Association of Caravan Clubs, SA

The Journal

www.accsa.asn.au

September/ October 2014

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Next ACCSADelegates Meeting

Wednesday
03 December 2014
at **7.00pm**
Guest speaker from
Can:Do Hearing

Walkerville RSL Hall
98 Walkerville Tce
Walkerville
Please bring a plate of supper to share
All Welcome!

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From the President:

As another year draws to a close, and I reflect on the past 12 months of our Association, I am pleased with what we have achieved. Amongst other things we have

- launched our website,
- attended 2 Directors meetings of the NACC,
- met with politicians, a State government minister and senior public servants
- made most of the arrangements for the State Rally in 2015
- continue to plan our hosting of the 18th National Rally in 2022

This progress has not been made without the considerable efforts of the Executive team and proves that "a champion team is better than a team of champions" and I offer my grateful thanks to this group. In addition, the Club delegates & secretaries who contribute at meetings and provide feedback and a channel to our members must also receive a mention and many thanks for the unselfish way they give of their time.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year with safe travels wherever you may be going.

Reg Merritt *(President)*

STATE RALLY 1st—3rd MAY 2015
VICTOR HARBOR BEACHFRONT HOLIDAY PARK

Victor Harbor Experiences

- Horse Drawn Tram
- Southern Right Whales (May – Oct)
- SA Whale Centre
- Little Penguins
- Cockle Train
- Big Duck Boat Tours
- Urimbirra Wildlife Park
- Greenhills Adventure Park
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Snorkelling
- Diving
- Encounter Bikeway
- Golf
- Regional Produce, Beer & Wine
- Markets (food & craft)
- History – Learn about "The Encounter"
- Art Galleries and Art Trails
- Walking Trails including Heysen Trail

Editor's notes:

We've received much positive feedback about the new format of *The Journal*.

It is however, a work-in-progress as we find better ways of incorporating the rally reports and providing other items of interest in a manageable file size.

Our distribution date is one week prior to the bi-monthly delegates meeting so to hit this target we need your rally reports by the 15th of January, March, May, July, Sept…….

Happy Trails,
Judi

Barossa Valley Caravan & Camping

Laura	8th-11th August	10 vans	$25-00 per night

Highlight was the visit to Golden North Factory with samples.
Visits to Appila Springs and Wirrabara Forest for picnics and happy hours around the camp fire were greatly appreciated. The BBQ tea at the park was accompanied by delicious damper made by Alex & Barb our hosts at the park.

Quorn	12th – 15th Sept.	13 vans	$30.00 per night

Over happy hour in the camp kitchen Norman & Coralie Bee showed a video of the highlights of Quorn & surrounds that we could visit.
Friday night tea was at the Bowling Club. A 3 course meal for $10-00 with choices of hot pots & desserts. Saturday the option was the Pichi Richi Railway trip to Woolshed Flat.
Picnic lunch at Warren Gorge followed by a drive to Proby Grave & Simmonston.

EXTENDED RALLY 15th—21st Sept.	8 vans	Farina—$10-00 per night Merna Mora— $30.00 per night

Farina—Highlights were the walks around the very informative town & cemetery. Camp Oven meals & Quandong Damper. Trip to Marree where one of our members was stationed for 4 years.
Merna Mora—Powered sites are near the homestead & shearing shed. They are shady & have a great camp kitchen, BBQ area and fire pits with food supplied. One day was spent exploring Moralana Drive, Wilpena, Bunyroo & Brachina Gorges. Again Camp Oven Dinner was a highlight of the day & sunset drinks on the airstrip viewing the Pound.

Cobdogla	10 th –13th October		$30.00 per night

Friday lunch time provided the opportunity to catch up at the Waikerie Bakery on the way to Cobdogla. The Park was $30-00 per night & they provided us with a very large lawned area where we could hold our games evening.
The afternoon was spent chatting under the trees and by 6pm we were all ready to go to the Cobby Club for an excellent evening meal. With the Caravan receipt we were given a 20% discount on the meal.
On Saturday morning most of the members went along to the Berri market where various purchases were made. Some did go to Barmera for the Sheep Dog trials.
The meeting / happy hour was held at 4pm followed by a shared BBQ for tea.
The evening entertainment required us to be organised into random pairs to compete in the bouche, sock in the bucket, balloons between the knees, and musical quiz. It is so good to be with such a great group of friends.
On Sunday we all started the morning with a cooked breakfast followed by Rummikub for the ladies and solving the world problems for the men folk.
On Monday the 8 vans moved off for their various destinations.

