



RACV CARAVAN CLUB

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Please ensure all newsletter material reaches the editor by the Thursday
after the rally!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, the festive season is done and dusted for another year, and we are zooming our way into 2026 at an alarming pace. I hope you all managed to spend some quality time with family and good friends. For those who travelled around Victoria, the weather certainly gave us a bit of everything! It was nice to actually have some warm days at Camerons Bight this year for a change.

AGM

Thank you to all members who attended the AGM in November. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Alan Jennings for the tremendous effort he has put into the running of our club over many years. His knowledge has been invaluable, and he has worked with numerous executive committees to ensure we adhere to all relevant regulations. While Alan no longer holds a position on the executive committee, I know he is only a phone call away should we need guidance. Thank you, Alan, for everything you have done for the club.

I would also like to welcome both new and returning executive and divisional committee members. Your roles are invaluable, and we greatly appreciate you volunteering your time to ensure the club and its divisions continue to operate effectively.



COMBINED CHRISTMAS RALLY

Our first combined rally for some time was held at the Elmore Events Centre in December, and what a fantastic weekend it was. Combined rallies are a great way to catch up with friends and to meet and get to know members from other divisions. They also provide an opportunity to reflect on the fact that we are one club, united by a shared love of caravanning. I have many fond memories of combined rallies from my years of involvement with the club.

Events like this don't just happen—there is a huge amount of work done behind the scenes in the lead-up, as well as on the ground throughout the weekend. I am sure you will all agree that our Activities Co-ordinator, Anne Cecil, did an outstanding job pulling it all together. The rally was also another great example of how we all pitch in, with every division contributing to the running of activities over the weekend.

I must also thank the Division 5 ladies who educated me on the ways of Sharpie dancing! It was wonderful to see everyone having such a great time on Saturday night. We received many comments about how often we should hold combined rallies, which is something the executive committee will be looking into.





2026 RALLY CALENDAR

The 2026 rally calendar was published in the last quarterly newsletter and is also available on the website and the club Facebook page. Just a reminder that members are welcome to visit other divisions; however, you must contact the relevant divisional secretary before booking a site to ensure they can accommodate you without impacting their own members.

MEMBERSHIP

As discussed at the AGM, caravan clubs across Victoria have been experiencing a decline in membership, and our club has not been immune to this trend. That said, it has been incredibly pleasing to welcome several new members over the past few months. The executive committee will be working on ideas throughout the year to promote the club and encourage new members, helping to ensure our club remains strong, active, and healthy into the future.

*I hope you all enjoy
another year of
rallying!*

LAURA MULLER
PRESIDENT



COMBINED CHRISTMAS RALLY REPORT

December

An amazing 57 caravans and motorhomes attended our first combined rally for some time at Elmore, with every division represented.

From 10am on Friday, when the gates officially opened, there was a steady stream of members arriving. One of the great advantages of a combined rally is being spread among members from all divisions, providing a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends or get to know new ones. The weather gods smiled on us on Friday (although they could have turned the thermostat down just a little!), and we were very grateful for the use of the George Homberg Pavilion as a place to gather out of the sun.

There was a terrific turnout for the community dinner in the pavilion, with plenty of cross-divisional conversation. Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 5 cooked pancakes for supper, which were absolutely delicious. With such an amazing variety of toppings, it was hard to choose! Thanks also to those members who supplied lemons or lemon juice. The fact that there were no pancakes left speaks volumes.

On Saturday morning we again gathered in the pavilion for a bring-a-plate communal morning tea. Once again, the spread was outstanding and provided a great opportunity to officially welcome everyone attending the rally. Raffle tickets were available for the handmade quilt donated by Pat Glover (Division 2) and several Christmas hampers. Proceeds from the raffle were donated to Rural Aid, an organisation that provides vital support to farming families in times of need. An amazing \$560 was raised.

Although the sky threatened rain and even delivered a brief shower, it cleared in time for the children's games run by Division 4. Squeals of delight filled the air as the kids enthusiastically took part in a range of activities.





Later in the afternoon, Division 6 organised games for the grown-ups. I'd like to say it wasn't competitive—but from my observations, some people may have been playing for sheep stations! Great fun was had by all who participated.

