



RACV Caravan Club Newsletter

Winter
2018
Volume 45 No. 168



Hitting the spot!

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interest of Caravanners

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

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President's Report

We need a new President for the Club. The hardest part of the job is writing this report. In addition, we need a new Secretary.

I thought I would put this at the start of my report for this issue of the Newsletter! And remind all candidates that the nomination forms are in this Newsletter and need to be with Julie Mason, our Newsletter Editor by the Friday after the September Rally ready for publication in the September Newsletter.

We have just completed the allocations for Sorrento (It is very difficult to say Cameron's Bight) for next Summer. It all comes around very quickly. Allocation letters will probably have been delivered before this Newsletter arrives.

I have learned today that the number visiting the Mornington Peninsula each year is increasing and is presently recorded as 7 million people and rising. 3.5 million go beyond Blairgowrie shops. With those numbers has come increasing pressure for all types of accommodation. At least we have guaranteed occupancy at Cameron's Bight for the next 3 seasons.

The Executive have posed questions about the Long Weekend Rallies and hopefully at our next meeting we will digest the feedback and whittle down the results to two or three options to be given out again to members for maybe a final decision. On the other hand, the overall decision from the members might be no change. We will keep you advised of all outcomes.

We are working our way through the Constitution and once all changes are finalised and ratified at the AGM new copies will be published. We will all become owners of a pristine new copy of the Constitution and all deletions, revisions, removals, stuck in additions and scribbles will be a thing of the past. (until the next time!)

One more change that the Executive is considering is the sale of the land owned by the Club at Learmonth to enable the purchase of a club storage facility with an office or room that could be utilised for meetings. You will hear more of this proposal from your VP at the next rally.

Finally, George and I rallied with Division 5 over the June weekend. It was a very enjoyable

weekend and if you haven't visited Division 5 it is well worth it if only to meet...and hear...Sue. (All said with tongue in cheek Sue...you ran a great rally! I told you I would put you in print)

And as usual safe travelling up North and hopefully dry rallies down South.

Sandra

Things to Know!

- This is called **laying it on the line**. In my experience it never works if you come the heavy when a point needs to be made. However, having tried all other approaches, and this being my last chance to make any approach, I do need it to be known that if this Club – the RACV Caravan Club – does not have either a President or a Secretary (or both) elected at the November 18 AGM this Club ceases to exist.

Nobody is being asked to fill the roles under duress but if you are capable of doing either job **PLEASE** step up. A case of **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU**.

A Nomination Form is in this Newsletter (page 6).

Nominate now in the hope that we do still exist next year

- Our badge as we know it (described as the lozenge) is the one that was favoured the most by members and will remain as our Club logo.
- We are trialing allowing Divisions to select whether or not they have an Easter and Cup Day Rally on our set rally dates OR they hold those rallies the weekend preceding our set rally dates. We will review the outcomes and make further decisions about retaining the arrangement, abolishing it or extending it to other weekends in November 2019.
- We are looking at our website and hoping to give it a revamp (to include a means of paying our fees).

**Don't pay any CARAVAN CLUB fees to the RACV after june 30.
You will be invoiced by the RACV CC when the RACV CC
is ready to start collecting membership fees.**



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Sale – March 30 - April 2

Our March Rally was held at the Sale showgrounds caravan park. With only 4 vans in attendance we joined in with Division 2 also at the showgrounds. Pat organised and included us in all their activities.

Thursday saw the early arrival of most wanting to take full advantage of the long weekend. The day was spent catching up with each other and relaxing. Happy hour was outside Pat’s van and the fish and chip orders were placed ready for Friday night dinner. Dinner was by our own arrangements.

Friday’s morning tea was Hot Cross buns; all tastes were catered for with fruit buns, fruitless buns and my favourite chocolate buns. The day was free activities everyone choosing to do whatever took their fancy. We gathered in the hall for happy hour then dinner. Pat and her able assistant collected the fish and chips and delivered them to us while we extended happy hour as we waited. A good night was had by all.

Saturday everyone made their own choice of activities for the day. Some went shopping while others took a boat cruise and watched the old swing bridge opening, others drove down to watch the bridge open and some went to the car museum. Once again we gathered in the hall for happy hour and dinner. Dinner was BYO BBQ meat, salads and dessert to share provided by all the ladies. What a great spread no one went hungry, it was very well organised.

