Association of Caravan Clubs SA Inc.

The Journal

Visit our website and facebook pages
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https://www.18thnationalcaravanrally.org.au

https://www.facebook.com/Association-of-Caravan-Clubs-South-Australia-107748657267964
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May 2021

Celebrating 46 Years of Service to Caravanning in South Australia

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(Carefree Caravaneers)
president@accsa.asn.au

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(Southern Cross CC)
editor@accsa.asn.au

Executive Committee
Frank Gratton
(Elizabethan CC)

Next Delegates Meeting

The ACCSA Delegates meeting will be face to face and by video conferencing on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7:30pm

at the

Walkerville RSL Hall
98 Walkerville Terrace
Walkerville

It is important that all clubs have a delegate or representative attend delegate meetings.

Editor: Robert Hart ***Email:*** editor@accsa.asn.au **Phone/Text:** 0419 334 861

PRESIDENT'S CHATTER

THE 18th NATIONAL CARAVAN CLUBS RALLY IS AN 18 YEAR OPPORTUNITY FOR SA CARAVANNERS

The Caravan Clubs of SA are encouraged to attend the 18th National Caravan Club Rally at the Barmera Events Centre from 28th March 2022 to 6th April 2022.

The 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally is an EIGHTEEN YEAR opportunity for SA Caravanners to experience a National Rally travelling only 259 kilometres. They are only held every 18 years in SA.

It provides a great opportunity to meet fellow caravanners from Australia wide. If you are planning to caravan around Australia what better way to find out all the information you need to plan the trip. The target is to have over 400 caravans from throughout Australia on site and they have been there and done that, so you have the opportunity to gain assistance in planning where to go and stay or where not to go and stay.

You can be part of this event by volunteering your assistance and contributing your skills at the various activities that are being planned. This will enhance your experience of attending a National Rally.

Currently an extensive program is being prepared that includes professional entertainers supported by expert logistic support and other activities that are of interest to caravanners.

Be a part of the exciting event and your attendance will help make SA proud.

REGISTER NOW AND BE PART OF THIS GREAT EVENT

CARAVAN PARKS ACCREDITATION

We have Accredited Park stickers available for issue, so we ask that Clubs nominate Caravan Parks that have qualified by providing a good and friendly service to the Club. Please advise me and I will forward the sticker to the Park.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST 2021

A reminder that the ACCSA AGM is to be held in August 2021 and all positions will be declared vacant and nominations called to elect the Executive Committee for 2021/2022. I have served as President for a number of years, and I believe it may be time for a change because it is important that we have new ideas and a change of ideas to maintain a prosperous Association. I asked that all Presidents include this matter on your agenda for your next Committee Meeting.

Graham Brown, President ACCSA.

ACCSA Mission:
"to promote caravan clubs to the general public, represent caravan clubs at a public and industry level and assist all members to safely enjoy the caravan and camping lifestyle."

FROM THE EDITOR:

Caravanners are venturing out within our State and also interstate, vaccinations are becoming more readily available. It is still important to observe Covid-19 restrictions social distancing. Take care of yourselves people.

In this edition of the ACCSA Journal there are rally reports from four clubs and there are some clubs that rely on Facebook to spread news of their clubs. Please keep sending in your rally reports and share your experiences. Remember that other clubs are interested in what other clubs are doing and their experiences at their rallies.

Our sponsors, EBS, Adelaide RV, Kui Parks, North East Isuzu, Northern Caravan Storage and Fund Raising with Entertainment are continuing to support ACCSA and in return we ask everyone to please support our sponsors.

In this issue: "Presidents Chatter" from Graham Brown, club Rally reports, our Caravan Club Friendly Parks Program and please look up the National Rally website at https://www.18thnationalcaravanrally.org.au/ to check out what is going with the National Rally, and remember "REGISTRER NOW".

