



# ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN CLUBS VICTORIA AND THEIR MEMBERS INC.

## By-Laws Update

Minimum meeting attendance required by Clubs.

## Fire Safety for Caravanners

We have included (at the end of this newsletter) info from NSW Fire Authority for Caravanners.



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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

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### Next Delegate's Meetings:

To be held at **Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.**

26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016 (last Saturday of month) 10:30am.

### The Great Outdoor Expo

The Great Outdoor Expo is the place to find inspiration for all things outdoors. Whether you're an experienced caravan/camper looking to upgrade, or a novice wanting expert information, The Great Outdoor Expo has something for everyone. There are bargains galore from the many exhibitors displaying the latest and innovative products.

Exhibits will include: Caravan & Camping, Fishing, Boating, Pools & Spas, 4WD & Off Road, Gardening, Landscaping, Travel & Adventure, Food & Wine and much more...

There's a lot to see and do at The Great Outdoor Expo, including activities ranging from fishing and casting, to outdoor cooking, to gold prospecting demonstrations. There are also fantastic door prizes to be won.

### Echuca Race Course

Murray Valley Highway, Echuca 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016

### Sale Racecourse

Maffra Road, Sale 11th-13th Nov 2016

Visit their website: <http://www.greatoutdoorexpos.com.au/> for more details.

### By-Laws Update

The following was passed at the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016:

**"All clubs must attend at least two meetings per year and one of those meetings must be the AGM."**

## NACC Negotiates Discount with Discovery/Aspen Parks



Back in early 2015 the NACC negotiated an agreement with Aspen Parks for discounts for affiliated club members. By late 2015, Discovery Parks had purchased the Aspen Parks Group and our original agreement appeared to no longer apply. Fortunately, one of our Directors, Bob Williamson took on the task of renewing the agreement and having it extended to cover all Discovery Parks which is significantly more than those under the Aspen Parks banner.

Full details of the discounts available can be found on the NACC web site [www.nacc.asn.au](http://www.nacc.asn.au) under the Benefits Card + Heading as shown above.

To take advantage of the discounts, club members should use the Discovery Parks online booking service quoting the promo code (link is on the NACC web page) and be prepared to present their valid NACC Benefits Card to the park reception upon arrival.

I encourage club members to use this discount offer as the more it is used, the easier it will be to extend the agreement beyond June 2017.

### Rin Klasen

Secretary  
NACC Ltd

## Our Website has had a Security upgrade.

The meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016 approved the purchase and use of SSL (Secure Socket Layer) for the ACCVIC website.

This means that any data travelling between our site and the user's computer will be encrypted to ensure the maximum security of Club/Delegate information.

This means you will see three changes in the site:

1. A padlock will appear in your browser's window (near the address bar) – similar to 
2. The letters preceding our web address (URL) will be **https** instead of http, can be seen in the address bar of the browser window
3. A notice will appear in the webpage footer acknowledging we are using SSL provided by **GeoTrust**<sup>®</sup>, similar to the one shown opposite.



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*“We're so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take time to enjoy where we are.”*

*— Bill Watterson*

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# BOORAN HOLDEN CHELTENHAM



## LT COLORADO 7

3 Tonne Towing Capacity, 16" Alloy Wheels, Rear View Camera, Cruise Control, Fog Lamps, 5 Star ANCAP Safety Rating, Electronic Stability Control, Sideslips, Bluetooth Connectivity and Streaming, MyLink Infotainment System with 7" Colour Touch Screen

**LIMITED OFFER TO THE FIRST 20 CUSTOMERS**

Booran Holden, in conjunction with the Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria, would like to extend the following exclusive offer to all members.

