Get aboard the ride of a lifetime at Adventure Park

With huge crowds of people wandering around an enormous site with rides, attractions and a wide range of food options, Adventure Park has always been a huge hit for families and friends from near and far. However, following the beginning of the pandemic, the park was forced to shut for several periods due to lockdowns. Despite this, Adventure Park has added a multitude of awards to its trophy cabinet, with the most recent being the Regional Business Award at the Geelong Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards.

> "Our goal is to increase our ride offerings ... keep guests coming back and keep surprising them"
>
> - Joel Shillinglaw

Adventure Park Geelong is Victoria's biggest water theme park. **Right:** The Adventure Park team is presented with the Regional Business Award by Michael DeStefano, Director of Gartland Property. (Pictures: Supplied)

Taking out the award for the second year in a row, Adventure Park conquered challenges posed by the pandemic and enacted systems to further the high standard of the safety and satisfaction provided to patrons.

"Our business is centered around three months of the year, and when that gets shut down, it is quite debilitating," Adventure Park's guest experience and sales manager Joel Shillinglaw says.

"We spent the winter in anticipation, building ticketing systems to cope with capacity limits and restrictions - we organised our COVID-safe plan, enacted policies, and got planning on the Winter Glow Festival."

Narrowly dodging lockdowns, the park's Winter Glow Festival was held over the school holidays from June 25 to July 10, with every night aside from one sold out. With a variety of light installations, fire twirling, ice sculpting displays and real snow, kids and adults alike were stunned at the incredible sights of the festival.

Following all health guidelines closely, the park was able to successfully conduct its festival and the work that staff completed over the course of the pandemic has been solidified in the park being awarded the Chamber of Commerce's Regional Business Award for 2021, proudly sponsored by Gartland Property.

"Winning this award has just been a confirmation of all the work that we've been doing – these new ticketing systems mean we can forecast our guest attendance to comply with capacity limits and make the admissions process as smooth as possible," Joel explains.

"From here, our goal is to increase our ride offerings, continue to invest back into the park, keep guests coming back and keep surprising them!"

The 2021 Geelong Business Excellence Awards were held as a virtual awards night on Tuesday 19 October, 2021 and celebrated the region's clever, creative and resilient businesses and business leaders.

Elle Cecil

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WANT YOUR EVENT LISTED? Community Calendar is made available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations to keep the public informed of special events and activities. Send item details to Geelong Independent Community Calendar, 1/47 Pakington Street, Geelong West, 3218, or email to editorial@geelongindependent.com.au. **Deadline for copy and announcements is 5pm Tuesday.**

Chamber choir

The Australian Chamber Choir will present their first live concert for 2022, on Friday, February 18, 8pm at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong. The concert, entitled 'Secret Chamber', celebrates the Golden Age of English music and marks the 450th birthday of Thomas Tomkins.

■ www.auschoir.org.

Scrabble club

The Geelong Scrabble Club has a new home. The group now meets at ChristChurch hall, on the corner of Moorabool and McKillop streets at 1pm every Saturday. All players, from beginners to experts are welcome.

■ Marlene, 5275 0363, or John, 0434 142 282

Rostrum meets

Geelong Rostrum Public Speaking Club Inc meets each Monday.

■ Andrew, 0408 369 446, or Jan, 0407 296 953

Probus meets

Belmont Combined Probus Club meets at 10am on the first Monday of the month, except January. New members and visitors welcome. Friendship, speakers, lunch after meetings, dine out, Mahjong outings.

■ Pam, 5243 4042

Geelong Evangelical Fellowship

Geelong Evangelical Fellowship meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 5pm at Belmont Baptist Church, Mt Pleasant Road, in the Fellowship Room.

■ 0429 094 372

Music for preschoolers

Mainly Music is a music and movement program for babies to preschoolers. The group meets at St Albans-St Andrews Uniting Church, 276 Wilsons Road, Whittington on Tuesdays at 10am during school terms. Parents/carers and children very welcome.

■ Rhonda, 0437 241 345

Barefoot Bowls

Join in Barefoot Bowls at the Geelong Bowls Club, Sommers Street, Belmont, each Thursday from February 10 until March 24. The fun starts at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Form your own team of three or come on your own and play when you like over the seven-week season. Cost is $10 per game, which includes barbecue, club bowls, raffles and prizes. Coaching is available to help the novice.

■ Greg, 5241 4606, or Russ, 0418 172 316

Afternoon tea dance

Life Activities Club [Geelong Inc] will host an afternoon tea dance on Thursdays, 2-4, at Belmont Park Pavilion. Entry: $5. All welcome

■ 5251 3529

Sunset Run

The Flying Brick Bellarine Sunset Run is on February 12, from 4pm. Take part in the half marathon or 10km or 4km run. At Portarlington Pier, Pier Street, Portarlington. Registration required.

■ http://www.bellarinesunsetrun.com/

Film festival

The North Bellarine Film Festival is on at the Potato Shed in Drysdale on February 25-26. The program consists of international and Australian feature and short films.

■ https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/potatoshed/default.aspx

Triathlon

The Barwon Heads Triathlon is on February 27, 8.30-11am, Lahey Square, Barwon Heads. The 400m swim, 14km cycle and 4km run are the perfect distances to entice all levels of competitors from 'first timers' to experienced Triathletes.