Enjoy the Journal and drive safely. *Take Care, Robert Hart*

NOTE: Please submit items for the next Journal by 22nd July 2021

ACCSA are FUNDRAISING with

Entertainment

Order an Entertainment tm membership and support the work of ACCSA and it's affiliated clubs.
All you have to do is click on this link
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purchase a membership
and you can start to save.
Membership is available to affiliated club members, family and friends.
Support us and buy a membership package today at
www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/9660e66

ACCSA is asking that affiliated clubs include the 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally 2022 in their forward planning for 2022

The dates of the 2022 National Rally are Monday 28th March 2022 to Wednesday 6th April 2022 (10 nights)
Please put the 2022 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally in your clubs' calendar.

Got something to sell? List it in the classified section on the ACCSA website.

Contact Robert Hart, ACCSA Editor at editor@accsa.asn.au

BAROSSA VALLEY CARAVAN & CAMPING CLUB

RALLY REPORT: Melrose 30th April to 3rd May 2021.

Some people were able to arrive on Thursday and the rest on Friday. With new leases, this is a Pet friendly park at a cost per night of $31.50. There were 14 vans and 1 cabin, to this small caravan park in the shadow of Mount Remarkable, with powered and non-powered sites split either side of a creek, which was dry at the time. Part of the dry creek is used by Adults and children for bike riding up and down hills and mounds. This did create some dust.

Friday was time to meet and greet and at 4pm we had happy hour amidst flocks of very noisy white 'cockies' which woke many in the mornings and certainly reminded us when it was 4 pm.

Saturday there were easy and pretty walking trails along the creek. Some Members visited the Melrose Courthouse Heritage Centre which contained extensive information and displays of the early police history and early settlement of the Melrose and District. A visit to the local shop for coffee and cake was also enjoyed.

Our delicious and reasonably priced meal was at the Mount Remarkable Hotel. The Chef is a 16-year-old school girl who does a great job in preparing meals and also managing her school work in between.

Sunday walking for early birds (and white cockatoos) and after a leisurely morning we travelled in convoy about 30 minutes to 'Blessing Garden Wines' where we enjoyed a delicious Devonshire tea. We also enjoyed sitting either on the veranda with beautiful views or sitting under shady trees, listening to the local pianist playing classical music on his grand piano, and enjoying some of the local wine.

On Monday our group departed for various destinations.

Our Expenditure for the weekend was $4,777.

Check out the ACCSA website Notice Board section for notices of interest

CARAVAN CLUB FRIENDLY PARKS

The Executive Committee have been working on a scheme to reward Caravan Parks that have demonstrated that they are a Caravan Club Friendly Park and have provided above average service when hosting a Caravan Club.

A sticker as show below would be awarded to the Park and encouraged to display the Award. The Committee would appreciate your comments on the concept and the proposed sticker below.

Please nominate a park that you believe is worthy of receiving an ACCSA Friendly Park Sticker to President Graham Brown who will present the nomination to the ACCSA executive.

ACCSA Affiliated Clubs Contact List

Adelaide Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Lesley Davis Mobile: 0417 862 367
email: Lda53871@bigpond.net.au
website: www.adelaidecaravanclub.com
Membership is open

Barossa Valley Caravan & Camping Club Inc.
Secretary: Sue Robinson Mobile: 0413 186 217
email: suerobinson46@hotmail.com
Membership closed at present
Members are mainly Seniors
Pet friendly

Caravan Club of South Australia Inc.
Secretary: Janette Hirschausen Mobile: 0411 950 367
email: ccsanews@gmail.com
Membership is open, pet & family friendly

Carefree Caravaneers of SA Inc.
Secretary: Jeff Boden Mobile: 0400 399 985
email: carefreesecretary@gmail.com
website: www.carefreecaravaneers.org.au
Membership is closed as present

Coromal Club of South Australia Inc.
Secretary: Phylis McNab Mobile: 0424 874 307
email: ilovesucculents@hotmail.com
Membership is open

Dave Benson Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Helen Manson Mobile: 0407 799 436
email: helen_manson@bigpond.com
Membership is open

Elizabethan Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Kaye Parker Mobile: 0402 061 718
email: eccsecretary01@gmail.com
Friendly, fun seeking club who enjoy caravanning, visiting new places and the company of our members.
Pet friendly
Membership opportunities.

