



# RACV CARAVAN CLUB

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER | VOL. 51 | NO. 190

## Tag Along Rally

FLINDERS RANGES



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DETAILS

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**PLEASE NOTE AGM DATE IS  
24 NOVEMBER 2024, 10AM  
AT THE BASIN**

Hello Everyone

Its that time of the year when those who can have escaped north or other places that are warmer have while the hard workers are stuck in Melbourne, hopefully surviving the cold. We are one of those away and enjoying some warm days. Rallies continue but numbers still seem to be down, reports I have received indicate they were enjoyable.

Division 5 celebrated their 47th birthday, congratulations folks. There are a couple of pictures on Facebook, marking event.

We are still hunting for a suitable property for our club. Seems the ones that are suitable and affordable get sold quicker than we were able to act. Hopefully we can find something soon.

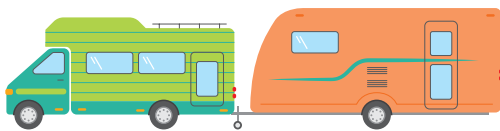
The scammers are at it again. Please be careful of how you respond to emails from Committee Members. I will never ask a member to purchase items or provide funds without first chatting to them. If in doubt about an email do not reply to it but do ring the sender.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our operating costs have increased significantly and unfortunately our income from our supporters has reduced. At the 2023 AGM it was moved to increase our annual membership fee to \$60 per annum. In an attempt to reduce our costs this edition of the newsletter will be electronic only.

A condition of being a member of our club is that you accept the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Club. Payment of your membership fees is your acceptance to comply with the Clubs Code of Conduct and Constitution.

The Membership Renewal form is contained in this newsletter. To renew your membership deposit \$60 into our Bendigo Bank account fill out the form and forwarded it to our Club Secretary, email is good, post is fine. The Membership year starts 1st September and ends 31st August. You will have till 31st December to pay, after that time your membership will lapse and you will have to apply to re join the club.



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Heather has tendered her resignation, she has kindly deferred it to the 2024 AGM. I will not be continuing after the AGM. Nomination forms for Executive Committee positions are in this Newsletter. Nominations need to be with the Club Secretary by the 10th August.

**We need a new President and Secretary if our club is to continue.**

Please speak with Heather McTaggart or myself for more information.



## ALTERNATE RALLIES

The next State Rally will be at Eastern Beach Holiday Park, Lakes Entrance over the weekend 14th, 15th – 16th March 2025, it's an alternate RACVCC Rally. There are lots of interesting and fun things planned for the weekend. If you wish to join the rally, book your site at Lakes Entrance and inform the Association of Caravan Clubs of Vic Secretary by email [admin@accvic.org.au](mailto:admin@accvic.org.au).

The next National Rally is in 2025 hosted by the NSW Association it will be held 29th Sept to 8th Oct 2025 at the Australian Rural Education Centre Mudgee. They have available both powered and unpowered sites. They are taking bookings, you can get more information from their website [www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au](http://www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au).



# ACCVIC STATE RALLY 2024

## KERANG

### March

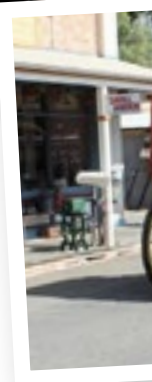
The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria state rally was held from Friday 15th to Monday 28th of March 2024 at the Kerang Holiday Park in Kerang. Approximately 40 caravans were in attendance as well as a couple of cabins being used, in all over 80 people attended from 7 clubs. The RACVCC was well represented with 15 caravans attending which was great to see.

The park was perfect for the rally with large caravan sites, clean amenities and a large kitchen and recreational room for everyone to gather at. For the weekend the owner also arranged for several gazebos outside in the garden area for us to use. We were very fortunate with the weather with the days not being too hot, the days and evenings were pleasant during the rally.

The rally commenced Friday with registration at 3pm followed by happy hour, during this time the ACCVIC President Alan Andrews welcomed everyone to the event, the Rally Marshall Stella Breese (from RACVCC) went through the activities for the weekend. Friday night dinner or should we say feast was provided by the caravan park, the BBQ of sausages, hamburgers and salad was fantastic, this was followed by desert of tin fruit, custard and cream provided by ACCVIC. Whilst we were eating our delicious meal we listened to our evening entertainer, singer and guitarist, Mr John Boyle who sung a variety of different tunes. This was a great night and concluded about 9:30 with most heading back to their caravans.



