



# Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

ABN—48 935 517 727

Phone Number—0459 232 136

Email:- admin@accvic.org.au

Web Site:- accvic.org.au

Saturday, 24 August, 2.00pm Zoom  
Saturday, 26 October, 2.00pm AGM Zoom

## June 2024

### Presidents Report

The “Cold and Flu” season seems to have arrived early at the Andrews’ household this year. Against our son’s advice not to come visiting, we had to go, or so SWMBO said. Consequently, the last few days prior to writing this Report I have been laid up. The nose has stopped running but the diaphragm still hurts with even the slightest cough. I was to have my annual flu injection the day I caught the dreaded loggie, so I guess I will have it once I recover. Better late than never.

Being in my mid-seventies, I find these health attacks affect me more severely than when I was younger. It prompts me to remind those of us of similar vintage to go see your doctor and get the flu jab. I did test myself for COVID too, and thankfully was negative. RSV, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, is reported to be on the increase. Google it to learn more, but it can affect senior citizens and infants more so than others. There is a vaccine for that too. There seems to be antidotes for nearly everything these days. Keep well.

I was at Longwood Community Centre Free Camp in April. Afterwards, we spent a week at the A-Line Caravan Park, Big Hill, just south of Bendigo. A very nice small park. Every powered site is ensuite. Well priced at \$50 per night too. There was need of some TLC, but respectable non the less. Imagine my horror when the hydraulic jack to lift the caravan off the car failed completely. The handle went up and down, but no lifting action at the A-frame. No other jockey wheel with me. Car had to come off as it was blocking the road. A mate to the rescue as he had a spare wind-up jockey wheel. Panic over. Googling a replacement hydraulic jack would mean an investment of around \$600. Being prepared for that, a mate googled further and found a Seal Repair Kit for TrailerMate jacks on eBay. \$52. Free delivery. I have now received it but yet to fit the new seals. Hope it works...

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The material in this Newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports, nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter. No person should act on the basis of any matter contained in the Newsletter without considering and, if necessary, taking appropriate professional advice upon their own particular circumstances. The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria Inc, the authors and editors, expressly disclaim all and any liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done, any such person in reliance, whether whole or partial, upon the whole or part of the contents of the Newsletter.

Plans for our State Rally at Lakes Entrance next year are coming along quite nicely. See the display advert in this Newsletter. The dates are Friday 14 March to Monday 17 March 2025. I encourage you to reserve those dates in your holiday diary and come join the fun.

Book your site at the Eastern Beach Holiday Park as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We have 50 powered sites reserved. Phone: 1800 761 762. Email: [easternbeach@nrmaparksandresorts.com.au](mailto:easternbeach@nrmaparksandresorts.com.au), The *Activities* form for the weekend is on the website. Go to 2025 State Rally in the menu for the link. The *Registration* form will be available shortly. Use it once you have booked your site to notify ACCVic that you will be attending and to inform us of your selection of activities. Delegates will be notified by email when the Registration form is available.

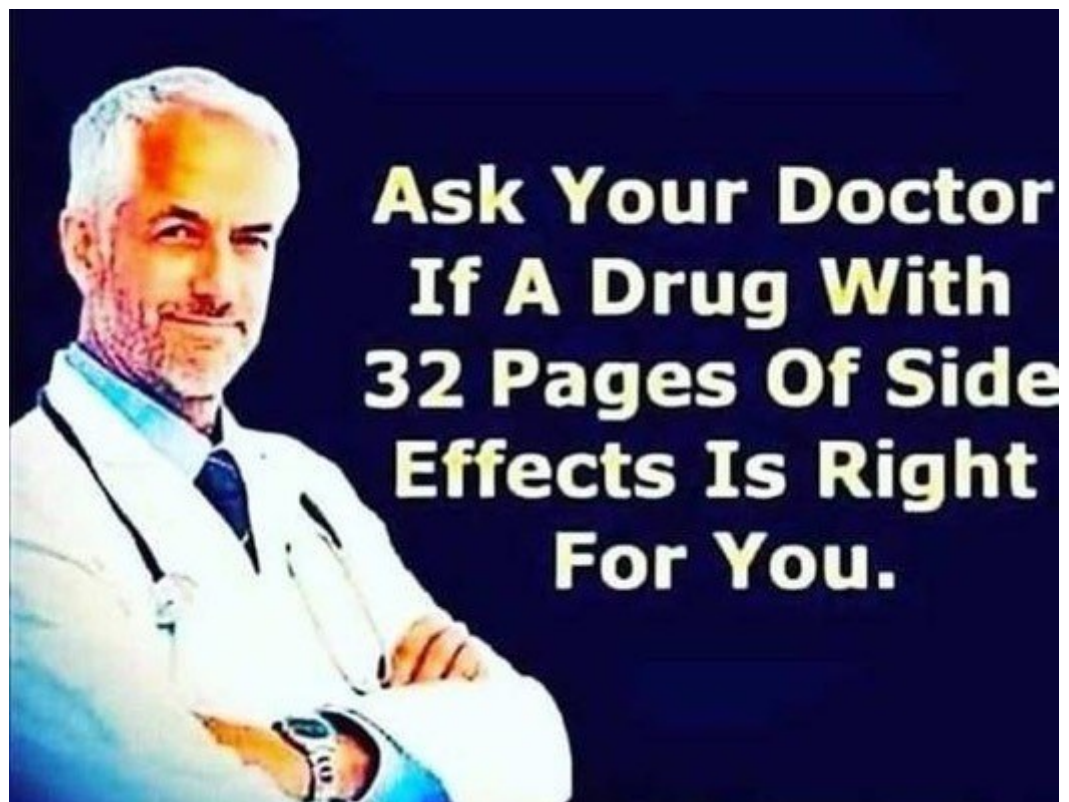
The early January 14th deadline to book a site and register with ACCVic is based on the holiday park's dictates. It helps us too as bookings for tours, meals, etc can be finalised early. We are hiring a large marquee from the local Lions Club at ACCVic expense just in case the weather is poor. Be there to use it!

