

GEMS NEWSLETTER #56, March 2009 #####

\-----/

| \-----/ |

|| NEXT EVENT #112, 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.

If we know you are coming we can sometimes wait for you if you are running late. If you are held up, phone us on our mobiles, Rob 0409 147 062 or Bev 0412 328 690.

There have been no address list updates since News #55. If your address details have changed, please tell us.

E-mail Newsletters will only be followed up by snail mail if you ask for that (see the booking form). Snail mail News is now 80c a time, reflecting the recent rise in postage cost.

## MEMBER NEWS

-----

Send us your personal news if you would like to share it with GEMS. It's your Newsletter, feel free to send contributions!

## 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. We have done a lot of work on the web site, we want you to be

able to use it.

## RECENT EVENTS

-----

111. Seawinds - Sunday 1 March 2009

-----

A pleasant stroll around Arthur's Seat and a chance to catch up over a picnic lunch were enjoyed by several GEMS.

## FUTURE EVENTS (event numbers and dates may have changed)

-----

112. Sat 18 April Singing Gardens

-----

We have changed the date (again!), it is now on the Saturday between Easter and Anzac Day, hopefully everyone will now be able to come.

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 18th of April, followed by lunch (soup and sandwiches).

Price is \$22.50 per person (no concessions), for children up to school year 8 there is no charge for the tour and lunch price is negotiable. We will need numbers attending this event by the 15th of April for catering.

Please let us know if you are coming on the new date even if you previously told us you were coming.

113. Mid May suggestions wanted - ten pin bowling?  
-----

114. 26-28 June Shepparton weekend  
-----

Join us once again for fun and frivolity, shopping at factory outlets where you CAN get real bargains. We will be staying as usual at the

Victoria Lake Holiday Park  
356 Wyndham Street  
Shepparton Vic 3630  
Ph: 1800 880 070

and will most likely be dining at the RSL Friday and Saturday nights (tried and true). In view of the time of year it might be as well to bring warm clothes and extra blankets. If you can get there Friday afternoon, Pental Soaps and The Nut Man will be open, Campbells are open Friday and Saturday morning, and SPC/Ardmona seven days a week (details below).

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

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. If what you specify is not available and if you agree, we will get the nearest thing to what you ask for (eg package size and/or quantity).

115. mid August railway trip and maybe dinner after

-----

A work in progress, possibly South Gippsland Tourist Railway, which runs Diesel Electric locos.

Timetable for August not yet available. Typical fare \$24 A or \$15 C for return trip Leongatha to Nyora (just over an hour each way). We could take in a movie or do some sightseeing on arrival back at Leongatha and then proceed to dinner at a local eatery. More on this one later.

116. 11-13 September Northern Division Disk Bowls #3

-----

Don't miss this opportunity to have your name(s) immortalised in the GEMS Hall of Fame (aka website statistics pages) by winning the singles or doubles perpetual trophy. A great weekend is guaranteed for all, come what may weather-wise. Great company assured at the Bridgewater Post Office. We will be staying at Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park (some cabins, powered and unpowered sites). Book early. There may be another trivia quiz, last year's one was popular.

Phone numbers for -

Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park 5437 3143

Bridgewater Public Caravan Park 5437 3086

Bridgewater Motel 5437 3200

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)

117. mid November AGM, date and venue tba (we will check some venues out first!)

-----

118. 1st January 2010 Southern Division Disk Bowls #14

-----

Another not to be missed, traditional GEMS event. As usual we will be drawing the 2009 raffle. Get your tickets now. Still a few left. Maxine Gibson and Margaret Sanneman have prizes to collect from the 2008 raffle.

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 was collected at a not so recent 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

-----

No one claimed the prize for the DM in News #55 (Were should be was in apparel), so the prize for the DM in this newsletter jackpots to 2 special GEMS fridge magnets (you can't buy these ones!) Happy hunting.

GEMS NEWSLETTER #56, March 2009 #####