**FREE HAYMAN REESE ELECTRIC BRAKE UNIT\***  
**FREE 24 HOUR TEST TOW VEHICLE\***  
**FREE \$500 FUEL VOUCHER\***



**IT'S HERE! ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

Need Some Customising? We can do everything you need including:

- ✓ LEATHER TRIM SEATING
- ✓ CANOPY
- ✓ ROOF RACKS
- ✓ BULLBAR
- ✓ WINCHES
- ✓ LONG RANGE FUEL TANK
- ✓ DRIVING LIGHTS/LED

## LTZ COLORADO

2.8L Duramax 2 Diesel Engine, 3.5 Tonne Towing Capacity, 500Nm of Torque, 147kW of Power, 7" Touch Screen with Built in Apps, Bluetooth, Bring Go Navigation, ANCAP 5 Star Safety Rating, Sports Bar, Side Steps, Rear View Camera, Front Tow Hook x 2



**RACV GREEN LIGHT DEALER OF EXCELLENCE**

Caravanning has been a passionate pastime for salesman Ed Borzym. For over 30 years, caravanning has been in Ed's blood, travelling to great locations throughout this great country. Add to this his 20 years' experience in selling quality vehicles. Contact Ed directly on the details below to find out more about this offer for all members.

## BOORAN HOLDEN CHELTENHAM

[booranholdencheltenham.com.au](http://booranholdencheltenham.com.au)

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LET'S GO THERE



\*Offer with every new car purchase. Voucher terms and conditions apply. Exclusive only to members of Caravan Victoria. \*Finance available to approved purchasers. LMCT1715 16319

## IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A TENT

You ask, “What is the best family camping tent?” Using a family tent (may be better than using a car or a campervan) is the perfect way to enjoying the outdoors, feeling the power of the wind and the heat of the sun and listening to the sound of the rain, but a tent should be able to shelter your family well.

Selecting a tent is a tough challenge because they come in all shapes, sizes and features, but with research you will be able to find the right one—all of course depending on your budget and priority, among other factors. If backpacking is your adventure, then the family tent’s weight must be top priority, or if you have a large family, say six up to 10, you may want to pick a model that comes with bedrooms and living areas. So giving you a clearer picture on ways to pick the right family camping tent, check out the following for a full explanation.

### Seasonality

In most cases, three-season tents are chosen for their lightweight features and perfect design for temperate conditions in the spring, summer and fall. These types of tents come with enough mesh panels that boost air flow and keep out bugs and insects, although they cannot filter blowing sand. They can also keep up with downpours, but they are not the best choices in terms of sustaining harsh storms, heavy snow or violent winds. Their main functions are to provide privacy, shield your family against bugs and insects and keep them dry during light snow and rain.

There are also 3+ season tents, which are designed and built for three-season and summer use. They usually offer strength, ventilation balance and heat retention and come with at least one pole and fewer mesh panels than 3-season models, making them stronger and warmer, too. You may opt for this family tent if you often go to camping trips in elevated destinations. Take note, however, they are not for keeping up with harsh winter conditions.

Finally, are the four-season tents or mountaineering tents that are designed and made to keep up with harsh winter and wind conditions. They come with thicker fabrics and heavier poles than any other types of tents. They also have rounded dome designs for eliminating flat roof space. However, their thick make may hinder ventilation, resulting to a warm and stuffy feeling in mild weather conditions. Their main functions are to stand inhospitable weather patterns, such as howling strong winds.

Tip to select better: Before camping, you should be able to anticipate the weather conditions by checking the forecast the day before the activity because two main enemies of campers are the rain and wind. So if you were planning to camp in places where these two are always visitors, you may want to consider a high quality tent appropriate with features to withstand existing weather patterns and to protect you and your family against the elements.

### Weight and size

Many family tents are designed for car transport and it is common that larger ones may be heavier than expedition tents. You can look at its packed size to see if it will fit your car boot and look into its erected form (plus extensions) to check if it will fit on the pitch you have chosen in the campsite.

Many family tents for sale claim to be accommodating a specific number of campers, but these ratings may not often be realistic. For instance, an 8-person tent may be 180-square feet in size, allowing 22.5 square

feet per person. However, you should remember that an air mattress alone can consume 12 square feet, leaving little room for your personal possessions. So in this case, a reasonable allotment of 30 square feet per person would accommodate only six persons in this tent.

