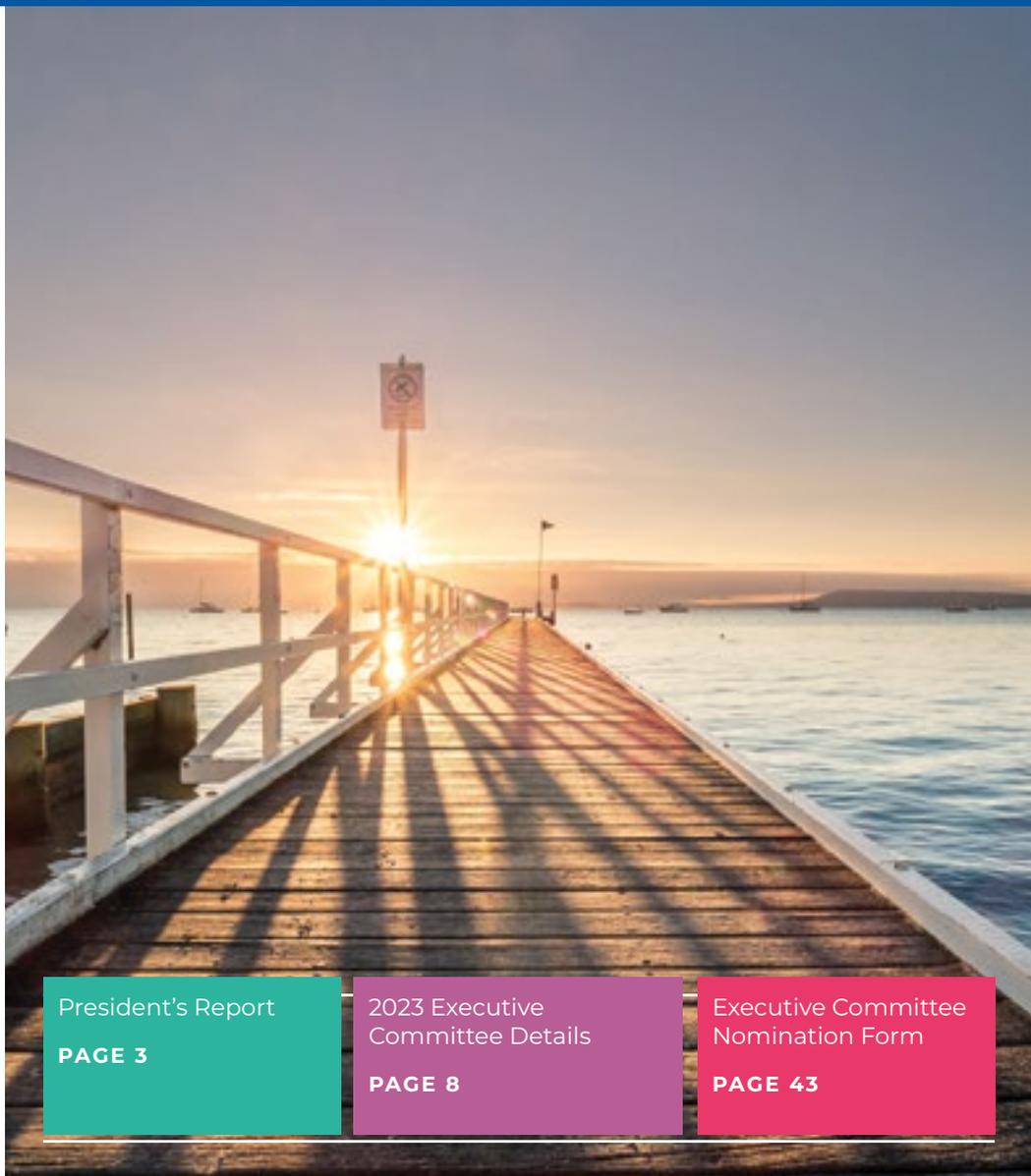




RACV CARAVAN CLUB

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER | VOL. 50 | NO. 186



President's Report

PAGE 3

2023 Executive
Committee Details

PAGE 8

Executive Committee
Nomination Form

PAGE 43



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENTS REPORT	3
VALE: FRANK ACKROYD NEIL TAYLOR	5
VALE: MAX EDMENDS	6
2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DETAILS	8
NATIONAL RALLY REPORT	10
TRAVELLING RALLY REPORTS	16
DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS	24
Division 1	25
Division 2	28
Division 3	30
Division 4	34
Division 5	38
Division 6	40
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM	43

Newsletter Material to:

The Editor: Julie Mason

Email: julierat6@gmail.com

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone

The days are cold and the nights are colder if you're still a worker you're probably stuck in Melbourne or if your lucky you have managed to escape north like many of our members have. Rallies continue but numbers seem to be down, I think some people are finding it too cold and preferring to stay dry at home in front of the heater. We are back to counting attendance points (Rally Points) so your division is required to submit a rally report after each rally.

CAMERONS BIGHT

By the time you read this the allocations will be completed and all the notifications sent out. We did not get our usual early advice regarding site pricing so we could not inform you when the applications were sent out. Our discounts are gone and like all caravan parks the fees have gone up. If you wish to stay during the off peak season you will need to book direct with the WhiteCliffs to Camerons Bight Rangers office.

We were informed at our meeting in February that the Committee of Management was changing in August. Once that occurs we will speak with them regarding future arrangements for us camping at the camp ground.

CARAVAN SHOW

The Association of Caravan Clubs of Vic is fortunate to again be provided a stand at the up coming Caravan Show compliments of the Caravan Industry Association of Victoria. This will give us an opportunity to attend the show and promote our club. Volunteers are needed to make these things work. If you are available to assist at the Sandown Show please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In this newsletter you will find a Membership Renewal form. To renew your membership deposit \$48 into our Bendigo Bank account fill out the form and forwarded it to our Club Secretary, email is good, post is fine. The Membership year starts 1st September and ends 31st August. You will have till 31st December to pay, after that time your membership will lapse and you will have to apply to re join the club.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nomination forms for Executive Committee positions are in this Newsletter. Nominations need to be with the Club Secretary by the 10th August.

This year we are looking for a new President. My 3 years are well past. Its time someone else stepped up and took the helm. Please speak with Heather McTaggart or myself for more information.

ALTERNATE RALLIES

The Division 5 "Tag a Long Tour" started from the Horsham State Rally and headed to the National Rally, was a lot of fun. They had a guest from the Coromal Caravan Club join in, they visited some great places including painted silos, free and low cost camps. See the rally report in this newsletter.

