

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 83 OCTOBER 2013
PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263

Committee of Management:

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Social Director:	Coral Kane 4333 9738,	Welfare:	Cheryl Ducker 4333 3343	OH&S Officer	Allan Howard 4358 4224

Letter Received from RTA: One of our members went to the RTA and ask the following question about Shackles.

Are D Shackles that are attached to trailer safety chain required to have the load rating stamped on them)?

A representative of RTA wrote the following

"The only thing I can find that relates to trailer shackles is in the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations (copy of rule attached) This rule only relates to the size of the shackle that is required for the size of the chain . I also checked in Legislation and again there is no mention of D shackle load ratings to be stamped on the shackle. I contacted the Vehicle Standards section of the RMS and they confirmed that there is no requirement to have the load rating displayed on a D shackle in N.S.W. However they did mention that some jurisdictions e.g. S.A & N.T may require a load rating be displayed on a shackle that attaches a safety chain to a vehicle. Unfortunately I can not confirm this requirement. You may have to

contact each jurisdiction to enquire on their tow attachment requirements.

*But as it stands for NSW. There is *NO *requirement to have the load rating displayed on a shackle that attaches a trailer safety chain to the towing vehicle. (end of letter)*

The National Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Towing Guide: States in part, "Safety chains are compulsory in all States and Territories of Australia. They must be strong enough to hold the trailer and prevent the drawbar from touching the ground, should the

LOOKING FOR

Overtaking Signs:
Site Signs:
Caravan Stickers:
Change of Details:
Trip Information
Discount Cards:
Name Badges:

SEE ME

Cheryl Ducker
Clarrie Stevens
Cheryl Ducker
Alice Cooper
Bev Shoobert
Rhonda Webb
Lorraine Laney

coupling fail or be accidentally disconnected from the ball.

Trailers less than 2500kgs ATM must be fitted with at least one safety chain of at least 9.5mm in diam. Trailers over 2500kg ATM and up to

3500kg must have two safety chains. Chains must comply with AS4177-4 and have a size designation at least equal to the trailer ATM.

The chains attach the "A" frame or drawbar of the trailer to the main towbar framework on the vehicle. The attachment must be made with "D" shackles of equivalent strength to the chains. It is vital that the chains are attached to the main towbar framework and not to the detachable ball mount or tounge. Safety chains must be stamped with the chains capacity, the manufacturers identification and the digits 4177.

The chains should be as short as possible, leaving only enough slack to permit tight turns. If two are required they should be crisscrossed under the trailer tounge to prevent the forward end of the drawbar from hitting the ground if the coupling becomes disconnected. So folks there you have it. Mmmmmmm. That's that then!!!!

Cooktown: Cooktown has decided to try and attract its share of caravanners who travel North this year. Caravanners can

stay for 2 nights (\$5 per night). It is within walking distance of everything. This is on trial for one year to test the value to Cooktown. Success in Cooktown might just encourage other regions to do the same.

Caravan Towing –Your Future?: The following item has been forwarded to us from the State Association. It is clear that this subject is on the table and being discussed right now and it will most probably have an impact on us eventually. The document also refers to a six (6) page questionnaire which I will attach for your information Des C

“ Improving road safety is a major objective of the independent Caravan Council of Australia. Due to the number of accidents and nasty incidents involving caravans on our roads, it seems that some drivers will need a "Caravan/Trailer-Endorsed" Licence in the not-too-distant future.

It is believed that endorsed licences will become mandatory, at least in some jurisdictions, if the ATM Rating of the towed vehicle is more than the mass of the tow-vehicle, or if the ATM Rating is over 2.0 tonne.

We are discussing this major issue with RV insurance companies, and hopefully they will welcome this introduction, and also provide, or approve, suitable training courses - both theoretical and practical tests - in order for their clients to obtain their endorsement. This will no doubt reduce the number of accidents - and insurance pay-outs - as well as appreciably reducing the cost of insurance premiums. The CCA has proposed some Practical test requirements for consideration.

Even if this proposed requirement is not legislated soon, it would still be a most prudent initiative to introduce a voluntary education program, in an effort to improve road safety for 'vanners... and other road-users.

Attached is a suggested Theoretical test to best ensure that drivers have at least a basic understanding of the relevant legal, compliance, and safety issues.

Maybe all 'van owners and potential buyers should be provided with a questionnaire to encourage them to test their knowledge on the legal and technical 'van issues related to road safety.

It would be interesting to know how many manufacturer, importer, dealer - and regulatory-enforcement - personnel would score 100% on this test!

