



RACV CARAVAN CLUB

AUTUMN 2024 NEWSLETTER | VOL. 51 | NO. 189

Div 1, 2 & 3

LIMA SOUTH

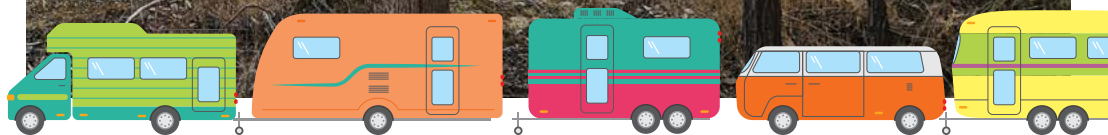


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Newsletter Material to: The Editor: Julie Mason **Email:** julierat6@gmail.com
Please ensure all newsletter material reaches the editor by the Thursday after the rally!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone

About now a good friend would tell me "A third of the year has gone", where did the time go? Lots of things have been happening.

A big thanks to George Haig and Bob Anderson. George had the opportunity to go on 88.3 Southern FM radio to talk about caravanning and our club, he recruited Bob who willingly came to his aid. They travelled all the way to the studios in Mornington and did a sterling job of promoting us and caravanning.

Division 4 has also been busy promoting our club on a couple of Facebook pages. They succeeded in getting a number of new people to attend their rallies and try us out. Well done to Michelle Somers.

We all need to be actively promoting our club to ensure our future.

The combined Division 1, 2 & 3 Rallies have worked out well. The 2 committees are working well together. The Members seem to be enjoying their time together. They have come together in a harmonious group. Members can visit other Divisions any time, the only requirement is to contact the Divisional Secretary of the Division you wish to visit.

CAMERONS BIGHT

News about the croissant brunch at Camerons Bight camp ground, organised by Gillian Anders and the 'dream team', was passed on to me. I understand it was a big hit, enjoyed by all that participated. Our thanks to Gillian and her helpers.

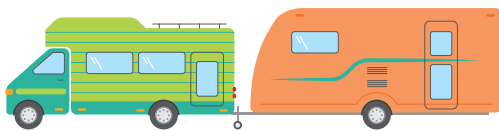
The 2023/24 was the final season for the club. Members wishing to camp there in the future will need to apply directly to the WhiteCliffs to Camerons Bight Camp Ground.

ALTERNATE RALLIES

As I write this the State Rally at Kerang has concluded, it was a great rally with plenty of interesting things to do and places to go. It is nice to meet up with friends from other clubs and make new friends. There are always tales to swap and information to exchange. Thanks go to Stella Breese for organising the weekend. Next year the State Rally will be held at Lakes Entrance.

Div 5, David Breese is running a Tag a Long tour starting from Kerang travelling through the Flinders Rangers. They are visiting some great places. You can read about it a little later.

The 19th National Rally is in 2025 hosted by the NSW Association, from 29th Sept to 8th Oct 2025 at the Australian Rural Education Centre Mudgee . You can get more information from their website www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au. They are taking bookings.



DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

DIV 1 RALLY REPORT

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WARRAGUL

January

January being our First combined rally of Divisions 1, 2 and 3 so a new experience for many of our members.

Some members arrived on Thursday setting up, then meeting for drinks and nibbles.

On Friday other members arrived but they brought the rain. Ha ha. Meeting up for drinks then having dinner at the Club Hotel for a beautiful dinner everyone please with meals and service.

Saturday morning we celebrated Australia Day with a great Aussie breakfast of bacon and Eggs with Juice. We thank Kevin and his helpers for cooking up a storm.

There was a Market in Yarragon and a Holden Museum in Trafalgar that was of interest on Sunday.

Saturday afternoon we played games of quoits, Bocce, Klop plus two home made games that were made by John. It was a bit of fun for all. Saturday dinner was BYO meal to all eat together then finished off with an amazing spread for supper.

Sunday goodbyes were said but some of the members stayed till Monday - an enjoyable weekend at a lovely park with wonderful caravanning friends.



