



Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

Newsletter March 2021

President:-

Robert Taylor

Secretary:-

Jen Lowe

Treasurer:-

Allan Davis

Newsletters:-

Copies of old Newsletters dating back to 2013 can now be found on the Associations web site at:-

www.accvic.org.au

Club photos and Club travel details can also be viewed on the web site.

Delegate's meetings are currently being held via ZOOM with the Association Secretary emailing those involved.

Presidents Report

2021 is looking better, the State of Emergency in Victoria will continue but lock downs and restrictions on travel around Victoria are hopefully no more. The COVID safe environment is in place giving us the opportunity to rally with our clubs. The caravan parks and towns around Victoria certainly need our help and it's good to get out in our RVs with our friends. For the latest State Government directions check their website:- <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

A number of us on the Executive Committee met (via Zoom) to discuss where we can take ACCVic. We agreed on a couple of things to be addressed:-

- Promoting Clubs to the community, i.e. Continuing to maintain a stand at the caravan shows.
- Engage with the Caravan Industry Association and
- Engage with the Victorian Caravan Parks Association.
- Host an ACCVic Combined Caravan Clubs rally.

We considered the COVID requirements for the next Caravan Show were too difficult for us to achieve in a short time, so we decided to leave our participation in an ACCVic stand for a show later in the year.

COVID impacted all of us in different ways. Due to, the unknown impacts on caravan travel plans and activities for 2021 the scheduled 'State Rally' to be run by the Bendigo, Central Vic and Aussie Adventurers Caravan Clubs was cancelled. The organising clubs put a lot of time and work into the planning and preparation for the Rally. Their efforts need to be acknowledged even though their plans did not come to fruition.

Thank you to the club members that formed the State Rally Committee.

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.



Presidents Report Continued:-

As a result of this cancellation, the ACCVic Committee decided to try to do something different, by hosting a Combined Caravan Clubs Rally at a suitable caravan park.

The inaugural Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria and Members Inc. Combined Caravan Clubs Rally was held at the Gold Nugget Tourist Park, Bendigo over the weekend commencing Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st. Many turned up earlier and some stayed longer.

We had representation from Gippsland, Wimmera, Masonic, RACV, Nomads Vic, ATRVC, and Bendigo Clubs making up a total of 41 vans.

The weather was great, the sun was out. On Wednesday and Thursday, an unofficial happy hour circle formed on the grass under the large oak tree. It started with 10 people and grew to over 40 with most of the attending clubs represented.

Friday we took registrations and supplied some nibbles for happy hour. Saturday was free for people to explore Bendigo. Our Events Co-Ordinator Stella, organised games in the afternoon. Many people participated. Saturday night we hosted a BBQ. In the evening we handed over chocolates to the winners of our quiz. Others stayed on for cards and board games afterwards. Sunday it rained on those trying to pack up. Morning tea was held in the Park's Function Centre. Some left and headed home others stayed. A guided tour of the Stupa was organized by Stella with 32 attending and enjoying this splendid site.

One last thing, the CMCA has set up a website on RV Road Safety:- [RV Road Safety Guides For Every Journey: RVSafe](#)

It can be found here:- <https://rvsafe.com.au/>

Rob Taylor

President

Association of Caravan Clubs
of Vic & their Members Inc.



Combined Rally held at the Gold Nugget Tourist Park in Bendigo — March 2021

Eighty people from various clubs across Victoria spent a lovely few days in Bendigo in late March for a combined rally. As this combined rally was considered a great success further combined rallies will be held. These will replace future State Rallies.

THE NEXT COMBINED RALLY WILL BE HELD AT THE SALE SHOW GROUNDS CARAVAN PARK
APRIL 29TH TO MAY 2 2022. PLEASE ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR.



Members registered as part of the COVID requirements, members also wore their club badges, then held one of many happy hours. On Friday the 19th the ACCVic President (Robert Taylor) welcomed all members while Stella Breese ran through the activities.

On Saturday a few social games were held under the shade of the Caravan Parks trees, this was followed by the ever popular happy hour. Dinner was a BBQ with sausages, patties, onions and bread provided by ACCVic.

Members were entertained and ate in the large Caravan Park Function Room and then enjoyed 3 quizzes, with chocolates given as prizes.

On the Sunday 32 people attended a self-guided tour of the Great Stupa which is the largest Buddhist Stupa in the western world. It rises to a height of 48 metres.





