



# Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

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Saturday, 25 May, 2.00pm Zoom

Saturday, 24 August, 2.00pm Zoom

Saturday, 26 October, 2.00pm AGM Zoom

## April 2024

## Presidents Report

Many clubs of all descriptions may experience “Membership Dramas”. Since this time last year, two of our affiliated caravan clubs have folded. Some of the members of these clubs may have subsequently joined other clubs and some may have given up caravanning altogether. As pointed out to me recently, clubs like ours, with a predominance of seniors, may face two membership dramas: current members retiring due to health, age, financial pressures, and so on, and younger people not joining for whatever reason. Clubs, even the ACCVic, need to promote themselves to ensure longevity.

Avoiding membership dramas is only achieved by getting people to join your club.

Some suggestions: talk to other caravanners at club rallies about club membership; invite any of your caravanning friends to come along; have an “About Us” flyer; maybe a “You’ve been spotted” flyer; publish illustrated reports of rallies and membership drives in the local newspaper or caravanning magazines; ask friendly caravan retail outlets to promote your club by handing out your “Application to Join” or “About Us” forms, and so on. It is all about making others aware of your club and how you can enhance their caravanning experience.

Also, members need to be committed to supporting their club. In my view, having a working set of volunteers in committee of management positions indicates that, as does attending club rallies as often as possible. Of course, there will always be “the willing few”, but they may appreciate a break from duties at some point. Others need to fill the gap gaining experience in whatever position becomes available.

And then, for an incorporated club, and despite all efforts, if numbers fall away to the point where it is no longer viable and has no alternative but to fold, there are government directives as outlined on the Consumer Affairs website to be followed. This scenario to be avoided at all costs despite members migrating to other clubs to keep their caravanning experience going.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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In March a good number assembled at the Kerang Holiday Park for this year's Annual State Rally. There is a report of what happened over the weekend further in this Newsletter. I wish to thank Stella Breese for organising these weekend's activities, a job she has done for a few years. As you may know, Stella wants a break, which means we are looking for someone to take over the mantle of State Rally Coordinator. I have asked before, but I hope someone has been thinking about stepping up and this reminder might be the catalyst that prompts an acceptance. Contact Secretary Janice: [admin@accvic.org.au](mailto:admin@accvic.org.au).

Our 2025 State Rally in March will be held at Lakes Entrance at the Eastern Beach Holiday Park. See the article outlining planning progress so far. At the rally, we announce where the 2026 State Rally is to be held. Last year we went west to Horsham, this year north to Kerang, next year east, so perhaps somewhere south or central in 2026? A suggested caravan park should cater for around fifty caravans and a few motorhomes at powered sites, and maybe a cabin or two. Should you like to recommend such a location, please contact Secretary Janice.

Until next time,

Alan Andrews

ACCVic President

## Three jokes

George, who lived in Oregon on the west coast of the USA, loved his Motorhome, but he also dreamed of going to Hawaii. One day, while walking along the beach, George stumbled over a genie in a magic lamp who granted him a single wish. "I've always wanted to explore the island of Maui in my motorhome, but I can't afford to ship it there. I wish for you to build a bridge from Oregon to Hawaii so I can fulfill my dream." The genie replied, "That's impossible. The ocean is far too deep to build a bridge across. Even a genie such as I can't do it. You have to wish for something else." George thought for a moment, then he said, "I don't understand women. I wish to understand how they think and what they want." The genie paused, then said, "Do you want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

A woman named Mrs. Grazinski bought herself a brand-new Winnebago. She was excited and took her first trip to an Oklahoma football game. On the way home, she set the cruise control to 70 as soon as she got onto the freeway. She then walked to the back to make herself a sandwich, leaving the Winnebago to drive itself. The resulting crash was spectacular. It's hard to believe that someone would actually do that, but she did not feel at fault. In fact, she sued Winnebago for the crash because the owner's manual didn't tell her she couldn't leave it to drive itself. The jury agreed with her and she was awarded \$1,750,000 plus a new motorhome. This is why Winnebago manuals now warn people that they must actually drive the vehicle at all times when it is moving. True story — while technically not an RV joke, it's certainly a conversation starter.

