



RACV CARAVAN CLUB

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER | VOL. 50 | NO. 188

Div 1

DAYLESFORD

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A vertical photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a dirt path, serving as a background for the top left portion of the page.

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Newsletter Material to:

The Editor: Julie Mason

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No year is ever the same 2023 is an improvement on last year. This year there were no rally cancellations but a number of changes of venues. Some caravan parks impacted by floods are not back open for business yet. Sadly we lost a number of our esteem members.

Camerons Bight, I haven't seen any rally reports I have had no feedback from those camping there so I can safely assume all went well.

ACCVic held its State Rally at Horsham this was attended by various clubs from around the state, our club had a good attendance. We gained a new member to. These are more low key compared to some of the earlier State Rallies.

Division 5 ran a Tag a long tour taking us from Horsham to Barmera SA. Thanks to David Breese and his crew for a good time. We had a member from another club join us, they enjoyed themselves and expressed their gratitude for being welcomed to join us.

There were 19 RACV CC members in attendance at the 18th National Rally, Barmera, it was deferred from 2022 due to COVID. It was a great rally, lots of things to do places to go and things to see the evening entertainment was good.

There were a number of raffles, door prizes and give aways. The Major Sponsor RV Adelaide raffled a diesel heater Bob & Dawn Anderson were the winners – congratulations.

RACV SPONSORSHIP

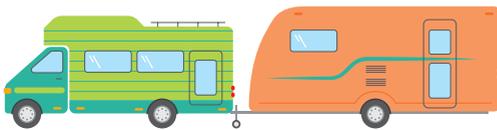
This year we signed a Sponsorship Deed with the RACV. It is for 5, half what they provided in the past but they are still supporting us. We are eternally grateful. The expectation is that we do not do anything to put the RACV name in dispute, to not engage with any activities that would be in competition with them.

RALLY ATTENDANCE

Attendance is way down on our pre COVID days we are not unique, other clubs are experiencing similar attendance.

We had a last minute re shuffle of our 2024 rally calendar. You will notice that Division 1, 2 & 3 are holding combined rallies. The decision to go this route came about due to an inability for some to fill committee positions and the very low attendance rates of some divisions. I am not convinced it is a solution to the problem but we will see how it progresses.

There is nothing to stop either of the Divisions to hold their own Rally at a different location if they so desire.



PROGRESS ON MY OBJECTIVES

GROW THE CLUB

Our plans to actively seek new members for our club have progressed.

A bit of a fine tune/tweak of our new member process, we now have George Haig involved in following up on new members..

It is all very good getting new people to come try us out but we need to make sure to give them a reason to return.

Our access to Caravan Shows has come to a halt. ACCVic are unable to fulfill the requests placed upon them by the Caravan Industry so it was decided not to continue with a stand at the shows.

We will have to find new ways to attract new members.

Current Membership stands at 182 members made up of 166 members 4 new members and 12 associate members. An increase on last years 167.

ACQUIRE A CAMP GROUND

- This has not progressed as well as I had hoped. I am keen to see this occur I do believe that this would give our club an edge over other clubs and a reason for people to be interested in joining us. In the Early days, 10 years ago, that is what we had with Sorrento/Blairgowrie/Camerons Bight.
- Since the last AGM while I was home I spent the best part of my time dealing with my father and his health issues his needs were urgent and had to be my priority.
- We have reached out to a number of real estate agents. Some have come back to us. We haven't found anything suitable that meets our needs yet.
- We will organise a meeting with our Camp Ground Committee and get things moving again. So if you find a place that might meet our needs please share the information with us.



CAMERONS BIGHT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- This is not the news many want to hear but the inevitable has happened.
- This is the last year of our MOU with the WhiteCliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Committee.
- 2023 February. Myself, Heather Mc Taggart & Ric Luif met with Max Patton the Chairman of the Committee was an apology. Heather and Ric took time off work to attend. At this meeting: -
 - We were advised a new committee would be formed in September 2023
 - We sought a meeting with the new Committee to discuss another MOU
 - Other topics were covered
 - Max committed to pass our request onto the Committee

17th July we received an email from Max on behalf of the Committee. He advised that The Committee had decided that they would not engage in another MoU.

Heather our Secretary wrote to WhiteCliffs asking for clarity around their decision not to negotiate another MOU. They responded in a letter to us 27th September the paragraph most relevant reads:-

“As we continue to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our community, we believe it is time to create new opportunities for a broader range of campers to enjoy Camerons Bight and surrounds. Our decision not to renew the MOU, effective at the conclusion of the 2023/2024 camping season, is driven by our commitment to inclusivity and providing equal access to this exceptional resource. This change is in line with recent changes also made for campers who previously used annual ‘recurring bookings’, which are now no longer available.”

It is sad that this has happened but, everyone can still camp at Camerons Bight, applications have to be made through the Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Rangers office.

TAG A LONG TOUR

Division 5 is running a Tag a long tour in March heading to the Flinders Rangers. They are departing from the State Rally in Kerang. There will be more info in the next newsletter.

This is open to all club members, if you're interested in taking part please contact either the Div 5 VP David Breese or the Secretary Gay...

WHAT'S COMING UP

NATIONAL RALLY

- 19th National Caravan Clubs Rally, Mudgee NSW

STATE RALLY

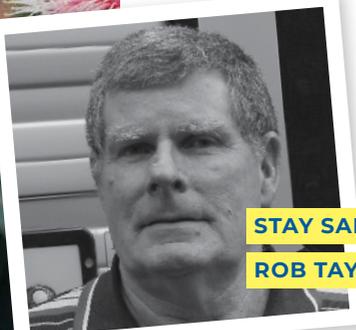
- The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria is hosting a State Rally at the Kerang ##### Caravan Park 17th to 20th March 2024.
- This is an alternate RACV Caravan Club rally.
- The State Rally is now in a new format clubs are no longer organising the Rally it is organised and run by the ACCVic Committee, please consider supporting this event.

THANK YOU

Finally I wish to say Thank you to all those that work to support our club.

