

Newsletter 31st July 2009

Hello everyone!

It's been a while since we contacted our guests and we hope life has been good for all of you in the past year or so.

We are still here and as Bob has retired we are at last catching up with some of the many little chores we have out here – most of them pleasant and outdoors in our wonderful eastern Victorian weather.

We have had 169 sunny days so far this year and being outside in the sunshine is perfect with no flies! Consequently we have a Cobweb-shaking Special on offer until the end of September – 3 nights accommodation plus all meals (very yummy) for \$1100/couple (non-commissionable).

Although it is so dry the river is in a very healthy state with more **platypus sightings** than we have ever experienced in all of our 33 years here. Very exciting!

For those of you who like to walk a more accessible beginning has been constructed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment to the 'Slaughter Track'.

Awful name but an interesting history! The track was used to drive a small herd of cattle to bring fresh meat to each of the mining communities along the river in the 19th century. The re-opened section starts near here and winds through the forest to Deptford, site of an old mining settlement.

Deptford has some interesting mining relics, notably a diversion tunnel now used by swallows as a sort of adventure playground!

It is worth the walk to explore the area and we can set you off with a picnic lunch and a map with which to search for the 'archaeology'.

Some of you have shared your children with us over the last couple of years and we must say we have found the experience truly delightful. **We have decided to include the option for a tenting experience for families that stay three or more nights at no extra cost.** Children can choose the tent site, help Mum or Dad put it up and then opt to play in the tent by day and stay in the guest house by night or 'sleep out' with or without a parent (depending on age of course!). This is a great way to introduce children to camping before investing in the necessary equipment and with a good out if the weather in inclement. Two of our grown up daughters lived in a tent for two years while we were building so we know what an exciting experience it is for children.

The same treats await you at Waterholes – excellent food, fires on cool evenings, sitting or floating in the river on warm days, walks, all the animals and birds (trained to entertain you!) etc.

We would love to welcome you here again.

Kind regards, Kaye and Bob.