



Albury Wodonga Regional Tourism Forum Inc

P.O. Box 775 Wodonga, Victoria 3689

Website: www.albury-wodonga-region.com.au

E-mail: johhel@bigpond.com

Phone: 02 6929 3213

ABN 56 092 689 537

Fax: 02 6929 3213

NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2009

There is much happening at the moment following the recent bushfires. We would like to offer our condolences to those who have lost loved ones. There has been damage to many properties and businesses have suffered. We felt it was appropriate to provide our members with some bushfire information, see overleaf. A big thank you to all those involved in emergency services and the helpers behind the scene who continue to work tirelessly for others, your efforts are greatly appreciated. For post fire information including funding for community events phone Christine on 03 5728 7311.

Below is a snapshot of our latest activities;

- **8th Edition of the Regional Map-Guide**
Artwork is being finalised and then we are off to the printers, we have several new members that will be included in this edition, see below.
- **Discover North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina of NSW**
Full concentration is now being given to this A4 brochure.
- **Commercial Club brochure rack**
Thank you for your prompt response and sending brochures in, the rack is now looking very full.
- **February General Meeting**
Thank you to guest speaker James Ross, Manager Strategic Marketing, City of Wodonga for his very informative presentation on how Wodonga is promoting itself including using their events as a drawcard. The Council's efforts have resulted in some very positive gains for the City and its Community.

Welcome to New Members

It has been a busy month welcome to our new members, what a great range of businesses!

Alpine Shire

www.visitalpinevictoria.com.au

Churchill Avenue, Bright 3741

Tel: 1800 111 885

Victoria's Alpine Shire welcomes you to the towns of Bright, Myrtleford, Mt Beauty and Harrietville. The Shire is nestled at the base of the spectacular Victorian Alps that include Mt Bogong and Mt Buffalo. You'll find activities galore for families, couples, adventurers and food and wine lovers. Our accredited information centres in Bright, Mt Beauty and Myrtleford are open daily 9am-5pm
Email: enquiry@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Khancoban Lakeside Caravan Resort

www.klcr.com.au

Alpine Way, Khancoban NSW 2642 Tel: 02 6076 9488 Fax: 02 6076 9011

10 acres lakeside - Deluxe Spa Cabins, Family (AAA ★★) & Economy Cabins (AC, ensuite, cooking), Powered Van and Campsites, Motel Units, Pets OK. Families, fishermen, skiers. Snow ski, boat & kayak hire. One way snow chain hire – drop off in Jindabyne. 70kms - Thredbo.

Email: klcr@klcr.com.au

Light Horse Museum

Murray Valley Highway, Bandiana (Wodonga) Tel: 02 6055 2509 Mobile 0400 212 831

Entry via North Bandiana Army base entrance

Special collection of vehicles, uniforms, medals and memorabilia relating to the light horse, armoured corps, national servicemen and citizens in the Albury-Wodonga district.

Open Tuesday 9am-3pm. Groups welcome by appointment. Email: djhjrh@bigpond.com

Beechworth Rail Trail Retreat

www.beechworth.com/railtrailretreat

19a Railway Avenue, Beechworth 3747 Tel 03 5728 2867

Modern, purpose built, self contained group/family accom, central location, sleeps 11. Ensuite plus separate shower, WC, bath spa area. Heat/cool system plus wood fire. Other accom; Gorge Walk B&B and The Vision Splendid www.thevisionsplendid.com.au, Email: railtrailretreat@westnet.com.au

Discover Murray

www.MurrayRiver.com.au

PO Box 54, Stepney SA 5069 Tel: 08 8363 6244 Fax: 08 8363 6433

Discover Murray is Australia's most comprehensive provider of tourism information, community guide and website on the Murray River through NSW, Victoria and South Australia www.MurrayRiver.com.au is the largest website in the world promoting the Murray's accommodation, houseboats, cruises, attractions, town guides and much more. Grab yourself a Discover Murray River Trail brochure and have a great Australian holiday! Email: info@rivermurray.com

Bolong Iris & Day Lily Farm

www.bolongfarms.com.au

5232 Olympic Highway, The Rock 2655 (25kms south of Wagga Wagga)

Tel: 02 6920 1433 Fax: 02 6920 1434 Mobile: 042815 1559

We sell over 500 different varieties of Iris & Daylilies. Browse over our display gardens and gift house, enjoy a cup of coffee whilst the children play. Coaches welcome. Open 10am to 4pm Sat and Sun, other times by appointment.

