

Servas Australia Inc 2017 AGM

Notice is hereby given that this year the Servas Australia Inc AGM will be held in Port Fairy on Saturday 8 April. Details are:

Servas Australia Inc.

**2017 Annual General Meeting
12 pm, Saturday 8 April 2017
Southcombe Lodge, James Street
Port Fairy, VIC**

- If you are planning to attend the AGM 12noon to 12.30pm please let me know by Wednesday 5 April (so we can arrange the seating)
- **The AGM** will be held Saturday as part of the *Servas Port Fairy Gathering*, running from 7 to 9 April
- Agenda items to be considered at the AGM as per Rule 10 of the Rules of the Association are: to confirm minutes the previous AGM; declare the results of nominations to key positions and of any ballot where more than one nomination is received for a position; present to the membership the Accounts and advise as to the Rules and By-Laws as Amended in 2016. A properly drafted Agenda will be forwarded to members prior to the AGM. Should a member wish to bring any business to be included on the agenda at the **AGM**, they must contact the secretary in writing with all details by **1 March** so that an updated **Notice of AGM** with that business can be distributed to members within time.
- A casual lunch will be held directly following the AGM, and a dinner is scheduled for Saturday evening with a nautical theme and prizes, both at Southcombe Lodge and surrounds.
- All hosts and travellers are invited to attend this Gathering to meet Board Members and other Servas members.

Lauren Gordon

secretary.australia@servas.org.au

2/12 Hall St

Coburg VIC 3058

Servas Gathering Port Fairy – 7 – 9 April 2017

The weekend before Easter this year offers you the opportunity to visit the internationally awarded “Most Liveable Small Town in the World 2012.”

Join the 2017 Port Fairy Gathering which will include the SERVAS Australia AGM. Catch up with old mates and make new ones. Be challenged by local presentations and activities. Lots of opportunity to check out the village, local walks and sights.

You will be hosted at Southcombe Lodge which has group accommodation (shared rooms) and camp/caravan sites close by (powered and unpowered), and not forgetting the catering facilities and activities area set amongst green parkland and wetlands close to The South Passage.

If your intention is to come but booking accommodation elsewhere – please confirm this with Maggie so you are included in the catering and programming.

Confirm your interest and accommodation booking as soon as convenient if you have not already done so. ... \$40 pp/per night for Southcombe Lodge, including continental breakfast for all accommodation/camping options. Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch will be catered for on site.

A Program and a booking form are attached to this newsletter

Maggie Leutton

Servas Victoria Host Coordinator

0409 860 382

rmleutton@bigpond.com

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

NEXT ISSUE

The next Newsletter will be compiled in May 2017 Annual General Meeting.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions Close: **30 April** for the May 2017 Newsletter. Emails (word documents and high resolution photos via attachment) are preferred. PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS, SKETCHES AND ANY OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS ARE VERY WELCOME. Contributions are subject to approval and size restrictions. Sorry, late contributions may have to wait until the following edition.

DISTRIBUTION

The Newsletter is distributed to all members by post or email and is posted on Facebook and the Servas Australia website.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT DETAILS

SERVAS Australia News
Editor: Geoff Sheldon
newsletter@servas.org.au
Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

SERVAS AUSTRALIA CONTACT DETAILS

SERVAS Australia Inc. National Secretary,
Lauren Gordon,
Email: secretary@servas.org.au
Web: www: servas.org.au
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/servasaustralia

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 Incorporated or the Editor.

2017 Get Together Dates for Servas Members and Friends In Victoria

This year we're continuing with dinners on the second Wednesday of each even-numbered month, from 6.30 pm, at the **Leinster Arms**, 66 Gold St, Collingwood.

Dates for the 2017 dinners will be:

February 8
April 12
June 14
August 9
October 11
December 13.

Please let me know at any time if you'd like to give a talk about one of your Servas experiences at any of these dinners. The group suggested these talks be limited to 20 minutes.

Other gatherings being planned are:

- a lunch at Fed Square on Saturday March 18, 12.30. We'll meet upstairs at Chinotto (outside), just beyond the entrance to ACMI;
- a July dinner at Wantirna Hill Club (Anita Infanti will set a date); and
- a dinner at The Elsternwick Hotel, on Monday November 13.

