



RACV Caravan Club Newsletter

Summer
2019

Volume 46 No. 174



***We love
Christmas!***



Registered number A 0006900 V
 ABN 83 836 581 725

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 An organisation devoted solely to the interest of Caravanners

RACVCC Office Bearers:



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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

Objectives

Earlier in the year I stated I had 3 Objectives for the club.

Grow the Club -

We must actively seek new members for our club to ensure the club has a future.

We need to look at and review our purpose and objectives. We may need to change some of our rules, and our activities to encourage new people to come try us out.

We get out there and let people know who we are and what we are about us.

We must be more active with our social media, start reaching out to potential new members. Those who do come to try us, we must embrace them and bring them into our fold.

Acquire a Club Camp Ground.

A camp ground. My vision:
 A low cost option for our members to use for rallies for school holidays for public holidays. Perhaps a solution for our storage issues.

Make it available to other clubs to help fund its maintenance and development. A place of our own.

We once had a camp ground of our own, we occupied it for many many years it was a low cost camp ground we used it for rallies and school holidays during the year. The money we made from it went into our coffers and funded a lot of things for this club. It was Blairgowrie.

We have a lot of work to do before we know if this is achievable.

Work with Cameron's Bight Foreshore Committee toward a new Agreement,

hopefully to continue access to the camp ground for our current and future members.

Membership

This year is the first time our club has managed its own membership fees.
 A request to pay went out in the Winter edition of our newsletter a reminder is in the current newsletter. Members have 3 months to pay their renewal fees.

At the time of sending out the newsletters we had 243 recorded as members.
 Heather McTaggart and John Stone have worked together in the collection, reconciliation of the money and renewal forms. Heather is in the process of recording all the information we are collecting. We now have a definitive list of members, their contact details and emergency contact information. This is a great thing.

At the last count we have 160+ financial members.

Rallies

This year we tried something different, we held alternate Rally weekends for Easter and the Melbourne Cup Weekend.
 My understanding of this was to try to avoid the traffic, the higher costs associated public holiday weekends and overcome the difficulty to find suitable caravan parks for these periods.

We started with Div. 1 holding a rally the weekend before Easter and the other Divisions continuing with the Easter weekend, Division 5 did different. Division 2 changed their rally from the Easter weekend to the weekend prior because of the cost. This did not work out the way they envisaged as it was still school holidays.

Cup Weekend Divisions 2, 3 and 4 held their rallies while Div. 1 and 5 held theirs the following weekend.

Were they a success? We have not looked at it yet.

At the time of agreeing to the dates for the 2020 calendar we had not experienced the alternate weekends so we decided to do the same again. I will be interested to hear of any feedback.

There has been discussion regarding the number of members attending Rallies. On some occasions Divisions have struggled to get members to attend on other occasions we have fully booked out a park. Next year we will be looking at what we can do to overcome this.

Rally attendance for the past 12 months.

| | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | 2016-17 | 2015-16 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Div 1 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 15 |
| Div 2 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 17 |
| Div 3 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 16 |
| Div 4 | 32 | 28 | 27 | 23 |
| Div 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Average | 78 | 76 | 83 | 80 |

As a matter of interest, I share this information – Rally attendance for Oct 2001:-

| | Average Rally Attendance | Member Participation | Divisional Membership |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Div 1 | 29 | 47 | 64 |
| Div 2 | 20 | 36 | 59 |
| Div 3 | 20 | 29 | 62 |
| Div 4 | 42 | 64 | 93 |
| Div 5 | 13 | 24 | 45 |
| | 124 | 200 | 323 |

Rally Awards

Congratulations to those who will line up for awards this year. We have 4 from

Division 1:

Congratulations to Greg Bailey & Kerri Schoof for achieving their 1st year of continuous rallies, Colin & Elaine Spicer 3 years, Neil Taylor 2 years
Barbara & I, 1 year.

Division 3:

Graham & Dorothy Penny's completed 3 years,

Division 4: have 8 members lining up.

Congratulations to Hayley & Greg on achieving 19 years of continuous rallying, a mammoth effort, Julie & Phil Mason 14 years, Lisa & John Stone 13 years Helen & Keith Booth 5 years, Gillian & Lindsay Anders 4 years, Ray Spargo 3 years
Julie & Robert Booth 1 year and
Donna and Robbie Booth 1 year. Is his your 1st?

Your VP's will pass on your awards at the next rally.

2019 National Rally at Albany WA

Pat Glover will report on the rally. I do wish to share – out of the 48 caravans from 14 vic clubs 24 were ours.

Thank you to Pat Glover, for being our co ordinator and organising our club get together dinner at the Albany Hotel. It was a challenge for her to find a venue that would accommodate all of us, provide a choice of menu that was both reasonably priced and met our expectations, thankyou John for being there.

Thank you to Deb and Robert Mudie for taking the pictures, they have turned out great.

The next National Rally is – Riverland Events Centre, Barmera SA 28th March 2022 to 6th April 2022 about 160 west of Mildura. They have a website and a Facebook page.

Cameron's Bight

Our 2018/19 season at Cameron's Bight started a little bumpy. Camp Site boundaries were changed to meet the White Cliffs Committee's obligations to meet CFA requirements. Some of the changes made it difficult for some but better for others.

We meet with WhiteCliffs to Cameron's Bight Foreshore Reserve Committee members to discuss and try to resolve some of the issues we had. The foreshore committee indicated they want to work with us to our mutual benefit.

