



Association of Caravan Clubs
Victoria and Their Members Inc.
Newsletter March 2020

Secretary's Comment

Due to Covid-19 concerns and the age group of most of our members the ACCVic meeting that was to be held on March 14th was cancelled. However there were a number of issues that were to be presented at that meeting. I am therefore putting out a special newsletter to present those issues for you information and consideration. As the newsletter editor is having computer problems at present, this one is from me, Jen Lowe, so please direct any comments and suggestions to admin@accvic.org.au. Some clubs have notified me that they are cancelling rallies, and I am sure most clubs will be doing that/ As to how it affects meetings, especially AGMs, that is a matter for each club to decide, but the foremost concern must be the health of members.

Welcome to a New Club

Welcome to the Jayco Getaway Club, who have recently joined ACCVic. We were looking forward to meeting in March 14th but unfortunately that did not happen. You are most welcome to contact any of the ACCVic members, or other club members to clarify any issues you may have.

President's Report

Harald Pries is away at present, therefore I am presenting a report on his behalf.

I wish to thank Jenny Lowe for continuing as our Secretary for another year. ACCVic cannot legally function without a public officer / Secretary. Thank you Jenny.

I wish to acknowledge Gary' Fitzgerald's support. Gary is no longer a committee member or a caravan club member. Whilst we are searching for a treasurer we have engaged Gary's company, My Expressions, to do the book keeping work relating to our accounts.

We do have a temporary Treasurer. We need someone to step up and take on this roll with renewed enthusiasm, it is not overly onerous and you will get support from Gary . Gary assures us it is not as difficult as one might think and will assist when needed.

We not only need your support by taking on a committee position but also need your help to re invigorate the association. We are all volunteers and everyone belongs to caravan clubs. We are all here representing our own clubs. We are in a loop, the clubs are expecting ACCVic to deliver something. ACCVic needs to know what the clubs want, what their expectations are of ACCVic, without feedback from you as delegates we cannot meet their needs. As delegates we would like you to come to these meetings and present what your clubs need and are looking for. Please ensure that your report is received by your club Secretary and President. My club has a declining membership, we are looking for ways and incentives to grow the club. I am sure many of you are in

the same position. Better communication between ACCVic and all our clubs is the key to moving forward.

Unfortunately this report could not be presented at the meeting, but I hope that members will give it some thought before we meet again.

Robert Taylor.

NACC Report

- **Online rally bookings** for club members – this program is still being refined and developed for club use. The test clubs are finding it very helpful and this reduces the rally co-ordinator's workload.
- **Public Liability Insurance** – The Company Secretary will be requesting our membership numbers by mid- April to arrange the next year's premium. Rin believes that due to there being no claims this year, there should be minimal increase in our premium. Members should be aware that club roving rallies are covered the same as monthly rallies.
- **Transurban Tolls Sydney**- Following a meeting with Transurban it was agreed to extend the refunds (for NSW vehicles only) until April. They were not likely to change their policy in NSW. We are still hopeful there will be no change in Victoria and Queensland.
- **2019 National Rally – Albany.** There was a discussion regarding the positives and any negatives with the rally. Due to a few problems in the 'disabled areas' it was agreed that with future rallies the term would be 'special needs'. Members would be asked to outline their 'needs' eg. Mobility, power for dialysis or other medical device, close to amenities. The rally overall was a very successful and enjoyable event.
- **2022 National Rally Barmera South Australia.** Planning is well underway and the committee is working towards another well planned rally. We would encourage all clubs to work towards having a good number of their members attend this rally. Barmera is not far from Mildura which makes it very accessible for Victorian Club members. It is only 700kms from Melbourne. The Registration Form is available on the rally website.
- **RVCAL** – the board meets twice a year and works for the benefit of all RV member clubs. The CMCA has recently applied (on behalf of all RVers) and received a grant of \$1m to survey and report on National Road Safety matters. Our members should have already been asked to complete the survey. Have you done this yet?
There was discussion regarding the problem with 'lemon caravans', this needs careful consideration as it can involve large legal costs. This was caused by Social media comments which were taken up by the manufacturer.
- **Local Expenditure Reports** – It was discussed at length due to the recent travels to the Albany rally. Due to the details required, it was decided the report needs to be simplified. We are now asking club members to report on 2 items only at each rally – Site Fees and Other. Again we are only looking for actual amounts spent getting to or from the rally. Not what we spend on fuel or food prior to leaving for the rally site.
- We are investigating the costs of having **meetings electronically** compared to face to face. We all agreed that the current meetings have provided major benefits for our NACC members compared to the system prior to the Rockhampton rally.

