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| NEXT EVENT: DISK BOWLS: SATURDAY 1 JANUARY 2005: SEE BELOW |

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E-mail members please see the attached help file for recommended software settings.

As some members kindly (if rather pedantically) pointed out, the previous Newsletter was incorrectly numbered 39, it was really number 40. (That was not the DM though, see below for that.) So to set the record straight, we are now up to Newsletter number 41.

We hope to send out the address list in a new format to simplify display and printing using the same settings as for the other parts of the Newsletter.

We are sending all the documents as text attachments and also including them all in the body of the message. That way everyone who can open the attachments can file and print them separately if they wish to do so, and everyone can still read everything. And we don't need to keep track of who needs which format, or make multiple different versions of the documents and the email message. So let's hope that this time we have it right and everyone is (moderately) happy. If you have any major problems, let us know.

E-MAIL POLICY, 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. (You may now decline that automatic follow up if you are confident that your email always gets to you). If we send you the Newsletter by snail mail, we will charge you 70 cents each time towards the cost of printing, postage and stationery. Note that this was incorrectly shown as 75 cents in News 39a (really News 40).

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 are now discontinued as we are no longer charged fees (see below) for making cheque deposits.

We have now almost achieved our aim of a bank balance of \$1000. So event levies will now cease. We will rely on the occasional surplus on events such as the progressive dinner to offset any losses.

MEMBERS' ADDRESSES LIST

Please advise us of any changes to your details. Hopefully the new format is easier to read and print.

BOOKINGS

Please send us 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 or Word), or by writing on the printed form and snailing it back to us. Remember to add your name.

BANKING

GEMS now banks with Westpac (NO BANK FEES). 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. You can pay for events etc by EFT, the details are BSB 033092, account number 109302, in the name of GEMS SOCIAL CLUB.

RECENT EVENTS

70. AGM

A most enjoyable afternoon, the AGM preceded a BBQ lunch at Westerfolds Park. Eighteen members attended (several members are away, some overseas). The big BBQ was brought up from Inverloch but was only used by two families, the rest brought a picnic lunch. The weather was fine but a little warm. Eight of those present enjoyed a short walk around the "Home Show Trail", an

informative walk with poster boards describing animal habitats with an amusing real estate theme.

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

71. Disk Bowls - 1st January 2005

New Years' Day at the Tardis in Inverloch as usual. If you have avoided this event in the past because of the fierce competition, now is your chance to score a trophy, as some of the main contenders will be overseas. For those who haven't been to the Tardis before, it is at number 1 Naiomi Court in Inverloch (Melways 512-T12, Vic Roads 102-E4 and 358, GPS 145 degrees 42.178 minutes East, 38 degrees 38.604 minutes South). Take the Bass Highway through Wonthaggi to Inverloch, turn right onto Ullathornes Road just before you enter Inverloch. Turn right at the end into Toorak Road. Follow Toorak road round a left hand bend and turn left in the middle of the next right hand bend into Goroke Street. Take the first left into Ripple Drive and the first right is Naiomi Court.

There will be a \$5 per head charge for those staying overnight. This will include breakfasts and Saturday lunch. If you just come for the tournament on Saturday it will be \$4 for lunch. There are 3 spare bedrooms at the Tardis, all with double beds, one with an additional single bed and one with additional double bunks. There is also a fold down sofa in the living room and lots of carpeted floor space. If pressed, we can let someone have our bedroom and we will sleep in the Bobmobile. There is additional accommodation at other GEMS houses in Inverloch. Let us know if you want to stay the night and we'll see what we can arrange. First in best (un)dressed.

There may be a short walk on the Sunday, weather permitting.

72. Shepparton Weekend - 18-20 February 2005

Another annual event. Make your own bookings for accommodation, there are several alternatives, caravan parks with cabins and powered or unpowered sites, also motels for those who prefer a slightly higher standard. Get factory seconds from Campbells soups and SPC/Ardmona at real bargain prices on soups, preserved fruit, other canned goods, and general household supplies such as cleaning products. We usually stock up for the year on tinned Fray Bentos pies, soups, jams etc. There may also be a Farmers Market on the Sunday with fresh fruit and vegetables available. Also enjoy a pleasant weekend social GEMS event at minimal cost. No GEMS charges for this one, just

pay your own way. We will probably meet for dinner at the RSL on the Saturday night.

73. A Day In The City - March 2005

We hope to organise a CBD tour, including the most popular item(s) from the list that has been shown in recent Newsletters, with a visit to the Crown Casino to follow. But no special deals there, just come along if you wish to play the pokies or the tables, or spend some time elsewhere if you wish. We may meet for dinner somewhere as well. Date to be advised.

74. Warrnambool Weekend - April 2005

Come along for the weekend, organise your own accommodation. The whales may cooperate this time (last time we didn't see any whales). We also will be going to the Flagstaff Hill "Shipwrecked" Sound and Light Show on the Saturday night. Let us know, we may get a group discount if enough GEMS go to the show. No GEMS charges, pay your own way. Date to be advised.

Progressive Dinner - 23 July 2005

This has also become an annual event, making our job as organisers a bit easier. The date for this year's feedathon was set at the last one by popular acclaim (ie by those who acclaimed in the loudest voices!) this will be centred on the Tardis again and the same remarks apply regarding accommodation at the Tardis and elsewhere. Get your names down early and let us know if you want accommodation.

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

TRIVIA QUIZ

May be included in one of the weekends away.

GLOW IN THE DARK MINI GOLF

Use your imagination.

WINE BOTTLING possibly June

A refill of the GEMS label with selected bulk wines at very reasonable prices. Details to follow.

BUXTON WEEKEND possibly September

A roomy boarding house with plenty of beds in bunk rooms, in picturesque country on the way to Eildon with lots of opportunities for pleasant non-taxing walks and other bush type activities.

WARBURTON WEEKEND possibly October

A Rover chalet in beautiful country. A small charge will apply, probably about \$5 a head. A good opportunity to run a Murder Mystery as we now have the required equipment (directors notes and game plan). Volunteers to organise it would be most welcome.

ERICA WEEKEND possibly November

A repeat of the successful visit in September this year. Great scenery at nearby Walhalla, a very interesting mining town from the gold rush times with lots of history in the town and beautiful bush walks around.

MISS AND GIGGLE GOLF WEEKEND

Revisit the Lower Tarwin golf course

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. These are fast becoming a collector's item, so get your order in now. SPECIAL XMAS PRICE this month, only \$2.90 for 5.

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

Name badges are coming soon (we hope). We have managed to get reasonably close to the right colours with our new colour photo printer, and we have asked for another sample from our preferred supplier. Understandably there has been no response as yet, we may have to try someone else. Put your names on the list (see the booking form).

DELIBERATE MISTAKE

Well done to Rick Podolski for very promptly finding the mis-spelling in News 39(a) - really News 40. WINE BOTLING should have two Ts. The prize for the DM in this Newsletter remains at one special GEMS magnet.