



Dinki Di Approach to Safety

Nestling in a picturesque valley, a 25 minute drive north of Ballarat, is Clunes, Victoria's first gold town. Clunes was the site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria, made by James Esmoud on July 1st, 1851. Esmoud's discovery triggered Victoria's world famous gold rushes.

Clunes remains one of the most original and intact gold towns in Australia and there are over 50 buildings of historical significance. Many reflect the opulence and confidence of the boom period of the 1850's. The Town Hall & Court House, the churches, the several old bank buildings and the old verandah-fronted shops in the central part of the town provide the basis of a living museum.

Playing a significant part in the continuing success of this historical town and providing an essential service for the 800 residents plus tourists is the IGA plus Liquor Supermarket. Aply managed by Dianne Hill, this store sets a benchmark for safety. Dianne has developed and implemented a safety management system that is in the top five per cent of independent supermarkets throughout Australia according to MGAs safety consultants. Not only does her system have the documentation and the records to demonstrate it is working, it also works in practice. Her attitude and attention to safety is excellent. Well done Dianne and her team.

Do yourselves a favour and take a trip to Clunes and marvel in the history of the buildings and the beauty of the town. At the same time wander around the supermarket and say hi to Di. She will be the one greeting you with her beaming smile. That's Di above on the right with some of her staff.



Regional Safety Audits

The difference between an Independent Supermarket in a city and one in the bush is often measured by the culture, the pace, the customers, and the challenges of distance. However, safety is a common denominator and the rules apply equally wherever the store is. The complexity of the safety system is determined by the degree of risk; such as, violence and robbery, use of equipment, hazardous substances, traffic management and many others.

Recently, MGAs safety consultants inspected five IGA stores in regional Victoria and have plans to visit another 12 before the end of the year. They visited stores in Elmore, Maiden Gully, Clunes, Maldon and Macedon to measure the stores compliance with the requirements of the OH&S Act and Regulation.

The audits were conducted at the request of the store owners and comprised a review of safety documentation and a full inspection of the store looking for unsafe acts and/or conditions. Only one store had nearly enough of the records required by the legislation yet all stores had the MGA OH&S CD but had not looked at it or used it. The CD has the majority of the documentation required for a supermarket.

To the credit of these stores they invited the MGA consultants to review their safety practices knowing that improvements were needed. They now have action plans to bring their stores up to the standard required. They all commented that the audit was non-threatening and important for their safety program.

Owners and managers should take advantage of the MGAs audit program to identify areas of improvement. Ignorance of what needs to be done is not a defence. Contact MGA on 03 9824 4111 for information to arrange an audit of your store.