- **Thank you to:**
- Heather McTaggart
- Ric Luif & Sharon our Treasurer,
- Anne Cecil
- the Divisional VP's and the committees and helpers in the divisions.
- Sandra Eldridge our past President who keeps asking questions..
- **Thank you to our:**
- New Member people – Voula, George Haig, and Von Montauban
- Our Newsletter Editor - Julie Mason .
- Our National Rally Representative Stella Breese
- Our Camp Ground Committee
- Our representatives on ACC Vic - Ken Slade, Bob Jobling and Carol O'Hagan, thank you for representing our club.
- There are many others I have not named who contribute to the club, I thank you for making our activities happen and enjoyable.
- Finally Barbara, thank you for all the behind the scene's work you do to help me get it done.

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



STAY SAFE

ROB TAYLOR

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

RALLY ATTENDANCE

25 RALLIES

Martin/Lyn Prewer	Div 2
Kerry & Bev Draper	Div 4
Von Montauban	Div 3
George & Voula Haig	Div 4
Michael & Gay Blake	Div 5
Sue & Geoff Rapp	Div 5
Heather McTaggart & Ken Preston	Div 6
Rita & Robert Stockton	Div 6

50 RALLIES

Alan & Sue Colclough	Div 1
Bruce & Dawn Layton	Div 5
David & Stella Breese	Div 5
Brent & Debbie Mudie	Div 5

YEARS CONTINUOUS RALLYING

ONE YEAR

THREE YEARS – NINE YEARS

Stephen Clark & Anne Cecil	3 years
Robbie & Donna Booth	4 years
Greg Bailey & Kerri Schoof	4 years
Robert & Barbara Taylor	4 years
Ray Spargo	6 years

10 YEARS +

John & Leisa Stone	16 years
Philip & Julie Mason	17 years
Hayley & Greg Hatzivagiannis	22 years

LIFE MEMBERS

Bob Anderson, Sandra Eldridge,
Alan Jennings, Ray Spargo, John Thomas

TAG ALONG RALLY MARCH



Farina Post Office



Lyndhursts Ochre Pits



Flinders Ranges



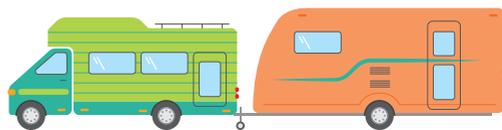
Farina Transcontinental Hotel

A group of members are going on a 'March Tag Along. it's open for anyone in the club to attend but numbers will be limited to around 10 - 12. Any member interested in attending should contact David Breese via email. dave.58@hotmail.com. There are currently 5 caravans interested in going.

NOTES

1. Attendees can break off from group at any time but must advise leader of departure
2. Accommodation is flexible, may change if sites unavailable.
3. Activities are optional
4. CB Radios are recommended but not mandatory.

Arrival Date	Departure Date	Nights	Accommodation	Est Cost p/n	Notes
Fri 15/3	Mon 18/3	4	 Kerang Holiday Park 9399 Murray Valley Hwy, Kerang 3579 15 Mar 2024		State Rally
366 km					
Mon 18/3	Tue 19/3	1	 Tranquil Waters Cullulleraie Sturt Hwy, Cullulleraie 18 Mar 2024	\$33	
302 km					
Tue 19/3	Thu 21/3	2	 Auburn Community Caravan Park 21 Ford St, Auburn	\$35	Explore Claire township Visit to wineries
394 km					
Thu 21/3	Sat 23/3	2	 Angorichina Tourist Village 15Ks W of Blinman, Parachilna Rd	\$38	Visit Lyndhurst Ochre Pits and Farina Ruins
94 km					
Sat 23/3	Tue 26/3	3	 Rawnsley Park Station Flinders Ranges Way, Hawker 5434 29 Mar 2024	\$47	Visit Wilpena Pound Self Drive 4WD Trop (see next page \$60 p/car)
269 km					
Tue 26/3	Wed 27/3	1	 Burra Caravan & Camping Park 12 Bridge Tce, Burra 5417 26 Mar 2024	\$30	
174 km					
Wed 27/3	Thu 28/3	1	 Discovery Parks - Lake Bonney Nookamka Terrace, Barmera	\$32	
273 km					
Thu 28/3	Fri 29/3	1	 Ouyen Caravan Park 10 Calder Hwy, Ouyen 28 Mar 2024	\$35	




HOW TO FIND US

Stansfeld Park
430 Monrevel north
(a 4.5-hour drive)
Australia along sealed
roads. Our parking can
take up to 20-25 vehicles
with a 20-seater capacity.

Commercial flights
are available to Port
Augusta and Whyalla.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
This booklet is available at:
Wilson Point Visitor Centre
Wilson Point Resort
Dearrains of Encompass Land Management, Whyalla
Howell International Transport

PH 8648 0706
PH 8648 0048
PH 8648 0054
PH 8648 0049
PH 8648 4207

UHF RADIO CHANNELS

Stansfeld Park Channel
Howell Channel
4th Channel
4th Channel

CONTACT US

PH 8648 0700
info@rawnsleyparkstation.au
www.rawnsleyparkstation.au

Adventure in an Ancient Land

What better way to discover the Flinders Ranges than on your own 4WD self guided tour? Discover the unique rock formations, steep gorges and the beautiful Australian landscape at its best. This booklet will guide you through an unforgettable adventure through the Central Flinders Ranges, with map and GPS coordinates to keep you on track.

1. Wide River Beds and River Red Gums

\$ 31 41 298 / E 138 34 635
These river beds only see water more than once or twice a year. Without river flooding every few years, these gum trees would not be able to survive in such a semi-arid area.

2. Native Pines

Costa, CA 2020 29
\$ 31 41 565 / E 138 35 267
These tall green pines regrowed significantly after two consecutive wet years over 1973 and 1974, where the annual rainfall doubled the long term average of 300mm. In favourable conditions these trees can reach up to 90m tall. The red gum forest is a great place for foraging as it contains a resin which is resistant to termites.

3. Narrow Leaved Hop Bush

Costa, CA 2020 29
\$ 31 41 680 / E 138 35 720
A shrub with sticky, narrow green leaves. The hop bush is very hardy and thrives on disturbed grounds.

4. Chace and Elder Range

\$ 31 41 704 / E 138 35 968
The Chace and Elder Range you can see to your right is a very old range of hills that predominate the red brown Barrow Sandstone and the orange red Rawnsley Quartzite. The different coloured strata within the range are a result of the different sedimentary layers that were deposited when this region was covered by a shallow ocean 550-850 million years ago.