Our Social Activities continued thanks to our great band of willing helpers Anne Cecil leading the way. Thanks to Bob Anderson and his able assistances for continuing to run our Bocce.

This year the Rangers have done a lot of ground work. A large amount of the area we occupy has been raised and levelled, grass planted, taps have been moved, their new office was built and I believe the BBQ is in place. The sites have been re numbered to align with Tyron and Stringers Road Campgrounds. The Screen has gone, we are not aware of the story behind that yet.

We must be mindful that we do not have control over the grounds the White Cliffs to Cameron's Bight Foreshore Reserve Committee are the custodians. We must abide by their rules and live with their changes.

We have a better chance of getting another agreement if we are working in harmony with them.

In the meantime, if your camping there make the most of it, you are occupying a prime piece of real estate, enjoy it.

Learmonth

At the Special General Meeting in 2018 2 motions were put up.

1. That the land at Learmonth owned by the RACV Caravan Club of Vic Inc be sold for the purpose of part 2 of this two-part motion. This motion was carried.
2. That the proceeds from the sale be used to purchase a Club facility for a meeting place and storage of Club equipment and records. This motion was amended.

The meeting voted to amend the motion to the following:

3. "That within two years of the sale of the land, the Executive will present a minimum of two (2) proposals for use of the funds." This motion was carried.

Earlier this year our property at Learmonth was put on the market.

We have had 3 offers. The first was withdrawn after the potential purchaser had a telephone conversation with the council. They were informed that they could not build on the land. The second offer contained special conditions that we rejected. The same vendor has come back with a new offer minus the conditions we rejected.

The current offer on the table is for \$330,000 with a deposit of 5% \$16,500 on the signing of Contract Balance Within 30 days of satisfaction of special conditions 26 & 27

Special Condition 26 – Subject to sale of purchasers property by the 3rd of March, 2020
Special Condition 27 – Planning Permit date 3rd of March, 2020.

We have accepted this offer but not signed a contract yet. We shall see how this goes.

To satisfy the 2nd motion we established a Sub Committee made up of representatives from each Division, the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The key criteria: It must deliver a benefit to the club and not become a financial burden. We have held several meetings, proposed some options, discussed what could be done and how.

Our representatives have engaged with their divisional members seeking suggestions on the direction we should go.

3 options are being investigated

- 1) Lease a Storage Facility – Store Equipment and archives
- 2) Purchase a Factory/Storage Facility – Store Equipment and archives
- 3) Purchase Camp Ground – Low cost camping for members – Store trailer, Club Equipment and Archives.

Once the land is sold and we have the information necessary for the options we shall present them.

Special thanks to the Executive and Sub Committee for their ongoing work on these investigations

Going forward-

I will use some words from another member “the club is not broken”. It is in a good state. But for this to continue we need to take a careful look at where we are today and where we want the club to go for the future. Things are changing we need to move with them. Social media is one of the ways, thank you to those for their likes on our Facebook page.

We will start to address this next year, you will all be asked to contribute.

Deaths

On a sad note: I wish to acknowledge the loss of some of our current and past members during the year, it is always sad to lose a friend. Pat Harris Div. 1, Max King Div. 4, Wendy Wheatley Div.4 and Elaine Stewart Div 1.

Finally Thankyou

Thank you to Heather for her efforts during the year. A totally new thing for her, great effort from someone who has only been in the club for 5 minutes. and thank you for making this fantastic venue available to us.

To John Stone for managing our rally points, our funds, keeping us in the black and the other things he does for the club.

To Anne Cecil for her work as our Activities Director. She is involved in many things related to rallies to organising the kids present for our Christmas rally, for our 2020 combined rally. And then comes Cameron’s Bight, the site allocations and the entertainment. Plus more – Thank you Anne

And a big thankyou to all the members of the Executive for the support they provided me during the year.

To the Divisional VP’s for their contribution to the running of the club and their divisions Peter Blake is stepping down. thank you Peter Blake for fulfilling your role as VP of Div. 3

Thank you to our New Member Specialist Von Montauban Thank you to our Newsletter editor Julie Mason .

Our representatives on ACC Vic Ken Slade, Bob Jobling and Carol O’Hagan, thank you for representing our club and working for the betterment of all caravanners.

There are many others I have not named who contribute to the club, I thank you for making our activities enjoyable.

To my wife Barbara thank you for your patience and support

I want to thank one specific individual Eddie Bahn, for his many many years as our representative on the Association of Caravan Clubs of Vic. For his contributions and support to Caravan Clubs as the technical advisor with the Association of Caravan Clubs of Vic. Unfortunately he has resigned from our club due to health issues. I wish him all the best for the future.

Thank you.

Rob Taylor



Report From Coromal/Windsor – 17th National Rally Monday 14th and Tuesday 22nd October, 2019

We had been looking forward to the Rally for many months, and it was finally here.

RACV Caravan Club had 24 vans attending, with many of us leaving home some 3 months or more before our touring holiday.

Early Birds arrived on Sunday to set up camp, with the rest arriving on Monday to a well-organized entry and registration of 400 plus vans.

On our first night Rally organizers had arranged a social welcome, with a Cheese and Wine Night followed by entertainment. It was an outstanding success. Entertainment every night was great and included singers, bands, Irish dancers, *The Albany Shantymen* and an Oktoberfest Night.

