COROMAL CAPERS

Volume 1
Issue 7
May 2008

COROMAL CARAVAN CLUB Incorporated
"Experience the Club's lifestyle
Discover the freedom and friendship"

UPCOMING RALLIES

June Long Weekend
June 7,8.9
TABOURIE LAKE
ULLADALLA

July 12,13
YARNTEEN
WOLLOMBI

August 16,17
WINGDANG BEACH
TOURIST PARK
WINGDANG

September 27-October 26
TAG-A-LONG

Club News

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Ron & Kay Hodgkinson
Steve & Wendy Lloyd
John & Kathryn Moodie
Darryl &Veronica Raasch
Susan Schreiber
John & Sue Walker
Yvonne Brady (Associate)
Enjoy the friendship of clubbing.

NOTE

The Rally held at Mt Keira was visited by a representative from "Caravan & Motorhome" Magazine. An article on the Club is scheduled to appear in the issue, due out in October.

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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TAG ALONG UPDATE.

A very big thank you to all the members who have filled in their expressions of interest forms. We have at this time 15 members who will be doing the whole tag along and 5 who will be joining us for a short time and for different sections of the tag along.

We have all our booking confirmed, with the proviso that numbers could still differ when the time comes. This is to allow any van who likes a particular stop over to stay or to move on to the next place if they don't like it.

Suggestions have been coming in for evening activities, including a bush ball under the granites at Tibooburra, more details as they come. Remember that at some of these outback places we will be going to the local pub, just for the experience and to deal with some of those big thirsts that might develop on the dry dusty roads.

I have been looking at ways to not have such a big drain on the fuel tanks, because I fear that at some fuel stops it might be very near the $2.00 mark for a litre. This is further expense that we all need to allow for in our budgets. (Fuel was still under $1.00 when we first started making plans.) At some of our stop overs it might help to double up with another couple for day trips, but please be fair, and take it in turns with the driving and fuel.

As you know at some places there will be no power, so I suggest that some care is taken planning meals and after dark activities. (???) We have been practising camp cooking and have quite a few gas lights. At these stops we might have communal meals.

I hope to release a more detailed information booklet soon where we are going, with details about some of the side trips that might be of special interest. I really don't want to cull activities or adventures to anyone on the trip. We all have a wide variety of interest and with close to 40 people on the trip, I am trying to keep it open and not be regimented with our activities.

In all, the main object of the tag along is to learn about new places and ways and to have fun. Share the adventure and stay safe and healthy. Be kind to yourselves and look after each other and make beautiful memories that we can all share.

Elizabeth

ElizabethG@coromalcaravanclub.org.au.

WINTER PREPARATION

It is time to drain all water lines and Hot Water Service in shower/toilet vans during the winter months. This is to avoid an expensive repair should a cold snap/frost freeze the waterlines. In winter months owners of these models who live in cooler climates should be vigilant in regard to cold weather and frosts.

For detailed instructions, please click on the following link.

http://www.coromalcaravanclub.org.au/hints.html#freeze

The Club Website contains several hints and tips that may be of help. We welcome hints and tips that will help other enjoy the great caravanning life.

13TH National Caravan Club Rally
Forbes Showground

A Beginner's Guide to National Rallies: Forbes 2007-2008

What an experience, and definitely one I'm glad we didn't miss!

540 vans housing people from around Australia and overseas met in the one area, Forbes Showground, to share good times and a real sense of community. Although it was very busy the first day, we soon settled into enjoying ourselves.

During the following days there were numerous things to do:

- Outings to local, and not so local, attractions such as wineries, the Parkes Observatory (The Dish), the Zig Zag Railway, Canowindra, Cowra, Bathurst and Orange.
- Tennis, golf, bowls, aqua aerobics, early morning walks, disc bowls.
- Camp oven cooking, quilting, drawing, glass cutting.
- Hot air ballooning.
- Coffee and cake/pancakes/scones at the onsite cafés.
- Market Day held at the Showground.

The biggest problem was deciding what to do, even though we had been given a list of activities before the Rally!

Entertainment was provided every night in the marquee. There were bush poets, singers, a Talent Quest, a New Year's Eve Ball which celebrated midnight in five different time zones, an Op Shop Ball with outfits bought from local Op Shops, and an Auction with auctioned items ranging from covered coat hangers to tickets to Sydney's Bridge Climb that raised $10 000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The gathering also raised $6,000 for other local charities. Hundreds of knitted toys and woollens were made for the Red Cross to distribute.

You could do as much or as little as you liked. I, of course, would have liked to do it all- I just couldn't fit everything in!

The 10 days flew by and, I guess, wanting this time to continue, our Coromal Caravan Club members were quick to sign up for the next rally in Elmore, Victoria in 2010. It was with sadness that the Club flags were lowered, the PA system grew quiet and we said goodbye to friends both old and new. See you all in Elmore!

Photos taken by Ben & Penny, Frank & Kate.
Text by Penny.

