

The February 2013 Rally is at "Oberon", The home of Timber Production, Milling and Products as well as Trout Fishing, Mushrooming, Bush Walking, but for us it's the gateway to Jenolan Caves and our 4WD Excursion.

What's planned for the 1st - 2nd - 3rd of February?

Friday. During the evening, make each others acquaintance and socialise as you wish over a cuppa.

Saturday, the formal itinerary begins and is as follows.

- 8.00am. Organise your breakfast and pack a picnic lunch if taking one with you.
- 8.30am. Assemble in communal area for description of days events and sign attendance book.
- 9.00am. Depart for Jenolan Caves in convoy, 29 klm's, last 5klm's consisting of steep narrow turns.
- 9.40am. Park vehicles, utilise toilet facilities, make our way to the Grand Arch ready for cave tour.
- 10.00am. The primary attraction of the weekend, your cave tour.
- 12.00md. View the Blue Lake prior to making our way back to have lunch. There is seated dining inside and out at Caves House where you can select from salads etc. thru to hot meals. If you elected to pack a picnic lunch there is limited undercover outdoor seating or the car park with a small shelter on offer at the far end providing it's not already claimed.
- 1.15pm. Prepare to depart, utilise toilets etc, then assemble at your vehicles so we can begin our 4WD excursion adventure.
- 1.30pm. Depart on 4WD Trip. This will be a moderate drive thru Kanangra Boyd National Park encompassing unsealed maintained fire trails that should be a good experience for all. There is a steep decent just prior to fording the Kowmung River. We'll all stop and engage low range prior to this decent. Again, prior to fording the river we'll all stop to access the river and allow your brakes to cool before driving into the cool water and ascending the range on the opposite side. Then it's onto Dingo Dell, a popular bush camp where there is a basic long drop bush toilet for those whom require a comfort stop. It is also the most practical place for a cuppa if so desired. Then we'll continue on up a steep accent where you'll need to engage low range again. At the top of this accent we'll detour then stop and view a waterfall on the opposing cliff face, providing the rivers flowing. The balance of the drive improves and becomes a sealed road atop of the plateau with wonderful views way of into the distance. On route we'll stop and view the manned fire tower. From its location, the occupant has tremendous views over the surrounding forests allowing early detection, hence interception of any fires. From here it's back on route to Oberon.
Note: In the event of wet weather this 4WD excursion will not occur.
- 5.00pm. Our approx. return time at Oberon. Time to enjoy a refreshing ale to wash down the dust. For those whom want to wash the dust of the outside, for a fee you can take a dip in the local council swimming pool complex next to the van park to totally freshen up before the evenings communal BBQ, Note: Pool is open to 7.00pm
- 7.00pm. Communal BBQ, which you'll need to provide for yourselves. Once your steak and bangers settle in with the wine/spirits we have access to the indoor tennis courts.
- 8.00pm. Indoor Tennis, fee associated.
If you're not doing tennis congregate together a bit longer prior to turning in and snuggling the blankets for the night. **I specifically mention the blankets as it is February and it should still be warm BUT this is Oberon we are staying at, so bring the blanket/doona and warm clothes. You'll also need the lightweight summer gear with you as well.**

Sunday. Pack up day for some and a Country Pub Lunch for the majority before venturing home.

8.30am. Organise your own Breakfast and for those departing, begin packing.

9.30am. Morning Tea. From here socialise as suits or tour - trip around Oberon until we re-congregate prior to departing for Tarana to partake in our Country Pub Lunch.

11.45am. Depart to Tarana Hotel for good old fashion pub lunch at normal prices. Menu Attached. There is parking available a short distance from the hotel for those towing their vans.

12.30pm. Lunch at Tarana Hotel, after which we'll farewell those departing for home. The balance of the day will be open to the attendees whom are staying on. Some may want to linger and relax whilst others may wish to explore further around Oberon. I'm quiet prepared to work in with those staying on.

Well, that's your lot for Oberon. All that remains now is for you to book it, so get on the phone or internet and contact either Bob or Sally at the Caravan Park & then Darryl. Also contact Ian & Annette with numbers for Cave Tours and Lunch.

Jenolan Caravan Park, 7 Cunynghame St. Oberon. NSW.

Contacts for bookings are, Bob or Sally on;
63360344. www.jenolancaravanpark@bigpond.com
Office open to 8.00pm for bookings and arrivals.

DARRYL RAASCH, rallycoordinator@coromalcaravanclub.asn.au

IAN WEAL. iweal@dodo.com.au

Ph. 63319482, 0402388659 prior to 1.00pm weekdays.

After 1.00pm you can leave your details with Annette.

We need numbers for the Cave Tours & Country Pub Lunch.

Now that you have an idea of what is occurring, it's time to make it happen. To make it happen you need to know how to get to Oberon, so here are a comprehensive set of instructions.

