Association of Caravan Clubs, SA

The Journal

www.accsa.asn.au

February/ March 2015

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(Elizabethan CC)

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Judi Roberts
(Jayco CC)

Next ACCSA Delegates Meeting

Wednesday
1st April 2015
(no joke!)
at **7.00pm**
Guest Speaker from
HALL TOWBARS

Walkerville RSL Hall
98 Walkerville Tce
Walkerville

All Welcome!

Editor: Judi Roberts
Email: editor@accsa.asn.au Phone: 0417 837 768

From The Editor's Desk:

- Your Executive is pleased to announce the addition of 2 new businesses as sponsors of ACCSA.
  We welcome Australian Caravan Company (www.australiancaravans.com.au) and All RV (www.allrv.com.au) to the ACCSA family!
  There will be more information about the benefits of these sponsorships to members of affiliated Clubs over the coming months.

- We continue to receive constructive feedback about the format of The Journal. As the communication channel that reaches all of our member Clubs, we'd love to have more news to share. It can be time consuming to re-work your Club's rally reports (and many thanks to those who do) but if you include editor@accsa.asn.au on the mailing list for your newsletter, I can include the important details so that we know the good bits and not-so-good bits about places you've been.

Happy trails,

Judi

Registrations are still open for the

State Rally 2015

from **Friday 1 May– Sunday 3 May**

at **Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park**

114 Victoria St, Victor Harbor

Rally Fee: $15per person over 16 years
Saturday evening Dinner and Entertainment $25 per person

There will be something for everyone with:
Market stalls, sausage sizzle, disc bowls, jumbo raffle

RALLY REPORTS

Pack Camping Club Inc

Rawnsley Pk Station October 2014	This was an extended camp with a wonderful week spent in the beautiful Flinders Ranges. The park is very busy at this time of year but facilities were well-maintained, clean and seemed to cope ok. As it was very hot & windy on Monday we decided to go to Blinman North to do the underground mine tour. The guide Dean explained that Blinman has only 19 residents but the Progress Assn ensure that the mine can be accessed by tourists. In following days members headed in a few different directions – Sacred Canyon, Bunyeroo & Brachina Gorges to Parachilna and St Mary's Peak. 4 vehicles also did the full day Sky Trek tour on Willow Springs Station. Only 79kms but slow going with the last 12kms requiring low-range 4WD – a once-in-a-lifetime experience!
Christmas Party November 2014	Salisbury Croquet Club was hired and was very suitable for our group and was decorated for a great Christmas Party. The lunch was delicious, with ham & chickens provided by the Club and salads and desserts brought by Club members. After lunch we sat in the shade of the verandah and had fun with a Christmas Quiz and the drawing of the raffle. As usual, all prizes were much appreciated by the winners.

Southern Cross

Pt Rickaby 5th-8th February 2015 Powered site after Club discount was $22.50 11 Vans and one couple in a cabin	The park was in good condition with plenty of grassed sites. The Managers, Richard & Michelle were wonderful to us. They gave us a free site for our Club Gazebo. Richard guided our people onto their sites and at Happy Hours produced a complimentary large platter of mini dim sims, spring rolls and chips. The weather was very kind to us and we had a great time. Friday night the Club put on a sausage sizzle and the members supplied a variety of salads and desserts. A fishing competition was won by one of our female members. On Saturday night we gathered in our Gazebo and the rally officers had us talk about the Worst Place which we may have stayed at. They also had us tear up a newspaper sheet into a map of Australia and make a car or caravan out of a pipe cleaner. What good fun. Sunday night we gathered in the Camp Kitchen for our traditional fish and chips which were expertly cooked by the Park Managers. There was plenty of the time spent exploring the area. Most travelled to Minlaton and checked out the bakery and coffee shop. Our next rally will be at Balaklava
Balaklava Caravan Park, 6-8th March 2015 13 vans & 2 Cabins Powered site was $28 (no discount but Park Manager, Gary & his family put on a wonderful breakfast on the Sunday morning for us.)	Friday night dinner was at the Royal Hotel. The meals were very nice, reasonably priced, on time and well presented. The rally officers excelled themselves with interesting games such as, Disc Bowls with a difference (sit in a chair and roll a disc on its edge, nearest to the jack wins.) Irish Crochet (push or hit a large potato through 3 gates using a broom.) Try and find as many small safety pins in a large bowl of uncooked rice whilst blind folded. Tell 2 truths and 1 lie about yourself and the others had to guess who you were. Plus a few other games. Lots of fun and plenty of laughs. A very nice little park and highly recommended. Our next rally will be at Tanunda.

