

GEMS NEWSLETTER #43, April 2005

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+ * NEXT EVENT #74 * BUXTON WEEKEND * 28-29 MAY 2005 * SEE BELOW * +
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E-mail members please see the attached help file for recommended software settings.

CONTACT POLICY

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

We will send it by snail mail if
we do not have your e-mail address, -or-
you ask to get it by snail mail, -or-
we sent it by e-mail and you did not acknowledge receipt of the e-mail within a week.
(You may decline this automatic follow up if you are confident that your e-mail always gets to you).

If we send you the Newsletter or other stuff by snail mail, we will charge you 70 cents each time towards the cost of printing, postage and stationery.

We keep records of the number of snail mails we send 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.

Note that some bulletins regarding late changes to event details are sent by e-mail only. If you do not have e-mail, you will need to indicate your interest on the booking form to ensure that we phone you with such details. We will not phone you unless you have expressed interest in the event that has changed.

MEMBERS' ADDRESSES LIST

Please advise us of any changes to your details. We need to ensure that we have accurate data.

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. An email will do if using the form is too much bother. Remember to add your name and any suggestions for future events.

Please let us know if we are not running the types of events you would come to, and if so, what you would prefer us to offer. Our attendances have been low lately.

MEMBER NEWS

Steve and Elaine Nichols probably won't be able to get to anything until September. They are off to NZ and Norfolk Island on the 21st of March for 4 weeks, then home for 5 weeks and then off to Canada and America for 3 months, getting back about the middle of August. They send their regards to everyone.

Shirley and Rudy Anders are off to NW WA for 5 months in their 4WD starting soon. This continues their series of exploratory trips which recently included the tip of the Cape York Peninsula.

Margaret and Bernie Brown are visiting relatives in the UK for 6 weeks from early June.

Dave and Leigh Hanna have moved to Noble Park, see the address list for details.

Rob and Bev Huntley are expecting to join the growing list of GEMS Grannies in November.

Send us your personal news if you would like to share it with GEMS.

RECENT EVENTS

72. Shepparton Weekend - 18-20 February 2005

A few GEMS attended and made their purchases at the canneries.

73. A Day In The City - Saturday 19 March 2005

Although several GEMS were originally planning to spend the day in the city, as it turned out everyone had to pull out for various reasons. We will run this one again another time, perhaps with a bit more of a structured program rather than everyone being left to do their own thing.

74. Geelong Waterfront Day - 10 April 2005

Thanks to Dave and Leigh Hanna for organising this one. Unfortunately only 6 GEMS were able to attend, but we had a good day in reasonable weather with just a few drops of rain at the edge of a late afternoon storm.

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

75. Buxton weekend - 28-29 May 2005

Many thanks to Pam Johnston and to Dave and Leigh Hanna for chasing up the details and making the booking.

We have booked the NMIT's Camp Westlake at Buxton from 10:00am Saturday 28th May until 5:00pm Sunday 29th May. Prices are as follows (per person) -

10:00am to 8:00pm Saturday only \$3.00

10:00am Saturday to 10:00am Sunday \$10.00

10:00am Saturday to 5:00pm Sunday \$12.00

Please send your bookings and payments by the 14th of May, as we need to pay the balance due by the 21st of May. Note that you can pay into GEMS bank account by EFT, save paper, postage and cheque account fees.

Please don't arrive before 10:00am Saturday. A location map is attached, you can also find Buxton in Melways (pages 528-A3 and 510-T10).

Some information about Buxton and surrounds -

Kilometres from:

Melbourne 99

Healesville 36

Lilydale 59

Alexandra 30

Marysville 11

Lots of activities close by:

Steavensons Falls at Marysville (also open at night and floodlit) - 11km

Cathedral Range National Park (good for walks)

Lake Mountain

Lady Talbot Forest Drive and Keppels Falls

Buxton Hotel - 1km

walks from camp site

possibly a market in Marysville

Dave and Leigh have good brochures and maps of the area, so does Pam Johnston. Tourist info at Marysville is excellent.

There is plenty of room for motorhomes, caravans etc (bring leads). Outside lighting for BBQs, plenty of space, huge grassed area.

The bunkhouse has six separate rooms with 3x2 bunks in each, would be ideal for grandparents/grandchildren.

At present there are 4 couples going, Rob and Bev will take the Bobmobile if Rob's leg is well enough by then (it should be!) leaving at least 3 empty rooms.

Some possible plans -

Saturday morning

walks -or-

planning for murder mystery (we will bring two boxed sets to look at) -or-

frisbie throwing etc.

Saturday afternoon

walks -or-

murder mystery planning -or-

afternoon tea (blueberry pancakes etc) at the Alpaca Farm with beautiful views, a short drive away.

Saturday evening

BBQ dinner followed by a short drive (11km) to Marysville to see the floodlit Steavensons Falls.

Sunday morning

walks -or-

murder mystery planning -or-

Marysville including morning tea (lots of choices) -or-

Lady Talbot Drive (BYO morning tea) -or-

Cathedral Range National Park -or-

Trout Farm at Buxton - pay for what you catch.

Sunday Lunch

BBQ trout or picnic at campsite.

THINGS TO BRING

Frisbies etc.

Picnic chairs

Rubbish Bags

Bed linen, towels, sleeping bags, blankets, tea towels, bath towels, washbags.

FACILITIES PROVIDED

Full kitchen including fridge, stove, sink, crockery, cutlery, saucepans

Bunkhouse - mattresses and pillows

Showers, toilets and laundry

BBQs.

We hope to see as many GEMS as possible on this one, there should be something for everyone.

76. Wine Bottling - 18 June 2005

A refill of the GEMS label with selected bulk wines at very reasonable prices. This will take place at the home of Bob and Delia Francis. Thank you Bob and Delia. Of course it means Dee doesn't have to drive home afterwards ...

