

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 124 May 2017 **PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263**

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Next General Meeting **Sunday 18th June 2017**

At the meeting on Sunday it was suggested that we start a list of free or low cost camping places that Members would recommend.

It is common to hear Members discussing these places that they found along the way, but the hardest part is remembering all of them. If you know of any such places, please send them to the Editor. They will be listed by State and then town name with the details provided, and then available to everyone.

These places can be in Camps or Wiki Camps, or just ones you have found during your many travels. They will come with a recommendation by a Member.

You will need to provide as much information about the place that you can, ie. does it have a particular name, the State and town, are there toilets, water, power and will it take large vans. If you have the co-ordinates, that would be great but not necessary.

I look forward to receiving information on some great places.

Sue Reilly

NARRABEEN RALLY.

Marilyn McGillicuddy is again offering to organise a trip to a live show during this rally. She is asking for suggestions from any members about any shows they know of and would like to see.

Please send your suggestions to the Editor and I will make sure they are passed on to Marilyn.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As reported at Sunday's Meeting by John Oakes, Caravan & Motor Home Survey with Victorian Police, Vic Roads and the Australian Caravan Club found that 60% of vans are over capacity, uninsured and/or deadly. Is yours?

An operation was launched and the myth was busted that setting up a mobile weight checking stop is "too hard".

During this operation, 86 trailers, of which 71 were caravans, motorhomes and campers were tested with the following results.

- Only 2 drivers out of 86 knew all their weights
- Only 3 drivers had weighed their rigs, ever.
- 58% of the total vans checked were overweight against one of more rating.
- 5 vans were overweight by over 20%
- Out of all non-compliant vans, most were over by up to 10%

What does excess weight affect?

If you Exceed the caravan GTM or the caravan ATM; the caravan is un-roadworthy

If you Exceed Tow Vehicle GVM; the tow vehicle is un-roadworthy

If you Exceed the GCM; the tow vehicle and caravan is un-roadworthy

In all cases, fines and possible loss of insurance cover can follow.

Tow Vehicle Weights are critical.

MTBC – The maximum safe towing capacity of the vehicle

GVM – The maximum weight at which the tow vehicle can operate. This includes the vehicle kerb weight, all accessories, fuel, passengers, personal items, car refrigerator and most importantly, the caravan ball weight.

MTBM – Maximum allowable ball weight as specified by the Manufacturer.

GCM – The rating for maximum combined weight of the tow vehicle and caravan. This can be variable depending on the load carried in the tow vehicle, which may in some circumstances reduce the allowable weight that the tow vehicle can tow.

Caravan ratings you need to know include;

GTM - The maximum weight allowed on the caravan suspension and wheels.

ATM - The maximum total weight of the caravan including the ball weight.

TBM - The tow ball weight. This is important for caravan stability.

TRIP REPORTS

Thanks you to all members who forward reports.

Hartwood

Brian & I had our first experience of bush camping at Easter. We went to Hartwood and it was an enjoyable experience.

I was shocked at the amount of Caravans that arrived on the property.

The people were friendly and they always had time for a chat. We thought it was so great that each member of our club took turns at making Dampers, Scones and Cakes. They were very tasty.

We had the best time at the Country music festival. It was spectacular.

All in all, we both had a great time.

Brian would like to thank everyone for their support, when he was unwell. A big thanks goes out to John B as our trip leader on this rally. We will remember Hartwood as one of our great trips.

Thanks

Shirley and Brian.

Our fearless trip leaders John and Lorraine Bolcina were there bright and early when the gates opened Monday morning at 9.am 3rd April. They were made to feel quite welcome by the organizers at the gate and the property owners who provided fresh herbs still growing in pots – [basil, chives, parsley, rosemary etc].

The first few days were spent setting up the camp site; getting all the gear out of the shed, digging out the fire pit and setting up the PIDDLER over one end of the fire pit. [The piddler is a continuous hot water system similar to a donkey boiler. You put cold water in and get hot water out]. Fire wood was also collected, cut and split and I believe the women played a big role in this task.

We didn't arrive until Thursday 6th April along with our friends Ken and Fiona in their brand new J.B. Scorpion off-road van [potential members for T.L.C]. We were ushered to our allocated site by one of the volunteer organizers on his quad bike. The sites were very generous with plenty of room between vans and good access. There were about 10 or 12 T.L.C vans on site when we arrived. The early arrivals had all gone on a day trip to Coonabarabran so we had the whole T.L.C camp site to ourselves.

