



RACV Caravan Club Newsletter

Summer
2018
Volume 45 No. 170



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***It looks
a lot like
Christmas!***

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Registered number A 0006900 V
ABN 83 836 581 725

Registered Office:
PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147

Postal Address
PO Box 165, Ashburton, Victoria 3147
An organisation devoted solely to the
interest of Caravanners

RACVCC Office Bearers:



President: Sandra Eldridge
Secretary: Anne Nichol
Treasurer: John Stone

Activities Director – Ann Cecil
Immediate Past President – Sandra Eldridge

Change of Address:
RACV Caravan Club
Member Service Delivery
550 Princes Highway, Noble Park 3174

Newsletter material to:
The Editor, Julie Mason
175B Wonga Road, Ringwood North 3134
M: 0408791449
Email: julierat@iprimus.com.au

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

General correspondence to:
The Secretary
RACV Caravan Club
PO Box 165, Ashburton VIC 3147
Email: sec@racvcaravanclub.com.au
www.racvcc.com.au



President's Report

Hello everyone,

This is my first one so let's see how I go. For those who don't know me. We (Barbara & I) joined the caravan club in 1984, our first rally was nearly our last. It was wet, muddy and very cold. The park manager put all our vans on site using a tractor. Our, then 2 year old daughter had to be carried everywhere, the water in the puddles was so deep it went over the top of her gum boots. The amenities block was undergoing renovations, resulting in cold showers. We survived and tried Rallying for a second time. We had our first summer holiday at Blairgowrie for a whole 2 weeks in 1987. That went well, my leave was cancelled and Barb found herself in residence on her own with a hyperactive 5 year old and a 12 month old. We tried again and now park our van on site for most of the summer season. Wet, muddy and cold doesn't worry us as much anymore we have a choice of heaters to keep us warm, a 4x4 to help get us on and off sites and the 2 year old has grown up.

Winter time we usually head north for a couple of months, to some where warm, I like the outback but we always end up on the coast. We have attended 2 National Rallies and we are going to Albany in 2019. We have enjoyed them and recommend that everyone should try and make it to at least one National Rally. This year we attended our first ever State Rally with 12 other club vans, more on that later.

The President's position gives me a very different perspective to our club. I have held Divisional committee positions previously, along time ago. I have worked on other things in the back ground for the club most recently as a delegate with ACC Vic. The transition from old to new has resulted in Sandra sending me over 40 comprehensive emails and having some significantly lengthy telephone calls.

The 2018 AGM is now in the past. Sandra finally got her wish, she is now the Past President. Barb Pyke is finally free.

Our separation from the RACV has bought about a number of spin offs that we are identifying and addressing. We are not there yet. Please do not pay your Caravan Club renewals to the RACV.

Camerons Bight Camp Ground has undergone some changes to meet CFA requirements, the site markers have moved. I have been assured our sites are not smaller. Some other things have changed, the Green Shed is gone, the boat trailer parking and the over flow/visitor parking areas are now tent sites.

Alan Jennings was awarded Honorary Life Membership at this years AGM.

From the mid 1970's for some 30 years Alan spent many summer evenings at Blairgowrie showing movies to our members on a 16mil projector. During the Day he maintained and charged our batteries so we would have light at night.

In 2000 Alan joined a working group to develop our Model Rules to meet the then new legislative requirements place upon us.

- New Club rules were written in 2000/ 2001 and ratified at 2001 AGM.
- The new Constitution developed, approved at the AGM and printed in 2007
- Model Rules were created in 2012 (by direction of Justice Department)
- 2013 a revised version of the constitution was developed and approved at the AGM.
- plus the many adjustments made especially from 2013 to 2018.

Alan was involved in all of these in a major role He has continued to update our constitution keeping it current and relevant.

At the Special General Meeting, the motion to sell Learmonth was agreed too. Once the Executive Committee have met and worked out a way to progress this, we will let you know.

Thank you to Heather for taking on the Secretary's position, Anne and John for continuing on as our Activities Director and Treasurer. I thank the departing Divisional Committee Members for their work over the past year and the new and existing Divisional Committee members. Without the Divisional Committees we wouldn't have the Rallies we all enjoy.

From Barbara and I, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year.

Rob



Alan has also supported his Division by holding a variety of positions on committee, including many years as the Divisional Rep at Sorrento, 2 years as Assistant Marshal, 1 year as Treasurer and collectively 7 years as Vice President.

Alan and Shirley have been members of the Club since the days prior to it split into divisions, some 50 years.

Congratulations Alan an Honorary Life Membership well deserved.

Welcome to the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the RACV Caravan Club.

We are now 81 years old. And last year I said I was delighted to be delivering my final report of my tenure in our 80th year. A very significant year. And then of course I landed an extra year.

This year I am delighted to be genuinely delivering my final report. That is not to be interpreted as I am so blooming glad to be out of here but rather I am really pleased that the Club will have a new President a new front man with new ideas and a fresh approach...who will assume the responsibilities for lots of things and will have to do all of the thinking....(and of course I am so blooming glad to be out of here!) Not really....

2018 has been and continues to be a year of change. The MOU at Cameron's Bight: being on our own with regard to our membership arrangements and collection of fees: a few new bits to the Constitution (to be voted on later): The possible sale of the Land at Learmonth (to be voted on later): New Club President. New Club Secretary. New badges and an alternate arrangement trialled for long weekend rallies...

But my favourite thing of all and that to which as a Club we are solely devoted ...the interests of users of recreational vehicles...continues to be our strength and our main focus. Our devotion manifests itself in the rallies we hold each month for each division and I know I am always keen to emphasise or harp on about even....but that is what we are about and all of the changes however big or small, however important to some, however negligible to others, ALL changes ultimately lead to Rome I mean rallies.

Club Membership

Our membership records have not been included in my list of changes this year mainly because The RACV have continued to maintain rather vague record of our numbers...as they have done for the past goodness knows how many years...and there has continued to be

multi unlisted members and therefore there has been no change. But with our best efforts...make that Anne Nichol's best efforts. (She kept a tight rein on any new member applications) and our lists of today are as accurate as possible and certainly the best for ages.

There is no change in my love of statistics on these matters.

Our average participation at our rallies has declined by 7

Div 1 from 13 in 2017 to 13 in 2018

Div 2 15 to 12

Div 3 18 to 16

Div 4 27 to 28

Div 5 10 to 7

Our total number of attendances across the 12 months at rallies has slipped from 980 last year to 918 this year.