5. Black Oak

Costa, CA 2020 29
\$ 31 41 900 / E 138 38 555
A medium sized tree with dark grey bark and slender striated branches. The species propagates readily from seed and is very hardy, being able to grow in any area although the nutritional content is low.

6. Gregory Gap

\$ 31 41 793 / E 138 38 503
The Gregory Gap can be viewed within the Chace Range on your right. The track was cleared by brothers, Tom and Jack Gregory, and is a very narrow track that is often steep on both sides of the gap.

7. Dog Fence

\$ 31 41 709 / E 138 38 426
A fence line that runs east along the track. The fence was built in the late 1800s to keep sheep out of the newly settled farming land. Between 1910 and 2000 dingoes were almost extinct in the Flinders Ranges area, however over the last decade many sightings have been reported.

8. Quandong/Native Peach

Sorotum Accumatum
\$ 31 41 675 / E 138 38 490
This lovely quandong tree is a rare yet widespread plant. Its fleshy red fruits are well liked by parrots of the area, as they are very high in vitamin C (twice that of an orange). The tree has a similar taste to nectarbush and is a commonly made tea drink or steamed in pies.

9. Bullock Bush

Alectryon Olidifolius
\$ 31 40 601 / E 138 40 587
A medium sized bush with dark grey bark and olive green leaves. The bush is very hardy and is commonly found here within the Woodroffe formation. This surface is predominantly limestone and approximately 570 million years old.

10. Jim Gehling Camp

\$ 31 39 905 / E 138 42 141
This is a very old site where paleontologist Dr. Jim Gehling and other scientists regularly camp when searching the ridges of the Chace Range for Ediacaran fossils. The Ediacaran fossils are the oldest known animal species, between 542 and 635 million years old. The species consist of many plants and animals found on the earth as well as jelly fish, sea sponges, sea stars and worm like organisms.

11. Martins Well Road

\$ 31 39 229 / E 138 43 642
A dirt road that runs north from the left onto Martins Well Road to return to Rawnsley Park via Pugglett Hill Lookout. 4WD is continue on to stop 13.

12. Pugglett Hill Lookout

\$ 31 39 784 / E 138 40 622
Pugglett meaning to fight with fists. The Pugglett family owned the two station beside has a first light on top of this hill in the early 1900s. The hill provides a fantastic view of Wilpena Pound which stretches 17 km long, 8 km wide and reaches heights of up to 1177m above sea level. 4WD vehicles turn right onto the track before the grid on Martins Well Road leading to stop 13.

13. 4WD Gate

\$ 31 38 292 / E 138 40 535
This is the beginning of the steep ascent to Prelinna Lookout.
ENGAGE 4WD INTO LOW RANGE

14. Lichen on Pine Trees

\$ 31 38 110 / E 138 41 302
The orange lichen you see growing on the pine trees found only on the shaded southern hill slope. The lichen breaks down the wood and bark of the pine trees replenishing the topsoil with nutrients.

15. Prelinna Lookout

\$ 31 38 595 / E 138 41 477
Approximately 680 metres above sea level, Prelinna Lookout provides a beautiful panoramic view of the central Flinders Ranges, including Wilpena Pound, the Yarrabubba and the Yarrabubba and Elder Ranges. Please sign the visitor's book below the letterbox.

16. Prelinna Descent

\$ 31 37 694 / E 138 42 976
Please be aware as you depart the first creek after leaving Prelinna Lookout.
ENGAGE 4WD INTO LOW RANGE FIRST GEAR

17. Wilpena Creek Lookout

\$ 31 38 090 / E 138 43 446
Wilpena Creek follows the line of river red gums seen in the foreground. The creek flows through the valley behind Wilpena Creek is the major creek flowing from Wilpena Pound and draining into Lake Frome.

18. Lunch/Morning Tea Stop

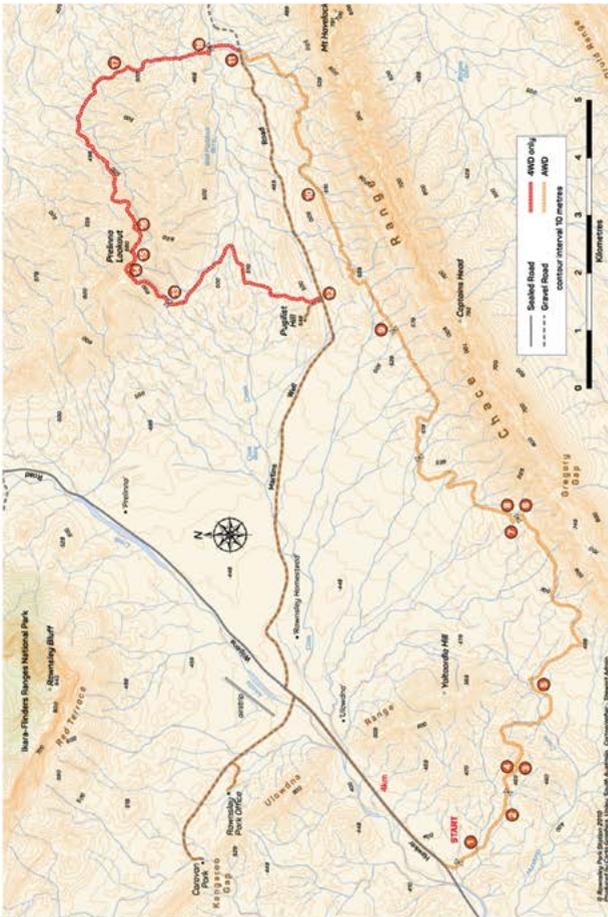
\$ 31 38 558 / E 138 43 385
A picnic table and long drop toilet are located at Saboura. Please be aware the trees are still taking you to Rawnsley Park via Pugglett Hill.
Congratulations you have finished your 4WD Adventure!
Turn right at Martins Well Road to return to Rawnsley Park via Pugglett Hill.



Discover the beautiful, untouched landscapes of the Flinders Ranges in your own 4WD or AWD



See www.rawnsleypark.com.au for more information



ARKAPENA SELF-DRIVE TRACK – 4WD

Explore neighbouring Arkapena Station from the comfort of your own vehicle. You'll get to explore picturesque station tracks, creek-beds, fences and the pristine Chace and ABC Ranges. Duration: 4.5 hours 4WD. Please note that the AWD section is 4WD only at the moment.

