

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 34 – June 2009

PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263

Committee of Management:

PRESIDENT Des Cooper 43933383,
Vice President Mike Wildman 43973111,
Social Director Coral Kane 43339738,

SECRETARY Katie Patterson 43905658,
Editor Alice Cooper 43933383,
Welfare Laurel Curnow 43695954,

TREASURER Bill Patterson 4390 5658
Tour Director Clarrie Stevens 43692759

Last Reminder: 2009/2010 Annual Fee's are due to be paid. You will need to pay at the June meeting (21st) or in the following nine (9) days.

Remember the \$15 per person fees must be paid by the 30th June 2009.

There will be no follow up phone calls.

2009 Van Insurance: Our club has been notified by the State Association that we must pay our \$3.50 per van insurance for registered members by the 30th June. So please ensure you pay your fee's before that date.


2010 Hartwood: Just a bit of early information so you can start planning your involvement for 2010. Hartwood Country Music Festival will be held from Monday 29th March to Tuesday 6th April 2010. This will give you time to return home for three weeks then off to the Meet & Greet

2010 Meet & Greet: Last year (2008) we held the Meet & Greet in July it was a bit cold. So this year (2009) we held it in

March and found it a bit hot. So for 2010 we have already booked Cessnock Showground from Wednesday 28th April to Sunday 2nd May inclusive. The weather should be just perfect.

Tour Directors At the June meeting you will notice a number of new trips listed they include Norah Head (Melbourne Cup Lunch), Narrabeen 2009, Tuncurry 2010, Happy Holidays and the State Rally at Lennox Head in March.

Narrabeen 2009 If you are happy with the site you had last year and would like to rebook it for 2009 then pay your deposit to the Treasurer. Show Clarrie the receipt and the site will be yours. You will have 2 meetings to claim your site before they are made available to other members. Do not contact Narrabeen unless you want to book an en-suite site. All normal site bookings must be made through the Tour Director.

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Third Birthday: Wow--- three (3) years ago on the 11th June 2006 we held our inaugural meeting. This three year period would have to be the busiest and quickest time in our life. We hope it slows now that the club has settled down in numbers.

Trips: Where are we going with our trips? We need members to provide comment or suggestions to a C of M member about what they want as far as trips go. Do you want say six big trips a year like Narrabeen, Hartwood, Meet & Greet and Tuncurry and then members proceed on

private trips of 2 to 6 vans. Talk to a committee member about your views

Did you Know: When we post our club Newsletters we have been advised to have them in the Post Box before 5pm? They are then collected and sent by truck to Strathfield Mail Exchange for sorting. They are then returned that night and delivered to our members the next day. (Mmmmmmm mostly correct????)

Joining Fee's. We now have a joining fee of \$15 per van and Annual Fees of \$15 per person. The fees provide for such items as: \$3.50 Public Liability Insurance, name badges, two (2) van stickers, postage costs, printing expenses and cost of newsletter ie two printers and all the other assets we have accumulated over the three years. For those members who haven't received your van stickers please see Clarrie Stevens or Roy Curnow. To see a list of our clubs assets have a look on the Webpage or check out the list on the board at one of our meetings

Trailer Plug –Inbuilt LED Circuit: Re the discussion on Electric Brakes at last Sundays meeting. Please let members know that I have just purchased a trailer plug that I think is great. It is a "KT704" and has an inbuilt LED circuit tester. There is a male connector or a female one, all depends on whether you want to replace your car or van trailer plug. The light from each connection comes on if the connection is OK. They can be purchased from BCF or any auto store like Auto One. The cost is about \$13. *Laurie Luthje*

Hayman Reese Presentation: Two members provided copies of a Hayman Reese CD hook up procedure. Des has already made arrangements to have the CD shown on the large screen at the **June**

meeting. He said it is a **MUST** see for all members not only those who have a Hayman Reese set up. It describes sway control, loading of vans and many other very important matters. HE HAS ARRANGED FOR IT TO BE SHOWN AT 12.40 twenty minutes before the meeting starts. We also have five (5) copies of the CD which will be made available to members on request.

Weight Distribution in Vans: A member raised the matter of weight distribution when packing vans or adding Pole Carriers, petrol containers etc to the rear of vans. In particular how this affects the vans towing and stability. (*See the above CD*)

Member's Caught by Queensland Floods: The Dew's were caught in flood waters in Queensland and could not get back to their van. They along with other trapped tourists had to seek emergency accommodation from a local resident. The problem was the home owner did not have a lot of food available. So for the next three days/nights their main source of food was eating rice and soy sauce.