Barossa Valley Caravan & Camping Club

Williamstown 6th -9th February 2015 10 vans	We made the most of the beautiful shady park, sheltered BBQ area and swimming pool. It was great to have some past members and potential members with us on this rally. On Saturday we car pooled and travelled to Mt Pleasant Market for breakfast & shopping. At 11am we headed off on a "Drive with a Difference" which challenged our observational skills and interpretation of directions. Our picnic lunch was held at Gumeracha Reserve, due to fire bans, and our last stop was the Kersbrook Winery where we had a refreshing Apple Cider or two. Driving back to Williamstown through the fire ravaged hills made us appreciate our good fortunes. Dinner at the Williamstown Hotel was excellent value and very well presented. Sunday saw the girls head to the Op Shop for $1-00 bargains. The afternoon was spent relaxing in the shade, visiting the town Mural, and enjoying a tasty sausage and salad tea in the BBQ area.

Riverland Caravan Club

Renmark Meetings:	Once again we did not hold actual rallies in January and February, but instead we met at the Renmark/Paringa Council Chambers on Jan 18th and Feb 15th. These were enjoyable days and were well attended. Format was the same as previous years- arrive for smoko, play cards, yarn, more cards, lunch etc. Again, our ladies did well with the eats provided. Thanks to the council for the use of their facilities.
Kingston-on-Murray 6 vans	Our first rally for 2015 saw us gather at the Kingston-on-Murray Caravan Park. We had six vans present and our numbers were brought up by day trippers. We enjoy the park at KOM as it is well laid out and is well managed. Friday was set-up day and we finished off in style by going to the Cobby Club for dinner that night. Saturday saw a number of us attend a local garage sale where we even bought some treasures. After we returned to camp, we had smoko and then got stuck into the usual activities. After a communal tea, we ran our trading table and played bingo. Sunday was time to break camp and wend our various ways home. It was good to see that this little park is starting to attract more visitors. Our April rally will take us to Burra Gorge and this will be a four-day bush camp. At this stage we are not sure if fire restrictions will have been lifted but we will be prepared for whatever is on offer. Our May rally will be at the Centofanti property at Eckert's Creek from the 8th to 10th. Who knows, we might even manage to catch some yabbies.

