



Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc.

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Upcoming delegates meetings:-

Saturday, 24 February, 2.00pm

Saturday, 25 May, 2.00pm

Saturday, 24 August, 2.00pm

Saturday, 26 October, 2.00pm AGM

2023 President's Report

Alan Andrews President ACCVic

Next year promise to be a full-caravan-club-event year. Well, let's hope so. Like my wife and I, we expect you will enjoy Christmas with friends and family. Keep well. Keep safe. Enjoy your Club's full calendar of events in 2024.

To continue the success of ACCVic, we need volunteers in key positions. Most urgently is a State Rally Coordinator to take over after 2024. As you know, Stella, supported by a small group, has done magnificently over the years but has requested a break. Our State Rally at Kerang next year will be her last. At that rally we announce the location of the next rally and it would be nice to announce Stella's successor. Please think about nominating.

Similarly, there are vacancies on the ACCVic Committee, namely an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer. Again, consider nominating to help Janice and Allan.

Australian Taxation Office Report

You may know that the ATO is cracking down on Not-For-Profit (NFP) organizations avoiding having to pay tax. Because an organization is NFP does not automatically imply that it does not need to pay tax on any taxable income earned above the \$416.00 tax-free threshold.

To that end, ACCVic Committee has been corresponding with the ATO. Their representative responded on Monday, 18th of December. ACCVic is not a tax-exempt association. Treasurer Allan has matters in hand.

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.

The Tax Office replied on the 17th of January 2024. This is the basis of their reply:-

If you would like to read the ATO's full reply please email me at—davisal@bigpond.com

Caravanning association or clubs

Point 12—An association that has a purpose to encourage the pastime of caravanning and to assist members to safely enjoy caravanning and camping is not a community service organisation. A community service organisation must be for the benefit or welfare of the community or any members of the community who have a particular need by reason of youth, age, infirmity, or disablement, poverty or social or economic circumstances.

Point 13—Therefore, caravanning associations or clubs that promote the interest of its members are not established for community service purposes and are not an income tax exempt NFP organisation.

Point 14—However, any membership fees and other receipts from members are likely to be non-assessable non-exempt income.

SUMMARY

The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc. AND all Caravan Clubs belonging to ACCVic are classed as being NOT EXEMPT FROM PAYING TAX.

If your club earns over \$416.00 this financial year and in all future financial years then you will be required to pay tax.

The tax rates are as follows:-

First \$416.00 tax free

From \$417.00 to \$999.00 the tax rate is 50%

IF you earn over \$1,000.00 then the tax rate is 30% on every dollar including the first \$416.00

All not-for-profit organisations that need to lodge a return need to use the company tax return form.

The following link takes you to the 2023 tax return information. You can lodge the form by using a tax agent or by downloading a copy and printing it to prepare yourself.

[Company tax return 2023 | Australian Taxation Office \(ato.gov.au\)](#)

There are some special rules for not-for profit companies, you only need to lodge a return and pay if your taxable income is greater than \$416.00 (this is different to all other companies that must pay tax from the first dollar).

The link below has some instructions that are relevant for NFP's only and are not included in the company tax return information above. Please note that while the information in the link refers to the 2022 year, it is still current.

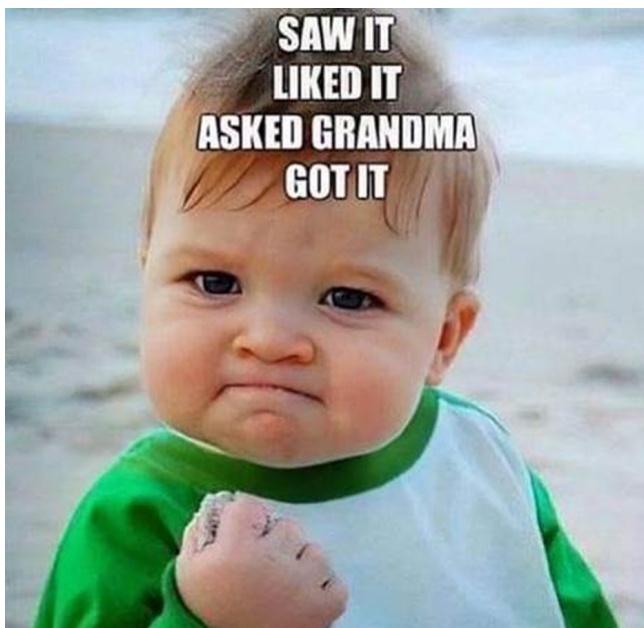
[Not-for-profit guide to Company tax return 2022 | Australian Taxation Office \(ato.gov.au\)](#)

To make a payment after you have lodged your return, you will need a payment reference number (PRN). If you have access to Online services for business, you can log on to find your PRN – To access Online services for business, you need to set up :-

[myGovID and Relationship Authorisation Manager \(RAM\).](#)



The position of State Rally Co-Ordinator needs filling in the next few months. It is very similar to any Club Rally Co-Ordinator club position except that there is only ONE rally per year organise. The Association's committee is there to back you up and to assist with the choice of location. Next years location will be announced at the Kerang State Rally.