The 18th National Rally, Barmera SA was a great event. The weather was kind to us despite a bit of rain on the first day and some very cold nights. The activities and entertainment was good. The formal dinner on the last night was enjoyable. 19 of our members attended. Read about it a bit further on in this newsletter.

The next State Rally will be at Kerang over the weekend 15th – 18th March 2024, it's an alternate RACVCC Rally. Once again Stella Breese will be the activities director, there are lots of interesting and fun things planned.

The next National Rally is in 2025 hosted by the NSW Association it will be held 29th Sept to 8th Oct 2025 at the Australian Rural Education Centre Mudgee. They have available both powered and unpowered sites. They have started taking bookings, you can get more information from their website www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au.

On a sad note, we have lost 3 members Max Edmunds, Neil Taylor and Greg Heafield. Max and Neil were long time club members both contributed to the club over many years. Greg a more recent member of our club he too contributed to the club during his time with us. My sincere condolences to their families and friends.



STAY SAFE

ROB TAYLOR

FRANK ACKROYD NEIL TAYLOR

It is with great sadness I report the passing of my father our long serving and esteem member of RACV CC Div 1 Neil Taylor. He passed away 17th June 2023 aged 95.

He was passionate about the RACV Caravan Club, travelling and caravanning. He joined the caravan club in 1965 but it was not until the early 1970s that he and my mother (Jewel) became regular rally attenders, as his work took him overseas and interstate for extended periods. They owned caravans from the late 50's which they lived in while he worked remotely and took holidays in, on many trips to his home town Rockhampton, Yeppoon and sometimes Townsville.

Over the years frequently camped at Camerons Bight, with friends camping in Stringers Rd and living in the region. Attended over 500 Rallies.

In more recent years was a regular at Riverside Caravan Park, Rockhampton and the Broadwater Tourist Park Gold Coast. Enjoyed meeting up with many friends and meeting new people in those caravan parks and neighbouring suburbs.

A willing volunteer, he had a period on divisional committee, helped at Rallies and Camerons Bight. Neil was often seen helping friends and the residents in his Unit Complex.

His health deteriorated significantly over the past months, but was very appreciative of the help and care he was receiving. Now he is at peace.





MAX EDMENDS

The RACV Caravan Club lost a very dear, loyal and devoted friend and member in Max Edmends.

Slapsy Maxy, Uncle Max, Max or like us Maxy. He was very special.

Maxy joined the Caravan Club with Marion in many years ago when caravanning and caravans were so much different from today. But the qualities that Maxy brought to the Club have remained the same...someone who was approachable, friendly, and totally reliable and above all laid back and non-flappable under any circumstances.

Maxy had so many endearing values and this tribute is deliberately set out to hopefully capture the low key way in which Maxy enjoyed his caravanning days. He spent many devoted years as Marshal of Division 3, performing above and beyond what was demanded by the role.

He fastidiously kept a rally attendance book, and we often had a lot of fun looking back at who was there and reminiscing about what had happened at that particular rally. He was always readily available to assist new arrivals onto their site (something highly valued by most and never forgotten)

We think the art of reversing and manoeuvring came naturally to Maxy from his working days on the railways. To hear that calm quiet voice saying something like " just a touch more left hand down " was like winning the lottery for some... (especially us, even with 40 plus years of experience.)

Maxy and Marion enjoyed their time at Sorrento and when pie nights happened Maxy would cover the whole park with his list and there was never a glitch with numbers and money. He did in his quiet way like to organise.

Maxy loved a yarn with anyone and was very well versed about the Carlton Football Club, cricket, golf, and every other sport. He was also an avid crossword fan, and it was not unknown for a Herald Sun to have become increasingly dog eared over at least a three-day period whilst Maxy wrestled with the answer to that final elusive clue. Indeed, words seemed to fascinate Maxy and you would be hard pressed to upstage him in a game of Scrabble. His prowess at cards was also somewhat legendary. You were even harder pressed to beat him at that. His win/loss record at the game of 500 over the years would probably be worthy of an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

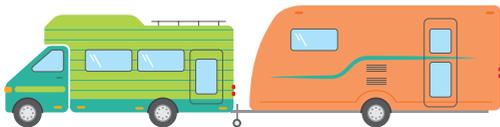
There is so much more that could be said about his mannerisms and quirks!

Although not the Grandfather of the Club his knowledge was worthy of being it. He and Marion caravanned for many years rallying, going North and going south to Sorrento.

Maxy certainly was the Grandfather of his family and a Great grandfather and loved and was hugely loved by his family...all of whom have followed in his love for caravans and caravanning.

From all those who knew him we bid a heartfelt farewell, send heartfelt wishes to his lovely family and to paraphrase Shakespeare he was another of our caravan members the like of which we will not see again.

*Slappsy Maxy,
Uncle Max, Max
or like us Maxy.
He was very
special.*



2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Rob Taylor	rta45179@bigpond.net.au	0423 027 209	
Secretary	Heather McTaggart JP	heather.mctaggart@hotmail.com	97370207 / 0419 576169	11 Fernhill Road, Mount Evelyn 3796
Treasurer	Ric Luiyf	rluyf@bigpond.com	0400 924 117	38 Langdale Drive, Croydon Hills 3136
Past President	Sandra Eldridge	sandgeo2@bigpond.com	5754 1915 / 0407 250 129	PO Box 90 Mt Beauty 3699
Activities Director	Anne Cecil	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	0418 346 925	PO Box 407, Seymour 3660
Newsletter & Website	Julie Mason	julierat6@gmail.com	0408 791 449	175B Wonga Road, Ringwood North 3134
New Member Specialist	Veronica Montauban	montauban@optusnet.com.au	0491 133 008	4 Ingliston Road, Ballan 3342

THE RACVCC IS SEEKING A NEW PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

For nominations please use the Executive Committee Nomination form on the final page. All nominations must reach the Secretary by the tenth day of August for publication prior to the Annual General Election.

NATIONAL RALLY REPORT

BARMARA SA

MARCH 27 – APRIL 5, 2023

After a delay of one year due to covid, the 18th National Caravan Rally was held at Barmara South Australia at the Riverland Events Centre from the 27th March to 5th April 2023. The events centre was within easy reach of Renmark, Berri, Loxton and Barmara in the Riverland which provided plenty of opportunity for activities in the area. The Events Centre was a huge site that provided plenty of room for caravans and motorhomes. The centre was fully grassed with each site having power and water, facilities included a large marquee for evening entertainment, large shed for trade show, amenities blocks, restaurant area that was used during the day for activities, first aid and administration building.