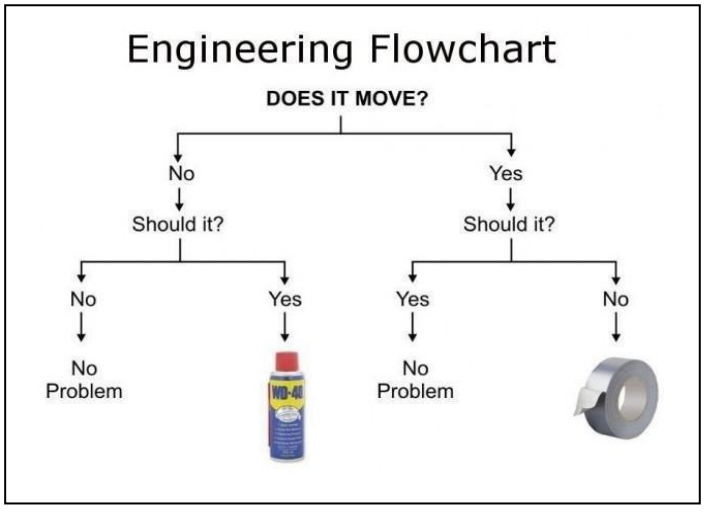
RALLY REPORTS

JAYCO CARAVAN CLUB

Wallaroo – North Beach 13th – 15th February 2015 13 vans	Some arrived at the ever expanding town of Wallaroo late on a warm Thursday afternoon and got set up just in time for happy hour. Later a cool breeze came in and most of us wandered down to the beach to watch the sunset. Friday and Saturday were both very warm days and small groups of members drove to adjacent towns or jetties only to find other small groups of members with the same idea, although by Saturday afternoon most were hibernating in their vans with the air-con on! Happy hour was postponed until 6pm hoping for some relief from the heat which didn't arrive, but it didn't spoil the great atmosphere. Park managers Michael and Alex put on a terrific BBQ for the club and provided all the meats. Sunday was quite cool in comparison and we all enjoyed the club's pancake breakfast. A few vans had either checked out or moved to other destinations, while the majority had a Birthday lunch with Gail at The Coopers Alehouse down by the Marina. On return we were welcomed with very high winds and sandblasting from the beach so quite a few decided it was time for their annexes to come down. Later that evening the wind had dropped and the temp cooled to the mid 20s which was quite welcome after yesterday's mid 40s. At happy hour the cold meat and snags left over from the BBQ were soon consumed. By early evening the club had split into two groups (guys and girls) the girls went off to the TV room to watch House of Hancock, while the guys just put the world to right over a few more beers and wines, happy hour finally came to end around 11pm, all in all another great rally.
Berri 6th – 9th March 23 vans	Once again we went to Berri for the long weekend in March, it is a great place for a rally as it is well grassed with plenty of space for us all. A group went out to the Lavender Farm on Friday and came back with many of their products. Another excursion was to the Overland Corner Hotel where they took a historic walk around the area finding many things of interest from yesteryear. Happy hour Friday night brought us all together under a big area of shady trees. President Bob welcomed a new couple to the Club and presented them with their name badge. Saturday morning was the obligatory walk into town seeking a bakery, coffee shop and farmers market and people came back with all sorts of fruit, vegetables and bargains. Many of us went to the Berri Golf Club for Saturday night dinner and the meal was enjoyed by all. When we returned from the golf club, we had a "girls only" movie night in the recreation room. This was a film about Beatrix Potter loaned to us by the Park Managers and advised that it was a bit of a weepy film and blokes would find it boring. It was a great movie and along with drinks and chips, we had a good night. Sunday morning the Committee were up bright and early preparing a delicious breakfast of fruit, juice, eggs, bacon and toast for the members in readiness for our AGM. Everyone seemed to enjoy this great spread and we then had a very successful meeting with several new faces elected to the 2015 Committee. The rest of the day was spent at leisure as the temperature was a comfortable mid 20s and a lot went walking along the lovely tracks beside the river. Being a holiday Monday a lot of people had a good sleep in but a few of us hit the road back to town. As always, it was a good rally.

COROMAL CARAVAN CLUB

McLaren Vale	Thursday dawned clear and cool and most had arrived by the end of the day. As usual happy hour was a lot of fun and laughter. Paul and Marg had sussed out the local eating houses and had booked us in at Bracegirdle's. We discussed whether Sunday lunch might be better but for now left it at Saturday night tea. Maybe we'll try Sunday lunch next time. Next day was so hot that most either stayed inside their air conditioned vans, found somewhere just as cool or donned bathers and headed for the pool. However as the day began to cool we all emerged ready for tea. Marg had originally booked to sit outside at Bracegirdles as there was only limited room inside, however due to the heat, the staff were very obliging and managed to seat everyone inside in the air conditioning Alas, like all our club rallies' we were reluctant to go home and would have loved to have moved on to a new spot to continue the fun. But since that's not practical we look forward to seeing you all at Victor.



HON TONY PICCOLO MP

Government of South Australia

Ref: MR814D0265

RECEIVED
31 OCT 2014
BY:

Mr Jon Gee MP
Member for Napier
PO Box 144
SMITHFIELD SA 5114

Dear Mr Gee

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July 2014, regarding safety chains and tow bar laws for caravans. I subsequently met with Mr Jones, Vice President of the Association of Caravan Clubs of South Australia on the 24 September 2014.

I can advise the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) have contacted the relevant authorities in both Queensland and New South Wales and all other Australian Jurisdictions regarding this matter. Representatives from each jurisdiction confirmed that it is not a legislated requirement for D shackles to meet an Australian Standard.

DPTI is fully aware of interstate publications including recommendations to fit rated D shackles but stress it is a recommendation, not a legislated requirement.

Many modern towbars are now designed so that the safety chain attaches directly to the towbar eliminating the need for a D shackle which over time will see the use of D shackles reduced.

It has not been possible to substantiate the claim made by Mr Jones about the coroner's comments in regard to a motorist with a trailer that came adrift and killed a motorcyclist. Currently, no Australian road authority is aware of any crash caused by the failure of a D shackle, correctly used and in good condition, whether rated or not.