That gives an average of 73 people turning out in their vans each month as opposed to 83 last year.

Of course, statistics can mislead you...are a bit cold and calculating but at a drop off rate of 7 per year...you work out the maths.

I think there are things to look at and study there for the future...and hopefully develop strategies for change.

We need more Luke and Tracey Teunissens who seem to have an endless stream of friends who they persuade to become members. Word of mouth is a wonderful tool.

Von Montauban took over from Barb as our membership liaison person and has done an invaluable job although she has seen nothing like the interest that Barb saw. We had no overwhelming surges of interest and Von is always up for a friendly chat, but the interest has been minimal for the last few months.

Many thanks to Von for doing this job all the same...it is vital and certainly guarantees that people who do inquire speak immediately to a Caravan Club member rather than being left wondering.

Awards

Not so many awards will be presented this year at our Christmas Rallies. 5 people from Div. 1,1 from div 3 and 8 from div 4 will receive glasses of their choice...Hayley and Greg Hatziviagiannis hold the currently rallying longest unbroken attendance...18 years (I am not sure how to explain that because in the past there have been longer 'stretches') followed by Julie and Phil Mason with 13 and John and Leisa Stone with 12. Lindsay and Gillian Anders have achieved their first 3 years continuous attendance and that award will be made soon. If any of the other awardees...Steve and Anne, Bob and Elaine, Keith and Helen, Greg and Hayley, Phil and Julie, John and Leisa know their 3 times table and are eligible for re engraving on their shield please tell John, take your shield off the caravan wall and get it to him. He will arrange further inscriptions.

Special mention for Mandy and David Smith... according to the records I have been given they will receive their first one year continuous. Bring back the tea spoon I say...

Sorrento

It is so difficult to refer to Sorrento as Cameron's Bight.

There were changes at The Park...

However, we held our range of activities. Anne's frequent food nights. Bob's Bocce... Film Nights. no sandcastles (that thwarted the neighbouring kids...no more walking off with our prizes!) Anne ably assisted by Steve has a band of helpers and we all enjoyed the regular gatherings of us in the Picture Theatre...mainly to eat and drink. The Australia Day Breakfast wouldn't be the same without Ajjay's dulcet tones...and they were there again...and many members stayed right through until Easter because it was such an early Easter.

The usual litany of things that the Foreshore Committee were planning and things that would work better and things that were awaiting this

permission and that permission and ideals about how this Park can better serve us and the public and tags for cars and resizing sites and it will remain a no power park and wandering rangers checking all sorts and parking outside on the road and Bay Trails through the Park and reviews of our agreement which became a Memorandum of Understanding and plans for camp kitchens and relocation of Barbeques (for which I received a grant from the Shire and donation from the RACV) and the old green shed WILL go at the end of this season and the new one will be in for next season (this season). I finally understood what was meant by being on the front foot when big changes come... being prepared. We have 3 years of no change for us...a Memorandum locked in.

I learned that the visitors to the Mornington Peninsula is increasing each year and is presently 7 million with 3.5 million going beyond Blairgowrie Shops. Accommodation of all types is at a premium. With DEWLP being charged with giving everyone the opportunity to experience a stay on the Peninsula...and fortunately they don't adhere to their own policies at the moment...and the numbers and pressures rising for accommodation...as I wrote in a Newsletter, we need to value what we have whilst we have it for the next three years.

I still feel we have a privileged position at the Park because of our history only in the sense we have 2/3 of the sites allocated to us. We have a Memorandum of Understanding that writes about various other things but in the final analysis the Park is managed the way the Foreshore Committee want to manage it. As I said in the Newsletter it is no good whingeing that it is not like it was because it never will be.

Again 73 members have booked sites this year.

National and State Rallies

The State Rally was held at Wodonga Showgrounds during October...embraced a Wednesday Thursday Friday and finished on Saturday. It was hugely successful, and I am pleased for the Organisers. 13 RACVCC members attended.

The National rally in Albany WA is next year in October and I am sure we have lots of people going.

A Few Other Events that have meant Change

We were very sad at the death of our favourite Kenny Anderson earlier in the year. He was given a wonderful celebratory farewell with a huge attendance from the Club as well as from the other forums in his life. Uncle Ken is greatly missed...isn't he Georgie Boy? What a member he was...

We did review our protocols and there were less to change to streamline our operations than first imagined. Later in the Meeting we will be voting to hopefully accept the changes. They are all outlined in the last Newsletter. A new Constitution Booklet will be printed and distributed to all members. As with the others it will probably last less than a year because we will find other changes to be made in our operations.

It has been recognised by the Exec that some sort of action was needed to try to ease the burden of cost and busy parks and roads for some of our long weekend rallies. You all know that we are trialling alternate arrangements for two of our long weekend rallies. If it is successful and warrants extending alternatives to other long weekends, then I hope it will be extended. It was a very nervously put idea of mine and now Rob can gauge the success or otherwise!

One other small change is that name badges will be made on our very own machine and will be hang from a lanyard type. They will commence very soon.

I think the last change is the casting adrift by the RACV allowing us to manage our own membership lists and collect our own fees. It has been somewhat arduous actually getting a written statement of how things will be... The RACV seem to be in a constant state of reorganisation.

Anyway, we now have it...we will continue to be supported in the printing of our Newsletter but not the mailing. We will receive an annual payment for that...and that is about it! A contract to sign where we promise to behave ourselves and not bring the RACV name into disrepute.

I think we should be happy that we will carry their name, (Nobody can deny the aura and power it wields...) receive \$5000 a year and not have to worry anymore about their constant reorganisation. And we won't have to be concerned with the constant excuses and reasons for their tardiness.....when all along by their own admission we have not really fitted into their recording process for a long time.

There will be plenty more change in years to come I am sure. Change is the only constant in life.

And now to my thanks...its well difficult to find different ways of writing a thank you letter after 5 years.

To the Divisional Committees a thousand thanks on behalf of all the members who attend rallies. They don't happen with out you and all the things that you as a cohesive group manage for the enjoyment of your division. Nothing happens without you. You are pivotal in our devotion to our users of rvs and therefore our rallies.

May that never change.

To Julie Mason who produces our Newsletter. Give a busy person a job ...Works full time. Runs her home. Rallies every month and collates our Newsletter. Thanks Julie...

Financial Reviewers Leo Dudman and Jim. Many thanks for checking the books...I know you have questions Leo but never mind...just keep calm and sign. Many thanks Leo and Jim.

