



RACV Caravan Club Newsletter

Winter
2019
Volume 46 No. 172



That should do it!

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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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President's Report

Hello everyone,

The year is passing by quickly with lots of things happening. Many members are off touring in their caravans, flying to some interesting destinations or cruising on the seas in a luxury liner while the faithful attend rallies. This year is the first year the club has collected membership fees, updating the membership list has been time consuming, the Learmonth Sub Committee has been busy. By the time you receive this newsletter the site allocations for the 2019/20 Camerons Bight season will be completed. The Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Rangers have done a lot of work in the campground, raising and levelling the ground around sites 29, 30, 31, 32. There is a lot of new grass around the camp ground and a lot of planting has occurred in Stringers Rd.

Membership Renewals

In this newsletter you will find a Membership Renewal form. To renew your membership deposit \$48 into our Bendigo Bank account fill out the form and forwarded it to our Club Secretary. Membership year starts 1st September and ends 31st August. You will have 3 months to pay, after that time your membership will lapse and you will have to apply to re join the club. Membership information has presented a challenge to our club for many years, RACV have had difficulty extracting member information from their systems for us, the information we collect from the new forms will help us obtain a definitive list of club members. We are hoping that all our members are on the new mailing list, if you know of someone who has missed out please let Heather McTaggart our Club Secretary know.

Learmonth

Our land at Learmonth is now advertised for sale.

The Learmonth Sub Committee has met twice; committee members have gone back to their divisions to consult with their members and seek information about the direction we should follow. We are looking at the storage facility/factory and the camp ground options. We are open to other suggestions. One key objective is to ensure the expenditure provides a long term benefit to our members and does not become a financial burden to us. Please ensure you contribute to the discussion and pass on your comments to your divisional reps who are; Division 1 Vacant, Division 2 Ken Slade, Division 3 Jeff O'Brien, Division 4 Philip Mason, and Division 5 Malcom Hubble or a member of the Executive Committee. The feedback we receive will guide us with the direction the Learmonth Committee will take.

Executive Committee

Nomination forms for Executive Committee positions are in this Newsletter. Nominations need to be with the Club Secretary by the 10th August. This year is John Stone's 5th year as our Club Treasurer, we need someone new

to take on this roll. Please speak with John Stone, Heather McTaggart or myself for more information regarding the role.

2019 National Rally

The 17th National Caravan Clubs Rally Albany, WA is the 14th October to 22nd October. At the last count we have 29 members from our club attending and a total 69 members attending from Victoria. Our National Rally Representative Pat Glover, Div 2 will be organising a dinner for all RACV Caravan Club members please contact her to obtain more details. There is a plan to take a group photo please ensure you have a club shirt, jacket or a white shirt for this occasion.

Anyone that may be interested in attending the 17th National Rally can still book by contacting the Registrar Helen Bizzill Email: registrar@17thnationalcaravanrally.org.au Phone 0417 913 050

Facebook

In case you didn't know, we have a Facebook page. Share a picture or two from your rally or other caravan club event. <https://www.facebook.com/racvcaravanclub/>

Happy Rallying.

Rob Taylor

RACV Caravan Club Membership Renewal Form

RACV Caravan Club Membership is due 1st September 2019, You have 3 months to pay, after that time your membership will lapse and you will have to apply to join the club as a new member. Membership year starts 1st September and ends 31st August.

Please deposit the funds into our Bendigo Bank Account:

RACV Caravan Club BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 162 218 671

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

Completed Forms to

Post to: PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147 or

Email: heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com

**See
Renewal
Form on
inside back
page**

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MARSHAL:	Peter Rauch		



Acheron – April 13 - 14

Black Spur were treated to a beautiful picture-perfect drive with sunny weather, but you do have to concentrate a little bit harder, and it was nice to reach the top.

Six vans were on site Thursday night, they caught up for happy hour, with lots of chatter and laughter as some hadn't seen one another since the January Rally.

The park is one of the most picturesque parks we've been too with the river running alongside and a numerous variety of trees adorning the park grounds. The river was running extremely fast as they had just released irrigation water from the dam. Some members were lucky enough to have river frontage, most did get a bit of a view from their sites.

We had 13 vans on site by late Friday afternoon. Afternoon tea and happy hour was spent outside our new marshal's (Peter Rauch) van. We drove into Alexandra to the corner hotel for dinner. We all agreed the meals were great.

Saturday we had the pleasure of some members from Division 3 and Division 4 join us for the Rally, who were great fun. That gave us a total of 21 vans (One of our biggest rallies for a while).

Most members went to the market Saturday morning, then back to town to check out the shops. Some members had lunch at the white house which has become the Provender bakery. Lovely pies and pasties were consumed followed by coffee. (yum)



Anne and Donna decided to walk back to the park from Alex, great job girls very hilly and a long way.

We caught up again at Peter and Anne's Van for a cuppa and chat around 3pm followed by Hot dogs and ice cream for dinner. Thank you Stephen, Anne and helpers for a great job. It was such a lovely evening outside most stayed around to socialize.

Sunday came all too soon, and it was time to say our goodbyes, except for three lucky couples that were staying Sunday night.

Our thanks go to the committee for a great weekend.