If you would like to suggest other dates and venues, please let me know.

And don't forget the national gathering in Port Fairy April 7-9.

If you have health or transport issues that are preventing you from attending any of our gatherings, please let me know and one of our members may be able to help.

Virginia Heller

virgheller@hotmail.com

HOSPITALITY IN SCANDINAVIA July 20-August 15, 2015

Gael Connell, Kalamunda, WA.

My long hoped for 2015 Scandinavian holiday commenced with emails sent to SERVAS hosts in Norway, Sweden and Denmark attached to a copy of my current SERVAS pass.

I enquired if they were still SERVAS members and were willing to host me during the months of July and August. All responded, giving me their own hoped-for holiday plans but, in the end, all were able and willing to host me, even though this change occasionally happened at the last minute. After the holiday, I sent thank you cards and Christmas greetings and again for the festive season of 2016. Most hosts were/are eager to practice their English and have kept in touch. During my stay, I requested permission to buy food and prepare the evening meal (normally an Aussie-style salad followed by a fruit dessert with icecream).

Before my holiday, I researched the Internet for possible Air BnBs. The best was in Bergen @ \$50 a night (email sigurdaae@gmail.com). I booked for nine (9) nights and paid cash on arrival. Sigurd offered to meet my plane but SERVAS Day Host (Per-Tore Aasestrand) email ptaa@ieee.org met my plane, took me to a supermarket, delivered me to my Air BnB host and has kept in touch over the years via email. A second day host (Tonbjorg Hazell) also visited me at my AirBnB and kept in touch for some time.

Air BnB host, Sigurd, took me into town, helped me change my money and helped me buy at the station a Seniors' day pass (skyss kort) for ferry boat, bus and light rail @ 115 kroner for 7 days. All transport in Norway is heavily discounted for seniors. Busses often end at a ferry boat jetty and one may return by boat to the city centre.

Signy Martin on Sotra Island ((reached by bus and bridges) host, (ssignyhm@outlook.com) invited me to stay and I bussed out to her island for a night and was recommended to contact ex-pats in Bergen attending the Marie-Kirke (a former Hanseatic merchant church). This I did and was invited each day to meet up with British ex-pats for morning or afternoon coffee, fish and chip lunch at a café above the old Bazaar. or walking tours of Bergen's tourist resorts and museums.

All host abodes in Norway, whether modern or very old are fascinating. Farmer, and teacher, Sigmund Simmensen built a farmhouse reached by train and car on the banks of a lake in an area rich in history which is eagerly related by Sigmund whose wife hails from a farming area in Kenya.

A drive along mountain roads with hair-pin bends reached the bus stop to the Fagerness-lake-side home of Bente Brenna and her nearby mother, Eli, a fascinating lady who lives up in the mountains above Fagerness and who built a huge camp for nature students. Eli, a marvellous hostess is keenly interested in ancient Norwegian history and language structure as well as fund-raising local fairs put on by mountain residents. Only supermarkets in tourist resorts are open on Sunday, so one must be careful re shopping.

My travels then took me down the east coast of Norway where the hosts still keep in touch with me (mainly via letter). The host towns were Notteroy, Tonsberg (the oldest town in Norway), Sandefjord from where one can take a cheap ferry boat across to Halsted Sweden. Again, here all hosts love relating ancient and modern Norwegian history, taking one to marvellous museums based in sumptuous old manor houses and relating modern post war II anecdotes. One is quickly absorbed into daily Norwegian life (drinks on the terrace, make-up and hair-styling in view of coming weddings and other attractions and shopping for delicious Norwegian delicacies). Traditional food is important to daily Norwegian life and hosts love to serve old-fashioned treats at either lunch or tea time.

Instead of taking the cheap ferry boat to Halsted (which I should have done) I trained up to Oslo where severe breakdowns of trains hindered by accidents (bodies on the line) meant that I did not arrive until late in tiny Allerod-my next port of call, training in and out of busy Copenhagen late at night and arriving very late at Allerod, rich in ancient history, with an 11th century church and a tiny but lovely little local historical museum.

