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| AGM SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER SEE BELOW |
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E-mail members please see the attached help file for recommended software settings.

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 it 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 75 cents each time towards the cost of printing, postage and stationery.

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

GEMS now banks with Westpac. We have internet access to the account, which means that we can make payments directly into bank accounts rather than sending cheques. We also have a cheque book for the time being, but if we find that we don't need it we will forego that facility to avoid the BADT.

RECENT EVENTS

68. Progressive Dinner

Although we were unfortunately unable to attend the progressive dinner (being halfway round Australia at the time) we have it on good authority that the progressive dinner was the usual resounding success. Many thanks to the organisers and to the food and venue providers.

69. Walhalla Weekend

This weekend was enjoyed by several GEMS. Thanks to Anne and Frank Gough for organising it. Some of us enjoyed a short walk along the tramway after a BBQ lunch on the Saturday.

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

70. AGM

This year we will have the AGM outdoors. We will have a BBQ lunch at 12:00 noon at Westerfolds Park. Enter from Fitzsimons Lane, Melways 33G2. Just look out for the Bobmobile/Bevmobile (large white Mercedes Sprinter motorhome). BYO everything including chairs and a gas BBQ if you have one. Please let us know if you can bring a BBQ. If it is a total fire ban day we won't be able to BBQ so bring a picnic lunch instead. There will be an organised walk afterwards for those interested.

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

WINE BOTTLING

KANGAROO ISLAND

This will not go ahead as the cost would be unreasonable.

WARBURTON WEEKEND

There are enough numbers for this one, it needs to be organised.

MURDER MYSTERY

If anyone would like to run this, 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 in Warrnambool during the whale watching season.

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

SHEPPARTON WEEKEND - canneries.

OTHER STUFF

GEMS GEAR

We still have a limited number of 50 x 50 mm GEMS fridge magnets at only 55 cents each or \$5.27 for 10.

Another order for shirts, jackets, caps and a new item, GEMS beanies, is under consideration. More info soon.

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

We have lost track of the current jackpot situation, so we are starting again at one special fridge magnet as the prize for spotting the DM in News 39.