Sunday some gathered for morning tea with more hot cross buns served, others headed off to church. In the afternoon the ‘The Club

Commonwealth games” were held or the clubs version, I have never seen boot tossing in the real Comm Games. Some went to the Museum of Timeless Memories where afternoon tea was supplied as part of the tour. It was a very interesting place with a collection of such a wide range, well worth a look for those that didn’t make it this time. Happy hour was in the hall a little earlier than usual as we were going to the Greyhound Racing Club for dinner. During happy hour we had a special visitor the Easter Bunny came and we all got an Easter Egg. The club provided us with a very good meal which we all enjoyed. Roast pork and vegies, pavlova or sticky date pudding.

Monday some headed home with a few staying an extra night to avoid heavy traffic. It was a great rally thanks to Pat for including us in their activities and all the division 2 members for making us so welcome.

Ararat – May 5 - 6

Friday was wet as the rest of the rally arrived, some visited the town and the lookout that is located on a ridge in the hills to west of town with magnificent views of the surrounding country. Looking back to the east you can see the huge wind power generators on the hills near to Langi Chiran State Park.to the north is the district known as Great Western with its Wine making region and to the west you can make out the shapes of the Grampians National Park. Ararat is a junction where you can easily get to any or all of these natural wonders. So Friday was a busy day with the afternoon tea at the camp kitchen, then as the daylight



disappeared and dinnertime arrived we made our way into town and to the Blue Buck Hotel. High street, Ararat.

It was a fun night had by all, the food was great and the prices were realistic the laughter from the corner table was loud and contagious so when we left to return to our caravan park. I for one was a happy camper.

Saturday – Aradale Lunatic Asylum 10am
J Ward Jail 2.30 pm

Acacia Caravan Park & Holiday Units

I arrived at the Caravan Park on Thursday 3 – May during the afternoon to find myself parked behind Ann and Bob Reynolds who had arrived just minutes before me. We were the first of 16 Caravans to take part in the May rally.

It didn’t take long to get sorted out and set the vans up. During the evening Another four vans arrived so we spent some time catching up in the camp kitchen room, then as no formal meals had been organized for Thursday we went our own way, I chose to visit the Ararat RSL 74 High street Ararat, the bistro was open so I spent an hour over Dinner and found it to be very comfortable place to spend some time.

As it rained quite hard during the late evening and well into the night the best place to be was in the warm caravan taking it easy.

Saturday 5-May

10 am and those attending the Aradale Lunatic Asylum tour arrived at the main gate to be met by our tour guide. The tour takes you through the cavernous wards and halls of the institute that treated and housed the mentally ill of Victoria for over 140 years. It’s a massive place that is now in very bad shape. One fact from the very knowledgeable guide is that the whole place was built over a 2 years period and that’s amazing. We saw a good part of this impressive structure including the Morgue where Mick was volunteered to try out one of the draws. Like the trooper he is, and without a second thought, in he went. Thanks Mick. The tour was set to take 2 hours but ended up taking more like three. Leaving us enough time to get some lunch and have a break before our visit to J-Ward.

J-Ward Lunatic Asylum is located next to the centre of Ararat, not far from Aradale.

The tour takes you through J-Ward with its unique blend of infrastructure and history, J-Ward housed Victoria’s criminally insane men for more than 100 years and closed in 1991 it was here that Mick had the opportunity to try on one of the strait jackets, it did look good on him but didn’t keep him out of trouble for long.

We arrived back at the Park in good time to have drinks and nibbles, I’m new to the club and would like to thank those who provided the great things to eat, during the meeting Colin & Elaine Spicer were presented a badge for their 200th consecutive rally, well don.

The evening was dry, and the sky was clear and full of stars, then as we were having some drinks around the fire and some of us were looking up at the milky way talking about why we look up, a shooting star appeared, making it all seem magical, a wish was made by the lady who had never seen a shooting star before, what a way to finish the weekend.

Mulwala – June 9 - 11

There were 11 vans at the rally. Two arriving Thursday and one on Saturday, the rest Friday and it was wet cold and muddy. Friday night we were picked up by the courtesy bus from the club for dinner.

It was cold and overcast on Saturday and Linda had worked out a farm locations drive with the

help of Phil starting at the far end at the Big Strawberry for lunch and working our way back to camp. Had a happy hour out in the cold.