77. Mebourne Gang Show - Thursday 23rd of June 2005

Besen Centre, 87-89 Station Street Burwood, Melways 61-C5. Rob and Bev will probably go to this, it is a special ex-members night with supper afterwards. Let us know as soon as possible if

you'd like to join us, there is a substantial group discount for 15 or more. Adults \$15 (normally \$20), concession \$10 (normally \$15). Concession prices are for children under 15 years and for card carrying pensioners (presumably DSS cards). We would like to book soon so please reply as soon as possible if you'd like to go. If anyone would like to suggest a worthy Gang member to receive credit for the ticket sales (if any), please let us know - first in best dressed.

78. Progressive Dinner - 23 July 2005

Xmas in July, centred on the Tardis in Inverloch. Get your names down early and let us know if you want accommodation.

79. Warrnambool Weekend - August 2005

Come along for the weekend, organise your own accommodation. We have changed the month to August, as the whales are more likely to appear from June till August. We will also be going to the Flagstaff Hill "Shipwrecked" Sound and Light Show on the Saturday night. Let us know if you want to attend the show, we may get a group discount. No GEMS charges, pay your own way. Date to be advised.

80. Woop-Woop - September 2005

For something rather different, try this one. We have to book in as a group, so please let us know if you want to come along. Buy your lunch there or bring your own.

The following was taken from an A4 flier of unknown origin, dated August 2003. Currency confirmed by phone.

"If laughter is the best medicine, you'll get a good dose of it at Woop-Woop. Unlike anything you've ever seen before, fair dinkum! A sculpture garden/gallery/tea room based on our Aussie lingo with a belly laugh behind every bush - a few giggles inside too! Don't forget your camera!

"Open only to groups - bookings essential (both small and large groups welcome)

Admission (includes guided tour) Adults \$5, children \$2 (not ideal for young children - adult supervision required)

Closed June and July - It's colder than a mother in law's kiss!!

"Mornin' and Arvo tea on tap in the Noshery

Aussie Tea - shearer's scones with fly bog (jam) and thick cow (cream) and tea/coffee \$4

Mornin Munga (Arvo too) with box 'n dice slices and tea/coffee \$3.50

Bangers and bunny grub BBQ lunch \$5 (all eating areas are indoors)

(sausages and salads, hunk o' dodger - tea/coffee thrown in)

Apple slice 'n thick cow dessert \$2

It's orright to bring yer own picnic - no worries!

"8km past Castlemaine on the Calder Highway, turn left onto Blackjack Road at the 119 km post."

81. Miss and Giggle Golf Weekend - 21-23 October 2005

Revisit the Lower Tarwin golf course. Stay at the Tardis in Inverloch for the weekend.

10th Annual Disk Bowls Championship - 1 January 2006

Don't miss it! Special 10th anniversary prizes.

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

TRIVIA QUIZ

MURDER MYSTERY

These may be included in one or more of the weekends away.

GLOW IN THE DARK MINI GOLF

Use your imagination.

ERICA WEEKEND possibly November

A repeat of the successful visit in September last 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.

OTHER STUFF

Jesus Christ Superstar

Catchment Players. Darebin theatre, cnr Bell St and St Georges Rd, Preston, Melways 30-E1. Rob and Bev are going on Thursday the 12th of May. Feel free to join us if you wish. Note that Fiona Sale is in the show. Catchment players are excellent and their ticket prices are reasonable. Phone Faye Eldridge on 9460 1857 or 0438 090 686 to make your bookings.

The Tramways Band

Free concerts in Wattle Park on the corner of Riversdale and Warrigal Roads, at 2:30pm on Sunday afternoons, the last one this year will be on 24 Apr "Spirit of Anzac".

Missing Minilotto winners

Thanks to Nicole Evered for supplying contact details (which turned out to be still current) for the three MGS minilotto winners from 1996. The prizes have been disposed of according to the winners' wishes.

Your suggestions are welcome

We hope we are providing you with an interesting Newsletter and lots of fun activities. Please continue to make suggestions for future events. All your suggestions will be filed, and eventually we will probably run them. If you can help to organise them, so much the better.

GEMS magnets

We still have some 50 x 50 mm GEMS fridge magnets at only 55 cents each or the special bulk discount price of only \$5.00 for 10. These will become a collector's item, so get your order in now.

GEMS apparel

Another order for shirts, jackets, caps and a new item, GEMS beanies, is (still) under consideration, hopefully in time for this winter. More info eventually. Make a noise if you're hanging out for these, squeaky wheels tend to get oiled.

GEMS name badges

Our new name badge supplier has been asked to supply the remaining badges. They should be

delivered in a few weeks. The price will be \$9.00 with a safety pin fastener or \$11.00 with a magnetic fastener. You will be able to choose the type of fastener on delivery as we will have stocks of both types, and they are simple to apply to the badges. The price includes an allowance for the set up fee, which will be recovered fully only if we sell more than 42 badges (about half our members). This first order is for 14 badges. In case you can't remember whether you ordered one or not, here is the list (family names in parentheses will not be on the badges) -

John Sale, Jean Sale, Robert (Huntley), Beverly (Huntley), David (Hanna), Leigh (Hanna), Barry (Sanneman), Margaret (Sanneman), Peter (Allen), Janet (Allen), Alan (Evered), Nicole (Evered), Dawn (Hillyer), Geoff (Hillyer).

Put your names on the list for the next batch if you are not listed above (see the booking form).

We apologise for the long delay in getting these badges to you. Hopefully it is about to happen now.

DELIBERATE MISTAKE

No-one has claimed the jackpot DM prize, so now it goes to 3 special magnets. Get out your magnifying glasses!