It was late in the day when a fully loaded minivan pulled into the only remaining campsite. As soon as it stopped, the doors flew open and four children jumped out. They began to unload gear and worked feverishly to set up the tent. Next, the boys ran to gather firewood while the girls and their mother set up the camp kitchen area. The camper in the space next to them marveled to the children's father, "I've never seen such teamwork nor a camp that was ready so quickly. I'm impressed." The father turned to the neighbor and nodded sagely. "I have a system," he said. "No one goes to the bathroom before the camp is set up."

# Kerang State Rally



Group photo of those who attended the Kerang State Rally in March this year.

## 2024 State Rally Report

### A President's Perspective

It was raining “cats and dogs” when Joan and I left home at noon on Wednesday 13 March after I attended a NACC Directors Meeting earlier that morning by Zoom. A lunch stop in the caravan – curried egg sandwiches and a cuppa, then off again. We got to Serpentine late afternoon. Looked to stay overnight parked on a quiet street until a local informed me of the Jarklin Hotel just a few kms further up the Loddon Valley Highway. Free and secure caravan parking behind the hotel with no compulsion to buy dinner at the pub. Nice level grass area. Amenities. No power. Most hospitable hotel managers. Bought a beer or two and chips. Only about sixty kms to Kerang Thursday morning.

Kerang was the venue for the 2024 ACCVic State Rally. ACCVic Vice President Ken Winnell and wife Beverley already setup. Members of other ten caravan clubs arrived over the next two days. Forty-four caravans and three motorhomes. Our State Rally Committee had everything organised from Friday afternoon until Monday morning for everyone to enjoy. The weather was exceptional all weekend.

After Registration, we moved into happy hour with snacks provided by ACCVic, BYO drinks. As ACCVic President, I welcomed everyone and handed over to Stella Breese, State Rally Coordinator to outline the program. After these formalities, the caravan park managers set about cooking a BBQ for us all. The grassy shady al-fresco area was an ideal venue for happy hours and BYOE dinners each day.

Saturday, most left for Swan Hill and the PS Pyap for a one-hour cruise up and back on the Murray. Our tickets also gave access to the Pioneer Settlement on the same grounds to wander and leave for Kerang at our leisure. The Murray was very low causing the Pyap to make an eight-point turn to face the correct way. I took Colin as he was in a motorhome. Joan stayed in the Caravan. Colin and I toured the township and had a wonderful time together. Back home it was happy hour and BYO dinner. The evening's planned Talent Show was cancelled – pity as I was ready with “The Man from Ironbark”. Maybe next time.

Sunday breakfast, supplied by ACCVic, was either a full cooked bacon and egg affair or a Continental version. Tea and coffee was provided by the park. After lunch many went to the local lawn bowling club for a lot of fun. The game is decidedly much harder than it appears on TV. My first two bowls scorched from one end of the green to the other disappearing in the far-gutter. Eventually I managed to keep them on the green. I even won two or three “ends” in my group of four players. Colin did much better as he plays back in his country town. Great fun. Like golf's “19<sup>th</sup> Hole”, after an hour or so of bowling, many congregated in the club house for suitable refreshment. The caravan park liaised with the bowling club on our behalf. Much appreciated.

The few not doing bowls were to do croquet at the park but the chap in charge took ill and couldn't get to the rally. So a free afternoon before another happy hour, BYO al fresco dinner, and handing completed Spending Sheets to Stella. The group spent a total of approximately \$16,400.00.

Of course, Sunday was St. Patrick's Day. A few members donned the obligatory green attire, adding to the festivities. We expressed our gratitude to the park Managers and Office personnel by presenting a Certificate of Appreciation which they proudly display front and centre in the office.

Apparently, we were the first big group which booked out the entire park. They were very pleased with how the weekend went, how the park infrastructure held up, and that we enjoyed ourselves.

Monday morning, a farewell cuppa before making for home or elsewhere. Two tag-a-long rallies were organised: one to the Flinders Ranges and the other to Balranald. As for Joan and me we were off to Barham, just 20-odd kms away for a week.

There was one problem however – come time to hitch the van on, my Prado refused to start. RACV to the rescue after a full hour waiting. Nice young man. Got us going. Gave good advice. Gave address of local battery shop. Another \$200.00 plus to the Spending Sheet.

An excellent weekend. Made new friends. Congratulations to Stella and her group of helpers. Everything went swimmingly. But as you may know, we need a replacement for Stella whom, after some years, would like a spell from being State Rally Coordinator. Is that person YOU? Can YOU help organise the 2025 event at Lakes Entrance? Some preliminary enquiries and tentative plans have already been made.