*The park was perfect for the rally with large caravan sites, clean amenities and a large kitchen...*



*Saturday was organised to go on the Paddle Steamer Pyap at the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement.*

The 1 hour round trip on the Pyap was very relaxing, heading upstream taking in the scenery until we arrived at Murray Downs and turned around. Arriving back at the Pioneer Settlement we had the remainder of the day to look around at the various shops and attractions. Some of us tried our hand at rope making, had a ride in the vintage car or horse drawn carriage which was great fun. At the old bakery there was a demonstration of butter making followed by a tasting on fresh bread. Very interesting to watch and yummy to eat. The general store also was the photograph studio where you could get dressed up in period costumes and get your picture taken with your phone. The Pioneer Settlement filled in the afternoon nicely before heading back to camp for happy hour. Again, everyone gathered for a chat and nibbles under the shady trees before heading off to make dinner. About 30 of us came back after dinner and chatted over coffee before retiring about 9:30.

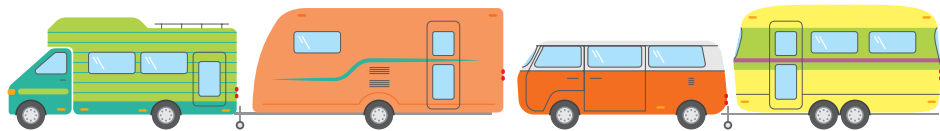




Sunday morning breakfast was provided by ACCVIC, a choice of either a hot meal of sausage, bacon and eggs or a continental breakfast was provided, this was a fantastic meal and was enjoyed by everyone. The morning was basically free time, at 10:30 we all gathered for club and group photos which were taken to record the event. Most people turned up in their club uniforms and with the various club flags, the pictures were great. After lunch, we headed down to the Kerang Lawn Bowls Club. Members of the club kindly volunteered their time to show us how to play, with the club providing bowls we broke into groups and started to learn the do's and don'ts of bowls. Everyone had a great afternoon and joined the members for drinks at the bar afterward.

After bowls we went back to the caravan park for happy hour, we dress up for St Patricks Day and enjoyed our drinks and chat to Irish background music. After dinner we gather for a chat whilst others played board games in the recreation room. It was an enjoyable time and most headed back to their caravans about 9:30 for a rest.

Monday, we woke to another nice day, but all good things must come to an end and it was time to say farewell to old and new friends and head for home. It was great to see all the clubs join in and mix at the event. Thanks to the organisers and those who helped make the weekend fantastic, well done and looking forward to next year.



# RACVCC TAG ALONG RALLY

## FLINDERS RANGES

### March

The March Tag Along Rally to the Flinders Ranges started at Kerang after having a great weekend at the state rally. We had 5 caravans on the rally which was a good number making it easy to get to know one another and booking into parks a bit easier. We were fortunate that the weather during our trip was pleasant which made for a good time traveling and sightseeing.



### Day 1: Kerang to Cullulleraine

#### Monday 18 March – 360kl

We woke to a sunny day and left Kerang about 10am after having a farewell coffee with others that attended the state rally. Our day was basically a travel day with us wanting to get some kilometres up with our destination being Cullulleraine. Our first stop along the way was Sea Lake where we had lunch, most of us went for a walk down the main street and lunch in the park. After lunch we continued our journey stopping at Lake Tyrell, a pink lake due to the salt content. We spent some time here exploring where the old salt works use to be and taking photos of the scenery. Leaving Sea Lake we headed toward Red Cliffs along the Calder Hwy and then onto our overnight stop at Tranquill Water Cullulleraine. Along the way, unfortunately the window on Mary and Moniurs motorhome door fell out, Roger following stopped and collected the broken pieces which was useful later in making temporary repairs, thank goodness for duct tape. The caravan park on the lake was a great spot to stop for the night, we arrived about 4:30pm, with large sites there was no need to unhook, so set up was quick. Happy hour was on the lake foreshore where we sat, chatted and watched the sunset over the lake. After watching a lovely sunset, we headed back to our vans for dinner and a rest after a long day.



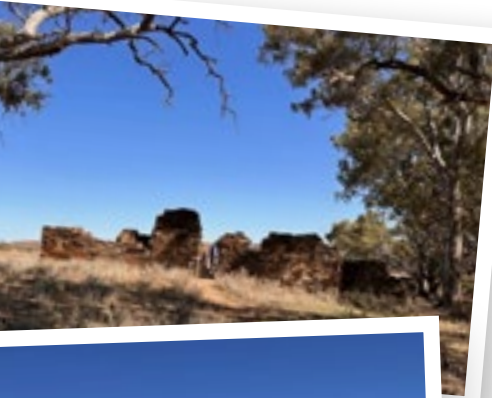
**Day 2: Cullulleraine to Peterborough**  
**Tuesday 19 March – 370kl**

We left Cullulleraine today for our overnight destination Peterborough. It was another big day travelling, passing through Renmark we stopped for supplies and fuel. At Barmara we took the Goyder Hwy toward Burra where we had lunch. We arrived at Peterborough about 3:30pm and stayed at the caravan park. The park had drive through sites making easy setup which was welcomed by all. We had happy hour in the camp kitchen, it was another enjoyable time getting to know one another over drinks and nibbles.

