



Venue listings a business bonus

THREE Hepburn Shire conference venues are part of a new regional Victoria push for a share of the state's \$3.4 billion business events market.

Regional Victoria Planner's Guide 2006-2007 showcases the diversity of venues for meetings, conferences and events in regional Victoria.

The three shire conference venues listed in the Regional Victoria Conference Group guide are:
● The Lake House, Daylesford;
● Peppers Springs Retreat, Hepburn Springs; and
● Hepburn Springs Chalet, Hepburn Springs.

The guide features more than 60 conference venues ranging from large-scale convention venues to intimate spaces for small events or staff training sessions.

"We just want to put together

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”

the most comprehensive guide of conference venues in regional Victoria that we can," Regional Victorian Conference Group chairman Mark Francis said.

In the guide, which will go into its fourth edition early next year, the Spa Country region is noted for its opportunities to indulge in great food and wine.

Noted pre- and post-touring opportunities for conference del-

egates include luxuriating in the mineral-rich waters of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs.

"Conference-wise, this is regional Victoria's main marketing tool that goes out to the corporate world so it is extremely important to list as many venues as possible," Mr Francis said.

The Regional Victoria Conference Group is a growing, membership-based group that has been operating since 1996.

It operates as a collective group of conference venues, accommodation providers, tour operators, local councils, regional tourism organisations and service providers that has identified the need for a co-ordinated and co-operative industry approach to the marketing and promotion of business events for regional Victoria.



GOOD VIBE: Owner of 65 Main B&B, Christine Lewis, said it was "doily-free with a casual vibe".

Main improvement

A HEPBURN Springs bed and breakfast has been recognised for its accommodation improvements.

65 Main B&B won the Hotel Motel Accommodation Association and AAA Tourism's Most Improved award for B&B accommodation.

The five-bedroom heritage B&B has a library, billiards table and gazebo.

More than 200 prominent Australian tourism and hospitality industry identities attended the event at Telstra Dome.

Owner Christine Lewis was "surprised and thrilled" to be acknowledged for her work to

improve the venue and its services.

Ms Lewis described her B&B as being a warm and welcoming place, "doily-free with a casual vibe".

Meanwhile, her passion for the venue, Hepburn Springs and the region's food, wine and attractions encourages her guests to see as much of the area as possible.

"As a host, I can tell them what is on each day, what special deals there are and what is new and hot," Ms Lewis said.

"With new restaurants, cafes, spring spas, day spas . . . Hepburn Springs is a great destination . . ."

Paddock prayers welcome spring

LITTLE Hampton Uniting Church will hold its first Prayers in the Paddock event tomorrow.

Highlands Cluster Parish minister Sally Douglas has organised the event, with contemplation inside the church and a bonfire in the paddock behind it.

The event aims to "symbolise new and ancient, pilgrimage and prayer".

Ms Douglas said the Uniting Church was responding to requests for alternative forms of worship.

"People will pray their own prayers, think their own thoughts and experience the spirit in their own way," she said.

"By holding this event on the first day of spring . . . we are recognising this can be a new beginning, leaving the old and unnecessary behind."

The weatherboard church has played an important part in the diverse Little Hampton community.

The community has transformed from a farming community to one for farming families and those who travel to Melbourne for work.

Prayers in the Paddock will be held from 11am to 4pm on Glenlyon Rd, Little Hampton. People are welcome to join in at any time during the day and perhaps enjoy a potato cooked in the fire.

For more information, call Sally Douglas on 5348 2119.



PASTORAL CARE: Highlands Cluster Parish minister Sally Douglas has organised Prayers in the Paddock to contemplate the new beginning symbolised by spring.

River's recovery on show

LODDON River will be internationally showcased in Brisbane in September.

The 10th International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows conference will see the river presented as an example of good environmental practice.

At the four-day forum, 850 speakers from around the world will come together to discuss water and its management.

In 2002, environmentalists classified Loddon River as being in poor health, and a restoration project began soon after.

The project, now in its fourth year, has encouraged community involvement and increased awareness of river health.

Through the project, there has been extensive vegetation protection and enhancement done, and woody habitat has been reinstated.

Aquatic plants have been established and there has also been willow and erosion control.

North Central Catchment Management Authority Riverine officer Angela Gladman will speak to global experts about the Loddon River.

Awaken the senses

PEOPLE are encouraged to experience sensuality and awaken their senses at two events in Daylesford this weekend.

Art With Heart Galeria Lounge will celebrate spring when Sensuality-Awakening the Senses opens tonight at the Howe St lounge from 6pm to 9pm.

The exhibition explores a range of themes including love, desire, emotion, indulgence and appetite.

A Sensuality Soiree will be held on Saturday, from 7.30pm until late, featuring activities such as canvas painting, belly dance and circus demonstrations, massage and music. Admission is \$15.

Baroque gardens

EXPERIENCE the baroque gardens of Europe at a public lecture on September 5 at the Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre in Camp St.

The Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens are hosting the lecture by Associate Professor David R Marshall. Mr Marshall, a specialist in Italian baroque art, architecture, villas and gardens, will talk about European gardens, their design principals and whether they would be suitable locally. The lecture is at 8pm.

HEPBURN KINDERGARTEN PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 12th September 2007, 7pm

A Public meeting will be held at the Hepburn Kindergarten to discuss continuing low Enrolments and the overall future of the kindergarten.

All members of the Public are encouraged and invited to attend this important meeting.

DEAN RECREATION RESERVE & TENNIS COURTS COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 13th September, 8pm
Dean Reserve Pavilion**



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