Association of Caravan Clubs, SA

The Journal

www.accsa.asn.au

Apr/May/June 2015

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From The President:

The 2015 State rally has now passed and I feel I should time to thank those who assisted in making it such a successful rally.
Firstly, I must thank the ACCSA Executive. Trudy, Bob, Ron, Frank & Judi have been working on this event for the past 12 months. I must also thank the ladies in our lives Marlene, Lyn, Marie and Beverley.
I was also very pleased to have the assistance of representatives from our member Clubs. The coffee and tea was run by the Wanderers and Barossa clubs, Keith Thompson managed the bbq with Andy, Margaret and Marlene organizing the business end. John Baans controlled disc bowls.
The pancakes were cooked by Anne, Karen and Brian from the Jaybirds with Norm, Steve and Barry from Elizabethan CC. Thank you all once again.

Cheers, Reg

From The Editor:

This edition of the Journal is about a month or so later than the advertised publication date. This is due to your aging editor going several rounds with the health system and finally resulting in a total knee replacement.
Thereafter followed rehab and difficulty sitting at a computer……. Grrr – it's not a process I've had any fun with.
Our apologies if the lateness of the Journal has caused any inconvenience, but we will catch up with all your rally reports by publication of an extra edition if we need to.
Club Secretaries/Delegates: Please remember to circulate this Journal to all your Club members so that they can take advantage of the services offered by our sponsors.

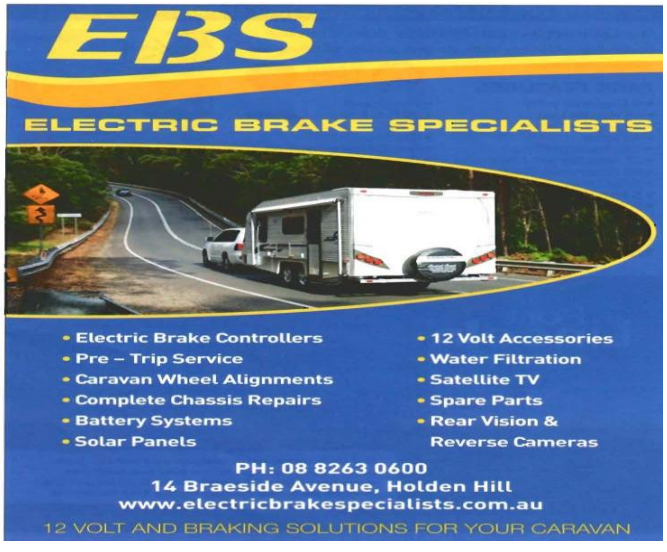
Happy trails, Judi

Next ACCSA Delegates Meeting

Wednesday
5th August 2015
at **7.30pm**
Annual General Meeting
Election of Officers

Walkerville RSL Hall
98 Walkerville Tce
Walkerville

All Welcome!
Supper will be provided



Turning Vehicle Sign

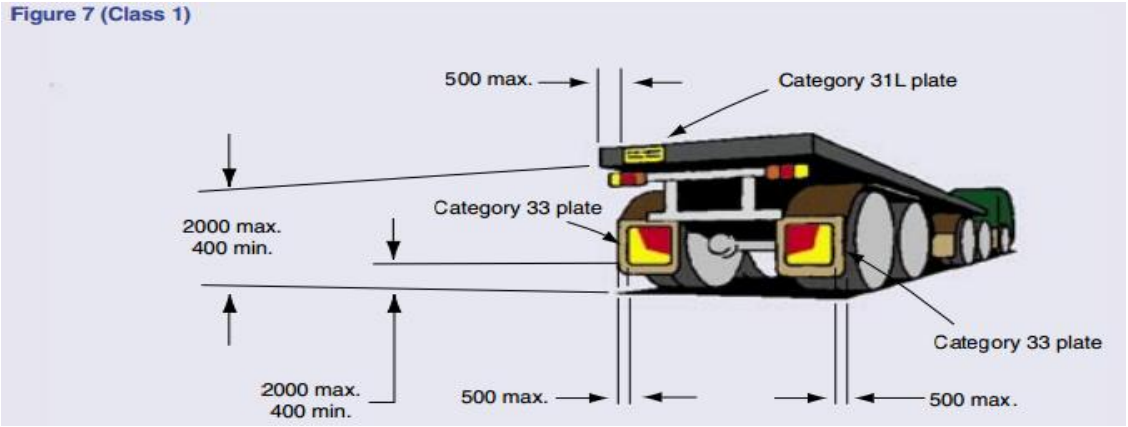
If your vehicle (meaning the towing vehicle together with the trailer and projecting load) is 7.5 metres long or longer, you may have the sign "Do not overtake turning vehicle" displayed at the rear of the rearmost vehicle. This can be either a separate sign or the words can be incorporated on either the left hand marking plate only, or both left and right plates. By having this sign attached to the rear of your vehicle, other following vehicles must give way to you.