ACCVIC Reps Ken Slade and Rob Taylor. Rob, I know is an avid member of AccVic...is the Vice President. Has a thousand ideas so what changes can we expect now...? Many Thanks Rob and Ken.

And of course, Georgie Boy.... who nearly throttled me when I agreed to another year as President but who has continued to support me...has encouraged me to take the flak head on when necessary ... and has actually allowed me to submit Newsletter reports un checked by him this year... I assume he had had enough. Thanks Georgie.

And of course, the Executive

To the VPs who represent their divisions at Exec meetings and give a great deal of time to discussion and decision making. It is all done for you the members and to fulfil our mission to manage the rallying experience. It is a responsibility and role that all VPs have taken seriously

And so, to Steve Clark, Ajjay, Peter Blake, Luke Tuena and David Breese many sincere thanks from us all.

Ann Cecile...our lady in the coat of many colours or our member who wears many different hats... Activities, Rally Calendar, Rally Report collation, Money assistant for Sorrento...or do I mean Cameron's Bight...? She emails and chases and receives money and is helluva efficient. Then there is the allocations committee and of course Anne is Activities lady at Sorrento. (And that is not in her Activities Director Role) I have probably missed something ...but indeed Miss Organiser extraordinaire for the Club.

One thousand thanks.

And finally, my big 3.

Barb Pyke...an absolute back stop and solid honest advisor. I didn't take one step without referring to her at the beginning of the year with regards to Cameron's Bight. She must have thought she was president again. Barb was always there, and I cannot thank you enough Barb for the patient discussions you had with me right throughout my presidency.....not just on Sorrento. I am happy for you that you can now give up the long drives to all those meetings...

John Stone...our treasurer...a big job and John has continued to refine and improve in the sense we now fit in with the modern-day banking and thinking. Balancing books and keeping records of rally attendance. Sorrento Bookings. Huge amounts of money and checking and re checking...the Treasurers job is so diverse. It has many facets. I am sure it is not easy although John recently assured us that once learned and now that he has things organised it is quite simple and flows really well. We are looking for endorsement here Lisa...Thanks John... a mill and you have been brill.

And finally, finally Anne. A stalwart of support... efficient...clear thinking...organised and has done a wonderful job. I shall miss the chats about all things RACVCC on the phone and the emails that fly back and forth...essentially about the RACV record keeping...and trying to clarify missing names etc. Anne was totally reliable and a pleasure to work with...Someone else can worry about that now ay Anne? Thankyou. A mill. Totally brill.

In Conclusion

More a fond farewell than a conclusion to all these musings. Thank you for having me. I have loved doing this job. I have definitely been honoured and proud to hold the position.

I haven't forgotten that I arrived in the position through the untimely death of John Wall. Never did I think that I wanted to be or would be President for a second time.

I know I have had the interests of the Club and the members at heart always.

And with that. Thank you again. My very good wishes to Rob. I hope you will be as honoured as I have been to lead this great club.

Sandra



Treasurer's Report – AGM November 2018

This was my fourth year as club treasurer, one more to go. The 2017-18 financial year gave the club a loss of \$6,310. Where did the money go?

Well around \$3000 of that is membership subscriptions that have not been forwarded to us by the RACV.

\$4311 that is invoices to the RACV for 50% of the cost of producing the newsletters. These amounts have now been paid.

We Paid \$724 in income tax for years 2013 to 2017.

Our Bank reserves also are \$28,000 less than last year mainly due to us paying the Sorrento season 2017-18 deposit \$10,000 late (September) and having to pay a 20% deposit \$18,000 instead of 10% for this coming Sorrento season.

75 of our members and their families enjoyed the 2017-18 group booking at Sorrento from December to April and we showed a surplus of \$603 for Sorrento.

The club opened a new fee free Bendigo Bank account in February of this year to enable us to be able to perform electronic fund transfers, I have to say that this is making my job a lot easier.

I am hoping to end our costly association with the ANZ Bank before I finish my time as treasurer and move all our funds into Bendigo Bank accounts.

Divisions 1 & 2 have had a deposit fund in the past and are now finished paying that money back to their members.

As you probably know the RACV has stopped collecting our membership fees from June 30 of this year. From now on all membership subscriptions will have to be paid to the club direct.

It is my recommendation that for the period 30 June 2018 till 31st August 2019 we have a membership fee of \$0 and a joining fee of \$60 for new members.

I recommend that from 1st Sept 2019 the membership fee be set at \$48 with no joining fee.

I also recommend that all membership shall be due to be paid by the 1st of September each year.

Any new members joining after 1st Sept 2019 shall pay a pro rata amount of \$4 per month up to the next 1st September.

I would like to thank the 5 Divisional Treasurers for their work and our accounts reviewers for this year (Leigh Dudman and Jim Driscoll).

I would also like to thank Anne Cecil for her continual work with the booking of Sorrento.

John Stone
Club Treasurer



RACV CARAVAN CLUB of VICTORIA Inc.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

	2017-2018	2016-2017
Income		
RallyFees	\$4,565	\$5,330
DepositFund	\$735	\$1,319
SpecialEffort	\$0	\$1,074
XmasRally	\$3,590	\$5,835
ClothingEmblems	\$30	\$52
Membership	\$7,385	\$8,439
Interest	\$1,092	\$1,100
8othBirthdayDeposits	\$275	\$2,250
Newsletter	\$0	\$5,200
RefundCheque	\$0	\$100
PettyCash	\$3,352	\$2,960
Catering	\$0	\$136
FinesDonations	\$94	\$120
Learmonthrent	\$1,109	\$1,090
DepositRefunds	\$0	\$393
	<u>\$22,227</u>	<u>\$35,398</u>
Expenditure		
Catering	\$6,916	\$10,081
Entertainment	\$168	\$833
Hall Hire	\$425	\$868
Secretarial	\$455	\$1,001
CapitalPurchases	\$1,018	\$0
PettyCash	\$3,729	\$4,375
DepositRefund	\$955	\$0
RallyInsurance	\$1,143	\$894
Trophies	\$846	\$368
BankCharges	\$200	\$135
FlowersNotices	\$835	\$0
AGM	\$425	\$398
XmasToys	\$530	\$422
MembershiptoRACV	\$400	\$800
LearmonthRates	\$1,008	\$991
Website	\$528	\$132
POBoxRental	\$127	\$124
TrailerCosts	\$265	\$274
Newsletter	\$7,840	\$8,227
Tax (2013-2017)	\$724	\$0
TotalExpenditure	<u>\$28,537</u>	<u>\$29,923</u>
Excess of Income Over/Under Expenditure	<u>-\$6,310</u>	<u>\$5,014</u>

Statement of income and expenditure for the 12 month period are on the following pages...

