



Towing Tales

Concord Caravan Club of WA
January 2024

Boyup Brook Flax Mill Caravan Park

Robert and Di set the pace by being the first to arrive on Tuesday with the rest of the club arriving in intervals. Ray and I being the last to arrive late Thursday, having enjoyed the beautiful scenery on the trip down and mild sunny weather, only to find that we had missed a hilarious game of Parcel the Parcel. Each participant had to put on oven gloves and then attempt to unwrap the parcel which had been wrapped not in traditional newspaper, but Glad Wrap. Meanwhile the other participants took turns to throw the dice to try and throw a pair, at which point the oven gloves were handed over and the next participant had a go. Allen eventually managed to hold onto the gloves long enough to gain the prize of scratchies, hat and chocolates, which he generously shared.



Friday morning, Australia Day, was heralded in by birdsong, with the Magpies being especially vocal and inquisitive (not sure what they found so interesting on the roof of our van but they definitely inspected the whole thing as soon as the sun came up 😊). The park had beautifully kept lawns, grounds and facilities, and was otherwise tranquil and quiet. Fortuitously a few of us without inside bathrooms were able to upgrade to Ensuite sites, avoiding the usual tramp.

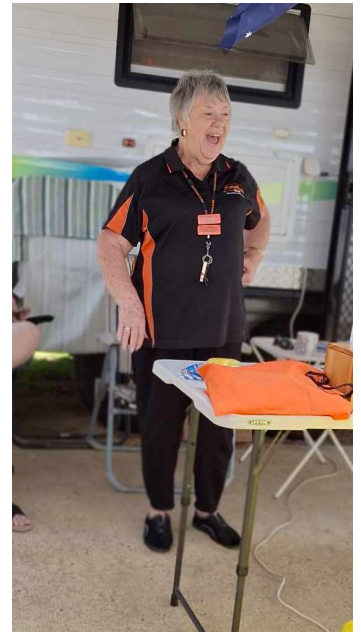


The town was hosting their Australia Day Breakfast and Annual Award Ceremony at Sandakan Park, and we were delighted to be invited to share their festivities. We were treated to a generous delicious free breakfast of bacon and egg rolls, fruit salad, muffins and tea or coffee and entertained by charming musical acts and witnessed local town folk receive citizenship awards.

Back to the park for morning tea, where Norma conducted the official welcome and outlined the activities. Erica had put together a quiz to test us on our knowledge of slang words to complete by the next day and we were asked to write new lyrics to the tune of Advance Australia Fair.

A number of the members had donned Australia Day fashions, with Erica a clear winner with a fantastic hat decorated with Australiana and gum leaves.

Onto BBQ lunch and shared salad, where Norma and Arthur officially inducted Elly and Eddie into the club, where Elly delivered a lovely thank you speech.



The town Swimming Pool beckoned on the hot afternoon and having been assured by other members that it was worth a visit, Ray and I thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing dip while others went off to enjoy alternative pursuits.

The park is located at the Old Flax Mill which was in operation until 1965. There is an interesting scale model of the mill free to visitors and a fascinating array of the original equipment and buildings. Members also enjoyed picturesque walk trails along the river and adjacent parks.

Happy Hour saw everyone meet up again.

Prospective new members, Judy and Les Evans from Bullcreek arrived and were immediately made welcome and joined in with the chat and camaraderie.



On Saturday, Cath being a former local, had organised a full day activities. Having met for an early morning tea we headed off in a car convoy to the Harvey Dickson Country Music Centre, located 5 km out of town.



Harvey, a very individual character, welcomed us to his unique “shed”, an amazing and quirky collection of historical items and farm equipment, as well as musical memorabilia which included sand sculptures of Johnny Cash and Elvis. He detailed the history of his facility which started out as a farm shed and grew to become a wonderful stage, bar and museum which has hosted a number of very famous country music stars and had lots of comical anecdotes to share. We all had fun pointing out and recognising items from our childhood. After a full tour of the shed, we moved onto the Bunkhouse and enjoyed listening to stories about the Centre’s beginnings and his favourite songs by Elvis and other artists. Back to the cars for a drive through the rest of the property which hosts

regular weekend Rodeos, music and camping, where we were greeted by more amazing sights, including the statues of Giant Guitar Men, boot hill and his collection of upside-down trees.