Above — Some of the Caravans at the Combined Rally in Bendigo

Below — Happy hour at the Combined Rally in Bendigo





Members also took the opportunity to see some of Bendigo's stately old buildings including the Cathedral and the Shamrock Hotel.

Bendigo's Chinese Restaurants also proved popular .

What 3 Words App

This APP appears to have been developed in England and is called [What3words](#). It divides the surface of the entire Earth into 57 trillion squares, each about 3 meters x 3 metres. It then assigns a unique three-word label to each patch so that anybody can find an exact location.

For example the fountain in the centre of Bendigo is:- shunted.sleeper.storms, which is much easier to remember than the numerical GPS code of $-36.45'34.474''$, $144.16'41.848''$

Every Mercedes car with their latest navigation system has What3words in it as standard.

Voice recognition is the key. You say, "Hey Mercedes, take me to shunted.sleeper.storms," and it will navigate there -- no putting in an address.

A random selection of strangely lyrical words, "murky founding spoonfuls", led emergency services (via an initial 000 call) to massive rocks where bushwalker Cornelia Gratzler had broken her leg in two places on a cold and wet day while she was bushwalking on Tasmania's Flinders Island.

The APP can be downloaded FREE to your phone —just go to the app store and search for "What3words"

Mobile Phone fines

Drivers caught holding or touching their phone in WESTERN AUSTRALIA while not in a cradle to make, receive or end a voice call will receive an increased penalty of a \$500 infringement and three demerit points. A higher penalty of a \$1000 infringement and four demerit points will apply to drivers who create or view a text or video, use video chat, use other function or app on their phone that can result in a high level of driver distraction.



Tow bar obstructing registration plate

Australian Design Rules state that your tow bar must not obscure the number plate when the van's not attached. If your tow bar falls into this category, in NSW you'll be hit up with a \$439.00 fine and three demerit points under the "Use vehicle without correctly fixed/displayed number plate" rule.

In Victoria, the same issue (with slightly different wording: "Use of vehicle where number plate not affixed or displayed in accordance with regulations") will only cop a \$161 fine, and you'll still lose three points.



A PLACE TO PULL OVER TO LET FASTER TRAFFIC PASS

These green reflectors will help you find a safe place.

Often, we have trucks or other vehicles behind us as we tow our van and want them to overtake but there is no safe place for them to do so.

You may have noticed some green reflectors on guide posts beside the road on some highways. These indicate that there is a safe place to pull off the road coming up soon so you can indicate your intentions early and be prepared.

Approximately 500 meters from a safe place to pull over you may see 3 x Green reflectors, 250 meters you may see 2 x Green reflectors and just at the safe place you may see 1 x Green reflectors.

They were started by road safety advocate and truck driver Rod Hannifey as an aide for truckdrivers to find a safe place to pull over if tired or to check the load etc. They are now in Qld, NSW and some in Victoria, I believe.

More caravan safety tips at www.truckfriendly.com.au

Hey sweetie,
I'm at work
Dinner is on the stove,
you only have to light it,
the gas is already burned on.
Love you -xxx-
♥

A wise man to his son: "my boy! When you accumulate the understanding to know why a pizza is made round, to be put in a square box and is eaten in triangles, then my son, you will be able to understand women" 18:21

One minute you're young and fun. And the next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

Two large car companies merge

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Groupe PSA, the French maker of Peugeot and Citroën cars, expect their merger to be complete in January 2021. The newly combined company will be called Stellantis. Shareholders of both companies overwhelmingly approved the merger.

Fiat Chrysler ([FCAU](#)) produces the Chrysler, Dodge, Ram, Jeep, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Maserati and Lancia auto brands. PSA, meanwhile, makes Peugeot, Citroën, DS, Opel and Vauxhall cars.

Upon completion of the merger, the combined company will become the world's fourth largest automaker. Together, the companies are worth an estimated \$57 billion. In 2019, the two companies sold a combined 8 million vehicles.

MG Cars



MG cars, originally Morris Garage (MG) were manufactured in England, but has been made in CHINA since 2007. In 2020 the Chinese manufacturer sold 15,253 MG's in Australia making it the 16th most popular manufacturer in Australia just behind Suzuki.