Continues over page

Contra Income	2017-2018	2016-2017
Sorrento Site Deposits Inc	\$86,454	\$86,207
Sorrento BBQ	\$9,500	
Contra Expenditure		
Sorrento Site Payments	\$101,151	\$75,209
Sorrento BBQ	\$9,500	

RACV CARAVAN CLUB of VICTORIA Inc.

FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 August 2018

The Club has Funds as follows: These Funds are Represented by:	2018	2017
Cash at Bank:		
Bendigo Bank Business Everyday Account	\$4,170	\$0
ANZ Current Account	\$4,905	\$3,990
ANZ Investment Account (at Call)	\$52,342	\$86,391
Investment - RACV Finance Ltd	\$31,088	\$31,088
Petty Cash	\$2,250	\$1,700
Total Cash & Investments	\$94,755	\$123,169
Fixed Assets:		
Land at Cost (Learmonth) (Purchased 1972) (Valuation per 22/06/2018 City of Ballarat Rate Notice: \$347,500)	\$8,302	\$8,302
Total Assets on Hand	\$103,057	\$131,471

Review Committee Report.

We have reviewed the above "Statement of Financial Position" as at 31 August, 2018 and the attached "Statement of Income and Expenditure" for the 12 Month Period ended 31 August, 2018 and other records of the Club comprising cash books, banking records, receipts and other supporting documents.

Based on the records and information presented to us, it is our opinion that the Financial Statements of the RACV Caravan Club of Victoria Inc. are properly drawn up so as to give a proper and fair view of the "Statement of Income and Expenditure" for the 12 Month Period ended 31 August, 2018 and Total Members Funds, as reported in the "Statement of Financial position" as at 31 August, 2018.

Leigh Dudman CPAFIPA

Jim Driscoll





State Rally

The Wodonga Showgrounds was the venue for the 2018 State Rally, organised by the North East Victorian Caravan Club, assisted by the members of the Cobram club.

73 caravans attended made up of 13 RACV Caravan Club vans and representatives from: Aussie Adventurers, Ballarat, Bendigo, Central Vic, CFA, Combined Caravan Club of Vic, Gippsland, North East Vic., Wimmera. WVL, and visitors from the Australian Caravan Club.

Caravans began arriving Thursday and were efficiently parked very soon after arrival. The well-presented grounds and the weather were perfect for the whole weekend.

The hall with chairs and tables provided, gave us a great venue for our activities, to meet members from other clubs. Morning, afternoon teas and suppers were catered for by the ladies who provided homemade scones, slices and biscuits to go with our cuppa.

Thursday evening's trivia quiz had us all racking our brains and creating a lot of conversation meeting and talking to new friends.

Friday, after a breakfast of cereal, egg and bacon and toast, people headed in many different directions – to Beechworth, Wonga wetlands, Bonegilla Migrant Centre, the Woolworths Distribution Centre, The Motor Sports Centre and the Flying Fruit Circus.

Dinner was a great sausage sizzle, salad and fruit salad, followed by a speaker from RACV who covered many areas of road rules and situations appropriate to seniors and caravanners.

Saturday was breakfast of cereal, toast, pancakes, jam and cream. Whilst we ate breakfast a speaker from Angel Flights, informed us of the work done by Angel Flights. Then it was off for more local activities – Farmers' Market, Bandiana Military Museum, Albury Botanic gardens, or just relax and enjoy the company of new friends at the park. After happy hour we were then served a three course meal by the Wodonga Football Club, whilst dressing up to the theme of Petticoat Couture and Top Hat and Tails. There were some wonderful creations. A few lucky people received prizes for the novelty aspect. Jeff from the North East Caravan Club entertained us with his great repertoire of bush poetry. Then we had the Miss World competition, which was hilarious and gave us all a good laugh.

Breakfast on Sunday was cereal, baked beans and spaghetti on toast - Three great breakfasts for the weekend! This was followed by the official thank you and closure of the rally.

It was a great rally enjoyed by all.

Next State Rally will be in the Bendigo Region in 2021.

VICE PRESIDENT:	Steve Clark	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	
SECRETARY:	Matt Window	wulfenshadow@outlook.com	0438 054 740
TREASURER:	Peter& Fran Whitehurst		9560 0303
MARSHAL:	Peter Rauch		

Benalla – October 6 - 7

A total of 23 vans divvy 1 had 17 and divvy 2 had 6 also 1 visitor Julie stayed in a cabin.

Some of the members arrived on the Thursday majority coming on the Friday welcomed by some fantastic weather.

Friday night dinner was at the bowls club with most members enjoying a great meal by all reports.





Saturday was free to do the touristy things ranging from the fantastic painted silo tour to shopping and the visit to the coffee shop and bakeries.

Dinner on Saturday night was a community stew with all the ingredients picked up by Steve Clarke and then chopped, diced and sliced by some willing helpers and a special mention to the stirrer Pete Whitehurst.

It was a fantastic weekend and great to catch up with some of the division 2 members.

Rosebud – November 3 - 4

Our November rally was at Capel Sound Caravan Park on the Mornington Peninsula foreshore.

We had a total of 16 vans 4 arrived on Thursday the rest arrived on Friday. We had 2 visitors from Division 2 Gordon and Gillian Bahn. Division 4 were staying in the same park down the other end. After Happy Hour in the Camp Kitchen on Friday we went to the Rosebud Hotel for dinner,

Ann and Bob Reynolds met us there which was very nice. After the hotel a few went to the camp kitchen for coffee and port the wind was very cold, so we didn't stay for long. Saturday some went to the market at Rye, a few plants were bought and some veggies however the wind was very fresh. We had afternoon tea and happy hour in the camp kitchen where Peter collected fees. Our V.P. Stephen Clark also gave a talk presenting Neil Taylor with his 500-rally badge and Kerri Schoof with her new state of the art name badge. A few cooked on the B.B.Q's for tea, the camp kitchen was very good. On Sunday most people headed for home, what a lovely day it was. Three vans stayed Sunday night and packed on Monday.

Euroa – December 1 - 2

After a couple of late arrivals on Friday night all attendees were ready to enjoy the weekend's festive activities.