*4WD Cost per vehicle: \$60
(plus \$10 refundable key deposit)
/AWD \$50 per vehicle*

PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR

- The Arkapena Track is made up of two sections
- AWD and 4WD is approximately 3.5 hours
- AWD and 4WD (if included) return time: approximately 4.5 hours
- Pick up key from Office or Caravan Park sign "terms and conditions" and pay access fee
- Ensure your vehicle has enough fuel and is well maintained
- Carry an adequate amount of water and food
- Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses are recommended
- Notify your key pick up of your departure and expected return

DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

DIV 1 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Steve Clark	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	0419 369 728
Secretary	Kevin Kennelly	kfkennelly@gmail.com	0407 000 734
Treasurer	Peter Whitehurst		9560 0303
Marshal	Kerryn Maxwell	kerrynmaxwell9@hotmail.com	
Assistant Marshal	Daryl Barker		0419 564 788

DAYLESFORD

September

We had 7 vans for a very cold weekend at Daylesford. The temperatures overnight dropped to 4 degrees so the winter woolies got unpacked and the heaters were turned on. The Royal Hotel was very cosy and warm for a lovely dinner with a wide selection of meals ordered, and enjoyed by all. We welcomed visitors Neil and Linda to the Division and had a good time, before making the chilly journey back for the night.

We had a bit of rain overnight but the sun came out on and off and everyone did their own thing on Saturday. Some went into town and Hepburn Spring to have a look around at the Botanical Gardens, Chocolate factory and wool mills or went off to visit family, others stayed at the park and had a walk around the lake and looked at the waterfall and old rail bridge. We all enjoyed the 40 resident Peacocks who were very keen to show of their beautiful feathers to the Peahens.

Happy hour was enjoyed in the camp kitchen and we were updated on the various goings on in the club by Rob. Unfortunately, the room was a little too cold for most and everyone returned to their vans for dinner.

Sunday mornings always come around too soon and the pickups started early ready for the travel home.



BONNIE DOON

October

There were 6 vans at this rally, with 5 arriving on Friday and 1 Saturday.

Friday was wet and cold on our arrival although the rain stopped the cold wind remained throughout the day. The wild life a cockatoo and a magpie greeted us walking right up to our feet. With no list of attendance and no cappers to guide us we all gathered and decided to go to the Bonnie Doon hotel for dinner. Our club president spoke to the office to get the number of those who had booked for the rally. Based on their information Rob booked for 12 people which included Allan. We had happy Hour in the camp kitchen before heading to the hotel for dinner which Allan joined us for both.

Saturday brought a very welcome nice sunny day a contrast to Friday. Anne and Stev came to explain the new rally arrangements for next year's rally Calander with division 2&3 joining division 1 for rallies on a trial basis for next year. Some of us were a little unsure how it will work , only time will tell. After lunch we all went to Allan's farm for afternoon tea, he had invited us at dinner the previous night. Everyone took something to share with our coffee. Then we all took a tour of his shed where we were shown his beer can collection it was very impressive. Then he guided us on a 4 wheel drive track to the top of the hill to a magnificent view of the area, well worth the drive. Then it was back to the caravan park for happy hour and dinner. During happy hour Peter asked for a volunteer to write the rally report. With no rush of volunteers and after a long pause I volunteered and was rewarded with the lucky draw prize. It was quite cold, so everyone settled in their warm vans for the night.

Sunday morning was pack up and head for home for some while others chose to stay another night.

Thanks to all who helped make this a great weekend and showed how as caravanners we all get together and make this happen.



BALLARAT

November

Our rally of 10 vans and one cabin saw some early arrivals on Wednesday followed by the majority on Friday and Saturday. The weather was warm so Nigel and Janeen decided to go for a swim at the adjacent pool, only to find it closed, but eventually found another location to cool down and relax.

The group met for a happy hour or two under the shade at Mick and Linda's van on Friday before heading to the Golden Point Hotel for an excellent evening meal with resident magician to entertain us whilst dinner was served.

Saturday was much cooler due to an overnight change. People explored Ballarat by visiting the Botanical Gardens , markets , shops and viewing the great old architecture from the gold rush era. There are also plenty of lunch options available which were enjoyed by several .

The highlight of the rally was the Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebration for Peter and Fran Whitehurst. Many of their family members came to join in the event and provided an excellent afternoon tea. They also received letters of congratulations from King Charles and Queen Carmilla, the Governor General, David Hurley and the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese. Congratulations to Peter and Fran from all your RACVCC friends.

Happy hour was held in the Rec Room and Steve gave us an update on the trial to combine the Div 1, 2 & 3 rallies in 2024 as the number of attendees has been dropping . This would make group activities more viable in the future. Each Division will retain their committee and need to coordinate with the other divisions.

The meeting was followed by a group dinner and lots of talking before returning to our vans and some sleep.

Sunday was cool as we packed up, wished each other well and headed for home after an enjoyable weekend.



SEYMOUR

December

Our December Christmas rally was held at the Highlands Caravan Park having 8 caravans arriving on Friday despite the rain with Colin and Elaine Spicer taking a Cabin also their son Grant Spicer and family in a Cabin. Late arrivals saw the Bright family in their new caravan during happy hour and we thank our newly elected Div 1 committee for supplying and cooking their specialty hot dogs for Friday night's communal dinner, the night continued with lots of banter round past rallies and club events and even having one of our senior members Reg Clark join with us for the festivities.

Saturday morning was free to look around town and surrounding area with one more van arriving Alan and Wanda Sanderson, the day brought us perfect weather for our continuing festivities. Saturday arvo 3.30pm afternoon tea with Santa arriving to great joy of the children, Mum's and Dad's following on were speeches and fees our VP Steve welcomed the new Committee and expanded on the combined rallies of 1, 2, & 3 next year.

Happy hour continued for a bit after when we all crossed the road and made for the Royal Hotel where the committee had organised a beautiful traditional Christmas Dinner. Sunday morning tea with cakes and coffee with Merry Christmas and goodbye to all safe travels.