Email Secretary Janice: [admin@accvic.org.au](mailto:admin@accvic.org.au).

Yes, were going to Lakes Entrance next year. The Eastern Beach Holiday Park. Details can be found in this Newsletter. The dates are March 14th, March 15th and March 16th and home on March 17th 2025.

Reserve the dates if you enjoy caravanning and socialising.

Alan Andrews  
ACCVic President

# 2025 State Rally

The 2025 State Rally, March 14—17, 2025, will be held at the NRMA Eastern Beach Holiday Park which is located 2 kilometers to the east of Lakes Entrance. The park sits in a waterfront location just moments from Eastern Beach, making it the ideal place for our next rally. Facilities in park include woodfire pizza oven and swimming pool and is pet friendly. They also have a mini golf course at \$10.00 pp (usually \$12.00) for a bit of fun.



Price \$48.00 per night for a powered site less a 10% discount drops the price to \$43.20 per night. You must mention ACCVic to get this discount.

Some of the activities being investigated are:

- A mini-golf tournament
- Lunch cruise on the Gippsland Lakes.
- A BBQ meal (maybe with a focus on sea food)
- Games on the beach as we are so close.

More details will be available in the next few months, including registration details.



# Bigpond closing this year

There are thousands of rumors on the internet about Bigpond.com being closed this year.

WITH the closure of TPG email in September 2023, many of their customers were left scrambling to find an alternative email provider and make the swap. Others have stayed with TPG and will have a year of free service provided by The Messaging Company, who TPG have contracted to take over the service. It's unclear what the cost will be for users once the year is up. TPG's email service included legacy iiNet and OzEmail accounts.

People who use Telstra's Bigpond or Optus' mail services are at risk of receiving a similar announcement. Telstra has been slowly phasing out Bigpond since 2013, and there have been periodic reports of an upcoming closure since 2016. There has been no recent news on this front, but it seems quite likely at this point, particularly now that TPG have provided a roadmap for the process.

After reading these stories I decided to visit a local Bendigo suburb Telstra Shop. The office girl was adamant that Telstra having just spent millions of Bigpond.com was not going to close.

Then one of my friends went into a Telstra shop in Warragul and was told the opposite, that Bigpond.com was definitely closing.

Here are some popular free email providers:-

Gmail which is ran by Google

Outlook run by Microsoft and there would be a cost if you are not a Microsoft Office subscriber

Yahoo Mail ran by Yahoo

Lets say Bigpond.com did close. What a mess it would make. Lets start with all of your direct debits. What about the "third level of security" that sends a number to your email address that you must use to log into your bank etc etc etc.....

What about your dividend statements that are now sent to Bigpond?

Bob Jobling

Bob has decided that it is time to relinquish his position with ACCVic. Since the Elmore National Rally in 2010-11, Bob has been very willing to carry out any task that was requested of him as our Special Projects Officer, whether that be cleaning the toilet blocks at the National Rally or manning the door at the meetings at Ross House and so many other things in between.

Since COVID interrupted our regular face to face meetings and ZOOM became the way to go, it has made it difficult for Bob and Carol to participate.

# How do you calculate underinsurance

## According to the Insurance industry

According to the Insurance Council of Australia, 23 per cent Australian homeowners - or 1.8 million households - don't have enough insurance to cover the true value of their home and contents should disaster strike.

This example shows that if a home has a rebuild cost of \$600,000.00 but is only insured for \$450,000.00, i.e., only 75% insured, that means that it is 25% underinsured.

If there is a partial damage claim to the house for \$40,000.00, then only 75% will be paid out for the claim which equals \$30,000.00.

Meaning that YOU pay the other \$10,000.00. (A claim for all \$600,000.00 means you pay \$150,000.00)

Whereas over insurance is when the property and/or contents are insured in excess of the value of the property or contents. Meaning that you are paying higher than necessary insurance premiums.

RACV has a calculator for estimating the rebuild cost of your home :-

RACV has <https://sumsure.cordell.com.au/#/products/7/profiles/125?partner=12503>

When I overestimated a few items it says that the rebuild cost would be \$1,080,000.00.

Our double story house in sunny Bendigo is valued at \$700,000.00 and I have the property insured for \$800,000.00. Remember when your house is burnt down you also need to cover the cost or removal of all debris including the old concrete slab. An internet search says the removal cost of such debris could be anywhere between \$12,000.00 and \$40,000.00.