Saturday dawned to be a beautiful and warm day. During the morning many members were seen around town in cafe's, opp shops and supermarket picking up a bargain or two. Santa and Mrs Clause arrived in the afternoon to present gifts to the children and adults along with lots of photos. Afternoon tea in the shade of the tall gums 'flowed' into the Happy Hour with paying of fees and sale of raffle tickets for the excellent Christmas Hampers.

The Christmas dinner at the Seven Creeks Hotel was very good, thanks to the excellent organisation by Anne C. Steve presented rally awards for continuous attendance to, Neil Taylor (1yr), Peter & Fran Whitehurst (1yr), Colin & Elaine Spice (2yrs), Rob & Elaine Stewart (3yrs) and Steve Clark & Anne Cecil (6yrs). The new committee members (Matt & Robyn and Peter & Liz) were welcomed and retiring committee members (Kevin & Anne and Rob & Dianne) thanked for their service to the division. New membership badges were presented to Phil & Michelle Bright, Peter & Liz Rauch and Alan & Sue Colclough.

After dinner it was back to the gazebo at the park for the draw of the raffle and lucky van prize. Lucky winners of the Hampers were, Eif & Grant Spicer, Anne & Kevin Kennelly, Donna & Steve Hole. The lucky van prize was won by Dianne & Rob Allen.

An 11th Birthday was celebrated with Bombi as we all watched him blow out the candles and enjoyed some cake. The evening continued with lots of talk and a few drinks into the early hours, very early hours for some. One "lovely" friend was offering port from his father's pottery flagon when the tap came out causing a spill, but he quickly put his finger in the hole to stop the flow until a cork was found. Apparently, not trusting the cork, a significant quantity of the port was consumed just to be safe.

The Sunday morning tea saw a few bleary eyes, before saying our goodbyes.

Thank you to the organising committee and helpers for the Christmas rally and our rallies during the year.

PS: A reliable source has advised that one member forgot to switch his fridge from 12v to 240v during his homebound overnighter and suffered a flat battery. No BS!

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.*



VICE PRESIDENT:	Alan Jennings	ayjay357@bigpond.com	9459 9610 / 0458 219 279
SECRETARY:	Peter Birney	p.birney@hotmail.com	9800 2991 / 0407 592 895
TREASURER:	Be Steegstra	sasteegstra@bigpond.com	9889 7244 / 0407 511 012
MARSHAL:	Pat Glover	jpglover@hotmail.com	9733 4827
ASSISTANT MARSHAL:	Bob Jobling		0417 110 581



Macedon – November 3 - 4

Division 2's Cup weekend rally at Macedon Caravan Park had a very sad start with many members attending John Campbell's funeral in nearby Woodend on the Friday. John and his wife Rosalie are long-time members of the club. John will be remembered for his friendliness and quick wit, as well as his delightful Scottish

brogue. The club extends sincere condolences to Rosalie.

In all, 8 couples (7 vans and one cabin) attended the rally including visitors Barbara and Ron Pyke from Division 4. The Macedon caravan park is a favourite, located close to Melbourne, with clean modern facilities and a great recreation block. It is within walking distance of the



Macedon village (great bakery) and a short drive to Woodend (more great bakeries).

On Saturday night we celebrated all things to do with horse racing. Some people dressed in their Cup finery while some of us came dressed as strappers, in our casual gear. Roast chicken was supplied by the club and shared salads and desserts were provided by the rest of us. What a bountiful spread! Far more than we could possibly eat.

On Sunday most members went to the Gisborne market. It was huge with a vast array of goods for sale, including crafts, food and plants. The downside of the gigantic market was that the queues for the food were also gigantic, so most came back to their vans for lunch.

On Sunday night we drove into Woodend for a dinner at the Victoria Hotel. The service was quick and efficient and the meals so large that entrée style meals were more than sufficient. It was pleasant to share time together in a pub that was not too busy and noisy.

Those that stayed for the Tuesday were lucky enough to participate in a Cup Day chicken and bubbly lunch.

Many thanks to Pat, our marshal, for once again organising a restful rally in a quiet bush setting.

Marong – November 3 - 4

21 vans 4 cabins

We had 2 early birds arriving Wednesday followed by most on Thursday with remaining on Friday. Thursday Night was first chance for a catchup with nibbles and drinks.

We had people visiting the Great Stupa, the obligatory opp shop visits, some went to the movies then lunch. Spending \$'s in the area.

Saturday started with morning tea and fees, followed by chocolate wrapping and hamper making.

Afternoon was setup at the Marong Hall for our Christmas Dinner.



50 people attended and all had a wonderful evening. Catering was once again by Fabulous Feast Catering. A lovely 2 course meal. Santa paid a visit and everyone received a bag of chocolates.

We then had the draw of the charity raffles. Thankyou to all who participated.

A big thankyou to our marshall Pat Glover who does a marvelous job every month.

A Merry Xmas to one and all, and those travelling – stay safe.





VICE PRESIDENT:	Sandra Eldridge	jblackkeys@bigpond.com	9798 6849 / 0419 116 623
SECRETARY:	Graeme Penny	pennyspack@gmail.com	0402 065 759
TREASURER:	Ray Andrews		9781 1148 / 0431 208 981
MARSHAL:	Dorothy Penny	pennyspack@gmail.com	0411 899 935

Bonnie Doon – October 6 - 7

“Ah the serenity” a well known catch phrase from the iconic and very popular Australian Film “The Castle”. So the theme for our rally was set.

This was one of the most successful and satisfying rallies that we have done this year. The weather was perfect all weekend, the park was great especially the view of the Eildon



Marg & Greg Heafield, Peter & Judy Blake, Ray Andrews, David & Sue Jordan, George & Sandra Eldridge among others.

Friday evening meal was held at the Bonnie Doon hotel and a great location it was. The meals were big, the service fast and friendly. Everyone who attended enjoyed the evening.

Saturday saw the arrival of the rest of our members including Russell & Tara O’Brien and their two little ones Vivian & Ruth. Most of the day was spent sitting around chatting and catching up with everyone and their respective travels. A few toured the area including Mansfield and other surrounding towns.

catchment. In total 14 vans attended this rally which was a lift from our previous 3 rallies. Most of the vans arrived on the Friday and were all well set up by the early afternoon. We did welcome back Jeff & Jeanette O’Brien after a 4 month tour of parts of Australia. Also back were

After fives on Saturday evening, members attended at the camp kitchen to enjoy a





delicious meal of hot dogs and cake. The latter being to celebrate Ray Andrew's 70th birthday. A great achievement Ray and may you have many more. After the meal, a number of members remained for the "Castle Theme" auction and what an hilarious night it was. Members brought along an item that they wished to auction to the group and if it was rejected it was classed as "Tell em their dreaming" and if it was accepted it "went straight to the pool room darl". These catch phrases being endemic to the Castle film. The film itself was also shown.