Bridgewater – May 18 - 19

Our Friday night campers, nineteen in all, attended the local Bridgewater Hotel for dinner, where Elaine Stewart partook of the local lap "eating" tradition with noted gusto. The handsome young male waiter valiantly assisted Elaine in cleaning up, protesting to Elaine that lap "dancing" was definitely not on the menu. We all remain shocked and appalled that Elaine would try and procure a private lap dance in a country pub. It's always the quiet ones to watch out for. Bob considers Friday fish 'n chips a much safer option in future.



Unlike Elaine, the infamous redcoats did not disappoint. The renowned power walkers were, however, slowed somewhat by an elderly bounder who found himself accompanying them on the long but fast walk home. Should said bounder continue to pay more attention to Division 4 floosies than that sparingly bestowed upon his long suffering date, he should practice walking home more often as it will become the norm rather than the occasional rarity. Given he will soon be heading North with the migrating hordes, absence may make the heart grow fonder, else he should ensure his power walking endurance is up to redcoat standard.

Colin Spicer recommends the vanilla slices at the Bridgewater bakery but Ken Love begs to differ when it comes to their pasties. The bakery in Inglewood apparently has traditional Cornish pasties made to an old family recipe of

the baker, and have been highly recommended. I can personally vouch for their pies and date scones.

The last of the Autumn weather was enjoyed by everyone with many members spending time relaxing in the sunshine. Our very own paparazzi team of Liz and Peter snapped happily over the weekend so there should be a lot of revealing pics for the gossipmongers... the camera does not lie Elaine Stewart!

Bernie and Paul from Division Four joined us for the second rally in a row! Little do they know the depths of darkness and depravity this Division has sunk to in recent times. The fact that Bernie certainly displayed her potential of becoming another Division Four floosie was not lost on this wary writer, who will relentlessly continue to keep a watchful eye out for any and all likely usurpers.



Whilst the majority of campers visited nearby Inglewood and some even ventured as far as Wedderburn on Saturday, one vertically challenged member, not so sweet and Spicer, was quietly plotting her evil scheme to rig the newsletter mug of the month draw. Although "he who cannot be trusted", was languishing on his sick bed, (while his long suffering wife joined the exodus of the masses to Acheron without a feather coat), he nonetheless still managed to manipulate the draw with the ready assistance of his wily co-conspirator. She, who now cannot be trusted, has revealed herself to be as equally cunning and untrustworthy as her mentor and as such should hereby be officially precluded from participating in any appointment of newsletter writers in future. Moreover, any proposed drawing of raffle tickets by the short fiend should also be strictly prohibited, that's if she is actually able to reach the tickets. Once again, more bloody scratchies which require a tertiary degree to understand their complicated instructions and still no M & M's. I foresee a mutiny in Division One which can only be averted with chocolate.

And Steve, please get better. We all missed you. Better the devil you know!

Kyabram – June 8 - 10

This weekend we spent our rally at Kyabram Western Gums tourist park. We arrived at the caravan park to be greeted by Micheal who waved us in and told us where to park our caravan. The caravan park is spotless, the management Micheal and Cheryl are welcoming and friendly. They are continuing to improve the park with the aim of having groups like us to come into their town. We had a really good attendance this weekend. We had visitors from division four, visitors that came along to see what we are all about. Most people arrived Friday during the day and enjoyed a pub meal for dinner.

On Saturday many people ventured off and explored the local town many people went to the solo in Rochester and that was a very pretty site.



During the afternoon we gathered for afternoon tea and fivies. Saturday night many talented people cooked us a casserole dinner followed by some deserts. After dinner we continued on in the hall or gathered by the fire cooking marshmallows.

Sunday morning many people departed while some people that stayed on continued to



explore a few of us went over to Echuca and checked out the the Greatest Aussie Beer Shed and had lunch at Cuirleo's Ice cream & Waffle House.

We then gathered back at the park for fives and spent the evening enjoying everyone's company.

Monday the weather was wet and cold which then lead to a mass exist early in the morning. As we were driving out Micheal again farewelled us and wished Ruby a Happy 2nd Birthday for Thursday.

Thank you Liz Rauch as I used your photo that you took for this newsletter remember you still have the million dollar photo. Thank you Robert Taylor as I used your photos as well. Next I will try to be better prepared. Until next time safe travels.



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Shepparton – April 19 - 22

Some members arrived as early as Thursday to start pre Easter Rally.

We had a small Rally of 8 vans and 2 cabins, we enjoyed great company at 5 o'clock nibbles and morning tea.

The weather was kind to us for a relaxing time, our members stocked their vehicles with lots of product from SPC Ardmona shop with some making more than one trip to stock up.

Our group had fantastic meals at the Peppermill Park Lake Hotel with fine food and great company.

Sunday afternoon some members visited Emerald Bank Leisure Land, Shepparton's motor museum going back in time to see Furphy water tank classic bicycle collection, including penny farthing bicycles and motor bikes. The museum house over 100 classic vintage and veteran cars and muscle cars and also a wide range of other car related memorabilia. It was a fantastic display right next to the ventured into Barclay's antiques and collectables. Going back in time to old books, clothes and kitchen collectables but were able to ourselves for coffee at the Windmill Chocolate shop and Cafe. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. On arriving back to the park we were in time for afternoon drinks





and nibbles during which Easter Bunny made an early Easter visit to distribute Easter eggs to our members.

Another enjoyable weekend with our Caravan Club friends to all who participated, Happy Easter.