Family & Friends Caravan & Camping Club Inc.
Secretary: Louise Monument Mobile: 0414 687 320
email: secretary@ffccc.com.au
Website: www.ffccc.com.au
Family Friendly
Membership is open

Jayco Caravan Club of SA Inc.
Secretary: Marlene Landorf Mobile: 0409 592 064
email: mars@sltanks.com.au
website: www.jaycoclubsa.asn.au
Membership is open
Jayco Caravans Only

Jayco Jaybirds SA Inc.
Secretary: Brian Powditch Mobile: 0431 604 601
email: secretary.jaybirds@gmail.com
Website: www.jaycojaybirds.com.au
Membership is open

Port Augusta Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Lyn Napier Mobile: 0428 412 075
email: lynnapier@bigpond.com
Membership is open

Riverland Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Barbara Jones Phone: 08 8584 6138
email c/-: bacskai@tpg.com.au
Membership is open

Southern Cross Caravan Club Inc.
Secretary: Peter Kitto Mobile: 0407 440 019
email: secretary@scccsa.asn.au
Website: www.scccsa.asn.au
Membership is open

Wanderers Caravan Club of SA Inc.
Secretary: Bob Baskerville Mobile: 0466 900 749
email: secretary@wccsa.org.au
website: www.wccsa.org.au
Membership closed at present

Date of Rally: 3rd – 7th May 2021 held at Mt Compass Caravan Park (Kui Park)

Expenses Incurred: Park Fees from $39-43 per Night Powered Site with Discount for Caravan clubs, $2,268. Other Expenses $2,813. Total spend $5,081.

No of Vans: 13. **Adults:** 24. **Children:** nil.

On arrival: The caravan park is green, clean and very well maintained, the Park management could not do enough for our club, we were greeted by a friendly receptionist who enthusiastically tells us about her town.

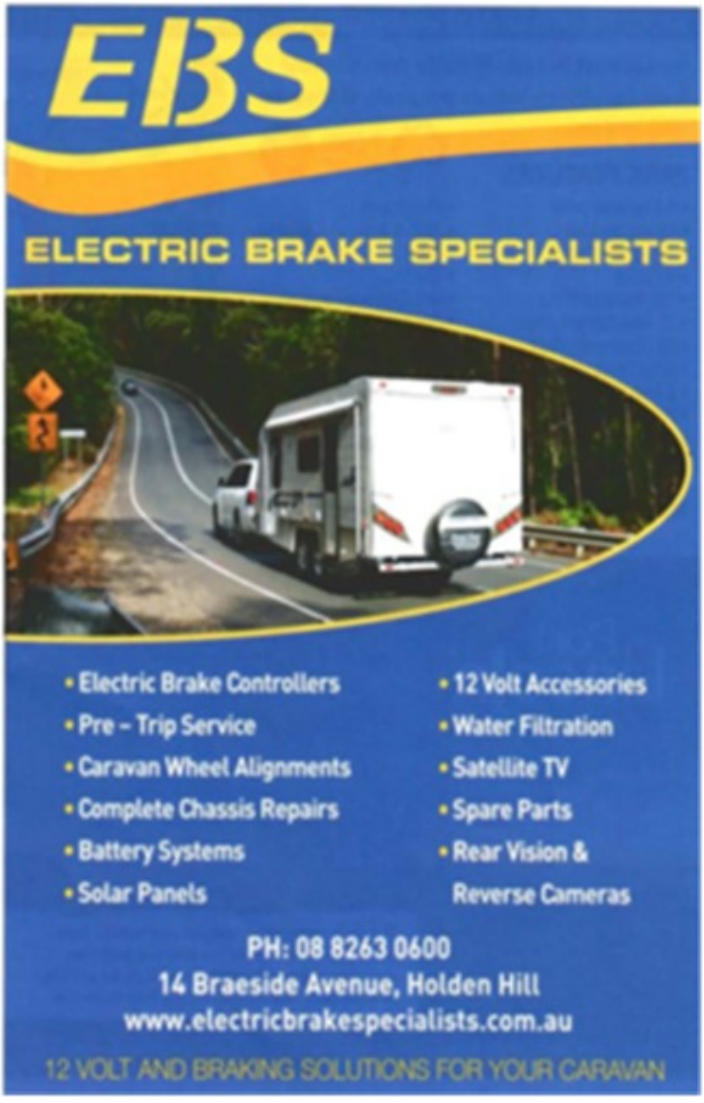
The park and surrounds: Very well Maintained and beautifully manicured, the amenities cleaned regularly and COVID rules strictly adhered to.

