



CARAVAN TIPS AND HINTS

(FOR CLUB MEMBERS)

Camping Websites: Here are two camping websites that may be useful to members

www.caravancaravan.com.au

www.myparklist.com

Caravan Tyres: A member spoke on the need for members when purchasing a new caravan to ensure that the correct rating tyres are fitted. It appears that the tyres fitted to his van were very underrated for the caravan weight. He refused to accept delivery until the correct rated tyres were fitted this added an extra hour to the pickup time but in the long run the safety factor could save many hours drama. His advice to all caravan owners old and new to check and make sure their tyres are correctly rated.

Tagging of Electrical Leads: The following replies were received regarding authorised tagging of leads. Remember you will need 25M leads

Russell Moore 0418 435 455

Appliance Tagging Service 1300 287 669

Tyres: How important are they? Most members when they brought their last caravan saw that it had two or four wheels, with a black rubber tyres and a spare, all had air in them so they took delivery without any questions. How many actually know how to read the tyre details on the side of the tyre and see if they are correctly rated to suit their van? During my search for a new van I have taken everything into

consideration, probably one reason why I have been without a van for four months. One of the brand new vans I looked at, ready for delivery to some unfortunate customer, I found it had under-rated tyres on it. Tyres have a lot of numbers on them to confuse people, what all the numbers mean you can find out on the WEB and if you don't know what your tyre rating are I am sure your insurance company will if you try making a claim from a tyre related accident. Back to the new caravan, the tyres had a load index of 108 which is 1000KG. The Van had two wheels so the total maximum legal weight they can carry is 2000Kgs. The van had a GTM weight on the tyres of 2241Kgs, 241Kgs over this would be a good out for an insurance company. On my old van which I brought new, I didn't discover until it was over twelve months old that it came with three tyres, all different brands and slightly different ratings. The only common thing they were all the same size, but with all different tread patterns. Don't leave this until it is too late, manufactures and caravan salesman will try and get away with whatever they can. The salesman was advised of the underrated tyres, but if any action was taken I don't know. Max. M

Buying Fuels: Only fill up your vehicle in the morning when the ground temp. is cold. All service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the petrol. When it gets warmer petrol expands so when buying in the afternoon....your litre is not exactly a litre.. When filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. The trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. You should pump on low mode

minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping .All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your Petrol Tank is HALF FULL. The reason for this is the more petrol you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Petrol evaporates faster than you can imagine. Petrol storage tanks have an internal Floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the petrol and the atmosphere, so it minimizes the evaporation. Also if there is a Petrol truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy Petrol, DO NOT fill up. Most likely the Petrol is being stirred up as the petrol is being delivered, and you risk picking up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom. Mmmmm

RTA E- Toll Tag: Club members should give serious thought to purchasing an E-Toll Tag. For infrequent users the Tag costs \$40 plus an account of \$50 a total of \$90. The money remains in your account until you actually use it. Once the account drops to \$40 it is automatically topped up from your credit card. Should you wish to travel South to Wollongong or Canberra it is now so quick and easy to turn off at Pennant Hills and take the M2 M7 to the Hume Highway.. *(Saves us ladies reading the map) We used it on our trip to and through Melbourne it was wonderful to travel so easily around the two cities with no worries. (Reprint)*

15A Electrical Power Leads; Members may be aware that the joining of power leads supplying caravans is not permitted under the Australian standards. The longest leads available at Bunnings are 25 metres. Longer ones are often needed at large rallies. I carry a couple of longer leads and both were in use at the Elmore national rally. I have noted some 30 metre ones are

available at <http://www.extensionleadsaustralia.com.au/store/caravan-rv-motorhome-power-cord.html> .Some of those going to Rockhampton may be interested in these. The 30 m leads may look expensive but they are cheaper than I can actually purchase the cable, without the fittings, at the electrical wholesalers.

Camping Defined: Authorities define "camping" in various ways but it is the local councils' health department regulations that usually prohibit the overnight occupied parking of a campervan or motorhome in defined areas – whether the vehicle is self-contained or otherwise. In practice you're likely to be left undisturbed if you stay overnight in a quiet back- street, and not overlooked by nearby residences, as long as you do not raise the pop-top roof or let anything drain on the ground. Don't provide ammunition for the caravan park lobby by staying overnight close to an established caravan park, and under no circumstance cheat park owners by using their facilities without paying. Some do! (Reprint from CMCA magazine)

Message from a Member : I have come across a very pleasant man named "Garry", goes by the name of "Strutman", he has a mobile service for gas struts. I have replaced my struts for our bed. Contact No 0414 771 727
Tel 02 43 533516
e-mail garry@strutman.com.au
He lives at Jilliby.