The issue of legislating rated D shackles and need for consistent information between jurisdictions has been raised by DPTI with the Commonwealth and all jurisdictions for discussion at the October 2014 Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board meeting.

An outcome of this meeting will be for all jurisdictions to provide consistent advice for caravan and trailer users on how to purchase appropriate shackles throughout Australia and further discuss the need for mandating rated D shackles.

If you or Mr Jones have any evidence of accidents being caused by unrated D shackles please bring it to our attention.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tony Piccolo MP
Minister for Road Safety

30 / 10 / 2014

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ACCSA PRESIDENTS SEEK AN ANSWER……

There has been much discussion about the use of rated d-shackles when towing. There is a Facebook scam which is gaining some traction about Police in Queensland issuing fines for non-compliance with legislation.
Last year ACCSA President Reg and Vice President Ron met with Hon Tony Piccolo MP (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Road Safety in the South Australian Government) and through Ron's local member John Gee asked "the question" about rated shackles.
The full letter in response is above, but the relevant paragraphs are:

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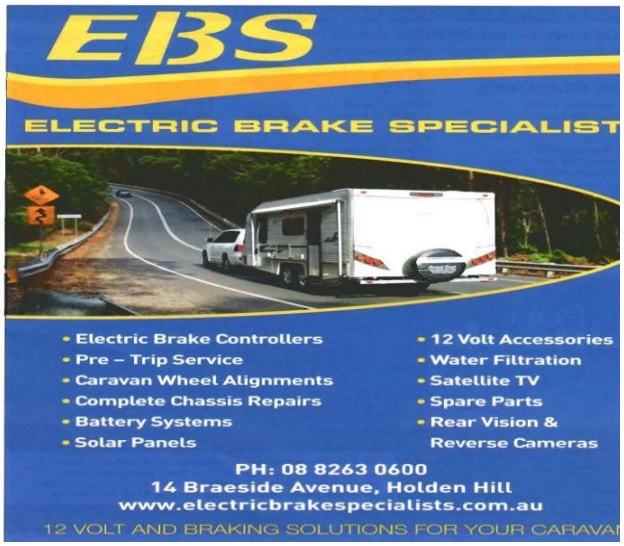


Sheila walked into the kitchen to find Bruce stalking around with a fly swatter.

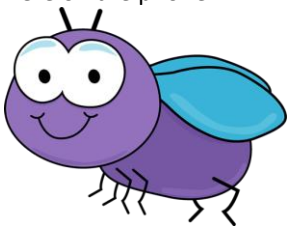
"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting Flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked. "Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."



NOW AVAILABLE

Aluminium (Screw or rivet fix) - $15 ea
Self-adhesive vinyl - $12 ea

Signs available from ACCSA Treasurer at bi-monthly Delegates meetings or by mail (P & H applies)

Contact: accsatreasurer@yahoo.com.au or 0413 596 852

Spaghetti Cupcakes

INGREDIENTS:

5 eggs – lightly beaten
2 cups cheese
1 can spaghetti
(for variation try varieties – bolognese, extra cheesy)

METHOD:

Pre-heat oven to 180°
Grease 12 cup muffin tray – set aside

- Combine eggs, spaghetti and about ⅔ of the cheese
- Evenly distribute into muffin cases – about ⅓ cup in each
- Garnish with remaining cheese on top of each 'muffin'

Bake at 180° for 15 minutes.
Serve hot or cold

Many thanks.....

To the Clubs who have volunteered to help out at the State Rally

Caravan Club of SA will be coordinating the sale of raffle tickets across the weekend (3 tickets for $2)
Wanderers & **Barossa Valley** Clubs will be serving complimentary morning and afternoon tea & coffee
Southern Cross will manage & coordinate the Disc Bowls program on Saturday afternoon
Elizabethan and **Jayco Jaybirds** will help with cooking of our communal Pancake breakfast on Sunday

As always the members of the **ACCSA Executive** committee will be on hand to answer queries and take part in official duties. Ron, Bob & Frank will also be impressing with their skills as BBQ chefs for our lunch on Saturday.

Hon Robert Brokenshire (Member of Legislative Council, SA) will be our special guest and will deliver the Address at the Opening Ceremony in the marquee at 10am on Saturday.