Would definitely come back.

No Deposit Required.

Things we did at this rally: This was a very relaxed rally, we visited the Ambesun Alpaca Farm where we gained an insight to farming these animals, our members had the opportunity to mingle amongst the animals even having a go at feeding the younger ones. The Usual happy hours, A men's breakfast or two, Potato night, and entertainment with lots of singing and laughter, Disc bowls, BYO dinner.

Next Rally: Nuriootpa Big 4 Caravan Park 15th-19th June 2021.



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Rally Report: 9th - 11th April 2021 at Victor Harbour Cabin Park.

Arriving on Friday with some members arriving on Wednesday and already settled at their sites. One couple were staying in a cabin at the park, still waiting for their new van to be ready. Welcome/happy hour took place a bit earlier since we were all sitting around Jim & Kaye's van chatting and the weather was starting to come in cooler. Dee welcomed everyone to the rally, ran thru a few things to do over the weekend with Gay adding a few things that were happening also (since they live in Victor). Sharon & George arrived soon after and it was decided for some to get takeaway for tea, so we headed to the fish 'n chip shop, fabulous hamburgers.

After some rain overnight, we headed to the Bluff cafe for a cuppa only to find it didn't open for another half hour, so we headed back down the road to another place where we enjoyed some food and a cuppa. Some went on to do some shopping around the town at various places before heading back to the park for the afternoon. Time ticked on and before we knew it we were getting ready to head to the Grosvenor Hotel for dinner. It was a bit of a wait after ordering before the meals arrived at the table but there were no complaints about the food, delicious all round!! Heading back to the park to have cake in celebration of Lyn's birthday. Happy Birthday was sung to Lyn and then cake was shared around. Hope you had a lovely day Lyn. Most then put their awnings away as it was supposed to come in pretty windy overnight.

Dee welcomed everyone and hoped all had enjoyed their weekend. Dee thanked everyone for their calls, txt, emails & best wishes on the passing of her mum the week before the rally & passed on Bev's thanks also. Birthdays & anniversaries were acknowledged before handing out the trophies. Dave took the last trophy close call with Heather and Jim & Kaye took the nearly trophy for their amazing breakdown in the gateway of the park, holding up traffic in the entrance because no-one could get past them. They don't do things by halves!! Dee closed the meeting wishing everyone safe travels home both today and tomorrow. In the afternoon Kaye & Jim introduced a new game they brought called bean bag toss. Who would have thought that a game throwing bean bags into a hole on a slanted board would create such fun and a great afternoons enjoyment. Thanks Kaye & Jim Next rally is at Wallaroo North on 14th – 16th May. Hope to see you there. We also welcomed Sox to the club (Marg & Allan's new little dog).