There was a stack of fire wood that high that you couldn't jump over all cut and split and neatly stacked down one side of the fire place with a white tarp cover over it. I thought to myself they will not burn all that fire wood in a million years. WRONG!! Yes they did so there was always plenty of hot coals for camp oven cooking and endless supply of hot water.

Next day Friday 7th was Trip Leader John's birthday – BIG 70. At morning tea time Lorraine presented John with his birthday cake of white and dark chocolate decorated with chocolate moulded spanners etc. She also presented him with a wrapped present along with cards from his daughter. It consisted of all kinds of incontinent apparel and gadgets with instructions. Of course John had to try it on and model it. Very funny and I am sure some of the photos taken will surface in time.

Camp fire cooking was the go and was used to cook scones, rock cakes, dampers and other cakes etc. for morning tea each day. Jaffle irons were used in the fire at lunch time and most people cooked their evening meal in camp ovens or on the gas B.B.Q.

The game of FINSKA was very popular and was played most afternoons just prior to happy hour. It was usually the men verses the women which made it even more competitive.

Adjacent to the T.L.C camp area were flushing toilets and hand wash basin. Toilets were cleaned daily complete with replenishing toilet paper and liquid hand soap. There was also a water tap adjacent to our site and that loveable larrikin Richard did a great job every couple of days arranging and joining hoses together to fill all the vans. Very much appreciated by all.

Wood turning on a camp site? YES it did happen. Ronny Gibbs had his lathe there and presented a very interesting demonstration. This kept quite a few of the members occupied for the next couple of days.

Tuesday 11th April saw a convoy of vehicles head off to Coolah Tops N.P. This trip was led by A.J. – Alan Howard who knows this area well. Alan gave a very interesting commentary along the way via C.B. radio channel 18. We did all the usual things – had lunch at the Pinnacle Lookout.

When we visited Bracken's Hut there were three people camping in the hut .[2 young men and a young lady] They told us they were renting the hut from the N.P. for \$40.00 a night.

When in the Pines area some members picked some funny looking mushrooms don't know if they ate them?

Back at Coolah the convoy broke up and everybody did their own thing shopping etc.

Thursday 7th April. A pub lunch was arranged at the BLACK STUMP PUB in Coolah. I think we numbered 36 in total which slightly over taxed the pub staff. We had the choice of roast chicken or pork for the main meal and cheese cake or chocolate mud cake for dessert. The meals were delicious but the service slow. The cheese cake and mud cake were still frozen, other than that it was a good day out.

This year the Owners of the property, the Kelly family along with volunteers, built a new main stage. All built from bush timber with big log beams and columns, vertical timber slab walls back and sides all strapped and bolted together, really looking the part in the bush setting. As far as the concert was concerned, early on in the week they had the WALK-UP artists. Well as usual some weren't too bad but some were TERRIBLE, but never the less they all got the same encouragement.

The Bush Poets breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning – Gary Foggery and Jack Drake were excellent. The main concerts –Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday were all excellent. Tom Maxwell was good, but our favourite was Tania Kernaghan, she is such a wonderful lady; just so natural. Roydon Donohue sounds even better than Elvis.

The grand finale on Sunday afternoon was the highlight of the weekend with all the artist joining in.

Easter Sunday morning we all had a visit from the Easter Bunny. On our outside table under our awning we found a little package of Easter eggs complete with some Rocky Road. Lorraine was the culprit, she was seen running around from van to van in the early hours of the morning complete with bunny ears on.

Monday was a day of packing up. Some members left on Monday but most left early Tuesday.

The whole Hartwood trip was very well organized, we really enjoyed it and on behalf of all the members who attended I would like to thank the trip leaders John and Lorraine for all their hard work and a job well done.

Barry and Lynette Hunt

Hartwood and onwards.

We arrived at Hartwood in time for John Bolcina's 70th Birthday. Had a lovely morning tea and he unwrapped a gift his daughter had sent, all the necessary items to see him through the coming years.

The gang did a great job of collecting fire wood and preparing the pit for camp ovens, at least 8-10 were in use most nights, we had enough wood to last the two weeks. It was great to see Barb/Adrian learning to use their oven after carrying it all around Australia and not getting it dirty. We had lunch at Coonabarabran and again at the pub in Coolah, a long wait, but a nice meal when it arrived, even though they had been reminded on several occasions.

The walk-ups were entertaining and the music on the main stage top quality. Everyone loves Tania Kernigan. We were so pleased to see Vicky & Mac come over from Dunedoo after their big trip was stalled when Blue was unable to go, hope it is now happening.