There were organized tours and a special firing of the cannon at the National Anzac Centre.

There were many other activities, including: Technology Classes, Men’s’ Shed, Craft, Hot Wheels Racing, Dancing Classes, Disc Bowls, Lawn Bowling, Golf and Seminars to fill in time. The golf was won by Daryl Barker, Div 1.

The Trade Exhibition was held over 2 days, with sales of \$250,000 which raised \$3,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The RACV Caravan Club gathered to have a photo shoot, thanks to Brent and Debbie Mudie and also had our dinner at the Albany Hotel which was well attended.

It has been reported that over \$1 million in sales was generated by the Rally – *well done*.

We are now looking forward to the 18th National Rally, to be held at the Riverland Events Centre, Barmera, South Australia on 28th March to 6th April 2022

Many of us have already registered and look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, please go to: www.18thnationacaravanrally.org.au

Pat Glover

**RACV CARAVAN CLUB of VICTORIA Inc.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31 August 2019**

| The Club has Funds as follows: These Funds are Represented by: | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Cash at Bank: | | |
| Bendigo Bank Business Everyday Account | \$33,020 | \$4,170 |
| ANZ Current Account | \$6,051 | \$4,905 |
| ANZ Investment Account (at Call) | \$21,277 | \$52,342 |
| Investment – RACV Finance Ltd | \$31,088 | \$31,088 |
| Petty Cash | \$1,552 | \$2,250 |
| Total Cash & Investments | \$92,988 | \$94,755 |
| Fixed Assets: | | |
| Land at Cost (Learmonth) (Purchased 1972) (Valuation per 22/06/2019 Rate Notice: \$423,000) | \$8,302 | \$8,302 |
| Total Assets on Hand | \$101,290 | \$103,057 |

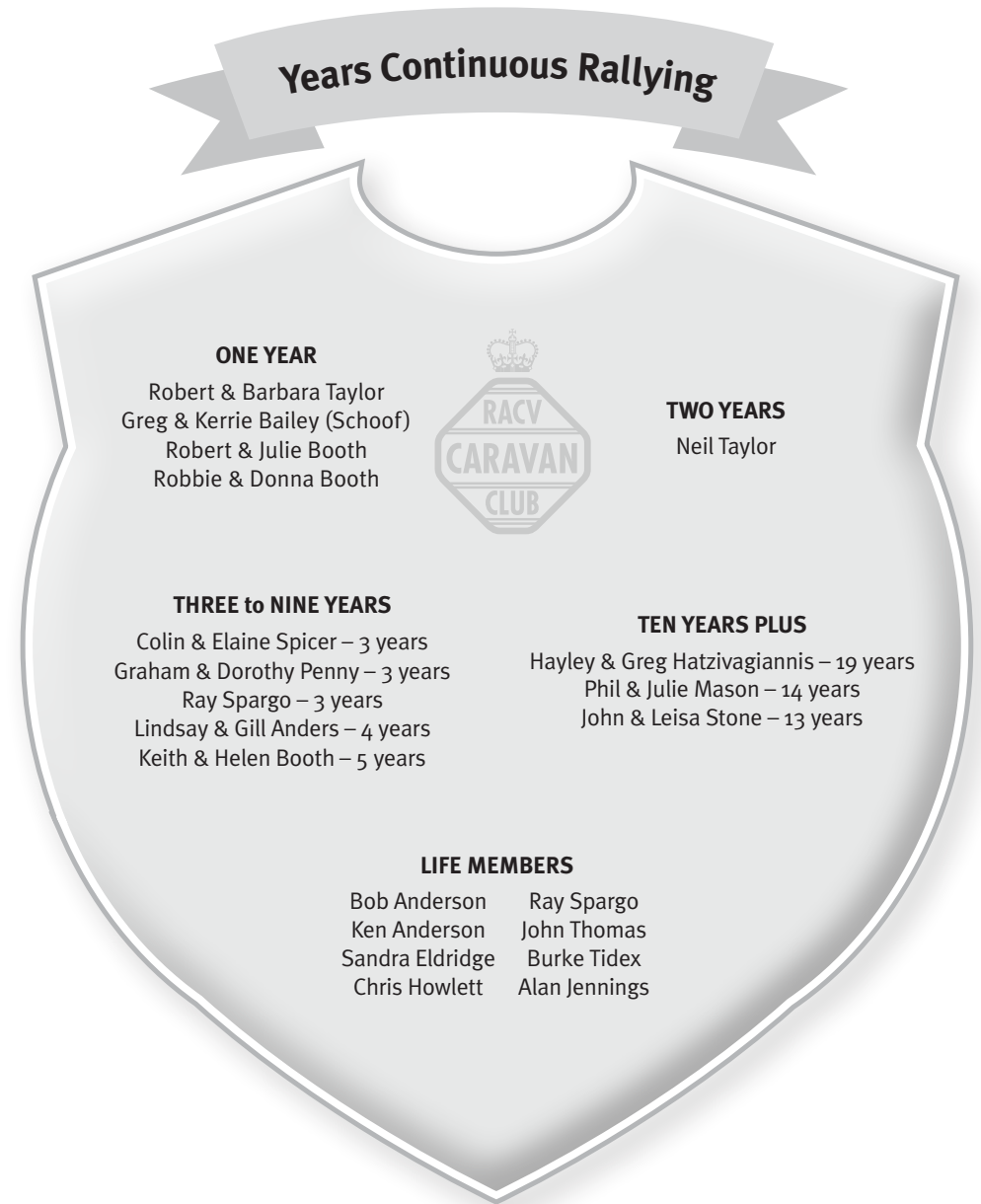
Review Committee Report.