Please note that if your vehicle (meaning the towing vehicle together with the trailer and projecting load) needs to straddle lanes or turn from an adjacent lane in order to turn left or right at intersections, and it is 7.5 metres long or longer, you must have the sign "DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE". Not having "DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE" sign on these vehicles is illegal. **The "DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE" sign must not be displayed in certain jurisdictions where a vehicle (or combination) is less than 7.5m long.**

Installation requirements – Class 1, Class 1A and Class 2 marking plates:

- A vehicle must not be fitted with a mixture of Class 1 and Class 2 retro-reflective marking plates.
- Rear marking plates are to be located on a rear, near-vertical surface.
- Pairs of marking plates should be positioned symmetrically about the centreline of the vehicle and at the same height from the ground.
- It is recommended that for vehicles over 7.5 metres long, the "DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE" sign be fitted, either as a separate sign located on the left hand side or incorporated in the left hand side marking plate. If such a vehicle (meaning the towing vehicle together with the trailer and load) will need to straddle lanes when turning, then it must be fitted.
- It is not permitted to fit categories of rear marker plates containing the text "DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE" (i.e. 'Legend' plates 34, 31L and 33L) to vehicles with an overall length less than 7.5m, other than to the trailer or semitrailer of an articulated combination, where the total articulated vehicle length will exceed 7.5m when coupled.
- Rear marking plates should not be bent to suit the contour of a non-flat mounting surface.
- Cutting of the marking plate to suit a restricted space or to span fixed and moveable sections of the vehicle should be avoided and alternative styles of marking plates should be considered. Where cutting is unavoidable, any resulting gap between the sections of the plate should not exceed 10mm after installation.
- Class 1 retroreflective material must be applied to the required backing material made of aluminium and complying with AS1734. Application directly to the vehicle is also permitted. Class 1A plates have been developed for these situations and are permitted in the 2003 Australian Standard.
- Australian Standard AS4001.2 – 2003 contains additional information about the installation of retroreflective rear marking plates.

Figure 7 (Class 1)



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

This information was supplied by Cormac Waters from Halls Towbars who spoke at a recent delegates meeting. Many thanks.