Sunday was free day with some leaving the rest doing the shops and sight seeing. Monday most headed for home, some headed north for the sunshine after a very enjoyable rally

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Sale – March 30 - April 2

We had great company, glorious weather, and lots of activities. Where were we? Sale Showgrounds Caravan Park. Thursday 12 Vans from Div. 2 and 4 from Div. 1. all settled in looking forward to a busy and pleasant week end. Pat & Adrian were very happy to be back after 4 months of waiting to have their car & caravan repaired from hail damage in December. Friday morning the committee provided hot cross buns for morning tea, some attended church services, later a few ladies played Sequence & Phase 10 card games. After happy hour & fee collection we all waited patiently for fish & chips delivery for our dinner. The usual generosity of the group raised \$150 for the Royal Children Hospital Appeal. Saturday morning some ladies explored the town opp shops etc. others went on the Port of Sale Heritage Cruise, the highlight seeing the opening & closing of the swing bridge which was completed in 1890 and is the oldest intact operational bridge of its kind in Australia, others went to Yarram Easter Parade. Saturday night we all enjoyed



BYO meat, beautiful salads & sweets provided by the ladies. Sunday the usual church goes attended the local services. In the afternoon we all congregated on the oval to compete in the Mini Commonwealth Games. Disc bowls won by Ken Slade & Bert Ellway, Gum Boot Throwing was won by Be Steegstra for men & Pat Ryan for the ladies. In the evening we all enjoyed a lovely dinner and a bet on the greyhounds; not many winners, but a great night was had by all. Monday some headed for home, others enjoyed



RACV CARAVAN CLUB OF VICTORIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for the position of: _____

Nominee: _____
(Name in 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 of 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.





a leisurely walk and some cycled around Lake Guthridge. In the afternoon a group of 12 walked to the Museum of Timeless Memories and brought back memories of yester year. Finishing the weekend back at the greyhound venue for happy hour drinks and light dinner. Many thanks to the Marshall Pat Glover for a great weekend.



Yea – May 5 - 6

Our rally started early with 11 vans arriving on Thursday the others turned up on the Friday.

The caravan park is most picturesque and they had a camp kitchen and rec room that we made great use of.

Members that arrived early hit the shops then met at the bakery for lunch.

Friday we received 17ml of rain but not the bad winds that were forecast. We gathered for nibbles and drinks. Saturday there was a farmers market that we visited then we had a tag-along to the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve for a picnic lunch, followed by a walk down to the Cascade Falls which was very beautiful. We were visited by club members Anne and Keith McKecknie and Sue and Howard Cummings, we then headed home in time for nibbles and a couple a of drinks prior to heading off to the Grand Central Hotel for a lovely meal.

Sunday the caravan park managers put on scones and jam plus various slices for our morning tea which was greatly appreciated, they also donated a bottle of wine for a lucky prize, which was won by Pat and Adrian Ryan.

Then, as if we had not eaten enough, a trip to Yark was arranged to have afternoon tea at the Giddy Goat Café.

We had a wonderful weekend as usual meeting up with friends.

Safe Travelling



Port Fairy – June 9 - 11

Over Thursday to Saturday members in 12 vans and 2 cabins arrived at Port Fairy caravan park. Two of our newest members travelled all the way from Shepparton. Port Fairy was abuzz with the winter festival which runs until late July.

Friday, some members joined the fun of the opening night with live music, mulled wine and hot chocolate as well as the launching of the ‘Bathed in Light’ illuminations dotted around Port Fairy.

Saturday, many attended the local market (as you do). Other options included photographic and art exhibitions and of all things; the ‘12th Annual Dachshund Dash’. According to those who went, it was very entertaining. In the



evening we indulged in a variety of casseroles and deserts washed down with a lot of laughter and chatter.

Sunday saw some of our members visited and climbed the lighthouse, other took a drive to Portland. Dinner was at the Caledonian Hotel, the oldest pub in town, built in 1844. All in all a great rally helped by the perfect weather.



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Alexandra – March 30 – April 2

It was with a little trepidation that the writer of this story set off for the Easter rally on Good Friday. A Good Friday rally to Creswick a few years ago, a windy trip through the Pentlands, and woosh; followed by a sickening vision behind – the roof of our pop-top sitting in the median strip!

We were shaken but otherwise very grateful that no-one travelling behind was hurt.

The trip up Maroondah Highway this year was far less eventful, in fact slow in parts.

