

Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria 2014 State Rally Report.

It gives me great pride and pleasure to give this Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria State Rally 2014 report.

On 17th 18th 19th October 2014 the Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria Inc. In conjunction with The Western District Caravan Club and the Wimmera Caravan Club of Victoria held a very successful State Rally with 96 Vans, 174 members, from 15 Victorian Clubs, met at The Central Caravan Park Colac and the P. & A. Society Show Ground. After 18 months of organising, the weekend was upon us. It was a rally of many firsts. It was the first time it had been held in this area, there were many first timers to attend the Rally. It was my first time to organise anything this big. After a brief shower the weekend turned out sunny and nice. On Thursday we carted in tables and chairs and set up the Commerce Pavilion which was used all weekend as a meeting and eating place. Most members arrived on Friday, and after they had their vans parked and set up, they registered, and the rest of the afternoon was free to explore Colac and surrounds. Most did a spot of shopping, went to the Info centre, the gardens, and the Lake. Some just relaxed at the Park. The WDCC men, who attended the Rally were responsible for parking the vans. Members were made welcome on arrival and shown to their site. This was done so that we fitted all vans in and made members happy with their site. Every site had water and electricity. There were many good comments about this and only a couple of complaints that were rescinded afterwards when it was realized what we had to do for the enjoyment of everyone.

At 4pm we met for Happy Hour and meet and greet. At 6.pm everyone brought their own dinner and sat and enjoyed their meal together. At 6.30 pm association Secretary Ken Slade welcomed all those in attendance and Invited Mr Peter Hillas, President of the Association to introduce the Guest speaker The Hon Mr Terry Mulder, member for Polwarth, and minister for Roads and Transport to open The 2014 State Rally.

In his speech Mr Mulder welcomed everyone to his home town of Colac and was delighted that we chose Colac as our venue and offered everyone a safe and Happy Stay and a safe journey home. He also made mention that he did not know what the Association stood for prior to our meeting but wished to be able to meet with us in the future if we have negotiations re Road issues to discuss. And of course joked, that hopefully he would still be in power after The Nov. Elections.

Christine, then was asked to give a run down on the weekend procedures, including Forms to fill names in as to what members wished to do the following day. Eg. There were two tag-along tours into the Otway's. One going east out of Colac to Forrest then on To Beech Forrest, The other going Sth to Gellibrand then onto Beech Forrest, stopping along the way at different points of interest. They all met in the park for a picnic Lunch. Then back in the cars and back to Colac the way that they hadn't come.

Bruce conducted a tour for the less energetic ones, west, into Lakes and Creators and the Stoney Rises, area, to Camperdown.

For those not going on Tag-alongs there was Badminton, Disc Bowls, nearest the pin. Jewellery making with Juli Dwyer. Or you were free to do what you wished.

Saturday morning, we all enjoyed a beautifully cooked breakfast. Cooked by the Wimmera caravan Club. All the members going on tag-along quickly assembled into their groups so as we only took as many cars as was needed. 13 on one trip and 12 on the other with Denis and John as Leaders and Wimmera Members as Tail end Charlies. Bruce had 4 cars in his group. After we said goodbye to them the ones left at the park enjoyed whatever they chose to do.

Everyone enjoyed their trip and no one got lost. They arrived back in Colac in time for a short rest before Happy Hour and then to get ready for the State rally dinner which was held at the RSL. Our Own Juli Dwyer set up her beads and showed people how to make necklaces and earrings and bracelets. This proved very popular as the weekend went by.

The State Rally Dinner was held in the Function Room at the RSL. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful 2 course meal. After the meal we all relaxed and enjoyed the music of a band called RADAR. They were 2 members of the Bendigo Club. They played music from the 70,s 80,s and 90, s. Lots of

members enjoyed a dance or two. About 9 pm we had a lucky draw and lots of members went home with a little memento of the evening. It was then time to draw the Raffle. There were about 14 prizes in all and most were donated by the Business houses of Colac. The major prizes were 7 Nights stay at the Central Caravan Park. 7 nights stay at Mortlake Caravan Park. A small Gerni car washer. And Small Car Vacuum donated by Colac Mitre 10. I think the most wanted prize of the night was for a Souvenir walking Stick, hand carved by Frank Ovens for the occasion. The stick was hand carved with the Assoc. Logo, a Kookaburra in a tree, a stone wall fence and wooden Gate and A wind mill and Stone Tank. It also was inlaid with gems from the Local area which depicted a scene of a spring and water course leading to a lake. On the Top end there was a polished piece of Olivine from Mortlake. Many members were intrigued with this and would have liked to have won it, not only as a piece of art but as a memento of the great weekend they had at Colac.

There were many other prizes, a blanket, a I Pad rest, a Photo ready to be framed of the Otway's, Towels a makeup case some glass platters and a few other smaller things.

