

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 90 MAY 2014
PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263

Committee of Management:

President Des Cooper 4393 3383,
Vice President: Peter Flippence 4976 3476
Social Director: Coral Kane 4333 9738,

Secretary Rhonda Webb 4353 9069
Editor: Alice Cooper 4393 3383,
Welfare: Cheryl Ducker 4333 3343

Treasurer Philip Webb 4353 9069
Tour Director : Bev Shoobert 4390 2277
OH&S Officer Allan Howard 4358 4224

Boggabri Campfire 2014: This is a Lions Club project with profits benefitting the town. Over 500 vans there this year. However the night we arrived the TLC wind gremlin struck again. Do Roy and I bring him with us? About 1.30am Josie and Robert were up trying to wind their awning in without disturbing anyone, over came Bev in her nightie to lend a hand (she and Bob were also up checking their awning. Roy and I were doing same. A few folk slept blissfully on, but I said to Josie never worry about waking people as most will be awake already. Amenities basic, but clean and most important toilet paper was regularly replenished by a large band of volunteers. Also water tank round regularly to fill our tanks when necessary. Lots of interesting tours available, to the mines, the miners village accommodation (brand new), sheep stations, cotton farms, an old school and lots more, with most supplying morning or

afternoon tea or even lunch. Bit of a food fest really. Three types of scones cooked every morning in a bank of old fuel stoves. B.B.Q lunches, hot dogs, mince sandwiches, home made and all very reasonably priced. Yum. Coffee, ice cream and pancake stand. Even Mexican food. You could purchase a pre-ordered hot dinner each night if you wished, we had the baked dinner on Saturday night, beautiful and plentiful. Lots to see and do



even without leaving the showground and musical entertainment starting mid afternoon through to the evening



performance

Saturday night was skit night. The locals put on a show of little skits to music. Had us splitting our sides laughing and maybe a couple we could adapt for Narrabeen. Not the Greased Lightning number put on by the young local footballers however, too energetic our old blokes.



lots of good company, laughs, a few of us made damper one morning, but even Roy nearly cutting his finger off with the axe while cutting timber for our fire didn't spoil anything, Steve just told him to go get a band aid so no blood got in the dampers. Thanks to the Crocker's for recommending and organising this trip. I think we all had a great time. A few of us booked in for next year before we left. Laurel and Roy



Cancer Council Collection: Our Charity Officer Beryl collected \$136.05 at Hartwood. Then at Boggabri a further \$45.00 was collected (a total of \$181.05) At Sundays General Meeting a further collection was made making a total of around \$315. The C

of M rounded the donation to \$350. Many thanks to the members.

Tour Directors Questionnaire Results:

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Are you happy going to the same places each year? | 2014 63% | 26% | 11% |
| <u>2012 Figures</u> | 65% | 27% | 8% |

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> |
|---|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Are you happy with the length of stays? | 2014 100% | 0% | 0% |
| <u>2012 Figures</u> | 94% | 2% | 4% |

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Would you be interested in "TAG a LONG" trips? | 2014 91% | 8.7% | 0% |
| <u>2012 Figures</u> | 75% | 15% | 10% |

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Do you like to do free camping? | 2014 76% | 22% | 2% |
| <u>2012 Figures</u> | 63% | 22% | 16% |
| <u>Interesting jump in Tag-A-Long and Free Camping.</u> | | | |

Robert/Josie Herod extracted the above figures from our recent questionnaire. They commented on the large number of locations where members would like to go on trips. For example 43.5% of replies want to suggest new trips to Mudgee, Tamworth, Gloucester, Sth Coast, Flinders ranges, Eyre's Peninsula, Adelaide, Berry, Shoal Haven heads, S/West Rocks, Stewarts point, Scotts Head, Mayfield gardens, Jimmies Beach, Country Vic. Barossa Valley, Carnarvon Gorge, Snowy Mts, Huskinson, Lake Congola, Central Qld, York Pen. Lake Sinclair, Forster/Tuncurry, Nowra, Harrington, Urunga, Tunit, Dungog, Myall Lakes Nat Park, Booti Booti Nat Park. Robert suggests there are enough suggestions for two years of trips. (All we now need are members to list trips to those locations. Ed)

Comments

Once a year have a Market day to sell unwanted Caravan goods. Encourage new members to attend Narrabeen, Happy Halliday's etc. to give idea how club works.