From The West, follow this lot;

Proceed thru Bathurst over the Macquarie River, thru Kelso and turn right onto the Oberon Road at Traffic Lights. There is an RTA directional sign clearly indicating that Jenolan Caves & Oberon are to the right.

Once you turn right, reset your trip metre immediately.

Proceed along the Oberon Road and at approx. 16 km's you will descend and cross the Fish River just prior to O'Connell. Pass thru O'Connell Village and at approx. 27 km's you'll ascend Oberon Mount, a good climb that your tow vehicle will know about. At approx. 34 km's you'll ascend another climb to reach Oberon's 1130 metre altitude. As you ascend this climb a keen eye will catch a quick glimpse of a property called "Mayfield" in the valley to your right. Mayfield is a majestic property encompassing magnificent gardens. At approx. the 40.50 km's you'll see a sign welcoming you to Oberon. At approx. 41 km's you'll arrive at a round about. Turn left and proceed along Albion Street. You are now viewing the Timber Mills that Oberon's economy runs on. These Timber Mills are utilised for timber grown throughout the Oberon, Lithgow, Bathurst & Orange districts, so a lot of timber products come from these Mills. At approx. 42 km's you'll arrive at another round about. Turn right into North Street, then at approx. 42.3 km's turn left into Cunynghame Street and at approx. 42.5 km's turn left into a lane that leads into Jenolan Caravan Park. Congratulations, you're here. Pop into reception and say Hi to Bob or Sally. If it's after 8.00pm just find your site no., put it onsite and see them in the morning.



Print me out and bring me along for directions during the trip.

From The Coast, Metro Area's, follow this lot;

From the Coast/Metro areas head over the Blue Mountains thru Katoomba, Blackheath down Mt. Vic. Pass thru Little Hartley and descend into Hartley Valley. Immediately once you pass via Hartley you'll see a **Speed Camera Site** on the left promptly followed by a Large Black & White RTA directional sign indicating you turn left to Jenolan Caves & Oberon. Obviously this is where you turn left off of the Great Western Highway, as if you continue straight ahead you'll arrive in Lithgow, too far west for this trip.

**** Once you turn left, reset your trip metre immediately.**

The road winds down and crosses the Cox's River prior to twists and turns ascending the other side. At 3.7 klm's you'll see a mountain peak off in the distance. This point marks the furthest point west the three explorers (Wentworth, Blaxland & Lawson) ventured when they crossed the mountains all those years ago. At approx. 5 klm's you'll come across some windy road that lasts for approx. 1.7 klm's as the road snakes its way to the top of the plateau. Once up here you'll have some tremendous views down into the Kinimbla/Megalong Valleys to your left. You'll pass thru Hampton, once a place to refuel but not now days. At approx. 23.6 klm's you'll need to turn right, clearly indicated by an RTA directional sign stating Oberon is to your right.



Once you turn right, reset your trip metre immediately.

As you proceed along this road you'll notice pine plantations. Oberon is based on a Timber Economy these days, so pine plantations surround its rolling hills however the Timber Mills in town are utilised for timber grown throughout the Lithgow, Bathurst & Orange districts, so a lot of timber products come from these Mills. At approx. 22.5 klm's you'll cross the Fish River Creek and ascend a moderate climb. On the right there is a sign welcoming you to Oberon. Over the rise you'll notice a blue sign indicating that the Industrial Subdivision is to the right. **Slow Down**, as at approx. 23.7 klm's you're turning right at this turn, into Albion Street. Proceed along this road and at approx. 25 klm's on your trip metre you'll see a 70 klm per hour sign. At this point in the distance to your forward right view you can see the Timber Mills. At approx. 26.7 klm's you'll come to a round about. Turn left into North Street. At approx. 27 klm's turn left into Cunynghame Street and at approx. 27.3 klm's turn left into a lane that leads into Jenolan Caravan Park. Congratulations, you're here. Pop into reception and say Hi to Bob or Sally. If it's after 8.00pm just find your site no., put it onsite and see them in the morning.



From The North, follow this lot;

Make your way to Bathurst and utilise the above notes from there. Alternatively proceed to Lithgow, follow the great western highway towards Sydney. Immediately at the base of your descent into Hartley Valley take the right hand turn to Oberon.

Once you turn right, reset your trip metre immediately.

Now take the direction notes from the ** marking of the Coast, Metro directions above.

From The South-West, follow this lot;

You basically have three alternatives.

Alt. 1). Make your way thru to Cowra, then onto Bathurst and follow the "From The West" direction above. This offers sealed highways and is a suitable choice should the other alternatives not interest you.

