



RACV CARAVAN CLUB

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President's Report

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Div 5

ERICA



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit down to write my first President's Report, it's hard to believe we're already nearly a quarter of the way through 2025! The summer season has come and gone, and I trust many of you found time to relax and recharge in your vans. We were fortunate to spend a few weeks unwinding at Cameron's Bight, which was a welcome break.

This year's State Rally took place at Lake's Entrance over the long weekend, and from the photos, it looks like everyone who attended had an amazing time. While the craft activities seemed to demand some intense focus, I'm sure there was plenty of fun mixed in. State and National rallies are excellent opportunities to meet like-minded caravanners from other clubs and share our experiences. After the State Rally, Division 5 kept the momentum going with another of their tag-along tours, a fantastic way to make the most of the journey back home.

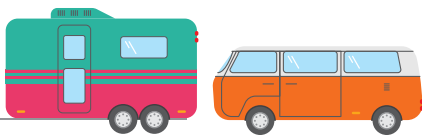
On the club's agenda this year, the Executive Committee is currently reviewing our Constitution. All members have been asked to read and familiarize themselves with it to ensure we are all clear about our rights and responsibilities. Additionally, members have been invited to submit any proposed amendments to their Vice Presidents, who will present them to the Executive Committee for consideration. We hope to bring forward recommendations for changes at our upcoming AGM.

Looking ahead, we're excited about this year's Christmas Rally, which will be a combined event at Elmore. Anne Cecil has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to organise this major event. Keep an eye on future newsletters for booking details – this is always a popular event and a great opportunity for us all to gather and catch up.

In January, we were thrilled to unveil the dedication plaque at the BBQs in Cameron's Bight Campground. Seven years ago, our club, along with the sponsors listed on the plaque, contributed these BBQs to the park. It's wonderful that the community will now recognise our significant contribution. A big thank you to everyone involved in organizing and coordinating this project, and a special mention to Sandra Eldridge for her leadership in driving it to completion.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Committee for their ongoing support during my first few months in this role. Your guidance and collaboration have been invaluable.

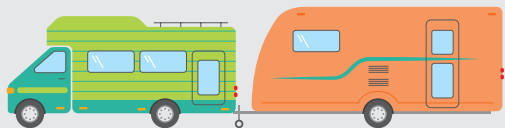
LAURA MULLER
PRESIDENT



Vale

Thelma Andrews

On behalf of the Executive Committee and all members we wish to pass on our heartfelt condolences to the family of Thelma Andrews, a long time member of division 3. Our thoughts are with you at this time.



DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

DIV 1, 2 & 3 RALLY REPORT

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January

The RACV Caravan Club divisions 1, 2 and 3 gathered for a memorable rally over the Australia Day long weekend at the Sale Showgrounds. This event was filled with camaraderie, engaging activities, and the joys of the caravan lifestyle, despite the hot weather we had a total of ten vans present. Friday, following afternoon tea and drawing the lucky van prize we attended Sales Lakeside Bowls Club for dinner, senior's meals were huge.

Saturday after enjoying a free morning to look around town at such things including the old swing bridge, RAFF base and watch the roulettes touch and go whilst Terri, Julian and Valentine took the lakes walk round Lake Guthridge. Following lunch, the majority visited Gippsland Armed Forces Museum at West Sale Aerodrome an excellent collection and displays. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the combined finger food dinner planned by Pat Glover provided by all of us, following dinner we participated in a variety of games designed to encourage friendly competition and team spirit. We played the muffin tray bouncing ball trap then on to the bouncing ball water trap won by Ken Slade and finally a game of Kloop won by Michael and Kerryn. Laughter and cheers filled the air as members showcased their skills and enjoyed the company of fellow club members.

