

# Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



**NEWSLETTER No 103 JULY 2015**  
**PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263**

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**Awning Pegs:** On our trip we met a man who once a year paints his pegs white so they can be seen more easily, both in the semi-dark and when packing up, which helps to avoid leaving them behind. We also have a peg puller from Clarrie Stevens which we find really useful.

**Matting:** While most van parks have some grass or gravel sites, depending on where you travel, you may arrive to find a patch of dirt. Travelling through western Queensland recently, where the drought has hit hard, we found many parks only have dirt and that certainly can't be helped. There are many types of matting available, but it is important to choose one that doesn't kill grass. Park owners definitely don't like you using blue tarps!..

**Alice Springs:** We toured out to Glen Helen Gorge and this is a photo of the Ellery Big Hole a most surprising, cool, beautiful place. Look at the reflection



**Buckets:** A bloke told me he always carries three buckets, stacked one inside the other. Stacking them means they don't take up much room and there is always another use for them. Everything takes up

space, of course, and we like our gear to have more than one use so now we have done away with our folding laundry baskets and use our buckets for carrying the laundry to the line

**Annex:** We have a full annex but do not use it very often. The time it takes to erect an annex means it is not practical for short stays. Our policy has been to erect it when we stay seven 7 days or longer. The other issue is that it blocks light and tends to make the inside of the van dark. When winds are around it is also a constant noise source. Met a bloke in Winton that had a u-beaut Roof Pod on top of his Jeep. He said it contained his full annex when asked when did you last use it he replied 'Oh a couple of years ago –but you never know when you will need it'???

**Shade Cloth Walls:** However, we do find shade cloth awning walls to be very useful. We carry one side wall and one end wall. They are very light and can be erected quickly and easily when needed for shade, privacy, or to stop rain blowing in. We have a sail track on the driver's side of our van as well, so they can be used on either side, according to our needs.

**Wooden Levelling Blocks:** There are several types of levelling blocks on the market, but most take up a bit of room. We carry three different thicknesses of timber in a box on the front of our van that we can use under the wheels. They cost nothing and take up very little space. Plus if you drive off and leave them they are easily replaced.

**Camowheel Billabong:** After driving across the Barkley Highway from Tennant Creek it was a relief to arrive at Camowheel where we stopped at the local Billabong about 1k out of town. It is a beautiful camping spot about a kilometre long with lots of trees and heaps of wildlife. There was at least 100 vans spread along the Billabong with heaps of spare locations. This spot was I think the best of all

**Camp Hosts Julia Creek:** It was quite a surprise when we pulled into the Free Camp at Julie Creek to be greeted by a Camp Host. They took details of our name and postcode showed us the general area to park showed us the Dump Site and where to fill up with good clean water prior to leaving. Gave us a rundown on all necessary details. They even organise happy hour and entertainment. There were about fifty vans in the area some right on the water edge and some choose distance from other vans. The area could easily accommodate more than a

100 vans. This will be a major tourist stop in the future. They have planted lines of trees to provide shade in the future

**Where are the Kangaroos:** We left home early in June and travelled down through Albury then Bendigo to Arratt in Victoria. Then on to Port Augusta, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. This is a distance of about 3000k and about three weeks of travel. We then went on the Mail Run out of Coober Pedy a 600k drive to Oodnadatta and Williams Creek where we saw our first (2) two live kangaroos. What has happened where is the wildlife?



**Coober Pedy Mail Run:** This is a unique experience we travelled 600 Klm in the above vehicle went to lunch at Oodnadatta Pink Roadhouse and then dinner at Williams Creek Hotel. Saw the Dingo fence, moon plains etc. The country is desert really but there had been two days of drizzle a week or so before and there was a green haze of new growth. The Tour Guide said in two weeks the countryside will be a mass of flowers. It was a long day but well worth it in someone else vehicle

**Camp Host at Charleville:** When you arrive at the Charleville Free Camp it was the same warm greeting. About 40 vans

spread out over a large flat area that is about 3 kilometres from town. It is clear that Councils are trying to encourage tourists to stop over in their town as long as possible. They provided a beautiful big Gidgee wood campfire where all the people gathered. They cooked hot damper with three types of syrup etc. it was hard to believe how welcome we were made. They also provided a Dump Site and a tap with clean town water at the exit and a sign saying fill up before you leave.

