COROMAL CAPERS

Volume 1
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August 2008

COROMAL CARAVAN CLUB Incorporated

"Experience the Club's lifestyle
Discover the freedom and friendship"

COMING EVENTS

September 27-28
WELLINGTON CAVES CARAVAN PARK
Wellington

September 29-October 25
TAG-A-LONG

October 25-26
GOULBURN SOUTH CARAVAN PARK
Goulburn

November 21-23
WILBERFORCE
Butterfly Farm

CLUB NEWS

Welcome to the following new members

Doug & Joan Cramp
John & Colleen Sheerin
Stephen & Janice MacMahon (Associate)

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REMINDER

The 2008-09 Annual General Meeting will be held during the November Rally at Wilberforce. All positions will be vacated so please think about joining the Committee. More details will be sent to members shortly.

DISCLAIMER The news items, reports , comments and views expressed in this newsletter are by individuals and do not necessarily express the views of the CCC members.

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COROMAL CARAVAN CLUB NEWS

The Coromal Caravan Club's
Major Fund Raising Raffle for 2008

To raise funds for 2008 the committee will have a fund raising raffle, hence we sourced significant prizes to attract your interest as well as the general publics, so between August and December, the last half of this year we hope to sell a significant number of tickets.

More information will be available shortly. For tickets contact Ian.

CLUB SHIRTS

The new club shirts will be available at Windang. For those who have ordered they can be collected from Ben at the rally (bring your money, $40 each). They will also be available at the Wellington rally.

There will be a few extra for those yet to order.

WEBSITE & MEMBERS FORUM

- Take a look at the Club's Hints & Tips page which has recently been updated.
- A Forum has been added so that members will be able to ask questions, provide answers, ideas and tips for all. Check out the link at http://coromalcaravanclub.org.au/yabb/YaBB.pl or through our website at http://www.coromalcaravanclub.org.au/

LEFT TURNS

"If your vehicle (or vehicle and trailer) is 7.5m or longer and has a 'DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE' sign on the back, you are allowed to turn left from (or partially from) the lane on the right of the far left lane." The same idea applies to right hand turns. (Source: Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook, published by RTA, NSW)

This is a privilege allowed to caravans as well. If you use more than one lane and do not have this sign, then there can be issues with the law enforcement agencies (especially if said agent has had a bad day.) There is also some protection with insurance if you are unfortunate enough to "make contact with another vehicle" when turning.

WE HAVE REFLECTIVE, SELF ADHESIVE SIGNS AVAILABLE FOR $12, COURTESY OF OUR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION. SEE BEN FOR DETAILS.

TAG-ALONG SAGA

Well, now it's next month or ?? days, thanks to the count down on the calendar of future rallies. At present I'm trying to collate the information so that I can go to the printers and send out the program/itinerary/information. But wouldn't you know it, not everyone has yet let me know about what format they would like the itinerary in so I might just go ahead and see the printer.

Remember there are a few things to consider. Hopefully by now all those coming on the tag along have joined National Parks and Family Parks Association. On my fingers and toes and depending on which pass you have we can save between $50.00 and $140.00 which unfortunately might be gobbled up with fuel prices.

I have enclosed some useful websites for you, thanks to Ben's investigations.
Spare parts. http://www.exploreoz.com/Vehicle/Servicing/SparesandTools.aspx
First Aid kits: http://www.exploreoz.com/ontheroad/survival/First_Aid.aspx

Extra tips are:

Water. If you use your water tank in the van, flush it through first before filling it. (I know some of you have filters) In some places the water might have a taste that you are not used to and may cause some upset tummies. In that case put in some bottles of water. It is fairly cheap to purchase 10 to 15 litres bottles.

Cupboard. Ensure that all fittings are secure. It might help not to have them packed tightly. Pack bubble wrap or the bladder out of wine casks to prevent them moving on the corrugations.

Windows. It might be worth covering the back window of your vehicle because it's easy to throw up a stone or rock and unfortunately break a back window.

Front of the van. Same reasoning, a cover on the front of the van might help prevent stone/rock chips from causing damage.

