



# Albury Wodonga Regional Tourism Forum Inc

P.O. Box 775 Wodonga, Victoria 3689

Website: [www.alburywodongaregion.com](http://www.alburywodongaregion.com)

E-mail: [johhel@bigpond.com](mailto:johhel@bigpond.com)

Phone: 02 6929 3213

ABN 56 092 689 537

Fax: 02 6929 3213

## NEWSLETTER – MID-AUTUMN 2009

Things are certainly busy, each year there are more and more events in the region and so far things appear to be going okay for the tourism industry given the bushfires in early February. Accommodation bookings for Easter are strong so let us hope that things continue this way for the rest of the year.

We are posting this newsletter as we are enclosing our new regional guide-map, next newsletter will be via the email stream which is proving to be very popular.

### *It's Out – 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*

#### ***'Free Map-Guide North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina of New South Wales'***

The front cover features a beautiful photograph of Fainter Falls and was taken on New Years Day by Ian Cossor. The Falls are located near Bogong Village on the way to Falls Creek and were 'rediscovered' during the 2003 bushfires, everything had burnt around them but the Falls looked fantastic. The Mt Beauty Community established a project to make the Falls more accessible to the public. The community worked with Regional Development Victoria, the Alpine Shire and Parks Vic to create a car park and a nice 15 minute walking track (no steps) to reach the Falls first lookout area. What a great new tourism attraction this is and the Falls never run dry, congratulations to the local community for getting involved!

### **Sponsors**

This regional guide-map continues to be successful with over 500,000 copies being distributed over the years. It would not have been possible for this to happen unless we had the sponsorship support of AlburyCity Council, the Commercial Club Albury, Lake Hume Resort, Specialty Press and WAW Credit Union. Thanks also to Ian Cossor for great artwork and photographs and Christine Stewart who co-ordinates the whole project.

### **Distribution**

We are in the process of delivering 15,000 back orders and would like to hear from members who haven't placed an order, if you could please email us asap on what stock you require – email: [info@alburywodongaregion.com](mailto:info@alburywodongaregion.com). We will organise for you to receive them and/or collect from Specialty Press at 552 Hume Street, Albury. Stock will be available at our next General Meeting on the 30 April so if you are attending you can collect your guides on the night.

### **General Meeting**

**30 April 2009 – Elizabeth Room, Commercial Club, 618 Dean Street, Albury**

**Guest Speaker: Meredith Ashton, Marketing Manager – Smartair**

Smartair is based at Albury Airport and is the region's leading aviation charter, pilot training and aircraft maintenance organisation owned and operated by the same family for over 40 years. Things have vamped up since mid 2008 when Smartair engaged Meredith Ashton as a part-time marketing consultant. The business is now expanding and doing some very innovative things like taking lots of groups to see the Lake Eyre floods and shortly a new Kangaroo Island experience will be available.

Something that is popular for the younger generation is the **Going Flying** school holiday training course. However, none of this would be possible without a solid operating infrastructure including a wide selection of aircraft to travel in. This will be a very interesting evening, please let us know if you can make it by phoning John on 0269 293213 Email: [johhel@bigpond.com](mailto:johhel@bigpond.com).

## **New Website Address**

When we first registered our web address/domain name we weren't allowed to have the words alburywodongaregion as one word, the powers that be said we had to have a dash in between each word. It has been a pain to explain the dashes each time we give the web address out over the telephone. However, we have now been able to register the following web address and it is up and running [www.alburywodongaregion.com](http://www.alburywodongaregion.com), the previous web address will remain for a while but when people type it into their computer it will come straight across to this new domain name. Thanks to Damian Cox for organising this so promptly. In the next few weeks we are upgrading our website to make it more interesting, will let you know when the upgrade is complete.

### ***BUSHFIRE RECOVERY – CAN YOU PLEASE HELP US?***

A trip over to Mudgegonga, south east of Beechworth was a real eye opener on how bad the February bushfires impacted on the community there and beyond. They really coped it and unfortunately lives and property were lost. The recovery process is going to be long and hard for many and particularly the farmers who lost fencing, pastures, stock etc and we have decided to do our bit and try and lend some support. For starters we are going to have a craft day for the women. The Beechworth Quilters Cottage is busy collecting fabric, sewing machines and volunteers to make quilts for the families plus new curtains for the Mudgegonga Hall etc. If there is enough support we would like to send the men away fishing for a weekend so that they have a break from fencing and feeding what stock they have left?

To help pay for some of the direct expenses involved we are going to hold a raffle and would appreciate it if you can provide a prize or perhaps come and help? Please call Christine on 03 5728 7311 or email her at [info@alburywodongaregion.com](mailto:info@alburywodongaregion.com) if you would like to be involved in some way.

### ***Welcome to our Latest New Member***

We are pleased to have a number of our regional Visitor Information Centres as members; these centres are one of our greatest promoters of the guide-map. We very much appreciate the work and feedback that visitor information centres give us. Laminated copies of the guide are provided to them and they display these in their centres or secure them to their counters and explain to visitors what to see and do in the region. We would like to welcome our latest member;

#### **Wangaratta & Region Visitor Information Centre Free call 1800 801 065**

100 -104 Murphy St, Wangaratta VIC

[www.visitwangaratta.com.au](http://www.visitwangaratta.com.au)

For expert advice on the North East. Cycling and the Rail Trail, Ned Kelly and Glenrowan, King Valley and Milawa food and wine, Jazz Festival and other regional celebrations.

Online reservations system and lots of souvenirs! Follow the “i” signs to find us. Open 7 days. 9 - 5pm excluding Christmas Day and Good Friday. Email: [tourism@wangaratta.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@wangaratta.vic.gov.au)

## **Member News & Activities**

### **Beechworth Bridge Road Brewers**

There is no doubt that Ben Kraus and his team know how to produce not only good beer but win many great awards for it. This year at the Australian International Beer Awards held in Melbourne, Ben collected 10 medals. As Ben says this event is becoming more and more competitive with both domestic and international brewers upping their quality every year. This Beechworth brewery was established in 2005 and its range of more than 10 beers is now enjoyed nationally. Among their beers to pick up an award was their latest brew, the Chestnut Lager. Ben plans to expand his brews further, so congratulations to Ben and Maria too who produces her own range of nice food at the Brewery including delicious gourmet pizzas – see their details in the Food & Wine section of our guide.

### **Waddington's at Kergunyah**

Waddington's is another regional business that continues to expand its range of products and services. The latest being a **workshop entitled Art on Canvas Adding Found Objects from the 'Domestic Sphere' Saturday 18 April 2009, 9:45am for 10:00 am start.**

This exciting class will be run by Kath Powderley who will explore new arrangements of domestic objects. You will complete a wonderful & personal piece of artwork to take home and hang on your wall. You will need to bring domestic objects, different types of papers and fabrics, cardboard, photos, lace, doilies, old embroidery, wool, thread etc. (visit your local op shop). Kath will provide the canvas, paints, glues and some material. Cost of the day is \$160 per person. This includes morning & afternoon tea and a fantastic lunch with a glass of wine served in our restaurant.

Bookings by phone 02 6027 5393 or email; [waddington@iprimus.com.au](mailto:waddington@iprimus.com.au)