

Bendigo Apex 40 National Rort & Post-Rort Feb 2010 Update

(Fri 30th April – Fri 7th May 2010)

“GOLD & OLD”

The Bendigo Apex 40 Club welcomes all National Rorters & Post-Rorters, who have indicated their intentions of visiting the City of Greater Bendigo & Surrounding District. The city is a buzz at the present moment.. What with:-

- ***Bendigo being the fastest growing inland city in Australia. Who could have believed that our population would pass Ballarat in the period since we hosted our last National Rort of “Wine, Mine & Dine in ‘99”?***
- ***The Best Regional Art Gallery in Australia which for the last 3 years has been the only gallery in Victoria to display the “National Archibald” Entries.***
- ***Featuring the Sacred Heart Cathedral, the last English Gothic-style built cathedral in the Southern Hemisphere.***
- ***Construction (in stages) of ‘The Great Stupa’, which will be the largest Buddhist stupa in the Southern Hemisphere.***
- ***The Capital Theatre hosting national & international acts.***
- ***Great Tourist Information Centre, now housed in the old architecturally pleasing G.P.O, which everyone should endeavour to visit (if possible).***
- ***The greatest collection of magnificent ornate buildings, built in the late Victorian colonial-style of the Gold boom era, outside the main capital cities. Prominent buildings include the B’go Town Hall (1859, ’83-85) Post Office, Law Courts (1892-96) Shamrock Hotel (1897), Mechanics Institute (1854) & School of Mines (1864) & Fortuna Villa (1854-1907)***
- ***Many examples of classical architecture that rank amongst the finest classical commercial buildings in Australia and include the Colonial Bank (1887), former Masonic Hall (1873-74), Bendigo Pottery (1858)***
- ***An abundance of wineries, which produce and release a broad selection of varieties of wines, with reds (shiraz & cab. sav) being a specialty.***
- ***Home to the finest restaurants, cafes, wine bars, pubs and local produce outlets in country Victoria.***
- ***A selection of four suitable accommodation venues for the Rort. The 3 motels are beside each other, with the caravan park being on the city fringe not too far away.***
- ***Home of the biggest Swap Meet in the Southern Hemisphere***
- ***Our Tramways Museum & Depot is the oldest working tram depot in Australia, dating back to 1903.***
- ***Melbourne discovering us, with their investors now owning over a third of all our real estate (for both rental & owner-occupiers), with prices catching up to the rest of the state. However this is unfortunate for local home-buyers, particularly 1st home-buyers just like everywhere else in Australia.***
- ***The Latrobe University of Melbourne Campus, with many students requiring the rental accommodation above.***

Rort Program

So, as you can see, we have a great backdrop for presenting “A Week-Long Rort/Post Rort Program” with ‘Suitable Accommodation’, ‘Fellowship’, ‘Tours, Venues, Food, & Entertainment’ & just ‘Pure Fun’. All this, despite the fact that Bendigo lost 54 homes a year ago on Black Saturday with residents starting to move back. We are also coming off 10 yrs of dry weather. But you will be pleased to know that we had some reasonable rains in Jan/Feb. and we are hoping for more by the time you all arrive.(

Suitable Accommodation: *The 3 selected motels are within 100 m. of each other and are all opposite Lake Weeroona, a B’go landmark created in 1878. So, we will be all quite close to our “Welcoming Night” at Quills Restaurant on the Friday Night, the Dinner Dance at “Silks” (at the racecourse) on the Saturday Night and the “Farewell Breakfast” on the Monday morning. The Big 4 Caravan Park is 2.5 kms away from the motels and situated beside the racecourse, which certainly assists us to move everyone with some ease and comfort, as all accommodation is north of the CBD, on the Echuca-side of our city.*

Fellowship Opportunities: *Obviously, this is what the whole week is about and hence the opportunity to mix & mingle has been made a priority of the total program, starting on the Friday night and ending on the following Friday for Post-Rorters. Also, with an equal split of attendees between the 3 motels & the caravan park, the opportunity for informal gatherings (i.e a happy hour) is certainly on the agenda So, you are invited to go for it!*

Tours, Venues, Food & Entertainment: *The tours, venues & entertainment have been organised to give an obvious ‘gold & old’ theme to the Rort. As for the food, I don’t believe anyone will go hungry. (“Just like all other Rorts, we tend to over-indulge”). But just in case you need verification, we have planned & organised the following:-*