Wakiti Creek – May 18 - 19

Wakiti creek is a resort situated on 70 acres, approx. 22 kms. from Echuca next to a National Park. It is a self-supporting park with electricity from about 50 solar panels and the water supply



is bore water (not the Sulphur smelling water like in outback Queensland). It caters for all types with cabins, caravan sites and a teepee area with its own campfire and camp kitchen. You can try your hand at archery, canoeing, or the pool, weather permitting. There is an area set aside for horse riders to camp with their floats and a paddock set aside for their horses. Fire drums are also provided for areas without fire pits.

Four vans arrived on Wednesday 15th. May and the others arrived on Thursday and Friday.



On Friday some went in to the Moama Bowls club for lunch. A great camp kitchen was available for our use for breakfast, dinner and Happy hour.

Saturday morning tea, activities of the weekend were discussed, chit chat and fees collected. Some then went for a drive to Nathalia, Echuca, or Barham. In the afternoon Disc Bowls and Klomp were played while Eric and Dianne prepared a stew for our evening meal.

Dinner was at 6.30 and the Park Managers joined us. The stew with mashed potatoes and peas was fantastic – thanks to Eric and Dianne. Sweets were supplied by the ladies.



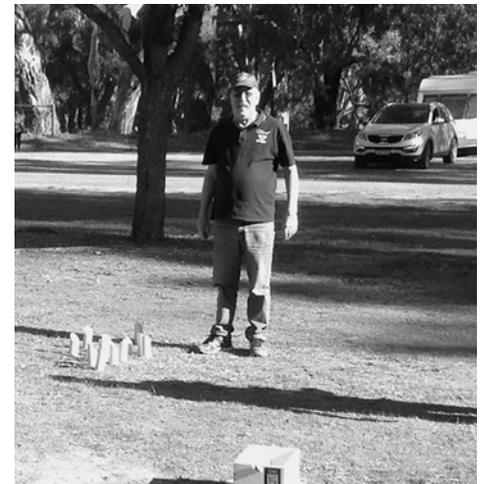
We then enjoyed a chat around the campfire with marshmallows cooked over the coals.

Sunday – some had breakfast in the camp kitchen and afterwards 14 of us went to the Barmah Hotel for lunch.

In the evening most made use of a great campfire and cooked jaffles for our evening meal.

Everyone packed up on Monday and headed home except for Pat and Adrian who were travelling north for their winter retreat.

Over all a very interesting and enjoyable weekend with lovely sunny days.





Euroa – June 8 - 10

Over half of the caravans arrived on the Thursday for the Queen’s Birthday weekend rally. On Friday most of the members either walked or drove to the main street to check out the cafes and shops.

By Saturday, everyone arrived with a number of 12 vans plus two on site cabins booked by members. The park was beautiful, the grass a vivid green with many stately gums on the property. The waters of Seven Creek, which ran through the centre of the park, reflected the plants growing along the bank, it was a peaceful sight. The facilities were excellent. Both the kitchen area and the toilet/shower block were fitted out well and kept very clean. There was a small hicup to the power supply to some of our vans. Luckily it happened fairly late at night. The owners of the park quickly organised an electrician early Saturday morning and all was well again.

The weather, although sunny during the day, was cold. This meant the communal fire was well attended, most days and evenings.

On Saturday morning, the well known Voilet Town Market was operating. This was a drawcard for our members who went looking for a bargain there. Due to this trip the meeting was put off until just prior to dinner Saturday night for the collecting of fees and the report of club news by Alan Jennings.

The park operators, Kristy and Warrick, had organised entertainment for us (and the many others staying in the park) on Saturday afternoon. Greg Dudley, singing and playing guitar had the audience singing along to country music from the 60’s and 70’s. A glass or two, plus nibbles, with music, a great way to spend our time.

Alan and Sue Colcough, from Division 1, joined us for the weekend. It was lovely to have them, as they mixed with our group well.

After a busy day of markets and music, dinner was a more simple affair. Tasty soups were provided by the ladies, followed by plum pudding and custard provided by the club.

Sunday a calmer day, either sitting near the fire or playing cards or just tinkering around. For “drinkies” we joined the group from the Vic Combined Caravan Club who were staying in the park. A most congenial time for all of us. Dinner that evening was at the Seven Creeks Hotel. It wasn’t a cheap meal, however the food was very tasty and well presented.

Another low key day on Monday. Keeping warm and chatting besides the fire, or inside playing cards. A few members were just happy to watch football. Carn Collingwood! There was a bit of excitement in the laundry – a nameless lady member put her wet washing into the lower dryer and put the money in the slot, pressed start and left it there. One hour later she returned, the clothes in the bottom dryer were still wet, while the top dryer, which was empty, was spinning madly. She will look more closely next time!

Many vans stayed until Tuesday. Some six vans were heading to the RACV Cobram Caravan Park. Pat Glover, our Marshall had seen a special deal advertised that if you stayed there, you could stay 7 nights for \$100. What a great price for another 7 nights away.

All those who attended agreed that Euroa was a beautiful place to stay.

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Moe – April 19 - 22

Thursday 18 April – We drove to Moe for our rally. Lovely weather and the town was pretty neat and tidy. Somebody was muttering about moccasins, but I was distracted by the Park Manager wanting to christen me Mildred. He said the BBQ area/Kitchen will be done up for our next visit which is just as well ‘cos it was pretty yuk. We had afternoon tea with the other 11 RACVCC vanners and then all went to the Racing Club for tea and Pokies. (Is there really no gambling allowed in the RACVCC?) Maxie (he is now under 100 age group) booked us in of course. More tomorrow.