A prize was awarded for the best effort at auctioning and it went to none other than Jeff O'Brien who sold two blue pegs for an amazing \$3.00. There was an hilarious story behind the pegs and Jeff's size 97 shorts and Jeff did a great job in selling them. In a great gesture all the money from the items sold was donated by the various members back to the club and a total of \$91.00 was raised. A great and selfless gesture by all. Special mention must



be made to George Eldridge who unfortunately sustained some heart issues whilst overseas. Thankfully, George is on the road to recovery and we trust his issues are now behind him. Thanks to Dot & Graeme Penny who arranged the hot dogs and to Greg & Marg Heafield for conducting the auction.

Sunday we all said our fairwells early in the morning due to the advent of daylight savings. All in all, a great time spent with friends.



Geelong – November 3 - 4

Friday, 1.11.18

A windy rally! Driving through the gusty winds was a challenge which was added to by a dust storm near Safari Park. We think that the last time we visited Riverglen Holiday Park was some 17 years ago and that coincided with Dot and Graeme's first rally.



A smallish group assembled under the shade of a tree for 45'es where we had to keep an eye on a couple of masked wing plovers. They are renowned for their aggressive defense of their territory. They were even more 'assertive' at present as they had a chick with them.

It was good to catch up with the fun and share the travails of various people on their travels this winter. Kangaroos seemed to be a common thread along with batteries, tyres, awnings, engines blowing up, hospital stays and relief at having RACV Total Care.

The early birds had dinner at the Geelong RSL in Belmont, just a short drive away. The bistro was packed to the gills and very noisy. We expected that service could be slow but most of our meals were served promptly...except for David & Sue and Dot & Graeme who had to wait for their meals.

We bought our raffle tickets as was diplomatic. David Jordan won the first draw, scoring a tin of ANZAC biscuits, a poppy can holder, poppy beer mat and a book of war related short stories. There were very many draws, including several members-only ones, including a jackpot of \$1,500. No wonder there were so many hopefuls in the bistro.

When all draws had been made, the bistro all but emptied so becoming much quieter!

Saturday, 3.11.18

Our Cup Day with a special race this year in memory of Ken Anderson, the Ken Anderson



Perpetual Trophy. While we did not race with Kenny's horses on his track, we had fun with the Penny horses and the Penny track. It seems that Kenny's originals can't be located.

The Penny horses and track worked exceptionally well and with as much laughter. The favourite jockey of the day was undoubtedly Isabelle O'Brien, a nearly 2 yr old filly of great personality and style. Graeme impressed by limbering up prior to the running of his race as did Sandra as she cantered through her race. Several riders were stuck in the gates while others were thwarted by having to throw an odd or an even to continue racing.

Our SP bookie was well patronised and some punters walked away smiling but pondering what they would do with all the silver coins weighing down their pockets. One big time punter reportedly doubled their money, even after paying the rally fees.

Judy and Peter arrived in time for the races, without their van. They have a new car and it is still being run in so unable to tow yet. Another new arrival was



a Lagoon van belonging to Ian McConnell. He had picked it up on Thursday, transferred the bare essentials from his previous van into the new van, which is complete with shower and toilet. Very sharp black and white interior. Don't think Ian barracks for the Pies though.

The Ken Anderson Perpetual Race was run with the winners of the earlier 6 races – Greg, Sue, Ian, Graeme, George, Ray and Dorothy. At 55'es the winner, Ian, was presented with the Ken Anderson Perpetual Trophy and a gold cup which he can keep in pride of place at home. Von and Judy shared the honours for their Cup hats, Von presenting Flemington on her hat and Judy celebrating Winx, somewhat cryptically.

In addition to Isabelle, daughter of Melissa and Stephen O'Brien, we were pleased to see more children at the rally, Vivienne and Ruth, daughters of Tara and Russell O'Brien, Ulver and Ymir, sons of Maya and Travis Heafield and Will, grandson of Pam and John Symons, prospective members and friends

of Marg and Greg Heafield. However, we couldn't believe it when the boys actually went swimming!

At 55'es, we celebrated birthdays for Maya and Max whose birthday was a special one. Jeanette arrived during 55'es after spending the day in hospital with her mum, Alice, with the good news that Alice is doing better and will be discharged on Sunday or Monday. Pat and Laurie were late arrivals too, having to play bowls before coming.

Sunday, 4.11.18

A coolish and quiet morning but a warmer more active afternoon.

Many people packed up and pulled out, having work or other obligations on Monday. By lunch time however there were still 9 Div 3 vans at the park. There were visits to the playground, the swimming pool, bike rides, coffee in Highton, walks and just more catching up with family and friends to keep us busy and having fun.

Another fun Cup Weekend with 18 vans in attendance.

Thank you to: our paparazzi for their photos; Max for organising the pub for dinner on Friday; Sue and David for afternoon tea of perfectly heated party pies and sausage rolls; and Greg & Margaret, Dorothy & Graeme, Judy & Peter and George & Sandra for top-notch organisation.

Daylesford – December 1 - 2

Friday, 30.11.18

A case of the long and the short of it, Alan came about 260 kms from Inverloch while Von and Bert came about 37 kms from Ballan. We were expecting a busy weekend as our Christmas Rally coincided with the Celtic Games so not only the park but the town was abuzz. In fact, Daylesford HP was booked out causing Therese and Joe to book in at Jubilee CP. By mid afternoon we had almost a full complement, seeing 33 at the Bowling Club for dinner including new members Jennifer and Peter. We also



welcomed Sue and Greg's son Clayton and daughter-in-law Lacey and their children Parker and Caitlin to the rally.

We joined in the obligatory raffle, with some degree of success, Pat and Laurie were the first winners twice scoring a bistro voucher and Coles voucher. Debbie and Paul won a week's free trial at the local gym which they were able to swap for a bottle of wine. Dot and Graham won another bistro voucher which they used for





their lunch on Saturday. Judy also won a bistro voucher but the managers at the Daylesford HP were the real winners on this voucher! That was probably due reward considering the kms that the manager clocked up in his electric buggy getting people on to their sites.

At the end of dinner, Alan paid tribute to our fantastic out-going committee for their excellent organisation in 2018. Another great year of touring and catching up with friends and making new ones as well. Well said Alan!



