



Sydney-Central coast A Van Group Inc.

The Club for all types of A'Vans

NEWSLETTER

September 2007.

From the President.

As winter draws to a close and spring arrives I am sure that we are all looking forward to the warmer weather and getting those A Van wheels turning.

I understand that the last couple of outings, although small in numbers, were a great success and our thanks to the "hosts" for assisting with the organising of the events. The coming gatherings appear not to be short of numbers with the Mudgee gathering attracting some 26 vans, Cessnock 4 vans, Hallidays, 17 vans, Young 18 vans and Kiama 37 vans. These numbers have been provided by our Programme Co-ordinator Mike Jenkins.

I would again appeal to all members to advise Mike Jenkins and any gathering "host" once they have made their booking at the individual caravan parks.

Mike has also been busy with the 2008 programme. The committee considered the programme at its meeting held on Sunday 26th August 2007 and approved same. A copy of the programme for 2008 is enclosed with this News Letter.

The Committee has been busy organising the remainder of this years programme and arrangements are well in hand for the Melbourne Cup gathering at Hallidays and the Christmas gathering at Kiama. As usual I am sure that we will all have a great time at these functions.

Robert Young will be updating the web site to provide a link to the National A'Van Club website and looking into establishing a "members only" section within our own web site. Robert is also working on the "Members of the Club" booklet and this will be distributed to all members in the near future.

Club Secretary, Joan Smith, along with Clive visited the new A'Van Agent at Penrith and Robert Young and I will be visiting the new A'Van Agent at Morisset in the coming weeks. We understand that Alan Graham will no longer be an A'Van Agent from September.

Club Treasurer Mario along with Secretary Joan and Auditor Phil Brady have been working together to complete the Club Audit for the period 01/01/2007 to 30/06/2007. Phil has provided the Committee with a "check list" detailing the items that are covered in the audit and the Committee has delegated responsibilities for each of the items. Thanks Phil for your assistance in this very important activity.

An item that is of some concern to me is that the Club at present has no "Association and Officers Protection Insurance" This insurance provides some comfort to the Committee Members in the event of them being sued whilst acting on your behalf. Despite our best efforts we have not been able to date to convince the NSW Association of Caravan Clubs and Members to arrange this insurance for all of its member Clubs. At present legal advice is being sought and we expect this advice to be available within the next two weeks.

If you require any information or assistance with Club matters please feel free to approach myself or any of the Committee Members.

Take care and keep safe.

JOHN BROWN

NEW MEMBERS

The club welcomes
Helga & York Duncan
John Stephenson & Barbara Somerville
Michael & Heather Segboer
Julia Blackett
Rudolf Werner & Gael Connop
John & Dianne Keenlyside
Norman & Pamela Hately
Trevor Roberts & Susan Cook

When you meet them at a gathering please make them extremely welcome.

FIRST AID

TRAINING COURSES

The NSW State Association of Caravan Clubs and Members has organized with St Johns Ambulance to conduct First-Aid courses for 2 members from each caravan club affiliated with the State. The next course will be conducted at Morisset Showground from 12th—15th October.

Total cost of the course is \$104.17. The State Association will pay \$64.17, each participant will pay \$20.00 and their respective club agrees to pay \$20.00.

Thank you Trish and Phil Brady for representing Sydney-Central Coast. Phil will attend at no cost to take notes and will receive a certificate of attendance.

REGISTER

We are creating a register of members who hold a **Current First-Aid Certificate**. If your certificate is current, please contact Anne Corbett—email corbettab@hotmail.com or phone 9487 1289.

Remember however that currency only lasts 3 years, and each 3 years it is necessary to refresh your certificate.

FROM OUR SECRETARY

Please can members notify changes of address, particularly e-mail addresses, as communications are a very important part of the operations of the club.

The chance of the bread falling buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet

Parklea Gardens Weekend – 18th to 22nd May

Friday 18th – 5 vans arrived – Priests, Cronks, Parrotts, Jenkins, Smiths. Our A’vans were erected under very wet conditions, but prayers were answered, rain clouds disappeared and by mid afternoon we had sunshine and a clear blue sky. **We were all set to enjoy a great long weekend at beautiful Parklea Gardens.**

Bruce & Bau Bau arrived as Happy hour was getting under way then we all adjourned to the Blacktown Workers Club where Fentons, Brady’s and Osborne’s joined us for the Buffet Feast.

We set off by carpooling at 9.00 am Saturday with a journey through Windsor, Richmond, and Kurrajong to Clarence – the home of The Great Lithgow Zig Zag Railway. Did you know dogs are allowed to travel on the Steam Train? Bau Bau was accompanied by Bruce. He was so excited when issued with his own “Dog Ticket” so Bruce is keeping it for him as a souvenir. The old Steam Train follows the original 1860’s railway through Clarence tunnel, over the magnificent sandstone viaducts to Top Points. We were able to alight at the station and watch the engine reverse, then travel down the Middle Road of the Zig Zag to the Bottom Points station. The engine once again reverses direction after taking on water for the hard climb back up the hill. This is all run by volunteer train enthusiasts.