The excitement is building

As of 28th May 2021 there are 10 months to the

18th National Caravan Clubs Rally 2022

Register now

Where Clubs are Rallying in June 2021 & July 2021

	June 2021	July 2021
Adelaide Caravan Club	Waikerie (3-7)	Luncheon (TBA)
Barossa Valley Caravan & Camping Club	Mt Pleasant (11-13)	No Rally
Caravan Club of South Australia	Wallaroo (11-14)	No Rally
Carefree Caravanners of SA	Tailem Bend (17-21)	Luncheon (TBA)
Coromal Caravan Club of SA	No Rally	No Rally
Dave Benson Caravan Club	No Rally	No Rally
Elizabethan Caravan Club	Laura (11-14)	Loxton (23-25)
Family & Friends Caravan & Camping Club	Burra (11-14)	Rex Hotel (17) AGM
Jayco Caravan Club of SA	McLaren Vale (4-6)	Punyelroo (2-4)
Jayco Jaybirds SA	Mt Barker (4-5)	Luncheon (18)
Port Augusta Caravan Club	?	?
Riverland Caravan Club	?	?
Southern Cross Caravan Club	Gawler (24-27)	McLaren Vale (29-1)
Wanderers Caravan Club of SA	Cobdogla (18-20)	Clayton Bay (17-19)

The 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally 2022 will be held at the Riverland Events Centre, Barmera SA from 28th March to 6th April 2022 (10 nights)

To keep up to date with Newsletters & additional information following link: https://www.18thnationalcaravanrally.org.au

ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Aluminium (Screw or rivet fix) @ $15 each
Self-adhesive vinyl @ $12 each
Signs available from ACCSA Treasurer at bi-monthly delegates meetings or by mail. (P & H applies)

Contact: treasurer@accsa.asn.au or **0417 821 271**

The 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally will be held at the Riverland Events Centre, Barmera, South Australia on 28th March to 7th April 2022 (10 nights)

18th National Caravan Clubs Rally Mission Statement: *"to organise the 18th National Rally of Caravan Clubs and to promote South Australia as a tourism venue for caravanners."*

On the ACCSA website there are links to the NACC: National Association of Caravan Clubs Ltd., and other State Associations: Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria Inc., Canberra Caravan Club Inc., Caravan Clubs of Queensland Inc., NSW Association of Caravan Clubs Inc., Western Australian Association of Caravan Clubs Inc.

Check on the links, there is lots of information to read.

Disclaimer: The material in "The Journal" is in the nature of general comment only and is not necessarily the view of the Association of Caravan Clubs of South Australia Inc. (ACCSA) or of the editor. Articles are submitted by third parties and are accepted in good faith by ACCSA. ACCSA makes no representations or warranties about the accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for the intended purpose of any product, service or material in "The Journal"

From around the clubs:

The **Adelaide Caravan Club** went to Stony Creek and Rawnsley Park in April/May. In June Waikerie is calling and in July will have a luncheon. Further information about the club can be seen on their website at https://www.adelaidecaravanclub.com/

Melrose and Wallaroo was the venue for the **Barossa Valley Caravan & Camping Club** in April and May. Members will attend a rally at Mt Pleasant in June and in July there will be no rally.

The **Caravan Club of South Australia** held their April rally at Balaclava and then their May rally at Mt Pleasant. The club will have their June rally at Wallaroo and will not have a rally in July. Look up the clubs Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/The-Caravan-Club-of-South-Australia-Incorporated-234448623351855/timeline/ for further club information.

In April the **Carefree Caravanners of SA** held their rally at Melrose followed by a rolling rally in May to Naracoorte and Casterton. In June they will rally at Tailem Bend and will have a luncheon in July. Their website at http://carefreecaravaneers.org.au/ is the source of further information to read.

The **Coromal Caravan Club of SA** report that they have no rallies for the next two months as many of their members are off to QLD or NSW. While those members are away the will be having lunch at the Brighton Esplanade Hotel for the few remaining and perhaps another get together in July.

The **Dave Benson Caravan Club** held a rally at Port Pirie in April and a rolling rally to Whyalla, Tumby Bay, Cowell and Spear Creek in May. The club will not hold rallies in June and July.