Saturday, 1.12.18

A beautiful day, blue skies, fluffy white clouds and a warm sun, perfect for the walkers, Jeanette, Stephen, Melissa and Isabelle as they walked around the lake. Others went into Daylesford to see the parade starting the Celtic Games. Well they almost saw it, arriving at 9.30am, the supposed starting time, they saw the last float disappearing into the distance.

The games were being held at Victoria Park, beside the caravan park. The bagpipes provided background music for our delicious mince pies and shortbread morning tea and there was some musing about the games being contested and whether there was going to be sabre tossing. It was quickly established that caber tossing was more likely with OH&S

probably preventing the sabre tossing event... unless of course a modern-day Braveheart was at the games!

The good weather saw a flurry of van and/or awning washing during the morning. Actually, Paul was the inspiration as he'd washed his van on Friday. Perfect drying weather as another chore was completed.

For the first time in many years, Sandra and George were interstate so unable to attend the rally. "But our games, who will organise the games!" we all cried, well perhaps not all. The indomitable Peter Blake stepped in, promising to include another memorable over and under game. Judy and Peter were unable to be at the rally due to a special commitment on Sunday but made a day trip on Saturday, coming not only for our games' afternoon but for dinner at the Leonard's Hill Hall too. We were pleased to again have an injury-free games afternoon. Well done Peter! We congratulated the winning team of Kerry, Pat, Anne and Alan then celebrated Joe's birthday.

Another excellent dinner was prepared by the chef and staff from the Maryborough Supreme Court Hotel who made the trip to Leonards Hill. Delicious...again. Beef with seeded mustard crust, medallions of stuffed chicken and glazed leg of ham with green salad, a beetroot and fetta salad, potato gratin, carrots and green beans. Dessert was an encore of Grandma's plum pudding and mini pavlovas and fresh berries.

Santa visited, much to Parker's excitement and he suggested that we all sing Jingle Bells to welcome Santa. Our mystery gifts were distributed as were the chocolates. We seemed to be eating chocolates all night, even as we were leaving Leonards Hill, we were being encouraged to take more chocolates with us!

Our traditional men's choir, enthusiastically lead by Graeme, rounded off our evening with their manly renditions of Christmas Carols. However, we did miss Ken's melodious voice. Of course, we all sang a rollicking standing up and sitting down version of the 12 Days of Christmas.



Sunday, 2.12.18

There were a few sleepy heads after our great Christmas games afternoon and dinner last night. During the morning most of us headed home after enjoying another excellent laughter filled weekend with wonderful friends. We had 20 vans in attendance.

Thank you to: our paparazzi for their photos; Max for organising the dinner on Friday at the Bowling Club; Greg and Marg for organising our Christmas morning tea and dinner; The bringers and receivers of mystery Christmas presents; Dot and Graeme for providing boxes of Christmas decorations to decorate the hall and the tables; Santa for making a special trip to Daylesford; Our out-going committee - Greg & Margaret, Dorothy & Graeme and Judy & Peter for their top-notch organisation yet again; and The in-coming committee of Sandra and Peter for sharing the VP role, Ray remaining as Treasurer and Dot as our Marshall.

VICE PRESIDENT:	Luke Tuenissen	Luke.teuna@gmail.com	9752 9564 / 0408 267 255
SECRETARY:	Hayley Hatzivagiannis	racvccdiv4@gmail.com	0413 867 401
TREASURER:	Mandy Smith	mocka1@iprimus.com.au	9799 7494
MARSHAL:	Roger Brown	denisebrown60@hotmail.com	0412 423 430
ASSISTANT MARSHAL:	Ric Luiyf	sluiyf@icoud.com	0400 924 117

Yea – October 6 - 7

Many arrived Friday to lovely sunny weather. Overall there were 25 vans and 1 visitor from Division 1. There was fivesies on the lovely deck adjoined to the rec room then some went to the local hotel for dinner and others enjoyed a community dinner in the rec room. On Saturday there were visits to the market which included local produce and the blessing of the animals. Some members visited the Cheviot Historic railway tunnel which was 500m long and built in 1889. There are some lovely whisky and wine tastings in Yea that our members checked out. Lindsay did a massive bike ride all the way to



Mansfield. He had to wait for Gill, who was enjoying Devonshire tea at the winery, to come and get him and drive him back to Yea. Lindsay did not mind waiting because he waited in



the pub. Sausages, onions, coleslaw and bread was supplied by the park for lunch and greatly accepted by all. The swimming pool was enjoyed by the young and brave! Last but not least Mandy & David Smith arrived with their new van AND car. Sharon & Rick Luiyf also had a new van together with Ray Spargo who has returned from up north. Congratulation to all and happy caravanning!

Saturday evening, once again fivesies on the deck then some had community dinner in the rec room. After the VP speech Mandy & David organised the RACVCC 1000 race in place of Bathurst 1000. There didn't seem to be any winners but just a lot of cheats and laughter.

Congratulation to Robert (Robbie) and Donna Booth for their upcoming wedding.

Traralgon – December 1 - 2

28 caravans and 1 cabin ventured to the Park-lane big4 Caravan Park in Traralgon although 9 members unfortunately had to stay in other parks as overflow as park was booked out for basketball tournament and fundraiser.

Those who arrived on Friday were greeted to having no water in the park due to someone backing over a tap in their van. I wonder who that could have been!

A large group went to visit Frank and Meryn in their cabin for a cuppa. Fivesies was spent in the camp kitchen, which was also the venue for the night's entertainment of carols, followed by karaoke and dancing to songs of your choice. A fun night was had by all that joined in.



Saturday morning everyone woke to a glorious sunny day.

Those who arrived throughout Saturday had some trouble with booking in as the park seemed to have double booked and was very disorganized with a fundraising event taking up a lot of room.

The park was filled with food vans and small market stalls for the fundraiser and also Mandy and David's van with the division 4 flag flying high. Which was mistaken for a display van when Mandy opened the door to her caravan to find three old ladies walking through it saying how lovely this van is they were shocked to find out they were walking through someone's private van.

The caffeine addicts went for a drive into town for the coffee fix followed by a dawdling through the shops. Others spent their time checking out the new caravans in the yard out the front, with a few of us falling in love with one of them, we just need to win Tattsлото now.

The young ones braved the cold water and went for a swim in the beautiful swimming pool. The Parklane Park certainly had a lot to offer for kids with indoor play Centre, high ropes course, laser tag, and mini golf.