Please review your insurance policies regularly and make sure you are not underinsured.



This photo of the Fitzroy River Bridge was taken on the 13th of March 2024. I am really glad they built it much higher than the expected peak flood level.

Unfortunately the Northern Territory wet season doesn't finish until the end of April.

# Canberra Tourist Park

<https://www.canberrapark.com.au/tourist-park/>

[26 Old Well Station Road \(Corner Federal Highway and Old Well Station Road Gungahlin ACT 2912\)](#)

It appears that Canberra has a new Caravan Park. It has 66 powered sites with concrete slabs plus another 7 powered grass sites which are not suitable for Caravans or Motor Homes, just tents and small campervans. State of the art Camp Kitchen, Amenities and Laundry facilities second to none. The photos of these facilities are impressive.

Their email to me didn't mention prices. BUT, Powered Grass Sites \$55.00 per night—not suitable for Caravans or Motor Homes. Powered sites with concrete slabs also \$55.00 per night. They also have Drive Through Sites, their photo shows a large Mobile Home (Bus Size) towing a trailer at \$60.00 per night.

Also included in their email was details about the upcoming FLORIADE, Australia's biggest celebration of Spring.

Floriade looks forward to welcoming you back to Commonwealth Park next year from 14 September – 13 October for Floriade 2024! NightFest will also return for four nights from 3 – 6 October, with an exciting program of after dark entertainment and horticultural illuminations.





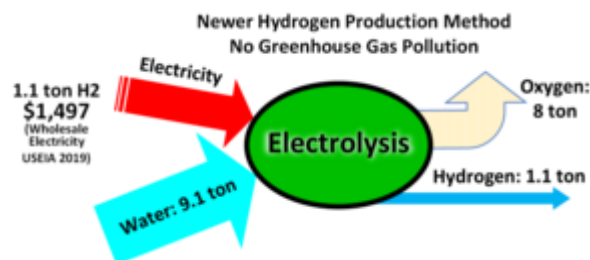
# JCB & Hydrogen Engines

I have just finished watching a YouTube video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6\\_qAta3Gk8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6_qAta3Gk8) about JCB's aim to make its heavy machinery work on hydrogen power.

JCB has set up a factory in India as India imports all of its oil and gas but like Australia it has plenty of sunshine. There are numerous ways to make hydrogen but a recent change in the USA requires that hydrogen be made from GREEN SOURCES to claim any tax benefits.

## Electrolysis of water:-

Water electrolysis is using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. As of 2020, less than 0.1% of hydrogen production comes from water electrolysis. That should change rapidly considering the abovementioned US law change. Electrolysis of water is 70–80% efficient.



The process would look like this. Electricity produced by solar or wind farms is used to separate water (H<sub>2</sub>O) into its two gases being hydrogen and oxygen. Both of these gases have industrial uses.

JCB started off with its normal diesel engine and then modified it to run on hydrogen. The biggest change I saw in the video was the use of spark plugs.

The JCB Chairman Lord Bamford said that “Fossil fuels are not the future. Developed from first principles, the JCB hydrogen engine has been designed to optimise the combustion of hydrogen, so that it can deliver the same power, the same torque, and the same efficiency that powers JCB machines today, but in a zero-carbon way.”

Prototype JCB hydrogen engines are already powering backhoe loader and Loadall telescopic handler machines under test conditions in the UK.



JCB India's CEO and Managing Director added that “Visitors to EXCON, the Indian Trade Show, will see Asia's first construction machine, powered by a hydrogen combustion engine. We are witnessing the beginning of an exciting zero-carbon future in India's earthmoving sector, and hydrogen combustion will be at the heart of that future.”

At the moment filling up your JCB machine is easy because JCB has its own fuel tankers that come to you. I presume that they are thinking that there will be numerous JCB vehicles at each work site so that the refueling vehicle can fill each vehicle quickly (just the same as putting gas/diesel in your vehicle) meaning that they are not required to leave the work area.



This photo was taken by a friend of mine who was flying to Santiago in South America recently.

She says it looks like the wing of her plane is patched with duct tape.

She asks should she be worried as this is the same airline the had problems in New Zealand recently falling about 50 meters and injuring several passengers.

Perhaps we should be proud of QANTAS.