**Day 3: Peterborough to Flinders Ranges**  
**Wednesday 20 March – 180kl**

After 2 big days it was a short trip today to the Flinders Ranges and our accommodation at Rawnsley Park Station. Along the way we stopped at Cradock for morning tea, the town was surveyed in 1879 and predominately served the farming community at the time. We continued onto Hawker, replenished our vehicles with fuel and arrived at Rawnsley Park early afternoon after a short stop for a photo opportunity. It was a relaxing afternoon before we all met for happy hour in the camp kitchen. We had a great time chatting then headed back to our vans for dinner, some of us watched the sunset over the Flinders.





## Day 4: Flinders Ranges

Thursday 21 March

Today we went on a day trip to Blinman, sightseeing at various places along the way. We left at 9am and our first stop was Hucks Lookout then Stokes Hill Lookout with its magnificent 360 degree views of the Flinders Ranges and panoramic views of Wilpena Pound, it was a great spot for taking photos. We continued to Wills Homestead where we had morning tea. Built around 1851 and occupied until 1870 it stands testament to struggles of early pastoral endeavours. The abandoned homestead and dry-stone walls were amazing to see, walking around the site we also explored the various outhouses and yards.

Our next stop was our destination, Blinman where we had lunch. This rural and remote town is the highest town in South Australia, it obtained its name from when Copper was discovered by a shepherd named Robert Blinman in 1859. After exploring the town we headed to the 'Great Wall of China', driving off the main road we took the track to the lookout which provided great views of the rock face across the top of the mountains. The last part of the journey home took us off the beaten track. Turning off the main road we took the Brachina and Bunyeroo Gorge roads, we visited the Heysen Range and ABC Range, Brachina Gorge and Aroona Valley along the way. The scenery and views were amazing and it was interesting in the gorges to see how high and forceful recent floods had been, moving large branches and gathering of debris in front of trees.

Looping back to the main road we headed back to camp for happy hour and a rest.

## Day 5: Flinders Ranges

Friday 22 March

A day trip was planned today with our destination being the Ochre Pits at Lyndhurst. Our trip took us back to Hawker where we topped up fuel, then up the 'Outback Highway' to Leigh Creek and Lyndhurst. Our first stop was the mining town of Leigh Creek, we stopped at the shopping centre and had morning tea before heading to the Ochre Pits, about 5km north of Lyndhurst. The Ochre pits are spectacular and have been used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years. They traded the ochre with other tribes over vast distances and in every direction of the continent. Ochre was an extremely valuable and spiritual item and played an important role in Aboriginal culture. After spending a good hour here we headed back to Leigh Creek for lunch and a break. After lunch we went to the Aroona Dam that supplies water to Leigh Creek and the mine. The dam had a nice picknick area set in the hills, well worth the visit. Our plan today was to have dinner at the Hawker Hotel before heading back to camp, on the way home we stopped at the Parachilna Hotel for happy hour before heading to Hawker. Our meals were delicious, particularly the pizza's and we relaxed after a great day. It had turned dark when it was time to head back to Rawnsley Park, in hindsight a mistake as the roos came out making a very slow trip home.







## Day 6: Flinders Ranges

**Saturday 23 March**

Today we sadly farewelled Bill & Don and Mounir & Mary who commenced their own adventures heading home. The rest of us had booked an additional nights accommodation so we could explore more of the area. Leaving camp our first stop was the 'Cazneaux Tree'. The tree was made famous by photographer Harold Cazneaux who photographed the tree in 1937, he called it "The Spirit of Endurance". We then headed to Wilpena Pound and walked from the information centre along Wilpena Creek to the old Hills homestead and back. A pleasant walk and lots to see along the way. On returning to the information centre, we had lunch on the veranda and chatted over a coffee, this was relaxing after the walk. After lunch we headed back to Hawker and visited the Jeff Morgan Gallery, the gallery has large wall sized paintings and a 360 degree panorama of the Flinders Ranges. In addition to paintings the gallery has a collection of cars, rocks and other memorabilia. We headed back to Rawnsley Park and had happy hour at the lookout. Sitting in our chairs taking in the beautiful sunset over the ranges was a fantastic end to our time at the Flinders Rangers.

## Day 7: Flinders Ranges to Burra

**Sunday 24 March**

Today we left for Burra and stayed at the Bon Accord Hotel. The hotel has 2 ensuites for use and both powered and unpowered sites available a great place to stay. On arrival we quickly set up and had coffee in the rotunda. We decided to have happy hour and dinner at the hotel which was very enjoyable.

## Day 8: Burra

**Monday 25 March**

Today was set aside to explore Burra. Our first stop was the Burra and Goyder Visitor Information Centre and purchased the Burra Heritage Passport & Passport Key. With the Passport Key in hand, we gained entry into the Bon Accord Museum, Redruth Gaol, Unicorn Brewery Cellars, and the Miners Dugouts. Burra is a popular area for movie production with parts of Breaker Morant filmed at the Gaol and The Water Diviner at the Cellars.