Dave Benson Caravan Club

Murray Bridge—Avoca Dell 10th - 17th October	7 vans	$29.70 Night with Top Tourist Discount

We had lovely river views being on the lower of 3 levels. Happy hour under one of the awnings as the weather was nice and warm. Very nice homemade chocolate cake for a 79th birthday. All had tea in the camp kitchen dining area which was very comfortable. On Saturday some of the girls went into town, got some nice items from the op shop and 2 toddlers scooters from a garage sale. The "girls" can still ride scooters! BBQ for all at the camp kitchen. Sunday was brunch followed by our AGM. For the rest of the week, some took trips into town, Mannum, Wellington, Narrung, and Karoonda. Members started to leave from Monday onwards, so numbers went down as the week went on. For the last night on Thursday we went to the RSL for dinner. Prices from $13 to $18. It took a while for the meal to arrive but it was most enjoyable when it did. Good value for the money. Very good rally in a good park, even though the weather got cooler from Monday onwards.

Southern Cross Caravan Club

Kapunda	17th - 19th October	14 vans + 1 cabin	$25 /Night with Club Discount

Friday afternoon we had the president's meet and greet followed by our Committee meeting. Tea was at the Sir John Franklin Hotel which had reasonable priced meals which were very nice and quite large. Saturday morning the members wandered around the town answering set questions by the rally officers. In the afternoon we checked out all the vehicles entered in the Kapunda Show'N'Shine which was followed by live entertainment, rock n roll dancing and food & refreshments.
Saturday night we had a communal tea in the parks large camp kitchen followed by the entertainment which was members had to relate 3 experiences, 2 had to be true and 1 had to be false and the other members had to guess which was false. Quite funny and all had a great time.
Sunday was free to explore the town and the area and we had the traditional fish & chip tea back in the camp kitchen.

Keith	14th - 16th November	8 vans + 1 cabin	$28 /Night with Club Discount

The caretaker at Keith Caravan Park was Leanne who worked tirelessly to run a neat & tidy park. On Friday night we attended the Keith Hotel for dinner. The special was steak but all the meals were very nice and reasonably priced. Unfortunately the Club Secretary's order was lost and so was late in being served a meal when everyone else had finished!
On Saturday most explored the town and checked out the shops, the bakeries were especially popular. Keith is a lovely town and people should take out the time to stop and have a look around. In the afternoon we played disc bowls and had our committee meeting. The club supplied a sausage sizzle for tea which was held in the camp kitchen.
The entertainment was a version of scategories and pictionary using city or town names. Sunday was free to tour the area. Some departed for home and the rest returned to the hotel for the roast special. We had a great time and highly recommend Keith as a rally location if you run out of ideas where to take your Club.

Southern Nomads Caravan Club

Mt. Compass 5tn – 7tn September	6 vans	$36 /Night (ensuite site)

Most of the members booked a powered site with an ensuite..
The park was in good condition but the manager was very abrupt, which upset some of the members, so those present decided never to return while this manager is there.
On Saturday some of the members decided to check out the town bakery and walk the wetlands.
After lunch when the members returned some of our more sporty members played Croquet till happy hour. After we all got ready for our dinner at the Golf Club. They put on an excellent meal.
On Sunday we had morning tea and then headed for home.

Coromal Caravan Club

River Murray Rolling Rally 16th – 26th October	6 vans	

On Thursday 16th October 2014 five vans arrived at Caurnamont free camp adjacent to the Purnong Ferry. There were toilets and shade provided by gums and willows.
On the opposite side of the river the cliffs looked spectacular when the sun shone on them. The grand old "Murray Princess" paddle steamer went past that day leaving behind a wake in the form of 'hills' of water.

Friday 17th October

Some travelled across the river as pedestrians on the ferry. A very friendly local couple, who live in the former Purnong G.P.O, .told us about the history of Purnong. We walked around the block returning via the former school, community oval with impressive cricket nets and community hall.