Here, in tiny Allerod, one could stay in the modern 'no-energy' abode of Jurgen and Jette Jakobsen. Email jakobsen1106@gmail.com Both teachers, and both, like most Danes, keen on sport, they took me to the nearby, ancient Hillerod castle for the day before I departed for friends and family in South Sjaelland and East Germany.- a fitting end to a history-rich travel through Scandinavia.



LAUNCH OF NEW SERVAS WEBSITE

On February 1 2017

Servas International launched its modernized website in the existing internet domain www.servas.org. The website will attract new members of all ages, in order to make our network grow and become more sustainable.

On the website there are news items, information about Servas history and information that promotes our organisation. All the information on the current website on www.servas.org is to be moved to the new website and will be available for you there. The modernized website on www.servas.org is built on the ServasOnline platform that – among other things - contains a search engine that enables easy communication between travelers and potential hosts. It will also facilitate better communication – and interaction – between all people who are part of our global organisation.

The ServasOnline platform also offers member groups and member countries tools to handle the important task of member administration. In July 2016 Servas France became the first country to transfer the original data of the country's Servas members to the ServasOnline member administration system. Since then, several countries have loaded member/hosting data on ServasOnline, which can also generate a country's host list.

At the beginning of this year (2017) there are member listings from almost 40 countries stored in ServasOnline. The listings and the member data is not complete yet, but the development has a good momentum.

ServasOnline will step by step become the main solution for member administration in Servas. This means that older systems like Dolphin, Whale and country specific systems will be replaced by a the single ServasOnline member system. Until the transition is completed, the current Dolphin Host List Storage Area will remain active to give access to host lists. And Key Dolphin will be available for access to key people in Servas.

SI Exco and the ServasOnline Team now give top priority to supporting Servas National Groups in the move from their current systems to the new one. However, each country must decide how they

will move their members' data to the ServasOnline member system.

Options are:

- a. Key people in the country enter the current host listing information into it.
- b. Ask each host/member to complete their hosting profile.
- c. Automate the copying of data from the country's current system to the ServasOnline member system.
- d. Any combination of the above, that works best for the country.

Edit: The current plan for Servas Australia is to transfer the membership database to the ServasOnline as soon as the 2017 membership renewals are finalized. Once this is done members will be able to connect to the database using their email address. Paul Nielsen (Servas Australia Membership Officer) will be presenting and demonstrating the new online system at the AGM/Gathering in April.

There will be regular communications about the progress towards completing the move to the new ServasOnline member system.

Questions?

Send them to servasonline@servas.org

Your questions will be handled by the ServasOnline Team and/or by members of experienced user groups in Servas National Groups.

SERVASONLINE KEY PERSONS

ServasOnline Member System Manager: Pablo Colangelo (SI Exco & Servas Argentina)

ServasOnline National coordinators: Judy Bartel (Servas Canada), Harley Thomas (Servas Sweden), Jorge González (Servas Spain)

ServasOnline Development Project Manager: Bernard Andrieu (Servas France)

ServasOnline Transition Manager: Guy Gourmellet (Servas France)

Managing Web Editor for servas.org: Jonny Sågänger (SI Exco & Servas Sweden)

Jonny Sågänger

President Servas International

Email: president@servas.org

Reimersholmsgatan 47 plan 0

SE-117 40 STOCKHOLM , SWEDEN

Making Connections: a new resource for Servas

At SICOGA 2015 in New Zealand, the General Assembly approved the idea of promoting more opportunities for members of all ages to have in-depth and longer stay experiences, alongside the more usual two night contacts between hosts and travellers.

Examples of potential activities for extended stays include cultural programmes, volunteering, work experience, language learning, sharing skills or connecting with local peace organisations.

The hope is that a focused visit will encourage an in-depth exchange of ideas and shared experiences between traveller, the host family and their community with the emphasis on linking into local networks known personally to the host.

With advanced planning, some interesting opportunities can be arranged during a two night stay. Other activities offered by a host family will involve a stay of a few days or longer. Perhaps a group of hosts living nearby to each other would want to share an offer of hospitality as has often happened in SYLE arrangements (Servas Youth Language Experience).

To avoid misunderstandings, hosts and travellers will need to be open about their expectations in advance of the visit and be as clear as possible about the length of stay and programme of activities.