## Day 9: Depart Burra

**Tuesday 26 March**

Today concluded the rally with us all heading home in different directions. The rally was a great success, the weather great, plenty to see and do and everyone in the group got on fantastic and had a great time. See you at the next Tag Along.

*The rally was  
a great success,  
the weather  
great, plenty to  
see and do...*



# DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

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# DIV 1, 2 & 3 RALLY REPORT

## COMMITTEE DETAILS

<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Div 1</b>	Steve Clark	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	0419 369 728
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	<b>Div 3</b>			
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	<b>Div 3</b>			
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	<b>Div 2</b>	Ken Slade	kmsjes1@bigpond.com	0490 338 037
	<b>Div 3</b>			
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	<b>Div 2</b>	Pat Glover	jpaglover@hotmail.com	0438 610 124
	<b>Div 3</b>			
<b>Assistant Marshal</b>	<b>Div 1</b>	Daryl Barker		0419 564 788
	<b>Div 2</b>			
	<b>Div 3</b>			



## FOSTER

### May



Our May rally was held at Prom Central Caravan Park, Foster, with numerous caravans and combined Division 1, 2 & 3 members in attendance, including visitors from Division Six Hayley and Greg. Club Members drifted in from Thursday with some even extending their stay through to the beginning of the following week.

Friday evening saw everyone from all 3 divisions mixing and catching up in the open camp kitchen with a few resilient members actually braving the cold to enjoy eating dinner together. Hayley's enthusiasm in enlisting competitors for a pre-dinner game of Finska (an ancient wood-chucking game), proved successful with her usual exuberance ensuring all participants thoroughly enjoyed chucking bits of wood around to the extent further games of Finska also ensued on the Saturday night. Perhaps, the beginnings of an interdivisional competition to rival the popular bocce championship held at Sorrento ? The absolutely gorgeous "Seven" did not seem overly enthusiastic to join in the antics of the human wood-chuckers but give her a little more time and she will probably dominate the retrieval aspect of the game.

On Saturday members either attended an organised tour of the local Museum, the nearby "Cidery", played golf (that one who favours microwaves and makes a lot of noise setting up camp in the early hours of the morning), or generally enjoyed the coffee and sights of the local township and surrounding areas . The evening meal was enjoyed at the Foster Exchange Hotel with prompt and efficient service ensuring everyone received their dinner more or less at the same time. The writer is not aware of any complaints in respect of the meals so is relatively confident in recommending said establishment for any future rally functions.

Aside from Janeen's unexpected cold shower on Sunday morning, the Sunday pack up and leave set did so without incident (again, many thanks to Bob for overseeing and double checking one absent minded tow-mistress's hitching omissions), or ado, leaving the remaining lucky few to depart a day or so later. In all, a thoroughly enjoyable time with much camaraderie between divisions making another successful joint rally. Oh!! Nearly forgot the weather! It was fine, but chilly at night.

## SHEPPARTON

### June

Well Mother Nature turned on the blue skies and sunshine for a great weekend for members. Some were lucky enough to arrive on Wednesday but most came in on Friday.

After setting up and meeting for drinks and snacks the host of the park Katrinia set up a very warm wood fire for us for each of the three nights.

During the days groups explored Shepparton with walks around The Victoria Lake and into Shepparton for lunch and shopping around the many shops also to visit the free art museum S.P.C was visited by a few and bargains purchased. Violet town had a wonderful market with lots of hand made stuff.

We were lucky to see the steam train arrive into town on Friday evening on the train track beside the caravan Park. On Saturday afternoon a group of members enjoyed a ride on the steam train for a great experience, leaving at 2 o'clock travelling past the city and shops and crossings with lots of people waving and stopping on the sides of roads taking photos of the loco pulling carriages full of people. Well done to the organisers for their effort

Saturday night was soup Night provided by the committee with 5 varieties cooked, Pumpkin, Pea and Ham, Tomato and bacon, Minestrone, and Chicken and corn, with fruit salad and Ice-cream for dessert. It was very cold night but sitting around the fire was enjoyable and other guests joining a big Thankyou from everyone for the different soups on offer.

Sunday night was at the Shepparton RSL for tea.

Till next time safe travels



# DIV 4 RALLY REPORT

## COMMITTEE DETAILS

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<b>Treasurer</b>	Cherie Evans	Chez.ford@hotmail.com	0404 851 025
<b>Marshal</b>	Paul McKinnon	paul.mickinnon@bigpond.com	0422 382 774

## BALNARRING

### March

A great rally was held at Balnarring Foreshore Caravan Park with 24 vans which included visitors – Dorothy & Graeme Penny from Division 3, Hayley & Greg Hatzivagiannis from Division 6 and some prospective members, Kylie, Tom & Maya - Alicia, James, Nate & Noah - Maria & Brendan - Nick, Hailey, Bella & Maddie . We welcomed new members Sharyn & Eric, Cheryl & Peter and Colleen, Travis & Cambell. We also got a visit from Barbara & Keith McDonald (56 year members, now retired) for the day to say hello and catch up with old friends.