More About The Dew's: Having left Queensland they returned home and then proceeded on the trip to Beechworth. Where they along with the other 10 vans experienced freezing weather conditions (vastly different to Q) they then rushed home to warmer weather only to have Alan admitted to Hospital for an appendix operation. (Mmmmm could be interesting people to travel with).

Truck Drivers Comments: President spoke about a discussion with a B Double truck driver and in particular the problem that members may experience with speed and wind effects from trucks on caravans. The meeting generally discussed this issue

with many good points being raised for safety. One of the most important ones being the need to test/adjust our electric brake system on every occasion was highlighted.

The Wobblies: When travelling downhill our tow vehicle will be pushed by the weight of the van. If subjected to wind affects from a truck, cross winds etc then you may experience "the wobblies". It then becomes very hard to correct the problem and pull out safely. It is a natural tendency for us to hit the brakes. So we suggest you to look at the Hayman Reese CD

Smoke Alarms: A brief discussion on Smoke Alarms was presented and the meeting was advised that in a three month period last winter there was 1526 house fires in NSW, 10 deaths and 127 people severely injured. It was found that 9 homes out of every 100 house fires had removed their batteries. The batteries were then used in remote controls, toys etc. Members joined in with many comments on this important subject. Next meeting we will talk about the dangers of Electric Blankets

Smoke Alarms in Caravans: To prevent the alarm operating in your van it was suggested that when cooking toast you switch on the exhaust fan first or alternatively place your shower cap over the alarm. As there is only one exit from a caravan it is essential that the smoke alarm (with battery installed) operate during the nighttime for your safety

A Golf Day: Cameron Cole from Central Coast Caravans has agreed to sponsor a golf day at Toukley for our club. It looks like it will be held on a Monday in a few weeks but final arrangement will not be made/known until we get an approximate number of members names John Holland

has pinned a sheet on the trip board and members are requested to list their names ASAP so that the organisation can proceed. (If you wish to place your name on the list ring me on 4393 3383 Ed)

Donation to Club: One of our members belongs to a Wood Carving group and on Sunday he presented Des with a beautiful carved Pen and Pencil set. The C of M will decide when/how and where we use this nice gift. We will have it on display at the June Meeting. Some months ago he also donated a carved picture to be raffled for the Camp Breakaway. *Thanks Laurie.*

Preventative Maintenance: One of those items we sometimes overlook or simply don't know about is the very important need to check the anode in our caravan hot water system. They need to be checked at least every 6 – 12 months. Before starting this operation make sure the power (240 volt), also your 12 volt water pump and also any water supply are all turned OFF. Release the water pressure then turn on your hot water tap or pull the relief valve (one with the red tube on it) Once the pressure is released use a socket and undo the anode and let the water along with any material flush out. The white material that flushes out lets you know that the anode has been doing its job. When you are sure the system is flushed (if needed the water can be connected and turned on for extra flush). Put some tape thread on the anode and reinstall. Once in make sure the system is refilled and any air bled off. A hot water tap can be turned on or the relief valve activated. Once you can see water coming out of the valve in a steady stream with no air close valve and check for leaks and if all OK connect power. The condition of the anode will depend on where you have travelled and what the local water was like.

This also effects how the anode wears. *Reproduced from Jayco Magazine*

Trip to Beechworth. On 24th April eleven (11) vans checked into the Lake Samball Caravan Park as the rain tumbled down. Not a good start and for the next three days we had rain and really cold weather. This is the second trip by the TLCC to Lake Samball and a letter of thanks from Clarrie signed by last years gang was proudly pinned to the manager's notice board in the office. However, Bill Paterson threatened to go home every morning. God he grumbled 'its just like bloody Ireland' Saturday 25th of course was Anzac Day and it was a very sobering experience watching the small main street parade of the local band and about 15 diggers and their grandkids march, followed by a service at the Anzac memorial in the local park. Our hearts went out to the six army regulars who stood ramrod straight and every so still, as the various messages were read out and wreathes laid. The setting with the tall pine trees was majestic and the rain tumbled down. A proud crowd of perhaps 500 mostly visiting tourists like us were rugged up and none of us would have been surprised if it had not started snowing! The caravan park was wrapped up in autumn colours many of which were landing on annexes so a morning ritual saw many of us brushing the leaves away, and if we had given out a prize for 'neatness' Kattie & Bill would have won hands down as she even had a rake to do the job. The central point of Beechworth like so many country towns today was the bakery and it certainly did well after the service as we bundled indoors to enjoy the warmth of a coffee and pie for lunch. Some of us explored the relatively close by quaint little town of Yackandandah, with its quaint and unique arts and crafts shop. Other more adventurous headed off to