At 3pm it was time for the much-anticipated arrival of Santa. The children eagerly awaited their names being called to receive their gift, lolly bag and icy pole. With many divisions having few younger members, it was especially lovely to share in the excitement.

We gathered once again in the pavilion for pre-dinner drinks while watching the caterers set up, which had mouths watering. The children enjoyed their party food, including some very festive fairy bread, before the rest of us lined up for a generous and delicious dinner, followed by an equally enjoyable dessert.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Dre and Harv, an amazing duo who kept us entertained all night. Many took to the dance floor, with a special shout-out to the group of ladies who outlasted everyone else. Hopefully you weren't too exhausted on Sunday morning after all that Sharpie dancing!

On Sunday morning we gathered for morning tea supplied by the club. It was great to once again see members chatting and connecting across divisions. For most, this marked the end of the rally and it was time to head home, while a few lucky members were able to stay on for another night and depart on Monday.

A huge thank you to Anne for all her hard work in delivering such a terrific weekend, and to all the members who helped coordinate activities or supported behind the scenes. This rally was a wonderful example of our shared love of caravanning and the strength of our club.

Looking forward to the next one!



It was great to once again see members chatting and connecting across divisions.

DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

DIV 1, 2 & 3 RALLY REPORT

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Vice President	Div 1	Steve Clark	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	0419 369 728
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	Div 3			



PORTARLINGTON

October

The rally was a quiet one with 5 vans. A few members pulled out due to illness and National Rally travels. The weather was extremely windy and the ocean very rough with white caps galore. Not really weather to sit outside even with the sun out. There was Hot-rod club in the staying in the park as well with their Hot-rods which were quite impressive rolling in on Friday afternoon, but sadly for us, they had the use of the Rec room for the Weekend and no room for us. We were able to have happy hour outside the room on the sheltered side away from the wind. We had our Fish and chips dinner which was very enjoyable before everyone retired to their vans when the cold started to bite.

Saturday was spent sightseeing op shopping and for some watching a bit of Bathurst on the telly. We had dinner at the Portarlington hotel and returned back to our vans. Sunday morning the wind had died down but it was time to go home.



MARYSVILLE

November

We had 10 vans for the trip to Marysville included were Laura & Richard Muller & prospective members Edwina & Israel Marshall.

Park was booked out for the weekend as it was the Marysville Marathon weekend. A lot of very fit people running around with a lot of ankle biters to match. We also had the Sunday Market for an extra.

Thurs saw the Glovers & Slades arrive with the balance coming Friday, all had tales to tell of the trip over the mountain.

It was an easy weekend with plenty of free time to see the sights – Steavensons Falls, lookouts (ask Anne & Steve about Keppels), Brunos' Garden, walks & plenty of places to get a coffee, even an art show at the Information Centre. Bird life was abundant with the King Parrots stealing the show. Brunos' Garden is worth a mention with the regrowth & new sculptures since the 09 fires. He has rebuilt his home & gallery & many sculptures have been restored together with the new, it is well worth a look.

Friday night was BYO or takeaway Pizza, Saturday night the Pub after Steve brought us up to date with Club matters at Happy Hour with Laura – Club Pres – to back him up.

So, who came to Marysville?? We had Peter & Fran, Kevin & Anne, Mick & Linda, Robert & Barbara, Steve & Anne, John & Pat, Ken & Jude. Martin & Lyn together with Richard & Laura & to cap it off Israel & Edwina our prospective members.

It was a shame the weather was not sunny & warm but that did not deter us from having a fun weekend & enjoying the rally.



DIV 4 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

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On completion
of the National
Rally, six Caravans
proceeded to the
Division 4 October
Rally at Lake
Eppalock...



MUDGEES & EPPALOCK

September & October

Out of a total 28 Caravans from all Divisions of RACVCC, Division 4 had 17 Caravans in attendance at the recent National Caravan Rally at Mudgee, New South Wales.

As usual, it was a great Rally with lots of activities and places to visit. The nightly entertainment was excellent.