The weather was beautiful all Easter and everyone enjoyed a jam packed agenda our committee provided for us.

Good Friday - 41 people went on the ferry across to French Island where we were met and taken by bus to the Café/General Store for morning tea and lunch. We were greeted with donuts, carrot cake, lemon slice, tea, coffee, water and juice before we strolled along the road to see lots of koalas in the trees. We came back to lunch— sandwiches, spring rolls, nuggets and party pies.





## *41 people went on the ferry across to French Island...*

We then caught the ferry back to Stony Point at 1.05pm.

Fees was at 4.30pm followed by the VP Speech, drawing of the raffle and winner of the guess how many easter eggs in the Jar.

Winners were;

- 1st Prize—Picnic Basket donated by Picnic Season, a bunny and egg won by Ray and Joy
- 2nd Prize—Baked slices and goodies donated by Confetti Cakes & Creations won by David and Pat Mayer
- 3rd Prize—A Darrel Lea Bag of chocolate won by Bob & Dawn
- 4th Prize—An Easer Bunny in a RACV cup won by Helen & Keith
- There was 144 eggs in the jar, a guess won by Peter and Cheryl Sutton

We all then sat around enjoying 5sies.





Saturday - A fantastic Picnic at the Balnarring Races with lunch provided by our Committee was organised and all those who attended had a fun time. Some were very happy with their winnings, others maybe lost a little, but generally it was a very happy day. We even had some very stylish ladies enter the Fashions on the Field, who had a fantastic applause from the RACVCC as they made their way along the catwalk. Unfortunately, they didn't win but they held their heads high among the many other ladies & men who entered. It was then back to the park where some had a rest after a busy day of cheering our horses on.

5sies again, where there were some stories of 'wins, losses and should have been', but lots of laughs.

A few then headed to the Westernport Yacht Club for dinner and the live band.

Sunday – Well, at 10 am, the Easter Bunny arrived and was welcomed by the many children with much joy and spent a wonderful time hunting for Easter eggs with great success (probably some of them having sore tummies afterwards).

At 11am everyone headed into Balnarring for breakfast/morning tea/brunch to the Confetti Cakes & Creations Café (who donated the 2nd Raffle Prize). Afterwards quite a few went for a drive to Flinders foreshore where they had a sausage sizzle and others spent a quiet afternoon back at the park chatting or snoozing.

It was get-together again for 5sies followed by a BBQ dinner (cook your own meat) and share a salad and owing to the still good weather after dinner, there was a circle of people who sat around chatting and playing "Going on a Picnic" which caused quite a lot of hilarity.

Monday – It was homeward bound & due to the bad weather forecast most left early.



We would like to heartily thank our always hardworking Committee for an excellent Easter Rally.

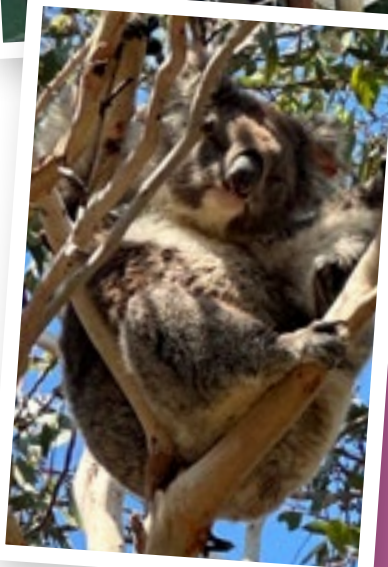
Still loving caravan rallying after 42 years of fun and friendship.

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.



## YANAKIE

### May

With the park offering 3 nights pay 2, 3 members arrived on for the rally on Thursday whilst others stayed on through to Monday, Thursday turned out to be weather wise the best day of the weekend. Most of the remainder of the weekend proved windy, at times showery and cold with periods of pleasant sunshine. The eventual attendance was 24 vans with 2 new vans arriving to see if they liked the club and 2 returned for their 2nd visit.

With the arrival of the Sommers family on Friday, came a parade of new club jumpers for members to order if they wanted, even young Imogen looked resplendent in one. I ordered an item but decided conservatively against having my name in large letters across the lower rear [bum] area of my jacket

Saturday most headed to Tidal River for, as usual, a very well organized, by Michelle, morning tea and lunch at the Prom General Store. The "Loop" walk was enjoyed by many and a visit to "Squeaky Beach" was a must after lunch on the way back to the park. Unfortunately, one member of our group found a parking fine on his windscreen when he returned to the car park after parking in a restricted area.