Santa arrived to great joy of the children...



DIV 2 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Alan Jennings	ayjay357@bigpond.com	0458 219 279
Secretary	Bill Penney	twopennies@bigpond.com	0436 411 000
Treasurer	Ken Slade	kmsjes1@bigpond.com	0490 338 037
Marshal	Pat Glover	jpaglover@hotmail.com	9733 4827 0428 610 124

SEYMOUR

October

Three vans Thursday & that was it other than 2 cabins on the Friday. Bob Jobling & Carol would have been with us but Carol was not well.

Thursday the weather was not kind but good enough for a look around town & a bit of shopping. Friday the weather picked up & the sun came out, Seymour park is on two levels & the lower section was still under flood, many of the cabins on the upper section had been flooded last October & still under repair. Friday night was a visit & dinner at the Railway Hotel, John Glovers' sister Sandra joined us at dinner. There were fireworks that night celebrating the Seymour Show opening. Jude & Pat drove to a vantage point to watch the fun.

Friday night was a visit & dinner at the Railway Hotel...



Saturday morning tea saw a visit from Steve Clark & Anne Cecil to discuss the future of Div 1,2 & 3, Anne shared with us the 24 Calendar which she had put a lot of work into collating the respective Div calendars for next year. They had called in on their way to Bonnie Doon for the Div 1 rally. That morning some were off to the Seymour Show, a typical country show with so much to see & enjoy, it really was superb & thoroughly appreciated by those that attended. Dinner Saturday night was Corned Beef & Veg, mustard gravy all cooked & eaten at the park. Pat & John did a great job & all present enjoyed the meal & the efforts. Lyn Penney presented her famous Lemon tart which is always a welcome dessert. As if we were still hungry we followed that with Plum Pudding, Cream & Custard.

Sunday another top day, we said cheerio to the Cabin folk & after morning tea it was off to explore some more of the area including Pioneer Cemetery, Vietnam Memorial & other historical sights. Arvo was spend snoozing & reading or watching Bathurst.

Monday morning saw us all off home.



Lyn Penney presented her famous Lemon tart which is always a welcome dessert. As if we were still hungry we followed that with Plum Pudding, Cream & Custard.



DIV 3 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Marshal			

COWES

October

Phillip Island was the place to be, not for everyone but several of us ventured out on the first full weekend of October to the holiday island.

The Beach Caravan Park was our home for two days, with 2 caravans, one motorhome and three cabin dwellers enjoying the facilities provided by the small park situated on the beach and only a short walk into Cowes.

The weather covered all four seasons with a sprinkle of rain, some lovely sunshine and occasional gusts of wind. Didn't stop us from finding some sun filled pickets of warmth to enjoy a chat with a glass of wine and the must have cheese and bikkies.

Friday night saw us all gathered and the local RSL to enjoy a meal and engage in conversation with other members and some of the locals.

Saturday morning arrived with a quick visit to the Farmers Market on Churchill Island and then a drive to San Remo to watch the pelican feeding on the beach front. A lot of cars, tour buses and people around, waiting, waiting and waiting, but no pelicans to be seen. A sole stingray floated past so I guess the viewing was not a complete loss.



A quick fish and chip lunch at the fish co op before returning back to the caravan park where we gathered for fives and a poetry recital by one of our members Don. Don writes his own poetry and everyone gave him ten out of ten for his verses. Well done Don!

Everyone was packed up and ready to head home on Sunday morning with one lady packing up extra early to get home in time to watch Bathurst car racing. Who knew that Dot was a rev head!

*Safe travels everyone
and hope to catch up soon.*

FRANKSTON

December

We were a very small crowd of 6 members. Friday night dinner was at The Baxter Tavern where we were joined by former members Deb and Paul Anderson. We had some drinkies followed by a very enjoyable meal and long chat.

Saturday morning was very wet so our mince pie and shortbread morning tea was held at the Pennies house.

In the afternoon the weather was still ordinary so the local shopping centre was the only place to be.

Saturday night dinner was again held at Dorothy and Graemes house where we had pre dinner drinks followed by a lovely roast chicken and vegetable pack dinner from a local shop.

Dessert was a sponge pudding encased in hard chocolate and drizzled with hot chocolate sauce.

A great night was had by all.



DIV 4 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Robbie Booth	robbiebooth@hotmail.com	0413 222 203
Secretary	Michelle Sommers	Racvccdiv4@gmail.com	0422 286 642
Treasurer	Cherie Evans	Chez.ford@hotmail.com	0404 851 025
Marshal	Paul McKinnon	paul.mckinnon@bigpond.com	0422 382 774

LAKE BURRUMBEET

September

Friday, weather disgusting, gale force winds, messages between caravanners to see if we were game enough to head off up the Western Highway. We decided to give it a go, so Pat and David, Keith and Helen and Robert and Julie set off. Very interesting drive with the wind buffeting the vans but we all made it safely and pulled onto the sites. The wind was worse coming across the lake so that we could barely open the van doors to get to Keith and Helen's van to spend the afternoon and night there with the heating on. The boys ventured to the Camp Kitchen/Rec Room after dinner to watch the footy. Around 8pm, Cherie, Maurice and Logan arrived but we didn't see them until the morning.

Saturday – it was so very cold overnight, 4 degrees in our van, 2 degrees warmer than the fridge! In the morning Kerri and Beverley arrived with their new van and Sue and David Shrubshall had booked into a cabin. We drove into Ballarat for a short walk and then the mandatory coffee and nibbles at Pipers on Lake Wendouree. Robbie, Donna, Bella and Tyler arrived there with van in tow to join us. It was quite cosy inside looking out over the lake. Back at the park, some of us went for a walk beside the lake which would be absolutely beautiful in warmer weather, only to see the warning signs about the local snakes at the end of the trail. Back to the park again and everyone decided to head to the Rec Room where a very welcome coonara style wood heater was burning, thanks to some of the menfolk and the park for the wood. The footy was on the TV of course.

We stayed in there for fivesies and dinner, we all brought along food to share; nice and hot and tasty and enjoyed each others company. Bella and Logan played some table tennis and little Tyler kicked on late into the night. He is a very chilled little baby. Robbie delivered the VP Speech and reminded us all to pay our membership fees. There was a total of 6 caravans including visitors Beverley and Kerri from Div 3 and Sue and David who stayed in a cabin.