Lock up Your Caravan: It was reported in the local press that we have had five (5) caravans stolen in the last five (5) weeks from around the central coast area. It is also stated that the thieves are targeting Jayco caravans and the thefts occur mostly at night. All the caravans have been taken from out the front of homes and the locks and padlocks have been cut. The vans were taken from a number of private properties at Blackwall, Lisarow, Booker Bay and Wamberal. We have a keyed lock fitted inside the tow ball and I think the van would need to be hauled onto a trailer. So check your own security measurers and pray. At Sundays meeting it was explained how easy it is to "pickup" a vehicle or caravan so just make sure your Insurance is up to date & total cover

with cheap mouth wash then spray all around it will keep the little blighters away. If you have no mouth wash it's helpful to know that a mosquito can only fly at approx. one (1) km per hour, so if you sit in front of a fan or in a good breeze stronger than 1km per hour you will be safe. Mmmm --

Breaksafe Battery Monitor: At the State Assoc. meeting a member presented a paper on breaksafe battery monitors in a towing vehicle where the trailer weight exceeds 2 tonnes. He included the relevant RTA vehicle Standards Information (No 22) and the Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin No 6 which clearly requires a monitor in the towing vehicle. Cases have been reported where registration had been refused because of a lack of monitor and one HCCCC member has been fined over \$600 for not having the monitor. The monitors cost less than \$100 and can be easily installed a member had obtained quotes from three auto electricians ranging from \$375/\$400 to \$550.wanna bet

Shellite: Shellite is excellent for removing unwanted bits of silicone from your van after any maintenance.

Travel Insurance????: When do you need travel insurance in Australia is always a tricky one. As a rule, most policies will not cover medical expenses as these are generally covered under public health provisions. However, you should consider what would happen if you need to be transported to hospital – do you have ambulance cover? Domestic policies will cover for additional expenses incurred while in hospital, accidental death, personal liability, expenses incurred due to a delay or cancellation and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some of these things you may have covered under additional policies such as life insurance or home contents so it is worthwhile considering just what you need. For added peace of mind, purchasing travel insurance may be a godsend when there is the possibility of unforeseen nasties.

UHF Radio Channels

5 - This channel, which is established by law, can be used by anyone but only in an emergency situation

9 - Used for conversations

10 - Used by 4WD enthusiasts, clubs, convoys and in national parks

12 to 17 - Used for conversations

18 - Holiday maker's communication channel (e.g. when in a convoy)

19 to 21 - Used for conversations

24 to 30 - Used for conversations.

29 - for [Pacific Hwy \(NSW\)](#) and Bruce Hwy (Qld) [communications](#) which are mainly used by truck drivers and other highway users

35 - Used in case of Emergencies

39 - Used for conversations

40 - Highway [Communications](#) mainly used by truck drivers and highway users

49 to 60 - new channels can be used for conversations.

61 to 63 - currently reserved for future expansion

64 to 70 - new channels can be used for conversations

79 to 80 - new channels can be used for conversations

The following article was printed in the April Newsletter

Wineguard TV Antenna: A member spoke about a clip on antenna extension called a Wineguard Wingman. He purchased one and it has given him much better reception and is very easy to install.

Then a Club Member Peter Davidson sent in this additional information

I feel there are some points that should be mentioned before some of our members go blowing their cash on the wrong item.

There are two different models. There is the old RV-Wing which was designed to cover the UHF channels in the USA (channels 14 to 51.) There is also an Australian/New Zealand model (with shorter elements) designed to cover our UHF channels (28 to 69.) This is the NZ-Wing. If members purchase the RV-Wing it will work OK on the lower half or the UHF band but they will be missing out on the benefit of the extra performance on the upper half of the band. If they purchase the NZ-Wing then they will get the full extra performance over the whole of the band. Have a look at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australasian_tlevision_frequencies#Current_Australian_Channel_Allocation_by_State.2FTerritory_as_at

[2011](#) you will see that there are more channels in use in the top half of the UHF band. It also should be noted that these Wings only improve the UHF antenna section. They do nothing for the VHF antenna section.

Then member D McCann sent in the following; There are 2 antennas that are being installed on vans by makers. One is the real Winegard the other is a Techtronics out of the USA. The USA model is the lower range one and is restricted in coverage. That is why the Winegard was designed for NZ and Australia. The Winegard Wing does not fit. The reason I know this is because our contract for our current van said Winegard Antenna and they put the cheaper Techtronic's on it. We had bought a Wingman extension and sent it back because it did not fit the antenna at the time. We had them change our antenna. Members need be sure they have a proper Winegard before spending time and money. The Winegard antenna head will fit the roof bracket, but the booster is likely have to be changed. Our booster was changed by AVan when they changed the antenna. Thanks folks hope this helps.