Some extra early birds arrived on Thursday to settle in and enjoy the ‘serenity’, well Bonnie Doon isn’t that far down the road. The rest of us, making a total of 13 vans, arrived on Good



Friday but didn’t affect the serenity which continued in the sunshine. We were pleased to welcome back Liz, Paul’s sister, and Marcus as well as Melissa, Stephen and Isabelle O’Brien.

Ray and George teed up lawn bowls at the Alexandra Bowling Club for the willing in the





morning. The ‘willing’ were grouped into 4 teams. Alan skippered Bert, Greg & Peter; Graeme skippered Kerry, Debbie & Pat; Laurie skippered Rose courtesy of the Alexandra Bowling Club, Von & Marg and Ray skippered Bev, Dorothy and Paul. The competition was fierce with Ray’s team taking the honours. Rose, along with Terry from the Alexandra Bowling Club, organ-ised tea and biscuits then opened the bar. Peter was grateful for Rose’s advice to curb his bias!

We moved to the lawn beside the recreation room for 5’ses and formed a very large circle, large not because of our numbers but the desire to either sit in the sunshine or in the shade. Eventually the sun solved the problem by dropping below the recreation room putting us all in the shade so were then able to get as up close and personal as we usually do.



Von and Bert brought along some of their first crop at their new home, chillis, egg plants and cucumbers to share. Their crop has been plentiful but you can only eat so many chillis, eggplants and cucumbers. As Von said, it is a shame not to share them. There weren’t many left. I think I’d like to have seen their 6oog tomato though!

We were entertained by Isabelle O’Brien, now 1 year old, and who is practising her newly developing steps in walking. She brought many smiles to faces in the circle, not to mention Melissa and Stephen as Isabelle wore herself out and had a snooze.

Our usual Friday pub dinner was replaced by the traditional fish ‘n chips in the park organised by Greg and Marg. We always love a meal we don’t have to cook and especially with no washing up – just perfect!



Greg and Paul collected our meals, each wrapped individually and smelling delicious. Then we started the count, well after several counts we confirmed that we were one serve short. Greg returned to collect one special package – his own!

A large piece of flake, 2 potato cakes and a huge serving of chips eaten out of the paper and, of course, with our fingers. Again, tradition was followed with the tossing of the chippie wrappings into the delivery boxes. We were very impressed by the tosses executed by Kerry and Graeme. Several other tosses (note *toss-es* not *toss-ers*) however left a bit to desired.

Saturday was an agreed sleep-in day! So, by the time we emerged, the sun was shining in a near cloudless sky. Just perfect for walks into town for coffee or drives to the market and auction in Molesworth. The Timber Train was operating in Alexandra and was being kept busy. A couple of our absent friends this weekend would have been in their collective elements. Some got to

Molesworth early enough to wander around the market and to see the auctioning. On the other hand, some late arrivals saw things being packed up!

Fees and 5’ses were on the lawn near the recreation room. It was hunt the shade again and, despite the warmth, we enjoyed watching the fire burning. Happy birthday was sung for Alan who is turning 88 in a week or so, Liz and Marg. However, we respected their rights as ladies to demur on the question of age. Alan also passed on best wishes from June Caine whom he had ‘bumped’ into last week in Inverloch.

The fire was appreciated after dinner when we formed a tighter circle and continued to enjoy ourselves with the races at the speedway burbling in the background.

On Sunday, morning tea of hot cross buns was topped off by a visit from one of the Easter Bunny’s best helpers, delivering Easter treats. A few folks headed home for family commitments while the rest of us sat around some more, Liz



and Marcus went boating on Eildon and Marg, Greg and Judy went to Snobs Creek Falls.

We did have a number of less than well campers this time. We had an epidemic of sore big toes, with Jeff, Stephen, Laurie and Peter soldiering on bravely, if not especially quietly. Judy B's sore leg is improving but far more slowly than she would like and Jeanette declared herself a bio-hazard due to a nasty cold.

A few more of us left on Monday, up, down and around on the Black Spur, all 30 kms of it. Just to add to the excitement, it rained but luckily it was more drizzle than rain.

