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Our trip to PowerWorks was a great success, and those that participated in the minibus tour of the Gippsland tourist traps all had a good time.

Unfortunately Chess closed early due to bad reviews, only 3 of the 15 people with tickets were able to go before it closed. The others will receive a full refund in due course.

We will shortly be placing an order for a special GEMS polo shirt, in Royal Blue, with the GEMS logo embroidered in gold. Please place your order and pay by the end of March. This offer is unlikely to be repeated for a number of years, so send in your order right away (with your cheque!) Sizes and prices are detailed on the enclosed order form.

Our next event is the Melbourne Gang Show final night on the 31st of May. Our tickets have already been booked for this; if you wish to join us you will have to organize your own tickets. Please ring the booking hotline on (03)9309.4647. We will be having a banquet before the show at the Mee Ging Chinese restaurant in Acland Street St Kilda. If you wish to join us for that, the cost will be \$21.00 per head, due by the 2nd of May.

After that we are considering a bus group to the Crown Casino, with a Yarra River cruise beforehand (including morning tea). Members of groups arriving and departing by bus for this package (offered by the Casino) and spending at least 30 minutes on the Poker machines, receive a free lunch at the Casino, and a small credit at the tables. The Casino contributes to the cost of the bus, but there is a charge for the river cruise. The cost to GEMS members would be about \$10.00 per head. This will go ahead if we get enough people wanting to go - the minimum number is 20. We will be booking for a Saturday in July, as soon as the Casino is able to accept bookings (about the end of April). Note that the Casino expects to be operating in its new

building by then. Our next newsletter will have more details including the date and cost. The cost will depend on how many are going and what bus(es) we can get. Please indicate your interest in this activity on the enclosed booking form by 15/4/97.

A "there and back" trip to Tasmania on the "Spirit of Tasmania" is under consideration for October. The trip commences with a crossing on Friday night. A bus tour on Saturday takes you to Cataract Gorge and to the Launceston Casino. The "Spirit" returns to Melbourne during Saturday night. The cost is \$185/\$135 per adult/child for a standard cabin (twin share with en-suite), \$195/\$145 for a porthole cabin, \$245/\$245 for a deluxe cabin, and \$295/\$145 for a suite. These prices do not include any margin for GEMS, but they do include Friday and Saturday night dinners, and Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts, on board the "Spirit". Saturday lunch at the Casino is extra. Travel insurance is strongly recommended by the travel agent, at a cost of \$15 per person. This activity will need to be booked soon as it is very popular. Please indicate your interest on the enclosed booking form, and pay by the end of April if you wish to go. There is a full refund available if you cancel more than 30 days before the trip, and 50% refund if you cancel during the last 30 days. You only lose your money if you fail to show up without having cancelled. We will book as soon as we have an indication of numbers and cabin preferences - please indicate your interest by the end of March.

Please let us know if there is any event you would like us to organize, and indicate your interest in our planned events on the enclosed booking form.

Note that all money must be received by us by the due dates, and no reminders will be sent out apart from these newsletters. Any cheques received after the due dates will be returned.



Booking Form

- ☺ Please enclose payment as indicated, or send before the closing date shown. Make cheques etc. payable to *GEMS*.
- ☺ If paying without a booking form, please state clearly what your payment is for.
- ☺ Bookings not paid in full by the "Pay By" date will not be made, and cheques etc. will be returned.
- ☺ No reminders will be sent out apart from *GEMS* Newsletters.
- ☺ A new Newsletter will be issued whenever a new event is organized, this will normally be about every two months, around the "Pay By" date of each event.
- ☺ As there will be three or four events in each Newsletter, each new event will appear in three or four Newsletters.

<i>GEMS</i> #	Description	Date	Cost	Pay By (Notify By)	# Reqd
4.b	Mee-Ging Banquet before MGS 97.	31 May 97	\$21.00	2 May 97	
5.	Yarra River Cruise and Crown Casino.	July 97	tba	(15 Apr 97)	
6.	Spirit of Tasmania "there and back" trip. Please indicate accomodation required: Inside cabin ____ adults ____ children Porthole cabin ____ adults ____ children Deluxe cabin ____ adults + children Suite ____ adults ____ children	Oct 97	see text \$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____	30 Apr 97 (31 Mar 97)	

Payment enclosed \$ _____ Name _____