It was a very nice two weeks with good company and wonderful weather. We estimated about 800 vans attended, all parked correctly facing the one way. Well done to the new owners who kindly gave us some potted herbs, the Rosemary very popular with the baked dinners. We did a day trip to Coolah Tops and had the usual competitive game of Finska.

Allan & I travelled onto Lightning Ridge & met 4 other club members, we did the coloured Car Door tours, visited the historic Castle, went to the Pub in the scrub, had lunch at the Hilton and a cold beer at the Club. Several dips in the hot pool helped our aches & pains, 40o is very warm. Drove up to HEBEL in Queensland for lunch, visited the "Chambers of the Black Hand" sculptures, incredible work by one man, bought some opals and then moved onto Burren Junction overnight, a free camp with a hot pool, it was hard to find a spot to park.

We arrived at Boggabri early Monday morning and secured our club site, water on tap for several vans. 8 Vans in all, one a friend of a member. We attended the Anzac street march, had Chinese at the club and did several tours, a new one to the Pilliga Sandstone caves & Pilliga Pottery, with a nice lunch included; a very popular tour. We also did the Santos tour again expecting to see some changes but it's still a very slow moving project. Perhaps now the Government realises the gas reserves are low, things might change. The Maule Creek mine was interesting covering a large area and viable for at least 25 yrs.

The on-site entertainment was good with Tom Maxwell (our favourite) and Those Gals. It was very cool at night but they had the huge fire drums stoked up. The Trust has installed more powered sites this year, they also have a grant to renovate the dining area. The meals at night were very popular.

On Monday we travelled onto Glen Innes and Kevin the Caretaker remembered our group from last year and put us back near the "horse trough". 6 vans had water and 4 had power. The weather was beautiful. Clear sunny days and cool nights, lots to see & do leading up to the full week-end up at the Standing Stones. The Highlanders, Murphy's Pigs, Brothers Three and the String Family were some of the Entertainment. The street parade included Vintage cars & numerous Pipe Bands. There was jousting, strong men events, sheep dog trials and blessing of the Tartans, even a Celtic wedding. A couple from Melbourne won a competition and had the ceremony at the Stones.

It was an interesting and enjoyable week, such a pity so many members dropped out. It was hard not knowing how many spots to reserve when we didn't know who was coming. This needs to be discussed at club level.

Several members headed north to escape the cold and the rest headed home. We had been away 5 weeks and travelled 3000 kilometers and attended 4 club trips, all different and very enjoyable.

Beryl Howard

Boggabri Campfires

Good to have only a small group as it allowed us to have an area which was not crowded together and it allowed interaction.

The Boggabri campfire event was extremely well organized and run. Lots of tours available and interesting activities.

Friendly people, an outstanding experience, we will be coming back next year.

Arthur & Lesley Nichols

Boggabri Campfires and Lightning Ridge

Boggabri Drivers only eight vans a nice group where new friendships were forged. Four vans were new to the event & from all reports enjoyed the event and the area.

All agree you need to attend for a few years to have time to tour the local area and see all that the event offers

Lightning Ridge again just a small group; three vans two motor homes.

The Opal Caravan Park welcomed us once again & had a couple of bush poets to entertain us each afternoon.

We did the car door tours, Lunch at the Hebel store, followed by a drink & ice creams at the Pub (not much in Hebel).

We went on a day trip to Queensland when we had to leave the Belshaw's rabbit (Rusty) back in New South Wales.

Spent another day touring around the Grawin Opal Fields, the Sheep Yard War Memorial and the Sheep Yard Inn.

Lunch at the Glengarry Hilton was a must, and of course the Club in the Scrub for drinks & ice creams. We also took in the highlights of the Ridge. This was a first time trip to the Ridge by all except the Shooberts.

Some planning for another trip has already been discussed.

Bev & Bob

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

This is a final reminder that membership is due.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN 18TH JUNE 2017.

If membership is not paid by then, your membership ceases and you will need to re-join and pay a joining fee. If you need to know banking details so you can make a direct deposit please contact Fay Thomas who will give you the necessary information. Even if you direct deposit or pay the Treasurer you must complete a membership form which is available from Fay Thomas.