HALL TOWBARS
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Jayco Jaybirds

SWAN REACH CARAVAN PARK 35-39 Victoria St, Swan Reach, SA 13-15 March 2015	All had arrived by late afternoon on Friday so a vote was taken and off to the local pub we went for an afternoon drink. The hotel was lovely and the view over the river from the hotel balcony was magnificent, not to mention the beer was very good too! Alas all good things come to an end so we headed back to the vans for happy hour. The caravan park although small, has lots of room to spread out making it easy to find a nice shady spot for happy hour(s). The amenities were basic and according to the ladies were decorated akin to a farms barn? Adjacent to our make shift camp was an old wood Bar-B-Q that attracted all the fire bugs, the charge led by Peter who displayed he knew his craft and in no time had coals ready for cooking. The evening meal was had and a few more drinks to wet the whistle and off to bed we all went. Saturday morning greeted us with beautiful weather, breakfast out of the way and all present attended to their various agendas. Anne & Don went kayaking until the speed boats drove them off the river and Norm and Sandra departed on a day's safari into the unknown. As the day wore on the temperature rose into the thirties. The town offers little apart from water sports so several members departed on an afternoon drive, while others tinkered with their vans and some made like lizards and had Nana naps. All returned late afternoon in time for happy hour. Much bribery and corruption was had prior to our induction into the club (I think I still owe money somewhere) then we wished Anne happy birthday prior to heading to the local hotel for our evening meal. A few more drinks, a lovely meal, singing happy birthday to Anne, cutting of the traditional cake and judging by the conversation everyone had a great time. A short walk home from the hotel and into bed for an other good nights sleep. Sunday morning greeted us with wet everything, it rained during the night, but no damage was had. Margaret and I watched as all but Norm & Sandra pack up to head home (back to work), the fortunate four were staying another night and driving home on Monday. The weekend was gone all too quick but a lot of fun was packed into the hours we had and most of the World's problems had been solved.
McLaren Vale Lakeside Caravan Park, 10th to 12th April 2015 **A Newbie's Perspective** * This rally report has been inserted in full as the Editor thought that the *Newbie's Perspective* would be of value to many seasoned Club members.	Tony and I had made initial enquiries about the Jayco Caravan Club when we first ordered our van and after making further enquiries once we were van owners we were placed on a "waiting list". Sometime later we were advised that a second club was going to be formed and were given the date of the AGM; unfortunately we were unable to attend the meeting and then life just seemed to get in the way. Once the new club was formed we received a few emails, which luckily I'd kept, and contacted Keith in February this year when I was laid up, literally, after surgery. Nothing like 6 weeks enforced rest to put life in perspective and prioritise! We were warned by quite a few seasoned "caravanners" to avoid Caravan Clubs like the plague, we were told we would have to wear matching shirts and caps and a bell would be rung to round us all up for Happy Hour and various other activities. Well I'm happy to report that this just wasn't the case, there was no bell ringing and no wearing of matching anything! I'm so happy about that because I'm not really into wearing matching outfits - it's the one thing that worries me about going to heaven……wearing matching shroudsJ!!!! Seriously though, we were welcomed with open arms to the group and we couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people to spend a weekend with. Hopefully, our membership is accepted and we'll happily look forward to spending many more weekends with you all. The McLaren Vale Caravan Park was great, with beautiful roomy grass sites, although it was mentioned that we probably shouldn't have had to pay for a site as we'd encroached that far onto Alison & Keith's. Sorry "peeps", we'll try to make sure that doesn't happen again but we can't promise. On that note we'd like to say a special thankyou to Keith for lending us an extra water hose – in our haste to be so close to the Greenlees our water hose couldn't quite reach our van; apparently that's a trap for new players!! We enjoyed a wonderful night of food and fun with a shared casserole night organised for Friday night, it was a veritable feast! Saturday dawned and breakfast seemed to run into morning tea and lunch was looming, I was feeling a little uncomfortable and a tad embarrassed as at this stage I was still sporting my PJ's and hadn't had a shower…..another trap for new players it would seem! Once this tardy situation was rectified we tagged along with Polly, Peter, Lin and Phil and went to a few wineries and managed to drop some cash on a bottle of very tasty port from Chapel Hill Winery. Saturday night saw a large group of us at the McLaren Vale Hotel where we had a lovely dinner and it was at this point that I was seriously starting to worry how I was ever going to keep my svelte figure when it seemed all I was doing was stuffing my face!! Sunday morning it was a little sad as everybody was packed up and leaving with the exception of Sandra and Norm and ourselves. We all managed to amuse ourselves for the day with Tony and myself heading to Port Willunga to share fish and chips from the Star of Greece. This experience was recommended to us by friends and I have to say we weren't disappointed, the view from the cliff top was amazing and the chips were without a doubt the best I've ever had! We then did a "reccy" of the Port Willunga Caravan Park to see what will be awaiting us in November….apart from another trip to Star of Greece! On returning to the park we shared Happy Hour with Sandra and Norm and as I was feeling like a true "caravanner" at this stage I asked another couple if they'd like to join us. That's a story for another day – they have travelled Australia for the past 14 years working in Caravan Parks and kept us entertained with their tales. In a nutshell that's our introduction to Jaybirds and we'd like to thank you all for making us feel so welcome and accepted as part of the group. We've sent our membership form off and you just never know…..it may be approved and we'll get to do it all again!

Jayco Jaybirds (cont)