The RACVCC had 19 caravans, 36 people attend the rally with all arriving on the first day. Donna and Steve Hole were 'Street Captains' and it was great seeing their smiling faces on arrival as they were assisting directing caravans to their site. Well done Donna and Steve.

After setting up, everyone headed off to register and receive their welcome bags, sign up for activities or submit crafts. At 4pm, first timers to the rally headed off to the entertainment marquee for an information session.

The opening night commenced with 'Wine and Tastes of the Riverland' followed by speeches and entertainment. Club flags had been hung in the marquee that added to the atmosphere.

That night entertainment was country music performed by Amber Poulton singing songs of Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn to name a few, great performer and an excellent night.

Members participated in onsite activities...

Over the next week, members participated in onsite activities such as morning street breakfast, afternoon happy hours, disk bowls, boot scooting, LIMPICS afternoon being made up of a number of events such as egg and spoon race, darts, horseshoe throwing etc for the prize of either gold, silver or bronze cookies. Other things to do were watching presenters, dog obedience classes, meet the author, photo book making, bingo, quilting and Ukulele Jam Sessions. The SA Police Band also performed one lunch time which was excellent. Over the weekend a Trade Show and Market was on site that had caravans, accessories, wine and local market stalls for people to purchase from, the NMRA provided a free sausage sizzle which was very tasty.





There was also plenty to do offsite...

There was also plenty to do offsite including tours and drives to various locations around the area. During our time some members went on a river cruise down the Murray River from Renmark on the 'PS Industry'; drives to Waikerie to see the painted silo, visited wineries and other attractions in the area.

Entertainment was provided each night where members gathered over a couple drinks to listen to a variety of different acts including country, rock and jazz music, one evening also had a comedian. During the rally food vendors were also available onsite, pizza, thai and pancakes that were well patronised during evening entertainment or during the day.





On Sunday Stella had organised our club dinner down at the Barmara Hotel, this was a great time had by all catching up as a group over fine food and drinks. A group photo was taken by Brent before we headed back to camp for the evening's entertainment. Thanks, Stella, for organising.

During the rally the committee had organised give-aways, raffles and silent actions and RACVCC members did quite well, David & Stella Breese won a \$100 Bunnings voucher, Bob Anderson won the main raffle prize of a Diesel Heater and Steve Hole won silent action for RV Wi-Fi system. Congratulation to those members.

The rally ended all too quickly, the closing ceremony commenced at 4pm with speeches and Adelaide RV, the major sponsor, showing YouTube video which recap the past 9 days. It was great to see on screen everyone enjoying themselves. Following the official closing by Rally Chairman, John Anderson, dinner was served in the marquee followed by an excellent evening's entertainment by Chunky Custard and their '70s and Beyond' show.

In summing up the rally was a great success, the venue was fantastic, weather perfect and plenty to see and do. Congratulations to the SA organising committee for a wonderful event.

TRAVELLING RALLY REPORTS

HORSHAM TO BARMARA TAGALONG RALLY

MARCH 20 – MARCH 26, 2023

After having a terrific time at the ACCVic Horsham state rally, which was well represented by RACVCC, a Tagalong trip was arranged for those attending the National Rally at Barmara in SA.





Day 1: Horsham to Hopetoun

We woke to a sunny day and as we weren't travelling far, 6 caravans set off at 10am for our destination at Lake Lascelles Camp Ground, Hopetoun. Alan and Joan Andrews from Coromal Club also joined us on the rally. As always we stop to look at things along the way. Our first stop was Warracknabeal where we had morning tea at the bakery and a brief look around town. The architecture of the Post Office is remarkable and something to be seen. We continued our journey stopping at Brim to look at the painted silo which was painted by Guido Van Helten and depicts the farmers strength and resilience which is required for living in country Victoria. We arrived at Hopetoun mid afternoon and found some good sites overlooking the lake to set up camp. The area was clean and well catered with toilet and showers for a small donation. Happy hour was at 4:30 and we all gathered for a drink and chat before having a BBQ dinner cooked by the blokes. The camp BBQ's were out of order but Rob came to the rescue with his 2 portable gas hotplates which saved the day.



Day 2: Hopetoun

This was a relax day but a few of us (Breese, Blake, Burns and Mudie's) went to Sea Lake and visited the painted silo and Lake Tyrrell, a pink lake that has an abandoned salt mine, now lookout and walk. The silo art was painted by 2 artists Joel Fergie and Travis Vinson and is quite large and shows a young girl gazing out over Lake Tyrrell. After spending some time here, we then headed out to the lake for a walk and explore of the area which was very interesting. We went back into town for lunch before heading back to camp. Along the way we went through the small town of Woomelang that had silo art on mini silos or field bins, so we decided to stop and have a look. Dotted around the town were 8 mini silos depicting pictures of native animals. Well worth a visit if passing. We all gathered for happy hour around a fire Steve kindly lit, this was fantastic while having a chat over drinks and nibbles. Afterwards we all retired for the night.





Day 3 – 4: Hoptoun to Murrayville

We left Hoptoun for Murrayville today, with Linda and Rick leaving the group for adventures elsewhere. Traveling along the Hoptoun – Walpeup road, our first stop was Patchewollock and the painted silo. The mural depicts local sheep and grain farmer Nick Hulland. After taking numerous photos we continued our journey and stopped at Walpeup for morning tea before continuing onto our destination at Murrayville. On arrival we all set up camp, afterwards as it

was a hot day Donna, Steve, Stella, David, Gay and Michael head off to the pool next door to the caravan park for a dip. A small water polo size ball was found and a game of keepings off (boys against girls) quickly developed into hard fought battles with the girls dominating the water, the boys being outnumbered as Steve had left.

We all gathered for happy hour and a chat which was very pleasant sitting in the shad of a tree. We went to the Murrayville Hotel that evening for dinner, the meals were excellent and service was great but there was a slight mix up on who had salads or veg with their meals. After dinner we all headed back to camp and retired for the evening.