Old towels/rags are always handy in case of unwanted spills and leaks. Carry a tube of clear filler in case of leaks.

Jerry cans. This will be a personal decision. Most of the places we are going will be within the 400 kms of Fuel places, so it is not a necessary to actual carry extra fuel. However that does not cover the unlucky chances of a hole in a fuel tank. Remember there will be a lot of loose stones/rocks lying around and that could also be on the bitumen. A puncture in a tank might need some first aid. There will be others to help.

The IMPORTANT think will be not to drive too fast and to look ahead on the road. If you have a problem, use your radio to let someone know. In the case of breakdowns, or illness we will have enough people with experience to cover most emergencies; we need to look after each other.

See you at Wellington and then beyond.

Elizabeth. **ElizabethG@coromalcaravanclub.org.au.**

Before Your Trip

Make sure your caravan is well maintained and ready to go when you are. That's the first step toward having a safe, trouble-free trip.

- Install a deadbolt door lock on your van.
- Inspect all belts and hoses for cracking, especially radiator hoses. Replace as needed.
- Check headlights, tyres (air and tread) and turn signals.
- Check any hitch or towing equipment.
- Verify your insurance coverage.
- Check your fire extinguisher and smoke alarms.
- Clean your cooking vent hood to avoid grease fires.
- Leave your itinerary with relatives or friends in case of emergency.

MAY 2008 RALLY
Newnes

Thirteen vans in total elected to take the bone jarring corrugated road adventure into Newnes, some actually arriving on the Thursday. One couple elected to christen their brand new van that they collected earlier in the day from Windsor on this road, yah! Another couple enjoyed their weekend here so much the weekend prior, they elected to come back. Actually, they got their weekends mixed up, so they ventured here twice. Newnes was once a thriving village, as Shale Oil was processed here, a venture of a bygone period. All that remains today are some ruins and the original hotel, but it was relocated to the opposite side of the road and now trades as a kiosk-museum. By Friday evening twelve vans were all nestled in on our large flat grassed river siding and the socialising had begun in earnest. With generators running, the whole flat was well lit by a halogen light roped up in one of the gum trees along the flat. Friday nights cold air was somewhat dispersed by the warmth emulating from our camp fire, of which all the wood was most generously donated and carted onsite by Doug & Sue Coates, members who reside within 12 klm's of the campsite. Then came a cosy night under the blankets until someone's Satellite Dish starting emitting a high pitched squeal that woke half the camp at some ungodly hour, no names mentioned.

The early Saturday morning was crisp but overcast with mist creeping thru the surrounding mountains and cliff faces. Spectacular images were captured as the sun broke thru the mist, depicting a spectrum of varied colours on the sandstone cliff faces, witnessed by the few brave enough to part from the warmth of their blankets. After various breakfasts we arranged the days major activity, a walk up to the Glow Worm Tunnel via the old Train Line. We had a short delay as we were awaiting the arrival of the thirtieth couple before we could depart. This walk begun with a 6 klm vehicle trip, then wading a ford over the river and if you weren't awake before hand you certainly were when you bare foot was submerged beyond all commonsense into the icy cold water, waterproof walking boots do have their advantages, ha! The initial walk was strenuous as we needed to climb until the relative level train line was reached. The train line route is extremely eroded, so it's not as easy as it may sound, but it is a glorious walk thru the bush into gullies, along cliff faces over looking the valley and eventually back into a gully crisscrossing the stream that flows thru the old tunnel, where the Glow Worms reside. Just beyond the tunnel is an oasis, so we elected to take a well deserved break before venturing into & thru the tunnel in ore of the bewildering spectacle within. For those not familiar with glow worms, imagine the best starlit night you have witnessed and you're somewhere near the image within the tunnel. Now try to imagine these little worms glowing in the dark are responsible for that image, simply amazing, isn't it. After the tunnel, some elected to return via the train line, but a majority continued on and returned by the old coach line making a continuous route of it.