Good Friday 19 April – I didn’t think we’d be able to play our traditional Good Friday Lawn Bowls (Div. 3 seem to have heaps of traditions) ‘cos we were shrouded in fog and I reckoned it’d



be cancelled through poor visibility. But NO! All 21 of us played in the very hot. George did a good job organising us and as we sprayed bowls all over the place (no tight heads here) I heard loads of shouting and calling... more oomph!... It’s a pineapple!... aim at my foot!... good bowl!... It’s in the ditch! I shouted can I





have a set of bowls like the little yellow thing I bowled down... it goes straight. They said NO. David Jordan and Pam and Peter won. And Peter only just made it in time to play 'cos he arrived this morning and so did Bev and Kerry. Oh! And Rene and Rolfy joined us. Their caravan STILL isn't repaired. We were a bit sad that Bert and Von couldn't make it.

And do you know after baking on the green we froze at the Park (where did that wind come from?) when we had drinks and nibbles. But we warmed up when Paul arrived with our fish and chips for which Dotti and Graeme had scoured the town in search of the best. Joe the Greek won. Magnif. F and C, dimmis, potato cakes and chips. Paul's ute still stinks like a Fish and Chip shop.

Saturday 20 April – Saturday we could do what we liked... well actually we can do what we like at any time... ask Jeffrey... Shopping. Visiting. Exploring. Eating. Sitting. Reading. Talking. I know every op. shop in Moe now.



It was port and chocolate around a camp fire in the evening and a vague attempt at being Boy Scouts/ Girl Guides and singing silly songs. My illusion of knobby kneed boys sitting round campfires doing this sort of stuff with Jeffrey (APM Scouting)... was shattered when he said he deals with Rovers who sit around and drink!



But don't worry I brought it all back to scouts and guides as we know them by confessing I was a Brownie Pixie and became a Girl Guide Daisy and demonstrated the Pixie song... and dance. I have no idea why everybody laughed so much at such a serious aspect of my childhood.



Easter Sunday 21 April – We ate Hot Cross Buns altogether this morning and lots of people had funny ears on their heads then we went on a Magical Mystery Picnic Tour... BYO Sandwich and flask of hot water. Marg and Pat provided cakes...delish! We stopped at a Lookout over the Latrobe Valley and saw all the power stations in one hit and then to a park in Tyers. Entertainment was disc bowls, Klop and drone watching. I remember when I had to knock on a door to ask for my ball back. How times have changed... its to get your drone back now...

And guess what! We went back to the Caravan Park and had drinks and nibbles... and that was the 14th time we had gathered for food! I think food is a Division 3 tradition as well.

Most of us are going home tomorrow but a few are staying and going to the Botanical Gardens. They will probably have rounds 15 to 18 of gathering for food. See you next month.





Avoca – May 18 - 19

19 things on wheels ... (I heard them call them caravans RACV Caravan Club Caravans.) arrived on my patch yesterday... What's going on? One lady, Judy... she had a box with no wheels.

I heard the people all being friendly and they knew one another... and they seem to sit in circles and eat and drink... and then I heard them chatting about anything and everything and they kept laughing.

A few of my mates are still around because its warm... well... warm in the sun but bloomin' cold in the shade and even bloomin' colder at night. We are sneaking into vans to keep warm to survive.... They don't make us welcome.

Friday night it was chatter galore and then wham!...all gone to some pub. Victoria Hotel? They came back at 9 talking about Alan Johnson winning a tray of meat! Now which van is his?...



this is perfect...me and my mates will have to find his van.

Saturday Morning was a bit nippy, but the circle people all disappeared somewhere clutching pieces of paper...I just managed to catch sight of Avoca Walkabout Quiz written on the paper.



By the time they came back we hadn't found the meat tray, but I did manage to hitch a ride when I heard someone say 'Barbeque'. I thought it might be worthwhile going. We ended up at Mount Avoca Winery. Heaps of them tasted wine and some of them bought it but I hung around the BBQ to get the low down. "Nice red"...'I bought a clean skin'... 'Tastings were tiny weren't they?'... 'Beautiful spot'...'Lovely weather'... 'Aren't we lucky?'...'Don't burn the meat'. They all sat in little circles... AGAIN!... eating sausages and chops and eggs and all sorts... plenty of choices for me though.

I managed to hitch a lift back and they no sooner got out of their cars and they made another circle... which kept moving to follow the sun. They seem to drink and talk about anything...and some of them must be so bored they fall asleep. There was a bit of action at about 5.00pm... drinking and paying money and then Peter... yep! Peter I heard his name... gave out all sorts of information and they all talked about other places to take their boxes... I mean caravans. I was correct about the Walkabout Quiz....they had all done it and one of the circle sitters gave out the answers... NO discussion



entered into!...what does that mean? They seemed to discuss endlessly. Anyway, Ian and Anne won the chocolate... Some people were watching a little screen... and people kept asking for the score...something about cats and doggies... Some people were very happy though and others were making rude comments.

They all disappeared again, and I was just settling into the warm of the Camp Kitchen and they all descended to watch some really old pictures of people and their bo... caravans.Talk about be excited... and laughing!