Thank you to:

- our paparazzi for their photos;
- Greg and Margaret for organizing fish'n'chips, Dorothy and Graeme for collecting the money and Paul for assisting with picking them up from the shop;
- the suppliers of the accoutrements for the fish 'n chips – vinegar, tartare sauce, BBQ sauce and yes, tomato sauce;
- Ray and George for organising the bowls on Friday;
- Paul and Debbie for providing the fire;
- those with gas for warming our hot cross buns on Sunday morning; and
- the Committee for top-notch organisation, once again.

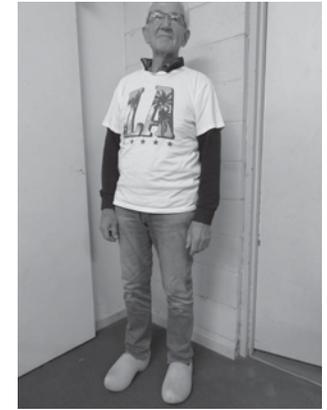
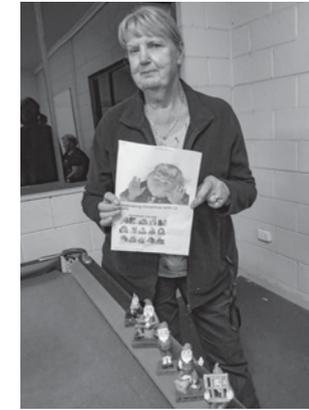
Laanecoorie – May 5 - 6

This was a new venue for Division 3 so was of particular interest. The park is quite large and, at this time of the year, very peaceful. In summer, it is very popular with the boating and skiing fraternities so quiet may not be used to describe the park then. The ground is not grassy at all. It is gravelly and interspersed with larger embedded rocks and slate. Rock fancier Bert was happy to find some more pieces to treasure. Not so sure about Von though, as she was enlisted to tote some back to the van.

As trips go, it was fairly direct for the city dwellers straight up the Calder towards Marong. For Alan and Maureen & Ron it was a deal longer from Inverloch and Warragul respectively. Valiant efforts! We encountered both rain and gusty winds along the way.

The early birds had dinner at the pub in Dunolly just a short drive away. The meals were delicious and reasonably priced. Being a Friday night the bar was well patronised so getting drinks took a little longer than some of the parched ralliers preferred. However, it was another successful early birds' pub dinner.

Saturday – Trips around the area allowed people to catch up with country dwelling friends and relatives. Others ventured to Maryborough,



Dunolly and Tarnagulla, via the evocatively named Murderers Hill. Tarnagulla was on the list because it had a caravan park....apparently that was many years ago though. We did find it, only because of the rusting power poles still standing.

Other more active folk went for walks around the park and one even ran into Laanecoorie for fun no less.

Dunolly was once a thriving community, made prosperous by gold which is evident in some of old buildings including a Cobb & Co Coach Office along the main street. Like many country communities there was a mix of businesses operating and, sadly, shops no longer occupied.

A special find that just popped up was the Collectibles Shop that also included Caravan Museum. Luckily the word spread and most

of us were able to visit over the weekend. The owner was a mine of information and his vans included a Propert van, fully kitted out and, on occasion, it still hits the road. The mechanism to open and close the van was amazingly smooth and easy to use. 'Shame my pop-top is not so easy to open and close!', lamented at least one person. It was amazing to see the ingenuity of the early caravan builders, one van there even had an en-suite! They were many 'ohhs' and 'ahhs' and exclamations of excitement as memories were stirred. There was even a large





van dolly on display. Funnily, there had been a discussion of similar dollies on Friday night!

The sad news was that the owners are looking to sell up so don't leave it too long to visit.

In keeping with our International Travel Theme this weekend, we indulged in a special afternoon tea of English Bread Pudding whipped up by Sandra. It was absolutely delicious and, for some of us, a first time treat. Afternoon tea provided a chance to check out the international travel photos, some were readily identified...others not so, very cryptic indeed.

Our international dinners had very cosmopolitan flavours from around the world...Italy, Mexico, India, Dutch knax etc. Well done Simon for whipping up your very tasty chicken drumsticks in the camp kitchen this evening. Australia was well represented with desserts of chocolate ripple cake, ginger ripple cake, cheese cakes and strawberries and cream.

After dinner...well we laughed and shouted with competitive excitement playing George's quizzes. In fact, we were grateful that the only van close to the rec room belonged to Ian, phew that was lucky! We were very loud. Nothing like a team song quiz to ramp up the decibels. While most were popular winners, the winners of the song quiz copped a fair bit of razzing. Nevertheless, the winners enjoyed their German chocolate!