Setting up Making Connections

As a first step the Making Connections page will be created on the new SI website with a directory of opportunities listed by country.

There will be a brief description about each opportunity, the region or city where it will take place and the length of stay on offer. Names and personal contact details of hosts will not be included as the directory will be in an open area of the SI website.

Any Servas member interested in finding out more about an opportunity offered by a host or group of hosts will be asked to contact the servas.org address of the country concerned.

Each country making a contribution to the directory of opportunities will be expected

to identify a member of their national group to respond to enquiries. Their task will be to have some initial discussion with the traveller and verify their Servas membership before introducing them to the host. Where an extended visit is involved they may also offer help and advice to agree a clear plan for the visit.

In this way, the guidelines will be similar to those already in use for SYLE arrangements.

What next?

If you have an idea for a project, please contact the Secretary and we can facilitate contact with the SI organisers, and discuss how best to develop the project.

Once SI has enough ideas they will begin to put together the directory for the Making Connections page on the Servas.org website. The page is now under construction

at <https://servas.org/en/identity-and-goals/making-connections>.

Additionally, if there are any members seeking specific opportunities (for example volunteering, work experience, language learning) Servas International may be able to help facilitate these opportunities by publishing your requests on their website. Please contact the secretary if you are seeking any specific travel opportunities that might be part of a Servas experience and we can see how Servas International might be able to help.

Finally, SYLE (Servas Youth Language Experience) will continue to be organised by the SI youth team as a programme specifically for young people between 18 and 30. However it is hoped information about offers for SYLE will be publicised on the Making Connections page through a link to the Youth page on the new website.

It may take some time to develop the directory of opportunities, but Servas International is looking to review the project by August 2017.

Any questions, or if you'd like to be involved, please contact me:

Anne Greenhough

secretary.australia@servas.org.au

PROGRAM SERVAS AUSTRALIA GATHERING & AGM
PORT FAIRY 7 – 9 April 2017
International visitors welcome!

Any partners keen to do a specific art/craft class or other activity – we can organise this no problem, just quiz Maggie re options. Four workshop options shown for Sunday morning. Final program & costs will be dependent on numbers booked. NC = No Charge

Timing	Activity	Cost
Friday 7 April		
from 1pm	Arrive at Southcombe Park	
from 5.30pm	Happy Hour	
6.30pm – 7.30pm	BYO meat, chicken or fish for BBQ – pick up your preference from the Village. (Potatoes, salad & fresh fruit supplied.)	BYO
9.00pm	Catch up – stories abound & supper	provided
SATURDAY 8 April		
from 7.30am	Special breakfast by Ralph, National Pres	NC
9.00am - 10.00am	Board strategic session – members welcome as observers includes session with Peter on Social Media. Q&A session with Paul on SOLSYS and new membership system, demonstrations and discussion on all aspects.	
8am-11.00am	Saturday Market on Railway Place and a chance to wander the Village and 'do over' the cafes and specialty shops	
12.00noon	AGM (30 minutes)	
12.30pm	Light lunch	\$12 pp
1.30pm depart for GI from Rotunda	GI = Griffith Island. Join the FOGIES – Friends of GI for an informative walk around Griffith Island	Donation to GI care
4.15pm	Southcombe – Captivating Guest speaker.	
From 6.30pm	BYO drinks for Happy Hour at Southcombe Lodge	NC
7.00pm	Dinner with our special guests	\$25 pp
SUNDAY 9 April		
From 7.00am	Continental Breakfast	NC
WORKSHOPS (pre-booked), FREE TIME or DISCUSSION GROUP – Full workshop options & details will be circulated soon to those with confirmed accommodation		
9am – 11.30am	Board Governance Workshop & Board Meeting	
10.00am – 12pm	Workshop 1 SILK PAINTING -Paint with Kathryn Portartworx. Limit of 8 places. Take home your work.	\$ 60pp
10.00am – 12pm	Workshop 2 SCULPTURE with Meg at Limestone Gallery Limited to 5 places	\$25pp
10.00am – 12pm	Workshop 3 BASKET MAKING with Cherree. Refer to workshop schedule for details. Limit of 15 places.	\$15pp incl materials
10.00am – 12pm	Workshop 4 PAINTING – Alternative styles at the Art Farm with Martin and take home your piece/s. Limit of 8 places.	\$15pp incl materials
12.30pm	Lunch @ Southcombe & a discussion on Servas marketing for new members. Depart when you wish.	\$7pp

SERVAS VICTORIA welcomes you to the 2017 Gathering & AGM



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, SCAN & EMAIL TO rmleutton@bigpond.com or mail to Maggie Leutton, PO Box 368, PORT FAIRY 3284. Accommodation payments should be made via Funds Transfer.