explore all the surrounding towns in the north east of Victoria driven by a desire to explore ever inch. Many of us had power hiccups as no doubt our vans were chewing up lots of electricity with heaters and electric blankets struggling to keep the cold at bay. On Monday all of the gang went on an organised bus trip for 2 hours and the local driver showed us Beechworth secrets including the La Trobe University which was a major Lunatic Asylum until just 14 years ago. We also visited the large cemetery which has over 2000 Chinese graves, the legacy of Beechworth gold rush and the 6000 Chinese who toiled to find their fortune there. An interesting little fact was that there were just 2 ladies amongst that number which perhaps explains why there are so few Chinese descendants living in this area today. The weather man told us that Mt Beauty and Mt Hotham less than 100 kilometers away had 20 centremeters of snow last night. Tuesday saw the group head off to Bright to enjoy the lovely avenue of trees which are all in the autumn dress. The ladies of course checked out all the shops and some of us checked out the local bakeries. Wednesday saw your scribe and Jim Holmes have a game of golf at the Beechworth Golf Course and marvel and our new skills of putting on a sand green. One rakes a course towards the hole, which seems like cheating somehow. At 7pm suitably rugged up the gang were picked up by the local operator of the Ghost Tour which hightailed it back to la Trobe Uni of course where all the ghosts are supposed to be lurking. Whilst the lady running the tour tried very hard to inspire a sense of foreboding as we wandered around the old buildings of the Asylum, the ghosts were taking the night off as no funny things happened. It was an amazing tour though as we were told of the 100 years of misery many of the 1200

inhabitants had. You could be interned by a relative for many very simple things, and one that stuck in my mind was a husband who got rid of his wife by telling the authorities 'she was too provocative' as she had worn her red dress three days in a row!! You needed just one signature to be committed, but eight to get you out. Needless to say once you were in, it was your lot!! We saw the room where the 'bad patients' were hosed once a week as their bath, and again we marveled at this cruelty in the middle of winter. As the week rolled by we meet at the community shed for happy hour but on occasion had to complete with the Korean Chestnut and Apple pickers so on one night we huddled in the laundry to catch up! The Beechworth area is lovely but the general feeling of the group was we should have had just 4 nights there and another 3 in Bright so we could have spent more time exploring the Great Alpine road and the towns further south of Beechworth. However the historic buildings were lovely and it's so good to see them so well looked after. We are enjoyed the trip although some of us went home with a few coughs and some with a nasty cold.

Garry/Sandy Williamson

Wheel Bearings and Spare Wheel Nuts:

We have had a number of members comment over the three years about wheel bearing problems. A couple of examples being one member found that he did not have a spanner/shifter large enough to fit the wheel bearing nut. The second member found one of his wheels had a seal problem and the bearing was nearly dry. Mmmmmm interesting, may pay you to check. It is very important that you service your bearings by either doing it yourself or have it done by a professional. Always keep in mind our sponsors who will do the service for you. PS It's *real cheap having*

it done by someone on a day of "your choice" rather than broken down, in the night, on the side of the road somewhere, in pouring rain. (Bugger)



Hartwood: "Our week at Hartwood 2009 as seen by first time attendees." What a well organised and relaxing camp that appeared to be enjoyed by all those attending. Firstly the construction crew did their thing with excellent results in comfort improvement followed by a well organised firewood collection team that ensured there was sufficient supply for the week. Matters quickly turned to having a good time with well attended cooking classes; fiercely contested disc bowls and drama charged nightly card games. The coaching classes by the touring pro proved very beneficial for us novices. The music over the 4-5 days was better than we had expected but by far the biggest surprise to us was the large number of dedicated country music fans from all over the country that were there. To our management team congratulations on putting together a program that was most enjoyable. *Lorraine and Jim Holmes.*

State Rallies: We have been advised that the State Association has formed a six person committee to look at the running of State Rallies. (The sub-committee's charter is to examine and provide a list of protocols and procedures for the conduct of Association's State Rallies.)

Public Risk Liability Insurance Policy.