Gas Usage: For bush camping with some comfort you need gas, water and some lighting. How many campers know how much gas they need for refrigeration and cooking for a week? Here are my gas figures and costing for the week at Hartwood. Our gas bottle holds 9.9Kgs of gas (18.33 litres) it cost \$24.00 to get the bottle filled that is \$1.36 per litre. We camped for 163 hours (5 hours short of a full week) used 2.5Kgs of gas (4.63 litres), $4.63 \times 1.36 = \$6.29$ for a week of gas. Gas cost us slightly less than \$1.00 per day when bush camping.

Wheel Studs: A member suggested was that we check are our wheel studs regularly especially on dual axle vans as he experienced two of his being sheared off after having difficulty parking his van on a site that was too small.

CMCA Insurance: Once again we suggest that anyone looking to save money on insurance should consider C.M.C.A as they offer discounts if you insure both car and caravan. We currently have four (4) members who have reported savings between \$500 – \$600. It is well worth the phone call to check it out (03) 9853 5555

How to Preserve a Husband: Be very careful in selection do not choose too young When you select give strong thoughts to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in a pickle and others constantly keep getting in hot water. This may make them hard, sour or even bitter. Even poor varieties may be made sweet and tender and good by garnishing them with patience sweetened with love and tender kisses. Wrap them in a mantle of charity keep them warm with a steady fire of domestic duties and serve with peaches and cream. Thus prepared they will keep for years and years.

Caravan Water Pressure Reduction Valve: Nearly every caravan has this type of valve at their water inlet on their caravan. The valves have a limited life due to rubber seals and volume of use. The valve cannot be repaired by a home handyman. Replacement can be purchased from Clean Water Products 2/1 Doherty Close Warnervale 2259 4393 1361 for \$55 -\$60. Part No. FMSC350. The manager's advice to caravanners was that every time we return home from a trip into country areas where we may have picked up Bore Water. Then we should thoroughly flush our vans water pipes and tanks

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*

Free SMS Message: If you are one of the people involved in sending SMS messages then the following site will let you send up to (50) fifty FREE messages a day. Just go to the following address www.smsfun.com It is easy as that. Another free site is www.yakedi.com

Loose nuts on goose necks: A member recently discovered that someone had been tampering with the nuts securing the gooseneck to the tow-bar and had he not checked the results could have been devastating. *It pays to be vigilant*

Use your Caravan Battery. Rechargeable AGM 100 and 120AH (Amp Hour) batteries are the most common batteries used in Caravans. They are used to power 12V devices in your van; there is no point in carrying 30 kilograms of battery around the country if it doesn't work properly. Batteries, like most things have a limited life but the more you use them the better they perform. There is also no point in having a battery that only runs things for a few minutes, then dies. To keep your battery in top condition you need to maintain it and use it on a regular basis. When your van is not being used, you need to have it connected to a 5 or 7 stage battery charger with maintenance mode to keep your battery fully charged. Keeping a battery in maintenance mode is not using it, so at least once a month, the battery needs taking off the charger and giving it some work to do. A 100AH battery you only have a

maximum of 60AH to use, you should never discharge them below 40%. A voltage reading of 11.9 volts with nothing attached to the battery is a flat battery.

To test your battery you need to apply a load of a known value, how many amps are being used? If you know how much power your lights use in an hour, you can turn them all ON and leave them running for a few hours to give your battery a work out (make sure your van is disconnected from the 240 volt supply). If your lights use 10amps your battery should run them for 6 hours if it was fully charged and in good condition to start with. Run a test after three hours turn off all lights and wait 30 minutes then measure your battery voltage if it measures 11.9 volts or less (40%) your battery is not working to its best performance. Voltage should have been 12.3 volts.

If your lights are using 10amps or more, then it is time to consider upgrading to LED's. All my lights before an LED upgrade used 9.89amps. After upgrading with all lights ON, they only use 3.18amps and if I switch the main three lights into economy mode, I only use 2.17amps. When you are camping, rarely do you use every light at once, so your usage will vary a lot. Working things out using the maximum figures is the best way to go. Of course you have other devices to consider such as your water pumps and TV.