Sharon Clark and Julie Booth won a Raffle Prize of an "Air Fryer" and "Soda Stream" respectively. Logan Evans won third prize in the Childrens Drag Racing Competition.

Members participated in the various activities and visited Wineries, Shops and Historic Towns in the surrounding countryside.

We were very fortunate that good weather prevailed over the whole Rally period.

On completion of the National Rally, six Caravans proceeded to the Division 4 October Rally at Lake Eppalock. Five of the six Vans spent a night at Deniliquin, where they visited an extraordinary Motor Museum and a second Regional Museum.

Other Members went to Sydney, Canberra and various other venues on their way home from the National Rally.

The six Vans attending the Division 4 Rally (on the way home) at Lake Eppalock were joined by a further four Vans, making a total of ten Division 4 Vans at this Rally. In addition, we were joined by Sue and David Shrubshall, a Past Member, in their new Motor Home. They are looking at re-joining the Club after an absence of a few years without a Caravan.

Activities at the Lake Eppalock Rally included a community Sausage Sizzle Lunch organised by Division Marshall, Ben George and much time spent around enormous Camp Fires each night. Children spent many hours in the heated Swimming Pool and Jumping Pillow.

It was a very pleasant Rally enjoyed by all.

CAPEL SOUND

November

What a wonderful long weekend we had at Capel Sound for our November Rally, coinciding with Melbourne Cup Day!

As always, our weekend began with a relaxed Friday night dinner, this year held at the Rosebud Hotel. It was great to see everyone come together once again — sharing stories, laughter, and plenty of good food. The perfect way to start the long weekend!

Saturday greeted us with glorious sunshine — ideal conditions for our Mystery Picnic!

This year, the committee added a fun twist. Members had to solve riddles to discover their next destination and collect their picnic treats — a mix of Amazing Race excitement and RACV Caravan Club camaraderie!

After a slight change to the schedule, members set off to explore the beautiful Red Hill area. Along the way, stops included:

- Red Hill Market
- Mock Red Hill Cider
- Millers Bakery
- Boatshed Cheese
- Red Hill Bakery
- Champions Point Lookout
- Gordon Studio and Gallery

Everyone then gathered at the Balnarring Picnic Rotunda, where we enjoyed a beautifully presented picnic in the sunshine. The food and company made it a truly special afternoon.

Sunday brought another magnificent day. Some members visited St Andrews Brewery for a relaxed lunch and local brews, while others enjoyed a delicious meal at Blue Fish, the local fish and chip shop.

Later in the afternoon, we all met back at the park and enjoyed a lovely visit from Robert, Donna, Bella, and Tyler Booth. It was a perfect chance to sit back, relax, and soak up the warm weather together.

This morning we woke to the gentle sound of rain tapping on the caravan roofs — a sound many of us agree is one of life's little pleasures. With the change in weather, a group decided to go tenpin bowling. However, it seemed the rest of Rosebud had the same idea!

Instead, we headed to a local coffee shop for a warm drink. Upon arrival, we were greeted by the owner, whose dry sense of humour quickly filled the room with laughter. As the conversation unfolded, we discovered he was a retired professor of physics and mathematics from Melbourne University — and his witty banter had us all in stitches! It turned out to be one of the most entertaining and memorable coffee stops we've ever had.

That afternoon, Amanda, Caroline, and Ben took the children to the local swimming pool, as it wasn't really a beach day. Meanwhile, some of the adults paid a visit to Jetty Road Brewery, enjoying a few local craft beers and great conversation — the perfect way to spend a relaxed, rainy afternoon.

As Tuesday rolled around, it was time for some to pack up and head home while others lingered a little longer to soak in the last of the Capel Sound atmosphere.

Everyone agreed it had been one of our most enjoyable rallies yet — filled with sunshine, laughter, friendship, and a few unexpected surprises along the way.

A huge thank-you to everyone who took part and helped make the November Rally at Capel Sound such a success. The mystery picnic was a hit, the weather (mostly) spectacular.



DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

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WANGARATTA

September

Our September rally was held at Wangaratta and we stayed at the Wangaratta Caravan Park about 2 km north of the city center. The park had reasonable size sites, clean amenities and an area suitable for us to play some games. 7 caravans attended the rally, and we were fortunate to have fine weather during the day, although the nights were cool.

We all had arrived by Friday afternoon and it was great catching up at 4:30 for happy hour. Time soon went by chatting over nibbles and drinks before heading down the Wangaratta RSL for dinner. The RSL had a good variety for food options, and we all enjoyed our time chatting over our meal before heading back to camp and retiring for the evening.

First thing Saturday we all gathered for a quick meeting over a cuppa where David provided an update of what's happening in the Club and Roger providing details of the State Rally in March 2026 at Myrtleford. Stella and Gay acted as Marshall's for the weekend and detailed the weekend's activities and things to do in the area. The morning was left free to explore with some of us having morning tea at 'Shelley's



Bakery' downtown; the pie and apple turnover was delicious. In the afternoon we gather for a game of ladder golf organised by Michael, on a grassy vacant site near our caravans. Gay, our score keeper did a great job tallying the scores of hard-fought battles. And then there was two, Janice and David, after 15 minutes of tense concentration, Janice emerged as the winner and basked in her glory having thrown some magnificent shots. Well done Janice, better luck next time David.

After the games it was time for happy hour followed by a BYO barbecue dinner in the camp kitchen, everyone brought either a salad or desert to share making for a fantastic meal. Following dinner and once dark, we headed off to the Wangaratta Water Tower painted art. The water tower was painted in 2021 by Sophia Hanover and is known as "The Beacon" and depicts the Indigenous practice of gathering people to tell a story. During the day the art displays flora and fauna and at night the tower displays native animals with the aid of coloured lights. Well worth a visit.

Sunday morning was free to relax, some went to a local market and explored the area. After the market David, Stella, Janice and Roger headed over the Eldorado Dredge which is a disused floating gold dredge. Dredge production commenced in 1936, mining gold and tin until its closure in 1954. It was one of the largest structures of its type in the southern hemisphere and pulled a third of the state's electricity power behind Melbourne and Geelong. In the afternoon we all headed off to the Goora Madda Olive farm in Rutherglen about a 40 minute drive away. The owner provided a very informative talk on the various types of olives along with tastings of olives and oils. The quality and taste was excellent and most purchased something from the shop to take home. After the tasting we made our own way home allowing people to explore along the way. We had happy hour at the usual time which was enjoyable chatting before retiring for the evening. This concluded the rally with some people the next day heading home or starting the Tag Along to the National Rally in Mudgee.

This was another great weekend and enjoyed by all.



EUROA

November

This was a well-attended rally, with 10 vans and 2 motorhomes. By 2:30pm on Friday, most people had arrived and friendships were renewed. We had new members Dale and Andrew as well as Linda and Bruno as potential members on a trial basis. The weather was warm, which suited gathering under Greg and Marilyn's awning.

This is a very picturesque caravan park, split by the Seven Creeks. There's an 8km walking trail through the park and along the creek into town, as well as another loop that heads upstream from the CP.

Euroa is also a town of interesting history...

Euroa is also a town of interesting history, particularly the three Victoria Crosses won by young men of the district during WW1 awarded, unfortunately, posthumously.

By happy hour, we moved to the shelter for more convivial (and sheltered) conversation. Fortunately, the expected rain didn't happen.

By 5:45, we packed up and adjourned to the Seven Creeks Hotel for dinner, just 5 minutes walk from the caravan park. Food was good and quickly delivered and there was much lively conversation. Sadly, we had no luck in the raffle.

On Saturday morning Gay led the usual meeting to discuss the state of the Division, and to hear the Treasurer's Report (thanks Mounir!). Gay also set out the possibilities for activities for the weekend, including the market at Violet Town (Saturday morning) and the local cinema (Saturday evening). Roger reported on the State Rally for 2026, and mentioned that registration is now open here: <https://www.accvic.org.au/layout.php?p=67>

Most people headed off to the Violet Town market after the meeting. It was huge, with many, many stalls! The market is certainly well worth a visit if you're up this way on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

In the afternoon, people went in many directions; some of us attended the ACCVic AGM and Delegates meetings by Zoom. Most others, however, had an intriguing game of Klop (<https://www.klop.com.au>), with Malcolm emerging victorious. Thanks to Gay for her careful scoring!