Should I mention there was several bums in contact with the ground on the return venture as the descent is steep and your feet simply slip out from under you. Maybe I shouldn't, but I'll withhold their names, ha! The very best was when one person who fell was greeted on the ground by their partner supposedly coming to their assistance, it was quite quaint, really. After some further slip sliding they were both back on their feet again headed down the slope with equally sore tailbones, oh, true togetherness. Oh, for the last antagonism, all had to again wade the icy waters of the river before the vehicle ride back to camp. This was a strenuous walk for some, others had a stroll, depending on the varying levels of fitness. As a result we all returned to camp at various times. Saturday afternoon was spent recuperating for some, others walked the ruins of the Shale Oil Works and others studied the museum. Eventually all congregated around the fire again ready to prepare the evenings meal in camp ovens etc. More firewood had arrived as friends of Kerry & Ruth arrived for happy hour. It appears they arrived early and happy hour had already been happy hours, so the mood was set, very jovial to say the least. Then even more firewood arrived with Doug and Sue's family dropping in for dinner as well. After our meals, we all settled in around the fire for a session of show and tell, an idea concocted by Ron Weal during the walk where all were asked to collect something and then relay it's significance to others around the fire. It was a great hoot with many elaborate truth bending yarns being spun. Another good night spent around the fire was followed by a last minute check to see the satellite dish wasn't going to wake the camp again and all went off to sleep.

Sunday was a relaxed affair. The major formality was to present King Thong, "Jim" with his justly deserved trophy, an additional thong. Jim acquired this title after walking to and from the Glow Worm Tunnel in his trusty thongs where all were hedging bets he'd have a blow out. The blow out never eventuated, but a spare thong was still presented in the event his trusty thongs failed him in the near future. Belle often relays the story, that when Jim is asked, "what do you require to travel Australia", Jim replies, "three pair of thongs". After the formality, couples set about doing alternate things, some packed to head home, some walked the ruins, some went to Lithgow shopping, others just explored their surrounds and the balance sat by the fire. Sunday evening saw four couples remain and again Chef Blinco knocked up a roasted feast for all to consume. After dinner we all sat by the fire watching a DVD on Newnes history and relocating the hotel, the generator running out of fuel denied us the conclusion but all were ready to retire anyhow.

Monday saw all us depart at various intervals, and just to rub salt into our wounds, so to speak, we all passed the grader and road roller beginning the very required task of resurfacing the road.
Thanks to all who participated and a very big thank you to Doug, Sue & Family for the firewood that kept all warm throughout the weekend.

A majority attending this venue requested it be placed on the calendar again for a future bush rally. Being a very suitable venue that could easily cater for many more vans, we'll oblige sometime after a 24 month period to return here again.

Report & photographs contributed by Ian Weal.

LAKE TABOURIE
JUNE LONG WEEKEND

The June long weekend rally this was held at Lake Tabourie, near Ulladalla , the furthest south the Club has been. Friday found 17 vans (including 4 visiting vans) settling in to get ready for a good time. There was to be a variety of activities on offer, as well as time to sit and rest around the campsite. During the evening it was the usual "Meet & Greet" as campers arrived.

On Saturday, it was time to register and discus the day, before everyone was off in all directions. The young and fit left to climb Pigeon House Mountain, returning in the late afternoon. Some ventured into Milton to visit the Annual Scarecrow Festival. A group stayed around camp and enjoyed a quiet walk on the nearby beach.

Everyone made it back to camp in time to join in Happy Hour before preparing a "Pot Luck' Meal. This was held in the large Camp Kitchen. A entertaining game of Bingo proved to be an appropriate ending to a busy day.

Sunday was again a warm sunny day with everyone making the most of the changed weather. The majority of campers drove to Ulladalla to check out the markets on the Wharf, before lunching at the local Surf Club. The afternoon was free with some returning to camp while others continued touring the many sights of the area. A communal BBQ tea was followed with a movie that was enjoyed by those remaining up.

On Monday we woke to the return of wet weather, but this failed to dampen one's spirits. It was a morning of packing up, ready for the long trip home. Most had left by the early afternoon. Those remaining, were happy to rest or visit attractions such the local museum and National Park. The day ended with Happy Hour and then a early night for most as they prepared for the trip home.

