



Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

Newsletter March 2019

Delegate's Meetings.

To be held at **Ross House,**

247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.

4th Floor. Room 4.1 Hayden Raysmith Room.

May 4, 2019 10.30 a.m. - Ross House

November 23, 2019 10:30 a.m. - AGM Ross House *

* As the National Rally is being held in Albany WA October is not appropriate for the AGM however it must be held before the end of November.

President's Report: Harald Pries

I am informed that the 2018 State Rally held at Wodonga was a great success. All those who attended had a great time. Thank you to all those from the Northeast Victoria Caravan Club, and the Cobram Caravan Club and especially the committee led by Dick Jacob and Rhona Meyers and their team who put so much effort into the organising and running of the successful rally.

We conducted a survey at the State Rally from which the results have provided us with good information that we will be passing on to the organisers of the next Rally and making appropriate changes to our guidelines for running a State Rally.

The 2019 Albany National Rally is approaching fast. There are still some vacant spots for people who may wish to attend.

SURVEY OF ALL CLUB MEMBERS

The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria is conducting a survey of all members in order to gain a better understanding of what members know of, and expect from, this group, to which all clubs belong.

This survey addresses the following:-

- In order to progress with future State Rallies we need to know that we do have member support.
- The Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria and Their Members can only continue with the support of clubs, through delegates from these clubs so questions are asked about that.
- We know that many clubs are ageing and would appreciate new members, but how do we attract these members and how do we promote clubs?
- Many of the members of the ACCVic committee have been on that committee for many years – we need to attract new members to these roles, and to gain fresh ideas on how we conduct the Association.
- There are many occasions when it would be appropriate to send information directly to all members but that means having a database of club members email addresses, but each member has the right to agree or disagree to being on that database.
- The National Rally 2028 planning is beginning now but we need to form a committee of members who are interested in being part of that. So we are seeking volunteers for this.

[This survey will be sent to all club Secretaries shortly. Instruction of how and where to return the survey will be included at the end of the survey form.](#)



The Caravan Industry Association of Australia's web site address is:-

<https://caravantowingguide.com.au/definitions/?fbclid=IwAR0fOGkffT1iE3pAzx1izR8OHvZqJrR2fFrzo7vhbqKbHsvRzdzVSf8gKc0>

The CIA have a NEW definition for TARE MASS which is - The unladen weight of the complete new trailer / caravan as delivered (including any options fitted). What this means is that every caravan made could have a different weight due to different extras added by the new owner when buying a new caravan. Tare could therefore include such things as Solar Panels, Awnings, a Bike Rack, a Gas Heater for those cold months or that Washing Machine the wife wants.

The CIA also currently have a great prize of a fully customised Pedders MS-RT Ranger PXII plus a Jayco Adventurer 19ft Off Road Caravan to win.

GO TO THEIR WEB SITE TO ENTER:- <https://caravantowingguide.com.au/>



State Rally 2021 Progress report:-

A committee with a member from Bendigo, Aussie Adventurers and Central Vic Clubs is being formed. A site in Bendigo is being considered, however they are waiting on the results of the survey before they make any more plans.

Webmaster:-

Gary Fitzgerald is still requesting articles or photos for publication on the website – anything that may be of interest to other club members – e.g. Photos, stories, rally reports etc. Please send them to webmaster@accvic.org.au

Newsletter:-

If anyone has items that they would like to put in the newsletter that would be of interest to other members or information that all members should be made aware of please send them to admin@accvic.org.au and they will be forwarded on to the newsletter editor.

DISCLAIMER

The material in this Newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports, nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter. No person should act on the basis of any matter contained in the Newsletter without considering and, if necessary, taking appropriate professional advice upon their own particular circumstances. The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria Inc, the authors and editors, expressly disclaim all and any liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done, any such person in reliance, whether whole or partial, upon the whole or part of the contents of the Newsletter.



