



# Red Hats Victoria Newsletter

~ June 2015 ~



Website: [www.redhatsvictoria.com](http://www.redhatsvictoria.com) email: [redhatsvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:redhatsvictoria@gmail.com)



Welcome to the Third Red Hats Victoria newsletter. We aim to bring one of these out every 3 months. The newsletter will keep you up to date with what is happening around Victoria and give you something fun to read!

Newsletters like this need your help though, so please send in your favourite recipes, any poems or songs you have written, craft ideas - whatever you think other ladies might be interested in reading!



## Upcoming Events

You can see the full calender of events here:

<http://www.redhatsvictoria.com/events>

### 2015

**Sept 12<sup>th</sup>** - (Lavington) - [Purple Power Surge Girls 10th Birthday Disco](#)

**Sep 26<sup>th</sup>** - (Albury) - [Queens 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch](#)

**October 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>** - (Eltham) - [Borough Beauties Masked Ball](#)

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** - (Melbourne) - [Annual Victorian Red Hat Picnic](#)

### 2016

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** - (Shepparton) - [Regional Red Hat Picnic](#)

**April 8th-10<sup>th</sup>** - (Bendigo) - [Golden Galaxy Convention](#)

Please note the "Aussie Red Hats Day" event scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 has been cancelled.

# Photos From Chapter Outings!

Here are some photos of our chapters enjoying themselves!



## "Meet the Queen"

I'm Obsi from the *Millinery Madames* in Ferntree Gully. As some of you may know, I took over looking after the Red Hats Victoria website last year. So since we didn't have any other Hatters to feature this month, here's my Red (or rather, Pink :D) Hat Story.

One day I was out shopping and I noticed a group of ladies sitting at the cafe. They stood out because they were wearing purple (my favourite colour) and you don't usually see people wearing hats, especially all the same!

I continued walking, and was thinking to myself '*should I stop and say something?*' but I wasn't sure if that would be weird or not, and I'm actually a bit shy.



But I went back and complimented the ladies on their lovely hats. One complimented me on my tshirt (which just happened to be purple), and I continued on my way. Out in the carpark I passed another one. This time I decided it must be something significant, so I asked her what the outfit was for.

She told me it was the Red Hat Society, and explained it was for women over 50 to meet up and have fun together and that it was to embrace getting older. I thought that was such a great idea, but I was disappointed to hear I'd have to wait until I was 50 to join. At least that would give me something to look forward to!

When I got home I searched online for the Red Hat society, to find out more. That's when I found that you can join before you are 50, but you're a "Pink Hatter". I was thrilled! While I'd have to wait to wear a Red Hat and my beloved purple, I could still join in and have fun now!

I wanted to find a chapter that had other "Pinkies" in it, because I thought I might feel a bit left out if I was the only one. But since there wasn't one, I decided to start my own chapter and invite some friends. While we're mostly Pinkies, there are 3 lovely Red Hatters in my chapter! We have been going since 2013.

I've been to a few Red Hat outings where I have been the only Pink Hatter, or one of only a couple, and I have been pleasantly surprised to find that the age difference doesn't seem to matter. I didn't feel left out by being younger – what I did feel was a wonderful sense of belonging in this group of fun loving ladies!

I love the idea of a social club for ladies, but what I love most is the philosophy behind it – of getting out there and enjoying life to the fullest. Being silly and over the top. Eating your dessert first. I'm happy being 38, and I've never been afraid of getting older. But I'm now definitely looking forward to my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## Crafty Corner

Make this cute button necklace (or bracelet)!



You will need:

- Buttons - an assortment of red and purple buttons in different sizes. 2 hole buttons are a bit easier to use, but 4 hole buttons work fine.
- Embroidery floss, very thin cord or hat elastic - About 4 times longer than you want the necklace.
- Beads (for decorating) – Optional
- A needle (Optional) – This helps threading. Make sure the needle is small enough to fit through the button holes and beads easily, but not too small that your cord won't thread through.

If using elastic to make a stretchy bracelet/necklace you can just knot the ends together when you've finished adding the buttons, and won't need a closure.

Or you could thread the buttons on to hat elastic, to make a stretchy bracelet and just knot the ends together when you've finished adding the buttons. For a 2 hole button I found it best to put the cord through twice to stop the buttons sliding around. If you want a stretchy bracelet, only thread the elastic through once, and on a 4 hole button, only thread the elastic through from left to right.

If using embroidery floss or thin cord that isn't stretchy, you can make a button closure by tying a button with a shank onto one end of your cord, then when you have finished threading all the buttons on, you'll tie a loop on the other end to form the closure. Or you could use a jewellery clasp if you wish.

To make the necklace, it is simply a case of threading the buttons and beads onto the cord/elastic. You can do this however you like, making it very full, or only using a few buttons. If using a 4 hole button with elastic, only thread the elastic through from left to right if you want the buttons to be able to slide along the elastic.