Please feel free to forward the questionnaire to all Club members. An ANSWER sheet is available upon request.. for in-house use only.

Message from Central Coast Caravans: I would like to advise your members that we can now install the ALKO ESC system to caravans. If you haven't heard about this system it provides stability and safety to caravan whilst being towed.

See the link below for best explanation.

<http://www.alkoesc.com.au/>

Standard fitting cost are \$1300.00 though this amount does vary with each van. Vans do require ALKO electric brakes. Vans without will cost more.

If you could kindly inform your members about this it would be greatly appreciated.

I have brochures that you may wish to provide to members at your next meeting.

Kind Regards, Cameron Cole

Bush Camping (Freedom Camping): At Sunday's general meeting Des spoke about a document that provides information about the position of each State regarding "Bush Camping" The document will be emailed out and also pinned to the Notice Board at the October meeting.

Liability Insurance for C of M: We received correspondence from the Secretary of the State Association raising doubt whether the Committee of Management was covered by Public Liability Insurance.

There are approx. forty 40 caravan Clubs in NSW. Each club was asked do they want Insurance protection for their Committee. Twenty one (21) have agreed to pay for the protection.

The bottom line is the Committee approved the payment of \$370 for the Insurance cover to protect our C of M.

We are currently looking at other groups, clubs etc that have Public Liability Ins. More about this later.

Rocking Through Queensland: We really did not see Roma as we visited a "Camp Stay" place which was not worth stopping at. We travelled to Augathella (Smiley movie was made) then to Tambo., Lots of road kill within 1 km counted 47 roo's. Saw, three pigs between Tambo and Blackall. Another free camp at Barcardine, saw the tree of Knowledge, where the Australian Labor Party was formed, there is a wonderful structure surrounding and above the tree called "Bellows". From there to Ilfracombe, another free camp,. The cold down to 4c at night and getting hotter during the day. Travelled to Longreach, this place is very worthwhile visiting, we went on several tours, 1st had a very enjoyable ride in a purpose built replica of a Cobb & Co coach pulled by four horses through the town and then travelled along the original trails that Cobb & Co used. The horses actually galloped when ordered. We visited the Qantas museum and did a personal tour of the whole museum with the curator "Tom". When we toured the two aircraft, Boeing 747 and 707 which my brother John worked

extensively (these actual planes as a flight engineer before his retirement. I understand why John said, " You don't want to be claustrophobic while on the flight deck, it is so cramped on both aircraft" We did another tour with the same family owned business Kinnon & Co. we were picked by coach and taken out of town to the banks of the Thompson River where we and another 100 people did a cruise on a paddle wheel and returned for a bush style meal, and then a light and sound show which was very interesting. As time marches on the staff were apparently not allowed to swing the Billie tea around above their head as we all know due to the OHS rules. One of the staff a guy referred to as " Scotty" was barefooted the story goes that he had a fall from a horse when he was a boy and suffered injuries if he wore shoes he suffered from vertigo ??? He had a lawn mowing business and unknown person dobbed him in, as a result he must wear the appropriate footwear. The story goes that he wore boots now with the soles cut out of them Stopped at a unique pub at Kynoah "called Blue Healer a population of 13, then on to Linley and Walkabout Creek where Paul Hogan and co filmed "Crocodile Dundee" While talking the bar maid a female pack packer from England she said that she gets her accommodation and meals plus \$ 21.70 per hour that equates to about \$500 per week after tax? We found another free camp called "Corella Recreation area" where there is a lovely lagoon. We stayed there for two nights about 60 km from Mt Isa. All is well, daytime temp 28 to 32c. We travelled back to Cloncurry and then headed north to Normanton, extremely hot day drought conditions, no water in creeks. Stopped at Bourke & Wills truck stop, a unique pub,general store, and camping area at the rear of the store (\$25 per night on dirt) 34c during day & 26c at night. Between Bourke & Wills and Normanton there is 90km of single bitumen road where you are strongly

advised to pull over and stop to avoid being wiped out by the road trains. We then travelled through Normanton, and continued on the Karumba. We went to the local Sunset Tavern where we had a great experience of watching the awesome sunset over the gulf. Travelled to George Town, Mount Surprise fuel stop at Mount Garnet, on to Atherton where we stopped in the Show Ground. After stopping over night and checking with the local Tourist Info centre were advised that we were not permitted to stay at the show ground ??? No signs stating that. Car serviced and shopping done we moved onto Rocky Creek Memorial park a War memorial area just out of town, close to 100 vans, a gold coin donation is requested. Towards Cairns we stopped at "Becks" private military museum, worth a look. We made contact with TLC members, Roy and Laurel Curnow and we all stayed at "Cool Waters Caravan Park" at Brinsmead. Trips were organised by Laurel which included the Daintree River cruise, a croc was spotted and the Kuranda Train and the Sky Rail, very worth while, spent 6 night there. We moved on to Cook Town, spent two days there, Saw the beautiful view from Grassy lookout, Capt Cooks Museum was worthwhile to see his actual canon and the "Endeavours" anchor in a humidity controlled glass case. Graham/Sue xx