Last year China produced 28% of the worlds cars, making it the largest producer of cars in the world, exceeding production of cars made in Japan, Germany, India and South Korea combined.

United States produced 11 million vehicles in 2019 making it the second largest manufacturer in the world with just under 12% of the market share. This figure is well below China's 28% market share.

Even India produced 4.5 million vehicles. Well ahead of the number made in Australia.

Queensland State Rally at Pittsworth 16—22 September 2021

Members of interstate Caravan Clubs, affiliated with their respective State Caravan Association, are welcome to attend providing there is an availability of sites. The rally will be held in Pittsworth which is about 40 kilometres west of Toowoomba.

Look at their web site for details:- [State Rallies \(caravanclubsgld.org.au\)](http://StateRallies(caravanclubsgld.org.au))

It has long been recognised that caravanners, and indeed all RV owners, inject a huge economic boost into the towns and regions they visit whilst travelling this great country of ours. To validate this, the Caravan Clubs of Queensland has been collecting spending data from caravan clubs since 2011

Total Expenditures since 2011 - \$9,416,604.00

Our Caravan Club was booked to go to Benalla in March, however they wanted full payment up front. Say 20 vans by 3 nights at say \$35.00 per night that's \$2,100.00 in total that they miss out on as we are now going to Euroa who only want one night's deposit. A few years ago Caravan Parks didn't insist on any deposit and clubs could just book in 20 Caravan etcetera. Then they wanted each club member to book in separately and pay one nights deposit. I now refuse to go to the Daylesford Caravan Park as they wanted one nights' deposit AND then took the remaining unpaid accommodation out of my Credit Card BEFORE we even arrived at the Park.

The Great Outdoor and 4X4

EXPO

THE GREAT OUTDOOR AND 4 X 4 EXPO 2021 SHOW DATES

LOCK THESE DATES FOR 2021 IN YOUR CALENDAR!

April 2021

Ballarat - April 30- May 2 2021, Ballarat Showgrounds

June 2021

Mildura - June 25-27 2021

September 2021 - 4-Day Show!

Mornington - September 2 -5, 2021, Mornington Racecourse

October 2021 - NEW 4-DAY SHOW!

Yarra Glen - October 28 - 31 2021 Yarra Glen Racecourse

November 2021

Gippsland November 26-28 2021 Sale Racecourse

September 2022

Shepparton - 2 - 4 2022 Shepparton Showgrounds

For more information, please call Richard or Carol on 03 5794 1418



DUMP POINTS

DUMP POINTS and where to find them.

The WIKI CAMPS APP costs \$7.99. This is a one time purchase with no monthly fees.

CAMPS AUSTRALIA WIDE 11 . The current version costs \$69.95 and is a wealth of information to all travellers. Dump sites can be found at the back of the book.

Also numerous web sites.

I have also found all Tourist Information Centres to be an excellent place for information.

ACCVic welcomes two new clubs

Two new Caravan Clubs have recently joined ACCVic, they are TRAKMASTER OFF-ROAD CARAVAN CLUB INC AND FRIENDS CARAVAN AND CAMPING CLUB INC. We welcome both these clubs and their members.

ACCVic's web site is www.accvic.org.au

The web site holds valuable information for all members to access plus contact details for the Executive Committee.

Club members can also forward relevant pictures to the WebMaster which will then be shown on the home page.



Rally Expenses

CLUB Tally Expenditure Reporting

Location of Event _____

Rally _____ or Event _____ (Cross One)

Number of vans (for rally) or attendees (for event) _____

Date: From _____ to _____

Venue: Caravan Park _____ Free Stay _____ National Park _____ Scout Ground _____
Show Ground _____ (Cross one)

Name of Club _____

Expenditure: Site fees _____

General _____

Total _____

Club secretaries are then asked to email a summary of the above covering all members who attended the rally to:— spending@accvic.org.au

Important news on Gas changes

To fully understand the new “Leisure Gas Cylinder Connection and other changes” you may need to visit at least three web sites. Right click and choose “open hyperlink”

[LCC27 | Gas Energy Australia](#) and [Improvement Notice \(gtrc.gov.au\)](#)

[RV DAILY | Is Your Caravan Barbecue Legal?](#)

Here is what I have gleaned.

The change is limited to small portable LPG cylinders with a capacity not exceeding 25 litre water capacity (nominally 10kg). Larger LPG cylinders, including those typically connected to domestic homes will not be affected by the change .

The new connection pictured below (called LCC27) has a number of safety advantages over the current connection (called Type 21). The LCC27 cylinder connection is cross compatible with both Type 21 and LCC27 appliance connections. However the LCC27 appliance connection is only compatible with LCC27 cylinders. NB—The use of adapters is prevented, so you won't be able to buy one. 1 April 2021 to 30th September 2021:

What does the new appliance connection look like?

You can tell the new connection because of the broader handwheel and sheltered brass connection.



New LCC27 connection



Existing style connection

Supply of (the new) LCC27 cylinders to the market is now permitted. During this time both Type 21 (old) and LCC27 (new) cylinders may be supplied.

1 October 2021 to 31st March 2022

For cylinders manufactured or retested from 1st October 2021 the supply of LCC27 valves is mandatory. Type 21 cylinders may continue to be used and refilled on existing cylinders only until the next cylinder test date.

Effect on use

Existing gas cylinders can continue to be used normally before their expiry date.

These transitional requirements apply to new cylinders and cylinders that are retested as part of the cylinder test date inspection process. Existing cylinders with a Type 21 outlet connection may continue to be used and refilled if the cylinder is within the expiry date.



Caravan Gas Bottle



Flame Failure Device—Inbuilt



Interior Caravan Gas Stove

These installations are completely legal provided they are fitted by a licenced gas plumber and will not change.



Caravan Gas Bottle



Caravan Gas Bayonet



Portable Gas BBQ *

* Because MOST portable Gas BBQ's do not contain a "Flame Failure Device" like the one inbuilt into your INTERNAL Caravan kitchen they are NOW ILLEGAL. See these web site:-

[RV DAILY | Is Your Caravan Barbecue Legal?](#)

[Gas Standards Alert: Publication of AS/NZS 5601.2 2020 – Gas Installations – Energy Safe Victoria \(esv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

If the BBQ is fixed to a caravan or on a product such as a slide out, the BBQ is deemed to be a part of the installation and **must have Flame Failure Device safeguard**.

Having a gas bayonet is legal if fitted by a licensed gas fitter. Appliances with flame safeguards can legally be run from that bayonet fitting. In the case of some popular barbecues on the market that do not (have Flame Guards), so **legally they cannot be used off the bayonet fitting**.

Please be aware that domestic BBQs do not require a flame failure device (and are therefore unaffected by this change) however if these are installed into a caravan they are required to have flame failure with the above requirements.



I can't wait to walk down the aisle





A Chinese-built Kedron copycat Caravan

Well-known Queensland off-road caravan manufacturer Kedron is the latest 'victim' of a Chinese rip-off, after evidence has emerged of a cut-price, Chinese-built Kedron branded caravan available for sale online and in Asia.

The 'Kedron Trip KD15' compact off-road caravan has been displayed at trade shows in China and is currently advertised for sale online to export markets including Australia. The business offers other 'replicas' including lookalikes of the iconic Volkswagen Kombi.

A starting price for the Kedron 'copy' of as little as \$33,500, which is also a far cry from the big six figure price tags that the Brisbane-built Kedrons regularly fetch.



Tyre Manufacture Date

Knowing when your tyres were made is important. You can find the "manufactures code" on all tyres as shown here. So "4708" means the tyre was made in the 47th week of 2008.

The new tyres on my Corolla have the following information—205/55R16 91 H

205 is the tyre width in millimetres (mm)

55 is the aspect ratio (So 55% of 205mm is 112.75mm which is the depth of the tyre)

91 is a load rating of 615 kilograms (So 4 multiplied by 615 equals 2,460 kilograms)

H is a speed rating meaning that the maximum speed these tyres can safely travel at is 210 KPH.

For all the music buffs.

Corowa Golf Music & Market Festival is being held on the 3rd 4th and 5th of September 2021.

Onsite camping for RV's & Caravans @ \$10.00 per day.

For further details email dijones22@hotmail.com

Musicians currently include:-

Rick Charles, Col Perkins, Callum, Terry Leonard, Rod & Gaga, Terry Gray, James Moore, Joyce Yates, Kerran Keats, Tom Routhledge, Norm Price and Sandie Dodd.

Details of the following were emailed to me. BUT I cannot find anything on the Internet, so please use the above email contact to confirm exact details.