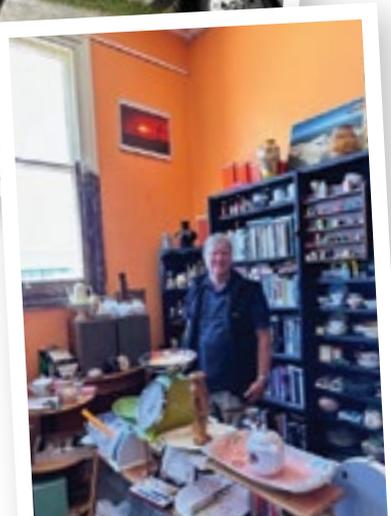
The second day Thursday was a relaxing day with people doing their own thing. Some went for a walk down to the main street, a drive to the Kow Plains Homestead and the Lone Grave which is a grave of a railway worker. Being another warm day, we headed back to the pool, the boys were more confident heading into the pool with Steve back in the team and the numbers even. Early in the game things looked promising for the boys until 2 local girls were recruited, Steve, David and Michael performed brilliantly but weren't strong enough being outnumbered nearly 2 to 1. Exhausted the boys head back for happy hour and a well earned drink and pondered over what could have been if not for the cheating girls.



Day 4 – 5: Murrayville

Friday, the Taylors, Mudie's and Hole's departed the tagalong rally for destinations close to the National rally location. Steve and Donna headed to Barmara RV camp site as they were Street Captains at the National Rally and were to be onsite Saturday. As the Loxton Golf Club was booked out, we decided to stay at Murrayville for a further 2 nights, this also allowing for Ian and Anne Scott to join the group. With 3 vans left in the morning we decided to walk down the street for morning tea. Lunch was back at camp and afterwards we either relaxed or played games. Ian and Anne arrived about 4pm and quickly set up their caravan, just in time for happy hour and a chat.

Saturday we again walked down the street for morning tea. We spent a good part of the morning chatting with locals before heading over the street to explore the park and Murrayville railway station. We spent the rest of the day playing games or relaxing.





Day 6: Murrayville to Barmara

Sunday we headed off to the Barmara RV Camping Ground so we could be close to the National Rally site. We arrived just after lunch, not having been in any hurry to leave Murrayville. David and Stella went into Berri and the Gay, Michael, Ian and Anne explored Barmara and did some grocery shopping. That night we walked to the Barmara Hotel for dinner which was great. The Tagalong concluded today as we headed to the National Rally the following day.



KATHERINE TO DARWIN

JUNE 9 – JUNE 12, 2023

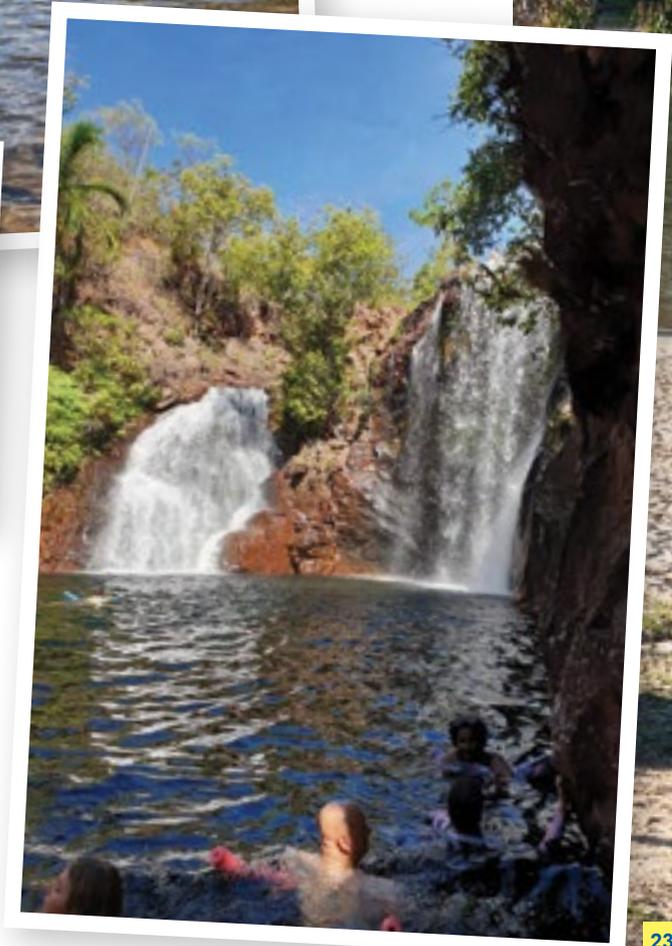
Ray Spargo & Joy, Sue & Dale Watson, & Heather Young relocated from Katherine to Edith Falls on Friday 9 June. Temperature was in mid thirties so a swim was the order of the day. In the evening Joy & Ray walked from their campsite to the waters edge, having to give way to a bandy-bandy snake which was moving across the track they were traversing.

On Saturday 10 June we relocated to Wangi Falls in Litchfield National Park on the hottest June day the Northern Territory had recorded only to find that the swimming area was locked off as the rangers were still removing salt water crocodiles from the pool. The hiking track above the pool & the rainforest walking tracks were open so they were utilised by members of the party.

On Sunday 11 June Ray's car was used to negotiate a rugged 4wd track to the Lost City. After leaving the Lost City we stopped at the magnetic termite mounds. These mounds are aligned north-south so the termites can utilize the side that is in the shade to control the temperature to which they are subjected. After leaving the termite mounds we moved on to Florence Falls where it was time for lunch & a further swim. Then on to Buley water hole where once again it was time for a swim.

On Monday 12 June we relocated to Berry Springs where once again it was time for a swim, this time in the thermal pool, then on to Darwin.





*...once
again it
was time
for a swim...*

DIVISIONAL RALLY REPORTS

DIV 1 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Steve Clark	bj.plastics@bigpond.com	0419 369 728
Secretary	Matt Window	wulfenshadow@outlook.com	0438 054 740
Treasurer	Peter Whitehurst		9560 0303
Marshal	Michelle Bright Wanda Sanderson	mkbright17@gmail.com wandasanderson.ws@gmail.com	0417 738 566 0400 650 083

GELLIBRAND

1 – 2 April

Our Easter alternate rally was held at the Otways Tourist Park at Gellibrand. Whilst the weather did not look at all promising, the rain did hold off for the weekend with a total of 3 caravans in attendance. A pub meal at the Gellibrand Hotel was the highlight of Friday evening with the friendly publican personally attending to our table, situated in front of a warming open fire. Two members managed to share a rather large dessert which was judged to be of more than adequate proportion. Nonetheless, both parties appeared to master the feat with typical gusto and absolutely no recriminations.