I have reviewed the above “Statement of Financial Position” as at 31 August, 2019 and the attached “Statement of Income and Expenditure” for the 12 Month Period ended 31 August, 2019 and other records of the Club comprising cash books, banking records, receipts and other supporting documents.

Based on the records and information presented to me, it is my 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, 2019 and Total Members Funds, as reported in the “Statement of Financial position” as at 31 August, 2019.



Leigh Rudman CPA FIPA



Years Continuous Rallying

ONE YEAR
Robert & Barbara Taylor
Greg & Kerrie Bailey (Schoof)
Robert & Julie Booth
Robbie & Donna Booth

TWO YEARS
Neil Taylor

THREE to NINE YEARS
Colin & Elaine Spicer – 3 years
Graham & Dorothy Penny – 3 years
Ray Spargo – 3 years
Lindsay & Gill Anders – 4 years
Keith & Helen Booth – 5 years

TEN YEARS PLUS
Hayley & Greg Hatzivagiannis – 19 years
Phil & Julie Mason – 14 years
John & Leisa Stone – 13 years

LIFE MEMBERS
Bob Anderson Ray Spargo
Ken Anderson John Thomas
Sandra Eldridge Burke Tidex
Chris Howlett Alan Jennings

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT: | Steve Clark | bj.plastics@bigpond.com | |
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Crib Point – November 9 - 10

The rally commenced on a cloudy and showery day. The park is on the foreshore of Western Port Bay overlooking French Island with Phillip Island in the distance.

One van arrived on Thursday. Seven on Friday and nine on Saturday totalling 17 vans (5 from Div 3 and 5 from Div 4)

The weather was showery, fine misty, with a shower every now and then. Friday evening 9 members went to Hastings Sports Club for an enjoyable meal and the service was very quick. 6 people travelled by the club bus and the “tees” by car.

Saturday dawned cloudy and some members visited local markets on the peninsula while others did the shops over in Hastings.

In the afternoon some members enjoyed the time in the camp kitchen. Park management supplied a gas heater that was very welcome for the warmth. In the evening rally fees were collected and a meal of hot dogs in a roll with shredded cheese and sauces arranged by Anne – Thanks Anne.

Sunday morning was cloudy with misty rain for packing up for the journey home. An enjoyable rally with other division members.



photo: Mattinagh – Wikimedia Commons

Seymour – Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

Our Christmas rally was at the Highlands Caravan Park, Seymour. We had 23 vans and 1 cabin booked for the weekend.

Friday night saw 32 of us go out to the Seymour Emperor restaurant (Chinese). The meals were very generous although a tad slow in delivery, but it was well worth it. Brodie C called in to the restaurant to say hello.

Saturday morning saw most go for a stroll into town, the Woolworths Deli seemed to be well visited as we knew somebody who was working there. They memorial wall was also a popular destination.

The Love’s went to try the Avenel Pub for lunch on Friday after having a recommendation from Steve, but there was some confusion as to where it was and they ended up at “the other



hotel, with white table cloth service” – not quite the country bar meal I had suggested, but they did enjoy it.

Saturday arvo saw Mr & Mrs Claus (SANTA & his WIFE) arrive with a big sack of presents not only for the children but for the adults as well.

The VP had a few presentations to make, thanking Peter and Liz Rauch for their commitment as Marshall, Name badges were finally presented to Ralph and Dianne Edwards, 50 Rally certificate to Rod and Kelly Caddaye (and the Boys), 3years continuous to Colin and Elaine Spicer, 2years continuous to Neil Taylor, and 1year continuous to Rob & Barb Taylor and Greg Bailey & Kerry Schoof. Kerry you now have a family record to beat....

Also a big thanks to the rest of the committee and members for the continuous support.

Fivesies were provided by the committee and



an enjoyable afternoon was had by all. We even had Reg & Jamie (Clark) come into town for a visit, and they stayed for tea. It was also good to see Betty Window and the family with us.

Saturday night saw 60 of us attend the Royal Hotel for our Christmas meal, it was well organised and a hearty meal for all of us, thank you to Anne for organising it, and to the Royal Hotel for hosting us. Well done.

The raffles were won by Reg Clark, Anne Kennelly and Phil Bright.

Thank you to Rob Taylor for his kind words thanking the committee for their work throughout the year.

The weather was very kind to us for the weekend, we also had 4 members stay for Sunday night having a combined dinner in the camp kitchen.



| | | | |
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Creswick – October 5 - 6

I reckon that Division Two had its smallest rally ever at Creswick over the weekend of October 7 & 8, with just two (yes, just TWO) vans plus a member visitor.

We had expected 6 vans to be present but, unfortunately, Val Mitchell had stent problems, Peter and Heather Burnie had van reno problems and stayed in the adjacent Motel and the others for what ever reason didn't front.

We went up on a very warm Thursday expecting to see other members, but it wasn't until the Friday that Jim and Bette Hall arrived and set up that we had company.

Friday was thus, as you would expect, a quiet day, just catching up with old friends. There was a bit of a concern over a van a few down from Jim and Bette with abusive language and slamming of doors disturbing the peace.