ACCSA State Rally **Beachfront Caravan Park, Victor Harbor** 1st to 3rd May 2015	The weather was beautiful, after a cold and wet April, we were so very lucky, warm weather. Only 4 caravans from the Jayco Jaybirds attended. Registration was at 3 pm and having not seen Lynne, we asked the organisers, who indicated that she was on the site next to Anne but this was not the case, she was later found to have an ensuite site as park management had given her site away . At registration, we were given official rally badges which we were told had to be worn at all times. Happy hour saw Brian arrive (Brian had to work and so arrived later). This was held in a huge marquee, with tea and coffee provided. We did not go to the film evening, but lingered around Brian and Anne's caravan where we had our evening meal, hot dishes followed by hot apple crumble. Brian had brought their electric outdoor heater with lights which was a boon on a cool evening. Some of us thought this is a really great way to provide lighting and heating and is a lot lighter than a gazebo. The official opening was on Saturday morning, with a flag raising ceremony with a very good opening address by Robert Brokenshire, MLC, about the importance of "caravaners" on the economy of areas and welcomed us to Victor Harbour. They also raised flags and they had some very serious flag poles with one or two with gold coloured knobs (sorry I don't know the technical term for these) at the top. As we didn't have a flag pole available we decided not to raise ours. There was registration for disc bowls and the organisers were seeking females so Anne and Karen accepted the challenge. The schedule was very full and we decided to be a bit flexible and went off to find the farmers market, which was quite nice. We also took a trip to the shops and a nice drive around the foreshore. Lunch was next with some attending the barbecue At bowls, Anne did quite well except for knocking the jack out of the rink , Karen was 2 feet short and threw one of the discs out of the court. Needless to say we were knocked out in the first round. From 3-5 there was Disc bowls very interesting and Karen and Anne represented our club (we need more practise). After happy hour there was the Rally dinner which was catered for (not as good as the one that Inga organised in Normanville) There was plenty of food roast beef, chicken and several different deserts. On Sunday Anne, Karen and Brian helped with the cooking of the pancakes. After which the raffles were drawn. None of our group was successful. 11 am closing ceremony and lowering of the flags. Even though we were a very small group, we enjoyed ourselves, Had to laugh when somebody suggested to Karen that we were a breakaway group, Karen explained that we are a new group because there was no room in the Jayco club and we had only been going for 10 months. The Rally was very interesting showing some of the groups with uniforms names and numbers on vans and other things to identify them.

Elizabethan Caravan Club

Port Willunga Rally Early March 2015	Friday night was a communal dinner in the camp kitchen. After dinner we sat around and had a most enjoyable night just. Saturday morning we had breakfast and then made our way down to the Port Willunga Market day, With some going back to the Park, others went off to have lunch and a bit of shopping then back to the park. In the later part of Saturday afternoon with a few platters laid out we sat around have a chat, Harry, Barry & a few others cooked the BBQ for us to have dinner, this was put on by the club and was enjoyed by all. After dinner most of us sat around enjoying each other's company, this went on till around 10pm when it was time to call it a night. Sunday it was time for our farewell & goodbye. Park was friendly and accommodating.
Balaklava Caravan Park April 10th to 12th 2015 Powered site cost $28	We had 5 vans arrive by Thursday with a further 6 arriving Friday. In all we had 10 member vans in attendance plus a Visitor, Thelma with trusty dog Spencer. The weather was very kind over the whole weekend (thanks Jude for ordering such good weather). Saturday morning saw us gathering in the camp kitchen for a byo communal breakfast at 9am. At 11am we went off into a local cafe for coffee and cake, at which time Charlie & Raelene had arrived to spend a couple of hours with us ahead of Raelene's operation later this month. The afternoon was spent very pleasantly with the group sitting around under the shade of the trees. The ladies busy with some crocheting & chatting and the boys getting stuck into a disc bowls tournament and having a great time. The competition was intense but Andy and Ian somehow managed to win! At 6pm we all gathered in the camp kitchen for a soup and bread meal which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the atmosphere was brilliant. Many remained after the meal and the ladies played trivial pursuit for some while which they all enjoyed. Sunday morning Gary the park caretaker, with help from his family cooked us a wonderful breakfast of Eggs, Bacon Sausages, Baked Beans, Toast & Tea/Coffee. They also provided Fruit Juices & Cereals. This was enjoyed by all. Following breakfast we held our Farewell & Goodbye gathering at which The Last trophy was presented to Andy and Norm was the lucky recipient of the Nearly Trophy for his demonstration of how to clean your soup bowl using only your tongue. Barry & Sue were presented with their 25 rally badges by Anne also. Anne and Merv were then farewelled as they start their "Life on the Road". We wish them safe and happy travels. All agreed this had been a brilliant Rally and we now look forward to the state rally next month.