Set up group to discuss Technical issues eg Break safe testing

Casino Beef Week Trip: This trip was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Big Thank You: Our Tour Director would like to offer a big thank you to Val & Doug Kinnell also Lyn & Ron Belshaw for the booklets & information they collected at the caravan camping show at Rosehill. Bev is very appreciative of it as there is a lot of interesting material.

Lightning Ridge Trip Drama: At 9.00 am Tuesday we left Lightning Ridge after a great week we were heading for home via Walgett, Dunedoo across the Golden Hwy. to Singleton and home. This was the plan.

9.30 crossed one of the numerable cattle grids and depressions in the road that you encounter in this part of the country. We had passed the 40 km marker to Walgett not long before. Something did not feel quite right, or sound right after we crossed the grid. The rear view mirrors were full of sparks and I thought this is not good, Karen and I both said " Oh Shit" plus some other expletives such as " Oh xxxx---"and MY God and BUGGER.

My first thought was that the Van had jumped off the tow ball, or the tow ball had snapped. I was able to pull the van off to the side of the road before we came to a complete halt.

The amount of damage soon became apparent, the draw bar or "A" frame had broken on both sides just under the van where the storage pipe was bolted on.

9.45 Broken down with NO Telstra phone coverage, luckily a traveler came along a

couple of minutes later and stopped to see if we were ok, we gave him our details. He was going to Walgett and would call into the NRMA office and let them know where we were. The Brewers stopped to offer assistance. Many people stopped to make sure we were ok, truck drivers, caravanners, public, miners, aboriginal lads on their way to Tech in the Ridge. (But not the Highway patrol funny that), We also sent details to The Ridge NRMA.

11.15 Walgett NRMA representative arrived in a ute took some photos and left after saying " We always check on a job before we do it, and that he would arrange a truck to pick us up", and that it would have to come from Gunnedah if it was available.(last we seen or heard from him)

1.30 pm Another member from NRMA Lightning Ridge pulled up in a ute, put his flashing lights on and a diamond out on the road. He was hard to understand all we gathered was " You premium care, You come to Lightning Ridge, you come motel.



I explained to this young guy that we would not leave the van on the side of the road as it would have been stripped in no time, that we needed a tow truck to take the van where we

could get it repaired. He left to get a tow , we hoped.

By now things were getting fairly tense but we hung on and battled the flies hoping all the time that a truck was on its way from somewhere and that it would arrive soon.

We really started to worry about 5.00 pm when an undertaker arrived in his van, heading back to Walgett. He had a super phone in his van and was able to get a little signal before it cut out as well, He had said that he would have stopped on the way up but he had a passenger in the back, (Karen had a nervous laugh) he would do what ever he could to get things moving when he got in phone range

6.30 We had filled the car with what ever valuable we could fit in when a young Forensic Services Officer named Tracey pulled up and said " are you still here i passed you at ten this morning, i thought you would be gone by now (so did we).This young lady spent about half an hour with us calling on the police radio making sure that we had some sort of result., (that being a tow truck that was coming from Moree and would be early in the morning).



About 7.30 pm we were about to abandon the van and go to Lightning Ridge when the NRMA patrolman turned up again, I tried to get out of him if he had arranged anything but it was the same story, " you come to L/R motel for you, and he gave me a phone number for NRMA to contact when we got there.

We followed him back to the big Emu statue where we could get phone reception. They confirmed that the Tow Truck was on its way from Moree and would be there in a couple of hours.

The decision then was to run the kangaroo gauntlet again and go back to the van and try and sleep. Then an amazing thing happened at 2.00 am a Big Tow Truck arrived and we quickly found it was 5 degree outside. (Another Oh Sxxt it's cold)

3.15am. Dark and cold (ask Karen) we were ready to go with the A frame chained to the **tyers** and the van on a thirty degree angle. Every bump sent sparks flying up from the legs on the back of the van. (not much could be done about this except watch the sparks fly).