They left my patch the next day and they were all saying what a great rally it had been... We still didn't find the meat tray.

Cobram – June 8 - 10

Friday, 7th June – Cobram proved to be great starting point for those heading north in search of sunshine and warmer weather. Jeanette and Jeff's first 3 days of their sojourn were in Cobram. Marg and Greg are going to the extreme north, Cape York. We welcomed some members from other divisions going north: Ann & Chris Nicholls from Div 4, Jan and John Johnson from Div 2, Maureen & Roger Bailey from Div 1. Later, Debbie and Paul are bucking the trend and going west.

Like Sandra and George, trips to the warmth overseas is on the agenda of Dot and Graeme and Bev and Kerry. Despite a nasty and, absolutely false rumour, that Bev was being deported and we expect to see every-one when they return, especially Bev!





Let's hope that their winter woollies worn in Cobram will be tucked away in the cupboard for the next few months.

We were pleased to officially welcome Pam and John Symons as new members and Karina O'Grady who was visiting for the Rally.

Our weather today was excellent, clear blue skies and minimal wind making 'circling up' a pleasure until the sun went down and then hats, coats, scarves and gloves appeared. Those clear skies hinted at a very cold night to come.

Our usual Friday night dinner in a local pub was deferred due to the park owners Yvonne and Peter providing a sausage sizzle as a fund raiser for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Fires in two 44-gallon drums were most welcome when the sun went down. Debbie and Paul added a bit of fun by sprinkling some 'Mystic Flames' over the fires producing amazing brightly coloured

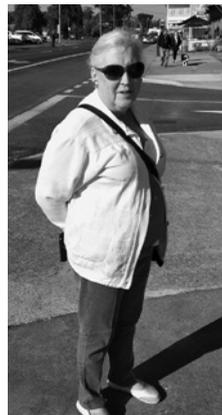


flames – blue, green, purple – spectacular. At first, some of us wondered what caused the coloured flames, did we have to evacuate? It was quite a relief to hear it was just 'Mystic Flames'. Well done Reenie for taking such a great photo capturing all those colours.

Our sausages, complete with Bunnings-style fried onions, were tasty and most welcome. Thank you to Yvonne and Peter for cooking our dinner. With our donations added, Yvonne and Peter's fund raiser was approaching \$2,000 for cystic fibrosis research. They have a fund raiser each year to support various community groups. Last year it was for the farmers. Wonderful idea and effort!

Brrrr...as anticipated, it was very cold over-night.

Saturday, 8th June – For some it was a quiet start to the day. For others, the local Park Run at Thompsons Beach on, believe it or



not, Rockarama Rd. Peter was our dedicated representative and completed his run stylishly, coming 7th across the line but when considering his 'handicap', his age, he came first. The rest of us stayed in our cosy warm beds for a sleep-in until the lure of the Tocumwal market was too hard to resist.

Another perfect day weather-wise, perfect for circling up to discuss how we passed our day. It seems that we contributed to the economy in Cobram as well as Tocumwal. Barooga was also a popular spot. The surprise news was that the Apex Park in Cobram is no more. Just vacant land where it used to be. Back at the park, there were always a few things to be tidied up on the vans, such as broken vents and tricky lights. Winter is here and so too are the knitting needles. However, as it was sunny, though not particularly hot, Jeff broke out his shorts to celebrate his trip north. He insisted that he got sunburnt, but we could see no evidence at all!

Dinner tonight was in the Yarroweyah Hall, just a short drive up the Murray Valley Highway we were told, you can't miss it. Several of us did, even some who had gone to the hall earlier in

the day. After a few u-turns, we all arrived. Lots of tasty dishes – casseroles, pasta and rice. Well done to the 'chefs' who took the Committee's advice to bring a small casserole, the collective catering was perfect. For afters, it was Max and Marion's stewed apples, light and 'heavy' custard as well as dolloping and pouring cream. Judy and Peter brought along a panettone, perfect with the apples, custard and cream.

A special note about the Yarroweyah Memorial Hall. It is a beautiful venue. We were in the supper-room, a large room complete with an excellent well-equipped kitchen and remarkably warm heaters. The knock-out features were the high wooden pitched and rafted ceiling and the highly polished wooden floors. The cost? Just \$120 for the evening. We recommend it highly if you're up that way. Of course, if you're looking for a ballroom, it's just across the passage from the supper room. It has a stage and an equally highly polished parquet floor.

Games followed dinner producing much laughter playing some quizzes and a pass the parcel game made more challenging by having to unwrap the parcel wearing mittens! Well





done to Dottie 's deft mitten work for winning the parcel prize. The Cities of the World quiz was won by the well-travelled Judy and Peter, the Food quiz was won by Reenie and Rolfey and the Collective Nouns quiz was most suitably won collectively by three groups – Ray, Debbie & Paul, Reenie & Rolfey and Judy & Peter.

Sunday, 9th June – No sleeping in this morning as the managers Peter and Yvonne donned their cooking gear again to prepare a delicious breakfast for us all. Ann and Chris Nicholls were the lucky winners of the free raffle, winning a weekend stay at the Willows CP. Maybe a good stopping off place on the way home.

After breakfast, some of the heat-seekers left in a northerly direction while those preferring (?) the cold, travelled south.

