



GEMS NEWSLETTER #63, January 2013

NEXT EVENT #142, Rippon Lea, 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 website - if they have changed, please tell us.

Snail mail News is \$1.00 a time. Or you can see it for free by email (or on the website 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.

There is no booking form this time, please just send an email or make a phone call. Leave a message if no-one answers.

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

141. 1st January 2013 - SDDB.

Thanks to all who attended another record-breaking SDDB at the Tardis in Inverloch. We had eight for chinese dinner at Bydand and several for roast lamb at the Tardis (1 Naiomi Court) on Sunday the 30th, 22 for a BBQ at the Tardis on the 31st, and 32.5 for lunch at Bydand (3 Naiomi Court) on the 1st.

Many thanks to the Browns for hosting the BBQ and the Tournament and

to all the helpers over the weekend. We filled the disk-bowls score sheet again, for the second year running, with 30 singles players and 14 teams of doubles/triples.

Door prices were kindly donated by Dave and Leigh Hanna, Steve and Elaine Nichols, Delia Francis and John Huntley. Prizes were -

An owls ornament, a candle in a dish, a box of bath gel, a box of Ferrero Roche chocolates, a jewellery bag, a cooler bag, a wallet, a card wallet, a dilly bag, a bookmark and SIX GEMS MAGNETS.

The two youngest attendees (Michelle and Mackenzie) each received a glow bracelet.

Congratulations to the winners of the disk bowls trophies -
Delia Worth - SINGLES, Arnold and Liz Garvey - DOUBLES.

As usual, the contest was fierce. The weather was cool and overcast with scattered misty rain early, changing to quite warm and sunny later. The 2012 raffle was drawn - many thanks to the prize donors - the 2012 raffle made a total profit of \$114. Winners were -

Joe Shields - 2013 desk diary and pen set
Frank Gough - alarm clock/thermometer and LED torch
Arnold Garvey - bottle of wine
Clare Gough - sewing kit and ear-rings
Ann Gough - Table runner and dips set
Mackenzie Evered - recipe book and eggs set
Delia Worth - pasta book and teaspoon
Joe Shields - Cars book and teaspoon
Eric Worth - flower press and jewellery
Geoff Hiller - canned koala and activity book

FUTURE EVENTS

(dates and other details are subject to change)

142. Sunday 10th February - Rippon Lea

<http://www.ripponleestate.com.au/>

192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick.

Parking is available locally should you wish to drive (Mel ref 67 F2).

National Trust members free. Others as follows -

House & Garden - Adult: \$15, Concession: \$12, Child (15 years & under): \$9, Family (2 adults + up to 4 children): \$35.

Garden Only - Adult: \$10, Concession: \$7, Child (15 years & under): \$4, Family (2 adults + up to 4 children): \$20.

Rippon Lea offers the following facilities and features: Guided tours, Nature walks, Gardens of special interest, Gift and coffee shop, Picnic areas, Functions & Education services, Wedding receptions, Ceremonies and photo locations, Activities suitable for less active visitors.

If we get a lot of interest we will need to book for a tour, so please respond asap if you intend to come.

Arrive at 11am, bring your lunch.

143. Sunday 7th April - Alowyn Gardens

<http://www.alow yngardens.com.au/index.html>

1210 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen.

Melways 267 G9, 3.5km North of Yarra Glen, look for sign and bali flags on right hand side

Cost around \$9.00.

Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays 10.00am to 5.00pm

"Alowyn" has a delightful sitting area which we call the Maple Courtyard. Up to 100 visitors can be catered for in comfort and shade. A kiosk has coffee, tea, cool drinks and cakes available at all times. A giant chess board is another feature of this area.

Attached is a small nursery area where plants can be purchased from the garden, these are plants that you can see growing and surviving a sometimes harsh climate, cold Winters hot Summers and wonderful Spring and Autumn weather.

Arrive at 11am, bring your lunch.

[144. June - Train trip to Bendigo](#)

details tba

[145. August - Shepparton weekend](#)

tba

[146. AFL Grand Final Weekend 27-28 September - NDDB #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)

[147. Tuesday 19 Nov 2013 – AGM #17.](#)

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

[148. 1st January 2014 - Southern Division Disk Bowls #18.](#)

Another not to be missed, traditional GEMS event. Book early as there is a limit of 30 singles players and 15 doubles teams. As usual we will be drawing the 2013 raffle. Get your tickets now, there are still a few left. Still \$1 each or 4 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 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 62 (suggestions will be piled). So the prize for spotting the DM in this issue is four special GEMS 'fridge magnets. Happy hunting.