The **Elizabethan Caravan Club** went to the Adare Caravan Park at McCracken in April and Wallaroo in May. In June they will hold their birthday rally at Laura. It will Christmas in July at their Loxton rally. Check out their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Elizabethan-Caravan-Club-171615792858135/timeline/ for more information.

Family & Friends Caravan & Camping Club held their April Rally at the Coomandook Area School and at Balaklava in May. They off to Burra in June and will hold their AGM at the Rex Hotel in July. View the clubs website at https://ffccc.com.au/ and their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Family-and-Friends-Caravan-and-Camping-Club-formerly-SAPI-134938026579989/timeline. There are Rally reports and other good reading about the club and their activities.

The **Jayco Caravan Club of SA** April rally was at Victor Harbour and at Clare in June. Their June and July rallies will be held at McLaren Vale and Punyelroo in June and July respectively. The club's website can be viewed at http://www.jaycoclubsa.asn.au

The **Jayco Jaybirds SA** April rally was at McLaren vale and at Clare in May. In May (not at the May rally) they will hold their AGM. In June their rally will be at Mt Barker and in July they will hold a luncheon. The Jaybirds no longer use their website but do have a private Facebook page instead.

Morgan was the scene of the April rally of the **Southern Cross Caravan Club** followed by a rolling rally in May to Port Pirie, Whyalla and Spear Creek. In June their rally will be Gawler and McLaren Vale in July. The club's website at http://www.scccsa.asn.au/ is a source of further information.

The **Wanderers Caravan Club of SA** in April was at Laura and Wallaroo in May, In June the club will rally at Cobdogla and then in July at Clayton Bay. Further information about the club can be found on the club website http://www.wccsa.org.au/

REGISTER NOW

for the

18th National Caravan Clubs Rally 2022
At
https://www.18thnationalcaravanrally.org.au/

Got something to sell? List it in the classified section on the ACCSA website.

Contact Robert Hart, ACCSA Editor at editor@accsa.asn.au

Morgan Rally 29th April to 2nd May 2021 at the Morgan Caravan Park.

Members attended in 15 Vans, 1 Motel Room and 2 Cabins.

On Arrival: We were treated very well and felt most welcome by the office staff who were very efficient.

The Park and surrounds: A very neat and tidy park with large sites, in fact we were able to erect the Club Gazebos between sites. Some were fine gravel and others were thick green grass sites. This park has good and clean amenities with a pool and lovely playground for families. We noticed that the park was extremely busy with nearly all sites continually full. We would definitely come back.

Things we did at this rally: The Rally Officers ordered good weather and they got it, four glorious sunny warm days. Thursday was travelling time and setting up. Some ventured up the hill to the bakery for lunch and coffee and others did some shopping in the general store and visited the Information Centre and Gift Shop at the old Railway Station. Most had arrived on site by 4pm and we had a great time getting back together.

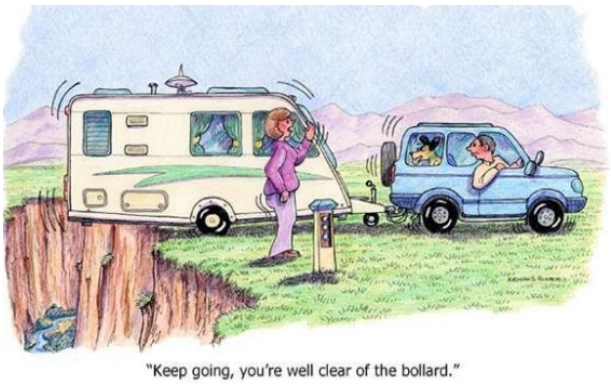
Friday: A group walked back up the hill to the bakery again and others checked out the local op shop whilst others enjoyed free time. At 3pm our Committee gathered for a meeting and then 4 pm was Happy Hour which kept us busy until 6:30pm when we attended the Terminus Hotel where the chef had put on a special menu for us. The sirloin steak was most popular and very nice indeed. We coaxed the Chef out of the kitchen and gave him a round of applause.

