



GEMS NEWSLETTER #60, April 2011

NEXT EVENT #128, The Silver Streak, 4/6/11 SEE BELOW

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Please send us your bookings. 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 0409 147 062 (Rob) or 0421 328 690 (Bev).

Please check your address details as shown on the web site - if they have changed, please tell us.

Snail mail News is \$1.00 a time for black and white. You can also get it in colour for \$2.00. Or you can see it for free in colour by email (or on the web site a few days after issue).

GEMS WEB SITE

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

<http://flashbrack.net/GEMS/>

The password has not changed, it will be sent to email members and is available on request by phone if you don't have email but wish to use a public library or internet café computer.

If you have any problems accessing the web site, please let us know. The site works much better if you use the Firefox web browser (free download) instead of Internet Explorer. Another alternative is the Apple browser Safari. There is a (free) PC version of that available also.

RECENT EVENTS

127. Fish and Chip Cruise, 19/2/11

What a beautiful day! A most enjoyable outing for 17.1 GEMS. We went from the Maribyrnong River in Footscray to Williamstown and back.

We were passed by a variety of expensive pleasure craft out for a fine Sunday trip on Port Phillip. We were also passed by the replica SS Enterprise, and by a container ship.

FUTURE EVENTS (dates and other details are subject to change)

128. The Silver Streak, 4/6/11

Also known as The Champagne Train. This vintage Victorian country train (c1970) is now heated and air conditioned, and is operated by the Daylesford Spa Country Railway. Contemporary blues music is provided by "The Travelling Concessions" while we indulge in finger food served with sparkling, red or white wine, beer, soft drink, fruit juice or water.

The train leaves Daylesford Railway Station at 5:30pm and travels to Musk, returning to Daylesford around 7:00pm.

The price is \$30 per person (all inclusive, no concessions).

We will dine in Daylesford afterwards, please join us if you wish.

We have made a tentative booking and must have numbers by 21 May.

For more information, see -
<http://www.dscr.com.au/silverstreak.php>

129. mid July – afternoon in a park then dinner nearby.

Suggestions please.

130. mid August – weekend away.

We would like to hear your preferences for this event. Options are -

1. Weekend in Shepparton – visit canneries, SPC Ardmona etc.
2. Weekend somewhere else – suggestions please.
3. V-line trip to Warrnambool – midweek? With coach pick up from station for town tour then whale watch. Lunch at Bowls club and afternoon tour to some of the following – Flagstaff Hill (extra cost), Port Fairy, Tower Hill, Lavender Farm, Cheese World, Hopkins Falls, 12 Apostles, etc. Then return to station for train back to Melbourne. Tour cost \$70 (adult). We think the rail fare is extra, but seniors could use their V-line vouchers.

The majority response will rule.

131. Grand Final Weekend Sept - Northern Division Disk Bowls #5

Dave Hanna has confirmed that this annual event will be happening in spite of recent floods.

Get away from Melbourne on the AFL grand final weekend. Watch the match on the tele or listen to the radio commentary if you must. A great weekend is guaranteed for all. Great company is assured at the [Bridgewater Post Office](#). We will be staying at [Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park](#) (some cabins, powered and unpowered sites). Book early. We hope to run a trivia quiz.

Phone numbers for -

Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park 5437 3143

Bridgewater Motel 5437 3200

(Bridgewater Public Caravan Park is closed until further notice)

132. Mid November – AGM #15

[La Porchetta](#), 165 Canterbury Road, HEATHMONT 3135. Arrive 6:30pm for 7:00pm start.

133. 1st January 2012 - Southern Division Disk Bowls #16

Another not to be missed, traditional GEMS event. As usual we will be drawing the 2011 raffle. Get your tickets now, there are still a few left. Still \$1 each or 5 for \$5.

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.

GEMS magnets

GEMS fridge magnets are still 60 cents each or \$5.00 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

Two eagle-eyed members claimed the prize for the DM in News #59 (which was “by” instead of “buy” in DM), so the prize of 5 special GEMS fridge magnets (you can't buy these ones) was awarded to the first respondent (Nifty Trembath). Congratulations Nifty, bad luck Geoff. The prize for spotting the DM in this issue is one special GEMS fridge magnet. Happy hunting.