One of the attractions of the Caravan Park was the birdlife that visited each morning & evening, hoping to be fed. There were several easy walks along the waters edge or into the natural growth near by. There was plenty to do to cater for every interest. The consensus is that the Club return to the area again soon.

Photographs by Doug & Joan Cramp, Rob & Jeannette Noack & Sue Milne.

Wollombi, a Christmas in July

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, there was a caravan rally. Not just any caravan rally, but a Coromal Christmas in July Rally that will be remembered for many rallies to come.

Arriving at mid-afternoon was a new experience for us two wannabe grey nomads (one day we will be retired too!). Picking a prime spot was the aim. We weren't really surprised when we saw that there were already five vans in place (some like to rub it in). Never-the-less our van was soon in place (with at least one tree thankful that I was no longer reversing).

The wind and cold ensured that a fire was a necessity; prudently, our resident firebug (whose initials are Jim) had a cosy fire warming the shelter of the communal area. Over the next few hours, no less than three braziers added to our comfort with most people happy to chat in the warmth. Happy hour thus extended well into the evening.

T'was a chilly night! Belle broke the ice the next morning, allowing herself to wash. By mid morning, we were 13 vans, including five visiting couples. Some campers ventured into the town for a look. Four couples trekked into the unknown of the fire trails and were rewarded with an incredible panorama and a breathtaking spot for lunch at Finchley Trig. The nearby Finchley Aboriginal Site provided an insight into the indigenous inhabitants of the area. Continuing along the trail, Ben managed to get the convoy to a locked gate. That left Penny to retrace steps and lead the group home.

Chefs Rita, Jeanette, Martin and Kerry, who allowed Bruce to be the apprentice taster (whoops, tester) of the feast, and a multitude of helpers spent the day planning and preparing and cooking the banquet that was to be.

There seemed to be a distraction to those intent on the usual "happy hour" activities, with tables being decorated and lights strung about the room, such was the anticipation of the meal to come.

Turducken* and pork and ham and spuds and vegies and corn and beans and rolls and (I'm full!) plum pudding with custard. Lucky for those cholesterol tablets!

A movie night followed, (eventually, when some tipsy fellow finally left the screen alone), and we all thoroughly enjoyed the antics of one, Bruce Lee.

Sunday was a low key day as the revellers slowly stirred and those that were departing began the heartbreaking task of preparing to leave this merry lot.

And then there were four. (Aha! The Excels finally outnumber the Princetons!) A fire was finally lit in the open for the afternoon fireside chat, but the warmth of the cosy inside fire soon beckoned as evening approached.

The evening was spent chatting contentedly until the Rally Marshall decided that the program for 2009 needed fine tuning. This was done with much discussion and map searching.

Rain in the early hours of Monday stirred those without 4WD vehicles to panic….how were they going to get across the causeway? As it turned out, their concerns were washed away (pun intended).

Another successful Coromal rally was wrapped up.

Ben & Penny

*Turducken is turkey stuffed with duck, stuffed with chicken.

HINTS &TIPS

In April/May we were away for a month & went to the Bright Autumn Festival (Vic) & then on to Melbourne.

Twice during our trip the rear stabilizers of the Van hit the driveway as we came out of garages. In fact the drivers side stabilizer was bent up & the spare wheel also hit the drive. The spare wheel is in fact mounted lower than the rear bumper.

Since returning home I have fitted a cast iron wheel welded on to the chassis with a couple of brackets (both sides). The wheel is about 10mm lower than the stabilizer & slightly to the rear. Thus if the van hits the driveway again it will run hopefully run on the wheels & not damage anything. The cast iron wheels are available from Reflex.

The mounting bracket for the Spare Wheel has been raised up about 50mm with a section of steel chassis. The bottom of the Spare Wheel is now flush with the bottom of the bumper. The attached photos show details.

We trust this idea may be helpful for other Club Members.

Kind regards,
Howard Jones

THE FRIENDLY CLUB

A story from members Kay & Ron, holidaying up North.