Saturday was the usual street tour, op shop, newsagent, book shop, and bakery for some very nice 'dogs eyes'. Peter and Heather and Jim and Bette joined us in our van for lunch and a chat. Saturday night we adjourned to the

Farmers Arms, a local pub for a very nice meal on the mid-range of expensive, certainly the wines were in that bracket.

We had to go home on the Sunday due to appointments on the Monday, Peter and Heather had only booked into the Motel for one night leaving Jim and Bette to represent the Club until they too departed for home. Altogether a very quiet rally.

Ballarat – November 2 - 3

Why has the weather been so awful for every rally in the past six months, despite pleasant weekends on either side? This rally weekend was another one of wind, rain and hail for Division 2. Luckily the Ballarat Windmill Caravan Park has excellent facilities so all 6 van couples had a great weekend together. Some brave members used the heated swimming pool but all enjoyed the exceptionally clean and warm amenities. The free pancake breakfast provided by the park on Saturday morning was delicious and the pancakes were enormous.

Morning tea and Happy Hour were held in the camp kitchen beautifully warmed by the



slow combustion stove. A small rally has the advantage of everyone being able to easily chat together in a group, however we also look forward to catching up with our other interstate and overseas travellers in the coming summer months.

Ballarat has so many interesting attractions many of which are all-weather venues. Members had afternoon tea at Pipers by the lake, went shopping, visited relatives, visited the Ballarat Art Gallery and attended a wonderful piano recital in the gallery.



Saturday night dinner at the Golf Club was most enjoyable, once we actually got to the venue. There had been much confusion with the booking of the courtesy bus but when we finally arrived we all enjoyed the complimentary bottle of white and red wine provided as an apology for the mix-up.

There's plenty more to see and do in Ballarat and we look forward to visiting again. Perhaps the next time will have better weather. No matter the weather we can thoroughly recommend

Ballarat Windmill Park as an excellent venue. Many thanks to Alan Jennings and Peter Birney for their organisation of the rally.

Marong – 30 Nov. - 1 Dec.

We had 18 vans and 3 cabins at the rally, 5 vans arrived on Thursday with the temperature touching 30 degrees. The remaining 15 vans and 3 cabins arrived on Friday which was also 30 degrees. Friday night's happy hour was mainly taken up with discussions between the members returning from the National Rally at Albany and the other members.



On Saturday we woke up to a cool, cloudy day with patches of sunshine. Some members went to the local market. Rally fees were collected at morning tea along with Chit Chat where VP Alan Jennings reported on the latest Executive Committee news. Ken Slade reported on the steering committee's progress with the sale of Learmonth, and options for using the money for the benefit of the members once the sale is finalized. Ken also reported on ACCVIC's



AGM explaining they don't have a Secretary. Members wrapped the generously donated items for our Christmas special effort.

After lunch it was all hands-on deck setting up, and decorating, the tables for the Christmas Dinner at night, whilst Sue Steegstra played some Christmas Carols on the piano. The evening commenced with pre-dinner drinks then Christmas Dinner which was prepared by Fabulous Feasts and was delicious and enjoyed by all present. It was made up of two meats, a large variety of salads, baked potato and a choice of 4 deserts. Second serves were available, and enjoyed by some of the members, and yes, there were still some leftovers.



Santa appeared with his helper to distribute chocolates to the members. The special effort had various draws throughout the evening with the winner of draw choosing one of the many items donated by the members. The special effort raised \$200 which will be donated to a



bush fire relief fund. The evening concluded with Sue at the piano again while members sung Christmas Carols followed by dancing to the music provided by DJ John Glover.

On Sunday the weather was very cold with many rain showers passing through. Most members departed for home with some members staying over until Monday.

Thankyou Pat, and your many helpers, for a very enjoyable rally.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*



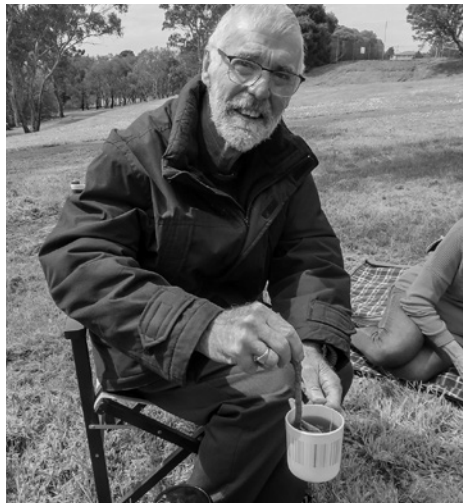
| | | | |
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Beaufort – October 5 - 6

What a contrast from Division 3's last visit to Beaufort. This time the lake at the Beaufort Caravan Park was full and not just a series of mud-puddles, thanks to recent rain in the area. This enabled some people staying at the park the opportunity to toss in a line and successfully catch fish.



All members and prospective members attending the rally arrived before Friday night which is unusual for Division 3. This meant we had a reasonably large contingent at the Beaufort Hotel for our usual Friday night dinner. The venue, organised by Greg Heafield was a very good choice as all were impressed with the



quality and generous servings of the various dishes. As the weather wasn't particularly pleasant it was deemed necessary to have an early migration from the park to the hotel to take advantage of the warmer environment.

Some fortunate members who had arrived prior to Friday had spent the morning and early afternoon touring neighbouring towns, including visits to J Ward for the criminally insane at Ararat. It is with great relief to report none were requested to remain within the facility.