Name/s: _____ & _____

Servas ID: _____ (same as the one in the Host Book used to pay your membership)

Accommodation Paid: \$ _____ Bed ___ / camp site ___ / caravan ___ (Tick one)

Total of \$80 pp for 2 nights including continental breakfast

Accommodation Payment Via Funds Transfer to Servas Australia

Account Number: 062562 – 10045900

Account Title: Servas Australia Inc. General a/c

Reference: Your Servas Membership ID as in the Host List

NOTE: Please attach copy of your internet receipt so we can ensure each payment is credited to the correct members. Additional costs may include Friday and Saturday evening dinners and lunches. This will depend upon numbers. Some meal costs may be covered.

Nominate with whom you prefer to share accommodation: _____

Please advise any dietary requirements

Any special activity requests? _____

TRANSPORT: It is very easy to train from Melbourne to Warrnambool (seniors can upgrade their free voucher to first class for a small fee) and with a connection coach to Port Fairy, we can meet you if requested. Confirm your mode of arrival please.

TRAIN/COACH _____ CAR _____ CARAVAN/TRAILER _____

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR WORKSHOP BOOKING AND YOUR CATERING OPTIONS
SOON AS AS CONVENIENT**

TO: MAGGIE PO BOX 368 PORT FAIRY 3284

OR TEXT 0409 860 382

OR EMAIL RMLEUTTON@BIGPOND.COM

All who confirmed workshop participants will receive follow-up details and instructions to make the most of your time and effort.

WORKSHOPS - SUNDAY 8 April 10am-12noon	COST	YES	NO
Workshop 1 - SILK PAINTING (Limit 8 Places) Paint with Kathryn Weatherly from Portartworx. https://www.facebook.com/Portartworx/ .	\$60pp Take home your own silk scarf. Wear older clothes / apron	_____	_____
Workshop 2 – SCULPTURE or CERAMICS with Meg at Limestone Gallery (Limit of 5 places) www.facebook.com/limestonegalleryandcafe/ . If Sculpting in limestone your piece can be taken home. Ceramics must be dried, fired & collected at a later time.	\$25pp Wear older clothes / apron	_____	_____
Workshop 3 – BASKET MAKING (Limit of 15 places) with Cherree. Bring something from home to make it your own e.g. beads, a piece of material or something from your garden.	\$15pp incl. materials Take your work home.	_____	_____
Workshop 4 – PAINTING (Limit of 8 places) at The Art Farm with Martin Sullivan. Not your normal art class ... loads of fun!!.	\$15pp incl. materials Take home your work.	_____	_____

**The Gathering organisers are keen to know approximate numbers for catering purposes.
(NC = No charge) Please pay cash on the weekend – no credit card facilities available.**

CATERING for the weekend	\$ COST	YES / NO	Allergies/ Preference/s etc.
FRIDAY eve Happy Hour - drinks	NC	_____	_____
BYO meat/chicken/fish for BBQ – pick up your preference from the Village. Potatoes, salad & fresh fruit supplied.	BYO	_____	_____
Supper – tea & coffee supplied	NC	_____	_____
SATURDAY – surprise breakfast by the National Chairman	NC	_____	_____
Light lunch by Red Cross	12pp	_____	_____
Wander Griffith Island	donation	_____	_____
Happy Hour at Southcombe Lodge – BYO drinks	NC	_____	_____
Dinner – Nautical Theme – some wine supplied	\$25	_____	Prawns ____ or Chicken ____
SUNDAY – Continental breakfast	NC	_____	_____
Lunch – help yourself from platters	\$7pp	_____	_____

Thank you for your patience and attention to assist us making this a great weekend.