Smartair

www.smartair.com.au

11-12 Avalon Street, Albury Airport 2640

Tel: 02 6021 2929 Fax: 02 6041 1297

Smartair is the region's longest serving and most experienced aviation charter business. We can help you with tailor-made itineraries for special interest groups or point to point charter. Whether travelling for business or pleasure, the smartest way to get there is in your own chartered aircraft. See website for more details. Email: flying@smartair.com.au

Make a flying 2 day visit to Lake Eyre – from 21 March. See the outback teeming with water and wildlife – once in a lifetime experience. Phone 02 6021 2929 or email flying@smartair.com.au

Murraylands Regional Tourist Association Inc

www.visitmurraylands.com

PO Box 344, Murray Bridge, SA 5253 Tel: 044 853 3147

Our industry based, incorporated association formed in 1981. We have a wonderful diverse range of tourism businesses located in the Murraylands, Lower Lakes and Coorong region of SA. Discover our rich history, "linger a while longer" and enjoy our attractions along the Murray River.

Email: mrta@visitmurraylands.com

We have a new partnership with this association and plan to do great things together.

Member Update

Each day we learn of people who have been affected by the recent bush fires and we would like to congratulate the following members who have jumped in and offered support such as;

Jodie Goldsworthy of **Beechworth Honey**, she has kindly offered a cottage in Beechworth for 12 months to families affected by the bush fires.

Thanks also to Leonie and Yelena of **Beechworth Quilters Cottage** and their quilting friends who are organising to make quilts to give to families that have lost everything. If you have any spare material, cotton or cash (to purchase batting for the quilts) or can help please call them on 03 5728 2399 or drop it into their shop at 37 Ford Street, Beechworth. Every little bit counts and the more the merrier.

The **Commercial Club in Albury** has started a bush fire appeal and Club members are encouraged to come in and make a donation, we understand this is working well.

Here are a couple of examples to demonstrate that if you work hard and long enough you can get there;

There is much to celebrate at the **Pioneer Women's Hut Museum at Tumarumba**, they have finally secured \$44,000 from the Federal Government to build a room to display their antique quilts properly. They have contributed along with the Tumarumba Council to double this funding and they are going to build their first website! The women are already been very busy with over 60 coach groups coming through each season, no doubt the new room and a website will boost this number further. Just goes to show that if you have something special the visitors will come.

Jan and Rod Waddington at **Waddingtons at Kergunyah** have really cooked up a storm. At the moment they have a wedding every weekend, last week they held a very successful Wood Park Wine Dinner and on Wednesday next week they are providing a special boxed lunch for over 250 gardeners who will be visiting their garden and nursery. Great example of combining their businesses together!

An update on the Riverina & South West Slopes Nature Based Tourism Group's "Protection, Rehabilitation & Restoration of Riverina Bird Habitat" Project (Bird Trail Project)

Over 400 hundred sites have been listed for consideration in this project. The Group are awaiting Tumut's consultative committee to sign off on their site suggestions. Following this, a final selection of sites will be put to the Group's committee for consideration and acceptance by Shire Councils.

Once this stage of site selection is completed the Group will create a Site Management Template for best management practices for these sites. Workshops for each of the Shires will be held and will contain an educational element and representatives involved in either ownership, management or those with a vested interest will be invited to attend.

In all, the Group has 13 shires participating and numerous supporting Government authorities partnering the project. We have had enquiries from three other shires who now wishing to participate. Even though the project is not completed the Committee is applying for additional grants to supplement their initial Environmental Trust grant and Council contributions.

A 56 page A5 booklet is being proposed and it will be of great interest to bird watchers. A website linked to all participating shires is part of the project. For further info please call phone John on 02 6929 3213.

Bushfires – Beechworth Fire

The cooler weather has been most welcome and the fires are contained. The following are contact details for people to refer to if our weather situation changes again.

For General Fire Information - 1800 240 667 (Free Call)

CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires

VIC Roads for priority treatment (replacement of Driver Licences etc)

13 11 71 or visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Nurse on Call Bushfire Health & Counselling 24 hour support by those directly affected by bushfires
1300 60 60 24.

Red Cross Coordinates and registers evacuees & to check on the welfare of friends/relatives
1800 727 077.

Indigo Shire Council Hotline Recovery, rebuilding, health advice etc.
Free Call 1300 365 003 or 03 5728 8000.

Alpine Shire Council Hotline Recovery, rebuilding, health advice etc.
03 5755 0555 (BH) or 03 5755 0513 (BH)