Sunday kicked off with a delightful Australia Day breakfast. Members enjoyed a spread of traditional Aussie fare, including bacon and eggs all prepared and cooked by our master chefs Ken, Kerryn, Linda and Anne in the pavilion commercial kitchen. Kerryn and Michael, Peter and Fran took their Grandchildren on a cruise up the Thompson River returning for games in the park finishing off the day whilst Bob and Carole visited relatives in Bairnsdale. Sunday evening took the remainder of us to the Sale Greyhound Club for a sumptuous dinner and placing the occasional bet, Bill was lucky but others not so lucky. Monday said goodbye to half the team and others stayed on to brave the extremely hot weather finding shade under one of the oak trees.



NUMURKAH

February

Some members braved the heat and travelled to Numurkah on Thursday where they settled in and were welcomed by the Cockatoos and a short sharp storm at night sending them scurrying indoors.

Friday saw many more arrive to start their weekend with great enthusiasm, with the exception of Pat and John Glover who had a mishap with their car on the way and eventually had to be towed back home.

Whilst some spent their time setting up, others enjoyed their time sitting and chatting by the Broken River which runs through the park. Friday Night's Dinner was at the Telegraph Hotel, which was within walking distance of the park. Many took the walk while others chose to drive. A beautiful meal was enjoyed by all who attended.

Saturday started with a vast change in the weather, from the Heat of Friday to about 23 degrees and cool and cloudy, but that did not stop most of the members from visiting the Local Market which was located across the road from the park. It was well attended, and many were observed coming out with bags of Goodies purchased whilst in there. The evening was enjoyed in the Camp Kitchen over drinks and discussions of how people spent their day. Most were happy with their day, except Bill Penney, who suffered a medical episode that night, and required the Ambulance to be called to the park to get the assistance of the Paramedics. Fortunately, all ended well for Bill who was near his old self the next morning.

Sunday seems to have come around ever so quickly, and we had a mass exit of a lot of members who had to return home that day because of work commitments and other personal reasons. Div 2 members were left to enjoy the extra time on their own and made their way home on Monday morning.



March

Small Rally this time around- 6 vans 12 members.

Slades' arrived Thurs as usual rest came Friday. Moe Gardens has only a small area for travelers but there are many permanents within the park, but this did not in any way spoil our weekend.

Friday was quiet with a happy hour & a get together meal. Supermarket & general shopping is walkable & a nice walk through public space with playgrounds, basketball courts & exercise stations.

Saturday, some walked, some shopped & others checked out the surrounds in general. Lake Narracan was one destination & being a long weekend there were many campers along the shore & picnic areas. Evening meal was at the Moe Racing Club, good food & very reasonable. Even had Lambs Fry & Bacon on the menu.

Not much of an area for us to get together but the weather was kind so no necessity for four walls.

No defib. Sunday saw us going in different directions to Potato Festival, Paynsville while others sat around & enjoyed the fine weather. Sundays' evening meal was a BYO with Keryn doing pancakes for dessert, very much appreciated & went down very well, with a cake for Frans' birthday.

Monday morning was exit time, some home & the rest off to the State Rally at Lakes Entrance.



DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

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LAKE LEARMONTH

January

Our January caravan rally was held at Lake Learmonth Caravan Park, just out of Ballarat. We all arrive by Friday morning and set up quickly ready for the weekend. The caravan park was located on the shore line of Lake Learmonth and we were all lucky enough to have lake side sites providing great views. The caravan park wasn't big and held about 40 caravans but sites were a reasonable size and the amenities block was well maintained and cleaned twice a day. The weather during the weekend was pleasant, but the wind was a bit strong making it cooler of a night.

We all gathered in Mary and Mounir's caravan for happy hour which was a good time to have a chat and catch up before heading to the Stag Hotel for dinner. The hotel was a short walk from the caravan park and there was a good variety of pub meals, including meals for those with dietary requirements and the service was great. After dinner and a couple of drinks, we headed back to the caravan park and retired for the night.