PO Box 4228 Penrith Plaza, NSW 2751

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND RALLY
BLACKSMITH'S
26– 28 January 2008

The Australia Day weekend at Blacksmiths.

Vans arrived on Friday to a wet welcome. There were 11 vans. The weather fined up by Saturday morning and all went for a drive to Caves Beach where the energetic ones went for a beach walk followed by an ice cream at the Surf Club Shop.

Following the beach we went for a drive to Catherine Hill Bay where we had lunch at the historic Catho Pub. Then followed a lazy afternoon and sausage sizzle, put on by the caravan park. We skipped dinner and went straight from happy hour to evening get together, where some of our new members regaled us with hilarious stories of their life.

Sunday saw another perfect day where we all walked into Swansea for coffee. Age showed on most of us as the park went very quiet whilst most enjoyed a nanna nap.

Communal dinner followed by another get together rounded off the day.

Monday saw all getting together for morning coffee and the slow job of packing up and heading home.

Report by Frank & Kate, photographs contributed by Frank & Susan

FEBRUARY RALLY
OBERON
26– 28 January 2008

16 vans attended including 2 first time campers and several attending their second or third rallies with the club.

Friday afternoon was a hive of activity as vans arrived and the usual get together welcome. As the night became cooler, most migrated back to the comfort of their vans.

Saturday saw everyone up and ready early to wait for a couple of late comers. It was then off in convoy to the Jenolan Caves and a drive through Kanangra Boyd Park. All returning with tales of their adventures, including 3 flat tires. Some chose to spend time to attend Oberon Show or explore the sights of the small country town.

A barbeque was held, with most again staying in their vans as the night was cold. During the evening entertainment was provided with fireworks from the local Showground.

A communal breakfast of cereal, croissants and fruit welcomed us on Sunday morning. Thank you to Ian, Annette and their team of helpers. This was followed by a photo shoot.

This was the official end of the rally, but many campers decided to have lunch before preparing to leave. A convoy of cars made their way to Historic Tarana Hotel in the 'Shearing Shed' Restaurant for a country lunch and experienced the ambience of the unique décor.

Report by Sue Milne, photos provided by Howard Jones and Sue Milne

NSW State Rally Narrabeen, March 2008

Five vans from our club ventured into this event. We knew it was going to be a great rally because the food began at 6.00pm and didn't stop all weekend! Little did we know that we were only a short wait from witnessing our Jeanette partaking in events as diverse as pole dancing and laying an egg the size of a football! Needless to say, the hypnotist was a hoot.

First thing on Saturday was the flag-raising ceremony followed by registration, purchase of raffle tickets and promotion of the next State Rally.

The disc bowls was approached with the enthusiasm and respect that it, of course, demands and we dutifully exited after the second round. This is the furthest that our club has progressed in any disc bowls competition in recent memory! A bye in the first round sealed this fate. Somewhere in there were the scones and jam and cream….yum. The food theme was carried on at afternoon tea time with home made cake and slice…yum.

Dinner on Saturday night was a home made feast. A team from the host club (Central Coast Caravanners) fed the 370 participants and many of us had difficulty finishing dessert…yum. A night of singing and dancing followed with a terrific vocalist duo and it ended all too quickly, though bed did beckon our weary bodies.

Sunday was Market Day and there were stalls by individuals and clubs. Morning tea was not to be missed and the presentation of trophies for the disc bowls (I wonder who won?) and flag lowering ceremony followed.

The club organising the 2009 Rally at Berry has its work cut out if they want to keep up the standard of entertainment and food. The location was superb (the beach a short stroll away), the food was outstanding and the fun memorable. Highly recommended.

Report by Ben

Photos supplied by Ben, Frank & Ian.

Anna Bay Rally, March 2008

The park at Anna Bay was already buzzing when we arrived. Easter is obviously a busy time here, and we were surprised at the number of tents occupying van sites. Friday was a quiet day with some going for a walk then having quiet drinks. Our club rally was six vans strong, but when family was included, we were more than 20 for dinner on Good Friday night. Chef Blinco excelled yet again with his beef in red wine and baked snapper while Penny provided a sumptuous variety of salads. Her desserts had the masses clamouring for more.

Saturday was filled by some with shopping, others going to the sales in Newcastle and some travelling to Tea Gardens on the ferry. The fish and chips at the co-op were delicious. John Moodie had some bad luck when he tried to modify a hatch on the ferry with his nose and broke his glasses. Ouch. Dinner was a quick make your own affair as people were keen to get into the happy hour activities after dinner.

There was a Sunday morning Easter Egg hunt at a local winery (excellent wine tasting I hear) and this was followed by a spot of 4WDing on Stockton Beach by a few of us. Others did their own exploring. The happy hour was filled with music (who sang that song???) and talk about the locations for rallies in 2009. Maybe Easter could be in the west next year.

Overall it was a low-key, intimate rally and that was very pleasant. There were friends and family, food and friendship and the opportunity for quiet enjoyment. When is the next rally…..?

