



GEMS NEWSLETTER #62, January 2012

NEXT EVENT #134, Picnic in the Park, 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. **PLEASE SEND NO MONEY unless requested.** Most of our events are on a pay on the day basis. OCCASIONALLY we will ASK for payment in advance.

If we know you are coming, we can sometimes wait for you if you are running late. 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).

Note for web enabled members - Most events include hotlinks which appear in the pdf file in **bold face, underlined, dark blue** text with a mouse hover message, cursor change and tooltip. Hold down the CTRL key while clicking on these links to visit the appropriate websites.

The Booking Form can now be filled in directly on the computer. It will open in Acrobat Reader when you click on the attachment. The Family Name is required (you cannot submit the form unless you have entered your name).

GEMS WEB SITE

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

133. 1st January 2012 - SDDB.

Thanks to all who attended this year's record-breaking SDDB at the Tardis in Inverloch.

We had 18 for dinner at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club on Friday the 30th, 23 for a BBQ at the Tardis (1 Naiomi Court) on the 31st, and 37 for lunch at Bydand (3 Naiomi Court) on the 1st. Many thanks to the Browns for hosting the BBQ and to all the helpers over the weekend.

We filled the disk bowls score sheet for the first time ever, with 30 singles players and 15 teams of doubles. Although in principle it would be possible to extend the score sheet, the length of time required for more than the 50 games involved would be excessive for a one day event. So the field will be limited to 30 singles and 15 doubles entries in future. Entries will be filled on a first come first served basis, overflows will get to play if there are any no-shows or cancellations. So book early for next year!

Door prizes were awarded to -

Michelle Gough, Jenny Johnson, Bob Francis, Frank Gough, Mike Bennett, Steve Nichols, Jean Sale, Margaret Brown, Jason Gough, Liz Pink

Winners of the 2012 disk bowls trophies were -

Steve Nichols - SINGLES
Frank and Ann Gough - DOUBLES

Congratulations to the winners. The trophies have now been engraved, and will be available for collection at 2012 GEMS events.

As usual, the contest was fierce. The weather was cool and overcast early, changing to quite warm and sunny later. Some exposure to UV resulted in mild sunburn, but shady umbrellas were most welcome.

The 2011 raffle was drawn - many thanks to the prize donors - the 2011 raffle made a total profit of \$180. Winners were -

Delia Francis - coasters
Arnold Garvey - Cadbury Roses chocs/mugs gift pack

Geoff Hillyer - kitchen grater
Ralph Pink - dilly bag
Alan Evered - books
Bev Godfrey - ladies watch
Joe Shields - men's watch
Bernie Brown - shopping bag

A cryptic trivia quiz provided by Dave and Leigh Hanna was run in parallel with the bowling events. A couple of the answers had been adjusted and two new questions were added, to bring the total to 30 questions. Cryptic clues were given, to which the answers were Melbourne suburbs or Victorian towns. Congratulations to the winners, prizes were awarded as follows -

28/30 Steve and Elaine Nichols - party lights set
25/30 Arnold and Liz Garvey - cake server
23/30 Bob and Delia Francis - binoculars

The questions and answers are available if anyone wants them.

FUTURE EVENTS

(dates and other details are subject to change)

134. Sunday 12th February - Picnic in the Park.

Join us at Emerald Lake Park for a picnic/BBQ lunch. **NB THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF A CODE RED FIRE DANGER.** See the Park's very impressive website [here](#). Enjoy boating (pedal trikes), walks, convivial company, birdwatching, all sorts of groovy Park stuff. We will be meeting at the Messmate Picnic Shelter - see [map](#) (shelter number 2 in the NE corner). You will see that there are toilets and parking nearby, and BBQ facilities are provided. We expect to get there about 11am.