Saturday 18th October

On Saturday we drove to Shell Hill. Last time we went there with the CCC we wandered around the walking tracks but it was too hot this time. Shell Hill is a deposit of oyster shells which in some cases were 6m thick. It is the only one of its type above the surface of the earth in the southern hemisphere and is said to be 5 million years old. There are remains of a crushing plant which was set up in the 1930's to crush the shells to be used in agriculture to break up clay soils and also for road building. Shell Hill was formerly part of a shallow sea occupying the Murray Basin. The plant was closed in 1946.
We continued on to the Swan Reach Caravan Park. It is a very small park with outdated facilities, but the river has a safe swimming area roped off. We went to the Swan Reach Hotel that night for dinner. As it was a warm night we chose to eat on the deck overlooking the river, ferry and campfires across the river in the free camping area. We booked for 7.00pm. The first two meals came early, but we were told shortly afterwards that they should have been delivered to another table. There were then long delays with meals coming out in dribs and drabs. The first meals had long been eaten before the last three arrived. The serves were generous but the timing of the delivery of the meals spoilt the enjoyment of the evening.

Monday 20th October

We packed and moved camp to Cobdogla Station Caravan Park. The Park has drive through sites, lots of green lawn, shade and a swimming pool. The roses were in full bloom and the sprinklers also provided some relief from the daytime maximum temperatures of 39 and 37!! We walked to the Cobby Club for dinner. Our five meals were all delivered in the space of a minute or two and the food, value, service and of course company were excellent.

Wednesday 22nd October

Following some departures, 3 vans arrived at Loxton Caravan Park at 10am- much too early apparently! Happy Hour was held at Rudi and Christa's van and fortunately there was a refreshingly cool breeze at night.

Friday 24th October

Hot again! 36 degrees! We all drove into Loxton in our car for lunch at The Loxton Club where we had a delicious $8 lunch in the beautifully cool air-conditioning. The lunch specials included Wiener Schnitzel, Crumbed Fish and Pork Spare Ribs. The fish was just right and the schnitzels overhung the plate!

Sunday 26th October

All good things must come to an end, so on Sunday morning we set off for Adelaide

Nuriootpa 12tn – 17tn November		

The park was pleasantly shaded and grassed, our gravelled drive-through sites adequate, but the bonus for the club was the exclusive use of an air-conditioned meeting room - most welcome on the 37 and 39 deg days we experienced. Happy hour was a bit longer and, as we all had lots to talk about, very animated!! Thursday dawned warm and windy and after some shopping and a quick look around the neat and tidy town most of us hibernated in our vans until Happy Hour where the A/C in the meeting room revived us.
Overnight the wind and temperature dropped to a much more pleasant day, so some drove to the Heysen Trail for a 5 km hike while others drove through Angaston and up Mengler Hill to the lookout over acres of vineyards and rolling countryside. The sculptures by international artists located below the lookout were interesting and certainly different. The pretty town of Tanunda was on our way back on this scenic drive.
Sunday - the day we were all waiting for - was cool and breezy, just right for prezzies and food! After the AGM, 28 of us sat down for our legendary Christmas meal, sharing interesting salads with cold chicken and tasty ham, bread rolls and the famous cob!! Delicious desserts were next on the menu followed by the sale of books and jigsaws- something for everyone there. Unbelievably, we all gathered back at the meeting room at 6.30 and feasted on the leftovers until we could feast no longer! This Christmas lunch equalled any in the past. Thank you all for a great rally.

Jayco Caravan Club

Wilmington	3rd – 6th October	11 vans	

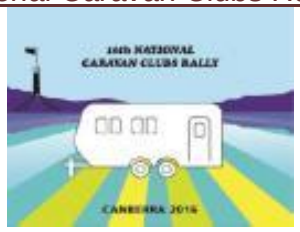
After a 2 year absence we returned to the "Stony Creek Bush Camp" for our October long weekend rally. It is set in a lovely natural camp site with many trees for shade which was good as the temperature got over 30 C for the first few days. We were a small group of 11 vans, so Happy Hour was a circle of everyone joining in on the same conversations. The feature for us was the big campfire site with an abundance of firewood set in a designated area with big logs surrounding it. Friday night happy hour was a raucous affair with our 3 joke tellers all competing for the best story
A group went to the Melrose Show on Saturday morning and came back with stories of sheep dog trials, cattle judging and great food including Dagwood dogs and steak sandwiches. Saturday night was a lovely warm night and we sat outside at a long table with our combined barbeque meal.
Paul showed us his "Pride of Australia" award given in recognition of saving a drowning man in the River Murray last year.
Monday turned out to be a dirty, dusty day with high winds and temperature still in the low 30"s. Most "veged" out, until happy hour & were then ready for some good conversation followed by a barbeque in the camp kitchen. It was a good place for a long weekend rally and well worth the journey.

