

NEW SIMPLER FORMAT (Select Format, Word Wrap from the Notepad Menu Bar)

We hope you find this plain text format acceptable. It simplifies preparation and distribution, as everyone gets the same thing either by e-mail or by snail mail.

We have sent you three plain text attachments to simplify printing them separately. These files will open automatically in Notepad under any flavour of Windows.

Deselect Word Wrap to print the files properly - some printers will add their own line feeds to those added by Notepad in Word Wrap mode, causing a much longer and messy printout.

Use a non-proportional (fixed space) font such as Courier or Lucida Console to view and print the files correctly. Select this in Format, Font from the Notepad Menu Bar.

Print the News and Form files in Portrait mode. Select this in File, Page Setup from the Notepad Menu Bar.

Print the Adrs file in Landscape mode (File, Page Setup), 6 point (Format, Font). You may need to wear your spectacles to read it.

If you have trouble with any of this, let us know. Believe it or not, it is a lot easier for us to produce in this format. Also the attachments are very much smaller. Anyone should be able to open plain text attachments, regardless of what flavour of Windows or other operating system you have, and what word processor you use. We hope it will avoid the several compatibility problems we have had in the past.

Here is a summary table of the various recommended settings (use a fixed-space font to view this table) -

File Name	37-News-Mar-04.txt		37-Form-Mar-04.txt		37-Adrs-Mar-04.txt	
View or Print	VIEW	PRINT	VIEW	PRINT	VIEW	PRINT
Format, Word Wrap	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	OFF
Format, Font Type	Courier	Courier	Courier	Courier	Courier	Courier

Format, Font Size            10 point   10 point   10 point   10 point   7 point   6 point

File, Page Setup, Orientation    na       Portrait    na       Portrait    na       Landscape

## E-MAIL NEWS, FEES AND LEVIES

We will send the Newsletter by e-mail if we have your e-mail address, unless you ask us not to do so.

We will send the Newsletter by snail mail if we do not have your e-mail address, or if you ask for it to be sent by snail mail, or if we sent it by e-mail and you did not acknowledge receipt of the e-mail within a week. If we send it to you by snail mail, we will ask you to contribute towards the cost of printing, postage and stationery. This cost will be evaluated in the near future.

We will keep records of the number of postings we make to you, and we will tell you when you owe us \$10.00 or more. If you have a credit with GEMS, we will use that up first. This user-pays system will replace the annual snail mail fee of \$5.00 for members unable to attend any GEMS events in 12 months. Cheque levies will continue for the time being.

We will aim for a working bank balance of \$1000. When that is achieved (not long now), there will be no event levies unless an event runs at a loss and the bank balance needs to be restored. The typical event levy will be \$1.00 per head per event as at present. Note that not all events attract a levy, as it is not always easy or appropriate to collect one.

## MEMBERS ADDRESSES LIST

Please advise us of any changes to your details.

## BOOKINGS

Please send your bookings by e-mail or snail mail. Verbal bookings may not be recorded. We prefer to receive the form with your selections shown. This can be done in a text editor (such as Notepad under Windows), or by writing on the printed form and snailing it back to us. Remember to add your name.

## BANKING

We have found out that the Westpac Bank offers a fee free cheque account to non profit societies (the way the CBA used to!), but only if they approve our written application. The application has been signed and is about to be submitted to the Bank. Watch this space.

## RECENT EVENTS (Note: event numbers may have changed)

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### 65. LILLYDALE LAKE

Sunday the 1st of February 2004. An enjoyable amble around the Lake, reasonable weather. Thank you to Elaine and Steve for arranging it.

## FUTURE EVENTS (Note: event numbers and dates may have changed)

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### 66. TEN PIN BOWLING.