It turned out to be an enjoyable rally and after a cuppa and morning tea in the Rec Room on Sunday, we all headed for home in much nicer weather, except for Beverley and Kerri who were staying for another night. Looking forward to Broken Creek in October.

Julie and Robert

BROKEN CREEK

October

A total of 13 vans attended the October rally at Broken Creek Bush Camp which is approx. 15kms from Benalla, off the Midland Highway. That total included Kevin Taylor who visited from Division 6, and David Moore who has been a Div 4 member for a few years but this was the first rally he had attended in his own van. He had previously attended a couple of times in a borrowed van or swag.

David and Pat Mayer arrived on Thursday and almost all others arrived during the day on Friday. Robbie, Donna and Bella arrived at around 11pm on Friday night. Their little boy, our youngest member Tyler, had arrived during the day with grandparents, Keith and Helen. The final arrival, on Saturday, was Kaye Sanders.

Many went for Friday night's dinner at the Bowls Club in Benalla, after which some sat around campfires back at the bush camp.

Being a bush camp, there was plenty of room to camp among the trees but no power or water available to vans. There were showers and toilets and a well-appointed, large camp kitchen as well as provision for large or small campfires.

Weather forecasts leading up to the weekend had suggested it may be another wet and cold rally but as it turned out we had lovely, sunny days – although the nights were cool.

On Saturday, some went into Benalla, some went on a tour of silo art and the less-energetic sat around in the sunshine back at the camp.

At night, a big combined cookout was prepared with 4 camp ovens devoted to stews and 3 with dampers. As well as the older camp cooks, Cherie and Maurice's son Logan cooked some sausages, potatoes and desserts on the campfire as part of a Cub Scout badge test. This badge is the last that Logan needs to achieve Grey Wolfe status, which is the highest award.

All enjoyed a hearty meal around the campfire.

Unfortunately, the night was marred for Carole who tripped and fell on her way back to her van. It was revealed after she and Laurie returned home on Sunday that she needed a trip to hospital for a broken bone in her hip. Early indications are that she won't need surgery but will probably need physio and to take things easy for a while.

That aside, it was a very enjoyable rally in a pleasant location in nice weather. Just what we wanted! Thank you, Committee; we really appreciate the effort you put into ensuring we have enjoyable rallies.

November

17 vans and 1 tent attended which was a great turn out.

Friday

We all started to arrive from 1pm and started setting up.

For those who had arrived we had 5zzz then went out for dinner at the Showman's Bar and Café, which I must say was fantastic. Food was your normal pub meal, but we all left with empty plates and were very satisfied. Best of all it was dog friendly.

Throughout the evening more vans arrived.

Saturday

In the morning the sun was shining and we all set off to the Botanic Gardens in Geelong, where we had a lovely walk around looking at how beautiful the gardens were. After our walk we all met at the park next door for lunch where the committee supplied sausage in bread for everyone. We all sat around on the lawn enjoying the sun and eating our sausage in bread. Thank you to the committee and to those that cooked and cleaned. Rod you are the BBQ king :).

After lunch most went back to the showgrounds for a bit of a rest and others went and checked out a festival at the grounds called it's a Mob Thing. There was some aboriginal music and culture kids. We enjoyed riding the smoothie bikes and learning about aboriginal culture.

4pm we all came together to pay fees and participate in the silent auction. Thank you to everyone for bringing something for the auction and for all your purchases, we made \$400. We then had our 3 birthday boys Robbie, Darren and Paul cut the birthday cake as it was too big to transfer to bowls. Happy 40th boys.

5.30pm we headed to lawn bowls where we ate nibbles, bowled and enjoyed pizza, it was a great night.

Sunday

Another lovely morning saw some early bird's set off home as they had work/other commitments and others headed down to the waterfront to have a look at the market which had a lot to offer.

After the market some went to the Little Creatures Brewery for lunch while others did their own thing.

We then gathered for 5zzz this time in the shade :))

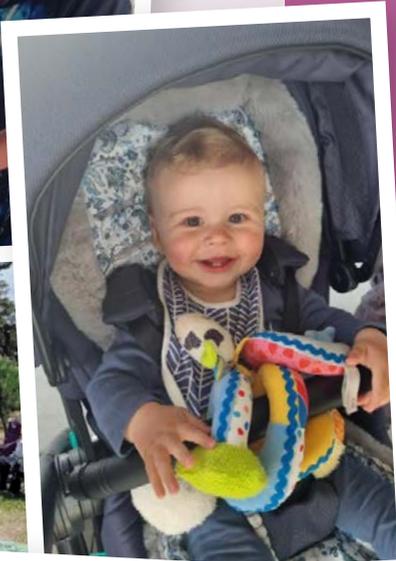
Monday

A few set off home while others went to find some bargains at the surf outlets before heading to the Chocolaterie to eat scones the size of cakes and lots of chocolate.

For those left it was time to pack up Tuesday morning and head home back to reality. It was a great rally with lots of fun and laughter.

Thank you to Frank who is collecting cans and donating all funds back to the club, this rally he got over \$9 on his first trip.

Darren Winning



December

18 vans attended which was a great turn out, with Robert and Julie staying at the local motel due to car problems on their way to Euroa. 4 visitors/3 vans joined us for this rally.

Friday

Most attendees arrived throughout Friday leaving the bad weather behind and arriving on a pleasantly warm and sunny day.

The children took advantage of the on-site pool for some afternoon fun, although the water was cold apparently.

Fivesies by the scenic Seven Creeks was well attended with lots of catching up, eating and drinking - very enjoyable.

After dinner, wood was delivered by the local Rotary Club and some gathered around the fire and others relaxed at their van.

Saturday

The weather was very kind to us despite the forecast, waiting for rain but all we had was lovely sun.

Morning tea was a feast, lots of yummy treats on offer supplied by everyone. We then moved into some shade by the creek for an enthusiastic, although not very loud, singalong to carols and Christmas songs. The children put on a couple of lovely performances for us and roped in some adults for a great Christmas dance.

The committee organised a magnificent lunch for us all and, despite fears of a thunderstorm, the weather stayed nice.