Normanville	30th Oct – 2nd Nov	25 vans	$26.10 /night with Club discount

Another great rally held at Jetty Caravan Park at Normanville. Vans started arriving from Wednesday and by Friday there were 25 vans in all. Some members enjoyed a visit to the Ingalalla Waterfalls, about 10 kms from Normanville.
The weather was beautiful up to about 6pm on Friday when it came in cold and very windy with the odd spot of rain. Some members quickly took their awnings down as the very windy conditions were forecast to stay overnight and Saturday.
Some of us moved over to the camp kitchen to eat dinner and enjoy a few more drinks and plenty of laughs.
The last pancake breakfast for the year was on Saturday morning as the cooks had to depart Sunday morning.
After pancakes a few enjoyed the free cooking demo and sampled the amazing food produced in the new Thermomix TM5. I think everyone was very impressed with this machine, and didn't need any lunch.
Saturday night Jayco members enjoyed a great meal at the Normanville Hotel. Then back to the park for a shared dessert/supper
in the camp kitchen which was a huge hit.
Well another rally over....way too fast. Most members departed Sunday morning as the park had a large group coming in and we were unable to extend our stay.

Where is the next

National Caravan Clubs Rally?

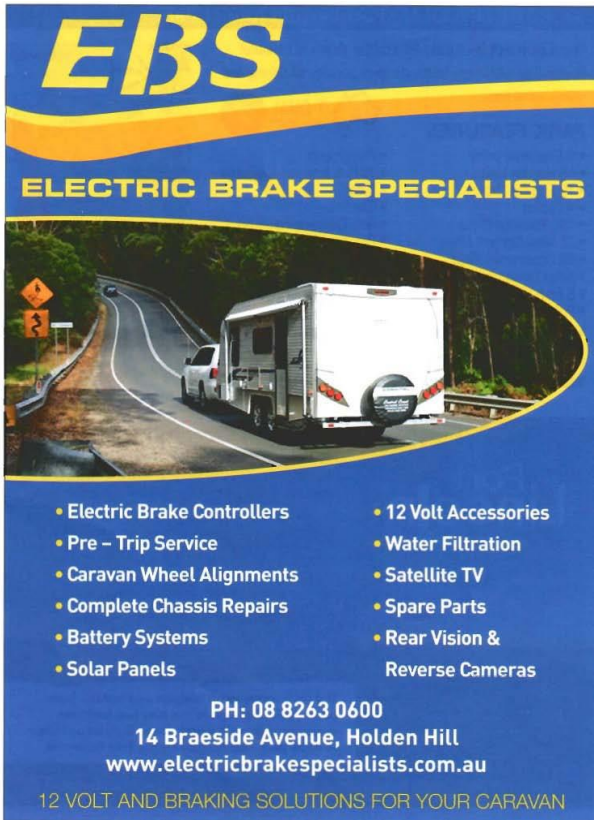


The 16th National Rally of the Caravan Clubs of Australia, will be held at the Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), situated on Flemington Road Mitchell, in the Australian Capital Territory, from Monday 19 to Wednesday 28 September 2016.

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.



PACK Camping Club

Mt. Compass	22nd – 24th August	5 vans & 3 cabins	

Rally started with a pleasant happy hour until a quick change & cold winds drove all inside. Strong winds forced the closure of awnings during the night and showers came through in the early morning. On Saturday members visited Myponga Markets and returned to the park via various scenic routes. Afternoon tea was held in the camp kitchen watching the Crows lose again! A very nice dinner was held at Mt. Compass Tavern with a welcoming open fire. On Sunday most headed to Hindmarsh Falls although only some attempted the steep steps & slippery path to report that the falls were flowing quite fast. Back to the caravan park by mid-afternoon for rest, relaxation & some games. Happy hour was again held in the camp kitchen and all but one returned home on Monday.

Elizabethan Caravan Club

Laura	3rd – 6th October	5 vans	

Another small rally of 5 vans but we had a wonderful long-weekend with perfect weather. Everybody arrived on Thursday and we kicked off the rally on Friday morning with a self guided tour around the town of Laura. We ended up having a lovely lunch of Gourmet Stone Hut pies and Golden North Ice cream taster plates. It was sad to hear that the original Stone Hut Bakery has closed due to illness but good to know you can still buy their pies in Laura's Cafe.

