



Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

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Delegate's Meetings.

4 March 2023—10:30am via Zoom

To finalise the AGM

27 May 2023

26 August 2023 (Executive meeting)

28 October 2023—AGM

April 2023

From the President

Hello everyone. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Alan Andrews. I live with my wife Joan in the Yarra Valley, just fifty kilometres from Melbourne CBD. I am also the President and a foundation member of the Coromal Caravan Owners Club of Victoria Inc. ACCVic Delegates may know me as a recent member of the ACCVic Committee.

I must congratulate Rob Taylor for his excellent leadership as President of ACCVic over many years. Rob will continue as our NACC Director, and I will slot in as our Alternate NACC Director on the NACC Board.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our first State Rally at Horsham and later, our first National Rally at Barmera this year. Perhaps like others, I thought the sheer number of people would be overwhelming. But not so. Meeting fellow caravanners for the first time proved as friendly an experience as at our own Club Rallies. After all, it is still just a one-to-one encounter.

There were forty-three caravans at Horsham and over three hundred and fifty at Barmera. Stella Breese from the RACV CC organised our activities at Horsham. Read her report in this newsletter. Well done Stella.

DISCLAIMER

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After Horsham, a few enjoyed a tag-a-long over the next few days getting to Barmera. Organised by David Breese. Free camping at Lake Lascelles for two nights, Murrayville CP for four and Barmera. Lions Park free camp for one night before going to Barmera's Field Day Site for the National Rally.

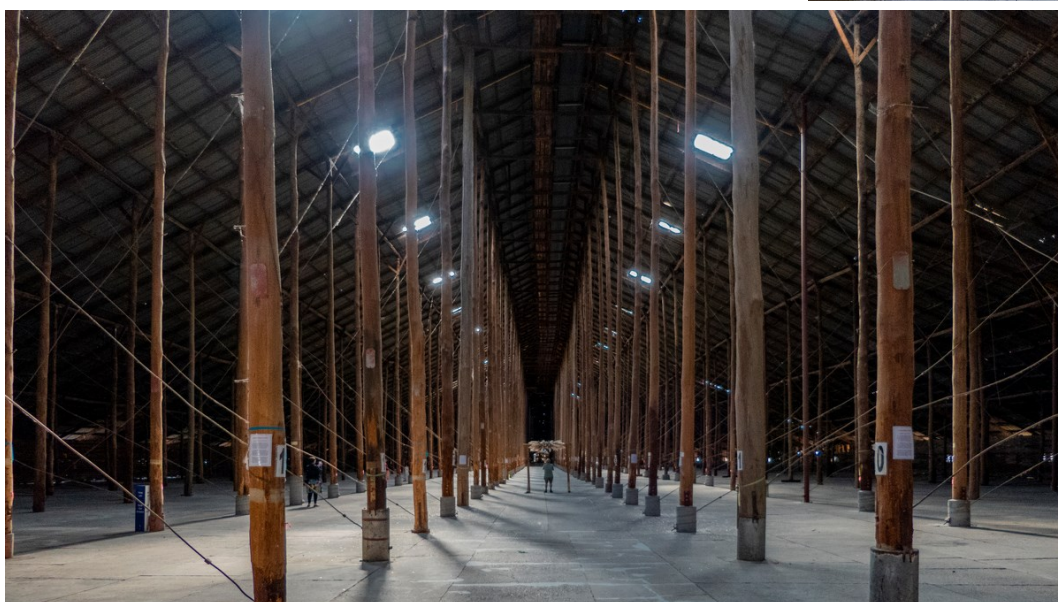
I look forward to performing the duties of ACCVic President.
My contact details are readily available from the ACCVic website.
Alan Andrews

Horsham State Rally Pictures



The marquee provided free by the Horsham Caravan Park.

The Wimmera River which backed onto the Caravan Park.



The magnificent STICK SHED at Murtoa.

See next page for details of the shed.

Our last visit was to Woods Museum in Rapunyp where we also had lunch.