My main lights which were 'D' type fluoro globes used .970amps, now with 30 LED's they use .770amps in normal mode. In economy mode only 6 LED's out of the 30 LED's are used, using .160amps, that .810amps less, it is a great power saver. The ON/OFF switch on the light fitting was replaced with a centre off switch. Switch on one way gives you full light; switch on the other way gives you the economy light mode. The economy mode is quite ample to see your way around the van.

When we camp on a powered site we still use our battery for lights, TV and water pump. I keep an eye on the battery and use the power and battery charger only when needed. This way my battery is being used on a regular basis. If I am going to be towing the van next day for a couple of hours or more, the battery will be recharged from the tow vehicle alternator before the next camp site.

My current battery is only eighteen months old and each time I run a test on it using two 50W 12V lamps or 8.32amps load the results get better. This proves maintaining and using

your battery properly is the way to go, so use it as much as possible. Max M

Casino Village Resort: The Resort has agreed to a 15% discount (maximum \$50 per visit) for members of the State Association on production of a current State Membership Card. The discount is available for individuals as well as clubs.

The Break-way Braking System, monitoring the battery. This has come about because the new van we are looking at has a GTM of over two-tonne. Researching this subject is a real challenge with no specifications on how this is to be done to meet the full requirements of the law. This law has been in force since the Vehicle Standards Information N0.22 was Issued in April 1998. The RTA Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin No.06 April 1998 to how they carry out the inspections. This means if you get caught using the excuse you didn't know won't work. All I can say is if you get caught with a tow vehicle registered in NSW towing any form of trailer over two-tonne, fitted with a break-away braking system and there is no battery monitoring device where the driver can see in the tow vehicle, the tow vehicle will be issued with a defect. The trailer will have to be left where the defect was issued. My first reference to this was in issue No.178 of the Caravan & Motorhome On Tour Magazine page 203. The author welcomed any comments about this story. After more "googling" I found a site that seemed to have a solution to the problem. I emailed the author with what I had found and got the following reply.

Hi Max. I had a look at the site you mentioned before I wrote the article and, while I agree that they have a good solution, I remain concerned that there is no official standard for how the charging/monitoring should be done.

In the meantime I'm planning to write an article on how to wire up a NSW compliant charging/monitoring system in the near future and I'm thinking of using the RV Electronics product as a guide.

<http://rvelectronics.com.au/index.php?route=product/category&path=18>

CLICK ON IMAGE BS6000 FOR MORE INFORMATION

[A Remote Battery Monitor is required for NSW registration.](#)

[FOR NSW REGULATIONS CLICK HERE](#)

This makes additional parts needed for a breakaway monitoring system:

RM6000 remote battery monitor fitted in tow vehicle.

- 1.
2. 12 pin plug connection tow vehicle to caravan.
3. Breaksafe 6000 breakaway kit fitted to the caravan.

You have to look at the descriptions of both the RM6000 and the Breaksafe 6000 to understand how they meet the NSW regulations. If you currently have an unmonitored breakaway system you will have to upgrade the whole system, on your van and car to be compliant.

Max M

TLC holds Inaugural CMF: On Wednesday 7th November TLC held its inaugural Club Members Forum (CMF) at Narrabeen. It was scheduled for 30 minutes but lasted for about 1½ hours. Around 30/35 members sat in on the Forum. The discussion subjects were very well received with most members asking questions or were involved in putting forward information. The Forum was unanimous that it be scheduled again for Narrabeen 2013. The Forum requested that we also invite a "Specialist" on Solar Power to attend and bring samples /displays and show us the latest in technology. The common question asked was why we had never done this before.

Vehicle Stickers: The general meeting approved the purchase of 500 car stickers. These stickers will be sold to members for their cars for \$1.00 each. Committee member Irene Woods will manage the sale of stickers and collection of monies also the record keeping associated with this. These stickers will be sold at each meeting and the funds returned to the treasurer and receipted.

Insurance Claims: It was interesting to read that the NRMA statistics show that claims for caravan are 41% for collisions, Awning are 31% and hail damage 17%

D" Shackles: It is essential that the "D" shackles that secure your safety chains from

your van to the towing vehicle have the correct rating

Internet Sites: These are a few sites you may like to have a look at:

<http://www.caravanning-oz.com/>
<http://www.australiainpictures.com>
<http://www.caravan-camping.com.au/>
<http://www.discoverdownunder.com.au/>
<http://caravanersforum.com/viewforum.php>
<http://caravanningnews.com/>
<http://welovethiscountry.com.au>

Caravan Check List: For members who use their vans once or twice a year a Caravan Towing Safety Check list is an important safety tool. What appears to be important is that members go through a set routine in setting off to tow the van to make sure everything is OK. We often have members wishing to assist in setting up and in readying the van for the road. The caravan magazines/Internet sites seem to suggest we as individuals do our own hook up -set procedure to make sure everything is OK.

