COROMAL CAPERS

Volume 1
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January 2008

COROMAL CARAVAN CLUB Incorporated
"Experience the Club's lifestyle
Discover the freedom and friendship"

UPCOMING RALLIES

BLACKSMITHS
Jan 25,26,27
Blacksmiths Beach Tourist Park

OBERON
February 15-17,
Jenolan Caravan Park

NSW STATE RALLY
March7-9
Sydney Lakeside Tourist Park Narrabeen

RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the Club Christmas raffle, drawn 2/12/2007:

1st prize:
Penny & Ben Dezman -
Waeco cooler & 1 Week's accommodation at Bays Holiday Park
thanks to www.waeco.com.au & www.baysholidaypark.com

2nd prize:
Mary & John Cerrone -
$100.00 Camec voucher;
thanks www.camec.com.au

3rd prize:.
Loneen McLeod of Easts Van Park, Kiama—
hamper of goods

EXECUTIVE FOR 2008

PRESIDENT
Frank Smalley
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ASSISTANT RALLY CO ORDINATOR
Martin Castles
NEWS LETTER
Sue Milne
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DELEGATES TO NSW STATE ASSOCIATION
Frank Smalley
Jeanette Burton
JeanetteB@coromalcaravanclub.org.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Penny Dezman
Leonie Cornell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our members who have a birthday during this period

DECEMBER
Virginia Clark 2nd
David Rollings 28th

JANUARY
Mavis Wilson 4th
Rita Castles 5th
Annette Weal 6th
Jeanette Burton 11th
Mary Dudley 12th
Thomas Dudley 13th
Elizabeth Griffin 31st

FEBRUARY
Tom McKenzie 8th
Clarrie Bourke 21st

PRESIDENTS REPORT

As we now start a brand new year we cannot help but reflect on the year that has past.

Was it only 12 months ago that we sat on a hilltop at Lake St. Clair and discussed the club's future?

So much has changed. When you think back to that time, we had some future rallies tentatively booked and a firm resolve that the club would continue. There was no Newsletter, no web site, no tag-along, no property, we didn't even have a club flag.

Now just 12 short months later we have come of age.

We have had members at both the State and National rallies. The newsletter is in its 6th issue and Sue can be proud of her achievements. The web site is the envy of many clubs and I am continually impressed by the quality and quantity of information that Ben keeps adding. The tag-along has grown from a concept to an actual event, which we are all looking forward to, and Elizabeth must be congratulated for the meticulous planning and detail that she has put into it. All the past year's rallies have been a complete success. Most members don't realize the amount of work and planning that goes into arranging rallies and there is no-doubt that without Bruce's abilities the year would have been entirely different. Finally I must mention the "quiet achiever" - Ian, who looks after our finances with such zeal that you would think it was his own money. Who else would spend nearly two weeks trying to find a few cents so the books would balance (Ian, it was Bruce, he threw a handful of change into the raffle tin).

I would like to thank all the members for their confidence in the committee by re-electing it, in it's entirety, and I would like to welcome the new committee members, Martin Castles, Penny Dezman and Leonie Cornell.

We have a great year ahead

GLORIA ROLLINGS

With sadness we report the passing of Gloria Rollings of Berkeley Vale, Central Coast. On the 8th of December 2007, following a short illness.

Gloria and husband Dave were foundation members of the club and were always willing to pass their knowledge onto other members. They have been involved with caravanning for many years.

They attended the Anna Bay and Bateau Bay AGM Rallies this year. The funeral was held at Palmdale Cemetery, Central Coast on Thursday 13th December 2007.

TAG ALONG UPDATE.

Well, I'm happy now to say, "When we do the tag-along", it's this year. Hasn't the last 12 months passed very quickly? And I am sorry to say, so will the new year speed by and before we know it, it will be time to leave on our great outback adventure.

A large percentage of the bookings have come back confirming temporary bookings. One stipulation that most of the parks have put on us is that there be a limit of 20 vans. Personally I think that will be plenty for our first sortie.

The forms with expressions of interest are very slow coming in and at this point I am not worried about the limit. However some of the parks want definite numbers by Easter. If you want a form, please contact me and I will forward one to you so that the paper work is in place.

I have written to the State Association about covering insurance and they also need names and numbers.

At some of the towns we will be visiting, there are a variety of activities and while I am researching the tourist pages, it becomes a little too real that we cannot visit all of the local attractions and smaller villages. This, I think, I will leave to the individual vans to make their own visits to these areas as personal as you may wish.- UNLESS there are some activities that you want to do as a group, then we can do some group bookings, (and with some luck, maybe a discount.) The whole issue is totally negotiable.

If you have been checking the web page, Ben has been busy posting the map and information updates in the members' sections. It's in the members' section because at the time, not all the parks have responded to inquires and temporary bookings. Once all are confirmed then we can put the information on the public pages.