The State Association has provided further information regarding this policy; - On 25th February a Certificate of Insurance was distributed to each member club, ---32 Member clubs covered for \$20M, ---Only pages 45 to 52 apply to the

Association, --Exclusions clearly state that in games or sporting activities members are not covered for personal injury, but a third-party injury, member to member, is covered, ---Excess for property damage is \$1000, but for third-party personal injury it is Nil. -The excess is the responsibility of the member club, which may, in turn pass, the expense onto its member making the claim. SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR FULL DETAILS

2010 State Rally : If you wish to attend the next State Rally in Lennox Heads you will need to contact Katie/Bill Patterson ASAP. For all future rallies progress payments must be made and the rally fee fully paid prior to the rally. Refunds would be at the discretion of the Committee of Management, **The 2010 State Rally progress payments will be \$30 before July 31st and \$34 before Nov. 30th**

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Barefoot Bowls & Lunch - Ourimbah RSL on 19th June. Arrive in time to start bowling 9.30am. Please wear your Name Badges. Also wear socks or thongs to play in. If raining ring 4362 8777 –but still come for lunch

Smorgasbord Luncheon at Gosford Leagues Club Wednesday the 15th July. Arrive 1130hrs lunch commences 12.00 Social Director Coral Kane 4333 9738

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Hogan John/Jacqui July
Holland John/Greta August
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TLC BIRTHDAYS.

JULY

Capps Trevor	9-Jul
Beesley Robert	10-Jul
Murgatroyd Roy	10-Jul
Welland John	11-Jul
McDonald Philip	13-Jul
Lambert Barry	23-Jul
McAndrew Laurie	27-Jul
Thomas Betty	3-Jul
Newbold Moira	5-Jul
Stansfield Lorraine	5-Jul
Dew Cheryl	12-Jul
Howey Anne	13-Jul
Filmer Anne	15-Jul
Benger Kay	18-Jul
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Marsh Marie	24-Jul
Sutton Margaret	24-Jul
Hendy Jennie	26-Jul



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CURRENT TRIPS -with - DEPOSITS PAID

July 23 – 29	Stockton Beach (49281393)	Pets/N	Dep/Y	Cards/Y	T/L - TBA	Ph .
ATTENDING:	Nil					
August:	Trip to Cape York (Nil.Ph)	Pets/N	Dep/N	Cards/N	T/L - D Gross	Ph 4325 0668
ATTENDING:	Gross – Sheehan/Ranse (2)					
Sept. 1 – 7	Blacksmiths Beach (4971 2858)	Pets/??	Dep/Y	Cards/Y	T/L - C of M	Ph C of M
ATTENDING:	Nil					
Oct 9 –Nov 1	New England Ramble (Nil,Ph)	Pets/N	Dep/N	Cards/?	T/L -TBA	Ph
ATTENDING:	Brown J&L, Stevens, Williamson (3)					
Nov 1 -7	Norah Head (Melb. Cup)	Pets/Y	Dep/Y	Cards/Y	T/L K/R Cooper	Ph. 4397 2285
ATTENDING:	Cooper R&K, Cooper D&A					
Nov 2 – 8	Grafton Jacaranda Festival (1800012019)	Pets/N	Dep/\$50	Cards/Y	T/L. -TBA	Ph
ATTENDING:	Brown J&L, Hendy, Murgatroyd, Reynolds, Shawcross, Stevens, Thomas B&L, Woolfe (8)					
Nov 23 – 30	Narrabeen Rally	Pets/N	Dep/\$15	Cards/Y	T/L C of M	Ph
ATTENDING:	Nil					
Feb 12 – 19	Tuncurry/Forster (6554 6440)	Pets/N	Dep/\$30	Cards/Y	T/L Tour Director	Ph
ATTENDING:	Curnow, Easter, Stevens (3)					
Feb 19 -26	Happy Halladays Point (1800 555 454)	Pets/N	Dep/\$50	Cards/Y	T/L C of M	Ph
ATTENDING:	Curnow, Easter, Stevens, Cooper D/A, (4)					
Mar 12 – 14	State Rally-- Lennox Head	Pets/N	Dep/\$20	Cards/N	T/L K. Patterson	Ph. 4390 5658
ATTENDING:	Patterson, Curnow, Holland, (3)					
Mar 29 –Apr 6	Hartwood	Pets/Y	Dep/\$5	Cards/Cash	T/L D Cooper	Ph. 4393 3383
ATTENDING:	Cooper D&A					
Apr 28 -2 May	M & G Cessnock	Pets/Y	Dep/\$15	Card/Cash	T/L C of M.	Ph.
ATTENDING:	Nil					