Thought I would give you a laugh, when I replied to your e-mail, Ron wasn't here to help me and being a very independent computer learner, I just pushed reply. We went out for the day and some people had come on the site nearby, he said to me “Hi Kay! did you get my e-mail”. Never having met the people, I was scratching my head.

He said “we received your Coromal Caravan Club e-mail saying we were at Cardwell so they came down from Atherton”.

It was Tom and Mary whom we have never met at any rallies. Just proves all at CCC are friendly mob.

FOR SALE

Dave Rollings has the following item for SALE:

Mule “Dual Wheel” unit, new $580.oo, he’s asking $250.oo

Dave’s phone number is 02 43885290 or 0408344043

NEW DEALERSHIP

Coromal Caravans Central Coast will have their GRAND OPENING of their new dealership soon.

Here is part of a letter I received recently from Scott Irvin (Dealer Principal)

I would like to take this opportunity to Introduce our New Coromal Caravan Dealership at Tuggerah on the Central Coast.
Richard Raven from Coromal Caravans is very excited on the appointment of this new Dealership.
We offer a complete sales, service and repair centre.

To ''Experience the lifestyle and Discover the freedom''
We will be having our Grand Opening on Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th of August.
So could you make your members aware,
We would love to see you for a BBQ and a chat.

Coromal Caravans Central Coast
198 Old Pacific Hwy
Tuggerah
NSW 2259
Tel: 02 4353 2999
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CARAVAN SHOWS 2008

Check out the websites for more details

PENRITH CARAVAN, CAMPING & HOLIDAY EXPO
Friday 12th to Sunday 14th September
Penrith Panthers Club
http:www.penrith.supershow.com.au/

ORANA Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fish & Boat Shows
September 26, 27, 28
Dubbo Showground

http://www.ruralscene.com.au/RS2008/CC4WD2008/08CC4WDOrana.php

CANBERRA HOME SHOW
Friday 24 - Sunday 26 October 2008
Exhibition Park In Canberra
www.canberrahomeshow.com.au

TREATS ON THE RUN

Apple Slice

Dessert at Lake Tabourie (Penny)

6 oz butter
1 teaspoon mixed spice
¾ cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 eggs
1 large can unsweetened solid-pack pie apple
1½ cups plain flour
2 tablespoons sugar, extra

Beat butter until creamy, add sugar, then eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in sifted flour and spices. Spread half the mixture over base of greased and baking paper-lined 18 x 28cm lamington tin. Spread evenly with apple, sprinkle with extra sugar. Spread remaining cake mixture evenly over apple. Bake in moderate oven 50 minutes. Cool 10 minutes in tin, before turning onto wire rack to cool.

Peanut Crisps

Happy Hour at Lake Tabourie (Penny)

4 oz butter
½ teasp. baking powder
1 cup sugar
1 cup oats
1 egg
½ cup salted peanuts, chopped
1 cup plain flour
1 cup cornflakes
½ teasp. bicarb.

Cream butter and sugar, add egg, beat well. Fold in sifted flour, bicarb and baking powder. Work in oats, peanuts, cornflakes and blend well. Place teaspoonfuls on greased baking tray, leaving room for spreading. Bake in hot oven 10 minutes. Cool on trays, store in airtight container.

5 Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

El Presidente Mug Cake

you'll need....

4 Tablespoons cake flour
4 Tablespoons sugar
2 Tablespoons cocoa
1 Egg
3 Tablespoons milk
3 Tablespoons oil
3 Tablespoons chocolate drops (optional)
1 Mug

here's what you do....

Add dry ingredients to the mug, and mix well.
Crack an egg and add it to your mug. Be sure to mix it well to avoid any pockets of flour in the corners.
Pour in the milk and oil and mix well.
Add the chocolate drops if you've got them, and a splash of vanilla essence too.
Pop your mug into the microwave & zap for 3 minutes on maximum power (1000watt).
Wait until the cake stops rising, and sets in the mug.
If necessary, run a knife around the sides of the mug, and tip the still warm cake out of the mug and onto a saucer.

Sit back and enjoy with a coffee - you deserve it!