Sunday – Many sleep-ins were had....providing time to soothe our raspy voices from last night.



Apart from that, the fog descended overnight so taking in the views was somewhat limited. However, we managed to catch up to say our farewells, except for some who didn't sleep-in and must have been off at the crack of a very foggy dawn.

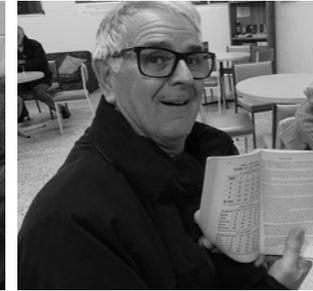
Another fun weekend with 16 vans in attendance. Thank you to:

- our paparazzi for their photos;
- Max for organising the pub for dinner on Friday;
- George for his international quizzes with international themed prizes - Turkish Delight, Dutch licorice and German chocolate;
- Sandra for the yummy delicacies; and
- Greg & Margaret, Dorothy & Graeme, Judy & Peter and George & Sandra for top-notch organisation.

Ocean Grove – June 9 - 11

This was the traditional Queens birthday weekend and it was held at one of Division 3's favourite parks the Riverview Family Park Ocean Grove.

All up 20 vans attended this rally, 16 from Division 3, 3 from Division 4 and 1 from Division 1. A number of the vans arrived on the Friday to the park which was in immaculate condition. Large sites that had recently been refurbished greeted members. The weather also did its bit by with lots of sunshine and fairly cold nights throughout the stay. A few members had a walk along the river walking paths until the early evening.



Friday night saw dinner at the Ocean Grove Bowling club. The club has recently been refurbished and it didn't disappoint. The meals were prompt and at acceptable prices. Members were un-lucky not to win any prizes. Bev Draper grasped upon an opportunity to organize a courtesy bus from the club which saw several members avail of the opportunity to hitch a ride. Most appreciated Bev and thanks to Greg & Marg for organizing the venue.

Saturday was cloudy but mild and a few members arose early to prevail of the many walks available from the park. Some members also commenced Greg's Cryptic walk of the Ocean Grove shopping centre. Suffice to say "Greg" was not a popular man on the Saturday night and it is believed he went into hiding from some irate members (only kidding!) Some also utilized the day to tour areas such as Barwon Heads, many places along the Bellarine Peninsula, Lorne and others. Some even went to the footy at Geelong.

Fives saw 20 vans register including the 3 vans from Division 4 and 1 from Division 1. Many thanks go out to Andrew & Tania Irving, Hayley & Greg Hatzivagiannis, Neil & Chryell Ratray and Kerri O'Keefe. All joined in the challenges of the day including sitting outside wrapped in of all things and electric blanket. (Yes, we did do you in Chryell & Hayley).

Saturday evening saw the more adventurous attend a 500 card game night in the superb camp kitchen of the park. This was mainly a learning of the game for beginners but a lot of

fun was had trying to figure out how to do it. Others gave up and reverted to poker but still we all had a great night.

Sunday was the pick of the days for weather commencing beautiful sunny and staying that way for the entire day. Some members continued their walking habits and others finished off the Cryptic walk. Fives saw the marking of the Cryptic walk with the Drapers and Penny's taking out the "major" prizes. Greg survived and escaped the building uninjured. To finish off the day 14 members had dinner at the Ming Terrace restaurant which served up some fantastic dishes and didn't miss a beat.

Monday saw most members pack up to head home after a very frosty and cold night. The weather though was kind again with brilliant sunshine throughout most of the day. David & Sue Jordan, Ian McConnell and Kerri Schoof all elected to stay an extra night. Others commenced their pilgrimage North. All in all, this was one of the great rallies for the division made possible by all of the members input.



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Taggerty – May 5 - 6

Taggerty was a huge success with 29 vans attending the park, located in beautiful country side along the Acheron River. Driving through the Black Spur provided a few challenges, particularly in the fog but all campers arrived safely.

Kerrie Schoof from Div 1 joined us while Denise & Roger enjoyed the comforts of a cabin before the delivery of their new van. Andrew Irving with Tania arrived towing a loaned van while theirs in for hail damage repairs. This was an experience for sure but help soon arrived to set up this “old girl”.