PERSONAL EFFECTS

Both Europe and Britain have a formula (each slightly different) for calculating the weight of “personal effects” that Caravan Manufacturers must take into consideration when building a Caravan. This formula is as follows, using my Jayco Outback 18.5 feet caravan as an example:-

1. The length of the caravan including the “A” frame - 7.1 metres
2. The number of berths - 2
3. Multiply both of these by 10 and add them together, so $71 + 20 = 91$
4. Add 30 (in Europe) and 50 (in Britain) - we will use the more generous 50, so $91 + 50 = 141$
5. This then becomes the weight of personal effects that the manufacturer MUST take into consideration, therefore 141 kilograms.

Personal effects were described in Europe and Britain as follows:-

Clothes, crockery, cooking utensils, bedding, TV, radio, footwear, books and food. What about the beer you ask?

I was asked about this (not the beer) when a friend considered buying a large Off Road Caravan (Tare of 3100 kilos & ATM of 3500 kilos, therefore the van can carry 400 kilos of “personal effects etc”) to tow behind his Ford Ranger. I initially referred him to this web sight :-

<https://rvdaily.com.au/the-3500kg-towing-rip-off/> COPY AND PASTE INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER FOR MORE INFORMATION

He then stated that this van had 3 water tanks (3x95) weighing 285 kilos when full. So using the above “personal effects” as a starting point what can he safely put in the van?

Personal effects	141 kilos * As described above. But will be higher for a longer van.
Water in 3 tanks	285 kilos
Gas in 2 bottles	17 kilos
Water in Hot water unit	20 kilos (the weight of water in the unit when operational)
Total	463 kilos

So with very little in this van it is already 63 kilos overweight and of course he didn’t buy it.

Continued next page



CARRYING CAPACITY CONTINUED

The “industry standard” of 300kg for single axle or 400kg for tandem axle caravans has been in use for many years.

Apparently the industry is now being encouraged to provide weight carrying capacity AFTER allowing for water and gas.

Technological developments in components such as chassis, axles and suspension set ups, tyres, couplings and wheels have enabled manufacturers to build towable recreational vehicles which have the potential to carry loads well in excess of the once “industry standard” of 300 or 400kg.

For example a friend was buying a new Billabong caravan (placed in liquidation October 2018) with an ATM of around 2900kg. However when the planned caravan was to come out of the factory the tare (empty weight) would have been around 2100kg which includes heavy duty roller rocker suspension.

Therefore the carrying capacity will be around 800kg.

Another example is the new Jayco Adventurer, fully off-road, caravan pictured, which has the following weights.

Tare 2809kg

ATM 3499kg

Payload or carrying capacity 690kg

Even my 2016 Jayco 18.5 feet Outback has a carrying capacity of 475kg.

A couple is lying in bed.

Man says: "I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world."

Woman says : "I'll miss you."





60% Overweight

That was the reply when I asked Ian (Mac) McCallum, owner of WEIGHSTATION BASED IN WANTIRNA “what percentage of caravans and tow vehicles he weighed were overweight”.

You can visit his web site here:- <https://www.weighstation.com.au> Copy and Paste this into your web browser. Phone number:- [0419 516 237](tel:0419516237) to book in your weighing. Email:- info@weighstation.com.au

Weigh Station provides a convenient mobile weighing service for caravans, boat trailers and their tow vehicles. Mac said we come to you.

We can weigh all types of recreational vehicles. Cost quoted was \$199.00 and you get a full three page report,

- Weighing of caravans, boat and motor cycle trailers
- Weighing of tow vehicles
- We can provide weighbridge tickets acceptable by VicRoads and VASS Engineers
- If identified, areas of concern are highlighted
- We provide a comprehensive printed report (the one I saw was 3 pages) on all aspects of your vehicle’s weight and discuss it with you in a down to earth manner
- We are available to attend club days or meetings to provide further information

PART 1 - local

Why is weigh testing important?

- You need to comply with your tow vehicle and/or caravan legal towing limits
- Non-compliance may mean a hefty fine
- Your towball weight may be too heavy for your vehicle’s towing capacity – we check that
- Insurance coverage may be at risk in the event of an accident if your vehicle is overweight. E.G. - you may not be insured

About Mac:- We are keen 4WDers who over the past 20 years have explored Australia extensively in both soft and hard floor campers and caravans. We currently tow a Rhinomax Hybrid Off Road camper. We are passionate about the travelling lifestyle and enjoy swapping stories and experiences from our journeys around Australia with fellow travellers.

