



ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN CLUBS VICTORIA AND THEIR MEMBERS INC.

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015 VOLUME 30 - ISSUE 1

Positions Currently Available

Treasurer
Vice President
Assistant Secretary

AGM / Meeting

The next meeting and AGM will be held at the Welcome Stranger Caravan Park Ballarat on Sunday 24th May 10am.

Laurie Allen current Vice President will takeover as President.

Free Camp at Cobden!

Due to the closure of a local Service Station which also doubled as the local caravan park, the local community is hoping to establish a CAMP FREE site for RV travellers.

Negotiations are ongoing and we will inform you once we have more details.

This is obviously one community that recognises the financial benefits of providing camping facilities.

RVs using Truck Bays

Reports have been received from some truckies, that RV travellers are using the truck bays at some roadside rest areas.

Using truck bays may result in damage to your RV should trucks not be able to access their bays.

Using rest areas is an important aspect of travelling for both RVs and Truckies.

The next State Rally – 2016

The RACV Caravan Club will be hosting the next State Rally to be held from Fri 22nd April through to Mon 25th April 2016.

The location, cost and other details are currently under consideration and once we have more information we will make it available.

Clubs are asked to place the State Rally into their 2016 rally calendar.

National Rallies



The feedback we received in relation to the National Rallies being held every 2 years instead of the current 3 year period was that it should stay at the current period of 3 years.



CONTACT US

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RV travellers contribute to Local Economies?

We have received some advice from a couple of clubs of the \$\$\$ value of their expenditure at recent club rallies. These amounts range from \$3,000 up to \$45,000 for one rally.

Clubs are asked to tally the amount spent on each of the rallies they hold and forward this information to us, as it becomes a vital piece of information when dealing with Councils and Government.

All we need is an email indicating the rally date, location and approximate total dollars spent. We do not need to get copies of receipts.

Help us to help you.

Ball Weights

Towball Downweight has been a hot topic recently.

It has been reported that Towball Downweight Scales are available for around \$60 - \$70 from local Repco stores.

Some clubs are buying a set of scales and making them available to members as required for checking their Ball Weights.

Sounds like money well spent.

RACV Tow Pack – an extra

For those of you that have RACV membership with Total Care or Extra Care, there are limitations to the size of your RV/Caravan/Trailer in relation to weight, height, width and length.

You could find yourself up for high additional costs if your RV is over the limits set.

The RACV offers a Tow Pack starting at \$56 up to \$70 (depending on level of membership) p.a. additional to your Total Care/Extra Care that covers you if your RV is over the set limits.



To check the finer details of this pack go to our web site <http://www.accvic.org.au> and follow the links.

Looking for a good Rally Location!

One of our clubs recently spent some time at the Treetops Camp Site run by Vic Scouts.

All indications are that it was a favourable experience and well worth a try and would make an excellent rally location for clubs.

Download the brochure in pdf format from our web site <http://www.accvic.org.au> or visit the Vic Scouts web site at <http://www.vicscouts.com.au/treetops-camp-and-activity-centre.html>.



Rated D shackle requirements: Debunking the myth

This is taken from an article that was emailed to the Editor from the Website of 'What's up Down Under — Without a Hitch' – passed on by the Ballarat Caravan Club.

There have been rumours circulating about police enforcing specific requirements for D shackles, with reports on social media claiming that police were issuing infringement notices for non-load-rated D shackles being used to tow caravans, boats and trailers.

In this article, we take a look at the current Australian Standards and their official application, so you know exactly what the regulations around Rated D Shackles are.

How are D & Bow shackles used?

Australia-wide, safety chains are required as part of the towing mechanism on your trailer.

They connect the trailer's A-frame, or drawbar, to the main tow-bar framework of the towing vehicle using D or bow shackles.

As a safety device, the chains, and consequently the shackles, must be strong enough to keep the trailer connected to the towing vehicle and prevent the drawbar from touching the ground if the coupling should break or become disconnected from the tow ball.

The only instance in which safety chains are not required is if you have a break-away-system controlling the brakes on your trailer or caravan.

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What are the regulations?

According to the Caravan Industry Association of Australia (CIAA), police and state departments have denied the rumours and have advised that there aren't any specific requirements for D shackles.

In a recent media release, the CIAA stated that the current standard for shackles is AS 2741-2002, but noted that the standard doesn't specifically cover the use of rated shackles in attaching a trailer to a tow bar. Instead, this standard covers the use of shackles for the purpose of lifting items.

"Our understanding is that there is currently no regulations requiring shackles used on trailer safety chains to comply with the Australian Standard. However, some state authorities provide guidelines or advice for selecting suitable shackles."

What's the conclusion?