Booking/Cancelling Trips. It is a member's responsibility after placing their name on the trip board to contact the Caravan Park and book in and pay a deposit. Also it is the member's responsibility to notify the park if they wish to cancel from the trip. The member is responsible to apply for a refund of deposit.

The Snowy River Bush Festival Information

Camping: Camping will be on the local golf course located next to the showground. It is advisable to arrive early on the Wednesday morning as your early arrival will enable you to camp next to the grounds where there is a gate directly into the grounds with close location to all activities and sewered toilets.

Toilets and Showers: There is one toilet block in the showground with three or four cubicles. There is another block in town approx 500 meters at the information centre. On the

Thursday there will be four semi trailers arrive. Last year one truck of showers and one of toilets were placed in the grounds nearby to all activities while the other two were placed in the recreation area leading into the showground. These were all adequate for last year. Bear in mind these are very basic showers and port-a-loos but do provide bush camping comfort during the festival.

Power and Water. There is no power supply on the golf course but generators are allowed. There is a tap as you enter the golf course and it is suggested you arrive at the camp with your water tank full as the tap is bore water. It would

be wise to bring bottled drinking water with you for the duration. Also bring a bucket to fill your tank from the bore water tap if needed.

Medical: We don't know if there is a doctor in town. There is no dentist. Ambulance and first aid facilities will be in attendance at the grounds.

Campfires: We have arranged for a trailer load of firewood to be delivered as you can have a campfire on the verge of the course. Last year this was delivered to us free, but this year there may be a small dollar charge shared amongst us. We found the people of Corryong most welcoming and proud of there festival.

Food: Stock up on essentials before you arrive, there is a small I.G.A. store in town, There is a bank and most necessities are available. Free internet is available at library.

Activities: There are so many events going on all day and evening you will never be bored. The re-enactment of the horse from old Regret is held approx five kilometres out of town on a property where there is adequate parking. The festival organisers provide busses to shuttle visitors out to the area and these last year were free. Last year we had a beautiful sunny day and the whole show was really stirring.

Web Address: Please visit the website so that you can become familiar with all things on the program. The cost listed is \$95 per person concession but that includes the Lee Kernaghan concert. At this stage the Concession charge alone has been marked "to be advised". There is no urgency to purchase your ticket immediately. We will explain more at the Xmas Dinner
www.manfromsnowyriverbushfestival.com.au

Purchasing your Tickets: Members can purchase tickets online and the costings are listed you just need to determine if you want

to go to the concert. But at this stage maybe you should wait until after the 12th December (Xmas Dinner) before purchasing. There is really no hurry to purchase as everyone attending will be accommodated.

Refund on Tickets: The Website states very clearly: **There will be "no refund on tickets" under any circumstances**

Joy Flights: Behind the rodeo grounds there is a glider airport where you can enjoy a flight if you wish. It is lovely to be sitting watching the events and to see a beautiful soundless aircraft floating noiselessly and gracefully above you. Corryong is surrounded by beautiful mountains and is very picturesque with beautiful drives in the surrounding areas.

Maps and Information: We will have maps of the area and the golf course pinned on the Notice Boards at the Xmas Party and January meeting

The main points to remember is:
Arrive early --maybe camp on a roadside stop outside of town. So if possible we can be in the same area near all the "happenings". Be aware we CANNOT-RESERVE-CAMPING SPOTS

Cost of Tickets: Tickets charges are \$100 (Concession rate) BUT if you are an early bird purchaser it will cost \$95 (This includes the Concert ticket)

Festival Attendance Only: If you wish to attend the festival only it will cost you \$50 per person The drum is that this is Lee Kernaghan's last concert and he will have his full band and other entertainers. Should be a good night The festival organisers do there very best to make you comfortable by providing necessities of camping, but it is BUSH CAMPING FACILITIES. FILL YOUR WATER TANK BEFORE YOU ARRIVE. AND YOU WILL BE ASSURED OF A GREAT TIME.

Caravan Tyres & Wheel Bearings:
Folks it's the busy time for caravans to hit the road again so just a reminder that the major towing problems appear to be tyres and wheel bearings so it may pay you to have yours serviced/ checked.