After lunch we car pooled for a drive around the local country side. The scenery and views were well worth the dirt roads and we saw lots of lizards and goannas. We couldn't get to some gorges due to feral goat culling and damaged roads but it was nice all the same. Then it was back to Camp for our meet and greet which was followed by the men cooking delicious steak sandwiches and chips for our tea. Alex the park manager cooked damper for us and shone his laser lights in the tree. The Camp Kitchen was large, clean and well stocked with everything you could need. It is enclosed on three sides and even has a TV.

On Saturday we all went to Melrose for the Country show. It wasn't big but it had all the usual stalls and animal displays. We waited for the sheep races and were disappointed that it was pull along sheep and not the real thing. Back to camp to relax before our communal tea in the camp Kitchen.

Sunday was Pancake breakfast day which was provided by the club. After that we went on a tour of Gladstone Gaol - a very interesting place. We drove to Jamestown for lunch but the bakery was closed. There was mural painting competition in the park so we had a sausage sizzle and steak sandwiches for lunch as we wandered around talking to the artists and watching them paint. Next it was off to Bundaleer Forest, there is supposed to be an area planted with English trees but we didn't see them so we went to Apilla Gorge instead. It's a lovely free camping area and there was lots of water in the gorge.

Monday morning came & it was time for our farewell and goodbye. Everyone agreed that it had been a great Rally and it was good to have the extra day.

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)

Wanderers Caravan Club

Waikerie	7th – 9th November	22vans & 1 cabin	$28 per night

Friday
Meet and greet on arrival. Followed by an evening meal, at the refurbished Wakerie Hotel. The meals were very nice and quite large serves. They were a little on the expensive side but quality was excellent.

Saturday
A visit to a local chocolate shop followed by a demo of manufacturing the products. Saturday night we assembled in the Men's shed for a mystery auction. Some people paid quite a lot of money for goods that were of little value. A lot of fun was had by all, with quite a sizable fund raising result.

Sunday
Our usual morning tea was followed by a fond farewell to those leaving. For those that stayed on for Sunday's happy hour, were entertained by a touring husband and wife entertainers.

Overall impression another great weekend was had by all. Caravan Park is slowly disappearing, due to the area turning into a Lifestyle village. Hopefully a new Park will be located nearby.

Stop Press: We are sorry to hear about the death of Mavis Rix after a time of illness. Mavis was a very long-standing member of the Caravan Club of SA and also, along with husband Bert, a valued worker for and contributor to ACCSA.

Our sympathies are extended to Bert & family as well as to friends & members of CCSA.

RV Friendly

Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia supports freedom of choice when camping overnight and believes that RV tourists should have access to an appropriate accommodation mix, which includes both low cost and commercial options. This includes greater access to state and national parks, the development of regional and rural rest areas, and access to community land.

With this in mind, CMCA developed the RV Friendly Scheme; an initiative aimed at assisting RV tourists as they journey throughout this wonderful country. The scheme is made up of two parts, RV Friendly Towns and RV Friendly Destinations.

RV Friendly Town™ (RVFT)

An RVFT is one that happily provides amenities and services for the mobile traveller. By promoting the partnership between the RV tourist and small towns, we encourage expansion of tourism related infrastructure and services, and promote the economic advantage to small towns providing RV tourist specific amenities.

Essential criteria for a town to qualify as RV Friendly:

- Provision of appropriate parking within the town centre, including access to a general shopping area with groceries or fresh produce.
- Provision of short term (24/48 hour) parking for self-contained vehicles within the town precinct.
- Access to potable water.
- Access to a free dump point within the town precinct.

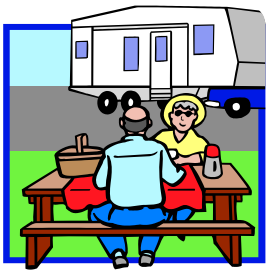
Desirable criteria for a town to qualify as RV Friendly:

- Provision of long term parking for self-contained vehicles.
- Access to medical facilities or an applicable evacuation plan
- Access to a pharmacy or a procedure to obtain pharmaceutical products.
- Visitor Information Centre (VIC) with appropriate parking facilities within a reasonable distance.
- VIC to provide a town map showing essential facilities such as the local hospital, medical services, fuel, shopping area, dump point, fresh water, etc.
- RV Friendly Town™ signs to be erected within the town precinct.