In the evening many went to the local cinema to watch *The Travellers*, starring Bryan Brown. The cinema is a 5-10 minute walk from the CP.

On Sunday several couple journeyed to Gooram Falls and then Polly McQuinn's Weir on Seven Creeks before coffee and cake at Strathbogie (highly recommended). We then journeyed to the Wombat Lookout for amazing views across southern Victoria, before heading back to the CP for lunch.

On Sunday afternoon there were games of cards, helped by donated gifts from the CP.

By 5pm it was time for happy hour(s) in the camp kitchen before people scattered to their own places to make dinner.

In the morning, we made final farewells before heading home. It was a great weekend away with good company and easy conversation.



DIV 6 RALLY REPORTS

COMMITTEE DETAILS

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DROUIN WEST

October

Here we go, here we go, here we go! Weekends away with the club never fail to put a big smile on my face.

We rolled into a gorgeous park — spotless grounds tucked beside a running creek, with playgrounds for the kids and plenty of undercover spots in case the weather turned. The skies looked a bit ominous, with the occasional drizzle and bursts of sunshine, but nothing could dampen the laughter and fun shared with friends. A weekend that promised the company of 14 vans in total!

It wouldn't be a proper start to our Friday arrival without 5'zies! The most infamous part of the day was in full swing — and not just for the humans, as even our furry four-legged mascots joined the fun. A crisp Friday night saw everyone settling in: some chatting and laughing, others (like me) staking out their cozy little homes on wheels for a quiet night in. The perfect kickoff to a weekend full of adventures!

It was such a treat to welcome back our former visitors — and now Division 6 members — Karen and Stuart (who clearly didn't enjoy our company last rally — ha ha!). We also loved catching up with familiar faces from Division 4: Brad, Caroline, and Ebony, as well as Kathryn and Paul.

Saturday morning brought sunshine, the hum of local chatter around the campground, coffee in hand, and the all-important decision of what the day would bring. The Jindalee Market won out, with stalls full of local talent and plenty of delicious yummies to sample.

Our divisional fur babies, Billie and Mack, had a ball at the Drouin dog park, racing around and making new friends — the perfect way to tucker them out!

Keeping with tradition, Saturday afternoon was all about taking it easy — sharing laughs, long chats, and some good old-fashioned catching up in the sun. I'm pretty sure it was the first day we got to crack out the summer shorts. Honestly, we couldn't have asked for a nicer day.

Fourteen of us headed out to the Royal Hotel in Drouin for dinner, while a few took a stroll through the Warragul Twilight Market beforehand. I have to say, it was honestly one of my top five meals ever! Not a single person was disappointed — every plate was a winner. As an added bonus, the staff were lovely, and the atmosphere was relaxed enough that we could actually hear each other talk. All in all, just a fabulous night!

We returned to the park to find Lindsay's legendary campfire blazing — kindly set up by one of our many self-appointed fire marshals. Our visitors, Caroline and Brad, added another fire pit, though I don't think they got the memo that Division 6 only runs smokeless fires! The skies were clear and the weather mild, but no matter how pleasant the evening, a campfire is always a welcome addition. It was wonderful to see everyone laughing, chatting, and solving all the world's problems around the flames. We're so lucky to have such a special group.

Declan took on the role of our official wildlife monitor. With his trusty torch in hand, we watched several possums polish off the leftover 5'zies bickies, while the wood ducks quietly settled in along the creek's edge.



And then – Declan spotted the best thing ever!

Declan's Discovery

By torchlight by the creek so still,
Young Declan watched with quiet thrill.

Through rippled glass of moonlit hue,
A secret shape came swimming through.

Not just a duck, nor fish, nor fusa —
A platypus! A platypus!

Anne had a video she'd filmed herself,
And Declan grinned, 'That's exactly what
I saw myself!'

So rare to see, this Aussie gem,
A magic moment shared with them.