Our new visitors Emma & Chris with the children Cooper & Grace couldn't go to the Prom as they had a dog, so headed to Gurney's Ciderery for some cider tasting followed by some native fauna spotting. Hope to see that family along with other newbies back again at future rallies.



Arrival back at the park signaled the start of preparation for fives and camp fires, with one fire eventually being moved to inside an erected temporary gazebo. The raffle was drawn, 1st prize, a MudMat went to Helen & Keith, 2nd prize, a 2night stay donated by the park went to Sheryl & Peter, 3rdDarrell Lea Chocolates went to Beverley & Kerry

Sunday morning the Caravan Park provided us with pancakes and every type of topping to start the day. Whilst most packed up and headed home a few took advantage of the 3Nights for 2 offer and stayed on. Most that stayed went to Sandy Point to be shown around his beautiful self built home and surrounding area by Robert & Julie's nephew, ending with a drive on the beach for a spectacular view of Shallow Inlet.

On a personal note from me and probably other long time members of Div4. Having served on the committee as secretary and knowing what the position can involve, I cannot have anything but admiration for Michelle's organizing ability and effort to make the rallies a success for us members

I'm heading North before the next rally, hope to see some of you on my travels, otherwise see you at September rally.



# DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

## COMMITTEE DETAILS

<b>Vice President</b>	David Breese	dave.58@hotmail.com	0425 715 349
<b>Secretary</b>	Gay Blake	RACVCC-Div5@outlook.com	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Grigg	winandtony@telstra.com	0409 998 636
<b>Marshal</b>	Stella Breese	Marshall-racvdiv5@hotmail.com	0425 705 675

## BENALLA

### May

Our May rally was held at Benalla with 3 caravans attending. We stayed at the Benalla Tourist Park which had large drive through sites with power and water hook up; we all arrived Thursday and departed Monday morning and we were fortunate to have fine weather.

Thursday we all had a relaxing afternoon after setting up, at 4:30 we had happy hour and caught up on what's been going on since we last met.

On Friday we went for a drive to the Winton Wetlands where we had coffee at the Mokoan Hub & Café and then a walk around looking at the indigenous sculpture art, a creation of cultural works that represent Ancestors; totems and special places, spirituality, ceremonies and cultural practices. We left here for Glenrowan where we had lunch and a walk around the town taking in the history of the Kelly Gang. We visited the new Tourist Information Centre and the observation deck overlooking the siege site. Due to bridge works we drove around to the place where they captured Ned and to the station from where he was taken to Melbourne. A very interesting part of our history.





Mid afternoon we headed back to camp and happy hour before heading out for dinner at a local pub.

Saturday was a relaxing day with us heading into town to explore the shops and have a coffee. After lunch Michael pulled out his ladder golf to play, this was a fun and entertaining afternoon, and we all had a great time. Thanks Michael for making the set and bringing it along. After dinner we all gathered in the camp kitchen for board games, and enjoyable evening was had before retiring for the evening.

Sunday we woke to another fine day. We headed off to Devinish to look at the silo art and visit the local market. The Silo art was completed in 2 stages. Stage one comprised of the two tall silos that was officially unveiled on Anzac Day in 2018 and marked as a tribute to help celebrate the 100-year centenary of the end of the First World War. The artwork depicts a WW1 nurse and a modern female military medic. Stage two on the short silos were officially unveiled one year later on Anzac Day 2019. These murals are a tribute to the Australian Light Horse mounted troops who served in the Boer War and WW1. Fifty young men and women from the Devinish Community enlisted in the military services in WW1, at the time, it represented one in six residents from this very tiny town.

At the market we browsed at a variety of craft and bric-a-brac stalls, as it was lunch time we also found a table and had lunch having selected some delicious food from market vendors. After this we went for a short drive and returned to camp for a relaxing afternoon before the traditional happy hour. After dinner we met at Gay and Michaels for games which was a great time before retiring for the evening.

Monday it was time for us to leave for home, all in all we had a great weekend away.



# DIV 6 RALLY REPORTS

## COMMITTEE DETAILS

<b>Vice President</b>	Lindsay Anders	<a href="mailto:lindsayanders@optusnet.com.au">lindsayanders@optusnet.com.au</a>	0407 045 532
<b>Secretary</b>	Linda Richmond	<a href="mailto:racvccdiv6@gmail.com">racvccdiv6@gmail.com</a>	0407 831 083
<b>Treasurer</b>	Charles Allan	<a href="mailto:allan_family4@bigpond.com">allan_family4@bigpond.com</a>	0438 002 095
<b>Marshal</b>	Anne Nichol	<a href="mailto:bunnyannenichol@gmail.com">bunnyannenichol@gmail.com</a>	0422 410 713

## COBRAM

### March

We set off on Wednesday afternoon, a little before the Easter weekend; on a reconnaissance mission. We visited the White Hart Hotel in Longwood for dinner, staying the night at the nearby recreation reserve. A visit to The Rockery Gemstone Museum on Thursday afternoon was an unexpected surprise. Such an extensive collection. Wonderfully curated. We were taken on a journey of discovery by Maurie Brodie who has over 40 years experience in this field. We would highly recommend a visit. Longwood would be a suitable spot for a division 6 rally weekend. Flushing toilets and heaps of space available.