Email Scams

If you receive an email that you think is a scam, then the first thing you should do is find out who sent it to you.

In this example I have received dozens of emails telling me that I need to update my email system

The person who sent me this email was:- uyojk555@icloud.com

Their intention is for you to click on the LINK—see the red arrow—they will then probably want you to input your internet address AND your password.

They will then have access to your email system

NEVER CLICK ON ANY LINK.

REMINDER



ALERT NOTIFICATION. <uyojk555@icloud.com>
To davisal@bigpond.com

The Outdated version of your account will be replaced by our new version due to recent upgrades as from 10th of October 2023.

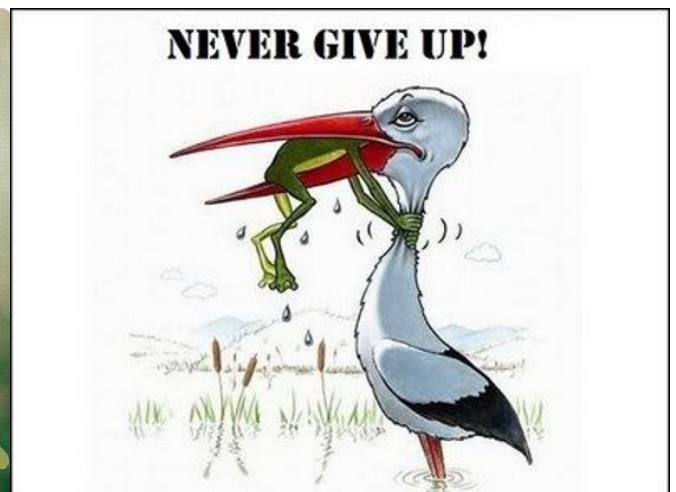
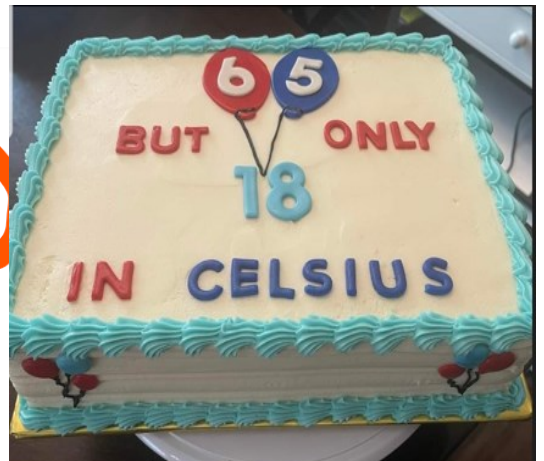
Kindly use the link below to secure your email update:

NEVER click on any link.

[UPDATE EMAIL](#)

YOUR MAILBOX WILL BE DEACTIVATED IF NOT UPDATED(update is free)

Thank you for your attention to this update.





A ferocious blaze that destroyed a large golf clubhouse in Victoria's Yarra Valley was caused by charging lithium-ion batteries, firefighters have ruled. The building at Eastern Golf Club in Yering was gutted by fire on the 17th of October 2023. The club's management yesterday said it believed the fire started in a storage room, where electric buggies and batteries are kept.

Firefighters have confirmed lithium-ion batteries on charge inside the building sparked the fire. Earlier last year the Australian Consumer Competition Commission (ACCC) released data showing that fires caused by lithium-ion batteries were on the rise.

These are the same batteries that some members have in their Caravans and Mobile Homes.

The Golf Club now makes owners take their battery powered buggies home every day.

In the June 2023 newsletter I did an article on Lithium Ion Batteries V's Lithium Iron Phosphate Batteries—LifPo4 for short.

These are apparently a much safer battery.

The National Golf Club—<https://nationalgolf.com.au/> - has two sites at Cape Schanck and Long Island in Victoria. The Club has recently ended the service of charging members batteries on push buggies on the grounds of risk management in the wake of the Eastern Golf Club fire, which destroyed their Clubhouse.

As of Friday 24 November, the Club will be decommissioning the dedicated Electric Vehicle charging space on the upper level of the car park and the three-phase power outlets on the lower level car park at Cape Schanck, which are used by members to charge Electric Vehicles. The risk of fire caused by battery charging is real and, aside from any financial consequences, presents a threat to the lives of members, guests, and staff.