NRMA: Members had a lot of discussion regarding NRMA towing and the Premium plus package. We are currently trying to get a rep. from the NRMA to attend a meeting and put us in the picture. It is recommended that members check their own level of cover.

NRMA Free Android: If you had paid two years road service fee's the NRMA gave you a

Tablet. Information was detailed in the last NRMA Magazine.(Think it's all over now)

The Dream (Continues) Today we start our trip to Cape York. We fly from Cairns to Horn Island then a ferry to Thursday Island and finally land on the mainland at Seisia. There is much history on both islands regarding WWII , Horn Island had bombs land and planes crashed, it had a gunnery emplacement built there. Thursday Island also has a fort on Green Hill completed in 1892 with a battery ready to receive the 6" guns, these guns are still there. This was built to stop the Russian invasion which never happened. It is now a museum. There were many Japanese living on this island at the beginning of WW II and after Pearl Harbour they were sent to Victoria to live.

We travelled by ferry past Prince of Wales and Possession Islands to Seisia then on to Loyalty Beach Campground. A day trip was to Pajinka (Cape York, The Tip) and the Ruins of the Jardine Homestead.

Travelling south via Bamaga to Eliot Falls and Fruitbat Falls where we stopped for a swim, the water was very refreshing. Then on to Weipa, a bauxite mining town, for an overnight stay (in a caravan park) via the Old Telegraph Track. Next we travelled past Archer River and Coen to Port Stewart , an indigenous settlement where we were given a talk by Mikayla, one of the Lama Lama people.

Mikayla told us about the times when the older people were sent north to Umagico and Injinoos (for their own good) but they kept coming back because they wanted to stay 'on country' (their land). The Lama Lama people have an affinity with the sea.

On to Musgrave and Old Laura Station before arriving at Cooktown for an overnight stay. The next day we trekked over the Bloomfield Track through the Daintree and on to Cairns. The history to be found in this area is

amazing, there were gold rushes, battles between the indigenous people and Europeans, crossing country with cattle and sheep on horseback and discovering the area.

Back at Mareeba we stayed with our friends again. Ned and Sarina had mango orchards but a few years ago decided to downsize and only keep about 300 trees so they could start to travel too. They took us to the museum and showed us how they used to grow tobacco, the planting, the picking, the drying and then the packing in bales to sell to the 'board'. It was very labour intensive even young children helped, many children leaving school at 12 years old. While we were away Ned and Sarina arranged with their friends for us to watch the sugar cane being cut, pumpkin picking and planting and capsicum picking.

We were also shown 'pink pumpkins' that were being grown for sale in October for the McGrath Foundation. Look out for them in Coles.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Ned and Sarina and their friends and continue our travels to Port Douglas.

Here at Port Douglas we revisited places we had stayed at on a previous visit including The Tin Shed. This had originally been built as a loading facility for sugar but has now been changed into a Community Club and the deck has been extended over the river due to its popularity. We also went to Miallo where there is a monument has been built, a young girl was hit by a bomb in WWII and only received superficial wounds. Our next stop was at Innisfail. All these areas have a lot of WWII history. A lot of Italian immigrants settled in this area after the war, this is evidenced by the Italian influence in buildings and names.

A trip up here would not be complete without a visit to Paronella Park, the home of a Spanish Dreamer who, in the 1930's built his dream, a Spanish Castle and Pleasure Ground. There was a program on ABC1 Gardening Australia on 31st August about this park.

We are now staying Kurrimine Beach for two nights before we set off again. From here we are

able to visit Mission Beach, Bingle Bay and Tully. Ellen/Peter M xx

Tow Ball Weight: Members briefly discussed the need to ensure that the tow-ball weight be approx.10% of the caravans loaded weight.

Oils aint Oils –Milk aint Milk: It was discussed that nowadays milk is treated to extract everything then they add bits back in to cater for all the various needs and tastes. It was suggested that the nearest product to "real milk" being A2. Then again it was suggested that long life milk was the closest to the real thing. Mmmm ?!!!!????

