

GEMS NEWSLETTER #54, January 2008 #####

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|| NEXT EVENT #103, Treetop walk, SEE BELOW ||

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E-mail members please see the web sight (News/News help) for recommended software settings.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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Please send us your bookings by e-mail or snail mail. Include your name and any suggestions for future events. Late changes to event details are only notified to those who have booked.

The latest address updates are attached for snail mail Members (e-Members see Latest News on the web site).

E-mail Newsletters will only be followed up by snail mail if you ask for that (see the booking form).

#### MEMBER NEWS

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

#### GEMS WEB SITE

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Lots of fascinating GEMS stuff can be found on the GEMS web site.

<http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/rob.huntley/>

If you have any problems with accessing the web site, please let us know. Note the fix for Internet Explorer 7, notified by email. Unfortunately this appears to be not a permanent fix, it may revert and need to be done again. Ask if you need the instructions again. Home visits can sometimes be arranged if Rob is in the area at a suitable time. Or ask your favourite computer guru for help.

#### RECENT EVENTS

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101. Annual General Meeting #11 - Thursday 22 November 2007

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Another successful event. The official part of the meeting was over in a record 10 minutes. The minutes and reports are on the web site for those who were unable to attend. For those without internet access, we can send you a copy (if you want one) by snail mail for only \$5.00 a copy (including postage). We can debit your GEMS account for this amount if you wish.

102. 12th annual disk bowls championship (southern division) - 1 January 2008  
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Of the fifteen and a half attendees, 14 contestants fought the usual fierce competition. Congratulations to the winners, Tom and Lois Rolls (doubles) and John Sale (singles). The 2007 raffle was drawn, the winners were (see also the web site under Statistics) -

Madison Evered - Pendant (donor John Huntley)

Maxine Gibson - Dilly Bag (donor Elaine Nichols)

Alan Evered - Toy truck (donor Steve Nichols)

Ann Gough - Ladies watch (donor John Huntley)

Joe Shields - Sports watch (donor John Huntley)

Isobel Groves - Lunch bag (donor Elaine Nichols)

Many thanks to the donors, the 2007 raffle made a profit of \$70.00.

Tickets are now available for the 2008 raffle (there are still a few left).

FUTURE EVENTS (event numbers and dates may have changed)  
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103. Sun 10 Feb Otway Fly Treetop walk. A \$19.50 C 6-16 \$9 Conc \$17. We will probably stay at Bimbi Park, Cape Otway.

see <http://www.otwayfly.com/home.htm>

There are lots of other attractions in the Otways, come on Saturday and visit some of them.

see [http://www.otwaysaccommodation.com.au/otways\\_local\\_attractions.html](http://www.otwaysaccommodation.com.au/otways_local_attractions.html)

104. Sun 30 Mar Wine bottling, venue tba. We could probably do this in the garage at our new house (Bydand) in Inverloch, unless anyone has another suggestion. Volunteers are needed to help to run it. Previous team was very successful. Costing needs to be done carefully to ensure we at least break even and preferably make a wee profit.

105. Fri 16 May to Sun 18 May Shepparton weekend.

See <http://www.greatershepparton.com.au/visitors/factorysales/> Extracts follow -

Campbell's Soups

Lemnos Road

LEMNOS

Tel: (03) 5833 3507

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 12.30pm

Canned Foods, Juices, Flavoured Milk, Canned Pies, Confectionery, Soft Drinks, Frozen meals,  
Single items available.

Pental Soaps

44 Drummond Road

SHEPPARTON

Tel: (03) 5820 5210

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Soap products, body wash and bath products, dishwashing liquid and toilet paper.

SPC Ardmona Factory Sales

91 – 95 McLennan Street

MOOROOPNA

Tel: (03) 5825 2444

9.00am to 5.00 pm seven days a week

SPC, Ardmona and Goulburn Valley Gold ranges, Mac's Shortbreads, Masterfoods, Heinz/Watties,  
Meadow Lea, IXL, Cadbury, Campbell's Soups and Uncle Toby's.

Peaches Cafe

Tel: (03) 5825 2049

9.00am to 5.00pm seven days a week

Gourmet foods, fresh juices and great coffee

The Nut Man

25 Clarke Street

SHEPPARTON

Tel: (03) 5821 8571

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Nuts and dried fruit snacks

Come on Friday if you can as Pental soaps is only open until 5pm Friday. Rob and Bev will be staying at Victoria Lake caravan park as usual, join us there if you wish to. We will be eating at the RSL on Friday night, Saturday night tba.

Anyone unable to attend is welcome to submit a list of items you would like us to get for you, we may add something to cover fuel etc to large orders. Note that your savings can be 50% or more. Soap products, we will get the nearest thing to what you ask for.

106. Sun 29 June Darnum musical village

"One of Gippsland's premier tourist attractions particularly for the music lover. See a beautifully restored collection of fine musical instruments in a unique historical setting. You will be delighted with the interactive guided tour. Why not treat yourself or your group to the musical experience of a lifetime! Experience a musical journey of the past, present and future."

Darnum is just east of Warragul on the M1 (Princes Freeway). Approx an hour from the CBD.

A \$9.90 C \$4.40 conc \$8.80 group of 10 or more qualifies for the following specials (per person) -

Tour only \$7.70

Show only \$7.70

Lunch only \$7.70

Tour and show \$11.00

Lunch and show \$11.00

Devon tea and show \$11.00

Devon tea, tour and show \$13.20

Lunch and tour \$15.40

Lunch, tour and show \$17.60

tea/coffee, cakes etc also available to non-groups.