We stopped at Collarenabri for a sleep then on to Moree arriving at 7.00am. The

Tow Truck had hit 5 kangaroos. We found the safest way to drive out there in the night was by following a road train or large truck. We have never seen so many kangaroo's There were many many hundred's

After eighteen (18) cold frustrating hours waiting for little result and eight (8) hours of travel we arrived at Moree. We booked into the Gwyder motel and caravan park for a well earned shower, feed and sleep while the van was towed to DD's engineering for repair. Apparently they repair about 3 vans a week in this part of the country.

The NRMA said it would take 2 days for an Assessor to arrive, that would be Thursday. Nothing happened on Thursday, spoke with them again, no one coming until the following Tuesday.

The van is now repaired and back on the road. We haven't made up our mind about NRMA yet.

Karen and I would like to thank all the people who stopped and offered assistance.

Gary and Karen Williams

May Meeting: We had (97) ninety seven members and one visitor attend the meeting. We also had two new membership applications from:

Charles/Helen Zammit

Mike/Leonie Collins

A warm welcome to our newest members

Journo's jibe at nomads who drive him crazy

A NORTH Queensland journalist has a problem ... caravans are driving him crazy.

Writing in the Cairns Post, Daniel Bateman explains how it took his in-laws nine hours to drive between Townsville and Cairns, a journey which normally takes four hours.

But he does concede it was a Good Friday, admitting: "Not the best day for hitting the Great

Green Way." Having come clean on that front and injecting a mention of the "crumbling" highway, the peeved writer then launches into his vitriolic criticism of recreational vehicles.

"The worst of it, however, was the procession of grey nomads who, when everyone could finally put pedal to the metal, insisted on still travelling at least 40km/h under the speed limit," he groaned.

"You must know the feeling."By all means, these giant houses on wheels are entitled to share the road as much as anyone. "Just not my road – they need their own."

And thinking of better days ahead, our Daniel tells of his excitement at hearing the State Government talking about establishing an inland highway to take some of the pressure off the Bruce Highway.

He maintains this is "vital for maintaining the mental health of regular highway travellers".

"Really, there is nothing worse than when you are making good time on the four-hour trip between the north's two largest communities than seeing one of those giant white blobs plodding along on the horizon," he moans.

"With so few overtaking lanes, you can be stuck behind them for hours, particularly in peak tourist season.

"You find yourself dreaming of buying a CB radio set to install in your own car, just so you can get 'Marg and Henry' on the two-way and urge them to at least do the speed limit."

But wait, there's more.

Not only do our grey nomads cop a pounding, but young travellers are also in Daniel's firing line.

"Of course it's not the grey nomads that are the only problem on the national highway, it's young backpackers, too," he hisses.

"Most of them struggle to keep to the left side of the road, let alone trying to steer their humungous white aluminium rigs around a Cairns roundabout.

"Pushing them inland would not only make the national highway safer, it would give these young motorists valuable space to become

better acquainted with Queensland's road rules."

BIRTHDAYS JUNE

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Thomas Rod | 1-Jun |
| Thomas Jan | 1-Jun |
| Olesen Peter | 2-Jun |
| Webb Rhonda | 3-Jun |
| White June | 7-Jun |
| Stevens Clarrie | 9-Jun |
| Brown Len | 10-Jun |
| Flippence Dianne | 10-Jun |
| Palmer Ian | 17-Jun |
| Webb Philip | 18-Jun |
| Webster June | 23-Jun |
| Russell Barbara | 27-Jun |
| Graham Gary | 29-Jun |

WINNERS of FREE LUNCH

Lyn Belshaw

Meg Russell

MONTHLY CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

\$50 *John Holland*

\$30 *Susan Edwards*

\$20 *Philip Sansom*

FOR SALE

One pair of **Enzo magnetic mirrors** \$100 Ring
Richard 0414 691 738 Mar 14

2008 Imperial Palace 17ft 3inch Pop-top caravan \$24,500 or close offer, Hayman-Reese anti sway bars, 2 gas bottles (4.5 kgs) Microwave oven, Fire extinguisher and smoke alarm, Full Aussie-Traveller "Coolibah" annex, Island bed, L-shaped lounge including dinette. Plus heaps of other goodies. Ring Margaret on 4396 1151 Mar 14

Coleman Hot Water on Demand system.