The search for a suitable venue perhaps south of or central to Melbourne for 2026 is underway. Investigation of caravan parks on the Bellarine and surrounding area would be appreciated. We need around 50 powered sites, camp kitchen, BBQ's, if possible a meeting room, "Group" site pricing, pet friendly parks. If you can suggest places that fit the bill, email me at [president@accvic.org.au](mailto:president@accvic.org.au). Have you consolidated your plans to attend the National Rally at Mudgee, NSW, next year? To date I am led to believe there are about 300 bookings. Plenty of room for more. Organise a Tag-a-long within your Club to travel in convoy arriving at the venue on Monday 29th September 2025. The rally continues to Tuesday 7th October 2025. It will be another brilliant National Rally. If you are yet to register, go to the Rally Registration Page and register online:

<https://www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au/layout.php?p=6>.

Until next time,

Alan Andrews  
President ACCVic







ACCVIC president Alan Andrews and state rally co-ordinator Stella Breese enjoyed visiting the Kerang area.

Picture: Noel Fisher

## Caravan rally ‘great for town’

By Noel Fisher

[nfisher@theguardian.com.au](mailto:nfisher@theguardian.com.au)

KERANG Holiday Park hosted a group of 80 guests in 50 caravans from the Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria last weekend.

The group stages an annual state rally at one location where representatives from clubs from across the state gather and socialise and organise events for the coming calendar year.

Tony and Dee Height were their hosts.

They took over the caravan park, on the southern approach to Kerang, 18 months ago and are originally from Melbourne.

Mr Height said the growth in Kerang and its surrounds was a big motivator in taking on the business.

“Since we have arrived, we are working to make improvements to the park and making it a great place for visitors and friends and family of local people to come and stay,” Mr Height said.

“The rally coming to town is great for the town and great for tourism.

“We are trying to promote local businesses and attractions like Shepo’s Whey, the bowling club, the lakes and the nature that is available here in Kerang and the surrounds.”

Dee Height said the group had been enjoying the events that the park had organised for them.

“Each one of the group will go back and talk to their clubs and, hopefully, will say this town is great, we should go back there with their own clubs,” Ms Height said.

“We are aiming to promote the town and hopefully there will be

more clubs coming to our town.

“Many of them bring bikes to explore the towns they visit, we don’t have a track from our site as yet, however, we are working with the Gannawarra Shire about putting something in place in the near future.”

State rally co-ordinator Stella Breese said she loves the area and, in particular, the weather.

“We like to choose places that are a little smaller rather than bigger ones, it’s great to support them,” Ms Breese said.

ACCVIC state president Alan Andrews said there were 10 caravan clubs represented at the weekend.

“The area has lots of tourism appeal,” Mr Andrews said.

“You have Lake Boga close by with the Catalinas and, of course, Swan Hill, that is steeped in history.”

# 19th National Caravan Clubs Rally

## Mudgee NSW

Australian Rural Education Centre, 267 Ulan Road, Bombira (Mudgee) NSW

# 29th September to 7th October 2025

There are approximately 400 powered sites plus a limited number of unpowered sites available.

Copies of past Newsletters can be found at their web site :- [Newsletters Page. \(19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au\)](http://www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au)

There is also an important page to read called "RALLY NOTICES".