One family group relished the opportunity to spend Saturday visiting relatives in a nearby township and by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed their day, not to mention the home made scones on offer. Saturday's alternative activity was to venture in to Colac for a wander around the historic township and visit an op shop or two or three. Everyone appeared quite tired come Saturday evening, whether the lethargy was caused by scones or exercise, a welcome early night was in order.

The usual Sunday morning 'pack up and go' mantra was repeated with all three vans vacating the park to head off home. One member managed to stop at the Winchelsea Community Market to purchase a few, but necessary, supplies of home made goods and honey on the journey home.

In all, a very relaxing and enjoyable weekend at a quite picturesque park nestled in the Otways.



WONTHAGGI

Considering the miserable weather of the rally weekend a good turnout saw a number of vans arriving at Park Lane Caravan Park Wonthaggi on the Friday of the weekend of the 6th and 7th of May. Members were rugged up with layers when 4:30 happy hour rolled up on Friday afternoon which took place in a small but comfy camp kitchen adjacent the BBQ area. Friday night pub meal was held at the Caledonian Hotel which is one of the area's oldest pubs, being built in 1914 financed by the notorious John Wren. Saturday morning saw members spread out across the town and surrounds. Drives and drive by's were had at several locations including the State mine site, the main St where some enjoyed the bakeries and cafés and watched the rain hammer down and Wonthaggi Plaza with its many retail outlets and eateries. Although most stuck to their vans on the Saturday afternoon, Saturday happy hour was well attended as usual and only the hardened chefs amongst us cooked on the BBQ due the inclement conditions. Sunday saw vans heading off from early on as the weather hadn't gotten any better and the rain continued.



KYABRAM WESTERN GUMS TOURIST PARK

This is a very good Park with good Facilities, especially the Large Camp Kitchen.

There was a total of 15 Vans including guests from Div 5 and 6, some arriving on Thursday and some on Saturday, 5 Vans stayed on after the Monday Departure.

We Enjoyed a very good Dinner Friday Night at the Kyabram Club with Transport there and back by the Courtesy Bus.

Saturday was a Free Morning and then we drove to Shepparton to have a look at the "Mooving" Cows art Display at Monash Park, we then enjoyed a Picnic Lunch in the Park.

During Happy Hour on Saturday we also had a Blind Wine Tasting Competition that proved to be harder than we thought , Ken Love won with 4 correct answers out of 8 Bottles, thanks to Anne Clark for organising this, Good Fun.

Dinner on Saturday Night was a Sharing Affair with Casseroles and Deserts being supplied by everyone.

On Sunday After Morning Tea we Drove to the small Country Township of Lockington where we enjoyed Lunch at the renown Ciurleo's Ice Cream and Waffle House and after a look around we Headed back to Kyabram.

Sunday Night Dinner was Finger Foods in the Camp Kitchen supplied by the Committee and was very much enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the Committee and all who Attended, the weather was Cool but Dry and the Rally was enjoyed by all.



DIV 2 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Alan Jennings	ayjay357@bigpond.com	0458 219 279
Secretary	Ronald Tormey		0421 332 933
Treasurer	Be Steegstra	sasteegstra@bigpond.com	9889 7244 / 0488 777 086
Marshal	Pat Glover	jpglover@hotmail.com	9733 4827 / 0428 610 124

KYABRAM

1 April

Had 12 vans attend this Rally arriving Thurs, Fri, Sat – 6 vans Div 2 including potential members Colleen & Peter Hubbert, 1 van Div 1 Steve Clark & Anne Cecil, 1 from Div 3 Brian Longhurst, 1 from Div 6 Laura & Richard Muller & from Div 4 Helen & Keith Booth & Julie & Robert Booth.

Weather was kind & Western Gums have a spacious rec room so Fish & Chips Fri night with the footy on – Sat we had a Pie night, blind wine tasting plus Di Canham's Ice Cream Birthday Cake – Di also won the handball comp & Rob Booth won the wine tasting.

Sunday's morning tea was Hot Cross Buns' most visitors left after M/tea whilst others had lunch at Kyabram Club. Paz tried some fishing but only drowned worms.

An interesting weekend, great to have so many visitors plus potential members enjoying each others company over the weekend. After Covid it was good to see members out & about again – look forward to our next meeting.



OASIS CARAVAN PARK COBRAM

10 – 12 June

Some of our members arrived as early as Thursday to enjoy a extended long weekend.

We had 4 vans and 3 cabins with Cobram put on Sunny days for us but cold nights. On Saturday night we enjoyed a camp stew cooked by Eric and Di Hunter then sweets of Caramel Pie and Tiramisu cooked by Lynn Bunn. We had a wonderful night enjoying good food and company.

Sunday after morning tea our members visited Barooga to explore the Pirate shop there is a Treasure Trove of a shop. Also Cactus Country to see the usuals Cactus gardens there is a fantastic display over a couple to acres.

Sunday night we gathered at the Cobram Top Pub for a meal, everyone enjoying the food altogether we forgot to take any photos as we were missing Be' who always has his camera in hand.

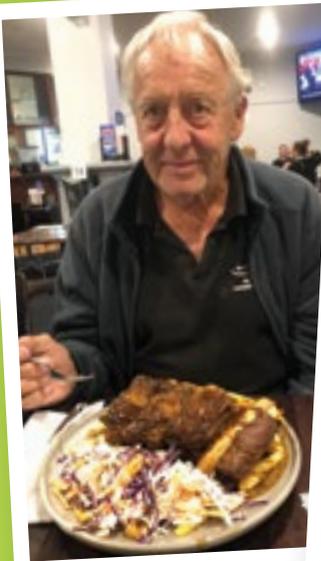
Nice to catch up with our friends and return to Cobram Oasis again.

...everyone enjoying the food altogether we forgot to take any photos as we were missing Be' who always has his camera in hand.

DIV 3 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Graeme Penny	pennyspack@gmail.com	9789 1570 / 0402 065 759
Secretary	Dorothy Penny	pennyspack@gmail.com	0411 899 935
Treasurer	Ray Andrews		9781 1148 / 0431 208 981
Marshal	Dorothy Penny	pennyspack@gmail.com	0411 899 935



CASTLEMAINE

May rally saw Division 3 members rolling into the central Victoria town of Castlemaine in the Goldfields region. Not sure if anyone picked up a nugget but if they did they kept it to themselves.

The caravan park is not far from the CBD area and situated next to the well-established botanical gardens and the Melbourne to Bendigo train line. I don't think anyone realised the frequency of that service until they were lying in their beds listening to the trains rattling past.