In addition, you should take note of odd-shaped family tents that may have a big flooring area but do not have enough room to allow your family members to stretch out to full length when on their sleeping bags. More on choosing the tent size is to check on your family dynamics. You should imagine how everyone would be coexisting peacefully inside the tent.

For instance, does your husband snore loudly waking up the children at night, or do your children fidget and keep everyone awake? Imagine and consider your family's sleeping habits so that you can decide on what size of camping tent to buy. Otherwise, you may have to buy two to three small tents that will separate all.

You should find an easy-to-setup tent to avoid the stress of spending too much time on it. Remember, kids also love to participate in tent-building, so see to it if fewer than three people can build it.

### **Insect protection and ventilation**

When picking a tent, see if it has a ventilation function to make everyone inside the tent comfortable and to allow the air flow freely. However, you should see if the vent panels have a mesh covering, an important feature to keep the bugs and insects out the tent.

You can also choose camping tents with fly screens at the door, which do not only allow fresh air inside but also keep the flying insects out.

### **Storage**

It would be nice if you would select a family camping tent with enough of storage area to accommodate your things, including camping equipment. There should be enough of the space so that you can keep the main sleeping and living area clutter-free.

### **Doors and windows**

You may consider getting a family tent with at least two doors to help in the free flowing of air through your camping tent, something to improve ventilation and to welcome the breeze in the warmer weather. With two doors, you can also have the flexibility of entering and leaving your tent using the most convenient doorway and you can reduce foot flow through only one door in the harsh rainy weather.

You can make the most out of your tent by increasing its sense of space and lightness with windows. And for these, you can find models with built-in or pre-attached windows to block the light out, if desired. Not only windows give a better sense of space, but they also add to the ventilation for making everyone comfortable when inside the tent.

### **Space**

Make sure that it can accommodate the number of people in your family and see if there would be enough moving space for everyone. Remember that it is essential to have a decent living space in the tent to avoid a 'claustrophobic feeling.'

You should also be making everyone feeling comfortable and that they are able to stand up inside the tent. You should also see to it if you could fit chairs and tables inside for activities, including playing board games and cards and eating.

## Assembly

Requiring at least two people to set up, a family tent is larger than two-person tents, so ease in construction is a very important factor to consider when choosing one. Don't let hard assembly stress you and ruin your vacation. There are tents with poles held in their sleeves, while others have clips that pole skeleton. You may want to opt for the sleeve design for its strength, but for the clip design for easier assembly.

Additional tip: Don't wait until the camping trip before trying and setting up the tent. You can try and erect it in your backyard before the camping to see how to set it up.

## Headroom

There are several tent shapes to select from, and some of them are the cabin styles that come with almost vertical walls for accommodating max headroom and the dome styles that come with less headroom but does work against the wind better. So if you are anticipating a bad weather, you may opt for the dome tent or the cabin style if you are after more headroom (particularly when camping in large groups).

## Material

In addition to these characteristics, you may also want to take in the material of the tent into consideration. For instance, you may buy one that is made with aluminium and polyester so that you can make sure that it will stay dry and sturdy. More so, remember that nylon is also a great choice to be the material for the tent sides because it allows moisture (exhaled by everyone in the tent) and it breathes.

However, take note that heavier nylons are more durable than lighter ones. And for the rain fly, which is the separate fabric piece holding the rain off and going over the tent, pick polyester fly that does not only cover the roof but also cover the entire tent to repel the rain.

When it comes to poles, you should go for a tent with poles of aluminium material that is tougher than fiberglass. In addition, you may want to find models with taped floor seams and bathtub design that wraps up onto the tent wall for a couple of inches, making it water resistant, and are stronger than those that are only sewn together.



## Ground cloth and stakes

You will need good stake in order to hold your tent firm against the wind, and remember that the bigger your tent, the bigger surface area there will be for the wind to strike. You will also need a ground cloth or a piece

of plastic that will cover the bottom of the tent in order to keep the ground moisture from getting into the tent's interior.