Early risers on Saturday morning were greeted with sunny and calm conditions, however this didn't last and for most of the day broken cloud prevailed. At mid-day a convoy left the park for the 30 minute trip to Skipton for a picnic organised by Dottie and Graeme at Jubilee Lake. Even with a map showing the location it was surprising how many members (including your reporter) lost their way. Once



this minor obstacle was overcome we were able to enjoy lunch followed by some very competitive games of disc-bowls and 'Klop'. Pat & Laurie Burke couldn't attend the picnic as they had a bowling commitment in Ballarat. They had a mixed result as Pat triumphed, but unfortunately Laurie wasn't successful on this occasion.

Fee time was held in the park camp kitchen, where Peter welcomed prospective members Vicky & Lois, and welcomed back Glenda &



Tony, and Pam & John. Peter reminded members that annual membership fees were due and needed to be paid by the 11th October. He also reminded members of the AGM on the 17th November and the need for nominations for executive and divisional committees.

The 'loss' of an hour to daylight saving on Sunday made departure before 10am a significant challenge, and there was a degree of envy for those lucky to be spending another day before having to pack and leave.

Benalla – November 2 - 3

The second annual 'running' of the Ken Anderson Cup dwarfed any other race meeting taking place anywhere in Australia over the November rally 'weekend'. The event held on the Saturday afternoon of the rally was keenly contested with horses and jockeys in prime condition for the event. This year the cup presented by last year's winner Ian McConnell was won by David Jordan. We were fortunate this year to have an indoor venue as the heavy rain in the area would have made the track very slow and may have detracted from the spectacle. We were lucky to have the services of Dottie & Graeme Penny acting as stewards and clerks of the course, and also Ray Andrews, assisted by Ian McConnell as bookmaker. Following on from



the K.A.Cup we were spoiled with magnificent 'cup cakes' courtesy of Sandra Eldridge.

At this rally we had eleven vans and one non-van, this included Division 1 visitors Alan & Sue Colclough and Bob & Ann Reynolds. We were very pleased to have Sandra & George Eldridge, accompanied by grandson Louis and Sue & David Jordan with us following extended absences through travel. Bev Draper, who had been overseas on a family matter returned from the U.K. (without missing a rally). Maureen & Ron Gardner were also able to join us after experiencing ill-health, but now look fully recovered.

Members travelling from Melbourne to the rally on Friday experienced hot weather and northerly winds. The wind caused VP Peter to lose a towing mirror and Max to have a



problem with a window on his van. Fortunately neither of these came close to causing a grass-fire, as was the case with an unfortunate person (non-RACVCC) who had sparks from their van's tyre-less rim set grass ablaze at Clonbinane. Dorothy and Graeme were able to get through before the road was closed, but Sandra was delayed until the fire was controlled. Despite the delay Sandra was able to arrive at Benalla in time to go for a swim with Louis and to go to dinner with the group. The venue for the dinner, once again booked

by Max and Marion, was the well-patronised Benalla Bowling Club. As far as your reporter is aware none of the drivers had over indulged and didn't fall foul of the law as they returned through the breathalyser station set up near the park.



Glen Cromie – Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

Friday, 29th November

We spent the afternoon by the sadly depleted Tarago River seeking shade and catching up on travelling adventures of the year. Paul and Debbie returned this rally, Paul looking very much like Santa wearing his casual clothes. Alan spent time exploring his extremely large on-site van.

It wasn't long before the sun disappeared and a cold wind sent us scurrying for cover.



By Saturday morning the wind of the previous day had abated and those who like early starts awoke to a warm and humid morning. Some members went for a tour of the local area, while others spent time taking photos in the beautiful rose gardens and perusing the cities' shops.

At fee time VP Peter welcomed visitors and reminded members of the AGM on the 17th November. He highlighted the need for office bearer nominations for the division as well as the executive. Graeme Penny alerted members to changes that will need to be made to next year's rally calendar. The planned rallies to Marong in May and Venus Bay in October may need to be swapped, or new venues located as these parks can no longer accommodate us on those months.

The cup theme continued on Saturday evening with members sharing a communal 'picnic lunch' and dressing in 'What they wore to the Melbourne Cup'. We had owners, bookmakers, trainers, farriers, caterers, punters, socialites, and the odd yobbo. Sandra then conducted a challenging cup quiz that was taken out by the team of Judy, Kerry, Ray & Peter.

With dark skies threatening more rain the majority of members departed early on Sunday, however a few were able to stay on to enjoy an extra day or two in a very pleasant part of Victoria.



There was a big group of 27 early birders, who went to dinner at the Neerim South Hotel. Rolfey organised the courtesy bus. We were all duly waiting at 5.30pm, as requested by the hotel, only to find the bus driver went to the Neerim South CP! Despite the delay, it was considered an excellent idea to use the bus. Catering for such a large group was a bit of a





challenge so only two meals temporarily going 'missing in action' was a pretty good effort.

Saturday, 30th November

By Saturday there were 20 vans, an on-site van and 2 boxes-without-wheels and a total of 47 ralliers. Sandra's brother Bryan and his wife Pat on holiday from England joined us for this rally. We were also joined by Vicki and Lois Gardner, Sylvia and Len Beecham and Glynis and Tony Kelly.

Peter ventured into Warragul for the Park Run, coming in first in the olds yet again. Congratulations Peter! He was going to be accompanied by another rallier who apparently had trouble getting out of bed. Never mind Rolfey, there's always next time and, in fairness, it was a cold morning.