- **Rally to support fire damaged areas** proposed for the Bega area in early 2021. We would seek the support of club members to attend this rally as it is for the support of Victoria and NSW areas affected. Our National Association has offered to provide the Queensland container of rally equipment and encourage members to volunteer to assist at the rally.
- Directors are to investigate any problems with the **wire barriers** being erected along all major highways. When these details are received the NACC will write to State Transport Ministers outlining the problems.
- **National Rally Guidelines.** NACC have prepared a document outlining guidelines for committees organising National Rallies. There were changes mentioned at our meeting to amend the original document. The amended document will be forwarded to State Secretaries with the minutes of our meeting. It was emphasised that these are guidelines to assist committees. If we have any further suggestions, they will always be considered and if suitable would be included. It was mentioned we need to work as a team to improve and simplify the organising of these rallies.
- **Western Australia Association** is investigating the possibility of employing an Executive Officer on a full-time basis. The major reason for this is the lack of volunteers for Secretary/Treasurer positions on the Association committee. It is looking at the cost per club member for this position to be advertised. A salary of approx. \$80k would be needed to attract a suitable candidate.

Peter Hillas

Board Member

Harald Pries

ACCVic State President

State Rally March 2021

The State Rally committee is continuing to plan for a rally at Bendigo, March 18-21, 2021.

Please ensure, when you are planning your club rallies for 2021 that you keep these dates free to allow as many members as possible to attend the State Rally without any conflicts.

By then it is to be hoped that we will all be looking forward to mingling with people at major events again!

Please see the following flyer for more details.



All roads lead to Bendigo for the 2021 State Rally

So keep these dates free



March 18th 19th 20th and 21st

Watch out for our regular updates.





The Prince of Wales Showgrounds in Bendigo (pictured above) has been booked for the event.

It caters to more than half a million people each year and is one of Bendigo's most utilised facilities hosting 49 community Sunday markets each year that attract some 10,000 people each week plus other major events such as the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo National Swap Meet, plus the Bendigo Agricultural Show.

Importantly the Showgrounds are only 3 kilometres from the CBD.

Bendigo is also only 160 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD and one of Bendigo's suburbs (Mandurang) is the geographical centre of the state.

Bendigo offers numerous tourist attractions and autumn is a great time to visit with temperatures of 26 maximum and 12 minimum.

These tourist attractions include but not limited to:-

1. Central Deborah Mine Tour and Tram Tour
2. The Chinese Dragon Museum
3. The Great Stupa — expected to become one of our best attractions
4. Bendigo Pottery
5. Fortuna Villa
6. There are more than 60 wineries spread across Bendigo & Heathcote
7. Bendigo Art Gallery
8. Plus numerous lovely old buildings built in the gold rush times.

Bendigo's 150th Easter Festival is two weeks after the State Rally finishes. Echuca and its Historic Wharf is only 90 kilometres away.

Request for Member Numbers For PLI

As Public Liability Insurance is due for renewal at the end of June, the National Association of Caravan Clubs is requesting the number of members in each club as at mid-April 2020 so that the Insurance Premiums for each State can be decided.

Because clubs collect their membership numbers in different ways, can you please notify the Secretary, ACCVic, admin@accvic.org.au , of **two** numbers –

- the number of vans/RV units you have in the club and
- the number of people you have registered in the club.

I understand that some vans have only one occupant. I also understand that some clubs have associate members who attend rallies in cabins. Please include these in your numbers so that these people are included in the Public Liability Insurance cover when they attend rallies or club functions.