### **Sleeping capacity**

When selecting a family camping tent, you may want selecting a model that is based on the number of family members as well as the number of people joining (e.g. friends, close relatives...). However, there is no specific industry standard that exists to define per person dimensions of the tent.

So when evaluating for the tent's capacity ratings, you should assume a close fit, and if you were considering more space, you may opt to upsize the tent's capacity by at least one person, especially if people to join are large, claustrophobic, toss when sleeping and you would be bringing a dog or a small child.

### **Sleeping compartment inside the family camping tent**

What is your preferred sleeping arrangement? This is something you can decide on depending on the age of your children. There should be flexible bedroom compartments and a central zip to separate at least two chambers, meaning you and your husband can sleep in the small compartment and your children in the large one.

Or you can also check if you could split the compartment for privacy if you have older children. And for this, most families choose the vis-à-vis style family tent wherein there are two sleeping areas at both ends of the tent, being the living room in the middle of them.

### **Porch and extension**

A camping tent with an optional or integral porch is important so that you and your family can take off outdoor clothing and boots before getting inside the living area of the tent. In addition to a porch is an extension, something worth considering for family camping tents because they offer flexibility and add space as your family's needs grow, too.

Choosing a tent with or without extension may also depend on how long the camping trip you are up to. Additionally, you can choose a model with a canopy or awning for providing sun protection and making a shaded area in order to enjoy the outdoors. You will find camping tents with bigger extensions, especially if your family loves to have a separate space for cooking, a greater living area or an additional storage.

### **Additional features**

If you and your family are looking for more comfort as possible, you can also choose tents with more features, including lantern hooks (allowing you to make lighting at night easier) and electric hook-ups (allowing phone charging and running of electrical items).

On the other hand, there are tents that come with carpeting or flooring that can make everyone feel homely while it also functions as an insulator, although not a main feature.

If looking to have this feature, you can get custom carpet that is designed to fit inside the tent you have selected. Alternatively, there are types that come with sewn-in ground sheets, a common feature in most family style tents that keeps the insects and water out. Design features may also be invaluable if you were

looking for extra functions. For instance, you may select a family tent with large screened windows to ventilate better.

### A list of 10 tents you may want to consider

1. **Coleman Sundome** tent accommodates up to six people, can be set up and teardown within 10 minutes with its instant clip poles and features the Waterproof WeatherTec System.
2. **Coleman Montana** tent has a cabin design with angled windows to keep the rain out when opened and is ideal for family car campers, extended camping trips and scout leaders. It has an electrical access port, door awning and hinged door.
3. **Coleman Red Canyon** tent is available in black, blue and red; can hold up to eight campers; and has a divider for creating separate rooms. It has shock-corded poles and easy to follow instruction manual for easy setup and teardown.
4. **Wenzel Klondike 8-person family** tent is made with weatherproof polyester and polyurethane coating and offers a full mesh option. It has a screened area function for a sleeping room or a sun room.
5. **Coleman 6-person instant** tent comes with a spacious interior for accommodating two queen airbeds and has pre-assembled poles for easy, fast setup in less than a minute. It also features a built-in rainfly for weather protection.
6. **Coleman Prairie breeze** offers a comfortable residence for the family in the wilderness and sleeps up to nine people. It has a led lighted fan system for offering a comfortable environment for the family.
7. **Kodiak Canvas Flex-bow** features 100 percent duck canvas for durability, breathable and watertight fabric. It also has two D-shaped doors and two funnel flow vents.
8. **EUREKA! Copper Canyon** accommodates four persons and has a six-pole cabin style and a full mesh roof. It also comes with a large D-shaped door and half window for easy entry and exit.
9. **Standing room 100** is a hanging style cabin or family camping tent with two separate doors for easy access and comes with four storage pouches for your accessories, such as extra batteries, cell phones and so on. It can be set up in minutes with its canopy hooks and easy-to-follow instruction guide.
10. **Ozark Trail** is a big 3-room family tent to sleep up to 10 people, with two side doors and one middle door for added privacy and can fit up to three queen airbeds.