It rained overnight, in fact almost all night, so games here at the park seemed unlikely, a shame as the park was looking very green



and flat making games for the elderly and not so elderly a bit safer. We do have a history of injuries and bloodshed at our Christmas games. Anyway, the ducks were happy. However, the rain cleared so it was games by the river.

As usual, Sandra is to be commended for her stellar effort, not unlike herding cats really, with her choice of games. Not one injury and no blood was shed but lots of laughs were had by all. Sandra was most appreciative that Greg was able to provide her with a whistle, an Acme Thunderer of course, to assist in keeping us in order. Mind you the left and right game nearly reduced some, including Sandra, to tears. I think it's the only time we needed 3 practises... and then some of us were still sadly challenged.

Santa made a visit. He looked splendid in his red outfit but his boots were the shiniest we had ever seen them. Excellent effort Santa, you would have pleased any major general inspecting the troops! Lexie, Debbie and Paul's



granddaughter, was so impressed she made her first ever visit to Santa's side. She happily collected a present for herself and for her little sister at home. Santa then dipped deeper into his red sack to find a little surprise for us all. Well done Santa and thank you!

Christmas dinner was in the Jindivic Hall, only a short drive from Glen Cromie and a very pretty drive too. Many hands decorated the hall, arranged the tables and then organised 55's. Our main meal was a traditional Christmas Dinner of spit roasted lamb, pork with crackle and beef as well as a range of vegetables with plenty for seconds and even thirds.

Peter, as our out-going VP, made a presentation to Dorothy and Graham for attending 12 rallies this year, a pretty good effort seeing they also holidayed overseas during the year.

Our new Committee was welcomed with Graham as Vice President, Ray as Treasurer, George as Secretary and Dorothy as Marshall. Graham thanked Peter for his 9 years as the Div 3 VP.

Our highlight of the evening of course was the Men's Choir, so flamboyantly conducted by Graham. Their singing was melodious and of course loud. Their rendition of Silent Night certainly did 'think of Bing' as they sang. The ladies greatly appreciated their efforts.

Sunday, 1st December

Another rally came to an end with morning tea before we all headed for home to decorate our Christmas trees.



Thank you to:

- our paparazzi for their photos;
- Rolfey for organising our Friday pub dinner and the courtesy bus;
- Sandra for her games...and her patience explaining and re-explaining and re-explaining...
- Santa for making us all smile;
- Dot, Graham and George and for their teamwork organising the weekend; and
- everyone, including our visitors, for joining in with the fun and games over the weekend.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
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Drouin – October 5 - 6

Lots of vans arrived on the drizzly Friday afternoon, but most were prepared for the conditions and soft ground thanks to a warning email from the park.

What the park didn't mention was one cheeky cat who appeared in the afternoon, and made itself at home firstly in Roger & Denise's van and then in Heather Young's.

The evening meal was at the Neerim South pub with complimentary transportation in the pub bus.

Saturday's sunshine saw people off in all directions. Many went to the Jindivick market followed by a visit to the café for morning tea in the garden with spectacular views across the valley to the mountains beyond.



Others drove a little further and visited the spectacular Toorong Falls.

The afternoon saw games of badminton, splashing in the creek, bush walks and fishing; a very reasonable size trout was caught.



More vans arrived throughout the day making a total for the rally of 23 vans including prospective new members Rick and Linda Burns.



Visitors arrived during VP speech in the form of two beautiful King Parrots. Obviously they had come to visit Hayley Hatz, but unfortunately they just wouldn't come down from the rafters to be hand fed by her.

A lovely warm fire kept us going late into the night.

On Sunday we were given until noon to depart which was nice after missing an hour's sleep due to the changeover to Daylight Saving time. The morning was sunny and warm and it was nice to be able to linger a little longer and drive home in sunshine.

St Leonards – November 2 -3

Friday saw a warm and windy day with 8 vans arriving throughout the day and night.

It was the first day of the opening season at Bengalat Reserve, and arrival time saw only a few other campers at the reserve.

That night, our group decided to head off to the St Leonards hotel for dinner, with most of the arrivals deciding to walk the short 500 metres to the hotel.

Food was pleasant and the company was great. We had a great view of the bay from our table side.



The weather started turning worse, with a chill to the air and gathering clouds to warn us of what was to come.

On returning to our campsite, some of us turned in for the night,

with some of us braving the cold and gathered for drinks and nibbles around vans.

During Saturday, it had turned cold and we had periodical showers, with glimpses of sun. We also had additional vans arriving during the day



an which brought the number of vans up to 22.

We had fivesies at the open shelter near the amenities, where some resourceful people put up additional tarps for protection against the elements, but the weather was good to us.

After fivesies, we had our big horse races (well, small wooden horses, dice, and some little jockies). All went well, no horses or jockies were injured. The only protesters were the seagulls.

It was well organised and ran by Mandy and Dave Smith, who were also the stewards.



After the event, the cold wind and rain came, and most retired to bed, to a night of heavy rain and wind.

Sunday saw the poor weather continue, and some of the vans going home.

People that stayed did various activities around the district. Some went to the covered markets that were on at Geelong foreshore and in Portarlington. Others went out for the day to neighbouring places and eateries.

A few stayed in their vans, because of the dismal weather, where we only saw the occasional glimpse of the sun.