Lilydale Pine Hill Caravan Park

We received an invitation to attend an opening of the new modernised extended caravan park. The invite was for a BBQ Drinks and entertainment. Unfortunately it rained on the day and it rained and rained. Barbara and I arrived about 6pm parked the car and made our way to the collection of gazebos and Marque. There were a lot of people present. A rotary club was holding a caravan rally in the park. I got to meet the park owner and business manager. I learned that the park consisted of 215 sites 115 being tourist sites. The open space we were standing in was intended to be an area clubs could set up Gazebos or similar for their activities. The sites appeared to be a good size and relatively easy to access. The amenities block was new but I did not get to see it. The park is not far out of Lilydale, it certainly appears that it would be a good place to stay if you wanted to visit the region. The founder of KUI parks was also present and I was fortunate to be able to chat with him about his objectives and he indicated he may be prepared to provide some sponsorship for our events. He did state he would be happy to come to one of our meetings to do a presentation.

Rob Taylor

Queensland State Rally

Clubs were forwarded information about the State Rally to be held in Queensland in September 2020, inviting Victorians who were in the area to attend if they so desired.

However I have received information this week that that rally has now been **cancelled** due to uncertainty about covid-19.

If you are still planning to travel north this winter please take note of this message.

Stickers to Promote Joining a Caravan Club

ACCVic recently purchased a number of stickers for display on the back of caravans. These are 400mm x 100mm, so much bigger and easier to read than the last lot. They were to be handed out to clubs at the March meeting but now we need to decide how they will be distributed.

As many rallies are being cancelled at present There is time for us to get these to clubs. They are just another way in which we hope to attract new members to join our caravanning community.

Holidays at Bonnie Doon Lakeside

Bonnie Doon Lakeside Leisure Resort is situated on the beautiful Lake Eildon under 20 minutes' drive from Mansfield and approximately 2 hours from Melbourne.

Lake Eildon area is well known for its water activities however the area has so many day drives making it ideal for organisations/clubs and especially for your rally's. We have included a list of many places to see as well as things to do & places to dine with this email which we are sure you will find helpful.

Within the resort there is a wonderful pleasant area for group meetings and gathering with our large meeting/function room & 4 BBQ's close by with outdoor seating. This area overlooks the pool area and the lake so it is very serene giving an amazing atmosphere. Other features of the Resort are our Sauna, Pool, Mini Golf, Tennis Court and the access to the Great Rail Trail for bike riding. We must at this point make Club members aware our park is NOT pet friendly which also make us unique in this day and age as we are aware most parks are pet friendly however this policy will not be changing in this park.

Bonnie Doon Lakeside Leisure Resort is offering your group our special deals of stay 5 pay for 3 or stay 7 pay for 5 nights in powered and unpowered sites as well as for your members no longer caravanning we offer the other accommodations at the same special however only in off peak times (not school holidays or long weekends). We will also add the availability of the function room for meetings & gatherings and for one evening of your stay we offer to supply a sausage sizzle which includes sausages, bread with coleslaw & BBQ onions.

We look forward to discussing this offer with your representative in the near future.

Stuart & Karen Duff

Resort Managers

Road Tolls in NSW

On March 3rd we received this notice from Rin Klasen, NACC:

RV Clubs Australia recently made representations to Transurban concerning the increased Sydney tollway charges.

A reply received today from Michele Huey, Group Executive NSW, explaining how the tolling system has changed to be more consistent across Sydney. Unfortunately there was no news about any change to the vehicle classification to make the tolls fairer.

However, the refund period has been extended from **29th February to 27th April**. This is to support travel during the Easter holiday period. So, if any club member uses a Sydney toll road (especially the M2 and M7) during this period, don't forget to ring 13 33 31 to claim a refund.

Details on how to claim can be found at <https://www.linkt.com.au/sydney>

But then on March 5th we received notification that this refund only applied to vehicles registered in NSW. However, some Victorian members have already received refunds, so it is causing some confusion. It may be still worth applying if you have used their toll roads recently.

Executive Positions

Yes we have filled the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for now, but we do need someone to assist us and learn the roles so that you can step up when needed. Now that everyone is somewhat more grounded than they intended to be, why not put the time into developing your skills!! Gary and Jen would be more than happy to assist you. Please let us use this time to prepare for the future. By the way things are shaping up, we may not have another meeting until close to the AGM anyway.