Southern Cross Caravan Club

Tanunda Caravan Park 27th-29th March. 10 vans & 2 cabins. Powered site fees were $31-50 with Club Discount.	The park was very busy with 3 big groups including us. Park management had a female singer and band perform on Thurs. 26th. On Friday night we had dinner at the Vine Hotel in the main street which was very good. Saturday and Sunday remained relatively free as we were supposed to go on a 5 winery poker run organised by the Park Management but it didn't happen for various reasons so we had out own mini poker run by placing 5 packs of cards on a table at Happy Hour and members took one card each from the piles. Best hand and runner up won prises. Management did come good with 2 bottles of wine. Saturday night some of our members attended an outdoor movie night in the park and the rest played cards in the Club Gazebo. Sunday morning management put on a pancake breakfast with lavish servings of various jams. fruit salad and a big bowl of whipped cream. Sunday afternoon some of us crossed the road to a brewery come café and had a lovely time sampling German Beers. We usually have a fish and chip dinner on the Sunday night but the local fish and chip shop closed at 3 pm so the Club purchased sausages and we also made our own hamburgers which were cooked on a BBQ provided by management. In all a good rally and good weather. Our next rally will be at Victor Harbor for the Sate Rally.

Riverland Caravan Club

	Burra Gorge: This was a four-day rally. Unfortunately, we only had two vans able to make the trip. The camp areas are extensive and provide excellent bush camping facilities. The camping area is only two hours from Barmera and is well provided with rubbish bins. Toilet facilities are also available. We did various day trips, going to Burra one day and down through the farming country to Eudunda another day. **State Rally:** We were represented at the Victor Harbour meeting by the Parrottas and Jones's. Both couples enjoyed this rally and commented that it gave them an opportunity to meet members from other clubs. Ray & Gino had special reason to enjoy it as they won the disc bowls competition. **Eckert's Creek:** Our May rally was held at Andrew Centofanti's property at Eckert's Creek from the 15th to 17th. We had five vans attending and people seemed to have plenty to do to entertain themselves. **June Rally:** **Our June rally will be held at the Cobdogla Caravan Park. Dates are June 12th to 14th.**

Coromal Caravan Club

BLACK COCKATOO (near Naracoorte) Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th April 2015	The Meades arrived Tuesday about 2.00pm and were directed to "the grassed area" near a good little open shed style shelter with a big steel fire box. Then Mortons arrived at 4.00pm and Snowballs about 5.00pm. There were only a couple of other stayers at the camp while we were there. Black Cockatoo is a working sheep property and pretty dry at present. There are many old, huge gum trees for shade, a fenced water hole and a 3 km bush walk through a fenced conservation area. The sites are level and there are numerous fire pits over a large area. No road noise. The facilities were about 100 metres from our sites - about 8 showers and 5 toilets built in a bush style. They were VERY clean and practical and the owners had thought of everything. Lots of very hot (but hard) water at all times. The owners are Liz and Ken. Very friendly. Liz collects the $10 a head per night and Ken markets the firewood $10 a bag. Ken's ute is almost always in sight as he cruises his domain. It was after 5 so no mucking about, straight into happy hour. It was cool with a breeze so we rugged up around the fire. Wednesday day morning we were all very happy with our hot showers and slow breakfast then off for the 3 km bush walk. The guys saw some wallabies but there weren't a lot of birds. Decided to go to Naracoorte Caves and have lunch at their cafe. We all went in the Snowballs 4wd. The baked potatoes, soup and homemade lamb pies were all excellent. There were several sign posted bushwalks from the caves which would be nice to do on another occasion. Our tour took from 2.15 to about 3.30 with a good guide and everyone enjoyed it. Brian was keen to show us Bool Lagoon which is a short drive away from the caves. It turned out to be Bool DRY Lagoon but we got beautiful extensive views from Big Hill then home for a nice happy hour with Barbara's home baking and Bundaberg Liqueur Rum. After tea Brian led a spider hunt which also revealed squadrons of huge bull ants. John must have taken one back to the van because at midnight all lights were blazing as he tried to find the culprit that had bitten him 3 times. Kaye was uninvolved.