Saturday: The morning walkers were up and about at 7am and then at 10:00am we gathered in the gazebo for the popular Tizer 50 question quiz with our coffees. It was a really tough quiz and we were lucky to score only 31 collectively. A group walked back to bakery for lunch and to check out the local school fete and others went for drives to explore the area and ventured as far as Waikerie & Renmark. Later in the afternoon, the Disc Bowls were brought out with a large group vying to be eventually selected to represent the Club at the National Rally Disc Bowl Competition. Happy Hour was again well received at 4pm which flowed onto a scrumptious dinner where the rally officers served us with lovely hamburgers. Later they entertained us with some more quizzes.

Sunday: Some rose for a cooked breakfast and then all gathered for coffee & cakes supplied by the Club courtesy of our Rally Officers. Our retired resident nurse, Sandy then gave us a demonstration on how to use our new Club Defib Machine. There followed free time but a large group attended the Caudo Winery at Hogwash Bend for wine tasting and lunch in a beautiful setting right on the rivers edge. Most ordered the shared platters. We eventually returned to the Caravan Park for happy hour and then the Rally Officers collected and distributed our large food order from the local fish & chip shop.

Monday: was pack up day and home bound for most but one couple headed off to Queensland for 2 months.

Approx. Spend this rally: Accommodation: $3,330 (site fees $30.50, no deposit required). Other Spend: $2,547.



"Keep going, you're well clear of the bollard."

REMEMBER
When you visit any of our sponsors,
Make sure you mention that you are a member of an ACCSA affiliated Caravan Club.

Adelaide RV
EBS
Kui Parks
Entertainment
NCS Northern Caravan Storage
NORTH EAST ISUZU UTE

Information received from the Caravan Council of Australia.

Hi 'Vanners

It was hoped that one major *positive* outcome from the lengthy and crippling covid lock-downs, would be that the caravan manufacturers would make good use of the non-productive time to have a thorough and professional *appraisal* of all aspects of their business, and ensure that all *problems* - especially *engineering* and *quality* ones - that they were aware of, or became apparent during the *appraisal*, would be rigorously *critiqued*... and *rectified*, once and for all.

Most unfortunately, this has *not* been the case with *all* manufacturers, as the *CCA* has been advised of *numerous* instances, where *defects* have been found on new caravans that have been manufactured over just the past few months. While *most* of the complaints were about the *well-known* industry problems, a number of *new* "bugs" had now become apparent.

Typical reported "excuses" for these unacceptable issues have been: We have had to obtain new (inexperienced) employees; We have had trouble obtaining the usual components... especially *imported* parts; We have not seen this sort of problem before; We have been flat-out getting up to speed with the new Regulations; and, We consider our 'vans are built in accordance with the Industry's *Code of Practice*.

Safe & Happy Travels!
Kind Regards
Colin G Young [P.Eng.]
Caravan Council of Australia
www.caravancouncil.com.au
caravancouncil@optusnet.com.au
Tel: 0409 865 399