Bev and Kerry were the first to arrive, getting an early start, they arrived on Thursday before being joined by five caravanning couples, a motor -home duo, two cabin dwellers and visitors, Phil and Julie from Division 6.

Friday afternoon saw us all sitting in the Sunshine enjoying a drink or two and catching up on everyone's recent travels before adjourning to a local hotel for dinner.

Saturday morning everyone, including the dogs, gathered at the camp kitchen for hot-cross buns. Thank you to Dot and Graeme for organising the morning tea.

After lunch it was bare-foot bowls at the local bowling club. Three experience bowlers found themselves the skipper of some very inexperienced bowlers. Laurie, John and Graeme kept their frustration level to the minimum as they chased wayward bowls crossing over to the other team's lanes. Well done gentlemen you may have aroused some interest in a couple of people to get involved in the game on a more regular basis.

The winners on the day were Laurie, Creina and Dot, all receiving a chocolate Easter bunny as a trophy for their winning performance. Unfortunately Laurie put his rabbit in the back of his ute and somewhere between the club and the caravan park the little chocolate bunny hopped out. A search was conducted but to no avail.

Dinner that night was fish and chips at the camp kitchen; thankfully someone remembered the vinegar and the tomato sauce.

Sunday morning was the usual pack up routine and the promises of meeting up again at the next rally.

Safe travels everyone.



EILDON

It was in the middle of autumn but you would have thought winter had come early as we rolled into the caravan park on Eildon Back Road for our May Rally.

Four lots of caravaners and two members renting cabins made up the group with one member being 93-year-old Alan Johnstone, a long-time Division 3 member who had travelled up from Inverloch. Also making up the group was Phil and Julie from Division 6, joining us for the second month in a row. Good to have you guys with us and also Alan.

Bev and Kerry arrived a day early on the Thursday and enjoyed a lovely warm autumn day watching a search and rescue group going through their paces as they performed some rescue exercises in the nearby river.

Friday afternoon saw us all sitting around a roaring fire that Laurie and Pat had set up in front of their van. Of course, fiveses started a bit early with everyone catching up on their travels or future plans of getting away from the Victorian winter.

Friday evening and we all adjourned to for an evening meal the local hotel and more beverages. Phil and Laurie ordered the ribs and it nearly took two people to carry the plates out. They must have been hungry because all that was left on the plates was a pile of picked-clean bones.

Saturday we all rugged up and went to the Buxton Trout Farm where everyone, or mostly everyone, landed their dinner for the next couple of nights. Even Dot, with a little help from Alan, landed three sizable fish which were expertly gutted and filleted by staff.

Saturday evening, due to the cold and rain, we all went to Dot's cabin where we all shared a pasta dish, lasagna, seafood pasta and spaghetti bolognese making the menu followed by ice cream. Cones. What more could you ask for?

Sunday morning was the usual pack-up routine with everyone saying their goodbyes with the promise to meet up again, next rally.



OCEAN GROVE

This weekend has been very different from the past. We had 5 vans and one cabin which included Kerri Schoof from Div 1.

Friday night was as usual, dinner out, we missed our dear friend Max. Dot brought his memorial book with her so he was with us in spirit.

We were picked up for dinner by the Ocean Grove bowls club courtesy bus and who returned us safely several hours later.

We decided we would do our own "thing" this weekend. The market in Barwon Heads was a popular destination as were a number of the local shopping centres.

We met again for fivies in the camp kitchen and had a great get together, reminiscing about past weekends and where our other members are this weekend.

Sunday was a great day. Weather was perfect. The members toured local scenic spots and watched the surfers etc. We wish we were still that energetic. We spent time at the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre. Well worth the visit if in the area.

Sunday night we had a very tasty meal at Ming Terrace Chinese restaurant. We shared a number of dishes and made the most of our time together.

The members would very much like to visit the area again.



DIV 4 RALLY REPORT

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Bradford Lee	bradlee0077@gmail.com	0412 672 222
Secretary	Michelle Sommers	Michelleoutdoors@hotmail.com	0422 286 642
Treasurer	George Haig	georgeh@a1.com.au	0419 367 208
Marshal	Robbie Booth	robbiebooth@hotmail.com	0413 222 203



GREAT WESTERN

Seven caravans and an equal number of small tents and swags attended this rally.

Frank and Merlyn and Ray Spargo arrived on Wednesday.

Thursday Frank and Merlyn's son Ian and his 2 sons Quin and Graydon arrived as well as Wes, Karen, Brad, Bree and late in the evening Maurice, Cherie and Logan.

Friday morning saw the arrival of Brad, Caroline, Ebony, Michelle, Josh, Imogen, Robbie, Donna, Asher, Bella and baby Tyler (5 weeks old).

Wednesday and Thursday were fine and the place was busy with the setting up of the facilities for the Rodeo nearby. Thursday night rain started after midnight and continued into Friday morning but easing off in the afternoon. The rain caused the cancellation of the rodeo so many followers of the rodeo, camped nearby, headed off. Fortunately, our vans were set up around a large undercover shelter. Wes proved to be a "fire supremo" with his own fire pit and a roaring hot fire. (Sorry Bob Anderson I think Wes has taken the Crown).

Consequently, Friday was a relaxing day for all, around the fire which was under the

shelter. By Friday afternoon wood supplies were running low so Marketplace was searched to find a local supplier. A small trailer load of redgum wood was delivered Friday evening and Brad was kept busy splitting it.

Saturday was mostly fine. The Committee provided a delicious Bacon and Egg Breakfast, after which the majority headed off for the underground winery tour at Seppelts. The rest of the day members dispersed to various locations including visiting Stawell. Everyone was back for 5zss, fees and the drawing of the raffle. The major prizes were won by Ebony and Imogen with the minor prizes being won by Graydon, Donna and Quin. Following 5zss we all (23) headed off to the Great Western Hotel for dinner. Great service and a nice meal.

Sunday was again mostly fine. The Committee kindly provided Hot Cross Buns followed by the appearance of the Easter Bunny who led all the children on an Easter Egg Hunt. They all came back with their baskets full of eggs. Many members headed off to Halls Gap and the Grampians for the day, some sightseeing and some exploring the walks. Everyone was back for 5zss, followed by another relaxing evening around the fire.

Everyone headed off Monday morning, some for home, while others were making the most of the school holidays and heading to other locations.

Overall, it was a great rally. Cooler than most would have liked, but we were pre-warned so everybody had warm clothing.