Congratulations to the Winners:

Free Lunch

- ☐ Fran Lindsay
- ☐ Yvonne Whitehead

Raffle

- **\$50** – June Webster
- **\$30** – Betty Thomas
- **\$20** – Debbie Latham

Members celebrating birthdays in June

Peter Olesen	2	Ann Clark	1
Fred Jager	3	June White	7
Trevor Moore	5	Ann Fraser	8
Len Brown	10	Helen Anderson	8
Clarrie Stevens	9	Margaret Dick	10
Ian Palmer	17	Dianne Flippence	10
Will Cok	18	Erna Ryan	12
Keith Ellis	20	Amelia Cok	23
		June Webster	23

Items for sale

- ☐ Brand new (still in box) Coast to Coast Caravan Cover to suit 16ft to 18ft van with a with a rigid roof. \$200.00
Please contact Bob or Denise Brewer on 0458 521 724 (Jan 2017)
- ☐ 2 pair shoes that are good for use in the shower or just to use outdoors. Will fit size 9 shoe.
\$15.00 per pair (brand new never been worn).
Please contact Fay Thomas 0408 271 236.



<u>2017 Trip Lists</u>				
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRIP DESTINATION</u>	<u>MEMBERS ATTENDING</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PARK</u>
July 20 th – 27 th	TLC Club Rally Christmas in July Valla Beach	Belshaw, Bickley / Baird, Brewer, Bryce / Tanner, Callawa, Cok, Collins, Curnow, Dunn/Hollington, Edwards / Williamson, Flippence, Forrest, Fraser, Hansell, Hennessy, Holland, Howard, Insull, Jager, Kelly, Knight, Laney, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lenane, Letherbarrow, Luttrell, McConnville, Moore J/N, Oakes, Olesen, Palmer/Evernden, , Potter, Robinson, Ryan, Shoobert, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Thomas F/R, Treacy / Wenning, Wells, White, 43	Tour Director Bev 43 902277 0427 902277	To Book Ring 1800 800 447 65 695 555
July 27 th - Aug 3 rd	Happy Hallidays Holiday park	Angell, Belshaw, Bickley / Baird, Brewer, Bryce/Tanner, Cok, Curnow, Dawson, Edwards / Williamson, Fraser, Holland, Insull, Jager, Kains, Latham, Lee-Sing, Letherbarrow, Moore J/N, Olesen, Potter, Ryan, Shoobert, Simpson, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning, White, 26	Bev Shoobert 43 902277 0427 902277	To book ring 65 592 099
Sept18 th - Oct 13 th	Snowy Mountains Ramble	Belshaw, Bickley/Baird, Cannard, Curnow, Edwards/Williamson, Field, Fraser, Holland, Moore, Pollard, Stevens 11	Clarrie Stevens 43 692 759	
Oct 16 th -22 nd	Slim Dusty country music festival	Brewer, Bolcina, Eadie, Field, Geale, Howard, Kane, Majchrowski, Pollard, Schultz 10		1800 185 746 65 626 533
Nov 2 nd – 9 th	TLC Melbourne cup Club Rally Paradise tourist park Tamworth	Angell, Bennett, Bolcina, Bryce/Tanner, Cok, Edwards/Williamson, Field, Forrest, Geale, Hansell, Holland, Hollington/Dunn, Howard, Insull, Jager, Kelly, Lee-Sing Lenane, Lethbarrow, Majchrowski, Marsland, Moore, Oakes, Olesen, Reilly, Rohwer, Ryan, Shoobert, Smith, Smyth, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning, Wells 33	Bev Shoobert 43 902277 0427 902277	To Book Ring 67 663 120
Nov 20 th -30 th	Narrabeen Leisure trip	Bolcina, Clarke, Cooper, Curnow, Davidson, Ducker, Eadie, Gibbs, Henry, Holland, Holmes, Howard, Insull, Kane, Lee-Sing, Lindsay, Majchrowski, McGillicuddy, Merrett/Wright, Moore, Reilly, Ryan, Schultz, Shawcross, Smith, Smyth, Wells 27	Des Cooper	43 933383

		2018		
March 1 st -8th	TLC Club Rally Middle Rock	Bennett, Bolcina, Bryce/Tanner, Cok, Curnow, Davidson, Dawson, Dick/Moore T, Eadie, Edwards/Williamson, Forrest, Fraser, Gibbs, Hansell, Holmes, Howard, Insull, Jager, Laney, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lenane, Lindsay, Luttrell, Majchrowski, Merrett/Wright, Oakes, Olesen, Palmer/Evernden, Reilly, Robinson, Shawcross, Shoobert, Simpson, Smyth, Steele, Stevens, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning, Wells, 40	Tour Director 43 902277 0427 902277	To book ring Park 49 819 450
April 6 th ,7 th ,8th	NSW State Rally Griffith	Bolcina, Davidson, Smithers	Peter Davidson 43 584 121	

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