With a career spanning nearly forty years with Victoria Police and extensive experience in the Highway Patrol, we believe the knowledge we’ve gained regarding caravan and camper towing, road safety and legislative compliance places us in a unique position to assist you.

We want to help you travel safely and to provide understanding and common sense to the acronyms and complex requirements of road safety legislation.

Weigh Bridges are designed to weigh 50 tonne trucks not Caravans
& 4WD's.





Caravanners 'turning a blind eye' to weights

PART 2 - Interstate

MORE than half the caravans weighed by a Queensland business were overweight, shocking new figures have revealed.

Weightcheck Mobile Caravan Weighing founder Dave Lewis told *Caravanning News* that owners seemed to be "turning a blind eye" to the problem.

During the last 14 months his Brisbane company has completed over 350 weigh-ins.

And some frightening statistics have emerged off the back of the weighing's, with 62% of caravans and 31% of tow vehicles being over their weight compliance limit.

"Bear in mind we are only weighing caravans and vehicles of owners who are concerned enough to have their weights checked," Mr Lewis pointed out.

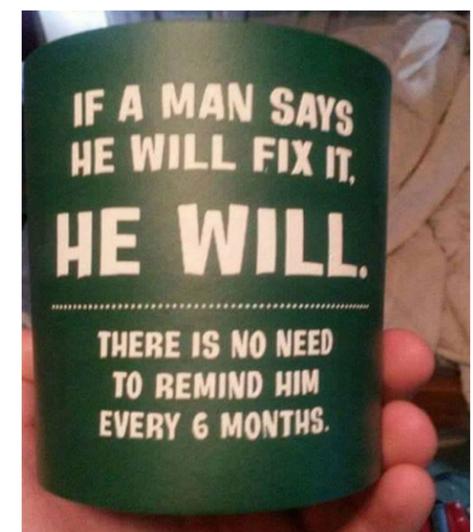
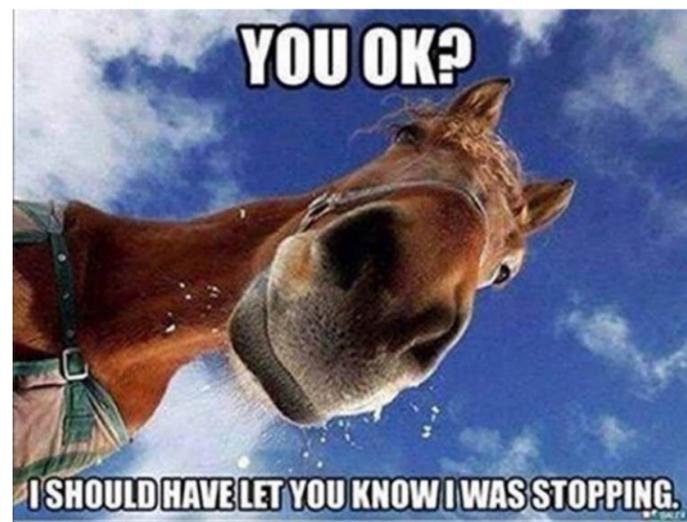
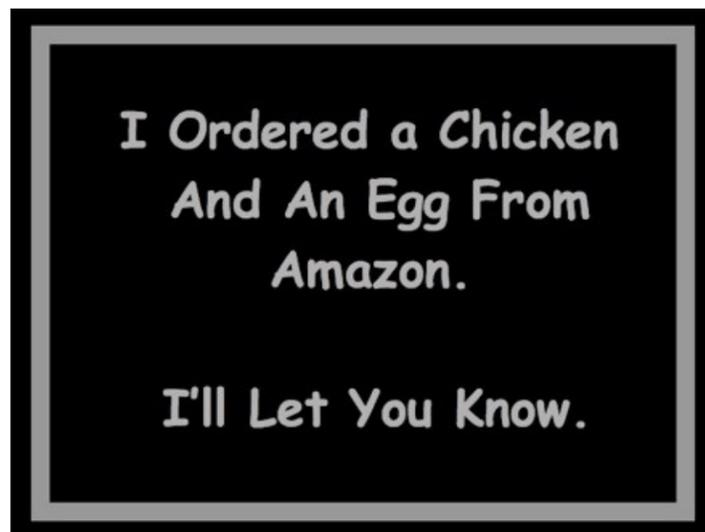
"There is probably twice that number turning a blind eye to the fact."