**Definitely, choosing the right tent is a must because a tent may indicate the level of comfort, protection and safety you and your family will experience in camping.**

Therefore, you may want to consider the factors we've listed above to decide on the tent that works and serves your family best. Happy camping!

### RACV's Extra Care and Towing Pack

There seems to be some confusion around how the Extra Care and Towing Pack offerings from the RACV work, depending on your particular emergency circumstances. Better yet, contact your local or nearest RACV Branch Office and ask for someone to attend one of your meetings to explain the benefits.

Check out their website:

<http://www.racv.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/racv/internet/primary/roadside-assistance/packages/tow-pack>  
<http://www.racv.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/racv/Internet/Primary/roadside+assistance/caravan+ +trailer+assistance>

An interesting story at: [http://www.candm.com.au/is-there-a-cover-up/?mc\\_cid=98a4d551ea&mc\\_eid=bb056d15ad](http://www.candm.com.au/is-there-a-cover-up/?mc_cid=98a4d551ea&mc_eid=bb056d15ad)

## Pioneer Tourist Park, Deniliquin – Discount Offer

We here at Pioneer Tourist Park, Deniliquin, would like to make a special offer to ACCVIC affiliated members.

If three or more of your members travelling together pre-book for a minimum of 2 nights, we will give a **10% discount**. If they are “**Kui Park**” members, **their 10% discount will also apply**. Must be pre-booked and mention this offer at time of booking.

We are a small park situated 5 minutes’ drive from the Centre of Deniliquin. All our sites are Drive Thru, with plenty of space around them. For more information on the park, visit [www.pioneertouristpark.com.au](http://www.pioneertouristpark.com.au).

Terry, Chris and Janelle Cavanagh

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*“Do what makes you happy, be with who makes you smile, laugh as much as you breathe, and love as long as you live.”*

*— Rachel Ann Nunes*

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## 2018 State Rally

Planning is well under way. The site is expected to accommodate up to 125+ Vans. Large Pavilion and outside areas for socialisation. A large number of powered site are also expected to be available. Sufficient Toilet/Shower facilities should be available along with access to a suitable Dump Point between 10am-5pm.

Whilst the dates 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 are being planned for, the local Council is yet to confirm the availability of the site at that time, due to a number of other events that are being considered. Other dates, a fortnight later are also a consideration. Catering is also being sought for meals, all costs are expected to be reasonable and will be advised as soon as final arrangements have been agreed to.

Thank you to the Committee from the North East Victoria Caravan Club for their efforts to date.

## Thanks to Volunteers, Providing Refreshments

We are very appreciative of those who are able to provide the refreshments we enjoy at our Delegate Meetings as follows:

August 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 – John and Yvonne Marks – Combined CC

November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 – Carol and Frank Achterdenbosch – Gippsland CC

February 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Llew Stephens – Cell CC

May 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 – John and Yvonne Marks – Combined CC.

## National Rally – Canberra – Power Leads

Some people who have purchased new power leads have found that the plugs have a flange around the plug that does not let them fit into the plugs on many caravans. New plug inlets can be purchased and fitted in some cases but that is a tricky and expensive exercise. In some cases, the end plugs can be replaced but the availability of the older type ends is becoming limited. Please be aware that there may be a problem and try your new lead before you head off to the rally.

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## ***Vice President's Report.***

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(August 2016)

It was heartening to have the support of the Clubs in attendance for the Notice of Motion.

“The motion was “All Clubs must attend at least TWO meetings per year and ONE of those meetings to be the AGM.” It is the responsibility of all clubs to make sure that the Executive and committee are filled so the ACCVIC can continue to function. It was also disappointing the Clubs who opposed the Notice of Motion were not in attendance to put forward their objections.