The Stick Shed

The Stick Shed was the solution for wheat storage during WWII when exports were restricted. A second shed was built in 1942-43 and demolished in 1975. It was about twice the size of the shed that remains. A third shed was started but never completed.

The stick shed was built between September 1941 and completed 4 months later. The workforce consisted of 15 builders plus another 16 or so volunteers.

Built from 560 unmilled poles from the Dandenong's (56 rows of ten) to support the roof. The shed measures 270 metres long, 60 metres wide and about 19 metres high. The floor which covers 1.6 hectares is concreted.

An internet search say I can build 32 houses on 1.6 hectares.

The shed held 3,381,600 bushels of wheat which is about 92,000 ton.

A 10 million bushel shed (three times the size of the shed at Murtoa) was erected at Dunnolly and was demolished in 1987.

The Murtoa Stack Shed was added to the Historic Buildings Register in June 1990.

See this web site for more details—
www.thestickshed.com.au

Murtoa in the local indigenous language means 'home of the lizard'.





ACCVic State Clubs Rally Report Horsham 2023

When: 17th – 20th March
Where: Horsham Riverside Caravan Park
190 Firebrace St, Horsham.
Ph. [\(03\) 5382 3476](tel:0353823476)

The Association of Caravan Clubs of Victoria and
Their Members Inc.
Registration No—A0011643X

On Thursday vans were arriving, the marquee was up which the Caravan Park arranged to be erected for free. It was an excellent space for the group to hold the event, it had side walls and plenty of tables, chairs, and lights.

Firstly, I would like to Thank, Faye and Anthony Molloy from the Wimmera Caravan Club, they offered to team up with me to help organise and run the rally. Their support over the year and on the weekend was invaluable.

All inside gatherings onsite were held in the marquee on the weekend. Friday everyone had arrived safely with a couple late arrivals. There were 11 clubs represented with 40 vans at the rally and some visitors from the Wimmera Caravan Club.

We had a busy afternoon ahead with organised meetings and gatherings we needed to keep on track. First off, the rank was the Volunteers Meeting, where I arranged with each group, what was needed for them to take charge of the activity they were responsible for, over the weekend.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped over the weekend. without this group of people, the weekend would not have run as smoothly.

We greatly appreciate your assistance.

The Registrations were a bit full on with changes made along the way. In the end it all worked out. Everyone was accounted for, armed with tickets, spending sheet and a bag from the Information Centre they were set for the weekend.

The Club Presidents/Representatives Meeting of members from each Caravan Club had the chance to exchange ideas. It seemed to be going well with ideas and discussion in full swing as the meeting was ending.

At Happy Hour: The outgoing President Rob Taylor introduced the newly appointed President Alan Andrews and Secretary Janice Hadgraft. Alan continued to Welcome all participation to the weekend's activities.

Stella Breese, Faye and Anthony Molloy presented the Weekend Program and ending with a message that the participation would meet new people from other clubs, share stories, ideas and find out some new places to rally at, and interesting things to see and do. The Happy Hour went well with lots of chatting and laughter.

Anthony run into Paul Carracher the photograph of The Weekly Advertiser, the Horsham newspaper.

There was a short write-up in the Friday Newspaper and friend told Faye and Anthony she heard about the weekend rally on the radio as well. So, Horsham knew we were in town.

Come Saturday morning, we were all excited about Paul's coming to take photos of our flags and talk about the rally. He arrived at 8:45am a bit earlier than expected but we were ready. Also, Amy Jude a Photographer from the Horsham Times came later in the day and took some photos. She also took some information with her for her dad.

After the photos we had morning tea and talked about, what a great opportunity it was to have the event advertised and hopefully some new members for Horsham Caravan Club and wider a field.

Saturday morning was a time for people to explore Horsham armed with their list of Things to Do and the leaflets from Tourist Information I'm sure they found plenty to do.

In the afternoon the weather was not as hot and windy as forecasted, which made it pleasant to play the social games we found a couple of spots in a bit of shade to play a game of Bocci and game of Klomp (it's known by different names). There was a good mix of Clubs playing together with lots of fun and laughter.