Excellent condition. All accessories . Plus shower tent, 12v shower. Sold as package or separately.
\$150 Contact Rod Hassall 0418622348

**Next ---General Meeting
Sunday 15th June 2014**

Email: desmond.alicecooper@bigpond.com

2014 LIST OF TRIPS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TRIP</u> | <u>NAMES</u> | <u>CONTACT</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Jul 23rd – 30th | XMAS IN JULY HAPPY HALLIDAYS | Angell,Baird,Bickley,Brewer,Brooks,Clarke F/J,Curnow, Davies,Denny,Dew,Ducker,Hansell,,Herod,Henry,Hoff, Holland,Howard,Insull,Jager,Jones,Kains,Kane,Kinnet,Latham, Laney, LeeSing,Lindsay,McDonnald,Oakes,Olesen,Rohwer, Russell MR,Shawcross,Shoobert,Smith,Stewart, Thomas B/L, White,Williams,Zammit 40 , | C/P Kane | 4333 9738 |
| Aug 18 –Sept 10 | EXPLORE THE MURRY/MURRUMBIDGE | Belshaw,Brady,Cannard,Channon,Cooper,Curnow,D'Adam,Devlin,H erod,Hoff,Holland,Kingma,Purcell,Sansom,Shoobert, SteellC,/Bickley,Stevens,Svensson,Thomas B/L 19 Reserve Russell M/R | B/B Shoobert | 4390 2277 |
| Oct 20 – 26th | SLIM DUSTY FESTIVAL KEMPSEY | Cooper, | D/A Cooper | 4393 3383 |
| Oct 30 – Nov5 inc | NARRABEEN RALLY | | C/P Kane | 4333 9738 |
| | | | | |
| | | <u>2015 LIST OF TRIPS</u> | | |
| Feb 5th –12th | HAPPY HALLIDAYS | | C/ P Kane | 43339738 |
| Feb 12th-26th | SHOAL BAY HOLIDAY PARK | Chambers,Coats,Collins,Coltman,Henry,Lindsay,Rohwer, Sansom,Stevens,Zammit,Williams 11 | P/C Stevens | 4369 2759 |
| | DUNEDOO BUSH POETRY | | D/A Cooper | 4393 3383 |
| Apr 23 -27th | Boggabri Drivers Campfire | Brewer,Cooper,Crocker,Curnow,Herod,Majchrowski,Shoobert Howard,Kennedy,Rohwer,Clarke F/J,McGillicuddy,Collins,Dew, Shawcross,Latham,Henry,Ducker,Bickley,Flippence,Jager, Olssen,Lindsay,Russell M/R,Jones,25 Reserves Chambers,Williams,Coltman | K/S Crocker | 041489040 |
| Mar29 – Apr 6 | HARTWOOD COUNTRY MUSIC | | C/P Kane | 4333 9738 |
| Apr 28-May 2 | GLEN INNES CELTIC FESTIVAL | Coltman,Cooper,Crocker,Curnow,Dew,GealeW/PollardC,Holland, Kane,Majchrowski,Moore,SteellC,Stevens 12 | L/R Curnow | 43695954 |

Disclaimer: The news item, written reports, comment expressed in newsletters are by individuals and do not necessarily express the views of Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc, its members or the editOR

EXPRESS ANNEXES



**Customised Annexes
Standard Annexes
Shade Walls
All Made to Order
Top Quality Materials**

**Full range of canvas colors
& weights**

**We also do repairs, alterations
& additions**

02 43 751211

www.expressannexes.com



Central Coast Caravans



**ALL INSURANCE REPAIRS
SOLAR SYSTEMS & BATTERY PACKS
ROLLOUT AWNINGS & ANNEXES
AIRCONDITIONERS • RENOVATIONS
SERVICE & REGO INSPECTIONS**

10 BOSWELL CLOSE, TUGGERAH

4353 1895

Mobile 0408 434 334 - Fax 4353 9669



Ph: 02 4353 1100

www.ccrv.com.au

"Call in to see us !!!

New Location

Coastal Caravan & RV ACCESSORIES

We are Bigger and Better than Ever!

* Complete range of caravan repairs, Servicing & warranty Work

*Vallet Storage, *Just call when you need your caravan.*

*Present your van for sale, *Your Van can be stored and sold at our site.*

You sell your own van!

New Location 144~146 Pacific HWY TUGGERAH NSW