Rita & Robert were first to arrive on Thursday while the Corner Hotel in Alexandra was the meeting place for dinner on Friday evening with a group of 12?? Did Chryell wear her stylish designer gumboots.

Where’s Hayley? In her absence

Greg had the fridge well stocked. Hmm, where’s the food. Get better soon Hayley, you were certainly missed.

A large group mingled together at the nearby winery, listening to toe-tapping music, eating tapas & drinking lovely wine. This group certainly know how to have FUN & the winery made a buck out of us!



Kyabram – June 9 - 11

Friday night saw 32 members head to the Ky Club in for a very enjoyable meal, Management was very happy to supply a free pick up drop off bus service.

Saturday morning we awoke to a chilly day, with 29 vans in attendance 3 of these being visitors Steve and Anne (Division 1), Steve and Ursula. Davin and Debbie friends of Brad and Caroline’s. Even thou the day was chilly this didn’t stop many members from venturing out to the local attractions, with some heading the

Echuca to the Steam Rally Festival upon their return boasting about the CWA scones and how yummy they were. While others stayed a little closer to camp heading to the local town hall to view the Mascaraed ball gowns and mask exhibition. Several members found themselves expecting 2 beautiful NEW vans belonging to Lindsey and Jill and Greg and Linda. 5zz we gathered in the very well appointed camp kitchen. Mark the park Manager only the day before completing its finishing touches ready for our time spent there. That night we congratulated David and Sue Shubshall as they



received their 25 rally attendance certificate. Also a warm welcome was given to our newest members Greg and Linda Richmond. Once the formalities were over the night was enjoyed by many members dancing the night away with some great entertainment from 'Ray Walker' and his one piece band, while other members on a cold and foggy night had a chin wag around the community fire outside.

Sunday we awoke to a beautiful sunny day with many members heading the Monichino wineries. Once there a very relaxing day was had by all while we celebrated Luke Teunissen

birthday with a sausage sizzle and many wine tastings, even with one member heading to the winery with his van to haul several boxes of wine home. Heading back to Kyabram in time for 5zz around the fire, while many enjoyed the company of long time friends over a meal together in the warm cozy kitchen.

Monday another beautiful day now its time to say goodbye and travel home. A great weekend and a fantastic park with very welcoming manages, whom were more than happy to help us have a very successful long weekend away.



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Warragul – March 30 - April 2

On Thursday Aileen & Ian, Joan & Brian, Heather & Peter and Rhonda & Gavan arrived with visitors Jan and Peter Johnston from Div 2 and Mandy and David Smith from Div 4 on Friday. While John Ralph, Sue & Faye and Lyn & Eddie stayed in cabins at the park.

We met our visitors at happy hour on Friday afternoon when we met our visitors. Since it was Good Friday, Joan organised fish & chips for dinner. We were fortunate to have exclusive use of a large meeting room for the weekend to use for meetings, happy hour and dinner when required. The park is set in well-kept gardens with new amenities and camp kitchen.

With all the executive members absent with Easter time family commitments, Ian Trotter chaired the Saturday morning meeting and brought us all up to date with club news and issues. Following the meeting everyone either walked or drove into town for a late morning tea or lunch. Frankie's Café was a popular choice although some decided to move on to the bakery if they had difficulty in getting a table.



Saturday afternoon many played bocce in the beautiful caravan park gardens with Joan featuring prominently in the ladies and mixed finals. Since she brought the bowls with her, could it be that she has been practising on the side with Brian.

Saturday night all enjoyed dinner at the Warragul Country Club. It would have to be one of the best venues we have been to in recent years. Plenty of parking near the door with a very well appointed dining room. The staff were friendly and efficient, an extensive well priced seniors menu was available which also catered for gluten free members.

On Sunday morning Peter Rabbit aptly impersonated by Brian and Flopsy, Mopsy or was it





Cotton-Tail, disguised as Suzie, distributed Easter eggs to everyone including children staying in the caravan park. Hot cross buns were then enjoyed by all at morning tea after which everyone left for a drive through the hills to Neerim South. The Serigraph Gallery owned and operated by two local artists, furniture maker Keith and painter Christine was the only stopover in Neerim South. The group

then continued on to Yarragon for lunch after which we browsed through the craft shops.

Most returned home on the Monday morning but some stayed until Tuesday.

Heathcote – May 4 - 6

This was a very enjoyable rally at Queen Meadow caravan park which has been greatly improved over the last 12 months or so.. We had 11 vans in attendance, with arrivals spread over Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately 2 members were unable to make it at the last minute due to illness.