Although there do not appear to be any specific requirements for shackles, the CIAA recommends shackles meeting the AS 2741-2002 standard be used to secure rated safety chains up to 3500kg capacity. In addition, they recommend that shackles should also have the following characteristics:

- The shackle grade is "S" or "6".
- The working load limit is 1000kg.
- The shackle diameter is 10mm.
- Either a bow or D shackle may be used.

So there you have it. Although there aren't any specific requirements for the use of a rated D shackle when towing your trailer, boat or caravan, it's still advisable to adhere to guidelines. After all, you want to make sure the components are up to the task.

2016 – National Rally Canberra

The rally is to be held at EPIC (Showgrounds) in Canberra - 19th Sep to 28th Sep 2016.

Registration form and other relevant information is available - follow the link below.

Visit www.16thnatcaravanrally.org.au.

“Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.”

— Dr. Seuss



NACC Benefits

The structure for supporting clubs online through the NACC web site is almost complete.

This will allow club secretaries to update their own member information and produce a number of reports.

The data structure has been secured using the latest technologies to ensure that member data cannot be read by unauthorised persons. Methods of encryption not only for the data but also its use over the Internet are being put in place to ensure we have the highest possible security.

This process will allow the NACC to provide more benefits to assist all club members.

A couple of clubs from each state are to trial the new service, to ensure it provides the benefits we expect.

More reports of saving are being reported from those who have taken up the Ken Tame RV Insurance offer. Great to see club members are saving enough to make it worthwhile.

Do you know of a Business that may want to offer benefits to club members?

Many clubs have supporters who may wish to extend their reach and offer discounts to the wider caravanning community. Go to the NACC web site <http://www.nacc.asn.au> and use the contact us option to let us know the details.

More than 10 Vans at a Rally!

We have received advice from Bridgewater Public Caravan Park, 19 Parks Street, Bridgewater on Loddon Vic 3516 that a discount would be available when a club has more than 10 vans attending a rally at their park.



For more details contact: Deb and Harry, 03 5437 3143 or bridgewaterpcp@loddon.vic.gov.au.

President's Ramblings

(Melbourne-February 2015)



Best wishes to all members and clubs for a successful year of rallies and building club membership. All clubs need new members to maintain numbers and hopefully promote new clubs where a waiting list gets too long. The Association needs successful and expanding clubs to continue providing support and programmed activities for our members. Remember, that to have a continuing program of interesting rallies and get togethers, we also need members to offer to serve on committees and Association Executive positions. New volunteers will be able to offer new ideas and suggestions which will help all clubs. We must accept change if we are to grow the activity we all currently enjoy.

The National Association of Caravan Clubs is about to test the new database for clubs and states, which will incorporate our membership details for the National Membership cards. We hope to have 2 Victorian clubs involved in this trial commencing in March. Our special thanks must go to Gary Fitzgerald – Bendigo Caravan Club for his work in making this possible for the NACC. Our Treasurer will be including the new NACC membership of \$1.00 per member (van) with your club Public Liability costs next month.

I would like to make an appeal to all Delegates and Club committees to pass on the State Newsletter and items raised at these meetings to all their members. Communications to our members is vital if we are to succeed in promoting and expanding benefits to our clubs. We can only provide additional reasons for caravanners to join our clubs if the news is shared with the widest possible audience.

The Caravan and Camping Supershow was held last weekend at the Showgrounds and from all reports was very successful. The attendance was more than 50000 over the 6 days. Whilst we decided not to have a stand at the shows this year, I believe consideration should be given to returning to the shows in 2016, remembering that we have the National Rally in Canberra in September next year.

Have a great year of rallying and lots of laughs.

Regards

Peter Hillas

President

When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile.

RACV Questionnaire – Caravanners’ Insights

The RACV would like as many caravanners as possible to complete the survey below. You can copy and paste the question into an email and provide your answers.

Ultimately the aim of this project is to assess whether or not it is in the interests of enough RACV members that the organisation invest in caravan and camping grounds around Victoria. We are aware that we have a number of high-end and high-functioning resorts, but less accommodation options for members who like to travel with their caravan or enjoy camping. We seek to deliver member benefits to all our members, so are looking to see if such an investment could deliver this. Obviously we are at the preliminary stage of research and I am currently trying to gain as many different perspectives and insights from caravanners as possible. – Hannah.



1. What is your gender?
2. What is your age?
3. Are you an RACV member?
4. What is it about camping and caravanning that makes this style of holiday so attractive?
5. What do you look for when choosing a caravanning destination?
6. What do you look for when selecting a caravan park to visit?
7. What are your favourite camping parks or destinations in Victoria?
8. Why?
9. When you go to this destination do you have a favourite park? Why is this favourite?
10. Are there areas of Victoria you would like to visit with your caravan/ tent but are currently unsuitable because they do not have a proper park?
11. How frequently do you go caravanning and what is your typical length of stay?

Please send your responses to Hannah_Cotching@racv.com.au.