	Thursday Meades and Snowballs went 4 wheel driving at Little Desert Conservation Park which was about 30 kms away. It was a lovely trip with some beautiful autumn colour along the way. BIRDS SPOTTED Currawong, New Holland Honeyeater, Plover, Noisy Miner, Magpie .Crimson Rosella (immature), Eastern Rosella, Superb Blue Wren, Welcome Swallow

Dave Benson Caravan Club

EDITHBURGH CARAVAN PARK 13th-20th February 2015 $20 Night with club discount (Great value) 11 vans, 1 vistor van + day visitors	Most vans arrived on the Friday, with our meet and greet to catch up with members. We had visitors to the club, to see if we are nice people to mix with, I think we are. So hoping to see them again and maybe join the club. The weather for the week was a mix of hot, windy and cool. So our happy hours were at different points in the caravan park depending on the weather. Jetty fishing was enjoyed by quite a few members during the week. Only small number of fish caught as it was a dodge tide on the weekend and a new moon. But still managed a few feeds. BBQ on Saturday, very pleasant evening in the warm sun. During the week we had lunch at Marie's Delights in Yorketown, pies and pasties served with very nice salad,$6,excellent value. Mid week lunch was had at the Troubridge Hotel Edithburgh Special board for $9.90 plus main menu. Another good meal at very good prices. Shrove Tuesday was pancakes for breakfast, we managed to blow the fuse in the camp kitchen with 4 of our hot plates going. Soon fixed after a visit to the office. The op shops in town got a visit, also a ladies boutique which was having a closing down sale. So a few items bought. Trips around the area on different days. On one evening at Bundy Club, a member was having a hot Bundy flavoured mince pie and the bottom fell out of it burning his bare leg. Another member came to the rescue and poured that members Bundy over his leg. Worked a treat as no burns the next day One of our members got to try out a Gopher from a park resident. He was very kind and let him have a go. Maybe the mode of travel a bit later in life. Members left on different days throughout the week, with most on Friday. Good rally at a lovely park with nice grassed sites. Couldn't ask for better value for your dollar. Next rally over to Victoria for 2 1/2 weeks middle of March.
VICTORIAN RALLY 7 Different Caravan Parks 13th March 1st April 2015 $20 to $33 a night 6 Vans	Nhill first stop, arriving mid afternoon. All vans stayed hitched up as only an overnight stay. Nice little park just glad it was dry and not wet as it was dirt sites. Catch up time with members until we had tea. Nice easy drive with a bit of sightseeing on the way to the next park in Stawell. All vans next to the lake, with grassed sites. Happy hour overlooking the lake followed by BBQ tea for everybody. Next day brunch in the camp kitchen followed by our club meeting. Had one member killing European wasps and another playing the piano before the meeting started. Afternoon drives to Halls Gap & Mackenzie Falls. Ballarat next stop with most arriving midday. Saw some very nice classic cars with matching trailers on the drive over. Drives around town for the afternoon, followed by late happy hour. A treat of individual pavlovas topped with cream, kiwi fruit, strawberries and chocolate flakes handed out. Next 3 days sightseeing at, Sovereign Hill, Eureka Stockade, Wenderee Lake & botanical gardens, old cemetery. Some went back to Sovereign Hill for the sound and light show at night, great show worth the money. One couple had to go to pick up a new puppy from Melbourne airport. A boxer from New Zealand for the show circuit. Lovely puppy, who got to know us quite well by the end of the trip. A good 4 1/2 days in a town with lots of history. Barwon Heads home of the TV program Seachange. Geelong waterfront for a ride on the 120 year old carousel, had to spread us around the ride to keep the weight even. Torquay & Anglesea With a look at the Anglesea Lighthouse. Bells Beach getting ready for the surf championships. Weather was a bit cooler at the end of the stay than it had been but still a good time had. 3 nights then at Apollo Bay after a great drive along The Great Ocean Road. Good sites with a view of the sea. Weather warmed up nicely here but a bit of rain overnight. Trips to the Otway Forest, lighthouse. Saw a Koala eating ferns on the side of the road, most unusual. Little bit of fishing done with a few caught. Next stop Port Fairy with a stop on the way at the cheese factory in Warrnambool. Nice grassed sites at the caravan park. Little bit of fishing again, followed by BBQ tea. The resident possum had a feed when it got dark. Boat ride out on the bay the following day, then back to watch a squid boat unloading its catch of 20 tonne. Very large specimens. Sightseeing up to the extinct volcano. Final 2 nights in Mount Gambier. Nice park fully grassed only few minutes to town. Pancake breakfast in camp kitchen, plenty to go around. Then lunch in town at one of the hotels to round off the trip. Very good meals for $14.A few early starts to head home the following day so goodbyes said after tea. All in all a very good rally with lots of fun things done and mostly good autumn weather, only a little rain. Next rally to Meningie in May.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Association of Caravan Clubs, SA** will be held on Wednesday 5th August at our usual venue, RSL Hall 98 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville.