**Rubbish at Campsites:** When searching for campsites on WikiCamps you will see comments about people leaving rubbish. I must say where we travelled we never saw rubbish at any location. There was always Rubbish Bins available

**Water in the Outback:** Prior to leaving on our 8000k trip we had concerns about water availability in outback towns. We started with full tanks also two water containers. We filled up as often as we could to be sure we always had enough water. We were amazed to find that water is readily available for caravans in every locality. In fact at Coober Pedy you can pull up at two (2) water points in town and for 20 cents we could purchase 30litres of the nicest water I have ever tasted. There were two water bowsers/water points just like a service station.

**Mount Isa Water:** Then at Mount Isa which is a hot, dry and very thirsty area we purchased 15 fifteen litres of ice cold clean water from a large freezer cooler unit for \$4 for 15 litres. So for the price of two (2) schooners of beer we filled up.

**Dead Kangaroo's:** As soon as we entered Western Qld from Camooweal to below Longreach the roadside and road were littered with dead Roos. The major driving problem for us was passing oncoming vehicles and the need for us to straddle or slow to miss the dead Roos. A lot of the Roos were the real big red ones. It was a real sad sight

**Wobbly Wagons:** It was amazing that as we travelled each morning how many wobbly wagons passed us going in the opposite direction. It appeared that from about 10 to 1pm we would see hundreds. The scary part was when we stopped for morning tea or lunch there would be a constant stream passing in a real hurry. Alice would say they will get the best spots unless we hurry along.

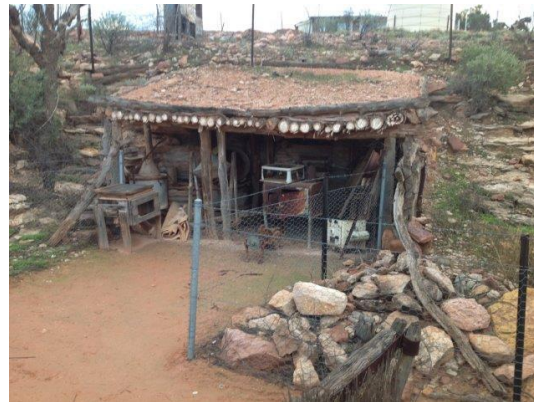
**Road Trains:** There was a heap of road trains of four trailer length also big wide loads that passed us in the opposite direction. We only came up behind one road train that was travelling to slow for me to follow. I checked the road ahead and saw it clear for a long distance and then the wandering movement of the rear trailer and decided to stop for twenty minutes for morning tea. Of course if I had really wanted the Jeep would have shot past in a flash.

**Fuel Prices:** The majority of service stations are around \$1.40 / litre however up the centre places like Marla and Barrow Creek diesel is \$1.99. In Tuggerah it was \$1.24 / l

**Wildlife:** We saw only one Dingo, three Camels, a real big Goanna and a lot of Eagles. Very very different to the mid 90's

**Winton Stopover:** We stopped at the rear of the North Gregory Hotel. This weekend was

a celebration of Banjo Patterson's life. That evening we went to dinner under the stars with a Fire of Gidgee Coal and wonderful night's entertainment. During the evening after a few beers I looked into the sky and actually saw the "Min Min" lights they were flitting/moving all over the place. It was all very exciting until someone explained to us that it was only a TV unit Drone videoing the weekend events.



**Andamooka:** We arrived at Pimba and turned right to visit Woomera which we last saw in 1995. The town now is a ghost town with lots of nice vacant homes but very few people. We then went on to Roxby Downs which is a bustling mining town. Our

objective was to visit and stay at Andamooka an old Opal mining town. The Council have provided a large free camping area for RVs that could accommodate up to 100 vans. The area is all gravel extracted from the opal mines and they have also provided raised dirt level slabs for the vans. It was a bit muddy going onto the site but I knew the Jeep would do it. During the night it started to rain so quickly out of bed and I towed the van 100 yards onto the blacktop in town. Have a look at Jack Absalom's father's cottage that he built in 1910.