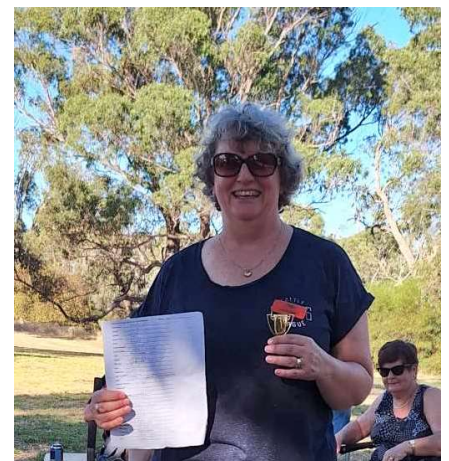


Back for a quick bite of lunch and then onto Micks Pig Collection. Starting with a large ceramic pig as a gift from his daughters, Mike (a former piggery manager) has managed to put together an assortment of over 3600 pigs over 30 years. The club was welcomed into his home, where we enjoyed viewing his funny and diverse collection.

Next stop The Quacking Frog Teapot Shed, with its collection of teapots. Lovely hosts, Ray and Ruth, shared a bit of their history with us, as we strolled amongst shelves filled with all things tea related. Members were treated to a delicious Devonshire Tea, with yummy scones (jam and cream of course) and tea or coffee.



Back to the park for a rest (or swim at the pool) before regrouping for happy hour at 4.30pm. The warm weather chased us down to the shade of a beautiful gum tree on the bank of the river where we enjoyed bebies and a sumptuous feast. Cath's sister Jenny visited us and supplied delicious snacks. The result of the Slang Words competition was announced by Erica, with the person who got the most slang words correct, by a very narrow margin of one right answer, being yours truly, with Cath the runner up.



The raffle was won by Judy, followed up by Rob and Pat. After which, Norma led the way with her lovely rendition of Advance Australia Fair with new words, followed by Beryl, Lisa, Erica and Cath. Popular consensus had Norma the winner for her wonderful version which included references to the club and its values of friendship and harmony.

After dinner we all joined together again to enjoy a yarn into the wee hours.

Sunday saw a slight cooling of the weather, perfect for travelling home for those of us that were heading off. Morning tea (including tasty scones baked fresh by Norma) was enjoyed and then Norma declared the meeting officially closed.

Cheers Lisa (& Ray)



To view more photos go to Concord Facebook page



February to March Birthdays

Feb – Erin 6th, Ray 11th
Mar – Emma 8th, Lisa E 12th

Anniversary Wishes

Congratulations to Beryl and Allen who enjoyed their Wedding Anniversary over the Australia Day long weekend.



For those on the sick list,
we wish you a speedy recovery & hope to see you caravanning soon.

Next Rallies

- Seabird (Tavern) Caravan Park 1st to 4th March
(see Robert for more information – cut off 14th Feb)
- Narrogin Caravan Park 28th March to 1st April
(see refer to latest email, Park is keen to finalise numbers)

Membership Officer is Arthur Pincham, please check your details & if any changes please let Arthur know npi14709@bigpond.net.au

Safety First Remember that you need to carry 2 fire blankets in your caravan, 1 in the front inside near the Entry Door & 1 in the back, plus 1 extinguisher near the front door. This is for your own safety.

Bookings for your Dairy 2024

All information is on your Rally Calendars

You must contact the Secretary to confirm your booking.

Please note cut off dates for Rallies

If you are not arriving on the due date, PLEASE let the particular caravan park know so they can re book that site for the night or if you require extra days.

The Next Rally and Upcoming Events

Seabird 1st - 4th March

Narrogin Caravan Park 28th March to 1st April

Wandering Caravan Park 3rd to 5th May

(see Robert for more information)

Remember To keep your van & valuables locked. They cost too much to replace. So until the next Rally stay safe.

President Norma Pincham - npi14709@bigpond.net.au

Secretary Robert Thomas - rdthomas49@outlook.com

Treasurer Graeme Colmer - gcolmer@westnet.com.au