

# Aussiemoot Information



## Volume 4

Well the time certainly goes by so quickly and I thought that it was about time to write another one of these. People have been sending of application forms, deposits and now flights have started to become available and are being booked by those going that there seems to be a sense of excitement in the air. This is all good as it is only 8 and half months until the event, maybe less for some of us fortunate to be going out earlier. If anyone still wishes to apply and there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact me, where I am more than happy to help. I have not been told of a closing date and as long as the organisers say that you can apply then you can apply.

Now, down to updating. The msn group that has been set up has gone really well. Lots of people discussing bits and pieces and starting to get to know each other. There has been a few people getting to meet up as well at different Network events as well, which is always a bonus. I have done my fair share of travelling including Aberdeen and Cumbria. Essex (Mad UK) will be next before Jamboree and Gilwell Reunion. I am aware of a couple of other Network events that people are talking about attending. Have a look to see what's out there and see where you could go, then let others know you will be there. There is also one or two weekends being planned for everyone going to have the chance to meet up. There is so much happening for us all.

The most asked question or concern at the moment is whether deposits have been received as very few have received confirmation. This is being dealt with and there has been a reassurance of confirmation being sent out this month. I will keep on top of it, if it doesn't happen.

I have made a couple of decisions and have been sorting out the database that has stored our information. I have pulled out and separated the names of those definitely going. These are now on a separate spreadsheet and will eventually be on a separate emailing list. I then deleted the names that are not interested in going. For those I have left, the ones that have not made up their minds, wanting information for their County etc I have put on a separate spreadsheet and will separate the emailing list. Apart from the information bulletins and answering questions that may arise I will not be contacting those who are still just interested. If things change for you on the interest list please let me know as I am more than happy to change you over. I don't want to overload you with pressure if you are still sorting out. If I have mixed up the lists, just contact me and I will put them right.

Whilst people have booking flights on their minds I wish to remind all of us a couple of things that will be needed to be done before you go out. Three very important things are passports, your electronic visa, travelling before/after the moot. I know that some of this has been discussed within the msn group. So if you have been involved with the discussions please be patient as there are a few who still have not been on it yet, so this is important.

Your passport must have at least 6 months left from your due date back from your travels. Whatever you decide to do it might be advisable to check your passport sooner rather than later for this. If it does not have at least 6 months then you will need to renew your passport before you go.

You need a visa for going to Australia. This is done electronically and I found it very easy to do. My daughter is visiting Australia in July and all I needed to do was take her passport in to a Travel Agent and they did it there and then. It did not cost me anything as I booked the flights through the company. If I hadn't there would have been a £10 charge. No paperwork to fill out, no paper visa to lose, it will show up when the passport is scanned. I am not certain if the charges will be different from Travel Agent to Travel Agent, but even if you book your flights on-line you can still go into a shop and get the electronic visa done for you. This can be done on line if you prefer. The visa can be done up to a year before you travel so you can get it done from anytime now, but remember to take into account how long you are staying after the moot as these actual visas only last for 3 months from the date you go out. If you are planning on going for longer, as some of you are then look into this as it will be different.

If you plan to visit anywhere else before/after the moot or an extended stay, please remember to look into visas, vaccinations etc for that particular country or the area of a country you are wishing to visit (very important especially if you have to send off your visa applications to the specific countries Embassy here in the UK or require time between vaccinations). It is so easy to get caught out and then find you have no time to do what you need to do.

With all of the above it is much better to check well in advance and to find out months instead of days/hours before going and have time to do what's necessary for your trip.

Something that has been discussed when I have had correspondence with the organisers is the possibility of people arriving in Sydney before the opening of the moot. No one is allowed on site, be it participants or staff, to arrive before the 30<sup>th</sup> December. The organisers are aware of the possible arrival of participants before this date and will be at some stage making arrangements for those of us who will need

some sort of arrangements before the moot. I will get in touch with them to see what the score is there and will let everyone know what they require from us and when (dates, numbers etc), as they will need numbers possibly sooner rather than later.

Clothing/badges. There are people looking into both of these and designs have been discussed on the MSN group. Once things have been decided I am sure everyone will know and be able to purchase them.

Neckers. We do have a supply of the necker that was suggested for this event. This is not for replacing our International necker that will be worn travelling to from event and opening/closing ceremonies, plus any other time that you feel you would like to wear it. The necker has both countries colours and is extra. I think that it will do well as a swap/wear at the event. These are now available to buy so get in touch with me if you would like to purchase them.

If anyone has any questions they need answers for please do not hesitate to contact me as I am always happy to help. There may not be another bulletin for quite a while, but as things come up I will pass them on to everyone.

I think that is all for now. There are so many busy people amongst us with it being centenary year, be it District, County or Nationally, but myself I am pleased that I am going to be finishing off this special year being on a campsite with so many like minded people, celebrating the joys of something that we all enjoy so much. Scouting.

Whatever you are doing this summer. Have fun!

## Doner