Friday Night - *finger food & some local wine tasting from 6.30 pm – 10.00 pm at Quills Restaurant, found at the LakeView Motel (one of the rort motels)*

Saturday - *Sacred Heart Cathedral tour, morning tea & special service + 2 other rotating group tours of the Art Gallery & The Chinese Museum; snack-type lunch at the Big Hill Vineyard + Annual Meeting; a dinner dance in your ‘good clobber’ at “Silks”, a 3 course meal with a complimentary wine and all you ‘young groovers’ put on your ‘pumps’ to dance to music provided by a great local band ‘The Impalas’. (“The caravan parkers won’t have too far to roll home but they just might get lost!*

Sunday - *Daylesford for morning tea & lunch at “Cricket Willow”, cricket museum, antique barn & chocolate tasting (“Keep your credit cards in your pockets”); evening meal back at the Big Hill Vineyard in your appropriate “Gold & Old” casual clobber or whatever, relevant to the early days of Bendigo (e.g miner, trooper, mine-owner, landed-gentry, professional gentleman etc.) with music supplied by another local band “Where’s Wally?” (“Unfortunately we could not get a Bush Band, as the only two Bendigo Bush Bands heard you were all coming to town, so they both have disbanded last Dec. Excuse the pun. Boom!Boom!) and some good old Aussie Ballads etc being performed by club groups or whatever. So, come prepared for a good night of frivolity, the unknown and awards! (“Did I hear Wyong say that they detect a hint of ‘plagiarism’. Stiff we say!”)*

Monday - *Back at Quills Restaurant for the Rort’s “Farewell Breakfast”*

Post-Rort Program

It will be great to have all Post-Rorters remain on in Bendigo for a further 5 days, to explore more of the central region of our State, to return each day back to your Bendigo base, with the knowledge that you will be accompanied by at least 8 - 12 Bendigo Apex 40 members for all 5 days. (“We just don’t want you to get homesick, have to supply tissues and/or get up to mischief without us!”)

Monday:-Bendigo Tours of Talking Trams, Central Debrah Gold Mine Mine & Pottery. A group lunch is being organised for Rorters at the Pottery Café (at your own expense). Dinner is at Bickley’s Barn, which is finishing up as a dining venue after our visit.

Tuesday:-Trip to Ballarat, includes morning tea, Eureka Stockade Tour, Sovereign Hill Gold Town Tour, lunch(at own expense),Dinner and “Sound & Light Show”.

Wednesday:-Bendigo District–The Great Stupa Tour & morning tea, wine-tastings at Sandhurst Ridge Vineyard (founded by the four Greblo Bros in 1989) & Balgownie Estate (Bendgo’s most renowned winery. Established in 1969 by well-known & highly regarded wine-maker Stuart Anderson. Once owned by Foster’s Mildara Wines. Currently owned by the Forrester Family, with 30 hectares of vines, a cellar door, wine museum & café, in which we have organised a group lunch & tasting. Dinner at Lynne Vale Winery

Thursday:-Trip to Echuca. (Remember the T.V Series “All The Rivers Run”. My wife Annie use to drool over John Waters. Still does.) Morning tea at the Beechworth Bakery (a small franchised chain of 3 Victorian country bakeries), National Holden Museum Tour & A One Hour Trip on the Paddle Steamer “Pride of the Murray”, lunch (at own expense), free-time, followed by a tour & dinner at the Great Aussie Beer Shed & Museum of Australian Memorabilia.

Friday:-Central Bendigo, touring the new recently-built, modern headquarters of the Bendigo Bank (a real eye-opener), a guided tour of the Historical Precinct of Bendigo, and topped off with a Gillies Pie (a famous product of B’go) after walking through our famous Rosiland Park to the Bendigo Bowling Club. Free-time during the day, with our club holding a bbq tea at the caravan park for all those remaining on Fri night in Bendigo at a cost of \$10.00 / p.p (“So don’t rush off in too much of a hurry, as we want to farewell the Post-Rorters in ‘style’)

Bob Caldwell (Chairman of the Organising Committee)
Kevin Harvey (Director of Program)
Ron Clarke (Director of Registration & Accommodation)

TWO GENTLE REMINDERS

- ***Total Monies For Registration Are Due By Feb 28th 2010***
- ***It Is Still Not Too Late To Register, So Contact Ron Clarke***
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