He stressed that the towball mass (TBM) of a caravan was a very serious issue and the measurement needed to be taken in the correct way.

"With many caravaners having their own towball scales these days, I have found that the readings the owners are doing themselves are not always correct when they are compared with the measurements we are taking during our caravan ATM reports," Mr Lewis said.

"I recently put a post on our Facebook page about the correct way to do it, by taking the measurement with the tow hitch at the same height as that when the caravan is attached to the car.

"It is most important that the Tow ball mass is measured at this height, and I have a lot of data to reflect what the variations are when it is not done this way."





Coromal and Windsor Caravans

THE first of a new breed of Windsor and Coromal caravans has rolled off the QUEENSLAND production line.

A range of caravans built by Brisbane-based Apollo Tourism and Leisure will be on show at the Gold Coast Caravan and Camping Show which opened on March 1st at the Metricon Stadium. Apollo, which has an RV manufacturing factory at Nudgee, acquired the brand names last year from Fleetwood Corporation's loss-making RV division for a bargain price of \$1 million.

This followed pressure from the WA company's shareholders (Fleetwood) to abandon caravan manufacturing. Under the terms of the deal Apollo was this year also able to buy Fleetwood's remaining raw materials and finished goods stock. Commenting on the new breed of Windsor and Coromal caravans, Apollo marketing and industry liaison officer Jessica Adams told *Caravanning News* it was "an exciting" time.

Meanwhile, Coromal and Windsor warranty agents have complained of being kept in the dark.

In Victoria the Police are empowered to issue fines for overweight caravan as follows:-

- * Less than five per cent over ATM/GVM: \$238.00;
- * Between five per cent but less than 10 per cent over ATM/GVM: \$317.00;
- * Between 10 per cent but less than 15 per cent over ATM/GVM: 634.00; and
- * Between 15 per cent but less than 20 per cent over ATM/GVM: \$1580.00.

The fine structure is very similar across the country.

If you run into the back of somebody when towing your Caravan (or Boat) you run a big risk that your Insurance Company will weigh your Tow Vehicle and Caravan/Trailer as they may assume that the reason that you didn't stop in time was because you were overweight.



A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman "Which book has helped you most in your life?" The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!"



Yamba South Australia Quarantine Station.



As of 4 January 2019, if caught with fruit or vegetables illegally at the Yamba Quarantine Station you will be fined.

A zero tolerance approach is also in place at random quarantine roadblock operations in other parts of South Australia.

Within South Australia restrictions apply for taking fresh fruit and vegetables into the Riverland fruit fly exclusion zone from other parts of South Australia.

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/plant_health/travelling_with_plants Copy and paste into your web browser for more info.

From Facebook - Silver Nomad Australia Page

TASSIE DEATH KNEEL FOR FREEDOM CAMPING?

Hello Nomads if you have not already heard the disappointing news, the Tasmanian State Government is planning to force some councils to restrict our wonderful free camping opportunities in Tasmania. This has been allegedly instigated by complaints from businesses opposed to camping and overnight RV parking at many council locations around the state. The report from the Department of Treasury and Finance has moved to ensure councils and other public entities providing campsites are competing on fair and equal terms with private sector businesses. The report determined that councils must limit their public, non powered free campsites to no more than 10% of all camping offerings within a 60km radius or prove the sites provide a public benefit. The news is flying around several concerned 4WD, RV and Camping groups on social media. According to reports complaints were lodged against the Huon Valley Council as well as in the Kentish and West Tamar areas. All is not lost yet though as the rules did not ban free camping outright though it may force councils to charge full costs for previously free camping sites and/or prove the provision of the public sites benefits the community. Our nomadic community has the support of many local businesses and Tassie locals that fear the impact this decision to appease a vocal minority will have on a vital tourism industry already faced with a downturn due to media reporting of the fires. We at Silver Nomad Australia will be watching the outcome of the report and will keep you posted as it develops.

Congratulations:- You once held a World Record.

When you were born you were (for a few seconds anyway) the youngest person in the world.