Merchandise is also available in the form of short sleeved polo shirts for both men and women.

Rally badges are also available for purchase.

# Lakes Entrance State Rally

Eastern Beach Holiday Park, 42 Eastern Beach Road, Lakes Entrance Vic.

Phone number — 1800 761 762 (We have booked 50 powered sites)

Email address — [easternbeach@nrmaparksandresorts.com.au](mailto:easternbeach@nrmaparksandresorts.com.au)

Web site — <https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/eastern-beach/>

Arrive Friday the 14th of March and depart on Monday the 17th of March 2025.

The Association (ACCVic) has arranged for a local Lions Club to erect a marquee for our use from Friday until Monday. This marquee will be our main meeting area.

## Registration is a two step process

FIRST — Ring the Caravan Park on 1800 761 762 and say you are with the ACCVic group.

SECOND — Open the ACCVic web site ([Home Page. \(accvic.org.au\)](http://www.accvic.org.au)) and click on the tab called "STATE RALLIES".

Then download and complete the Registration Form and email it to—[registration@accvic.org.au](mailto:registration@accvic.org.au)

The cut off date for bookings at the Caravan Park is the 14th of January 2025.



# Hijacking Wireless Keys

One of the high-tech features of our modern cars is the use of keyless entry and remote start. The key fob you have is paired to your car using a code that both your car and fob know, which prevents you from starting other cars. The difference between keyless entry and the remotes that unlock your car is that keyless entry fobs are always transmitting, so when you get near your car and touch the door, it will unlock.

That word “always” is very important because thieves quickly realized they can eavesdrop on the radio signal and make a recording. They could then “replay” the recording and unlock your car. To help with security, the newest fobs use a one-time code to open the door.

The network used by all computers in a car to communicate is called a controller area network (CAN) bus. It's designed to allow the computers in a car to send commands and information to each other. The CAN bus was not designed for security, because all of the devices are assumed to be self-contained. But that presumption leaves the CAN bus vulnerable to hackers.

Car thieves often try to hack into the CAN bus and from there the computers that control the car's engine. The engine control unit stores a copy of the wireless key code, and thieves can clone this to a blank key fob to use to start the victim's car. One method is accessing a car's onboard diagnosis through a physical port or wireless connection meant for repair technicians. Thieves who access the onboard diagnostics gain access to the CAN bus.



This image was taken from a YouTube video and shows how the car was stolen in a matter of seconds.

There are two people involved. First the guy in the red hoody is standing close to where your key is stored.

He is holding a device that is receiving the signal from your electronic car key. Once received it is then transmitted to the car and bingo your car is open and can be started. Most modern car key fobs have a range of around 10 to 15 meters, but some may have longer ranges.

## **This scenario can also work if you are in your caravan and your 4WD is close by.....**

Years ago there was lots of talk about thieves stealing your credit card details using similar card reading gadgets and then placing that information onto a blank card. The way around that was to use wallets and purses that had metal built into the outside lining.

Like the wallets and purses mentioned above you can now purchase containers (the box on the right) and key fobs (on the far right) that will block the signal sent from your car key fob, thus thwarting thieves.



# Facebook

For all those Facebook enthusiasts out there we need you to look after the ACCVic Facebook page. If you are interested please email the ACCVic Secretary "Janice" at

admin@accvic.org.au

## Taxable Income

A question was raised at the last "Delegates Zoom meeting" about a contribution/donation of \$3,000.00 so that the Caravan Club could buy a defibrillator. Here is the long-winded answer with the short answer at the bottom.

### **Summary from the ATO web site**

For a 'contribution or donation' of for example 'money to buy a defibrillator for your Caravan Club' to be tax-deductible to the contributor then your Caravan Club must be a DGR – A deductible gift recipient. As ACCVic and all the Caravan Clubs being members of ACCVic are NOT charitable organizations then ACCVic and all the Caravan Clubs being members of ACCVic then cannot be a DRG.

**Therefore, a contribution or donation is NOT classed as taxable income.**

**PS — The Income Tax Guide for Not For Profit Organisations is 112 pages long.**

**PSS — Member annual membership fees ARE NOT classed as taxable income.**

**The ATO has determined that all members of ACCVic—that's your Caravan Club—are classed as taxable.**

**However if your Caravan Club does not have an active ABN AND your taxable income is less than \$416.00 then you DO NOT NEED TO LODGE AN ANNUAL TAX RETURN.**

**ACCVic has an active ABN and earned taxable income from its Term Deposit of \$883.00.**

The first \$416.00 of this is tax free with that portion over \$417.00 being taxed at 55%.