Saturday morning we gathered for a quick meeting to catch up on what was going on in the club before free time to do our own thing. Greg and Marilyn went for a bike ride around the lake while the rest of us headed into Ballarat to do some grocery shopping and a visit to the Fine Art Gallery. We were hoping to see the original Eureka Stockade flag but it had been moved to the Eureka Gallery but we still had a good time looking at the various paintings and art in the centre. In the afternoon we played a game of questions and answers that Mounir provided, they were general knowledge questions and Mary answered the quite a number correctly. Dinner Saturday night was provided by the club Greg kindly cooked the barbecue dinner of sausages, burgers and chicken sticks with salads and desert provided by those attending. This was a great time chatting over a delicious meal, after dinner we retired to our caravans for the evening.

Overnight the wind died down making for a pleasant Sunday morning. It was Australia Day and most caravans in the park were flying the Aussie flag which was fantastic to see. It was a relaxing day but after lunch we went for a drive taking in the surrounding area. We headed towards Ararat and then onto Lake Bolac after a stop at the Lake we headed for camp. A beautiful area but extremely dry at the moment. We arrived back about 5pm and gathered for afternoon tea under the Cohan's awning and relaxed chatting and playing questions and answers again. Following this we went back to our caravans for dinner and retired for the night.

Monday concluded the rally and most left for home, although we didn't have a lot planned it was an enjoyable and relaxing time with good friends.



ERICA

February



Our February Rally was held at Erica, a picturesque town in the hills about 30km north of Moe. We stayed at the Erica Caravan Park and had 6 caravans attend the weekend. The park had older amenities blocks but were very clean, sites were a reasonable size with power, water and sullage. The weather over the weekend was mixed with Saturday being rainy and cold being unusual for February.

We all had arrived by Friday and setup for the weekend. The afternoon was enjoyed catching up or relaxing before happy hour at 4:30 in the BBQ area. Everyone brought their drinks and nibbles to share and sat around having a cat before heading to the Erica Hotel for dinner.

The Erica Hotel was full of the logging history related to the area with pictures, Chainsaws and other artifacts on display. The meals were delicious and catered for everyone's needs. The local Lions Club had a meat raffle for which we all purchased tickets and Lisa was lucky enough to win the first prize, congrats Lisa. The hotel had entertainment for the evening as it was Valentines Day so we stayed on longer than normal enjoying the music. After leaving the hotel we walked back to the caravan park and decided to check out the caravan park bar. We caught up with the park owners and had a chat over a drink before heading back to our caravans and retiring for the evening.

Saturday, we woke to rain and it had turned cold overnight. At 9:30 we gathered in the games room for a quick meeting to advise what was happening in the club and also the program for the weekend. After the meeting we decided to go to the local café for a coffee and chat, after an hour and a half we headed back to camp for lunch. At 2pm we headed to games room for an afternoon of fun playing the card game 'PIG'. Players are dealt four cards each which they pick up and view. Then all the players simultaneously discard one card face down to their left and, after doing so, they all pick up the card from the player to their right. A player who collects a book (eg 4 eights) immediately touches the nose with a finger. As soon as they spot this, the other players do likewise. The last player to touch the nose is the pig and loses the deal. About 6pm, a storm hit the camp, and hail fell leaving parts of the area white. Not what you expect during summer! Although cold, we enjoyed our BBQ dinner followed by desert and time chatting around the fire.



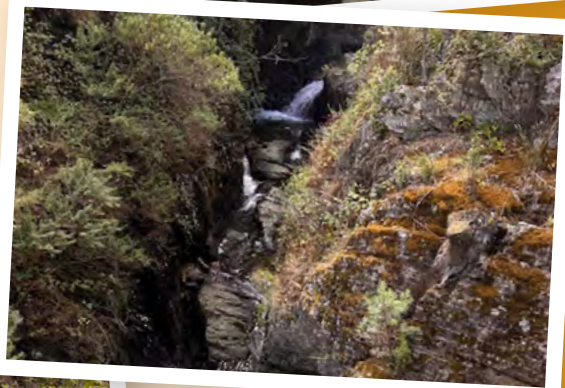
At 2pm we headed to games room for an afternoon of fun playing the card game 'PIG'.