[135. Sunday 1st April - Train trip to Ararat.](#)

We will be taking the train from Southern Cross Station to Ararat. Alternatively you can drive to Ararat and meet us there. Visit the acclaimed **J-ward** museum. Guided tour concession price is \$14. PAY ON THE DAY. DO NOT SEND MONEY NOW. We expect to be on the 12 noon tour. The tour involves about 90 minutes' walking. According to the [map](#), J-Ward is about 1km from the Ararat railway station.

According to V-Line's present [timetable](#), the Ararat train leaves Southern Cross station at 08:28. It arrives at Ararat at 10:38. Hopefully we will go by train the whole way (track work permitting!)

The return train (service 8146) leaves Ararat at 16:05 and arrives back at SC at 18:26, or there are several coach alternatives to Ballarat if you need to leave Ararat earlier or later. Then train from Ballarat to SC.

Cash in one of your Victorian Seniors free travel vouchers for the day return SC to Ararat. Or stay the night in Ararat and return the next day.

[136. Weekend 19-20 May - Blues Train.](#)

Spend the weekend with us at Queenscliff (arrange your own accommodation, we will be making suggestions in a later communication). Join us on the Blues Train on Saturday evening. Note that the train arrives back at Queenscliff at 11:30pm. The artists performing will be known when bookings open. **This one will require payment in advance** for the train fare as we need to book well beforehand. The deadline for booking with us is 31 January because the train fills fast (January, February and most of March are sold out already). From the Blues Train website it appears that we may be able to book for May from mid February. Cost will be **either \$93.20** if we have less than 20 people going **or \$87.20** if we have 20 or more going. So PLEASE WAIT until we contact you before paying. We will advise all who book by the the end of January of

the applicable cost. Please pay by EFT if you can, cheques are acceptable but create more work and waste trees. Extract from the Blues Train [website](#) -

Your ticket to The Blues Train includes a delicious [buffet style] meal, the full show (seeing all four acts) and the train journey from Queenscliff to Drysdale and back. (Drinks are not included in the ticket price.)

[137. Thursday 28th June - MGS 60th Anniversary Show.](#)

An exception is being made to our "no theatre nights" policy (due to poor support) for the 60th anniversary of the [Melbourne Gang Show](#) that brought us all together and led to the formation of GEMS. Please support this one if you can. **We also require payment in advance for this one**, the deadline is 31st May. Or you can make your own bookng. But we would prefer to book in a block so that we will all sit together. We will go on Past Gang Members night (wear your red scarf!), Thursday the 28th of June at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are not published yet. Interested GEMS (those who book with us!) will be advised of the prices as soon as we know them.

[138. Saturday 11th August - Titanic Restaurant, Williamstown.](#)

A renowned and reputedly unforgettable total immersion experience (but not wet we hope!) with a meal as bonus. Steerage fare (casual dress) is \$70 per person, this does not include drinks. For boarding instructions see their [website](#). Boarding time is from 6:30pm. We have made a tentative booking but will need final numbers **and payment** by the end of June. Where is it? 1 Nelson Place Williamstown. See [map](#).

[139. AFL Grand Final Weekend 29-30 September - NDDDB #6.](#)

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. Accomodation is available at Bridgewater Tourist Caravan Park (some cabins, powered and unpowered sites) or Bridgewater Motel. 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 may be closed)

140. Tuesday 13 Nov 2012 – AGM #16.

La Porchetta, 165 Canterbury Road, HEATHMONT 3135. Arrive 6:30pm for 7:00pm start.

141. 1st January 2013 - Southern Division Disk Bowls #17.

Another not to be missed, traditional GEMS event. As usual we will be drawing the 2012 raffle. Get your tickets now, there are still a few left. Still \$1 each or 4 for \$5. Book early as there is a limit of 30 singles players and 15 doubles teams.

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 piled, 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 now historical Bridgewater weekend, including polar fleece vests and hooded jackets (it must have been in winter). 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 found the DM in News 61 (Apricot web browser). So the prize for spotting the DM in this issue is three special GEMS 'fridge magnets. Happy hunting.