All committee positions will be declared vacant so please give consideration to whether you or someone from your Club can contribute to the betterment of caravanning in South Australia through service on the ACCSA Executive.

Several of the current committee have indicated that they will **NOT** be re-nominating so our need is real.

Wanderers Caravan Club

Port Pirie Beach 19th – 23rd June Cost per night… $35.00 Less 10% Number of Vans…16	Friday: Arrival of members for a new idea of an extended rally, this was from Friday till Tuesday. This proved to be popular and a good turnout for a winter Rally. After the usual meet and greet, the afternoon was spent exploring the town and getting supplies also refueling their vehicles. We all went to the Sportsmen's Hotel for an evening meal. The food was reasonable in cost, but very plentiful and delicious. Saturday: Free day to do your own thing. Then in the evening we went to a hall we had hired, where the ladies of our club supplied various casseroles, this went down rather well as it was a very cold night. After the meal we were entertained with home movies of a cruise around Asia Sunday: A Sunday drive up into the Flinders Ranges, picnic lunch and a four wheel drive return to camp via the Bridle trail. The evening was topped off with a communal bbq and salads. Monday: Another organized drive into and around the Flinders Ranges, followed by a quiet evening. Tuesday: Fond farewell to those leaving and for those staying on, a return visit to the hotel, for another excellent meal. Overall impression: Great weekend spoilt only by the attitude of the management. Very abrupt and non friendly attitude. The park could do with a bit of a tart up as it is looking a bit tired. Also a camp kitchen would be a great asset.

Caravan Club of SA

Kapunda	We arrived at Kapunda late afternoon, only the Hofland's were still to arrive. Tammy tells me she was first, which was also a first for her. Saturday Luke & William went firewood hunting for extra wood. In the afternoon the members visited Sir Sidney Kidman's homestead which is now part of the High School. It was originally built by Mr A Greenshields in 1876 for 4,000 pounds after his death it was purchased by Sir Kidman and renamed "Eringa" in 1904 a serious fired engulfed the homestead and major repairs had to be done to restore it to its former glory. In his heyday Sir Kidman owned 100,000 square acres of land an area greater than the state of Victoria. In 1921 he donated the homestead to the Kapunda education Dept .where today it is the Admin Ctr for the High School. The building was beautiful, highly decorative ceilings and ornamental fire places and lead lighting windows the tour was informative and members attending enjoyed it. Back at the Park the fire was burning so that the spuds could be encased in hot coals for our evening meal. They were very filling with the contribution by members. Thanks to both Peter's for looking after the fire pit. Sunday the men had a game of golf no one told me their scores (it's a secret) while the ladies did their own thing. Sandra made muffins for us all and in the afternoon we all looked over the mines which now had marked trails and info boards. It was a good weekend with everyone joining in activities and sitting around talking. The weather - we could not have asked for better especially Saturday. The park sites have improved, we finished the weekend with a combined dinner at the Hotel unfortunately we did not get to see underneath the hotel where the early miners came to eat but maybe next time.

Where is the next National Caravan Clubs Rally?

The 16th National Rally of the Caravan Clubs of Australia, will be held at the Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), situated on Flemington Road Mitchell, in the Australian Capital Territory, from Monday 19 to Wednesday 28 September 2016.
EPIC is just a short distance from the main Canberra city centre. This is a modern complex with large comfortable buildings at visitors disposal.

All evening activities at the rally will be held in a large air-conditioned building.

This building may be familiar to visitors as it was the National Tally Room in the recent federal election.

Everything you need will be on site.
There is even a service station and a McDonalds attached to the site.

