on his most recent 1700 project down at Geelong. He has a few surprises in store with this "New 1700" rebuild. We are looking forward to seeing this 1700 out and about in the next month or two.

LE MARCHÉ

Graham has reluctantly decided to sell his two beautifully restored 5000s due to ongoing back problems. Both 5000's have been restored to a high standard and no expense spared. One is French Blue (see photo below) and the other White and are ready for use. Graham is keen to sell and can be contacted on 0419 009300.



Ern is making noises about selling his ultra rare and desirable Pli-Solex 5000 (see photo below). This gem has been totally rebuilt, it is near impossible to find a Pli for sale anywhere in the world let alone one in this condition. Contact Ern and bend his arm on 0419 427246.



It is fabulous to see our South OZ group enjoying their Solexes just as much as we do and look forward to the day when we can all meet up together for one big SolexOz Bash. Should be mind blowing.

Also we really would appreciate some contributions for our newsletter to give it a bit of colour and variation, after 5 years everyone must be a bit tired of my ramblings so please jot something down and send it to us, there must be some interesting stories out there to share?

That's all for this month,
Au revoir.

VELOSOLEX OUTING TO ALBERT PARK F1 TRACK JANUARY 21ST 2012

