



ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN CLUBS VICTORIA AND THEIR MEMBERS INC.

Our Clubs Welcome You ...

Coloured glossy brochures are now available for Clubs to use as a promotion tool.

2018 State Rally

Keep your calendars open for 13 Oct 2018 ?? State Rally likely to be held in Wodonga.



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NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

VOLUME 31 - ISSUE 2

Delegate's Meetings for the Coming Year:

All meetings will be held at **Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne** for the coming year.

No meetings at Marong or Ballarat.

Dates/Times as follows:

27th Aug 2016 (last Saturday of month) 10:30am.

26th Nov 2016 (last Saturday of month) 10:30am.

25th Feb 2017 (last Saturday of month) 10:30am.

27th May 2017 (last Saturday of month) 10:30am, plus AGM.

Australians lose over \$229 million to scams in 2015.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's *Targeting Scams Report* reveals that \$85 million was reported lost to the ACCC's Scamwatch last year, with 105,200 scam complaints. In 2014, the ACCC received 91,600 scam complaints, with almost \$82 million reported lost.

(more info in following pages)

Committee of Management Changes.

Gary Fitzgerald retained as Treasurer

We would like to welcome:

Ken Slade as President

Kevin Doherty as Vice President

Jenny Lowe as Secretary

Robert Taylor as Assistant Secretary

We wish to thank Laurie for his efforts and support as outgoing President.





Outgoing President's Report.

(Ballarat May 2016)

What is the role of a President in an association such as ours?

In my opinion it is to ensure that all the necessary tasks are done, on time. When I started, there was no long list of jobs, just timetables and agendas, so I guess I looked around for those "jobs".

I was aware that 'someone' opened up Ross House, 'someone' booked the meeting room at the Marong and Ballarat Caravan Parks. It appeared that my predecessor, Peter Hillas and Robyn organised the tea, coffee etc. And then there are the sausages, bread, sauce etc.

Perhaps some of this work can be shared around, so that no-one has a lot to do, but, more importantly, lots of folks have a small, but important job. I think we all want to be needed.

A few emails and phone calls later, each of our 4 meetings had caterers arranged, each one accepted with pleasure, and I felt some satisfaction about that.

It turns out that there are few tasks on the Presidential Plate, and you just tackle them as they turn up. What you can be sure of is, that there is no shortage of help, guidance and assistance from those around you, even though many may not be previously known to you.

It's probably fair to say that few of us are experts, but there always seems to be 'someone' who is, and the odds are that that 'someone' will be only too willing to help.

My term has ended rather abruptly, and somewhat sooner than I expected. The support and assistance which has been given to me has meant that every part of the position as President has been an absolute pleasure.

My thanks to all the Committee Members, Project Officers, Delegates and supporters for making my job a pleasure, and most importantly, to Secretary Ken Slade, who has guided me all the way.

Laurie Allen

"Don't listen to what they say. Go see." – Chinese proverb

Can you help us?

The next National Rally to be held in Victoria is a long way away, however we need to start thinking about possible venues for such an event. The last we organised was held at the **Elmore Field Days** site in December 2010. Using the same site again is a consideration, but we would like to hear from anyone who may have any alternative suggestions.

Heavy vehicle driver fatigue data final report released

The National Transport Commission (NTC) today released the Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Data Final Report which was endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials Committee (TISOC) earlier this month.

Chief Executive of the National Transport Commission Paul Retter said the final report incorporated stakeholder feedback on the discussion paper released in August last year.

“We know that fatigue is a major contributor to crashes but without more rigorous data we won’t know what reforms will reduce the problem and make Australia’s roads safer for everyone,” Mr Retter said.

“The regulation of driver fatigue is a complex policy issue and more detailed research needs to be done on its causes and impacts.”

He said the fatigue data framework would help to ensure data about the frequency and impact of driver fatigue was collected in a consistent and comparable way across the nation’s states and territories.

The framework developed by the NTC will see four fatigue-related projects being pursued. These projects will:

- conduct new research to evaluate the fatigue impact of the current laws
- develop nationally consistent definitions and measurements of fatigue
- analyse commercial data to evaluate the frequency and impact of fatigue regulations, and
- review road agencies’ ability to link crash data to driver accreditation.

Research activities will be conducted by the Alertness Safety and Productivity Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) who will conduct comparative research in both laboratory and field environments. This will include evaluating the accuracy of existing fatigue monitoring technology. Anyone interested in financially contributing to the CRC should contact them as soon as possible.

Mr Retter said the fatigue data framework would also obtain more data about the use of nose-to-tail shifts, where a heavy vehicle driver works two long work periods within a 24-hour period with a major rest break in between. This work would consider factors such as insufficient sleep, long work shifts, the impact of circadian rhythms and the frequency of nose-to-tail schedules.