Jayco Caravan Club

MCLAREN VALE LAKESIDE CARAVAN PARK (Council Owned) (Note – Official book in time is 2.00pm, although we had no trouble booking in earlier) 17th – 18th April 22 vans attending.	This park is well laid out with sealed roads and well grassed sites, charges were $29.70 per night with club discount. One disappointing feature was the lack of hand rails for the disabled in both the toilets & showers, even more disappointing was the response one of our members got when she mentioned this to the office staff. Unfortunately the weather was cool & wet both Friday & Saturday but as usual club members made the best of it by visiting the obligatory bake house, coffee shops & wineries. Saturday night most of our members went to the McLaren Vale Hotel where we were well catered for. This weekend coincided with the McLaren Vale Vintage & Classic car rally which was held on Sunday, thankfully the rain had stopped by then. After a run down the main street the various car groups spread out to 11 wineries, where people had plenty of time to admire the cars whilst being entertained with good food, music and wines. Plenty of talk was generated amongst our members at happy hour as everyone discussed where they went. Happy hour was conducted at the camp kitchen each night where clean BBQ's Kettles & Fridges were available, as the main seating area was in an open sided covered area it was a bit uncomfortable in the cold conditions we encountered. The club arranged for late book outs for members which allowed time to pack up then make a quick walk into the town centre for a last minute shop or coffee before heading off home again
DISCOVERY HOLIDAY PARK – CLARE 16th - 18th May 23 Vans Fee charged was $38.75 per night (club price)	The Clare park had 90 powered sites all with easy van parking access. They have two social areas developed, one was a large covered area with two BBQ's , two Pizza ovens and a large open fire place that was put to good use each night for happy hour and our members appreciated the open fire each night as it was quite cool in the evenings. The other area was the camp kitchen, fully equipped which we made good use of for our traditional Sunday morning pancake breakfast. As this weekend coincided with the Clare Valley Gourmet weekend, the managers of the park set a minimum of 3 nights for bookings, many of our members extended out to 4 or 5 nights. Those members that arrived early spent their time exploring the area. Mintaro and Burra were high on the list of places to visit both being classified as heritage towns. Highlights of Minarto was the original looking buildings, the Mintaro Maze and Puzzel Shop and the magnificent Martindale Hall. At Burra there was the nice quirky shops, the OLD Copper Mines (one of which in its day was one of the largest copper mines in the world and was the first successful open cut mine when they stopped tunnel mining). The restored railway Station and the antique shops were also worth a visit by those with an interest. The Gourmet Festival was run on Saturday and Sunday with 19 wineries joining in with fine food, wines and live music, with special caterings for lunch and dinner for those who wished to partake. Saturday morning there was a Gourmet market in the town which when combined with some shopping and a visit to an art gallery started the weekend off in the right style. After a weekend of good food, good wine and good company, members started heading home on Monday satisfied they had experienced another great Jayco Club rally.

Pack Camping

Wallaroo 15th – 21st February 5 sites / 3 units	This was scheduled as a weekend away but, because the Tourist Park was booked out, we changed it to cover mainly week days and had a good turnout. Most opted to arrive on the hot Sunday, but Ron & Bev and Ron & Rita were the last to arrive on the Monday and found it tough going trying to hammer pegs into hard ground to secure awnings (as it was very, very, very windy). Pleasant happy hour spent in the Tamblyn/Oxlade unit (out of the wind). We planned some activities for our stay. Also interesting hearing David Baker recount his years serving on the guided missile destroyer HMAS Hobart, both from its commissioning and later conflicts including the Vietnam War. On Tuesday several of us went to the local sporting complex and tried our hands at indoor bias bowls. Lots of fun and good value at two hours for $5/person. Experienced bowlers John & Carol tried to teach us how to do it properly – without success. We all looked good paddling about in socks (they are very particular about protecting the synthetic surface). Free time afterwards until meeting up at the Alehouse for a nice dinner overlooking the marina. On Wednesday Olivers, Cooks, Oxlades & Tamblyns left for home. Others headed for Moonta, after arranging to meet up for the 2pm tourist train ride (Rita having earlier checked with the tourist office that it was running and been told "No need to book, just arrive about 1.45pm and pay the driver." Wayes & Inwoods went via the local croquet club, as Rita wanted to see some of the country pennants match being played there. It turned out Rita knew two of the visiting players but after 30 minutes Bev was none the wiser about the rules (the two Ronnies amused themselves elsewhere). In Moonta we met up with Olivers for lunch, after which John & Carol left for home and the rest of us went to the Museum, intending to finish this tour after the train ride. Rita was not amused to find we couldn't all get on the train as it was full, particularly because she would have booked if it had been necessary. Turned out other tourists also missed out due to there being a large tour group on board. However, the volunteers kindly offered to run a second train at 3.00pm and it was an interesting and informative trip (ended up being 24 people). The late train trippers arrived back at the park just in time for happy hour around the de Jong/Baker sites (and enjoyed a nice breeze in the shade and on lawn). Our stay in this Council-run park was quite pleasant – the young couple managing it are friendly, helpful and do an excellent job.

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