The 'stayers' occupied themselves resting, walking, cruising or chatting and eagerly waiting for the draw of the raffle, also in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The prize was a much-admired hand-made knitted and crocheted blanket. The lucky winner was a regular visitor to the Willows so there were some very sad Div 3 faces.

Dinner tonight was at the Cobram Hotel. Alan only agreed to go if there was going to be a raffle. His win in Avoca, the meat tray, was appreciated by his family and so he was hoping for yet another win.

Monday, 10th June – Willows Caravan Park became a somewhat quieter place once more as we all departed.

It's a lovely neat, tidy park and well managed by the very obliging Peter and Yvonne. Not only did they cook us two meals, they arranged perfect day time weather.

Thank you to:

our paparazzi for their photos; Debbie and Paul for bringing along the 'Mystic Flames'; the makers of our casserole dinners; Max and Marion for our Saturday evening dessert of stewed apples and Judy and Peter for the panettone; Peter for organising Celebrity Heads and Karina for the mitten wearing pass the parcel; Max for organising the dinner on Sunday at the Cobram Hotel; and the Committee for organising another fun weekend.

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Sale – April 19 - 22

27 vans arrived on Thursday and Friday in beautiful sunshine at the Sale Showgrounds. We were around the oval – some on one side of the fence and some on the other side. The new facilities were fantastic with a great recreation room which we were able to use the whole Easter.

FRIDAY was spent quietly catching up with friends, while kids played on the oval with their footy, remote cars etc. Our committee put on

Hot Cross Buns for afternoon tea and while everyone was there our VP Luke did his speech and introduced our new members, Mandy Brook & Paul McKinnon. That was followed by an Easter Hat Parade with many very creative hats. Charlie Crane was the winner of the children and Mandy Brook (new member) was the winner of the adults. Well done everyone. An hour later it was 'Fivies' time, followed by dinner (BYO) in the Rec room at 7pm. No-one went hungry that day.

SATURDAY – Tagalong Tour to Den of Nargun – Many cars headed off at 10am following our





intrepid VP Luke. About 1/2 hour down the road, several of us stopped to wait for the rest, 2 more turned up, but the others missed a turn and went a different way. Ultimately though, we all arrived at our destination, the Mitchell River National Park. Most people went for a walk, some as far as the lookout and the majority made it to the Den of Nargun, arriving back at the picnic area exhausted after an arduous 5km return trip. Barb & Keith McDonald decided the sign that said Coffee & Easter buns sounded a better option, but after quite a rough 1 km walk to the Echo Caravan Park, they must have looked exhausted so after their coffee, the owner drove them back to the picnic area. Everyone then had their lunch at picnic tables or sitting on logs. Afterwards, people went in different directions – some of us checked out the Echo Caravan Park, where there were



many campers in this remote area. Others went to the Dargo Pub, Littlefoot Winery and the surrounding areas of Sale, including the Swing bridge and the Port area. All in all, it was a very eventful day, BUT NO-ONE GOT LOST, it was the fact that the GPS's took us in different directions.

At Fivies, several fires were lit – with certain people starting a grass fire but it was put out quickly. There seemed to be quite a competition between the 'youngies' and 'oldies' as to who had the best fire. Children were collecting firewood, not sure if they were bribed, but a certain Grandpa was conned into giving them a gold coin donation. Dinner was at the Rec room again and afterwards Robbie & Donna Booth had us up and teaching us line dancing. A fun time. A lot resumed to their fires on a lovely mild night.

SUNDAY – The Committee were up early to organise ham & cheese croissants (plus left over hot cross buns) for our breakfast. The Easter bunny left an Easter egg for the ladies and afterwards there was an Easter egg hunt for the children. Thank you Committee. During the day, some attended the market while others visited various sights, including Loch Sport.

Later it was off to 'the dogs' at the Greyhound Racing Club where we had a lovely dinner. There was much hilarity (and some heartache) as we bet and watched the greyhounds race. There were some winners, amounts mentioned were \$3.90, \$1.50, 35c, that we know of, could be more and a few losers too, but hopefully, not



many lost too much. However, it was another fun night and a great way to finish our Easter Rally.

Monday morning, a couple of our ladies (Tania & Helen) were seen towing their caravans around the oval – what a good way to practise, it was Tania's first time ever apparently and she headed out the gate and up to the office and back again. Well done.

Acheron – May 18 - 19

Lovely sunshine for our May rally at Acheron Breakaway Tourist Park, but oh so cold during the night. A number of members arrived on Friday and by Saturday there were 31 caravans, 1 visiting Div 1 van, 1 cabin and the Martin's



glamping in a tent. New members Kevin & Fiona with daughter, India attended their first rally. The park has a no pet policy, so we had no furry friends this time. Pity, because Saturday night was a two dog night!

It was election day and everyone had voted prior, but not to worry if they hadn't; the H & K Booth van was set up for late voters.

During the afternoon many members walked to a local winery for a wine tasting, others sat by the river in the sunshine, soaking up the sun and the ambiance.

Ken Preston's special 'zero' birthday was celebrated in style with the biggest 5sies spread seen in a long time. His cake was fantastic (and delicious); a replica of him and his caravan. The marquee was set up mid afternoon for the potato night, but because of the expected dew, taken down after dinner. Most people then retreated





NATIONAL RALLY NEWS

The 17th. National Rally is getting much closer for us all.