With all the activity of cooking at the BBQ, a dinner of sausages, patties, onions, salad, bread, and sauce was ready to serve to the hungry participants. There was enough for seconds and all the meat was eaten.

With dinner over and time to clean up, it was now time to battle it out over cards and board games night a few people came to participate, there was a version of Trains which was new to some of the players and a game of Flielantsch Knikker'n (Yeah!! Spell check is still trying to work that one out!!) It's a German board game like Ludo but very challenging. Those who played had a good time and met some new people.

Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast once again a group of volunteers were cooking up a storm in the BBQ area and provided us with the pancakes which everyone was enjoying.

We had a quick morning tea and off for the Tag-a-Long Tour with Faye and Anthony in charge for the day. We needed to split into 2 groups for both venues so Stella and David the orange group lead the way and Faye and Anthony the blue group came up second as Anthony was giving a commentary on the way, about interesting facts about the area such as a new mineral sand mine opening in 2024 which is a 30-year project and will employ 200 workers. Which will be a great opportunity for the area.

The Stick Shed at Murtoa, which included a guided tour was our first stop. This place is amazing, just standing in the shed is inspiring, especially once you hear how few people were involved in building it and how long it took. Highly recommend a visit.

The orange group headed off first for lunch at Woods Farming and Heritage Museum, Rupanyup. The lunch consisted of 8-point sandwiches, a slice, and a cold drink for everyone, a lovely frittata GF/V slice for those who required it. Everyone seemed to enjoy lunch. Those who choose to BYO were able to eat in the Museum restaurant as well. Free tea/coffee was included in the entry to the Museum.

This was also a fascinating place there was so much to see. Very interesting.

Some comments made "I recognised so much from my childhood.

The buzz from the day was still ringing when we got back. People were still talking about their day. At Happy Hour Our fishermen didn't catch a fish but received a prize for trying. And thank you to the people who returned their Spending Sheets we were a bunch of happy little spenders.

We spent **\$6,745.00** of the 16 sheets I received back. These figures are important when we have our national rally, getting dump points into communities and more.

We met up for the BYO dinner and people mainly chatted about their day and getting to know each other a little bit better.

Anthony and David did a very entertaining auction of the left-over food which had everyone in stitches and most items sold.

The people who returned for the evening activity of Celebrity Heads had an enjoyable time as they asked questions getting some helpful answers which resulted in them all guessing who they were. Maybe some got a little hint here and there but completed the task all the same. There was lots of laughter and fun.

Monday farewell morning tea unfortunately the biscuits were sold the night before, but we had a chat about the next part of our journeys

I hope you all had an enjoyable time and come again next year to Kerang.

Stella Breese

State Rally Coordinator

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip.

After eating their dinner around the campfire they retire to the tent to go to sleep. A few hours later Sherlock wakes up.

"Watson, are you awake?" He asks.

"Yes, sir. What is it?" Answers Watson.

"Look up and tell me what you see." Asks Holmes.

"I see billions of stars," says Watson.

"And what does that tell you Watson," asks Holmes.

"Well," says Dr Watson, "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"Why? – What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes is quiet for a moment then says: "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."

The Bendigo Caravan Club, of which I am a member, called into the Porcupine Village at Maldon on the way to a Mystery Rally at Daylesford. They provided an excellent morning tea and their menu below looks great. During their discussion about the Village they stated that their future plans included a CARAVAN PARK. I of course said that I would advertise their new Caravan Park.

The big question is—when will it open.



GOLDEN NUGGET RESTAURANT

Situated in the middle of the Goldfields, Golden Nugget restaurant prides itself in offering exceptional standards in food and service.

VILLAGE CLASSICS

Thursday - Friday 6pm-8pm

From the "Bushmans Pie" to the "Pioneer Burger", even 4 different Parmas to choose from! Our popular Village Classics menu is our take on all your favourites.

FINE DINNING

Saturday 6pm-8pm

"A UNIQUE RURAL DINING EXPERIENCE"

Saturday's are reserved for our fine dining menu, enjoy a selection of over 25 seasonal dishes layed out over 3 courses. Complimented by a perfectly curated wine list.