The Committee did an excellent job, including organising the breakfast treats the raffle contents, the egg hunt, the

Seppelts tour and dinner at the hotel.

All are looking forward to the May Rally at Anchor Belle Park Coves.



COWES



Ray Spargo & Joy arrived midday Friday simultaneously with Rod Phillpot followed closely by Katherine Lees-Doherty in fine weather, however as the day progressed the weather deteriorated. By the end of the day there were 16 caravans in attendance with 4 more arriving on Saturday.

On Saturday morning there was a make & bake auction with Robbie Booth being auctioneer extraordinaire. Some of his rules that were introduced during the auction would have trouble passing the pub test, particularly when he accepted a bid from Rick & Sharon's dog who barked in response to the call for any further bids. Fortunately there were no bush lawyers in attendance. As a result of Robbie's work in excess of \$450 was raised to boost the divisional funds.

A big thank you to all of those members who made & baked or otherwise obtained items to donate to the auction.

Saturday afternoon we went to The Nobbies with the intention of doing the boardwalk plus for those interested a visit to the cafe & Antarctic Journey display, however this was closed having been booked out for a private function.

We returned to the park for payment of rally fee & fivesies plus our usual raffle. Frank & Merlin Lawless won 1st prize & opted to take the \$50 accommodation voucher donated by the park management, with Brad & Caroline Lee taking 2nd prize, a camping shovel.

We then adjourned to the Cowes RSL for dinner where the meals were of their usual high standard.

On Sunday most left to return home with a lucky couple of members staying on for a further night.

Once again a very successful rally thanks to our hard working committee.



SALE

For those vans that arrived on the Friday we enjoyed a casserole dinner in a shed where even though we had heaters we were still very cold. We awoke to a chilly 5 deg Saturday morning, but at least for a short time the wind died down and we could enjoy a group morning tea in the sun while it lasted. The coffee van in the park was well utilised by the campers. All up we had 17 vans including a new member Kay Sanders and visitors Kay and Ray Cross with Lyn and Joe Whiteley coming for the day to join the birthday celebrations. We also have Ray Spargo, Dale and Sue Watson and Heather Young on their interstate travels. We all met at Little McMillan Park for sausages in bread provided by the Committee then some members went for a walk around the lake while others packed up and went back to the park to prepare for party time. We were lucky to be able to use a different warm hall for celebrating many birthdays but especially 2 "OBE" birthdays. Congratulations Dawn and Keith on reaching this milestone. A great night was had by all with yummy food, great music and lots of dancing and laughter. Awoke Sunday to a beautiful sunny day. Some members left this morning for home while others left the park at 10.00am with some members heading to the Gippsland Vehicle Collection in Maffra and others going to Golden beach for a stroll and a coffee. Back at the park we had some leftovers for lunch before departing again for the Gippsland Armed Forces Museum. Robbie and Donna took to the air in a Nanchang aerobatics doing loop de loops, vertical dives amongst other manoeuvres . We all watched in fascination, glad it was not us up there. We then headed into the Museum which is packed full of information and exhibits from many years of military and service history. Sunday evening saw us again in the hall to eat all of our leftovers before playing Bingo. First 3 prizes went to the Booth families until we had a bit of contention and the Mayer family took out 3rd prize. Other winners Julie Booth, Talia and Logan. A great night was had by all of us, culminating with Carolyn providing jacket potatoes, coleslaw and sour cream. Think we all went home a few kilos heavier after all our eating. Thanks Committee for another wonderful rally.



DIV 5 RALLY REPORTS

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	David Breese	dave.58@hotmail.com	0425 715 349
Secretary	Gay Blake	RACVCC-Div5@outlook.com	
Treasurer	Tony Grigg	winandtony@telstra.com	0409 998 636
Marshal	Stella Breese	Marshall-racvdiv5@hotmail.com	0425 705 675

EUROA

Our rally for March was held at Euroa and we had 9 caravans and one couple in a cabin attend the weekend. We stayed at the Euroa Caravan Park on the banks of 'Seven Creeks', the park had reasonable sized sites with power and water, the amenities were clean and there was a large camp kitchen that was well fitted out. The weather was mostly fine but the wind was cold coming up from the south for most of the weekend.

4 caravans arrived Thursday and Debbie and Brent hired a fire pit that we all gathered around for the afternoon. Drinks and nibbles appeared for happy hour at 4pm before we all left for dinner and retired for evening.

Friday the remainder of the division arrived and set up by early afternoon. Stella and David had checked out a local hotel which was within walking distance of the caravan park. After happy hour we all headed off to the 'Seven Creeks Hotel' for dinner. The staff were friendly and helpful taking our orders and delivering the food to the tables. There was a good variety of meals available and catered for those with dietary requirements. We all enjoyed ourselves having a chat and eating our meals before heading back to camp and settling into our caravans for the evening.

Saturday we all gathered for the rally meeting at 9:30, David updated on what's happening in the club and Stella went through the rally program for the weekend. The morning was free time to head into town, relax or explore the area. 2 caravans arrived after lunch, Steve / Anne from Div 1 and Laura / Richard from Div 6, it was fantastic to have them along and join in the evening activity. It was planned to have a game of disk bowls in the afternoon but this was cancelled due to the cold and everyone opted to sit around the fire to keep warm and have a chat. Happy hour was in the camp kitchen followed by a potluck dinner provided by members. We all enjoyed a variety of main dishes and deserts while we watched the coronation of

King Charles on the TV. The feast we had was fit for a King, thanks to all for providing such delicious food. After dinner some retired for the evening whilst others stayed on chatting and watching the coronation before heading home.

Sunday some members headed for home, those staying Sunday headed off for a drive to Strathbogie where we had lunch. Along the way we went down some dirt tracks to visit Mount Wombat with its 360-degree views, being a clear day, we could see for miles and Mount Baw Baw could clearly be seen some 130 kilometres away. We also went to Polly McQuinn's Wier on Seven Creeks, a picturesque spot where the water flows over large granite boulders to a natural water hole. We arrived back at camp mid afternoon and free timer before gathering for happy hour.

The rally concluded Monday morning with all leaving by 10 am. The rally was well organised and a great success with everyone enjoying themselves.



DIV 6 RALLY REPORTS

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Vice President	Luke Teunissen	luke.teuna@bigpond.com	0411 265 526
Secretary	Linda Richmond	racvccdiv6@gmail.com	0407 831 083
Treasurer	Charles Allan	allan_family4@bigpond.com	0438 002 095
Marshal	Anne Nichol	bunnyannenichol@gmail.com	0422 410 713

WHOROULY

6 – 12 April

Whorouly is a small town North East of Victoria. It's on the Ovens River near Myrtleford.

