
NEW SIMPLER FORMAT (Snail Mail Only version)

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. One proviso, this time e-mail only stuff has been deleted as there is a lot of it.

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.

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

68. PROGRESSIVE DINNER

This has been organised for Saturday the 10th July at Inverloch. The cost of \$20 per head includes a 3 course dinner on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning (toast, coffee, tea). BYO drinks and extra for breakfast if required. Meet at The Tardis BY 5.30PM ON SATURDAY. Phone David 0413587351 if you are running late and need directions for the first course. Currently (taken on the Shepparton trip and lately) we have the following attendees: B. Robinson, Burnell(2), Sales(2), Everard(2), Grotoers(2), Trembath(3), Rolls(2), Johnson(2), K. Harrison, P. Dando, Brown(2), Hanna(2). If your name is mentioned and you are no longer attending or if you would like to add your name to the list please advise David and Leigh as soon as possible for catering reasons. If you require accomodation please contact Marg & Bernie, there may be limited space left.

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

WINE BOTTLING

Fortunately our suppliers (who previously had closed down their premises) have re-opened recently for business. If you are interested in joining us (at David and Leigh's) for a fun afternoon preceded a few weeks before by a wine tasting let us know. We will probably organise lunch on this day as well.

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). Frank and Anne, could you please contact us with a few suitable dates which suit you.

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

FLATFOOT (A ROMAN COMEDY OF BAD MANNERS)

Elaine and Steve have given us the opportunity to see this play for \$45 (minimum 10 people). Performing at the Merlin Theatre, CUB Malthouse, Southbank between 9th September and 2nd October.

Please let Elaine and Steve know before 18th June if you are interested in attending.

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).