**Prettiest Drive:** We travelled through the Adelaide Hills North Eastern area and we saw the most incredible stone formations then we drove down through Tea Tree Gully it is hard to describe but we were gob smacked. If you are in the area don't miss this drive

**Free Camped:** Along with many others we Free Camp where possible. On this trip we were away (38) thirty eight nights and free camped (32) nights. At Coober Pedy it is nearly essentials to stay in town in a park. We stopped at Ilfracombe Caravan Park for two nights just for the entertainment it was a lot of fun. I did a (30) minute poetry and joke session on the two nights.

**Takes all Types:** At Port Augusta while at the Information Centre we met a couple from NZ. It turned out they were going to ride push bikes from Pt Augusta to Darwin. They said it would take about (60) to (90) days to complete the ride. For the first ten days they would have been

riding into headwinds and of course as you all know it is all uphill to Darwin.

**Nyngan Stopover:** Pulled into Nyngan and did not want to free camp on the river just out of town due to light rain and black mud. So pulled up in the special caravan parking area in the Main Street to look for a suitable spot. I was very surprised to see a notice that read caravans can stop for 24 hours. At 8pm the town settled down and we had a real quite sleep except for one train. A great coffee shop is located right next door. Highly recommended for an in town stop.

**Hartwood 2016:** There are very strong rumours around that Tom Maxwell will run Hartwood next year. The word is they are trying to open the gates for two weeks. They will not use the homestead site for the entertainment but it will be conducted somewhere in an open area not far from our location. It has also been rumoured there will be some really good entertainers. At this time they are still involved with Council approval. [So this is just a heads up for you to keep the Easter date open.](#)

**Did you Know by Flippo:** I was sitting around the fire at a free camp in Surat when this old bushy sat down next to me and told me this true story about how he made a fortune calming cows so they would give more milk, he said he made this structure that played soothing music that calmed the cows and they did give more milk, it was so popular that they popped up all over the country and he became a millionaire. So DID YOU KNOW that when you are travelling out in the country and you see a large tower in a paddock with large dishes on it, well it is broadcasting soothing music to calm the cows, and you are looking a what

he invented and he called them cow calmers, true story

**Tour Directors Report:** Bev attended the meeting by travelling down from Forster. She reported that there are 30 vans already in Lakeside C/P and another 2 expected today. There are (4) trips on the board prior to Valla. These include a ramble with Clarrie Stevens, Lakeside with Kate Crocker and more. Please check the boards for trips next year. The biggest Morning Tea has been postponed till Happy Halliday's Christmas in July due to bad weather. Bev also reported that Tuncurry Tip will weigh our vans if we are looking for a ball weight certificate.

**Trip Reports:** Please send in trip reports, or any item that may be of interest to members ASAP so we can fit/include them into the Newsletter

#### FOR SALE

**Turbo Cooker:** Still in box. Used twice  
Red colour \$20. Des 4393 3383

**Plastic Water Tanks** two (2) x 80 litre \$30 each. 200mm Pole Carrier \$50  
Doug Kinnell 43908933

**Folding Bikes:** 2 Adult hinge folding bikes, Excellent Condition \$100 each Ono  
Contact Len or Judy 0414-279535

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#### WINNERS of FREE LUNCH

Clarrie Stevens

Vicki Henry

#### MONTHLY CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

\$50 Terry Kelly

\$30 Vicki Henry

\$20 Fay Evernden

#### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Lee Sing William	3-Aug
Moore Joy	5-Aug
Kane Coral	10-Aug
Henry Vicki	12-Aug
Laney Lorraine	12-Aug
Lusted John	12-Aug
Barnes Peter	16-Aug
Tipping Dianne	17-Aug
Johnson Gai	17-Aug
Cannard Wendy	25-Aug
Wells John	25-Aug
Smithers Lynne	25-Aug
Hoff Anne	26-Aug
Holland John	27-Aug
Maranik Aado	28-Aug
Devlin Christine	29-Aug

**Next ---General Meeting  
Sunday 16th AUGUST 2015**

[Email:desmond.alicecooper@bigpond.com](mailto:desmond.alicecooper@bigpond.com)

