

GEMS NEWSLETTER #55, February 2009 #####

\-----/

| \-----/ |

|| NEXT EVENT #111, Singing Gardens, SEE BELOW ||

| /-----\ |

/-----\

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

GEMS WEB SITE

Lots of fascinating GEMS stuff can be found on the GEMS web site. The web site is now at -

<http://www.gemsclub.zxq.net/>

The password is inverloch3996.

If you have any problems with accessing the web site, please let us know. Note the latest fix for Internet Explorer 7, which is to add GEMS to your "trusted sites". 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

109. Annual General Meeting #12 - Tuesday 11 November 2008

Unfortunately La Porchetta Dandenong was not a suitable venue. Despite assurances that we would have a private room, that turned out to be not the case. Consequently the ambient noise level made it very difficult to hold the meeting. However the event was well attended as usual and the meal was acceptable. 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.

110. 13th annual disk bowls championship (southern division) - 1 January 2009

Another well attended event with 21 contestants, including one visitor from New Zealand who made it through to the finals, and was awarded a special plate as a trophy as runner-up. A fine effort indeed. Congratulations to the winners, Steve and Elaine Nichols (doubles) and Steve Nichols (singles). The 2008 raffle was drawn, the winners were (see also the web site under Statistics) -

Keyfinder - John Huntley

Shopping bag (donor John Huntley) - John Sale

Box of Cosmetics (donor Bev Huntley) - Arnold Garvey

Ladies watch with matching bracelet (donor John Huntley) - Stan Johnson

Wrist watch (donor R+B Huntley) - Maxine Gibson

Dilly bag (donor Elaine Nichols) - Margaret Sanneman

Many thanks to the prize donors, the 2008 raffle made a handsome profit of \$168.55.

Tickets are now available for the 2009 raffle (there are still a few left).

FUTURE EVENTS (event numbers and dates may have changed)

111. Sat 21 Feb Singing Gardens.

Extract from newspaper ad -

"The Historic Singing Gardens of CJ Dennis and tea rooms ... Conducted tour and lunch in gardens planted by CJ Dennis - The Sentimental Bloke".

1694 Healesville-Kinglake Road Toolangi, Melways key map 10, touring map R12.

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

"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."

We have booked a guided tour commencing at 11:00am on Saturday the 21st of February, followed by lunch.

Price is \$22.50 per person (no concessions), children up to school year 8 no charge for the tour and lunch price negotiable.

We will need numbers attending this one by the day before for catering.

OTHER EVENTS this year may/will include

A historic railway trip

Shepparton weekend (Jun)

Northern Division Disk Bowls (Aug/Sep)

AGM (Nov/Dec)

Further details to follow, probably including one or two more events.

OTHER STUFF

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

GEMS magnets

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

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

GEMS name badges

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 next 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

Congratulations to Nicole Evered for finding the DM in News 54 (sight should be site).

GEMS NEWSLETTER #55, February 2009 #####