

SERVA AUSTRALIA

November 2013



Where next for Servas?

A Servas event is to take place from 16th to 23rd June 2014 at the Dalesbridge Centre in the Yorkshire Dales, UK, the venue for the 2007 Servas Youth meeting. This will be a joint venture between Servas International and Servas Britain.

It will be a chance for Servas friends, old and new, to enjoy time together whilst also thinking about where we go next as an organisation.

In the year before the next international GA it will be an informal meeting with no motions, votes or decisions. Instead there will be time and space to explore and debate important issues about the future of Servas:

What makes Servas special?

What projects would promote Servas as having 'added value' as an organisation?

How are SOL and the new website looking following their expected launch in 2014?

What still needs to be done?

What issues would benefit from imaginative and workable proposals at the next GA?

Not everyone who is interested in contributing will be able to come so we plan an on-site internet link to include a wider group in our discussions.

The Dalesbridge Centre offers potential for a small or larger group to come together. There is a range of comfortable low-cost accommodation, including camping.

Alongside workshops there will be a social and cultural programme. Set in the Yorkshire Dales there is easy access to beautiful walking and outdoor activities at all levels. In the second part of the week a series of more challenging walks is planned in the nearby Lake District National Park.

Following the meeting Servas hosts will welcome travellers wanting to explore more of the North of England. If there is sufficient interest there is also the possibility of an extended walk for a small group, along one of the region's long distance paths.

The event will be largely self-funding or through sponsorship by national groups, with the possibility of an application to the Development Fund to encourage a diversity of participants.

We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would like to attend. Then we can decide on the scale of the meeting.

So let us know at vicepresident@servas.org if you would be interested in joining the event.

Give us your ideas for contributions to the programme.

Booking forms will be available from December 2013
Ann Greenhough, Vice President Servas International
Jean Seymour, National Secretary Servas Britain



This newsletter is intended to provide a communication forum for SERVAS Australia members. The content, collation and distribution is undertaken by SERVAS members for SERVAS members.

NE X T ISSUE

Submissions Close: 31 January 2013 Distributed: February 2014

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are welcome from members. Emails (word documents and high resolution photos via attachment) are preferred. Contributions are subject to approval and size restrictions. Sorry, late contributions may have to wait until the following edition.

Newsletters are compiled in February, May, August and November.

DISTRIBUTION

The Newsletter is distributed to all members by post and email.

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Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

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DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure information is correct at the time of printing, however no responsibility will be accepted for misinformation. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of SERVAS Australia or the Newsletter Editor.

Membership Categories and Fees

Hosts:

- Pay a joining fee of \$25 which is placed in the Development Fund and used to assist with the development of Servas in less developed countries.
- Pay an annual membership renewal fee of \$20.
- Receive newsletters in February, May, August and November
- Receive a Host List book containing details of hosts.

Travellers:

- All travellers, including hosts, must contact their State Travel Officer to obtain a Letter of Introduction. Australian hosts do not need a LOI when travelling within Australia.
- Hosts pay \$50 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- Travellers who are not hosts pay \$100 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- A Letter of Introduction is valid for 12 months.

Servas.org.au

There is a very easy way to keep up to date with new additions to the Servas website.



Just enter 'servas.org.au' into your browser and on the left sidebar under "Recent Posts" scroll down to "Email Notification", where there is the following: "Send yourself an email when there is new content". Then just enter your email address and you will receive a notification by email whenever there is new content.

If you haven't visited the website for a while I suggest you have a good look around. There are lots of newsletters from other Servas groups and SI.

Under "People" there are some interesting travellers tales—great for those times when armchair travel is the only option!.....

New Editor for our Newsletter

In the August newsletter Julienne Brimblecombe indicated that she wanted to retire as the editor of the Servas Australia newsletter. A big thankyou to and welcome to Kate Moore who has agreed to take over this role and this newsletter is her first edition.

Julienne has done a wonderful job as editor over the past five years and organising hosts to volunteer to fold and post the newsletter after it has been printed. Being able to pass this information on to Kate will make her job that much easier. Thank you Julienne. The email address for you to send articles to for publishing in the newsletter remains the same (newsletter@servas.org.au).





From the President...

SERVAS ON LINE SYSTEM AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS NEEDED

Most members will be aware that for several years Servas International has been moving – slowly – towards an on-line system for authorised travellers to access information about hosts around the world. We recently received notice that the Servas-On-Line (SOL) project has reached a stage where Servas International is calling for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced companies to take on the detailed task of developing the IT systems and website to make SOL happen.

If you, or a company with which you are associated, think you have the expertise needed, you can make direct contact with the SOL Steering Committee members at Servas International. The Steering Committee will be able to send you a Request for Information (RFI) statement, setting out the specifications for the project, and explaining the basis on which the SOL Steering Committee will select the companies qualified to submit competitive bids for the project.

Servas Australia will not be involved in the qualification or bid assessment process.

To obtain a copy of the RFI Statement, please make direct contact with one of the three SOL Steering Committee members: Matthew Pashkovskiy mathew.pashkovsky@gmail.com
Frederic Morizot, morizot.frederic@wanadoo.fr
Bernard Andrieu, berno.andrieu@orange.fr

Hello Servas hosts,

Servas has a Facebook page to help 'spread the word' especially among young people. But we urgently need more Servas supporters to help in adding content to the site.