It certainly was a drama filled weekend for Frank and Merlyn who decided to stay in a cabin for the weekend rather the tow the van due to health reasons. It started off on Saturday morning when they had no water



for their shower, finally the park got the water going, but the dramas were not over now, the hot water got stuck on and couldn't be fixed until a new tap was brought from town. Unfortunately the dramas were to get much worse when Frank and Merlyn and Bernadette and Paul McCrudden were catching up in the cabin when they noticed a very bad smell that wasn't going away. When they investigated they found that there Waeco portable fridge was on fire, quick thinking by Frank pulling the Waeco out on to the concrete where the flames were extinguished. Glad no one was hurt.

Fees were held at 3pm to pay the remainder for the night's entertainment .

Pre dinner drinks and nibbles were provided by the club for a special fivesies in the camp kitchen. During which a special visitor in a red suit dropped in to see Asher, Isabella and Ebony with their Christmas gifts, followed by everyone dressing up for our nights entertainment that started at 7.

An Asian themed meal with finger food entrees, followed by bowls of noodles and rice for mains, and then a yummy icecream and fruit platters followed.

Congratulations to all of the award winners.

Lindsay & Gillian, Keith & Helen, Hayley & Greg, Philip & Julie, Ron & Barbara, David and Mandy, Ray and John & Leisa

With a big congratulations to Lindsay and Gillian on their first three year award who also won first prize in the Christmas hamper and also Keith and Barbara McDonald for winning second prize.

The night then kicked on with awesome music by our one man band playing requests and a good mix of music for all involved. Some people really got into the festivities having a few drinks leading to carving up the dance floor with some awesome moves from Lindsay and leading to some sore heads in the morning, hey Donna.

Well the night came to an end and so did the good weather with a storm rolling in through the night with some severe winds shaking the vans and blowing things around the park.

Sunday morning woke to grey clouds and rain Morning tea of Christmas cake and shortbread made generously by members of div4. Thank you they were delicious. Followed by people packing up and travelling home.

A huge thankyou to all the members of the committee for all their tireless efforts throughout the year. And welcome Heather McTaggart as our new Club Secretary.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and a Happy New Year



VICE PRESIDENT:	Gavan & Rhonda Murphy	div5racv@gmail.com	0417 032 850
SECRETARY:	Debbie Maudie	div5secretary@gmial.com	0429 166 055
TREASURER:	Tony Grigg	winandtony@telstra.com	0409 998 636
MARSHAL:	Bruce Layton	brucellayton@gmail.com	0408 775 545

Gellibrand – November 3 - 4

Eight vans (+3 in cabins) arrived in Gellibrand on either the Thursday or Friday to be greeted by showery weather. After happy hour we headed off to the Bistro which was in the camp kitchen of the caravan park. Meals were generous and everyone seemed to enjoyed their dinner and the company. It was decided to hold our meeting after dinner where, in the absence of a marshal, David asked everyone to contribute ideas as to what to do over the weekend. On Saturday the first port of call was coffee in the camp kitchen, after which some headed into Colac and others strolled across to the Gelliband Cafe for sausage rolls or cakes and to check out the Art Gallery next door. At 3pm everyone assembled in an open area of the park for a fun game of Klop. This game was new to most of the club, so there were a few highs and lows, but our new champion Klop is Tony who won both games. After happy hour, we all assembled round the BBQ for a sausage sizzle dinner. Sunday dawned still a bit showery but as it cleared up most of us headed down to the Otway Lightstation museum, where we had a good look around and climbed up the old lighthouse. Most of us went home via Lavers Hill where we stopped at the bakery for lunch. Some headed off to the Bistro for a roast dinner, while others stayed for an extended happy hour and only retired as darkness fell.

Monday some of us packed up to go home while others stayed on for another day. It was still showery, but undeterred, an intrepid few set off in the rain to check out Hopetoun Falls. It cleared a little as we made the trek down via many slippery steps (203) so after taking a few photos etc, 2 cars headed down to Apollo Bay for lunch and the others returned to camp. Rain

eased for Happy Hour and after dinner in our vans, we met in the rec room for games.

Despite the weather it was a fun weekend and we said farewell, looking forward to catching up again next rally.

Rumour file: Who were the towel clad folk spotted slipping into Suzi and Fayes cabin? Could it be the metered showers didn't work or was it something else?

San Remo – December 1 - 2

Our weekend at San Remo was a great way to end 2018. 13 Caravans came and 4 Cabins were occupied, 33 people in all. Most people arrived on Friday with a few arriving earlier in the week. 5 o'clock nibbles were held on a grassy spot where a couple of 'strongmen' erected a gazebo. Nibbles and drinks were enjoyed with much catching up. Fish and chips were ordered



from the San Remo Co-op. Some ate back at the caravan park whilst others ate at the Co-op.

Saturday after breakfast the day started with our usual meeting where information was given out and suggestions were given for discussion. After morning coffee people changed ready for Christmas lunch at the Western Port Hotel. There was a great array of colour with Sue and Faye choosing to wear Santa suits while Robyn was Mrs Claus and Malcolm wore a very decorative shirt and tie. Others wore hats, tinsel and the like. Very striking!



The food could have been better for a Christmas lunch but Sue Rapp did a fantastic job with all the organizing as the original Hotel had double booked us.

A game of Bocce was postponed that afternoon until fives because most were having a snooze after lunch and not ready for fun as yet. Finger food was the order of the day for dinner at the grassy spot Gazebo erected by our 'Strongmen'. Later on some played Bocce helped by Lucy and Harry, Stella and David's grandchildren. Saturday night prizes were awarded for the best decorated caravan with Mark and Shirley & Brent and Debbie coming equal first.

Hatches were battened down on Saturday night before retiring because of the storm coming up Bass Strait. After a stormy night most packed up and left for home on Sunday morning with a few staying a couple of extra days to enjoy the area.

Merry Christmas to all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2019.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF RAVCC

(Applicants must have a current RACV membership)

Date:

Name in Full:
(Block Letters Please)

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

Phone No.: Email:

RACV Membership No.: Preferred Division if known:

FEES: Entrance	\$60.00
Annual Subscription	\$40.00
TOTAL COST	\$100.00 including GST

Please make cheque payable to RACVCC
or EFT(BSB 013-141 A/C No.851386757) Use your surname as reference
Membership Application to: RACV Caravan Club
The Secretary
PO BOX 165, Ashburton 3147

RACV Caravan Club accepts membership from owners of
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