The children enjoyed another swim before an exciting visit from Santa followed by games such as sack races, the parachute, candy cane hunt and limbo. Then it was the adults' turn.....Secret Santa gifts brought plenty of hilarity and lots of stealing.....especially where the chocolates were concerned! Fate was determined that Mike should win a raffle prize so, despite passing on the first draw, both he and Robbie took home hampers and Merlyn has a new coffee machine for her van!

A very busy day was finished off with a delicious buffet dinner with a solo artist playing music for us at the Seven Creeks Hotel followed by marshmallows toasted on the open fire back at camp.

Sunday

Most of us packed up to head home with a lucky few opting for an extra day's stay. Not sure if we'll fit in our clothes after all the eating we've done though!

A very enjoyable Christmas rally over until next year.

Many thanks to the committee for all their hard work.



The children enjoyed another swim before an exciting visit from Santa



DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

COMMITTEE DETAILS

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Marshal	Stella Breese	Marshall-racvdiv5@hotmail.com	0425 705 675



We then left the bitumen and headed off to Balt Camp in the Wombat State Forest...

BALLAN

October

The Division 5 March Rally was held at Ballan and we had 4 caravans, and 1 cabin attend the weekend. It was great to have along for their first rally, Janice and Roger, welcome to the division and we hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Everyone had arrived Friday and gathered for happy hour and a chat. This was a great time and thanks to Michael for organising the fire which was relaxing to sitting around and also kept the chill away. We headed into town for dinner at the 'Great Western Hotel', the room was nice and warm, food was great as was the company. After dinner we headed back to camp and retired for the evening.

Saturday we all gathered at David & Stella's cabin at 9:30 for a quick meeting where we discussed the activities for the day and what's happening in the club. We had the morning free to explore the town and some met at the bakery for coffee and chat. The coffee and cakes were delicious. After lunch a dive to explore the nearby area was organised. We headed off in convoy with our first stop being Spargo Creek Mineral Springs Reserve, a short walk from the car park takes you to the spring. The water is of the sodium bicarbonate type and is often referred to as soda water: 'the water is particularly gassy and has a sweet Seltzer taste'. A few of us tasted the water but didn't fill up any containers to take home.

We then left the bitumen and headed off to Balt Camp in the Wombat State Forest. Balt Camp was built by the Forestry Commission to give employment to young displaced persons from Northern Europe after the 2WW in 1946. The site has remnants of accommodation and cookhouse buildings and was interesting to visit. We continued on to McLaughlins Lookout, although it was high in the range the views were obstructed by trees, we stayed there for a short period and headed to Blackwood and 'The Garden of St Erth'. The Garden of St Erth is a historic house and gardens, they also sell plants, seeds and gardening equipment. We didn't go through the gardens but browsed and some purchased items to take home.

During our trip we collected fire wood so it was time to head back to camp for happy hour. The fire was lit, wood stacked on which made the time pleasant as the night was cool. Happy hour continued into a pizza dinner. Peter had his electric pizza oven and heated pizza's and everyone enjoyed dinner around the camp fire.

The rally concluded Sunday morning with everyone having enjoyed themselves.



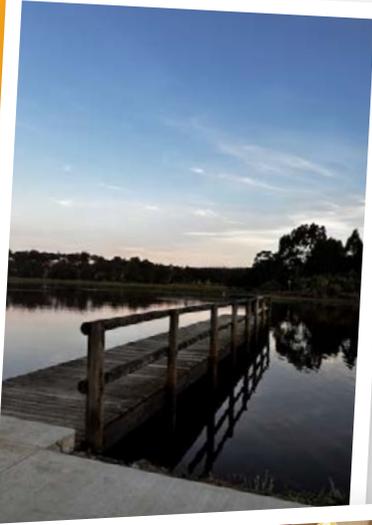
LAKE BEAUFORT

November

The division 5 rally for November was held at Lake Beaufort Caravan Park. The park was large and had clean amenities. The weather for the weekend was dry but the wind at times was cool which made walking around the lake quite pleasant. We had 4 caravans for the weekend including visitors Rob and Barbara from Div 1, hope you had a great time.

Everyone had arrived by Friday afternoon, we gathered at 4:30 for happy hour behind the caravans sitting in the sun, it was a great time catching up and having a chat while having drinks and nibbles. Following this we headed off to the Golden Age Hotel in town for dinner, Stella (our rally marshal) had booked a table in a quiet corner overlooking the street, the meals were very enjoyable, and everyone had a great time. After dinner we headed back to camp for a rest and retired for the evening.

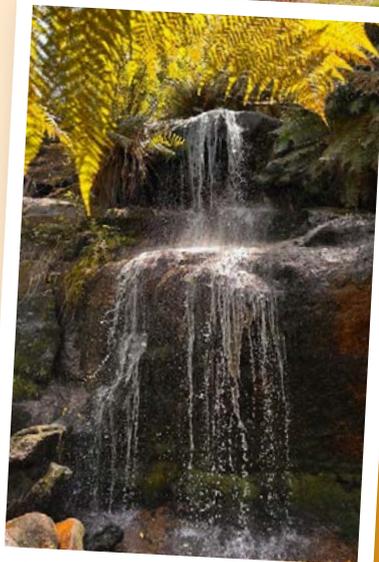
Saturday morning, we gathered at 9:30 at Dawn and Bruce's for a quick meeting, following this we all headed into town to explore and a visit to the Christmas Shop and also the Imperial Egg Gallery. In town we all gathered for a coffee at the Pyrenees Pantry, they had a good selection of cakes and fantastic scones. The Christmas Shop was in an old church and had a huge display of everything Christmas, decorations, ornaments and so much more for sale. It was interesting in the old church area; the floor was sloped to enable people to see the minister at the front. Most of us left having bought items as the prices that were very reasonable and items good quality. We then headed to the Egg Gallery, the owner met us at the door and on taking us in he proceeded to talk about the different eggs, how carved and their origins. After having a good look around we then headed back to camp for lunch.



Saturday afternoon was a relaxing time, the planned game did not eventuate with all happy to sit and chat. Dinner was roast chicken provided by the club and salads and desert provided by those attending. We sat in a sheltered area but the breeze was a bit cool. The roast and salads were delicious and the morang, strawberry jelly and cream topped off a great meal. After dinner we all headed back to our vans as it was cool.