WARRANDYTE

February



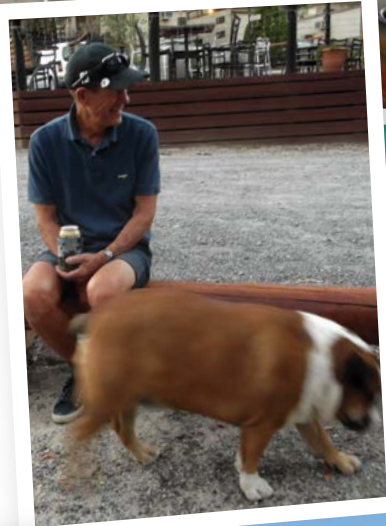
LIMA SOUTH

March

Most members were in the Park Friday afternoon and by dinner time the general park atmosphere was in fun mode and the occupancy rate for the whole park was increasing by the hour. The recreation room was at the office/Café area so while we partook in our pre dinner drinks and nibbles we watched the caravans, camper trailers, boats, jet ski and motorbikes and pushbikes roll on in. By dark the place was buzzing with families in the pool and people enjoying themselves.

For Dinner Friday night instead of a pub visit we took the opportunity to use the parks café who cooked our pre ordered dinner and delivered it to us in the rec room. They originally said \$20 meals but, on the day, they dropped it to \$15ea meal. The meals were great value and very enjoyable. With the temperature so hot we all were happy when the sun went down behind the hills and we were able to enjoy some conversation in the slightly cooler air.

The park was set out in various levels and our sites spread out over these. Peter and Fran had the top level in amongst the stored boats and busses. They missed out on a powered site, but they did have a lovely view of the hills. Others that couldn't get a powered site opted for a cabin so they didn't miss the rally. The pool was used by a few members but it was very busy the whole weekend.



Morning tea was enjoyed in the rec room and Di and Allan popped in to say hello and brought some of their caravan bit and pieces with all money raised given to the children Hospital appeal donation. Saturday was a free day so members either roamed around the area, drove into Benalla, or a round of Golf at Mansfield, or rest up in the shade and try to keep cool. We all got together for fives & nibbles and soon enough the café was bringing in our dinner. Being so hot no one really wanted to cook.

On Sunday Swanpool was hosting a motor fest so a few members went to take a look around at the many varieties of vehicles. The heat kept some members from attending but everyone met up at the Tatong Tavern for a lovely lunch before heading back to camp for a cuppa and a discussion on 2025 rally destination choices. Before we knew it, fives time had arrived. Some ordered dinner again and others returned to their vans and ate. Most members had a quiet evening relaxing and beginning the pack up for tomorrow morning to get an early start and avoid the rush on the roads.

Monday morning came around all too soon but in spite of the heat it was a great weekend.



DIV 4 RALLY REPORT

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GLENMAGGIE

February

What a great weekend ...

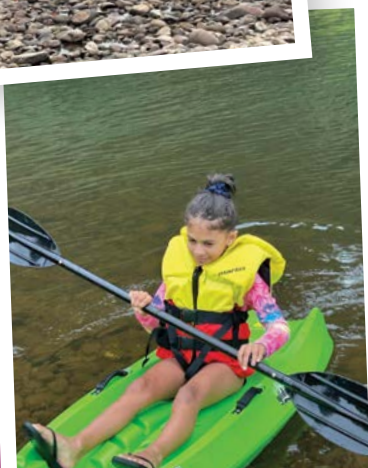
Arriving on Friday to an overcast yet still warm day, we entered the wide-open space of 'Paradise Valley'. What a beautiful location for our February rally.

This weekend we had the pleasure of welcoming 12 caravans. We had a visit from division 6 VP, Lindsay and Gill and a new family trialling the club—Josh and Mel along with their children Mikaela, Zac and Indy. We also had Ricky, Pricilla and their children Paige, Piper and Jack along with Ricky's parents Eva and Grant also checking out the club.

Friday night bought us sitting around the fire catching up with everyone.

Saturday, we woke to the sounds of kookaburras in the bush and children laughing. Some members took a drive into Hayfield 20 minutes from camp to get supplies they did not have time to get the night before with the 8.30pm check in curfew.





With kilometres of the Macalister River at our doorstep, those back at camp with kayaks and floaties got them out and went for a paddle on the river while others brought down their chairs and watched some of the adults and children play around in the surprisingly not too cold water.

Later that afternoon Michelle organised our fundraiser for the rally... a rubber duck race down one of the rapids. 29 ducks in total put in a bucket and thrown into the river to where Michelle and Imogen were waiting downstream to collect. Each duck was \$10 with the winner to receive \$50 and 2nd prize a yummy Darrell Lea bag. With a number of ducks still available Robbie put on his VP hat and visited some of our neighbours to see if they would like to support our club and buy a duck. With ALL 29 little rubber ducks sold and reaching the finishing line, number 9 and 24 made 1st and 2nd place, with 1st prize \$50 going to a non-member and 2nd prize being taken out by Josh Sommers. The race was then repeated for the children, with each child picking a number, you wouldn't believe it, but number 9 duck got a back to back win.