CARVERY LUNCH | SUNDAY SESSIONS

Sunday lunch 12pm-2pm | Session 2:30pm Onwards

Join us for a classic carvery style lunch with your choice of 3 meats or a baked field mushroom including sides and dessert of the day!

Sunday Sessions start from 2:30 including local live music in our gorgeous alfresco area, delicious \$12 eats and happy hour from 3pm-4pm, no booking required for sessions just come down, relax and enjoy the atmosphere!



 (03) 4417 5900

8 Allans Road, Maldon
VIC 3463

www.porcupinevillage.com.au

After Horsham, a few enjoyed a tag-a-long over the next few days getting to

Rally Report

18th National Caravan Clubs Rally

Barmera Field Day Site—South Australia

Monday 27 March - Wednesday 4 April, 2023

The Association of Caravan Clubs of South Australia was tasked with organising this rally under the Chairmanship of John Anderson, ably supported by a small army of volunteers. COVID and recent major floods along the Murray River caused it to be postponed twelve months to March 2023.

Appointed volunteers arrived Saturday 25th March to help set things up. Patrons with “Special Needs” arrived Sunday. Everyone else arrived Monday. The grassy level sites measured about eleven metres by eleven metres offering plenty of room for awning, caravan, and car alongside. Streets between rows of caravans were wide providing plenty of reversing room. White lines marked boundaries. Power and water was available for ALL vans. However, the water was not potable, but suitable for showers, dishes, etc. OK once boiled for drinking. Drinking water was available from several outlets. Most vans needed two normal-length water hoses and “tagged and tested” power leads. The amenities blocks were modern and cleaned every day: essential to suit over seven hundred adults as over three hundred and fifty caravans arrived. A few motorhomes and fifth wheelers were also present.

According to official information, only Tasmania and Northern Territory were not represented at the rally. Queensland topped the attendance tally. As you see, looking at the number of caravans attending, Victoria ranked bottom of the States.

Nine of our twenty-four affiliated caravan clubs were represented. Well done members of the Australian Touring RV Club (1 caravan), Ballarat Caravan Club (3), Central Victoria Caravan Club (1), Combined Caravan Club of Vic. (5), Coromal Caravan Owners Club of Vic. (2), Gippsland Caravan Club (3), Masonic Caravan Club of Vic. (2), North East Victoria Caravan Club (1), and the RACV Caravan Club of Vic. (19). Maybe we can improve on these numbers next time.

CLUBS in ATTENDANCE		
State	No. Clubs	No. Vans
SA	8	65
Vic	9	37
NSW	17	86
ACT	2	17
QLD	15	97
WA	18	53
Totals	69	357

A variety of activities were organised for each day and published in the “Rally Book”, and again in daily news sheets, the “River Rambler”, delivered to every van by appointed Street Captains. Such activities included Bingo, book and DVD exchange, boot scooting and line dancing, caravan

cooking, crochet rug making, disc bowls (*won by NSW*), dog obedience demonstration, golf, knit & natter, lawn bowls, Limpix, quilting, Men’s Shed, photobook instruction, photography competition, poet’s corner, tours, trivia quiz, and ukelele lessons. Something for everyone.

“Limpix”? Best interpreted as “Lightweight Olympics”. An all-day event where a number of “tasks”, eighteen in total, such as hoola hoop, horseshoe toss, golf putt, egg and spoon obstacle, jigsaw, skittles, and so on, tested our physical and mental abilities. Lots of prizes. One interesting task had members guessing where a number of photographs of places around Australia were taken. Really challenging.

Sealink Travel Group offered a coach tour to the Barossa Valley, transport to Renmark for a river cruise on PS Industry, to Overland Corner for lunch and then to Loxton Historic Village, to Renmark Museum and Banrock Station for lunch, and an *Art, Wine and Wetlands* tour.