We understand this decision will cause inconvenience to some members, however, these changes are being implemented in the interest of the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all who attend The National Clubhouses at Cape Schanck and Long Island.

Where does that leave the future of all Electric Vehicle charging stations including the one lots of owners have in their homes/garages.



I was wondering why RV Daily web site used a photo of old Caravans for this article. You'll understand why when you read the following article.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has cautioned the caravan industry about making misleading representations in advertising, warning that this is in breach of the Australian Consumer Law and may result in strong enforcement action being taken against retailers.

The ACCC recently cited a case involving a retailer who assured customers of a fixed price for their ordered caravans but later attempted to increase the price, albeit with an option to cancel the contract. This was despite the contract permitting the passing on of manufacturers' price hikes. Additionally, concerns were raised about inaccurate representations of caravan weights.

Concerns were raised with one smaller caravan retailer about price certainty representations, and the retailer has now formally committed to honor prices for relevant consumers. The representations have also been removed from the retailer's website and marketing materials, and they have committed to arrange training for staff to improve compliance with the Australian Consumer Law.

The ACCC also engaged with another caravan retailer over weight misrepresentation where they advertised the caravan weight as precise when for some, they were only an estimated reference weight for similar caravans.

Misrepresentations of caravan weights can cause additional costs for consumers who may have to buy a more powerful towing vehicle and may pose a safety risk if they unknowingly exceed safe towing limits.

"Businesses must not mislead consumers about prices or contractual terms relating to pricing," ACCC Commissioner Liza Carver said. "Businesses must also ensure they do not mislead consumers about important features of a product, such as the weight, or tonnage, of a caravan."

Notably, the ACCC's actions were prompted by issues highlighted in their 'New Caravan Retailing Report', which shed light on consumer mistreatment and non-compliance with consumer law within the caravan industry. The report, released in July 2022, aimed to guide businesses in adhering to their obligations under the Australian Consumer law.

Furthermore, the ACCC's engagement with the Treasury advocated for amendments to the Australian Consumer Law to incorporate stringent measures against failures to provide remedies, manufacturers' failure to indemnify suppliers, and retribution by manufacturers against suppliers seeking indemnification, as outlined in the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) released in December 2021.

To ensure compliance, the ACCC has continued its investigations and discussions with various stakeholders in the industry, underscoring the significance of addressing consumer concerns and promoting fair trade practices with the caravan market.



The new bridge over the Fitzroy River at Fitzroy Crossing has now been completed much to the delight of local tourist operators who say they have experienced a drop-off in visitors in the wake of the Fitzroy River Flood disaster and the rising cost of living.



Tourism Council WA (TCWA) said its latest quarterly tourism survey showed a 17 per cent decrease in net business activity for the June quarter.

It is the first downturn since the WA border opened last year, and Kimberley operators in particular say they have felt the sting.

Tourism Council Western Australia chief executive Evan Hall said that while government cash incentives to help businesses in the north impacted by years of uncertainty were welcome, the sector had still been hit hard by the latest downturn.

"During the pandemic, Perth residents travelled to regional Western Australia and particularly the south west in large numbers, driving demand for accommodation — although attractions struggled from the lack of interstate travel," he said.

"Now we are seeing domestic tourism declining but international travel has not recovered enough to cover the slowdown," Mr Hall said.



Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Mergatroyd? Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a lady said something to her son about driving a *Jalopy*; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ... but not that old.

Well, I hope you are *Hunky Dory*, *Right as rain* and as *Happy as Larry* after you read this and chuckle. Other old phrases included: *Don't touch that dial*, *carbon copy*, *you sound like a broken record*, and *hung out to dry*.

Back in the olden days we put on *our best bib and tucker* or *bag of fruit*, and *dressed to the nines*.

Heavens to Betsy! *Gee whillikers!*

Jumping Jehoshaphat, *Strike me pink*,

Holy Moley!

We were *in like Flynn* and *living the life of Riley*; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a *boofhead*, *knuckle-head*, *dickhead*, *a nincompoop* or *a pill*. *Not for all the tea in China*, or *rice for that matter!*

We wake up from a short nap, and before we can say, "*Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!*" or, "*This is a fine kettle of fish!*"

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind.

Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, *The milkman did it*. *Don't forget to pull the chain*. *Knee high to a grasshopper*. *Fiddlesticks!* *I'll see you in the funny farm*. *Wake up and smell the roses*.

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator! *Okidoki*.

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 40's and 50'S ...
NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AGAIN ..
WE WERE GIVEN ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS
GIFTS: LIVING IN THE PEACEFUL AND COMFORTABLE
TIMES CREATED FOR US BY THE
"GREATEST GENERATION"!