Sunday, we woke to sunny morning. 2 caravans headed home today but the rest of us headed off to Walhalla Historia Area and a trip on the Walhalla Goldfields Railway which was lots of fun. We relaxed and took in the breathtaking views as the train wound its way through Stringers Gorge alongside spectacular Stringer Creek and its waterfalls, we crossed the Thompson River before arriving at Thompson Station, where we disembarked while the train engine was moved to the front of the train, for the return journey. After our train trip we went into the Walhalla township to have a wonder around, being Sunday there was not a lot open and unfortunately no coffee shop as the owner decided to take some time off. Not to be discouraged, we headed back to Erica and stopped at the coffee shop for lunch. The food was fantastic, mainly home made goods including great scones and vanilla slices. After 2 hours, we thought we should head back to camp. A few of the blokes went out and found some firewood while some had a rest. Happy hour was time enjoyable time around the fire which kept us all warm, what seemed a short time went for over 2 hours. Afterwards, we all headed back to our caravans and retired for the evening.

Monday, we all said our farewells with most of us heading home. Even though the weather wasn't great on Saturday we all had a great time.

*We relaxed
and took in the
breathtaking views
as the train wound
its way through
Stringers Gorge...*



DIV 6 RALLY REPORTS

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LAKE EPPALOCK

February

We had 2 vans arriving on Friday and the other 7 vans arrived on Saturday.

We welcomed our new potential member to RACVCC Sue, also Steve and Anne visiting us from Div 1,2,3 (who also visited their designated rally on Friday night).

It was a warmish but quite windy Saturday, however the wind died down in time for our dinner. All present members participated in a few games of bag toss which was lots of fun, followed by traditional fivesies.

At dinner time, a shared meal prepared by our members was had by all, sharing everything from pastas to curries, very yummy!! The resident goose at the park was seen wondering around checking things out, however I think David had other ideas for it!!

The fire kept us warm and toastie after dinner, we all sat around enjoying each other's company with the wood being sourced from Lake Kevallock!!



All present members participated in a few games of bag toss...



March

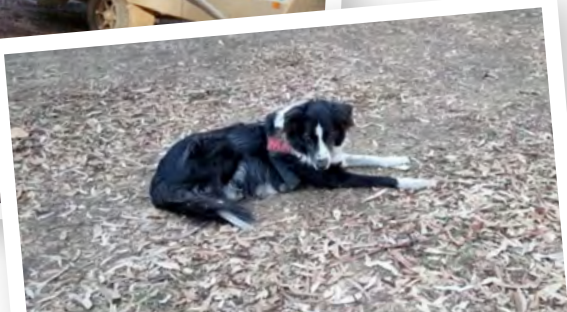
2 vans arrived about mid afternoon on Friday, after a quick setup it was decided a quick trip into town was required. Driving through town we stumbled across an Opp shop and solved a puzzle we had since arriving, signs around the reserve kept mentioning that things were at the RTC which had us all perplexed until we saw the sign saying the Opp shop was in a building called the RTC and telling us it is the Rural Transaction Centre! Mystery solved so we did a little shopping and headed back to camp for a refreshing cool drink or 2. An early night was decided after a local mozzie or 2 appeared on the scene.

Saturday dawned sunny and warm again, Chris and Anne decided to do a little shopping and ended up in Maldon, Kevin chilled at camp after a quick trip to the local butcher.

John and Leisa arrived during the afternoon making a total of 3 vans, a pleasant afternoon was spent dodging the sun and a few frothies were the order of the day, after dinner we enjoyed a little star and satellite gazing till it was time for bed.

Sunday was an early one for John and Leisa as they needed to get home early to head off to the races which they had organised a group to go.

Chris and Anne followed soon after so Kevin did some touring around the local area....



...after a quick setup it was decided a quick trip into town was required.





*An organisation
devoted solely to the
interest of Caravanners*

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

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RACV