## 2015 LIST OF TRIPS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRIP</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
<b>Aug 28 Sept 12</b>	<b>HUNTER VALLEY RAMBLE Cessnock, Cassillis, Wellington, Forbes, Cowra, Bathurst, Gulgong, Denman</b>	Baird / Bickley, Belshaw, Brewer, Cooper, Curnow, D'Adam, Majchrowski, Merrett / Wright, Pollard, Shoobert, 10	<b>Tour Director</b>	<b>43 902277</b>
<b>Sept 21 -27</b>	<b>QLD STATE RALLY</b>	Nil	<b>Tour Director</b>	<b>43 902277</b>
<b>Oct 17 –Nov 2</b>	<b>RAMBLE TO VALA</b>	Merrit/Wright, Shoobert, Stevens	<b>Clarrie Stevens</b>	<b>4369 2759</b>
<b>Oct 22 - 30</b>	<b>FORSTER LAKESIDE to VALLA</b>	Brewer, Crocker, Gibbs, Kane, McGillicuddy, Shawcross, Williams	<b>Kate Crocker</b>	<b>0414 890 403</b>
<b>Nov 2 – 9</b>	<b>CLUB RALLY VALA BEACH Touristst Park Phone 1800 800 447 or 65 695555</b>	Anderson, Angell, Bolcina, Bennett, Brewer, Brown, Cannard, Collins, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Ducker, Edwards/Williamson, Fletcher, Gibbs, Haberfield, Hansell, Holland, Howard, Hunt, Insull, Kains, Kane, Kinnell, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lenane, Majchrowski, McGillicuddy, Merrett/Wright, Moore J/N, Moore M/D, Nichols, Oaks, Pollard, Reilly, Rohwer, Rowlinson, Russell B/T, Ryan, Shoobert, Simpson, Smith, Smithers, Smyth, Steele L/K, Stevens, Stevenson, Stewart, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning, Webb, White Williams 55	<b>Committee</b>	<b>43 902277</b>
<b>Nov 18 -25</b>	<b>NARRABEEN REST &amp; RECREATION DO NOT RING PARK</b>	Angel, Bolcina, Cooper, Curnow, Chambers, Dew, Ducker, Henry, Holland, Howard, Majchrowski, Pollard, Reilly, Roberts, Shoobert, Smith, Thomas, Williams (25 sites only)	<b>Des Cooper</b>	<b>4393 3383</b>
		<b><u>2016 LIST OF TRIPS</u></b>		
<b>Feb 4 - 11</b>	<b>Club Rally BeachFront North Haven Phone 65 599193</b>	Anderson, Brewer, Cannard, Clarke J, Crocker, Curnow, Ducker, Edwards/Williamson, Flippence, Hansell, Henry, Holmes, Howard, Kelly, Insull, Jager, Kane, Kinnell, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lenane, Lindsay, Majchrowski, McGillicuddy, Oaks, Olesen, Palmer, Pollard, Reilly, Riley, Rohwer, Russell B/T, Ryan, Shoobert, Simpson, Smith, Smyth, Steele L/K, Stewart, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning, Wells, Williams 43	<b>Committee</b>	<b>4390 2277</b>
<b>Feb 11 - 25</b>	<b>SHOAL BAY (From North Haven)</b>	Coltman, Henry, Hoff, Stevens	<b>Clarrie Stevens</b>	<b>4369 2759</b>
<b>Feb 14 Apr 9</b>	<b>TASMANIA TRIP</b>	Baird/Bickley, Brewer, Davidson, Marsland, Merrit/Wright, Pollard, Shawcross 7	<b>Peter Davidson</b>	<b>0429447467</b>
<b>Mar 4 - 6</b>	<b>NSW STATE RALLY WAGGA WAGGA</b>	Nil	<b>Tour Dir.</b>	<b>43902277</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b>HARTWOOD ??????</b>			
<b>Apr 20 - 25</b>	<b>BOGGABRI DROVERS CAMPFIRE</b>	List in progress 25 names	<b>Crocker K/S</b>	<b>0414890403</b>
<b>Apr 28 –Mar 1</b>	<b>CELTIC FEST&gt; GLEN INNES</b>	12 Names	<b>Tour Director</b>	<b>4390 2277</b>

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