WINNERS of FREE LUNCH

Jeanette McGowan
Jane Holly

MONTHLY CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

\$50 *Trevor Smith*
\$30 *Les Hunt*
\$20 *Betty Thomas*

FOR SALE

Automatic Washing Machine: 2kg- Lemair, 3yr old- suit caravan- used twice \$300. ALSO

Inverter: 1000W pure sinewave-new in box \$200.
Ron Belshaw 4399 1314

Slate Billard Table ¾ size 10' x 5' with billard and snooker pool balls and all the accessories. Good Condition \$1700 ono Ph Ma /Pa 4390 8933

Caravan cover 18'-20' very good condition \$75.00 it cost over\$200. **Near New Shepherd Hooks/towbar attachment \$65 Porta loo \$35.00**
Mac Henry Ph. 0417431179

Towing Aids: Sheppard Hooks: \$75 Phone Barry L Ph. 0406664982

BIRTHDAYS	OCTOBER
Williams Karen	3-Oct
Reilly Allan	4-Oct
Clarke Lynette	6-Oct
Holy Jane	7-Oct
Henry Mac	8-Oct
Purcell Lyn	11-Oct
Burrows Barry	13-Oct
Rance Cecily	14-Oct
Holmes Lorraine	15-Oct
Riley Rick	18-Oct
Belshaw Lyn	21-Oct
Hansell Bill	22-Oct
Crocker Kate	23-Oct
Somerville Wendy	23-Oct
Payne Cecilia	27-Oct
Cooper Alice	30-Oct
Rohwer Pat	30-Oct
Riley Maureen	31-Oct

Next ---General Meeting

Sunday 20th October 2013

Email:desmond.alicecooper@bigpond.com

2013 LIST OF TRIPS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRIP</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Sep 23 – Oct 2 nd	NATIONAL RALLY ROCKHAMPTON QLD	Davidson, Edwards/Williamson, Meatheringham, Reid,	Secretary	4353 9069
Sep 28 – Oct 26 th	2013 FOSSICKERS WAY RAMBLE	Belshaw, Brewer, Clarke, Coltman, D'Adam, Fletcher, Majchrowski, Shoobert, Stevens, Thomas,	C/P Stevens	4369 2759
Oct 1 st - 7	TRIBUTE TO STAN COSTER	Cooper, Cotton, Howard, Webb	A/B Howard	4358 4224
Oct 21 st - 27	SLIM DUSTY COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES	Howard, McKenzie	A/B Howard	4358 4224
Nov 1 – 7	NARRABEEN RALLY 1800 008 845 DO NOT RING NARRABEEN	Angell, Bickley, Brewer, Brown, Clarke, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Davies, Dew, Ducker, Haberfield, Hansell, Henry, Hoff, Howard, Insull, Kane, Kingma, Laney, Lee-Sing, Lindsay, Luttrell, Marsland, McGillicuddy, McKenzie, Moore, Oaks, Palmer, Payne Pollard, Reilly S/A, Rohwer, Russell B/T, Russell M/R, Ryan, Sansom, Shoobert, Smith, Smyth, Steell C, Steele L/K, Stewart,, Thomas B/L, Wells, Williams, Williamson,	Committee	

2014 LIST OF TRIPS

Feb 6 (for 7 nts)	HAPPY HALLIDAYS 1800 555 454	Trip Sheet Out Soon	Committee	1800 555 454
Feb 13 -19	SHOAL BAY 1800 600 200	Eadie, Henry, Howard, Majchrowski, Sansom, Stevens	C/P Stevens	4369 2759
Mar 6 th -13	SANDBAR FISHING COMPETITION 6554 4095	Bickley, Brown, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Ducker, Insull, Kinnell, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lindsay, Majchrowski, Reilly, Shawcross, Smith, Steell, Stewart, Webster, Wells	V/D Kinnell	4390 8933
Mar 7 th – 9 th	STATE RALLY BATHURST		Secretary	4353 9069
Apr 13 – 21st	HARTWOOD COUNTRY MUSIC/BUSH CAMPING	Brewer, Cooper, Eadie, Howard, Jager, Kane, Majchrowski, Olessen, Steell, Webb	C/P Kane	4333 9738
Apr 25 th – 27	BOGGABRI DROVERS CAMPFIRE WEEKEND (go straight from Hartwood)	Brewer, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Majchrowski, Ryan, Russell, Sommerville	K/S Crocker	4923 1493
Apr 28 – 5 May	LIGHTNING RIDGE	Belshaw, Brewer, Crocker, Jager, Kinnell, Majchrowski, Olessen, Shoobert, Thomas	B/B Shoobert	4390 2277

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

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