This report is an extract from the www.ntc.gov.au website of 13 May 2016.

“Travel brings power and love back into your life.” – Rumi

National Rally in Canberra

The National Rally in Canberra (Sept) is building up to be an interesting event, with over 600 Vans registered and entertainment provided by John Williamson.

Put Forward for Consideration

The following change to our By-Laws has been put forward for consideration:

"All Clubs Must attend at least two meetings per year & one of those meetings is to be the AGM"

The attendance at the recent AGM in Ballarat was disappointing and unless a higher level of interest and enthusiasm is shown we are in danger of winding-up the Association – this would place additional costs and burdens upon each of the Clubs in relation to a number of matters, one being Public Liability cost increases.

If you wish to make a comment, make sure you are at the next meeting at Ross House in August.

Our Clubs Welcome You



Peter Hillas has arranged for the design and printing of a full-coloured brochure that we hope clubs can use as a promotional tool.

We will be using them when we attend any of the Caravan Shows.

To ensure your club gets a supply of the brochures, please contact admin@accvic.org.au.

Any suppliers of Caravans or caravanning products that would like to avail themselves of some copies to distribute to potential Caravan Club members are also welcome to contact us.

"Make voyages! Attempt them... there's nothing else." – Tennessee Williams

Stolen RV

Please be on the lookout for the following stolen caravan:

Make and Model: **Stolen Paramount Commander XT**

Reg No: **W22761**

Chassis No. **C4724**

Date Stolen: **23 January 2016**

Stolen From: **Secure warehouse in Heatherton**

Notable Features:

It has a distinctive black checkerplate box on the front.

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Australians lose over \$229 million to scams in 2015 (cont ...)

"This Fraud Week, the ACCC is urging the community to 'Wise Up to Scams' following a \$3 million increase in scam losses reported to the ACCC and a 15 per cent increase in complaints. In particular, we are encouraging older Australians to wise up and watch out for scams that target them so they don't have their hard earned savings stolen," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

For the first time, the ACCC has also reviewed data from other jurisdictions that receive reports or detect scams to get a clearer picture of the significance of losses caused by scam activity in Australia. After removing those scams reported to the ACCC, reports to the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) revealed losses of over \$127 million in 2015, from 25,600 complaints

Various scam disruption programs also detect Australians sending funds to high risk jurisdictions and a combined estimate of losses to this unreported scam activity is \$17.1 million.

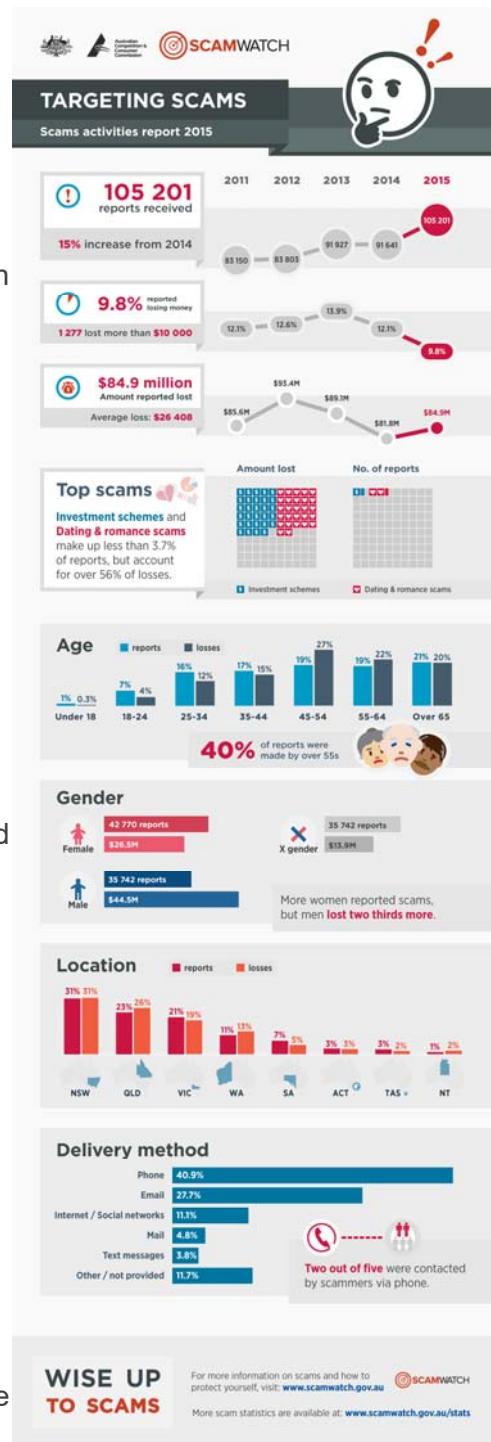
"If you add Scamwatch and ACORN data with losses detected through scam disruption work, total scam losses exceeded \$229 million last year. We know that in reality the actual total is higher still as many people never report that they've been scammed," Ms Rickard said.