Lighting Gas Fridge: A few members have had problems lighting their Gas fridge in the van. The problem is that you need to push the air out of the line. Saw this suggestion in a magazine. Turn on your gas bottle and light one of the burners on your stove to purge the air out of the gas line. Then turn stove jet off. Turn Fridge knob to GAS then hold the left button in or down and start clicking on the right. The green marker will move as soon as the fridge is alight

O.H. & S Officer Report: Alan spoke briefly about flame heaters in caravans and said articles in C.M.C.A. magazine discouraged people from using them. This subject will be looked into and a report will be provided at a later meeting.

LED Lights: A member also spoke briefly about L.E.D. lighting and in particular the circular shaped light with the M shaped neon. This light can be replaced with a 40 LED for around \$25. A - Van at Morrisett is an agent for led lighting and will give TLC members a discount price.

Members Representative: Early in our formation members agreed that we have a "Suggestion Box" at the door. We have tried this on two occasions it did not work. It was then decided that TLC would have a Members Representative. The general meeting was reminded that Roy Curnow was available for all members to make suggestions and inquiries through. Roy would then contact appropriate person or C of M.

In line Water filter: The water flow from our caravans internal taps slowed over the past year. The problem was we have a filter/strainer fitted where the water hose is connected to our van. On inspection this was found partially blocked. To prevent foreign matter ie rust flakes, gravel, sand and other bits and pieces entering your vans water pipes you may consider attaching an inline filter in your caravans water connection hose Barry found a water filter unit that is easy to fit and clean he said you can buy these from Pro Power at units 1-3, 75 Mitchell Rd, Cardiff and they are \$31.60 each. The product code is 1150020129-1.

TLC RULES OF PLAY FOR DISC BOWLS:
TLC Additions to the National Rules which were amended at 12th National Rally at Lucindale on 29th December 2004. At a

meeting held on 9th March 2011 with the following members in attendance:- Kevin Steele, Linda Steele, John Holland, Al Dew, Cheryl Dew, Coral Kane, Peter Kane, Chris Pollard, Norm Moore, Joy Moore, Roy Curnow, the following additions were agreed to:-

- For the purpose of our club the 'marker' will be known as 'referee' the 'scorer' to remain 'scorer'
- Referee to stand 1metre from centre towards throwing end
- If a **foot fault** or **played out of turn** is called, the opposing skip has the right to make the decision whether to accept the discs as they lay or replay the end, with the foot fault or out of turn disc left out of the replayed end. Referee to be responsible for foot faulting or out of turn play decisions
- Any disc thrown into court, then rolling out and back in, is considered to be still in play
Any disc landing outside the court and rolling inside is considered out of play and will be removed
- All players to remain behind base line until all discs have been thrown
- Referee to ask if "All Finished" before going onto court to count discs
- Disc thrower **only** to check position of discs on court after informing referee of their intention to do so
- Players not to touch discs until referee has declared the end

- Any two opposing discs covering any part of the jack, the end is declared dead with no score

Any disputes will be handled by Bowls Officials, the game Referee and the person making the claim

Site Signs: A few of us experienced major problems trying to find members at Happy Hallidays. The March General Meeting agreed that all members should have some form of site sign on the front of their caravans. Clarrie Stevens will produce a coloured plasticized sign for \$5 or you can print or create your own. Models were displayed at the meeting. Please assist us by displaying a sign

Name Badges: We are a large club with many new members. The March general meeting confirmed that members must wear name badges at meetings and trips. If you attend a meeting and forget your badge a replacement will be provided. If you forget a second time then you will pay \$1 for the card holder.

Tow Balls & Stress: The April general meeting talked about Tow Ball failure. It appears that the constant movement sets up stress in the neck/thread area. It appears that the tow ball should be replaced after a 2/4 year period (not held onto forever). But remember to always buy a STAMPED RATED tow ball. Your choice

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*

Squeaky Bed??? Do you have a problem with your bed frame squeaking each time you move on your caravan bed. Sometimes the timber used may pinch upon itself creating a high pitched squeak. This noise could prove embarrassing if you have neighbors close by. Should your bed suffer from this ailment there is a super quick fix: talcum powder. Yes you hinge the bed frame up, sprinkle talcum powder all over every piece of exposed timber, shut the bed down and have a good roll around. Tilt the bed back up and remove excess powder. Done. Ah! Silence is golden. Oh, it smells nice also.