The camp grew hushed, the firelight glowed,
As whispers down the line all flowed —

For in that creek, beneath the stars,
We saw how lucky Aussies are.

Billy Girl was completely worn out from her big day at camp. There was some debate about whether she actually needed to be carried back to bed...but she gave everyone a look that said, "Trust me, I do."

Although the basic schedule of our weekends stays the same, we never tire of our caravan life. It's not just about the places we go, but about the friends we share it with and the joy of catching up together.

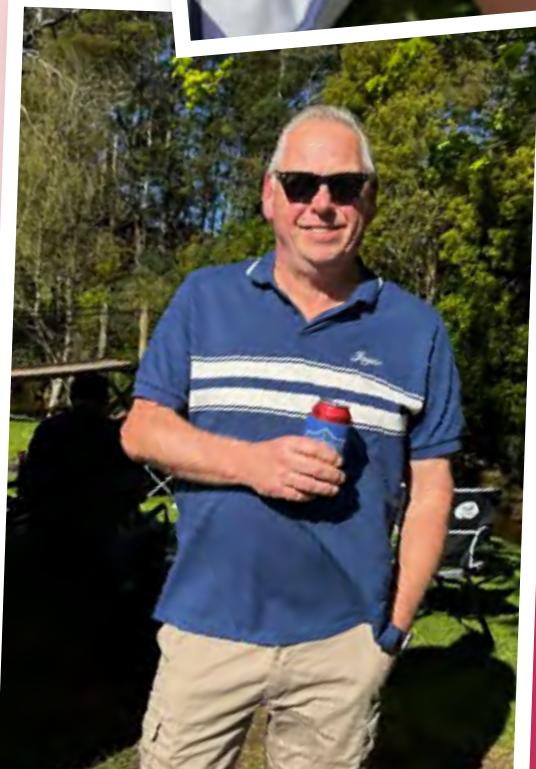
What an amazing rally, filled with laughter, great friends, mischievous fur babies, and one very happy grand kiddie.

A huge thanks to our wonderful committee for all their hard work — we're truly lucky to be part of this incredible club, where every weekend away feels just like the best holiday ever.

Until the next adventure (and more 5'zies!),

Luv Hayley

*...laughter,
great friends,
mischievous fur
babies, and one
very happy
grand kiddie*



LONGWOOD

November

Our Longwood rally began on the Friday for a nice change with Meg, Declan, Billy, Kev, Julie and Phil.

The weather was warm however overcast with a few sprinkles of rain. This didn't interrupt our fivesies which started around Kev's little fire which was a hit with our matching little chairs!! Saying that, some of the time we retreated to our awning for cover from the showers.

Saturday was even warmer with some of us getting sunburnt, Meg, Declan, Kev and Billy went for a swim at Majors Creek Campground. Later in the day the Anders and Stones along with Mack arrived and we had a visit from Julie Plant. Frisbee golf was set up for us to play by Lindsay which was lots of fun. Declan managed to throw the frisbee over a high tennis court fence landing on the top of Megs van! David also fluked a hole in 1! A few members went to the local Gem shop and Leisa made a purchase, purple stones of course!! We all enjoyed fivesies together, some of us playing cards whilst being treated to Davids 43 shots.

Our group all attended the local pub for dinner...





Our group all attended the local pub for dinner which was within walking distance and also dog friendly. We had an outside table and a local band was playing for our enjoyment. After returning to Longwood Recreational Reserve we sat around Lindsays fire and then turned in for the night.

Sunday morning was warm and dry, we had a visit from Brody who was working nearby. Some headed home today while others visited Longleat Winery and Tahbilk Estate – Cellar Door. It was noted the wines were delicious and the wine maker was very knowledgeable and informative at Longleat.

Another great rally, nice quiet place with toilet facilities, close to the pub and always so good to catch up with our caravan friends.

Mandy & David





An organisation devoted solely to the interest of Caravanners

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*Please ensure all newsletter material reaches
the editor by the Thursday after the rally!*

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RACV
The logo consists of the word 'RACV' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the letters is a thick, black, wavy line that starts from the left of the 'R' and ends at the right of the 'V'.