By the time the fun afternoon activities were completed it was time for 5zies, followed by a BBQ dinner. We all supplied our own meat and a salad to share with the committee supplying bread and bread rolls. Once dinner was over, we all sat around the fire. Robbie introduced us to some fun family games that involved a lot of thinking. The night was so much fun and so much laughter was had.

Sunday morning, we awoke to a slightly sunny morning. With checkout not being until 11am there was no need to rush away except for the fear of traveling back up to the top of the single lane driveway and coming across a van checking in arrhhh so scary. A huge thank you to the committee for a wonderful weekend.



Later that afternoon Michelle organised our fundraiser for the rally... a rubber duck race down one of the rapids.



KOTUPNA

March

This Resort is certainly an Oasis and on such a hot weekend it truly lived up to this description. It is a picturesque, secluded haven set on over 60 acres of natural bush land on the banks of Wakiti Creek.

Travelling about 3 hours north of Melbourne to the Resort on such a blisteringly hot weekend was achieved by 14 vans and all arrived on Friday night. We had 3 newbies – Travis and Colleen, Sharyn and Eric, Cheryl and Peter and Michelle and Phillip from Division 1.

On Saturday morning we all gathered in the beautifully air conditioned camp kitchen for a Baked Goods Auction where there were 3 tables full of delectable and tasty home baked goodies for Auction. We raised a fantastic amount of funds from all sales and thank you to Robbie for being an excellent auctioneer.

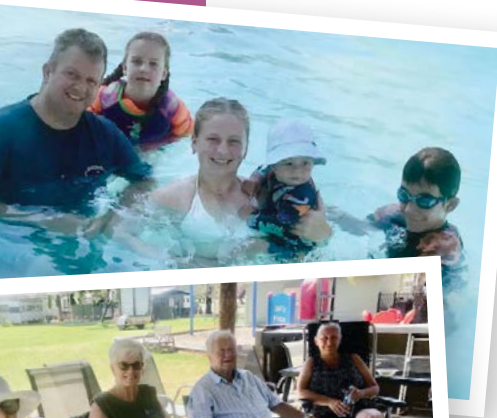
Saturday afternoon was an afternoon for all to either swim in the pool, hang out in the air conditioned camp kitchen or hibernate in their air conditioned van.

Many of our members were able to have cool shady trees surrounding their van and everyone else was able to join in for a chat around their cool surroundings.

Sadly, the kids missed out on the Games run by Wakiti which were cancelled due to the heat.

We all gathered in the camp kitchen for 5zzz Saturday afternoon and then all brought a casserole dish to share for dinner.

The children enjoyed an outdoor movie put on by Wakiti and by then it was a lovely evening.



On Sunday we all enjoyed Pancakes served with maple syrup, lemon juice, jam provided and made by the Committee... Thank you to all who did the cooking.

A huge highlight of the weekend was the Archery competition at 4pm and it was great to see all the Robin Hoods having a go... some others from the Resort joined in

Also a huge thank you to Michelle who "worked her butt off" and organized these fabulous prizes.

Sunday night we relaxed under the cool of the trees with 5zzz and at 6.30 enjoyed a sausage sizzle run by Wakiti to help raise money for Brain Cancer Research. Such a hot night with some members still in the pool at 10pm.

We also had a couple of unwanted guests slither around near us over the weekend but Wakiti were very efficient in dealing with it!!

It was a truly wonderful weekend and a great catch up for everyone.





*A huge highlight
of the weekend
was the Archery
competition.*

DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

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BAIRNSDALE

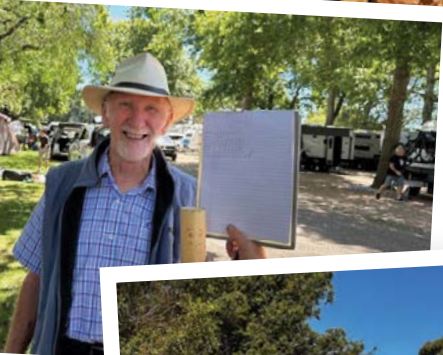
January

Our January rally was held at Bairnsdale with four caravans in attendance. We stayed at the in NRMA Riverside Holiday Park on the banks of the Mitchell River which was pleasant given the nice weather we had. The park had clean amenities, a coffee van on site for the long weekend, but the sites were somewhat small and close together.