I also urge all clubs that have not entered their member's on the NACC sight as this will assist the NACC in their endeavours to obtain discounts on your behalf around Australia.

We will invite the Caravan Parks Association, President of Vic Parks to our November meeting (Sat. 26<sup>th</sup>). If your Club has any topics for discussion would you please forward these to our Secretary Jenny Lowe at [admin@accvic.org.au](mailto:admin@accvic.org.au).

The Victorian State Rally 2018, will be held in Wodonga at the Showgrounds and Racecourse. Congratulations to the North East Victoria Caravan Club on their willingness to take the lead in organising the next State Rally and with assistance from Cobram & District Caravan Club, Jayco Owners Club of Victoria and North East Rovers Motorhome Club all should go well. The proposed dates for the State Rally are 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> are the preferred dates but due to Council commitments we have been asked to nominate a second choice 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be numerous Powered sites arranged and Un- Powered sites available. The preliminary work carried out by Dick Jacob has been outstanding and I am sure all will be well for a successful State Rally in 2018. Would all Clubs please note the

dates and support the Victorian State Rally in October 2018.

**Kevin Doherty Vice President.**

### **Technology Classes in Canberra**

Those attending the National Rally in Canberra are reminded to register their expression of interest in attending any of the Technology Classes. This can be done from the Rally Website:

<http://www.16thnatcaravanrally.org.au>, selecting “Events” from the main menu.

### **The Family Caravanning Industry in Australia**

*Excerpt from Caravan Industry of Australia Report*

The home-grown caravanning industry is on a roll, with more than 586,000 recreational vehicles (RVs) registered across the country, a 4.5 per cent increase from 2014, according to the Caravan and Camping State of the Industry report for 2015. The great majority (more than 528,000) are caravans.

Around 11 million overnight caravan and camping trips were undertaken throughout Australia in 2015, a 7 per cent increase from 2014, according to the report.

CEO of the Caravan Industry Association of Australia, Stuart Lamont, says "grey nomads" are no longer the dominant players in caravanning and camping. **These days, 64 per cent of such domestic trips are taken by 20 to 54-year-olds.**

Lamont says the caravanning industry is worth more than \$19 billion to the Australian economy. "What is especially great about this is that 90 per cent of all caravanning and camping activity is undertaken in regional areas, meaning we are an important driver of economic activity for small communities and regional towns." Wyss is unfazed by rising challenges from caravan businesses in the on-demand digital marketplace.

"Actually that's wonderful," he says of the peer-to-peer disruptors such as MyCaravan and Camplify, which provide access to shared caravan hire services. "If they are going to get people trying them out, I think it's going to be beneficial to our industry ultimately. We keep people interested in caravanning, we keep them in Australia, so we keep our dollars here."

The caravanning industry is not exempt from experiencing the emergence of disruptor brands, says Lamont. "But unlike other industries struggling to adapt to the new peer-to-peer models, the caravanning industry has an ability to be nimble and adapt product to the needs of the consumer.

"As an industry with rich history, we have great diversity and product for all markets which keeps us viable and in demand. I am sure such disruption models will form part of the mix into the future, but how successful they will become is yet to be seen."

So, is the appetite for self-guided Australian touring on the increase? "Certainly caravanning and camping is experiencing somewhat of a renaissance period," says Lamont.

"Accommodation continues to be one of the fastest growing domestic tourism products, growing at nearly 10 per cent, and caravan and campervan registrations continue to be the fastest growing vehicle sector by type (and has been for a number of years now).

"In 2015, local manufacturing experienced a record year, having produced the most amount of caravans and campervans in the past 35 years. It's clear that Aussies' appetite for caravanning and camping continues unabated – with a great opportunity for capitalising on international tourist markets."

Lamont says international caravan and camping visitors spend an average of \$7624, due to the length of their stay – the highest yield on average of any international visitor.

Sunland's Wyss, whose caravans are produced in Caboolture, Queensland, says they have seen an increase in young families buying the product.