On Friday afternoon our park hosts provided a sausage sizzle including bread and coleslaw for not only our group but any park guest who wished to attend. It was a very social occasion with our members being made very welcome by the residents as well as the park owners. The fire provided a nice spot to feel some warmth from the cool evening air. After the barbeque we were treated to the movie ‘Crackerjack’ outside the camp kitchen. The night air was a bit too cool for some but the ‘hardy souls’ stayed till the end.

Our meeting on Saturday morning was attended by all except Kevin Morcombe who became ill overnight and was taken to Bendigo Hospital. Pleased to report he is on the improve and Dawn is hoping to pick him up Monday afternoon. We were pleased to welcome Sue and Geoff Rapp to the meeting and the day – still waiting for their van.

The rest of the day members undertook a variety of activities – the local market was a magnet for most members. The Valley of Liquidambers and McIvor Creek walks were popular with a number of couples and individuals. Four members visited Merindoc Winery for a small taste and most enjoyable lunch. It was fully booked for lunch due to the start of the local region Winery Festival.

Due to a number of activities in town and the local area we were unable to get a booking

for our group at the local hotel for the evening meal. We were very well served by our rally marshals Joan & Brian Cubbins – they organised a ‘chicken n chips’ tea, with salads and desserts provided by members. We all agreed it was a successful replacement for the pub!!

The park owners had not finished their hospitality – Sunday morning we were provided with a pancake breakfast before most hooked up and headed for home. This was a great club rally weekend with members all commenting how much they enjoyed the social activities over 3 or 4 days.

This is what a club rallying is all about.

Euroa – June 9 - 11

Friday morning was not the brightest of days to set out for a Rally, it was overcast and raining as we travelled along the Hume Highway. On arriving at the caravan park there were six vans in attendance three cabins had been booked and our President Sandra Eldridge and husband George were our visitor’s.

After happy hour in the afternoon we all made our way to the Seven Creeks Hotel. The hotel was bursting at its seams with the number of people in attendance. It turned out that there was also another caravan group at the park also. The staff were in full control and it was not long before we were served with good country fare. After dinner we returned to our vans for warmth against the cold night air.

On the Saturday morning with a nip in the air and the sun shining (but no heat in it), all members attended our meeting. We were informed as to what was going on over the weekend in Euroa and the surrounding areas. The park hosts also informed us that they had made a chalet available for us to hold our casserole dinner that night., which was most appreciated, considering there were so many other folk around at the time. After the meeting we all backed up and set off to the Violet Town Market, claimed to be the largest market in

Victoria. On arriving we were greeted by wall to wall people and parking at a premium. The stall holders were selling a wide and varied range of goods so we all contributed to the local community with our purchases.

Our community dinner was attended by all with members providing a wide range of casseroles and desserts. The chalet provided by the park owners was just what we needed with enough room to fit us all in. After dinner we adjourned back to our vans or cabins, some playing cards etc or just watching TV.

Sunday morning we set off to visit the Benalla Aviation Museum. The museum is a memorial to No. 11 Elementary Flying Training School, established June 26th 1941 with nearly 2600 young men passing through the school. We were informed that one of our members fathers was one of the young men that passed through the training school. After visiting the museum our next port of call was the local bakery for morning tea (isn’t that what rallying is all about !!!). For the afternoons entertainment it was decided to do a tag-along trip to visit the silo paintings located at Devenish and Goorambat. Silo paintings are becoming very popular with tourists who travel around the state to view them. Our first silo visited was painted by Cam Scale and illustrated a nurse from the first world war and a nurse in today’s conflict. The second showed a farm life scene and Milli the barking owl the artist was Dvate. The detail that these artist’s put into their paintings shows one how talented they are. From here are journey was to return to the van park and enjoy a well earned dinner.

Monday morning review of the paper disclosed that none of our members had made the Queens Honours list this year (maybe next year). Packing up was the next item. Some members returning home others to venture further afield. This was a very enjoyable rally, made so by our Marshal’s Sue and Faye. Thank you.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF RAVCC

(Applicants must have a current RACV membership)

Date:

Name in Full:
(Block Letters Please)

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

Phone No.: Email:

RACV Membership No.: Preferred Division if known:

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

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

RACV Caravan Club accepts membership from owners of
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