After visiting Benalla for supplies we ended the day at the Don McKenzie Reserve at Lurg. After collecting firewood for an evening fire we were visited by one of the local farmers who advised that fire restrictions were in force and we shouldn't light a fire. Never mind, we cracked bottles of wine instead and enjoyed the serenity late into the evening. Lurg would also be a suitable spot for a div 6 rally offering a minimal camp kitchen with bbq's, a shower and flushing toilets.





With our recon mission complete and after a leisurely start to Friday we set off at lunchtime to Cobram. On the way we stopped at Katamatite to view the new Silo Art painted in late 2023.

5 division 6 caravans gathered at Cobram Oasis Caravan Park. After quickly confirming that camp fires were indeed allowed the resident pyromaniac unloaded the wood collected at Lurg and setup the fire drum on site. Hot cross buns were shared. After dark, even though we did not need any heating, the fire was lit and drinks, food and stories were shared by all, well into the night.

Saturday morning, we visited the local market at Cobram. In the afternoon we set off to Echuca, stopping on the way to view the Silo art at Picola. A visit to the Holden Museum was a must as it is closing for good on the 14th April. Next, we went to The Great Aussie Beer Shed and Heritage Museum. This place is huge, with many extensive collections of Australiana. Well worth a visit. We received a 'free' drink with the purchase of a stubby holder. The Plants visited the Big Strawberry at Koonoomoo and later enjoyed fishing and swimming in the Murray River. Returning to Cobram we all gathered once again around the fire.

On Sunday we visited the Tocumwal market. It was hot and very busy. Items were sampled and purchased. Our CD collection was expanded after visiting the local Op shops. A nice lunch was enjoyed at the local Golf resort in Tocumwal. The Luif's returned home. As the Murray River was so close to the caravan park we went for a swim at Little Tom's Beach in the afternoon. It was my first time swimming in the Murray. The volume and flow of the water was bigger than it looks from the river bank. Such a great place to visit and cool off. Thank-you Craig for taking us there. The Plant Family attended the Finley Rodeo while the rest stayed in the park playing board games and sharing fivesies. Later we all returned to the fire sharing each other's company until the moon came up. Maybe it was until we were all too tired to stay up any longer?

Monday, the Arendse's chose to stay in Cobram one more night. The Smith's and Plant's returned home. We visited friends in town before heading off to Benalla for one more night on the road. We stayed at the Showgrounds and had a meal at Royal Hotel. We were woken by rain early on Tuesday morning. After a stroll around the Jim Wood walking track in Benalla we returned home via Yarck, grabbing a late lunch at Bucks Country Bakehouse.

Thank-you everyone for making this such a wonderful Easter break.

Lindsay Anders VP Div 6



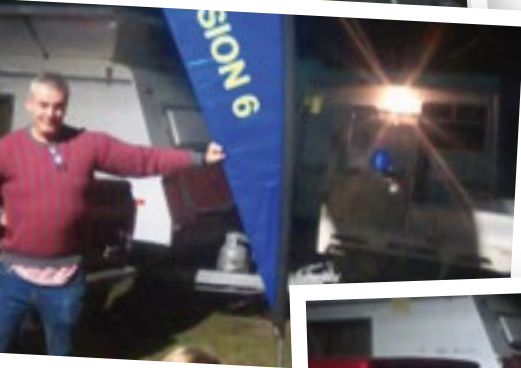
## CASTLEMAINE

### May

Friday afternoon 5 vans arrived to a warm sunny afternoon, soon to be a very cold night, we set up for fivesies outside the Luiyf's van and settled in for a good chinwag.

Star wars day, Saturday presented another perfect sunny Autumn day, too good to waste we headed off to Maldon to have a look around which ended with some shopping and a counter lunch at the Maldon hotel, after a delicious feed and a drink or two we decided to head back to the park and sample the wares at the local brewery, just a short stroll from the park. All the beers were renamed for the day after star wars characters due to it being May the fourth. Another cold night descended upon us so a fire seemed to be the order of the day, outside the Ander's van where we settled in for the night, Lindsay presented the vice president's speech followed by the unveiling of the new divi 6 flag. A good night was had by all.

Sunday dawned another perfect chilly morning and we all packed up and headed off our separate ways.



## THE RANCH

### June

Thoughts, collated from everyone as we sat around the fire, pondering the world.

On arrival on Friday afternoon we were greeted to the odour of fresh manure and neighing horses. That is what you might expect at a ranch.