"They are actually home-schooled, and they are looking for a family van where they can take the kids with them and travel around Australia. Work-wise, they might do a variety of different things as they are travelling around the country, almost nomadic, dare I even say gypsy-like."

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*“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”*

*— Eleanor Roosevelt*

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### Acronyms/Abbreviations used:

To help new Members, the following list of acronyms used within the organisation has been provided.

Abbreviation	Club
ACCVic	Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria and Their Members
AACCC	Aussie Adventurers Caravan and Camping Club Inc.
ATCM&CC	Australasian Touring Caravan Motorhome & Camping Club Inc. (fondly referred to as the Alphabet Club)
Ballarat CC	Ballarat Caravan Club
Bendigo CC	Bendigo CC
Cell CC	Cell Caravan Owner's Club
CVCC	Central Victoria Caravan Club
CFA CC	CFA Caravan Club
CDCC	Cobram and District Caravan Club
CCCV	Combined Caravan Club of Vic
CCOCV	Coromal Caravan Owners Club of Vic
GCC	Gippsland Caravan Club
JOCV	Jayco Owners Club of Vic
Knox CCC	Knox Caravan and Camping Club Inc.
Masonic CC	Masonic Caravan Club of Vic Inc.
NACC	National Australian Caravan Club
Nomads Vic	Nomads Victoria Inc.
NERMC	North-East Rovers Motorhome Club Inc.
NEVCC	North East Victorian Caravan Club Inc.
NTCC	Northern Tasmanian Caravan Club Inc.
RACV CC	RACV Caravan Club of Victoria Inc.
STCC	Southern Tasmanian Caravan Club Inc.
Vic CC	Victorian Caravan Club
WDCC	Western District Caravan Club Inc.
WCC	Wimmera Caravan Club Inc.
WVL CG	WVL Caravan Group
CIA	Caravan Industry Association
CMCA	Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia
RVCA	RV Clubs of Australia

## Holiday Camping & Caravan Fire Safety

### Fire safety fact sheet

As of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011, under changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, smoke alarms must be installed in all new and existing moveable dwellings where people sleep (regardless of whether they are registered for road use or not). These include caravans, campervans, holiday vans, park van annexes and associated structures. This does not include tents or camper trailers. Smoke alarms must comply with Australian Standard AS 3786, be fitted with a hush button, and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Owners were given six months grace to install smoke alarms in their moveable dwellings. Penalties now apply for any breaches after the grace period. These include on the spot fines of \$200, with a maximum penalty of \$550 if the matter goes to court.

The fire services recommend this simple safety checklist to assist you to have a safer holiday.

- When planning to use a caravan ensure that you turn off any pilot lights before towing or when the towing vehicle's engine is running.
- Install a smoke alarm close to the sleeping area and consider having a fire extinguisher and fire blanket near the exit as well.
- At camp sites familiarise yourself with any fire routines or equipment installed and locate a safe refuge place in case of a bushfire.
- Gas cylinders on caravans should be external, secure, with valves facing away from the van. You should regularly check gas piped and connectors are in good working order, particularly after driving on country roads.
- Keep heaters away from the internal fittings in caravans.
- Have a portable radio to keep updated regarding the weather conditions and fire restrictions that may be in force.
- Never cook or smoke in tents and consider buying a flame retarded tent.
- Locate campfires downwind and a safe distance from any tents.
- Turn off any lanterns and extinguish campfires before going to bed.
- Never leave cooking unattended and always secure matches and lighters.

### Remember

- If your caravan catches fire, 'once you get out – stay out' and dial Triple Zero (000). Develop a fire escape plan that considers all occupants of a caravan and practice it.
- Install a smoke alarm in the caravan and test before leaving on holiday and once a week when a caravan is in use. Test it monthly and change the batteries yearly.
- A photo electric type smoke alarm with a hush button (that desensitises the alarm for a short period during cooking), and powered by a 10 year life, non-removable, non-replaceable battery, is recommended.