Now that the Rally Programme is out, arrangements will be made for our Club to have a 'Get-together Dinner' at a suitable Pub or Club venue

A Group Photo will also be arranged when convenient, please wear your white RACVCC polo shirt if possible for it, (or at least a white polo shirt if no Club one)

Some of our members have enquired regarding a possible 'travelling rally' for on the way over. If you want to join in to existing approved rallies, contact Laurie Martin on 0416 047 923, or Rob. Taylor on 0423 027 209, so that approval by the next Exec. Meeting on Sat., 31st August can be had.

Wishing everyone safe travelling, Pat. Glover. (0397 334 820)



to various campfires that were set up outside vans. More ambiance.

The Committee treated members to a hot potato night with lashings of bacon, sour cream, cheese and coleslaw. With so many potatoes to cook on the hot coals, it was a bit touch and go as to whether they would be ready for dinner time. The fire pit 'master' Les and team saved the day by shovelling hot coals and turning the spuds frequently. Many thanks to Hayley for all her work organising and to Caroline for wrapping how many? spuds (2pp), that's a lot of spuds and for preparing a mountain of coleslaw!



Presentations to David and Mandy Smith for 100 rallies, Robert and Julie Booth for 50 rallies. Congratulations to you all.

Congratulations to Damo & Alana Brown who arrived in their gorgeous new van, complete with bunks and bathroom. Lani keeps pinching herself, thinking she's in her parents van! Many happy times ahead.

Foster – June 8 - 10

For those that took off Friday, The sun was shining for a picturesque scenic view of beautiful green fields & lots of cows along the way! Some travellers staying the night at free camps & the others were arriving to a warm welcome at the prom central caravan park. A few ventured out to the local tavern for dinner & birthday celebrations, which had some great old photos of the town & very colourful toilet seats! Saturday a steady stream of campers flowed in to the park for a total of 32 vans, 1 visitor & a 1 new member. There were lots of explorers checking out local cafes, pubs, Agnes waterfall & tidal river down at Wilson's prom, over the sunny weekend. Saturday's make and bake auction was a bidding frenzy, our auctioneer Ken Richmond was kept on his toes with hands waving money, Burnie & Paul donated their nights dinner which they intended to buy back, but Lindsay had others plan & was very happy with his purchase! Even brothers were bidding against each other for the yo-yo's! A rousing rendition of happy birthday was sung to all the June birthday people & a big crowd stayed on for fives in the warm camp kitchen. Belinda & Steve were kept busy showing a steady stream of eager people through their beautiful new van. The rains did eventually pay a visit, which made for a wet pack up, but a wonderful Queens birthday weekend was had by all. Thanks to the committee of all their hard work, much appreciated.

A big Congratulation to Ron and Barbara Pyke for finally receiving the 200 rally badge.

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Daylesford & The Tagalong

Day 1-2 Daylesford Fri 5th April to Sat 6th April

The division met at Daylesford for our rally weekend with 7 caravans in attendance and 3 cabins being used. We stayed at the Jubilee Lake Holiday Park, the sites were reasonably sized and facilities clean. Everyone had arrived by Friday afternoon ready for happy hour at 4:30, thanks to Sue and Fay for the use of their cabin. We then headed off to dinner that night at the Bowling Club.

Saturday, we met for a quick meeting and a cuppa. Stella was Marshall for the weekend and highlighted activities in the local area for members to see or do.

Activities during our stay included – Visited several mineral springs and tested the water; Lavender farm; Saturday morning market; Cricket Willow – Museum of the Willow cricket bats; Wombat Hill and Botanical Gardens

Sunday four caravans headed off for the tag along trip with other heading for home

Day 3 Rupanyup Sunday 7 April
Our destination today was Rupanyup with four caravans leaving Daylesford at different times. There was no planned route organised to get to our accommodation that night at the Rupanyup Memorial Park, this allowing members to look at places along the way, which

was of interest to them. This formed the basis of the tag-a-long trip. At Rupanyup, the Mudie's & Murphy's joined us at the park, we were surprised to find out that the park was almost full.

Day 4 Hopetoun Monday 8 April
Our original destination for today was Manangatang for 2 days, but after discussions it was decided to shorten the journey and stay at Hopetoun for a night.

We started our journey today by looking at the Rupanyup Silo before heading out of town towards Warracknabeal and onto the Henty Hwy. We visited silo's at Sheep Hills, Brim and Rosebery before stopping at Hopetoun for the night, staying at Lake Lascelles Caravan Park.



Day 5 Tooleybuc Tuesday 9 April

After a restful night we headed off to Tooleybuc. Along the way we went to silos at Lacselles and Patchewollock where we had morning tea and viewed the last silo on the Trail. Gavan, Rhonda Stella and David went to see the Pink Lakes, which currently have no water in them but were interesting to see. By mid afternoon we had all arrived at our camp site at the Tooleybuc Bowls Club where there was a combination of free camping or powered sites available. We all then headed off to the Bowls Club for dinner, no driving tonight just a 50 meter walk to the door.

After dinner Julie, Rick, Stella & David tried their hand at Bingo which filled in a couple hours and great fun.

Day 6-8 Hay Wed 10th April to Fri 12 April

We spent a leisurely morning relaxing, opting to leave after lunch as the Bowls club had a \$5 lunch on. On phoning to book our next accommodation at Balranald we found out that there was "No room at the inn" so headed off to Hay for three nights.