Sunday

It was Ballarat Caravan Clubs turn to cook breakfast. After Breakfast which was not as early as Saturday mornings, folk tended to mingle a lit bit more. 12 Teams of Disc Bowlers took over the Arena and had a very energetic game taking up all the morning. Juli had a very keen lot of jewellery makers for most of the morning

At this Stage of my Report I would sincerely like to Thank Dennis and Rose Bennett. Dennis was my right hand man and of course knew more about Colac than I. Without his knowledge of the Colac Area I would not have been able to do what I did, and the Rally could not have been the success that it was.

Thank you to Veronica and the Wimmera Caravan Club. You stepped in and helped out with no qualms when I had to delegate jobs. We had many steps backwards but always managed to go forwards and all things turned out how we had planned.

Thank you to Frank. You managed to do a magnificent job of holding me together when I needed you too.

Thanks to all the WDCC boys who helped with the parking of caravans, Denis, Mal, Bruce, Pat, John, Vin, Ron, Frank, Franco, As well as Ann, Julie Lyn, Jan and Jan. and anybody else who helped. You were spotted welcoming vehicles during the day. A Thankless Job but one that was very worthwhile as was proven at the end of the day when all members were happily parked.

Ann and Vin Gee Thank you for your help along the way, and getting us the 7 nights stay at Mortlake Caravan Park, The Olivine and gems for the Souvenir walking Stick, and the information from the Moyne Shire.

I will also take this opportunity to thank WDCC for the use of their Barbeques. I know that we said initially that we did not need anything from them but as the weekend progressed we decided that it would be to our advantage if we did have the Trailer with Equipment at Hand. Seeing as the Trailer was parked not far away at Paul and Juli,s, we made an executive decision to get it over to Colac and have it there if we needed to use anything. We did use one Barbeque for Sunday morning Breakfast and we used the Toasters. As we did not have any Toasters and these were needed.

Many Thanks must also go to Jo Cook the Treasurer of the Badminton Club for coming and setting us up with Courts, Racquets and shuttles many of us enjoyed a good workout playing Badminton.

At the end of the weekend, tired but very satisfied that we had managed to have a successful rally was very gratifying. When I received the financial report from Treasurer Kevin I was even more satisfied as I really thought I had blown the Budget.

The final Tally for the weekend is shown in Treasurer Kevin's Balance Sheet. We could have done better, but I don't think that we can complain about the end Tally. I hope I have thanked everyone for their efforts, if I have missed you out then accept my apologies please.

Members of WDCC who helped over the weekend,

Denis and Rose Bennett, Ann and Vin Gee, Pat and Lynette Hickey, Mal and Jan Rain, Bruce and Julie White, Ian and Angela Phillips, Francis and Ruth Gore, John and Shirley Crawford,

Ron and Shirley Hansen, Juli and Paul Dwyer, Dianne Robertson. Frank Ovens Jan and Franco Sudiro. Members of Wimmera Caravan Club who helped over the weekend.

Veronica and Moyle Bunworth, Andre and Peter Creek, John and Jenny Pipkorn, Doreen and Peter Broadbear, Lyn and Graham Healy and Gary Healy and Colleen and Ray Harris.

Thank You to Wimmera and Ballarat for your beautiful Breakfasts. And those clubs who helped with morning and afternoon teas.

Thank you to all Clubs who helped in any way, and last but not least Thank you to all clubs who participated in the Weekend for without you registering and turning up I am afraid there would have not been a weekend at all. It was actually you, the members that made this weekend what it was.

WDCC and Wimmera put out the friendly Olive Branch and members took and passed it on. I am glad that you all enjoyed your stay in Colac and we hope that you return someday soon and further the short look that you would have had around this beautiful area. I am sure it beckons you.

Christine and Frank Ovens

Dennis Bennett.

Western District Caravan Club.

List of Certificates of Appreciation.

Donations of Prizes for Raffle.

Central Caravan Park Colac and Managers Ron and Frances.

Mortlake Caravan Park and Managers Norm and Nola.

Faggs Mitre 10 Colac.

Ray Crofts Men's and Ladies Wear.

Timeless Interiors,

Lilly Pilly

Gellibrand River Gallery,

Showcase Jewellers.

Ann Gee.

Frank Ovens.

Businesses who helped us in different ways.

Colac P. & A. Society

President P. & A. Society Mr Ray Thomas.

Colac RSL.

Colac Information Centre.

Moyne Information Centre

Great Ocean Rd Information Centre.

Hon Mr Terry Mulder and his Staff.

Reynolds IGA.

Midwest Meats,

Milroys Poultry and eggs Farm Terang.

GMHBA Warrnambool.

Cobden Branch Bendigo Bank.

Camperdown Branch nab Bank.

Mr and Mrs Allan and Jenny Wood.

Ms Jo Cook Colac Badminton Association.

Camperdown Lions Club inc.

Allan and Jenny Wood

RADAR