Full Width Mud Flap: Interesting bit of information I came across and I now quote: "Early in the trip I had a full width mud/stone flap on the rear of my vehicle and one day I checked the pressure and the rear tyres were up to 65 degree. So I took the flap off and they dropped 20 degrees straight away. So I never put the flap back and the tyres never got that hot again even on a day of 45 degrees. I have also heard of differentials being cooked because of the wide flap impeding airflow through the underneath of the vehicle. Mmm something more to think about

Changing your Fridge 240V to 12 V: This is a reprint from an early newsletter but it is an effective way of eliminating the continuing problem of forgetting to change the fridge over. Early in our caravanning days we would just before leaving a park turn our fridge from 240 power to our cars 12v system. On quite a few occasions we forgot to turn it back to 240V. In the

end we decided never to turn our fridge to 12V. We simply leave it on 240V and the fridge remains cold with un-melted ice cubes even during an (8) hour drive. Try it and see for yourself

SELECTING THE RIGHT PEGS To select the pegs you need to ask one question sand or soil? If you answer sand you will need to buy sand pegs. These come in plastic or steel and are designed with a larger surface area to deliver ultimate anchoring support Obviousley if you are camping on the beach you will want to purchase plastic pegs as these will not rust. For sandy soil the answer is a steel angle style peg. For hard ground the straight steel peg is the best **Tip** An absolute must have accessory for the insertion and removal of pegs is the Coleman Wak.Jak. This mallet is constructed of high grade PVC and uses dynamic energy with a hook on the handle to easily remove your pegs. It has been machine tested to pull over 3 tonnes Another great gadget is the BCF peg puller, a galvanized shaft with a **T** handle that uses leverage to assist in the removal of pegs.

Safety Vests: It is very interesting to observe that all persons who work on road constructions or road works all wear safety vests. The vests certainly stand out as a warning to other drivers. We have had two (2) **blowouts with one of our vans and on** both occasions it was on the traffic side and we had some close calls. So we now have two (2) safety vests just in case. They are like life jackets we hope we never need them. So folks we recommend that all club members buy a couple of Safety Vests. *Ladies just buy a couple and hide them in the van ready for the next emergency*

Tainted Water from Plastic Water Tanks

Put about 20 litres of water in the tank with half a packet of bicarbonate of soda and go for a drive (eg. the first day of your trip).

Drain and refill with fresh water. Works a treat! Always make sure you are using fittings and hoses rated for drinking water otherwise nothing will improve the taste.

Note: All this assumes that drink safe hoses/connections are used and that they are black (i.e. no light can get into the system to allow algae to grow

Camp Oven Care Treat them right and they'll always be faithful. When you get your hands

on a new cast iron camp oven take a bit of time to prepare it for the years ahead. You need to help prevent rust and help ensure it retains its non-stick qualities. Take off any labels and wash the oven and lid in warm water only. Then rinse and dry it completely. Wipe very thoroughly around the inside of camp oven and lid with cooking oil then whack it in an oven upside down for one hour at 180 degrees. Be sure to place aluminium foil underneath the oven rack to catch any excess oil. Alternately oil the camp oven as described then put it on a camp fire and heat it to 180 degrees or thereabouts. From then on all you've got to do is give it a wash clean then oil it down. Don't use detergents or your food will stick and taste funny Don't forget to get a lid lifter to remove the oven lid, and a trivet to sit inside the oven and keep your dinner off the bottom. When you're not using your camp oven rub a coating of oil in it and keep the lid slightly off and store it in a camp oven bag. Extract from a BCF

Towing with an Auto Transmission

There is always discussion as to whether you should tow in overdrive with an auto transmission, The following article is from [DRW Transmission Specialties, Inc](#) and gives a good insight as to what happens when you labor an auto.

Trucks or Cars Towing with Automatic Overdrive Transmissions.

An interesting job came in this week that made me want to write this tip for those who tow with automatic overdrive transmissions. A 2000 Ford F-350 Powerstroke diesel 4 X 4 truck with Ford's top of the line 4R100 transmission came in with a TCC slip code stored in the computer. This is usually an indication that the torque converter clutch has started to slip and in most instances only requires a torque converter change. The client indicated that after he had towed the transmission temperature has been rising higher than usual when climbing hills. We were worried that a burned clutch pack may be helping to generate this added heat, so we pulled the trans down for inspection. The overdrive clutch pack