The Barmera Men’s Shed offered a free sausage sizzle, *Banrock Station*, *Bassham Wines* sold their wines, *Ruston Distillery* their boutique gin, and *Jachmann Cider* their cider every day, Radio 5RM broadcast their morning show one day from the event, and RFDS displayed their cut-away hospital plane. Kui Parks, CIL Insurance, Redarc, KESAB, and others conducted informative presentations. Derrick McManus gave an inspirational talk on *Surviving and Thriving*.

Special mention for *Adelaide RV* as major sponsor. As well as having a trade stall they produced and published video clips each day to their Facebook page. Search for *Adelaide RV* group in your Facebook app.

Adelaide Caravans displayed a number of new *Supreme* and *Leader* caravans. Other highlights included a Trade Fair, Market Day where caravaners as well as companies could sell their wares, onsite caravan repair man and auto electrician, free skin checks conducted by qualified skin specialists, and the NACC Roadshow where Secretary Rin's presentation highlighted the important role NACC has in our world of caravanning.

Food trucks offered coffee, *Filipino Foods*, *A Taste of Thai*, pizzas, strawberries, soft serve ice cream, even *Salt and Pepper Catering* boasting a gourmet catering chef taking dinner orders. Local Lions Club and sports clubs cooked bacon, eggs and sausages for breakfast nearly every day.

Towns close to Barmera, like Glossop, Berri, Cobdogla, Renmark, Monash, Winkie, and Loxton, offered plenty of scope for private excursions. Many visited the local bakeries and hotels for morning tea or lunch. As an aside, diesel was around twenty cents a litre cheaper at these towns than anywhere in Victoria. Four o'clock each day is "Happy Hour Time". We all know that, so each Street Captain organised those in his allocated street, about a dozen caravans, to assemble and enjoy each other's company.

Every evening, in the very large marquee, various artists provided superb entertainment from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. Solo singers, comedians, country and western bands, rock and roll bands filled the marquee. One lunchtime the SA Police Band gave a one-hour recital without a bagpipe in sight. They were excellent and the policewoman singer was "concert-standard".

Two major raffles with expensive prizes: diesel heater, caravan refrigerator, caravan voucher to Kangaroo Island, and Redarc pack were drawn. Lucky winners. Almost daily "Site Number" raffles with lesser prizes were well received (*Yours truly won an Echo Toilet Starter Pack valued at \$52. Very pleased.*).

On Tuesday, the Closing Ceremony was immediately followed by the Farewell Dinner. The logistics of serving a two-course dinner to so many people in the marquee must have been daunting, but was carried off without a hitch – chicken and lamb, vegetables, roast potatoes and gravy. *Chunky Custard*, no not the dessert, which was sticky date pudding, but the final entertainment offering, finished the event perfectly.

What my wife and I enjoyed was the ability to choose our level of participation in the plethora of advertised activities. People do as much or as little as they want. No compulsion to do anything. And as you see, the enormous range of available activities gave plenty of choice.

The excellent choice of venue, the large sites with power and water, the high level of organization, the quality entertainers, the enormous number of activities to fill our days all contributed to a superb 18th National Rally. Regalia mementos of polo shirts, lanyards and badges will server as reminders of the nine days at Barmera. Well done Organizing Committee.

I hope this report encourages even more ACCVic members to join in the next National Rally at Mudgee, NSW, in 2025. If you are yet to experience a combined caravan club rally, although with fewer participants than here at Barmera, plan to attend our own ACCVic State Rally at Kerang from Friday 15th March to Monday 18th March 2024. You will be guaranteed an excellent time!

In summing up, State and National Rallies are just the same as any Club's rally only with more vans, more people, more options of things to do, with equally brilliant organisation and the same high level of camaraderie.

Alan Andrews
ACCVic President



State Rally

15th to 18th March 2024

Kerang Holiday Park
9399 Murray Valley Hwy,
Kerang
03 5452 2232

Register your booking under
ACCVic

The next ACCVic State Rally is at Kerang.

We need a few clubs to make bookings—we have 50 sites reserved.

The Bendigo Caravan Club already has Kerang marked down for its March Rally.