Sunday morning we headed off about 11am for the drive and picnic lunch at Ferntree in the Mount Buangor State Park. About at 40 minute drive had us arriving at our destination, we went for a short walk to the Ferntree Waterfalls which was very nice place set in the bush amongst tall bluegum trees and tree ferns. After the water falls we headed back to the car park and found a picnic table for lunch. A pleasant time was had by all before we headed back to camp. We again met for happy hour and a chat before retiring for the evening.



Monday we woke to a fine day, saying our farewells we headed off for home. All in all a great weekend was had by all.



*...the morang,
strawberry jelly
and cream topped
off a great meal.*

MANSFIELD

December



Our December Christmas rally was well attended with 34 people turning up. Quite a few members arrived on Thursday with the remainder arriving Friday. We stayed at the High Country Holiday Park close into town, the park had large sites, numerous cabins and a suitable camp kitchen that was large enough to cater for our group. Both the amenities and grounds were clean and well kept. We were fortunate during the weekend that the weather was fine with just a little rain one night.

Friday morning saw some head off to Craigs Hut high atop Mt Stirling, around 51 kilometres from Mansfield, the hut was originally constructed as the set for the 1982 film *The Man from Snowy River*. The round trip took most of the day after having stopped along the way for morning tea and a good look around the hut. It was a great trip and the views were spectacular, well worth a visit.

Happy hour was at 4:30 and drinks and platters provided by the club. It was a great to see us all catching up and sharing stories of trips and other adventures during the year. The platters were prepared by Stella and was very tasty, thanks Stella for preparing the food. After a couple of hours, it was time to head back to our caravans or cabin for dinner and a rest.

Saturday morning started with us all gathering at the camp kitchen for a quick meeting. David went through what was happening within the club and Stella provided details of the weekend program. 25 rally certificates were presented to Sue and Geoff and also Gay and Michael, congratulations on this achievement.

After the meeting everyone had free time before meeting at the Delatite Hotel for our Christmas lunch. The hotel provided a private function room,



they decorated it for Christmas and the 2 course meal of turkey and alpine smoked ham with trimmings was one of the best meals we have ever had. Everyone commented on how delicious the food was and the service was second to none.

Following lunch, we headed back to camp to relax before happy hour and a finger food snacks. We dressed up in Christmas attire and enjoyed ourselves over drinks and a chat. Afterwards we all headed back to our caravans or cabin and retired for the evening.

Sunday morning coffee at the camp kitchen concluded the weekend but a number of people stayed on an extra few days, enjoying Mansfield surrounds such as Mt Buller.

It was a great Christmas rally, fine weather, great company and fantastic food. Thanks to Stella for organising a great weekend. Thanks also to the committee for their hard work during the year.

Have a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in 2024.



DIV 6 RALLY REPORTS

COMMITTEE DETAILS

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Marshal	Anne Nichol	bunnyannenichol@gmail.com	0422 410 713



HEALESVILLE

October

Division 6 spent their weekend soaking up the spring sun in Healesville, exploring local businesses, feeding wild birds and walking unexpectedly steep nature trails.

Enjoying good food and wine div 6 spent their Friday night at the Innocent Bystander laughing over gourmet pizza and desserts (little cones of joy!).

Half of div 6 spent their Saturday exploring the timeless streets and local businesses of Healesville, whilst the other half took a small trek to the breathtaking Badger Weir for a little escape from the bustling streets and to learn a bit about the town's heritage. Being able to feed wild native crimson rosellas with our own hands (thanks Hayley!!).

Later in the day we spent our afternoon relaxing at the Badger Creek Blueberry Winery, where the adults tasted some interesting infusions.

Happy Birthday Beechworth Bakery, some members spent their Saturday afternoon feeding their face full of delicious sweet treats and greeting Piety Pie!

Later in the night was filled with games, laughter and community. As our communal hotdog dinner was going off! Thankyou to the hardworking committee who provided the scrumptious dinner for us all to enjoy.

The park has had a major facelift since we last attended making all members very impressed with the new wonderful amenities on offer. Lovely job Healesville Big4!!

Madi Robinson & Liam Teaunsen

CAPEL SOUND

November

Our rally began on the Friday with 5 vans arriving at Capel Sound. Greg and Hayley, Julie and Phil, Julie and Craig, Gill and Lindsay and Fiona and Kevin.

Some went out for dinner to Ruby Thai in Rye which was quote "bloody beautiful" and others had fish and chips from the local shop across the road from the park. Kevin reportedly drank all of his allocated wine for the weekend on the Friday night so it looks like he will need to make a trip to the bottle shop or it will be a dry weekend for him!

Saturday the rest of the party arrived with Roz and Charlie and Mandy and David and also Indya.

There was some shopping done by some before lunch, then it was straight into games.

Gill cooked some pies for herself and Lindsay in the oven and forgot about them!! 1 ½ hours later realised!! Luckily the oven turned off, they weren't burnt, they were still a little frozen in the middle.

We all enjoyed playing Finska, bocce and bag toss and sharing stories whilst sitting in the sun. David made a few shots for us which we had during fivesies and before!!

After dinner we gathered in Gill and Lindsay's annexe and played a few games of greed. The weather cooled down quite considerably after dinner. We were luck however, no rain.

On Sunday morning it was lucky David and Mandy had left a window open in the van, as Mandy accidentally locked themselves out. Greg to the rescue, Mandy climbed or got pushed through the open window with Gregs help!

Mandy & David and Roz & Charlie left to venture home while others enjoyed their visit to St Andrew's Brewery. All had food and drinks, well almost, Fiona and Indya's seafood platter took quite a while to come out, "maybe they had to catch the seafood before preparing it!!"

A walk along the beach by the Anders and Hatzys was then in order after the Brewery and some black swans were spotted.

After returning to camp a gelato was then on the menu for all and Julie P recommended the chocolate!

It was fivesies time once again and Finska was played. Hayley won by default, she was doing a Bradbury was quoted!!

The block was watched on Sunday night by all, being the Auctions episode and the end of the block season for this year.

Monday morning drew a close to our rally with the remainder of us going home.

It was a most enjoyable rally and we all had lots of fun together.

Mandy & David





*An organisation
devoted solely to the
interest of Caravanners*

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