Due to the weather over the weekend, some van hopping occurred, with the prime location being the van with the annex and heater!

Monday saw little improvement with the weather. A few of the guys had organised a fishing charter in the morning in the bay, which saw them come back with fish. Monday night, dinner was had back at St Leonards hotel.

Tuesday saw everyone leave, which brought an end to our Melbourne Cup Long weekend.

Alterations to 2020 Rally Calendar – Members please note the following changes

Change of date for **Division 2** who are now rallying on the **alternate weekend to Easter**

Changes to venues for **Division 3** rallies in **May and October**

| | DIVISION 2 | DIVISION 3 |
|--|--|---|
| APRIL 4 - 5 ALTERNATE WEEKEND | KYABRAM 211 Western Gums Caravan Park 5852 2885 | |
| MAY 5-6 | | VENUS BAY 169 Venus Bay Caravan Park 5663 7728 |
| OCTOBER 6-7 | | MARONG 157 Big 4 Marong Holiday Park 5435 2329 |

NP – INDICATES NO POWER

ALL BOOKINGS ARE PRIOR BOOKING. BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE ONE MONTH PRIOR

| | | | |
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| MARSHAL: | Bruce Layton | brucellayton@gmail.com | 0408 775 545 |

Doncaster – October 5 - 6

Five caravans arrived on Friday and Sue & Fay booked into a cabin. Joan and Brian arrived for happy hour and dinner at The Grand Hotel in Warrandyte where we had a very nice meal.

The weather was sunny and overcast but pleasant. On Saturday after morning tea some of us travelled to the Warrandyte river market. It was a great market. Such a busy place with cars, people and dogs everywhere.

Most of us went across to Beasley's nursery and café (opposite the caravan park) for lunch. The food was delicious and there were lots of interesting things to look at as well.

Dinner was at our great camp kitchen; baked potatoes with all the trimmings and chocolate coated ice cream for desert. Thanks to Brian



Cubbins for entertaining us with his dealings trying to get his NBN connected. Very funny!

Thank you Julie, Fay & Sue for a job well done .

After our farewell coffee Sunday morning, we said goodbye till we meet again



Warrnambool – November 9 - 10

The weather in Warrnambool was far from ideal for the November rally with strong south westerly winds and intermittent rain and hail. However it didn't dampen the spirits of Dawn & Bruce, Suzie & Fay and Rhonda & Gavan who enjoyed the company of our very small gathering at the Surfside Holiday Park. Several Div 5 members are still on their way back from the national rally in Albany. Rick & Linda stayed with us for the weekend and joined in our activities and are considering joining the club.



Suzie and Fay were in a cabin so we used their cosy accommodation for our happy hours and indoor activities. The park also had an excellent camp kitchen but we were very comfortable in the cabin with such a small group.

Those who arrived on the Thursday had dinner at the RSL that night and we all went to Macey's Bistro on Saturday night. The seniors meals proved to be popular unless you required gluten free which was only available on the regular menu.

The café at the breakwater overlooking the ocean where the race horses train along the foreshore was our intended destination on Saturday morning for morning tea. However when we arrived it was a half hour wait for a table so we moved on to the surf club for coffee and cake!

We then drove to the Cheese World and museum at Allansford, about 14 kms from Warrnambool. Some of us must be getting old because the exhibits reminded us of so many things from our youth! Back in the days when the postie came twice each day and blew his whistle if you had mail. The postie even came on Saturday mornings. How things have changed.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village was next door to the caravan park. Sue and Fay were keen to attend the sound and light show but because of the inclement weather decided to do it next time.



Some of us returned home on the Sunday morning but the Layton's and Burn's stayed an extra day.

Lake Eppalock – Nov 30. – Dec. 1

The December Rally was held at the Lake Eppalock Holiday Park on the banks of Lake Eppalock. We had 31 members attend the rally with everyone arriving by Friday afternoon, after quickly setting up the afternoon was free to do what you liked. The afternoon was warm and sunny so most stayed at camp, overlooking the lake made it a pleasant afternoon. Happy hour was at 5pm at the camp kitchen and everyone had a great time catching up.

Saturday was another sunny day, and activities commenced with our meeting at the camp kitchen followed by morning tea provided by the club. A warm welcome to Linda and Rick Burns, new members to our division. The rally had no specific activities arranged for



the afternoon but a great time was had by all playing the game 'Clomp' which was won by Brian Cubbins. Thanks to Gay & Michael for organising. This was followed by a great game of Bocce that was won by Dawn Layton. Happy hour was at 5pm followed by dinner that was catered for by the park. The table was beautiful set up with Christmas décor. Diner was a 3 course meal and the food was delicious with the club providing drinks. The van prize was presented during diner to Robyn and Peter Hillas for best decorated caravan in a Christmas theme. After diner most retired to their caravans but some remained and sat around the camp fire provided by the park. All in all a great evening was had by all.

We woke Sunday to a cooler day and most headed for home, 3 vans stayed for another day. We went for a drive to Confectionary Cappers at Jonortoun near Bendigo. Confectionary Cappers has over a 100 mechanical challenges to make you think laterally and explores the fascinating nature of the English language, thanks Linda and Rick for organising. From here we headed back to camp via the Lake Eppalock dam wall, sadly the dam is only about 30% full but still a interesting to see the structure.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



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 |
| <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 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
caravans, motorhomes, RV's and campertrailers



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Variable Data Printing | Mail Management | Distribution