This will occur at Boronia Bowl (the majority rules!) at 5:30pm on Sunday the 14th of March. Two games for less than \$12 plus shoe hire, thanks to Margaret Brown for arranging an AMF League Member's discount booking. We have booked at the Boronia Bowl for the 12 people who have told us they will come. Some of us will be having dinner afterwards at nearby Zagames at 7:15pm. Please add your name to the GEMS dinner booking if you wish to join us for dinner. Phone 9762 0883.

### 67. SHEPPARTON.

This has been investigated by Margaret and Bernie Brown. We will be going on the 27-28 March. Make your own bookings. Margaret's advice follows -

We will be staying at Parklands Motor Village on the Goulburn Valley Highway (opposite Shepparton Aerodrome). Phone no. 5823 1576. About 5km south of the PO, on your way into Shepparton from Melbourne and on your left hand side. \$55 per night for cabins (plus \$5.50 to hire bedding for each bed for the weekend). The cabins have combinations of single and double beds. \$18 for powered sites and \$22 for ensuite powered sites. Dogs welcome in touring vans and has a wonderful BBQ area and swimming pool. Also the Farmer's market is on at the Billabong Garden Complex, Wanganui Road Shepparton, beautifully signposted this month, should be the same next

month. Fruit and veg available at very reasonable prices. We will have a BBQ on Saturday night, BYO meat - salads will be provided at a nominal cost. When you make your bookings, the owner has asked that Margaret Brown's name should be mentioned if we want to be close together. Campbell's Soups are open 9:00am to 12:30pm and Ardmona at Mooroopna is open all weekend. Anyone wishing to purchase cheap soap, Pentel soaps are only open 10am to 4pm on Friday, but if you want anything give Margaret and Bernie a call.

Please let us know your ETA so we know when to expect you, and phone us on our mobiles if you are running late.

SUGGESTED EVENTS (Note: these will run if there is sufficient interest)

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#### KANGAROO ISLAND

This is currently on hold, the prices are high and there has not been much response. Rob and Bev are not going to stop there now as they will have a trailer load of their son's belongings with them.

#### HOUSEBOAT WEEKEND

There is not enough interest to run this one since the cost has been known.

#### WALHALLA WEEKEND

This one may go ahead, there is more than enough interest. If everyone goes, some will need to provide their own accommodation (tent or van).

#### WARBURTON WEEKEND

Again, there are enough numbers for this one.

#### MURDER MYSTERY

No one has stepped forward to Direct or Produce this, however if a suitable person attends Walhalla

or Warburton, the basic instructions are available from us.

## WARRNAMBOOL WEEKEND

We have received a request for more activities on the Western side of Melbourne. We may go to the Flagstaff Hill "shipwrecked" sound and light show while in Warrnambool.

## CASINO DAY TRIP

This is under consideration, watch this space.

MELBOURNE CBD GUIDED TOURS (thanks to Jenny Johnson for bringing these to our attention)

Feng Shui Chinatown Tour

Chinatown Heritage Walk

Chocoholic Brunch Walk

Chocolate and other Desserts Walk

Chocolate Indulgence Walk

## OTHER STUFF

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## TEMPORARY ORGANISERS

Thanks to Dave and Leigh Hanna for agreeing to take over the organisation of GEMS events while Rob and Bev are away. (April to September 2004). Please support them. This Newsletter has been seen and approved by them, they will send out further Bulletins as they see the need.

## GEMS GEAR

We still have a limited number of 50 x 50 mm GEMS fridge magnets at only 55 cents each or \$5.30 for 10.

Another order for shirts, jackets, caps and a new item, GEMS beanies, is under consideration. More info when we return from our trip round Oz.

Coming eventually will be name badges. Sorry about the long delay on this. We are currently considering an alternative supplier. The main hold up is getting the colour right on the printer. We are working on that (spasmodically). Put your names on the list (see the booking form).

#### DELIBERATE MISTAKE

Unfortunately no-one found a deliberate mistake in News 36. The price for News 37 now jackpots to TWO SPECIAL GEMS FRIDGE MAGNETS!