Warning for Potential-Buyers of New Caravans

Potential buyers of caravans need to be extremely careful to ensure that their proposed caravan is in fact fully-compliant with Australia's vehicle safety Regulations, as stated in the national ***Australian Design Rules***.
The Federal government's ***Vehicle Safety Standards*** branch has recognised the problems in the caravan industry, and is introducing a new ***Road Vehicle Standards Act*** in July this year. This replaces the ***Motor Vehicle Standards Act,*** which has been in force since 1989.
Caravan industry veterans have warned potential buyers to be well aware that there are currently *many* ***non-compliant*** caravans on our roads, and that the new regulations will ***not*** guarantee that ***all*** future caravans will be fully-compliant.
The new safety and quality regulations will ***not*** apply to ***all*** manufacturers and importers. This is of *serious concern* as ***some*** companies - that produce caravans in *small* numbers - will be ***exempt*** from having to meet the requirements of the new laws. These companies that will ***not*** be subject to the same level of government scrutiny of the new laws, are usually *new-comers* to the market, and often *lack* the necessary *resources* and *experience* that are *essential* to manufacture ***safe*** and ***high-quality*** caravans. They also lack the expected professional after-sales service and repair facilities across the country.
Industry insiders have long been worried that there are *too* many *new* manufacturers and importers competing in a very ***limited***, and ***highly-competitive***, market.
Vehicle Safety Standards wi**ll** allow larger caravan companies a lengthy "*phase-in*" period to "get up to speed" with the new requirements, so it may well be that the *intended* benefits of the new laws will ***not*** become apparent for up to one year after their introduction.
Unfortunately for the many owners of defective *non-compliant* caravans, there are ***no*** r*etrospective* provisions in the new *Act*, hence they are being forced to continue to pursue *rectification* action against the Dealers who sold them their vehicles. Despite the good *intentions* of the ***Australian Consumer Law*** to protect customers who bought *unsatisfactory* – or even *unsafe* – products, it is well known that getting the Dealers to honour their responsibilities, is often *very* difficult.
With "***Self-Certification***" permitted – combined with the lack of acceptable ***Regulatory*** auditing of *businesses*, and auditing of *vehicles* – it is ***not*** possible for prospective buyers to have sufficient ***confidence*** in the Design / Manufacturing / Compliance / Safety / Quality of all new caravans.
It is ***vital*** that potential-buyers "do their home-work" *thoroughly*, before deciding on a particular Make and Model - rather than being "*persuaded*" by a sales-person to buy a *"better"* (higher priced) caravan, which *may*, or may ***not***, live up to the promises made.
They ***must*** decide beforehand, ***precisely*** what *type* of caravan they really *need* that will suit their *intended* travel *plans*, and what they can *afford*.
There are ***free*** detailed independent ***Check-Lists*** available for potential-buyers of caravans, where:
(a) An ***Evaluation*** can be determined of what they need / want / prefer in a new 'van, and
(b) A ***Comparison*** can be made of what Makes and Models come the *closest* to matching the required and preferred *criteria*.
This will be a *major* investment, and as such, the purchase *must* be made on a ***practical*** basis... and ***not*** on an ***emotional*** basis.
Sales-personnel are professionally trained to ***sell***. Caravan buyers are ***not*** trained to ***buy***, and as a result, they will very often suffer severe *disappointment* and *distress*, when they realise that what they have purchased is ***not*** up to their expectations.
Sadly, there are currently too many serious ***Non-compliance***, ***Safety*** and ***Quality*** problems… with subsequent ***complaints*** and ***litigation***.
When someone buys a new ***car*** or ***truck***, there is ***no*** need for them to know all about the *Australian Design Rules* (ADR's) and other *regulatory* requirements, because ***Vehicle Safety Standards*** (VSS) would have ***approved*** the Manufacturer's ***Compliance*** submission and ***Quality*** program.
However, because of the permitted "***Self-Certification***", *caravan* buyers are ***not*** afforded any where *near* the same degree of *assurance*.
Obviously, caravan buyers are certainly ***not*** expected to be experts on all applicable ***Regulatory*** requirements, hence a *very* high level of ***confidence*** in the Manufacturer and Dealer is required.
There are freely-available "***Buyer-Assist***" *Check-Lists* that include important ***Questions*** that potential-buyers need to ask the Dealer. It is *most* prudent to obtain the answers in *writing*.
All too often, caravanners who have purchased a new 'van, some time later conduct a fine-tooth inspection of their new pride-and-joy, and pedantically note every *minor* blemish. These annoying imperfections should *clearly* have been detected during the ***Pre-Delivery Inspection*** and advised to the Dealer.
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