RV Friendly Destination™ (RVFD)

This category caters for small towns with an area such as an oval, reserve or rest area. An RVFD can also include businesses such as wineries, cheese factories, specialist farms, hotels, homesteads or country pubs that are friendly towards all mobile travellers. The destination will have an area for overnight or longer stays for travellers in recreational vehicles.

For a list of locations Australia-wide visit http://www.cmca.net.au/services/rv-friendly/destinations



Carefree Caravaneers

Goolwa

The Club's first visit to the Goolwa Camping and Tourist Park is best described as a Rally of the "Four Seasons." Those of us that arrived on Thursday all agreed that it was a warm welcome to Goolwa because of the hot north wind. Not to be discouraged by the weather at 4.30 pm a band of determined Caravaneers braved the heat for the scheduled Happy Hour and barbecue in the twilight.
Next day came a burst of winter and everyone tore off their summer togs and on with the woollies. Several ventured to the sea and a good number of cockles were gathered. Then off to the "Happy Hour" where many chocolates were presented to all that had birthdays and anniversaries. New members were presented with the official badges and we wish them many happy Rallies with the Club.
Next day the sun was shining so off with the woollies and on with the summer gear. A pleasant evening was had by all at the Local Hotel.
On Monday Ruth and Malcolm M were the winners of the Disc Bowl completion.
In closing, we were saddened when Tom collapsed and was required to be conveyed to hospital on Sunday morning; our thoughts are with Nell.

New Emergency Service Speed Zone – Slow to 25km/h

Frequently Asked Questions

Everything you need to know about the new road rule requiring motorists to slow down to 25km/h when passing through an emergency service speed zone.

What's the new law that has been introduced?

When motorists encounter a stationary emergency vehicle that has its blue and red lights flashing, they must slow down to 25km/h when driving through an emergency service speed zone.

Is this rule in effect now?

Yes, the new road rule came into effect on 1 September 2014.

What was the rule before?

Previously, when motorists encountered a stationary emergency vehicle that had its blue and red lights flashing, the speed limit was 40km/h when passing the vehicle.

Why has the speed limit been lowered?

The change has been made to better protect volunteers and emergency service staff who are carrying out vital work.

When does the speed limit apply?

The limit applies when travelling through an 'emergency service speed zone', which is when two sets of flashing blue or red lights have been placed at either end of a length of road on which an emergency service vehicle has stopped, or an area of road in the immediate vicinity of an emergency service vehicle that is stopped with blue and red lights operating.

Does the speed limit still apply if I'm on the other side of the road?

The speed limit doesn't apply if a person's driving on the other side of the road, if that road is divided by a median strip. If there's no median strip, the limit applies to traffic travelling in both directions.

Can I get a fine if I don't slow down in time?

Yes, normal speeding penalties apply for motorists breaking this law.

Do I need to slow down to 25km/h if an emergency vehicle drives past me with its lights operating?

No, if an emergency vehicle drives past you with its lights flashing, you don't need to slow down to 25km/h. You do however need to move out of the vehicle's way as soon as it's possible to do so safely, so that the vehicle can safely proceed in front of you.

What if I'm on a freeway or country road travelling at up to 110km/h, do I still need to lower my speed to 25km/h?

Yes the requirement is that you must slow your vehicle to 25km/h when travelling through the emergency services speed zone.

What if I turn the corner and come across an emergency vehicle with its lights on, do I have to slam my brakes on until my speed lowers to 25km/h? Isn't this more dangerous?

Again, you are required to slow down to 25km/h. In normal driving, when a driver is confronted with an emergency situation around a bend, such as a vehicle turning or livestock on the road, the response would be to reduce speed and if necessary stop as quickly as possible.

It highlights the need for drivers to be alert and always focus on the road ahead because they might be required to take emergency action at any time.

What vehicles are classified as an 'emergency vehicle'?

- Ambulances
- Fire service vehicles (CFS, MFS or Federal Aviation Rescue)
- State Emergency Services (SES) vehicles
- Police vehicles – State and Federal
- Australian Customs and Border Protection Service vehicles

From RAA e-news, October 2014