If you want the buttons to stay put and not slip around (if using a non-stretchy cord for example), thread the cord through 2 hole buttons twice if you can, to secure it in place. For a 4 hole button, pass the thread through the bottom hole, then through the top. Then out the hole on the left and in the hole on the right.

When your necklace is long enough, tie a loop at the end for your shank button to fit onto. And you have a lovely new necklace!

Check the website for photos of this project and other craft ideas [www.redhatsvictoria.com/articles](http://www.redhatsvictoria.com/articles)



## *Fun Party Games!*

### *“Lies, Lies, All Lies”*

Everyone has a piece of paper and a pen. Each lady in turn will stand up and announce who they are and 3 things about themselves. Two are true, & one will be a lie. Everyone writes down which one they believe is a lie. When everyone has written down their guess, the lady reveals which one was the lie. The winner is the one who has the most correct guesses.

### *“Replace your darling husband”*

Hand everyone a piece of paper and ask them to write down an appliance they wish they could replace and 5 reasons why they want to replace that item. (Such as refrigerator, car, television, vacuum, etc.)

When they’ve finished that, tell them to replace the name of the appliance with the name of their husband (or best friend) and read the whole thing aloud.



Ever wondered what is it like to play a role of a detective? Want to put on your thinking cap and look for clues?

The Escape Hunt Experience offers a unique, exciting and family friendly place to hold your next event!

We offer a true "experience" where you are transported back over 100 years and play the part of a famous detective and their fellow friends (your group of friends!) to solve a mystery.

As a team, race against the clock in one of three themed rooms to unveil the guilty suspects identity and thereby making your "escape"!

You will need to use your combined skills to find clues, solve puzzles and crack codes in order to beat the clock – can you escape the room in time?

Larger groups can be accommodated by splitting up into matching rooms, competing to see which group will escape first.

Each mystery game has been designed to challenge the senses and requires brainpower, teamwork, decision making, resilience, perseverance, problem solving, code-breaking, puzzles, and plenty of red herrings.

- 1) **Abduction in the Graveyard** – *Play the role of detective hot on a kidnapping case! Preliminary investigations have suggested that the victim is currently held captive at a grave-keeper's workshop at the countryside. As a London detective on the last leg of your tour of Melbourne, you have been called in to assist the Victorian police force for a search and rescue mission before it is too late!*
- 2) **Murder in the Brewery** – *You have learned that recently a Melbourne-based German brew master has been murdered. It has been suspected that the agenda of the murder is to steal a secret beer recipe, which has been passed down by generations to the brewmaster. As a detective on the last leg of your Melbourne tour, you have been employed by the Victorian police to locate the recipe and bring the perpetrator to justice!*
- 3) **The Tram Bomb Heist** – *Melbourne is announcing their first completed tram to the public after years of research and development. To our shock and horror, the Victorian police has received a threat message announcing that a bomb has been planted in the tram – ready to go off in 60 mins. Play a role of a detective and locate the bomb before the time runs out!*

A "gamesmaster" watches ongoing games from outside via CCTV and can assist if required. Adventures last around 90 minutes as after the 60 minute game you can chat about your experience in the luxurious lounge area over a cool drink or nice cup of tea and then dress up in period costume for photos.

Situated in Queen St Melbourne, the Escape Hunt is open from 10:00am to 10:00pm, 7 days a week. With cafes, restaurants and plenty of shopping venues near-by, make this an exciting and fun-filled outing to remember!

The Escape Hunt Experience is one of the top tourist attractions in multiple cities across the world (highly rated on Trip Advisor). With 137 game rooms world-wide, including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, the Gold Coast and opening soon in Adelaide.

For further information and to book your Escape Hunt experience, please visit [melbourne.escapehunt.com](http://melbourne.escapehunt.com) or call 03 9600 1086 from 10am-10pm.

Website: [melbourne.escapehunt.com](http://melbourne.escapehunt.com)

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## Recipe Book

### "Red Hat Layered Dessert"

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pack red (strawberry) jelly crystals
- 1 pack purple (grape) jelly crystals
- 2 tins of evaporated milk

#### Method:

Make the purple jelly, but using only half the amount of water listed in the directions on the pack. Put this in the fridge for about an hour until it is the consistency of egg whites. Beat in 1 tin of evaporated milk or 1 cup of yoghurt.

Pour into clear serving dishes, to half fill the dish. Refrigerate until the mixture has set. Make the red jelly in the same method as you did the purple jelly. Pour this over the purple layer in the serving dishes and refrigerate again until the red layer has set. You can then serve this topped with strawberries and blueberries with a dollop of whipped cream.

**Variations** – You could alternate a regular (translucent) jelly layer with the opaque layer for interesting effect. If you want to make a firm dessert that can be set in a large tray and cut into squares or used in a jelly mould, add an additional tablespoon of plain, unflavoured gelatine to the jelly mixture.

Have a Red Hat recipe to share? please e-mail them to [redhatsvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:redhatsvictoria@gmail.com)