Alt. 2). Goulburn, Crookwell, Binda, Tuena, Trunkey, Caloola, Bathurst and then follow the “From The West”. Not having travelled this route since Dec 2007 I’m unsure if it is all a sealed surface. It’s not my preferred route when towing, however if your keen on caving this route brings you right past Abercrombie Caves as well. Should unsealed roads not phase you, you can cut a vast distance off by cutting from Trunkey to Rockley to Charlton to Essington Park and on to Oberon, however I would not recommend it for towing myself.

If you choose this route, remember to pop your caravan’s pressure hatch up over the unsealed roads.

Alt 3). Goulburn, Taralga, Black Springs, Oberon. This is by far the shortest route and my preferred route. Before you elect this route you need to be aware there is a sign along the route advising it is not suitable for caravans. The sign relates to the very steep descent into the Abercrombie River and the equally very steep ascent out the other side. To negotiate this section requires 1st gear, so as you are in control both descending and ascending, so don’t mess around with the gear lever, put it in 1st and leave it there so you don’t miss a gear and grind to a stop. If you have an Auto, select “L” for Low.

Alt 3 Directions, follow this lot;

Proceed thru Goulburn City Centre and veer right into Lagoon Street. At the intersection of Lagoon Street and Union Street there are traffic lights. **Turn Left** into Union Street. RTA directional sign, Taralga & Wombeyan Caves. Union Street comes to a “T” intersection where you turn right into Wilmot Street. Follow it round to the left into Chantry Street and follow it round to the left into Tarlo Street over the Wollondilly River and veer right onto the Taralga Road and follow it thru to Taralga.

Once in Taralga, reset your trip metre immediately. (The following distances are approx. only).

Proceed straight thru Taralga. At approx. 3 km’s you’ll cross the Woolshed Creek. At approx 10 km’s there is a right turn to Wombeyan Caves but you proceed straight ahead.

Note: Should you ever want to visit Wombeyan Caves I totally recommend the Wollondilly River Cave tour for its different features but you need to be slim and fit.

At approx. 26.5 km’s the descent into the Abercrombie River begins. It’s time to select “L” or 1st Gear and let the engine braking do most of the work. Be aware and utilise your mirrors for vehicles approaching from behind. At approx. 30 km’s you’ll have reached the Abercrombie River and crossed over the wooden bridge. At approx 30.3 km’s there is a great camping area with bush composting toilets off to the right. (If stopping, I suggest you park beside the main roadway and walk in rather than get stuck trying to turn around in there. Take your own paper in case there is none). Proceeding on, leave the vehicle in “L” or 1st Gear and ascend the steep climb up from the river. Don’t be fooled by a small level section with a clearing to the right, it remains steep beyond it so remain in 1st gear or “L”. You’ll have reached the summit when you have a row of large conifers on your right, so select whatever gears and proceed on. You’ll soon be passing thru some of the Pine Plantations that supply timber to the Oberon Timber Mills. At approx. 78.5 km’s you’ll have reached the village of Black Springs. Turn right at the 1st intersection towards Oberon.

Note: Black Springs has an excellent rest area on the right with running water and flushing toilets available. There is also a store at the intersection to purchase basics. It is not uncommon to find this area extremely busy on weekends, especially during Mushroom season & long weekends.

Once you turn right, reset your trip metre immediately.

Proceed towards Oberon. Those with a keen eye will see Oberon Dam on the right from various higher sections of the roadway. This Dam supplies water to Oberon however the water is also piped to very distant locations. At approx. 22.5 km’s you’ll have reached a roundabout on the outskirts of Oberon. Take the second exit, straight ahead and proceed along Albion Street. You are now viewing the Timber Mills that Oberon’s economy runs on. These Timber Mills are utilised for timber grown throughout the Oberon, Lithgow, Bathurst & Orange districts, so a lot of timber products come from these mills. At approx. 23.5 km’s you’ll arrive at another round about. Turn right into North Street, then at approx. 23.8 km’s turn left into Cunynghame Street and at approx. 24 km’s turn left into a lane that leads into Jenolan Caravan Park. Congratulations, you’re here. Pop into reception and say

Hi to Bob or Sally. If it's after 8.00pm just find your site no., put it onsite and see them in the morning.

Now It Is Time For All Attendees To Take Note!!!

Oberon is in a very rural setting, hence if you travel here between dusk & dawn you are **guaranteed** to encounter, Kangaroos, Wallabies and maybe even a Wombat or two and all will do enormous damage to your pride and joy should you collide with any of them, so please remain alert as they become dazzled by your lights, lose their bearings and will usually bound out in front of you.

About Oberon.

Oberon does not have large shopping facilities but they do have all the meat, groceries, takeaway etc. you'll need available all day Friday and Saturday Morning. Should you elect to stay on, this small town will cater for most your needs again from Monday morning and the tourist info centre will be most obliging in assisting you.

Print me out and bring me along for directions during the trip.