We suggest Lunch and Tour option if we get 10 or more. We will need numbers a week or so in advance to book that.

see <http://www.visitvictoria.com/displayObject.cfm/objectid.0007E093-6697-1A0C-A18D80CF8F3CFE77/vvt.vhtml>

107. 8-10 Aug Northern Division disc bowls #2 with trivia quiz. Bridgewater PO. Come for the weekend and stay at the Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park (some cabins, powered and unpowered sites). Book early.

Phone number for -

Bridgewater Tourist Park 5437 3143

Bridgewater Public Caravan Park 5437 3086

Bridgewater Motel 5437 3200

Dave and Leigh can now accomodate 5 people at the PO, one double and one single together, plus one double.

See [http://www.travelmate.com.au/Places/Places.asp?TownName=Bridgewater+On+Loddon\\_%5C\\_VIC](http://www.travelmate.com.au/Places/Places.asp?TownName=Bridgewater+On+Loddon_%5C_VIC)

108. 14 Sep Mornington steam train. Rob and Bev will probably stay in Mornington for the weekend. Catch the train at 11:00 at Moorooduc, arrive Mornington 11:17. Courtesy bus takes us into town. Spend the day in Mornington, then catch the train back to Moorooduc at 4:30pm. A \$12 C \$6 Conc \$9 (return).

Note that this is NOT in the school holidays (20 Sep - 5 Oct).

109. Tue 11 Nov AGM #12 details tba.

110. Thu 1 Jan 2009 13th Southern Division disc bowls, Tardis Inverloch

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

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1. Pancakes on the run (35 minimum). We may do this for next AGM.

2. Blues train (from Queenscliff) lunchtime show \$75. We will probably stay overnight at Queenscliff. Could also cross the bay on the Sorrento ferry.

see <http://www.blustrain.com.au/>

3. French Island Alpacas etc \$98 per person twin share.

see <http://www.visitwesternport.com.au/index.php?cmspage=56>

SPECIAL PACKAGE 1 - Escape to the Cape:

MIDWEEK ONE NIGHT PACKAGE FOR 2 PEOPLE for only \$98 per person, that includes:

Twin share accommodation in historic lightkeepers cottage + breakfast + lighthouse guided tour, explore National Park and rugged coastline.

The web site is a little ambiguous but we think it also includes -

Admission to Ashcombe Maze & Lavender Gardens, Shoreham & lunch in licensed cafe - over 25 acres gardens & rose maze - open daily 10am.

Free gift & souvenir of Western Port at Stokesay Mohair Farm, Pearcedale - enjoy escorted tour open 10-4pm Wednesday & Sunday.

Add ferry (A \$20, C \$10, Conc \$14 return) see [http://www.interislandferries.com.au/fi\\_costs.php](http://www.interislandferries.com.au/fi_costs.php)

#### 4. MURDER MYSTERY

#### 5. Singing Gardens

The Singing Gardens of C.J. Dennis

You can take either Myers Creek Road or the Healesville-Kinglake Rd north to Toolangi which is 16 km from Healesville. On the right-hand side of the road are the Singing Gardens of Australian poet C.J. Dennis who lived at Toolangi from 1908 until his death in 1938. While at Toolangi Dennis published his first collection of poetry (1913), *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (partially written at Kallista and published in 1915), *The Moods of Ginger Mick* (1916) and *The Glugs of Gosh* (1917). On the proceeds from *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* he built a house (which he called Arden after the forest in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*) and got married in 1917. In 1922 Dennis joined the staff of the Herald and thence divided his time between Melbourne and Toolangi.

Dennis's last book, *The Singing Garden* (1935), was inspired by his garden at Toolangi. The house burned down in the 1960s although the gardens he created with his wife remain. They now cover 1.5 ha and feature rhododendrons and exotic trees including a copper beech planted by English Poet Laureate John Masefield who visited Dennis during the state's centenary celebrations. This event prompted the composition of 'The Tree', from *The Singing Garden* anthology.

Devonshire teas and light lunches are served at the tearooms. They are open every day but Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. but close in August and on Christmas Day, tel: (03) 5962 9282

from <http://www.smh.com.au/news/Victoria/Healesville/2005/02/17/1108500206524.html> with minor corrections.

OTHER STUFF

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Your suggestions are welcome

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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 they are not too dear. If you can help to organise them, so much the better.

GEMS magnets

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GEMS fridge magnets are now 60 cents each or \$5.50 for 10. Order now before the price rises! You can pay us by EFT (identify your payment with your name and notify us by e-mail) and we'll snail mail them to you. We'll debit your GEMS account for the mail cost. Or we can just debit your account for both magnets and mail (magnetmail).

GEMS apparel

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Still on the agenda, watch this space. A large list of ideas was collected at the last Bridgewater weekend, including polar fleece vests and hooded jackets. These will be priced in due course.

GEMS name badges

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The magnetic fasteners are popular. The cost is still only \$11 per badge with the magnetic fastener or \$9 per badge with the old style brooch pin fastener. Put your names down for the 4th batch if you haven't ordered one yet. They will be ordered when we have enough names on the list. Note that now over half the members have one of our name badges.

DELIBERATE MISTAKE

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According to our records, no-one has notified us of the DM in News 53 (course should be course). If we have forgotten your notification, please remind us, and after a successful hearing at the GEMS court of disputed returns, we may credit you with having found it. In the meantime, the prize for finding the DM in News 54 will jackpot to 2 SPECIAL fridge magnets (you can't buy these ones!)

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