Everyone arrived Friday and set up for the weekend. We headed off to Lakes Entrance mid afternoon to visit the Australia Day Festival on the Foreshore Reserve. Unfortunately, there was not a lot of activities taking place so we went for a walk across to the 90 mile beach followed by coffee in the main street. We were planning to have dinner at the festival, but we decided to head back to Bairnsdale for dinner at the Mitchel River Tavern. We all had a good time chatting over dinner before heading back to camp and retiring for the night.

Saturday morning was free for us to explore Bairnsdale, we all headed down to the main shopping strip where we had coffee. After lunch we gather for a game of clomp which was very





entertaining, a very competitive game took place over a couple of courses with us having to move because someone wanted their camping site, Malcolm ultimately won the match with dead eye throws, hitting the required pins. Following this we had happy hour at Robyn and Malcolm's which was very enjoyable before heading back to our caravans for dinner.

Sunday was another sunny day and after breakfast we walked to the local market which was close to the caravan park, just on the other side of the Michel River. The market had a great variety of stalls including food, vegetables, plants, craft and general items. We sat in the shade having coffee and a feed of donuts before heading back to camp. After lunch we headed off to Painesville and Raymond Island. We took the ferry across the channel to Raymond Island where we went for a walk around the streets to look at the Koala's, of which there were many sitting effortlessly high in the gum trees. Taking the ferry back to Painesville it was time for an ice-cream which was delicious. After a short walk along the foreshore looking at the boats, we headed off to the Mitchell River Silt Jetties near Eagle Point.

The Silt Jetties are an unusually long, thin landform in the Gippsland Lakes. A type of delta, they have been formed over thousands of years by sediment deposition from the Mitchell River during periods of low water flow and subsequent wash-through during periods of high water flow. We drove the long narrow banks of silt more than eight kilometres east into Lake King to the end. At the car park we walked about 30 meters to the end which had fantastic view over the water. We then headed back to camp and happy hour at picnic tables overlooking the Mitchell River, this was a relaxing time having a chat after a big day exploring.

Monday morning we said our farewells, all in all a great weekend.

BONNIE DOON

February

Our February rally was held at Bonnie Doon with six caravans in attendance, 3 of which were visiting members from division 1. We stayed at the Bonnie Doon Lakeside Leisure Resort located on Lake Eildon which provide great views over the lake. The weather was fantastic for the weekend with sunny days and not too hot. The park had clean amenities, and plenty to do on site such as mini golf, pool and gym.





Everyone had arrived by Friday and set up for the weekend. At 4:30 we gathered at the BBQ area for the traditional happy hour of drinks and nibbles. This provided an opportunity for us all to catch up and chat on that's been happening, particularly those from other divisions we hadn't seen for a while. Alan, a Div 1 member who lives near Bonnie Doon also joined in for the weekend which was great. We then headed off to the Bonnie Doon Hotel for dinner, the meals were very tasty and arrived quickly after ordering. We all had a good evening before heading back to camp and retiring for the evening.

Saturday morning started with a quick meeting and coffee at the bbq area, followed by free time. At 11:30 we headed off the Mansfield Zoo where we had a picknick lunch in the zoo's bbq area before wandering around the zoo. We stayed for the feeding of the Lions who were starting to get impatient for their lunch, pacing back and forth and the occasional roar made the visit interesting. The zookeeper feed the lions and provided an informative talk on the lions. We then headed off to the feeding of the inquisitive Meerkats, again the zookeeper provided a talk on the animals and the enclosure requirements which was interesting.



After the zoo we headed back to the camp and happy hour in the bbq area overlooking the lake, it was a reasonably warm day and this area provided great shelter and a cool breeze making happy hour enjoyable. The club provided a bbq dinner of snags and salad that was tasty and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who helped cook and clean up. After dinner several of us stayed and played board games which was very competitive, one match being won by Robyn and Stella and the other by Donna and Gay.

Sunday was another sunny day with most of us heading home. Prior to leaving the district Alan kindly invited us all for morning tea at his place which was fantastic. Those staying on headed off to a lookout spot overlooking Lake Eildon which had spectacular views across the lake and Victorian high country as far as you could see. Thanks Alan for an enjoyable time.

Another great weekend with friends from Division 1.





*An organisation
devoted solely to the
interest of Caravanners*

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