"The ACCC's report reveals that investment scams and dating and romance scams resulted in the largest financial losses. There are many other scams which affect older members of the community but these two scams account for half of the money reported lost by over 55's in 2015."

In 2015, Scamwatch reports for fraudulent investment schemes across all age groups doubled to over \$24 million, with 1,262 complaints. If you add in the investment scams reported to ACORN the total amount reported comes to over \$41 million. Of those reported to Scamwatch, almost \$6.3 million was lost to victims over 55, with 213 complaints from this age group.

These scams pose a significant risk for Australians looking for investment opportunities, especially those looking to grow their retirement funds.

Investment scams come in many guises including business ventures, superannuation schemes, managed funds and the sale or purchase of shares or property. Scammers dress up 'opportunities' with professional looking brochures and websites to mask their fraudulent operations and trick unsuspecting Australians. Before parting with your money, do your own research on the investment company and check they have a Australian Financial Services Licence



on ASIC's MoneySmart website. Don't let anyone pressure you into making decisions about your money or investments," Ms Rickard said.

In 2015, Scamwatch reports for dating and romance scams decreased slightly but were still significant with just under \$23 million in reported losses from 2,620 complaints. Of this \$5.6 million was lost to victims over 55, with 464 complaints from this age group. ACORN reports for romance scams totals \$15 million. When you add these losses to those from the disruption work (\$17m), this brings the total losses for relationship scams to over \$54 million.

Dating and romance scams take advantage of people looking for romantic partners, often via dating websites, apps or social media. Scammers spend months and even years establishing a relationship with their victims before making up a reason they need to 'borrow' money, such as medical emergencies or travel expenses. Never send money to someone you have met online – chances are you will be left with a broken heart and an empty bank account. Cease contact with anyone that asks for money, no matter how you feel about them," Ms Rickard said.

The ACCC is continuing to alert potential victims to dating scams through our Scam Disruption Project.

This is an extract of an article found on the Australian Cyber Online Reporting Network, visit ACORN site at <http://www.acorn.gov.au/>.

*"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." –
Henry Miller*

Summary of Research for a Site for the 2018 State Rally.

Wodonga Council was approached as to the use of the Showgrounds and Racecourse. The site is shared by the two organisations. This site has been used for caravan and RV exhibitions.

The best months for such an event were considered to be March or October. The site would be unavailable during the conduct of race meetings. It is expected that the Caulfield Cup would be held on 20th October 2018, 16 days before the Melbourne Cup on 6th November 2018. As there is a race meeting at Wodonga on Caulfield Cup Day this date would not be available.

To date a quotation of costs from the race club has not been available. An estimate of \$800.00 per day was given verbally by the Show Society for the use of their area. Most of the caravan and RV parking would be on the areas under control of the show society.

A large hall is available and has a commercial kitchen attached. The racing club generally use a specific caterer however there is no contract involved. Two hundred people can be seated at tables in the hall.

There is a large covered area and toilet block adjacent to the hall.

There is a large number of toilets in three separate areas, one of which is small and has two showers and is adjacent to eight serviced caravan sites.

Showers would have to be brought in.

A number of three phase outlets are scattered around the site and could provide some power if the appropriate single phase power boards were used.

A dump point is situated in the racecourse proper but access is unbelievably difficult. Perhaps an approach to Council might provide another dump point.

There is no other in Wodonga.

Grey water disposal could possibly be negotiated with the show society. The actual area available for caravans and RVs has not been ascertained.

Dick Jacob Member of North East Victoria Caravan Club



Incoming President's Report.

(Ballarat May 2016)

Well so much for having a year off... That didn't work.

I enjoyed my term as your Secretary & now look forward to working with our new Committee. I thank Jenny Lowe for taking on the position of Secretary, the hardest job on the Committee. I also thank the other members who decided to either stay on or join the Executive. Kevin Doherty will be a great help to me as Vice-President, and a welcome to Robert Taylor onto the Executive as a Committee Member & Assistant Secretary.

I spoke to Margaret Matthews prior to the AGM about her taking the role of President but she declined due to health & travel.

Kevin is continuing as State Rally Co-ordinator & has the next State Rally organisers looking at venues & planning their activities. We have now decided to have all ACCVIC meetings in the City to streamline administration & enable some more Delegates to attend meetings.

Thank you for your continued support & we look forward to seeing you all in the future.

Ken Slade

President

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move." – Robert Louis Stevenson