In the meantime, Happy Travelling.

Elizabeth

Websites of Interest

Oz explorer (interesting article for caravanning and touring)
http://www.exploroz.com/Newsletter

NSW National Parks (helpful for Tag along.)
http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/

Caravan and Motorhome Magazine
http://www.candm.com.au/

Mungo (one of the Tag-along stops)
http://travelaustralia.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=287727
http://travelaustralia.ninemsn.com.au/img/hidden_wonders/pdf/HiddenWonders_Mungo2.pdf

MUDGEE
2007 October Long Weekend

The Rally was held during the Annual Wine Festival. There were 10 member vans as well as relatives and guests in attendance, making a total of 28 participants. Many chose to arrive early in the week or stay longer to enjoy the area.

Formal activities started on Friday night with a welcome get together and supper.

Saturday started with morning tea and signing the register, and discussing the weekend program, the day was free until dinner. Some campers chose to tour the district and join in the festival events, or visit a winery or two. One group doing this by bicycle, travelling several kilometers, earning their drinks. Others went shopping or relaxed around the park, enjoying the quiet surrounds.

Happy hour was followed by a communal tea in the camp kitchen. There were many and varied casseroles of meat, chicken, seafood and rice that ensured everyone was satisfied. This was followed by a talk on the Tag-along trip and with Elizabeth showing slides of her trips out to some of the locations on the route.

Everyone was ready by 10am on Sunday for the drive north to the Drip Gorge. The walk to this formation was worth it for the view of the rock formations. Back to the picnic area for a picnic lunch , to allow the walkers to rest, before returning to Camp. Several cars stopped on the way to see the famous Frog Rock formation and Ulan Colliery.

The day ended with a barbeque tea and social evening, with some choosing to watch the League Grand Final Match, while others were happy to relax.

Monday saw most campers joining in morning tea, before packing up, or arranging the activities for those who were staying longer.

BATEAU BAY
BLUE LAGOON RESORT
Nov 2007

The Annual General Meeting

This Rally completes a year of achievement and cumulating with our second Annual General Meeting. The weather was very changeable over the weekend , with several storms and then becoming very warm.

Campers started arriving early in the week and by Friday evening there were 13 vans set up and ready to go. Frank and his helpers erected a large cover, which provided a protected area in which to meet. Many spent the evening enjoying a quiet drink and gossip until late.

The AGM was held on Saturday morning, with 28 members attending to elect the 2008 committee, and listen to the President's and Financial reports (see Website for details). This was followed by a communal lunch of sausages and salad. The afternoon was free for touring the area or just resting.

There were 33 campers who walked the short distance to The Bay Bowling Club Bistro for dinner. After the pleasant walk back to camp, it was time for a few drinks before retiring for the night.

On Sunday, campers had free time , with a variety of activities. One group going to The Entrance markets to get a bargain, while another went for a walk along the coastline, and others having a quiet time in camp. Early afternoon saw many packing up and returning home. There were several who took advantage of an extra night and enjoyed a communal roast dinner, prepared by Gary and his helpers (becoming a regular feature of the rally).

It was a hive of activity on Monday with all wanting to be on the road by 10am, after another successful rally.

CHRISTMAS
East's Caravan Park
Kiama
30 November to 2nd December

One of the largest Rallies held by the club with 19 vans attending with over 40 people taking in the weekend's activities. Campers started to arrive throughout the week, with most coming in on Friday. There were vans from Lithgow, Gulgong, Dubbo, Ulladalla, ACT, Sydney, Bathurst, Newcastle, Central Coast, Orange, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains.

The evening was spent sitting under a large gum tree, getting to know each other as there were several first time campers to the club.

Saturday was spent exploring Minnamurra Rainforest, Jambaroo, Saddleback Lookout and Kiama, arranged by Ian, and enjoyed by all. There was a small group who stayed in camp to prepare the evening meal.

There was happy hour at 5pm. This was followed by a fantastic Christmas meal with all the trimming. Thank you to all who assisted with the preparation. It was an early night for most following a very busy day.

On Sunday all waited in anticipation for the Raffle draw, there was a final rush for tickets. Congratulations to the winners. I would like to thank Ian for his time taken in arranging the prizes and the tickets for this successful venture.

Most spent a quiet morning, the rally ending in a group lunch to finish the leftovers from the night before. Then it was time for several campers to return home.

Several campers stayed an extra night, enjoying a BBQ tea.

FRIDGE WIRING: Some Advice

(The following has been contributed by Howard Jones, a fellow Coromal owner and enthusiast. It is the contents of an email to our editor in Sept. 2007.)

"I read with interest your item on Fridge wiring & agree with your comments on using 6mm wiring for the fridge in the car. We have owned a Princeton 701 for 2½yrs & have nearly got it sorted out.