Driving back through Mount Victoria and Blackheath, we stopped for photographs at Govet’s Leap where it was rather chilly, then on to Leura for lunch. Kay and Robert Parrott rang their son, Darren, who lives at Wentworth Falls. We were all invited for afternoon tea and made very welcome to their lovely new and beautifully decorated home. Back at camp, after Happy hour we all enjoyed each other’s company around the BBQ sharing jokes, solving the world’s problems and trying our forklift skills to raid the chocolate machine. Who was the clever lady who scored two chocolates first time?? **YUMMM!** Who was the cross-dresser wearing his wife’s red velvet blouse one evening and walking strangely. I noticed she was wearing that blouse next morning. Did you borrow her undies too???

Sunday morning those who didn’t head off to church early volunteered to cook the communal breakfast, needless to say, there was no shortage of volunteer cooks. Thanks fillas, we thoroughly enjoyed it, then everyone went off to Parklea Markets to search for a bargain or two.

Marika and Reinhart popped in for a surprise visit later followed by Victor and Cheryl Osborne at Happy Hour where an invitation was extended to each to join us on Monday on the Rivercat to Circular Quay. 14 caught the Ferry to Watson’s Bay, and checked out the Gap before enjoying lunch at Doyles Seafood Pub Restaurant overlooking the magnificent view of the Harbour Bridge and Sydney Harbour. Another beautiful day with great company!!

Could have stayed longer here. Thanks everyone for making our job of hosting so enjoyable.

Cheers! Joan & Clive Smith



Enjoying good food and fantastic company



There weren’t many other passengers!!



Would you trust this crew?

Not only did Bau Bau travel on the train he was issued his own souvenir ticket



JUNEE GATHERING APRIL, 2007.

Hosts John and Julie Foskett welcomed 12 vans to the Junee Caravan Park from Sunday April 22nd with delicious home cooked Anzac biscuits to remind us of the significance of the events later in the week.

Some members called in on the way back from the Australian gathering in Swan Hill, while others came direct from home and other venues

Junee has a long history connected to the rail network and was originally named Junee Junction as it was the location of one of the main junctions between Sydney and Albury with branch lines to Coolamon, Griffith and Hay starting here. We visited the Roundhouse Rail and Transport Museum, where there is a display and the old Roundhouse with 100ft turntable. This facility was important in the operation of the rail system that relied on steam locomotion. Unfortunately access to the roundhouse was denied as asbestos removal operations were being conducted, but the museum with a model train layout was very interesting.

Another significant business is the Chocolate and Licorice factory operating in an old flour mill. Our tour there involved inspection of the chocolate coating and licorice mixing and subsequent cooking and packaging. The sampling was generous.

Monte Cristo Historical Homestead is an outstanding two-storey Georgian style mansion built in 1884 by grazier Christopher Crawley. He purchased land through which the new railway was to pass, and also built the hotel and general store which has become the nucleus of the present townsite.

Our tour of the homestead was conducted by the Mrs Olive Ryan who with her husband restored the badly vandalized house from 1963 in high Victorian Style. It features wide balconies balanced on slender iron columns decorated with cast iron lacework. Privately owned and occupied it is a museum with antique furniture, glassware and collectables.

Anzac day was celebrated with a march through the town to the War Memorial and a short service. Marchers included children from all the local schools, Emergency services and service clubs on a fine sunny day.

We gathered for dinner at the Loftus Hotel opposite the railway station when we enjoyed a beautiful roast and the widest selection of sweets you will find anywhere.

The Caravan Park managers are recent occupants and provide an excellent clean and friendly holiday venue, where it is a pleasure to stay. Congratulations to John and Julie for selecting Junee and being such good hosts.



Inspecting the model railway at the Roundhouse Rail and Transport Museum



Happy Hour under the trees



Dinner at the Loftus Hotel



On the front steps of Monte Cristo Homestead

FROM OUR WEBMASTER

In the 3 months May, June and July there were 3803 hits on our website. The most frequent page was modifications—23.3%, followed by recent pictures 14.4%, buy swap & sell 12.3%, gatherings 10.7%. Members, letterboxes, contact, newsletter, archive pictures and past gatherings shared the remaining 39%.

This indicates that most visitors are interested in modifications, so if you have made a modification to your van and would like to show it to our members or visitors to the web site, please send a photo to Robert at email avanners@tpg.com.au

Robert is installing a link to the Australian A'van Club website but if you are a member you can go direct and with your password log into the members section.

To set up your password click on "Members Area", then on the word "HERE", and complete the details requested on the verification form. Provided that the details you type in are the same as that which are held against your name on the A'van Club database, the system will accept you and ask for your chosen password—twice. You will then have access to the members section by typing your e-mail address and password.

A'VAN DISTRIBUTORS

Alan Graham has recently relinquished the A'van distributorship and the new distributors are;

A'van Campers, Caravans, