



ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN CLUBS VICTORIA AND THEIR MEMBERS INC.

Rocky was Rocking

The 15th National Rally held at Rockhampton was enjoyed by 562 caravanners.

State Rally

Will be held from **16 to 19 October 2014** at the **Colac Showgrounds** and will be organised by the Western Districts Caravan Club & Wimmera Caravan Club.

We hope Clubs will put this Rally on their Rally calendars as we know this is done well in advance.

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013 VOLUME 28 - ISSUE 3

This newsletter has been issued later than normal due to many members heading north for the Rockhampton National Rally in September.

Headlights On and Be Seen?

We have had a request from a safety conscious and concerned regular long distance traveller asking if members could put their headlights on when travelling. It has been found very difficult to see oncoming traffic in the distance, especially when the colour of the vehicle is not highly visible against the background.

There have been a number of near misses which could have been avoided.

In many European Countries it has become mandatory for new vehicles since 2011.

Be Safe and Be Seen.

RV Travellers Support Local Business

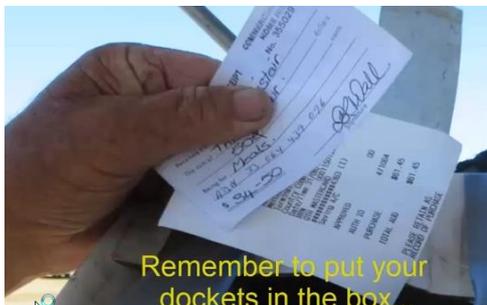
Joe – the caretaker of the Home Hill Showgrounds has placed a message on YouTube in regards to the support RV travellers bring to the local area.

In 10 weeks a total of \$52,000 was spent within the immediate area.

You can see the entire message on our web site.

Snakes Galore!

During the hot weather, in parts of Australia there has been quite a number of snakes basking in the sun. Travellers are warned to take extra caution, especially when frequenting camp sites and any where there is long grass. Ensure you have adequate footwear and a medical kit handy, just in case. Snakes are coming out of hibernation and are on the move – so be aware and be careful.



CONTACT US

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*“I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did, but people will
never forget how you made them feel” – Maya
Angelou*



RACV Caravan Club of Victoria Inc.

HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE!!!

For some 60 years the RACVCC have leased from the White Cliffs to Cameron's Bight Foreshore Reserve Committee a piece of foreshore at the end of Stringer Road Reserve which they maintained for their exclusive use from December to around Easter time each year.

Present lease expires Nov 2014 & from that time WCCBFRC will assume full responsibility for site allocation & management of the current park area as an extension of Stringer Road Caravan Park.

The Foreshore Committee were advised that the site had been a virtual rubbish dump when the RACVCC first took control & have bought it to its current condition with the assistance of voluntary work by the Club members. This facility has, over the years, been a great incentive for members to attend monthly rallies as occupation of the park was decided on the number of rallies attended throughout the year.

The loss of this facility will be a big blow to the Club & both the Executive & members will need to carefully consider how the best outcome from this decision might be achieved.

Ken Slade – RACVCC Delegate.

Smoke Alarm Detectors

Firefighter's recently torched a caravan to demonstrate just how quickly a caravan can be destroyed. The caravan was destroyed within minutes. This highlights the need for adequate warning by way of smoke detectors in vans.

Have you got a smoke detector?

There has been some argument that caravaners will simply remove the battery after a few initial false alarms (toasters etc) and therefore increase the risk. Most modern Smoke Detectors have a "Hush Button" which allows you to silence the alarm for a short while when this occurs, so no need to remove the battery.



RV Travellers need to support the Organisations that support them

Various stakeholders are already strenuously campaigning to hinder RV tourists' rights to choose where and when they stay in overnight campgrounds, rest areas and/or showgrounds.

If ignored, the current lifestyle enjoyed by RVers may be drastically changed and we will have no choice but to stay in commercial caravan parks when travelling in our RVs.

Our Members and members of other RV clubs have voiced their desire to have the option to stay in either commercial or non-commercial accommodation and to utilise the lowest cost overnight accommodation that is available to them.

These options may include a caravan park, showground, campground, rest area, RV Friendly Town™, or Destination. Statistically, self-contained road based tourists stay in caravan parks one night in three, therefore, savvy caravan park owners will go out of their way to attract as many of our Members as they can, which, as business people, they should.

Members of NACC (National Association of Caravan Clubs) and ATCMCC (Australasian Touring Caravan, Motorhome and Camping Club) are also being urged to contribute towards the Fund, which will be used to cover the significant costs incurred in campaigning for freedom of choice camping.

**PLACE
YOUR
ADVERTISEMENT
WITH US**

The Fund and its objectives will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the NACC on 24 September 2013 in Rockhampton, QLD and the Annual General Meeting of the CMCA on 23 October 2013 in Narrabri, NSW.

You can read the full article at:

http://www.outbacknow.com.au/index.php/articles/blog_news/free_choice_camping_at_risk

Check out more info at our web site, under “**Bulletin Board**”.

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice.

Sharing Oversize Safety

Sharing the Australian highways with very big loads is part of the adventure of travel.

The NPVDA has issued some sound advice for travellers, in particular, caravaners.



Check out all of the details on **our web site** or at <http://www.npvda.org.au>.

15th National Rally Report

What a wonderful experience a national rally presents. Meeting old friends, meeting new caravaners, associating with like-minded people & - believe it or not – most in that over 55 age group.

The Rally was held at the Rockhampton Showgrounds, an excellent venue to hold such an event. The Showgrounds has many event centres some air-conditioned & with the temperature being unseasonably hot – about 9 degrees above average – this was sadly needed. In the main hall seating was provided so no need to cart chairs. Lots of room, plenty of fun, happy hours, lectures/seminars & generally getting out & about meeting people.

Tours to Deep Sea Fishing, Sailing, Byfield Day Tours, a Rodeo Dinner, Great Keppel Island, Dreamtime & Caves Tour and a Gold & Gems Tour. Workshops on Wood Turning & Craft. Craft for the ladies was very well attended with most classes full. Craft work was a great hit & a great opportunity for people to get involved in something new. All of this plus individual Club dinners, Bowls, Tennis, Mini Drags, Golf to name a few. All these were enough to keep us busy. We even had an Oktoberfest, German beer included.

Weather was unseasonably hot, about 9 degrees above average, so air-conditioners got a good workout.

Market Day was a great success with many stalls selling all types of goodies, trade stalls got a good workout also. Public was separated from the caravan area, many visitors attended on the day.

Bikes were abundant & a great way to get about the venue – also a 3 carriage train circumnavigated the Showgrounds on a regular basis. This was a great hit, everybody had to have a ride.

Club flags were displayed suspended from the ceiling of the main hall & were hard to see & identify. To me this was a disappointment as they were not shown to their full potential.

The entertainment & seminars were well attended. Bendigo CC member Gary Fitzgerald saw nothing of the Rally being tied up with his Technology area which was very well attended – Gary had to swap & change classes & make extra ones to accommodate his growing list of participants. He should get a medal for “Best on Ground”.

Night entertainment was well attended with artists being of a very high standard, the AFL Grand Final was shown on the big screens with supporters evenly matched – Go Hawks.

Vic's won their share of van prizes, Yvonne Hunter (NEVCC) & Elaine Werner (RACVCC) were amongst the winners at

Bingo, our own ACCVIC Vice President Ken Haythorpe (Victoria CC), see opposite, took out the Mini Drags to be the Inaugural Champ of the event.

Representation by Clubs at the Rally was: ACT 2, NSW 124, Qld 240, SA 36, Vic 101 & WA 53. In all 562 caravans attended meaning that there were well over 1120 persons at the Rally. It is to be noted that 3 people / couples have attended the whole 15 National Rallies.

Victorian club RACVCC had the 2nd largest representation with 42 vans beaten by Qld CC with 65. At the Closing ceremony craft persons were thanked for their contribution over the past 3 years and at that time the local Red Cross representatives were presented with 2351 articles of knitting & craft work from Clubs for distribution to Hospitals, Nursing Homes & the like.

The 15th National Rally C'tee presented the “Royal Flying Doctor” (The charity of National Rallies) with a cheque for \$20,000 which had been raised over the course of the Rally, many street breakfasts had been organised to support this worthwhile charity.

The next NR will be held at the EPIC in Canberra from 19th September 2016 to 28th September 2016. The Rally will be held over the Floriade period & will be at a cost of \$400. Registration Fee is \$30, this enables you to receive Newsletters to keep up to date with progress during the lead up to the Rally.

Secretary
ACCVIC

New Road Rules in QLD

Some of these you may be aware of and some are new rules in Queensland (and probably other states as well).

- \$256 + 0 points Driving with person or animal on lap
- \$44 + 0 points Reversing for longer than necessary
- \$256 + 1 point Following another vehicle too closely
- \$256 + 0 points Driving without a clear view in all directions
- \$66 + 2 points Driving in right-hand lane of a multi-lane road with an 80km/h or higher limit
- \$44 + 0 points Entering an intersection when the road beyond is blocked
- \$44 + 0 points Parking/stopping within 10m of an intersection without a traffic light
- \$88 + 0 points Making a U-turn at an intersection controlled by lights
- \$198 + 3 points Making a U-turn across a single or double continuous line
- \$352 + 2 points Playing loud music
- \$66 + 0 points Tooting the horn
- \$330 + 3 points Using mobile phone including use by cyclists
- \$44 + 0 points Leaving vehicle without handbrake left on

Having Sat Nav in an impeding position - supposed to be in bottom right hand in front of driver
Failing to have a hand on the wheel while stopped at lights.

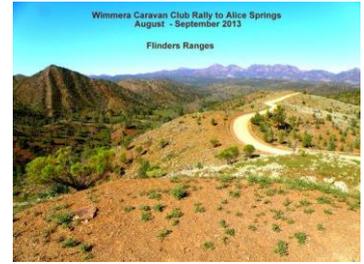


Checkout some Great Images

Go to our web site <http://www.accvic.org.au> and check some of the photos taken on a recent rally by the Woomera Caravan Club.

Select the "Image Gallery" and then choose the "Wimmera CC 2013" as the filter.

Thanks to Ray Harris.



Theory Test for Towing Caravans

The following was sent from the Caravan Council of Australia and obtained via an on-line information service called "Friday Five" distributed by www.westprint.com.au.

Due to the number of accidents involving caravans on our roads, perhaps drivers will need a "Caravan/Trailer-Endorsed" Licence in the not-too-distant future.

It is believed that endorsed licences will become mandatory, at least in some jurisdictions, if the ATM Rating of the towed vehicle is more than the mass of the tow-vehicle, or if the ATM Rating is over 20 tonne.

We are discussing this issue with RV insurance companies, and hopefully they will welcome this introduction, and also provide, or approve, suitable training courses - both theoretical and practical in order for their clients to obtain their endorsement. This will no doubt reduce the number of accidents and insurance pay-outs, as well as appreciably reducing the cost of insurance premiums.

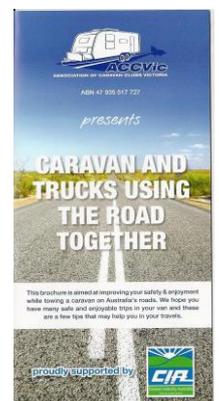
Go to **our web site** and select "Bulletin Board" to see the suggested Theoretical test to help ensure that drivers have at least a basic understanding of the relevant legal, compliance, and safety issues. It would be interesting to know how many manufacturer, importer, dealer - and regulatory-enforcement - personnel would score 100% on this test!

Caravans and Trucks Using the Road Together

The ACCVIC together with the CIA (Caravan Industry Australia) have put together a brochure to help Caravanners and Trucks in sharing our roads.

This brochure is aimed at improving safety and enjoyment while towing a caravan on Australia's roads.

Look out for this brochure at the major Caravan Shows or download your copy from our web site under "Travel".



NACC Ltd Can Save on New Insurance for Recreational Vehicles

The new Insurance arrangements arranged by the NACC Ltd and Ken Tame & Associates Ltd (underwritten by Allianz) comes with significant savings to members.

To take advantage of the new arrangements:

- You must be a member of an Affiliated Caravan Club
- You must be a member of the NACC Ltd (cost \$5 per annum) – those who are not members will NOT be able to participate in these arrangements and avail themselves of any savings. You must have your NACC membership number before being able to obtain the Insurance.
- Complete the quote application with details and forward to Ken Tame & Associates Ltd to obtain pricing.

Some members have reported savings up to \$500 p/a.

Our **web site** has links to download the appropriate forms under "Bulletin Board".

Chairman's Chatter



Life is quickly getting back to normal after a very enjoyable and successful 15th National Rally in Rockhampton. My thanks to all the members of the 13 Victorian clubs who made the journey and represented our State. A special mention should be made of two members – Gary Fitzgerald who again conducted a variety of IT courses for members – I can personally congratulate Gary as I attended a number of the sessions. We must also congratulate our Vice President Ken Haythorpe who won the Mini Drags Inter Club Competition – well done Ken!!

The rally was very successful and attended by 562 vans representing 79 clubs from around Australia. This is the largest number of attendees for many years so the change of dates was all positive. The 16th National Rally will be held in Canberra, 19th – 28th September 2016 at the Exhibition Park. This will coincide with the annual Floriade Festival which many will have enjoyed. I strongly urge members to plan to attend this rally as you will meet new friends at the same time as you enjoy visiting our National Capital.

At the recent National Association of Caravan Clubs meeting I attended it was announced, that a new Comprehensive Insurance Policy, which is now available to all our club members. This is the same policy that all members of CMCA have enjoyed over many years. This policy provides members the opportunity to save \$\$\$ on the cover for your tow vehicle and caravan- they must be covered under the one policy. I urge you to contact your club delegate to our Association for further details. We have been negotiating for this policy arrangement over the past 3 years through our membership of MoTouring and now offer this saving to all our club members.

Please include the 2014 State Rally in your club rally calendar. The dates are 17th – 19th October at Colac Showground. We have inspected the facilities and are sure the venue will provide us with all our needs. Thanks again to the Western Districts CC and Wimmera CC for co-ordinating the rally. The final cost and programme will be available at our February meeting.

At our meeting today it was agreed that our Association should have a stand at the 2014 Caravan Shows at Caulfield (6-11 March), Wodonga (15th – 17th August), Sandown (2nd – 5th October) and Bendigo (21st – 23rd November). We need lots of volunteers for a 4 hour, am or pm shifts at each show. These shows provide us with the best opportunity to recruit new members for our club so please email me if you are able to assist – peterhillas@bigpond.com - or phone 0418 313 090 with any questions.

Robyn and I wish all club members a very Safe, Healthy and Happy Christmas. May 2014 be all you wish for you and your families.

Thanks for your club's support for our Association activities during the year and we look forward to a successful 2014.

Good caravanning

Peter Hillas

President

To ALL RV Travellers



Seasons Greeting

Best Wishes

Safe Travelling

from

Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc

Dear Santa,

*For this year I'm requesting, a **fat** bank account, and a **small** body.*

P.S. This year, please don't mix them up, like you did last year!