So  $\$466.00 \times 55\% = \$256.30$  (This is my estimate of the tax payable by ACCVic).

If our taxable income was over \$1,000.00 then the tax rate is 30% on the whole amount.

# Cards etc found in my wallet

Prior to any extended travel, such as three months in Queensland this winter, I photo copy the front and back of all valuable documents in my wallet.

Should I lose my wallet or have it stole I can then go to the copy and contact my Bank etc and advise them of the cards loss.

Such a simple thing to do.

---

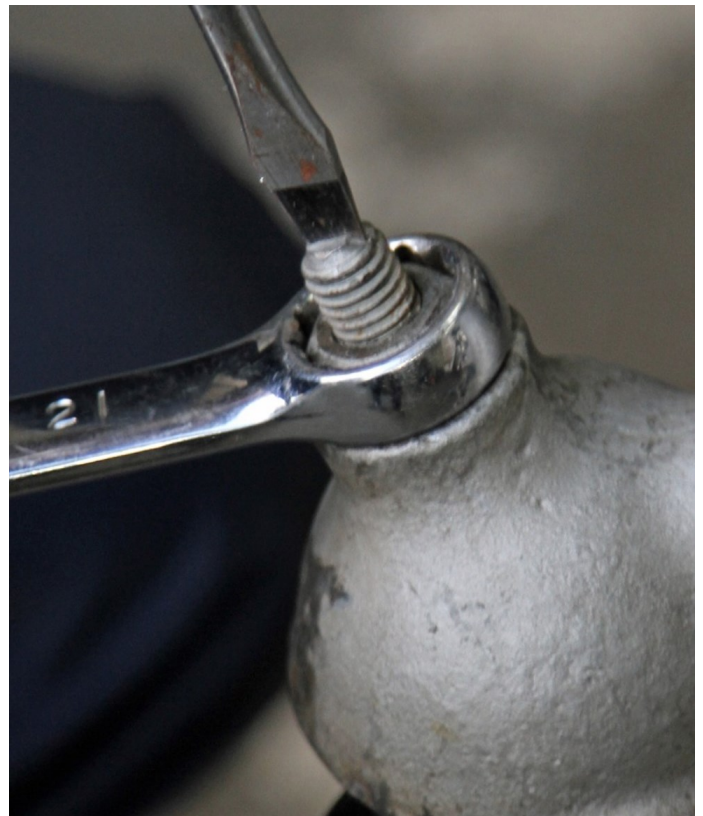


What the caravanners said was that the caravan jumped off the tow ball while they were travelling at 95 KPH.

Ball couplings are by far the most common form of hitch used to connect trailers to their tow vehicles, and everyone using a trailer would be familiar with the very basic routine of hitching up their trailer with such a piece of equipment. But it is not always understood how such couplings should be adjusted to suit the ball, and the simple need to occasionally check that coupling's adjustment. See the image below.

As the ball coupling wears you will also have to adjust to accommodate that wear. The loss of the chrome coating off the ball will require an adjustment.

It is for these reasons that it is highly recommended that the couplings and balls have a coating of grease or similar lubricant, to reduce that wear. The process is quite simple and requires only a 21mm ring spanner and a good flat blade screwdriver.





## Technical Bulletin

Issue No.  
October 2014



### Adjusting the Ball Adjustment Screw on an AL-KO Coupling

In order to adjust the ball adjustment screw, the coupling must be first fitted to the tow ball.

The 21mm locking nut should first be loosened by turning anticlockwise.

Using a large 'flat head' screwdriver, the adjustment screw should then be turned clockwise until contact is made with the ball. Only very light contact should be made otherwise premature wear may occur.

Tighten the locking nut to ensure the adjustment of the screw does not change.

*Note: The adjuster screw on an AL-KO tow ball coupling is designed to minimise the design clearance of the tow ball within the coupling socket. The adjuster is not designed to compensate for a tow ball that is under size. Careful attention should be paid to the ball size in the case of excessive wear.*

# Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria Web site

The ACCVic web site is open for everybody to look at. It includes contact details of every club that is a member of the Association. All of those clubs are entitled to have their own page. For example the Coromal Caravan Owners Club Vic has a page which gives a brief history of the club, the current committee members and a list of their 2024 rallies.

ACCVic also has a page which includes our Mission Statement, which is currently under review, and information on benefits that we provide.

There is also a section on general information under TOPICS.

Details about past State Rallies are also included, and past Newsletters back to 2013 can also be found on the website.

ACCVic Executive Committee and Club Delegates and Club Secretaries (if they ask for access) also have access to other parts of the web site. For example the Treasurer has access to the accounting section of the web site.

Access to other general caravan club members is generally not given.