However, the concept needs to be extended to the van wiring as well. The fridge draws 15A & needs **8mm** or greater right through to the fridge terminals. The 12pin plug on the car is only designed to carry 10A on the large pins & I have seen a number of cars including our own where the pins have burnt & melted the plastic plug or socket due to the screw becoming loose in the connection.

Last year our fridge was not holding temp on 12V across the Nullarbor so when we got to Norseman we went to the local garage & they completely rewired the car & van & fitted an Anderson Plug for the fridge wiring. It is critical to rewire the van as only 4mm is used & too much voltage drop occurs between the plug & fridge terminals. It is also critical to run both a positive & negative lead from the car battery as you mentioned via a VSR or through a relay only activated in the engine ON condition.

In order to explain the situation a little more clearly the following figures may help.

Fridge Voltage	Wattage (fridge)	% of Heating Power
12v	175	100
11.5	161	92
11.0	147	84
10.5	134	77
10.0	122	70

In most vans that I have measured the voltage has been around 10V which means that it is only getting about three quarters of the heating power required to hold temp. I have contacted Dometic & they claim that the fridge MUST have 12V to work according to specifications. In my case I now get 12.1V with the engine running at 13.5V & it just holds temp while ON during the day depending on the ambient temp.

After touring around WA we were still not happy with the fridge performance & so we called in at the Adel service agent, Dario, & he discovered that the ducting at the top rear of the fridge was not installed correctly. There is a sheet of metal which is supposed to deflect the heat off the coil to the outside vent. However this was not located correctly & the heat was allowed to circulate on the top of the fridge & between the cabinet. Consequently the plastic cover over the front controls was all deformed due to the heat & effectiveness of the fridge was reduced as heat was not escaping. The control cover was replaced & a new curve sheet of aluminum was fitted from the top back edge of fridge to the top of the vent frame. The aluminum is the full width of the fridge. This appears to work more effectively now.

After discussing all these issues with our local Coromal Dealer & Coromal HQ in Perth, they agreed to refund half the cost of all my expenses. I raised these issues as I hoped that they would implement improvements in production but I am not sure if this has happened.
We are currently in Darwin & the fridge is certainly not coping well with 40°C & high humidity.
We are still very proud of our Coromal & our comments are given in order to improve quality & ensure that it is the best brand on the market."

WEBSITE

Remember to check the club website for updates and details of future event

http://www.coromalcaravanclub.org.au.

ATTENTION: Cylinder Refillers

(Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate Safety Alert No. 30 - 17 August 2007)

http://www.energy.qld.gov.au/zone_files/petroleum_pdf/safety_alert030.pd

What Happened?

Some 9kg LPG cylinders manufactured in China have been found to have a faulty valve. There have been a number of reported cases in Australia of the securing gland nut on these valves not being correctly tightened and allowing the contents of the cylinder to escape. In some cases this has resulted in a serious fire and/or injury.

Key Issues

The nut which, having a left-hand thread, can be undone during the process of manually turning off the cylinder valve. This may cause the valve assembly to loosen and separate, allowing the immediate release of the cylinder contents under pressure with no real way of stopping the flow once started.

Recommendations

All persons refilling these cylinders are requested to pay particular attention to the tightness of the gland nut. Remember that this is a left-hand thread and is tightened in an anticlockwise manner. All valves on Chinese manufactured cylinders should be checked as a matter of course and any loose nuts found reported to this office. Tightening should ensure that the valve gland nut is well-secured in place.

IF IN ANY DOUBT, DO NOT FILL THE CYLINDER.

Contact for further information
Chief Inspector, Petroleum and Gas
Telephone: 07 3237 1626 Fax: 07 3224 7768
Email: gassafe@qld.gov.au
Website www.nrw.qld.gov.au/mines/petroleum/index.html

This article was sent to all Caravan Clubs for distribution By Lorraine Perry , State Secretary of NSW State Association of Caravan Clubs.

Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle

Left Turns

If your vehicle (or vehicle and trailer) is 7.5 m or longer and has a “DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE” sign on the back, you are allowed to turn left from (or partially from) the lane on the right of the far left lane."(Source: Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook, published by RTA, NSW) The same idea applies to right hand turns.

This is a privilege allowed to caravans as well. If you use more than one lane and do not have this sign, then there can be issues with the law enforcement agencies (especially if said agent has had a bad day.) There is also some protection with insurance if you are unfortunate enough to "make contact with another vehicle" when turning.

NSW Caravan, Camping 4WD and Holiday Supershow

March 29 till 6 April 2008 at Rosehill Racecourse

The show will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. There will be over 200 caravans, motorhomes, campervans and 5th-wheelers on display, as well as touring seminars, activities and entertainment.

More information can be found at www.supershow.com.au