It is important that our Facebook page has regular content updates otherwise any interest in it will just wither away.

The contributions do not have to be earth shattering. We just need to initiate comments or just chat about subjects that have some kind of Servas relevance. Topics could be related such matters as travel, meetings, relevant national or international policies on current affairs such as peace, refugees, social welfare, or just pithy quotes! You can post photos, photo galleries, information about events and join in with any current conversations running on the Page or start new ones.

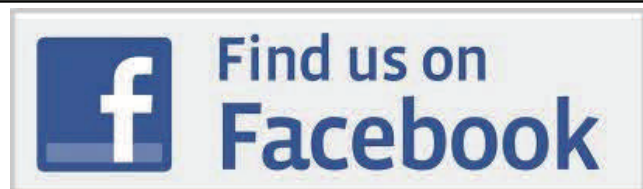
You can have a look at our Page at facebook.com/servasaustralia

So if you would like to contribute to the Servas effort, especially in encouraging younger people to feel that Servas is an option for them, please consider putting your hand up and become a Facebook 'content provider admin' for the Page.



Contact me, Gil Webster, by email membership@servas.org.au so I can register you, or for any additional information.

Regards, Gil





Re-enrolment for the 2014 host list

When you receive this newsletter the re-enrolment process will be well underway. If you have not yet paid the \$20 fee and made changes to your host list details where needed, please **do so as soon as possible**. Don't forget to put your ID on your payment.



Changing of the guard in Queensland



Anne Tennock is no longer able to continue in the role of Regional Travel Officer in Queensland. A call went out to all Queensland hosts for someone to volunteer to take her place and as a result Hilary Wiffen is the new Queensland Regional Travel Officer.

A big thankyou to Anne for all the work she has done over the past two years as the RTO and since the last AGM as the Queensland Servas Australia board member.

Our constitution requires that the Board have a Representative from each Region who will be either the Regional Host Coordinator or the Regional Travel Officer. Bev and Hilary have decided that Hilary will take up this Queensland Board position. Thank you Hilary for volunteering for these important roles. If you need to contact Hilary her email is qldtravellers@servas.org.au.

Looking for volunteers -

At this time of the year we need to start planning for changes to keyworker positions as our constitution requires that host coordinators, travel officers and Board members have time limits on their appointments. At the upcoming AGM in March 2014 we have two keyworkers who will be retiring from their current three year appointment.

The first is the WA regional host coordinator, Glenys Russel, who will be completing her two terms of three years and must retire. Glenys has been a great ambassador for Servas and we thank her for all the work she has done over the past six years. We are delighted to announce that Coralie Mills has volunteered to be the next Regional Host Coordinator for WA. Thank you, Coralie—we look forward to working with you.

The second is the Tasmanian regional travel officer, Rick Boyle, who is completing his first term of office and is eligible to stand again for a further three year term. Rick has indicated that he is willing to continue in the position for another term.



Thanks to those who donated money to enable Servas Malawi to buy mats for female prisoners to sleep on.

Here is a link to the Servas Malawi news-flash showing the mats being purchased <http://servas.org.au/august-newsflash/>

It turned out that the money donated, when converted into Malawi kwacha, covered not only the cost of the mats but had some over. Demelza (the National secretary of Servas Malawi) is putting that to purchase notebooks for the female prisoners and a peace bench for the peace garden at AYISE youth centre in Bangwe.

She will forward pictures which we will add to the Servas Australia website when both projects are completed.

2014 AGM

The next Servas Australia AGM will be held in Sydney on Saturday 29 March 2014 at 5 pm followed by dinner at a nearby venue. Further details will be available in the February newsletter.



Dear Servas Friends,

We are happy to invite you to spend Christmas 2013 in Israel with Servas.

Tour the holy sites and stay with Servas Israel hosts.

Dates: December 22-29, 2013

Place: Haifa, Galilee, Jerusalem

We look forward to seeing you all in Israel.

Servas Israel hosts will be happy to host you before, during and after the meeting.

Take the opportunity to tour our small country with its diversity in landscapes, cultures, history and people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Claudia Sagie'.

Claudia Sagie, Servas Israel National Secretary

CHRISTMAS 2013 IN ISRAEL WITH SERVAS

22/12/2013 Sunday - arriving at hosts in Haifa, evening meeting with Servas Israel friends.

23/12/2013 Monday - guided tour of Haifa and Akko with Israeli hosts, evening with hosts.

24/12/2013 Tuesday (Christmas eve) - traveling to Galilee hosts by public transportation, traveling to Nazareth with hosts by cars, afternoon-evening tour in Nazareth and its holy sites.

25/12/2013 Wednesday (Christmas) - guided tour of holy sites around the Sea of Galilee with Israeli hosts by cars, evening with hosts.

26/12/2013 Thursday - traveling to Jerusalem hosts by public transportation, spending the afternoon with hosts or free afternoon, evening with hosts.

27/12/2013 Friday - guided tour of holy sites in Jerusalem with Israeli hosts by cars, evening with hosts.

28/12/2013 Saturday - option: touring holy sites near Jerusalem - Beth Lehem... , evening farewell meeting with Servas Israel friends.

29/12/2013 Sunday - saying good bye to hosts.

Servas Board and Keyworkers effective November 2013

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