Seven vans arrived on Thursday at the Whorouly Football Reserve and one arrived on Good Friday.

The local Footy and Netball club had training on the Thursday night followed by a feed in the club rooms. They also had a fundraiser that night to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal. They had a meat raffle and fire truck came around which entertained Murphy and Jonas. Despite the weather a good time was had by all.

Thursday night the weather was horrendous with massive puddles and rivers forming throughout the camping area. Hatz's had their own lake forming out the front of their van door, so had to turn the van around. Small rivers formed around the cars and vans and jokes were made that Lindsay's kayaks may be required.

Plants arrived lunchtime on Good Friday, just in time to set up before a spectacular storm hit. Hayley, desperate to play Finska kept saying "She'll be right, it will go around us". As the clouds in the skies were becoming more bleak and dark, Hayley would keep saying "Don't worry it will be fine, it will go around us". Every single time she would say that we were dumped with torrential rain and turbulent lightning and thunder storm. From this Hayley had been given the new Nickname Hayley Bunn (or Hayley Half Bunn from some), referring to the weather presenter Jane Bunn. Many went to bed early that night while others huddled under the BBQ area with the fire pit.

On Saturday morning Hatz, Anders, Kev and Plants went on a road trip to Paradise Falls. Here Mitch did his first 4WD driving. Paradise Falls is located in the Alpine National Park. A small steep walk to the Falls but well worth it with spectacular scenery and a waterfall to be seen.



After the entertaining driving and parking seen at Paradise Falls we went to King River Brewing for pizza and drinks. After been served our pizzas before our drinks were brought out, we were given 3 complimentary garlic pizzas to have with our drinks. The pizzas were absolutely delicious.

That afternoon we had hot 5'vies cooked by the Hatz's in their air fryer. Needless to say no one needed dinner that night. Thankfully the weather was very kind to us that day and we were able to sit outside around the fire pit.



Easter Sunday, the Easter Bunny came to Murphy, Jonas and Mitch. Jonas also had a birthday turning 6. At morning tea Anne did an Easter egg hunt for the kids and Hot Cross buns were enjoyed by all. After morning tea Hatz, Anders, Kev and Plants went and did the Silo Tour. Extravagant and incredible paintings on Silos within small little country towns.



Sunday night we all had dinner at Whorouly Hotel which is walking distance to where we were camping. Once again, like last year the food and atmosphere was amazing and so much fun was had by all. Quite a few of us ended up playing pool and were kicked out at closing time.

Monday morning the Plants packed up and left for their NSW road trip, while the others stayed on for a few extra days. Anders, Hatz and Kev headed to a waterfall near Beechworth and Eldorado Dredge.

Even though we had wet weather to start our Easter Rally, the storms, Venue and company made it an enjoyable Rally. Whorouly is a small country town but has so much to offer in its surroundings.



YANAKIE

This month we had a record breaking two members and 1 visitor attend the rally at Yanakie!

On arrival at the caravan park, we were greeted by Henry who masquerades as the park's guard dog. He was pleased to have visitors and joined us as we sat by the fire and chatted. He lapped up all the attention!

The Caravan Park at Yanakie is a small park that boast views of Shallow Inlet, making it a very relaxing place to visit.

If you enjoy fishing, then this may be a destination to visit. Fish such as salmon and trevally can be caught in these waters

The weather was forecast to be very wet. Friday night didn't disappoint and it did indeed rain! We all huddled inside a warm caravan after dinner to keep dry.

A boat trip was booked for Saturday morning from Wilsons Promontory to view the marine national park and nature reserve, cruising the waters of Bass Strait.

The Hatzis' and Anders' strapped into one of two amphibious vessels that went on tour. The boats sport a pair of 350hp V8 motors, seat thirty passengers and two crew and are able to drive along the beach. Very impressive!

We were very excited as we entered the water from the beach! A couple of waves splashed over the bow to greet us and we were on our way. Greg, Haylee and Lindsay embraced the slight swell from previous bad weather out to sea that kept the boats bobbing up and down. Gill found it a bit much and moved to the back of the boat, appearing a little green...I think that is all we will say on the matter!

The 2 ½ hour ride was spectacular. We explored the The Glennies, Anderson Islets and Anser Island. We saw white bellied sea eagles, a colony of fur seals and lots of rocky coastline, venturing out to the southern most point of Victoria. Skull rock was impressive the way the granite had been sculptured by the waves and by far the highlight of the trip!

Once back on shore a few of the local rosellas came to greet us, Hayley was in her element!

Tracey and Luke joined us at the caravan park on Saturday afternoon. We got the fire going, shared a few drinks, hot nibbles and embellished stories from the day and previous adventures. We later enjoyed a shared dinner of cottage pie and a wonderful dessert made in the camp oven. Someone fell asleep in his chair. The group then relocated to somewhere dry, leaving that someone to sleep. He later re-joining the group sporting a caravan door handle in his hand. I will leave it up to you to draw your own conclusion. Needless to say, he couldn't remember much in the morning...Lindsay!

After a little sleep-in everyone said their goodbyes and drove home in the rain having enjoyed another wonderful weekend away with great friends.

RACV CARAVAN CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for the position of: _____

Nominee: _____
BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Signature: _____

Nominator: _____ Seconder: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

When completed, this nomination form must reach the Secretary, RACV Caravan Club, PO Box 165, Ashburton, VIC 3147, by the tenth day of August each year for publication in the next newsletter, prior to the Annual General Election. Candidates may attach a short supporting statement and passport style photo for publication.

If an election is required, candidates will be introduced at the beginning of the AGM and will have the opportunity to address the AGM for 3 minutes (maximum). Ballot papers will be issued AFTER this has occurred.



*An organisation
devoted solely to the
interest of Caravanners*

Registered number A 0006900 V
ABN 83 836 581 725

Registered Office
PO Box 165
Ashburton, VIC 3147

Postal Address
PO Box 165
Ashburton, VIC 3147

Change of Address
PO Box 165
Ashburton VIC 3147

Newsletter material

The Editor, Julie Mason
175B Wonga Road, Ringwood North 3134
juliera6@gmail.com
*Please ensure all newsletter material reaches
the editor by the Thursday after the rally!*

General correspondence

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

WWW.RACVCC.COM.AU

RACV