Day 9-10 Narrandera Sat 13 April to Sun 14 April

Today we headed off to Narrandera for 2 nights at the showgrounds, savvy investigatory work by Heather found out there was a wedding planned that night in the hall with 200 guests expected. It was a no brainer, off to the Narrandera Caravan Park we went. The park is well managed and quite being on the edge of town.

During our stay at Narrandera we did a number of activities, we found the wrecked paddle steamer Wagga Wagga. The Wagga Wagga was the last operational paddle steamer on the Murrumbidgee, it developed a fatal leak on the 11 Nov 1918 in the starboard side and was beached in its current location. We were fortunate the water level was low as the wreck can only be seen during these periods. Visited the Charles Sturt memorial, we played the big guitar at the Information Centre & the Tiger Moth Memorial dedicated to the No 8 Elementary Flight Training School, visited Lake Talbot look out and had dinner at the Ex-Servicemen's club.

Day 11 Lockhart Monday 15 April

We headed off the Lockhart today, the Witteveen's left us today and headed home because of previous commitments, which left us with four caravans to finish the tag a long. We arrived at Lockhart Caravan Park a very nice little park and walked around the town following the art trail some amazing sculptures made from old tools & machinery from farms so well done.

Day 12-14 Cobram Tuesday 16 April

Our last stop was three nights at Cobram before heading home. On the way to Cobram the Mudie's and Breese's stopped at Urana and had morning tea, the West's and Phillip's stopped at Jerilderie.

On Wednesday, we arranged to get picked up by the Sportsman Club bus and we went out for a farewell dinner, which was quite enjoyable.

In summary, the "Tag-a-Long" trip was enjoyed by all and we were extremely fortunate to have fine weather.

Stratford – May 18 - 19

What a great rally we had at Stratford. In the end only 4 vans attended owing to illness. All arrived early so a walk up town to sus out the place and dining venue was on. For happy hour we lit the fire and then at 6 pm we walked up town to the dining venue. It was okay but some were disappointed with the meals as they were very bland.





Saturday was a lovely day blue sky and sunshine so it was decided to have a sausage in a bun for lunch. We all set off for a drive to Maffra , morning tea at the local bakery and then a look through the shops. Then back to the park for the bbq lunch.

Several set off to fuel up and David came back with more firewood, picked up from the side of the road. The fire was lit and we all sat around and started happy hour a little early. We talked of the funny things that had happened to us in our travels. As the sun went down we all got closer to the fire until we got too hot and

needed to move back. Off to the vans for a light tea and then Crazy Whist in the camp kitchen at 7.30. A fierce competition and a lot of laughter and Peter ended up champion.

In the morning it was time to bid goodbye and wishing those travelling to Darwin then the rally in WA a safe journey.

Will be looking forward to the next rally at Numurkah and then off to warmer climes.

Numurkah – June 8 - 10

The Division 5 rally for June was held at Numurkah and we stayed at the Numurkah Caravan Park on the banks of the Broken Creek. The caravan park was tidy with clean facilities and a large open camp kitchen which became our meeting spot.

We had 8 caravans and 3 cabins with everyone arriving by early Friday afternoon. It was a lovely sunny day which was great for setting up and then sitting around having a chat. At 4:30 we all gathered at the camp kitchen for happy hour, followed by our dinner out at the Numurkah Bowls and Golf Club. The meals were nice and arrived quick after ordering. After dinner we all headed back to camp to relax in our caravans.



On Saturday we had a quick members meeting over a cuppa starting at 9:30. Our Marshall's for the weekend was Sue and Fay and Sue went through what was on in the area for members to do. After the meeting most went for a walk down town where we met up at 11:30 for a Coffee at Tiffany's bakery. It was here that Ian and Aileen caught up with us having come from Melbourne for the day. The club put on a sausage sizzle lunch at the camp kitchen which was enjoyable after which was free time for people to explore the area or relax. Happy hour was at 4pm followed by soup, rolls and ice-creams for dinner organised by the ladies. Thanks to ladies who made the tasty soups.

Sunday was another nice day weather wise. Peter and Heather left us today for their trip



north for the winter, being a long weekend the rest of us remained. The marshals had organised a trip to the Big Strawberry at Koonoomoo for lunch, from there members went to visit other places such as Cobram or returned to camp. We all met at 4pm for Happy Hour and we were visited by our Club President Rob Taylor and his wife Barbara. It was great to have their company and everyone enjoyed their visit and chatting with them. Afterward members organised their own meals and relaxed in their caravans.



they departed but 2 remained for an extra day. All in all a great weekend was had by all, thanks again to our marshals Sue and Fay for organising things.

On Monday we woke to thunderstorms with most packing up between the rain patches. The rally concluded for most members as



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM RACV CARAVAN CLUB

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:



RACV CARAVAN CLUB OF VICTORIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for the position of: _____

Nominee: _____
(Name in Block Letters Please)

Signature: _____

Nominator: _____ Seconder: _____

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 of 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.

Membership Fee Due 1st September each year \$48.00

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**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF RAVCC

(Applicants must have a current RACV membership)

Date:

Name in Full:
(Block Letters Please)

Address:
.....
..... Postcode:

RACV Membership No.:

Phone No.: Email:

Membership Fee Due 1st September each year \$48.00
New members fees are Pro Rata at \$4.00 per month
until the next 1st of the September

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)

Applications to
PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147



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