Report by Ben & Penny

Photographs by Ben & Ian

MT KEIRA BUSH CAMP APRIL

A bush camp rally was held at Mt Keira, near Wollongong, There was a good attendance with 17 vans joining in the weekend activities.

Friday saw us travelling on a very windy road, with a variety of scenery, we arrived at the campsite to meet other early birds. The site was starting to look congested as we were located in the car park and not on the allocated area due to the previous day's rain. There was great interest on how everyone would fit, but with many discussions among the men, we all managed to find a spot. After everyone had set up, we all met for supper and welcomes.

Everyone was up early to get ready for the day's activities. First it was time to sign the register, then off in convoy towards Wollongong. The morning was spent touring the "Nan Tien Temple" at Berkeley. Everyone was

ready for a meal, so we moved onto the Mt Kembla Hotel (built in 1887)where we sat in the outdoor BBQ area, entertained by 2 dogs looking for a free meal.

It was back to camp to begin preparations for tea and to meet the Representative from Caravan & Motorhome Magazine who was interested in doing an article on the Club. This was followed by Happy Hour and a communal tea prepared on camp ovens. There was more than enough food for everyone . This continued until well into the night, as campers retired for the night.

Sunday saw Ian & Annette up early to view sunrise at the Mt Keira lookout. By the time they returned, the camp was waking up to another misty morning (soon cleared). Many took advantage of the spare time to have a stroll around the bush tracks and check out the local area. It was then time for a members' meeting and a photo shoot. This proved to be fun, watching the photographers find the best view to take the whole site. The unlucky ones had to pack and leave, while some enjoyed a trip to Stanwell Tops , others choose to have a restful afternoon at camp.

By nightfall 6 vans remained. The evening was spent relaxing under an awning and keeping dry as the rain came down. Another very successful rally.

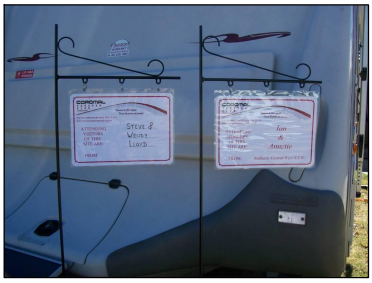
Report by Sue Milne, photos by Sue & Ian

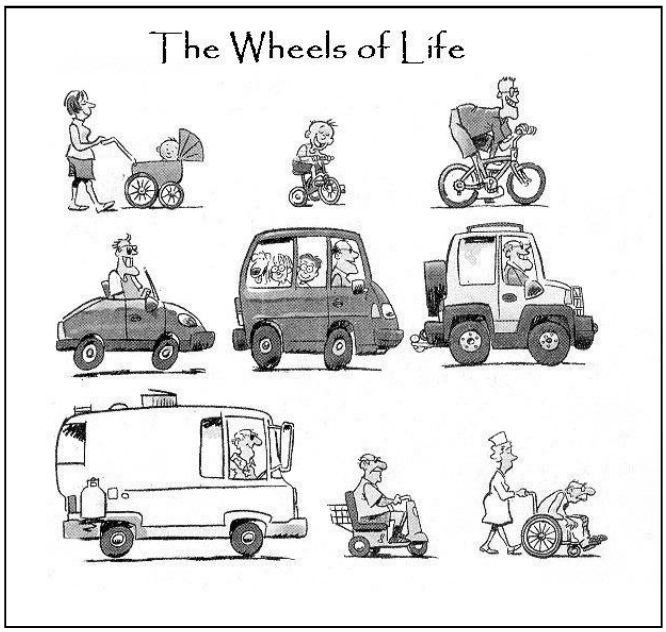
PO Box 4228 Penrith Plaza, NSW 2751

NEW VAN SIGNS

The Club now has new personalized signs for each van. The signs were first used at the NSW State Rally at Narrabeen. Since then they have appeared at the Anna Bay, Mt Keira and Newnes Rallies . Proving very popular with members and visitors alike, who now can put names to faces without embarrassing themselves.

The club thanks our multi skilled Treasurer, Ian, who has spent many hours in his shed, producing this quality project.





THE 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER

When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd had in a very long time.

If My Body Was A Car

If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking of trading in for a newer model. I've got bumps & dents & scratches in my finish & my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus & it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip & slide & skid & bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it.....

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter.....either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our members who have a birthday recently.

If you would like others to know about your special event (birthdays, anniversaries, trips, etc) please let us know and it will be added.

Cancer News from Johns Hopkins:

1. No plastic containers in microwave.
2. No water bottles in freezer.
3. No plastic wrap in microwave.

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters. This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Dioxin chemicals cause cancer, especially breast cancer.

Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

Recently, Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body.

Instead, he recommends using glass, Corning Ware or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant noodles and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else. Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons. Also, he pointed out that Cling Wrap is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food.

Cover food with a paper towel instead.

This is an article I believe you should forward to your family and friends and anyone who is important in your life! Elizabeth

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, tires (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.