The three amigos (Lindsay, Yonny and Luke) set off late Saturday morning on an adventure. Frolicking from the lighthouse to the pub looking on the way for a chair and a 'merangy thingy'. Estimated travel time: 45 minutes. 80 minutes later, empty handed, out of breath and dehydrated, they were rescued and ferried to the nearby emergency department, AKA the Flinders Hotel. Yonny was examined for possible concussion and Lindsay was found to be shaken, not deterred, by a couple of wayward limbs during the journey.

The beers were cold, the Parma's were plentiful, and the fire was cozy warm. Dessert was not really required, but Rita 'the dessert eater' could not resist. Everyone was thoroughly nourished and rehydrated.

Reuniting with everyone back at the park we spent the afternoon in a food coma.

In an attempt to keep the mother/in law warm and cozy....and 'accidental' possible break was confirmed as only a sprain at the local emergency centre. Mental note for Hayley: don't give away brand new boots then yank them off mums feet. Luckily nurse Rita was able to rescue the injured camper from the grips of her daughter.

After leaving the campsite on a mission to purchase much needed liquid supplies from Uncle Dan's, Big Kev remembered that a wallet is required for any purchases! Is he losing his marbles? Unfortunately, he couldn't find the cans he wanted from that store anyway. Stupid Dan...







*On arrival on Friday afternoon we were greeted to the odour of fresh manure and neighing horses. That is what you might expect at a ranch.*



Robert was his usual obedient quite self, making sure Rita had her gin and brandy.

A new game was proudly invented by Yonny, called 'fire jenga' - The tossing of timber chunks; at variable distance and stance or grip into the communal fire drum.

The flames developed fancy colours. We're not sure who slipped what into it; Luke? A perfect addition to the fire on a cold winter rally. Lindsay was not amused as the plastic feet melted on the fire drum legs when a fire was built underneath it. Our friendly neighbours did however appreciate the coals to cook their meat on, despite Greg's help.

We were treated to a surprize visit from Mandy. Also, Insy wincy spider (Tracey) was chauffeured to camp by Gillian on Sunday afternoon bearing birthday yummys to share.

David Smith provided complimentary shots (just for a change) to help keep the cold away. Later we were amused that David Swazy (aka Davis Smith) had drunk all of David's rum.

We really missed Craig, (our resident meteorologist) as we couldn't predict when it would be sunny or raining. Hayley Bunn wasn't much help.

We did manage to gather all together on Sunday night under led lights and share some delightful home cooked meals. Slow cookers are so versatile. Who would have thought you could make chocolate self-saucing pudding in one? Nice one Yonny.

Wishing Rita and Robert a wonderful and safe trip north and a speedy recovery to Leisa.

A fabulous rally. Wonderful company, great food and as always, plenty of drinks and laughter.

# WE NEED A NEW PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IF OUR CLUB IS TO CONTINUE

Heather has tendered her resignation, she has kindly deferred it to the 2024 AGM. I will not be continuing after the AGM. Nomination forms for Executive Committee positions are in this Newsletter. Nominations need to be with the Club Secretary by the 10th August.

Please speak with Heather McTaggart or myself for more information.





# RACV CARAVAN CLUB

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for the position of: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

When completed, this nomination form must reach the Secretary, RACV Caravan Club, PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147, by the tenth day of August each year for publication in the next newsletter, prior to the Annual General Election. Candidates may attach a short supporting statement and passport style photo for publication.

If an election is required, candidates will be introduced at the beginning of the AGM and will have the opportunity to address the AGM for 3 minutes (maximum). Ballot papers will be issued AFTER this has occurred.

# RACV CARAVAN CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in full: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

RACV Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee Due 1st September each year: \$60.00. A condition of being a member of our club is that you accept the Code of Conduct agree to abide by it and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Club. Payment of your membership fees is your acceptance to comply with the Clubs Code of Conduct and Constitution.

### PAYMENT DETAILS

#### **Cheque or EFT**

RACV Caravan Club

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 162 218 671

(Please use your name as a reference  
when using EFT)

### COMPLETED FORMS TO

PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147 or

Email: [heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com)

# RACV CARAVAN CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in full: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

RACV Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Div \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee Due 1st September each year: \$60.00 (New members Fees are Pro Rata at \$5.00 per month until the next 1st September, plus \$40 Joining Fee)

### PAYMENT DETAILS

#### **Cheque or EFT**

RACV Caravan Club

BSB: 633 000

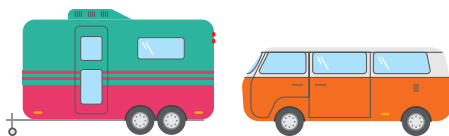
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(Please use your name as a reference when using EFT)

### COMPLETED FORMS TO

PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147 or

Email: [heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com)





*An organisation  
devoted solely to the  
interest of Caravanners*

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ABN 83 836 581 725

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**Change of Address**

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**Newsletter material**

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

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**RACV**