was burned. Next question, "Were you towing in overdrive?". The client answered yes. Problem solved. The following will describe why the overdrive clutch failed.. Because the manufacturers are always trying to do what the consumer wants, many have put into the owner's manuals that it is OK to tow in overdrive with some particular models. That may be fine for most driving situations, but let me tell you when it's definitely not OK to tow in overdrive. Your towing a heavy load and you hit an uphill grade. It's steep enough to cause you to press on the accelerator quite a bit. Remember we're pulling a heavy load. The trans decides to drop out of OD and it allows you to gain some speed up the hill. You reach a situation when the trans shifts back into OD and this causes you to lose a little speed. When enough speed is lost the trans downshifts out of OD again, and back and forth it goes as you climb the hill. Some of the more mechanically inclined fellows reading this are saying to themselves, "I know what happened to that OD clutch pack!" For those that haven't figured it out yet, I will clarify. Every time a band or clutch pack in an automatic transmission applies or is turned on, heat is created. Add to the fact that you are towing, and the heat that is generated during an application of a friction element is even higher. The friction element needs time to cool after an application. If it hasn't cooled enough before the next time it is applied, the heat builds up to a level where the friction material starts to burn. Once the material is burned it is down hill from there.. What can be done to combat this? Number one, make sure you have adequate cooling capacity of the transmission fluid. Any towing will require that you install an auxiliary cooler for the transmission. Do not bypass the extremely efficient trans cooler that is already in the radiator. I also recommend installing a trans temperature gauge, especially if your towing heavy loads. Nothing beats knowing exactly what your trans temp is.. The other thing you can do to prevent this type of damage is to drop to the next lower gear if you experience shift cycling. If you are in OD and the trans is shifting back and forth from 3rd to OD, drop the shifter into 3 to save wear and tear on the friction elements involved. **It's that simple.**

Smoke Alarms in Caravans: At the July meeting the question was posed "Who checks if you have installed the new photoelectric cell type smoke detector" as required under recent Legislation.. Answer is

not to sure- but if you were to have a fire your Insurance Co MAY question your claim. Maybe when you have your van checked for registration. Notwithstanding the above it is now a requirement and all members should comply prior to the August date

Reversing Camera's: A member raised a question about rear cameras on caravans. The question was were they a toy or tool? Members spoke in favour and gave a number of examples. No one made any coment's against

Article by The Caravans Plus Team. Caravan owners have always had a problem connecting their vans up to household power points. This is because caravans use 15 Amp power inlets (large earth pin) and houses have 10 Amp outlets

For many years the solution has been that people have ground down the large earth pin so it fits. This is illegal and many caravan carks and insurance companies now monitor the power cords.

The problem with running your whole caravan through one 10 Amp power point is that you can draw too much power with the combined appliances in your van. For example: Running the fridge, TV, lights, and a toaster can be enough to blow the circuit, or worst still start a fire. Fortunately there is now a legal solution to the problem and it is an Aussie design! The AMP-Fibian 10-15Amp adaptor is a waterproof joiner which plugs into a household power point. You simply run your existing extension cord from the adaptor to your caravan. There are two models available:

View our online article here: <http://caravansplus.com.au/catalog/help-tips3.php?view=9>

So there you have it... a simple Aussie solution to an age old caravan problem.

Solar Panels: This was a question sent out by email to all members. Here are two comments for your information.

There are a few different brands, some much more efficient than others. We have had a pair of 65 watt panels for about 5 years that we have just recently mounted on the roof of the van. Until then we carried as foldout portables and they worked well. They will keep your van battery charged while you have good weather and you can keep moving them during the day so they get the best light. You **NEED** to connect them through a regulator or the battery may explode and burn your van or car whichever battery you are charging. We spent 3 weeks at Ophir without power and had no problem until we connected the Engel fridge - oops.

Biggest problem is - don't let them out of your sight and of course storing them as they are heavy and bulky. If you are buying used ones, have them checked by a reputable solar tech, Australian Solar in Penshurst is where I got mine.

Another member wrote: In reference to Solar Panels one panel is neither your axxe or your elbow. You need two panels (80w Monochristal) plus a 20Amp regulator and minimum 2 80-90 Amp hour batteries to make it worthwhile. Make sure the panels are mounted correctly on the roof (not glued on as the radiant heat from the roof will effect their performance. You need 50mm gap between the bottom of the panel and the roof. They need to be wired into the battery system with a separate switch (both leads need to be switched). BP are about the best option panels. The frame for the panels needs to be 50 x 25 high tensile RHS steel or aluminium. Only mount the brackets on the outer edge of the van. Drill through the 20mm strip on top and put sikaflex on the screw thread. Do not put any bracing on the roof as vibration will cause chafing and will create leaks.

Have a look at the following Web-site

www

exploroz.com/vehicle/electrics/solar.aspx

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Household Insurance: A member said he had noticed a difference in his household insurance premium and suggested that we check out the online quotes as there is a lot of money to be saved. (Saving up to 33%)

Registering of Vans & Vehicles: A member spoke about how to save money on the registration of your car and caravan. This is achieved by changing the names you register your caravan and vehicle in. It could be wise to check this out as there is money to be saved.

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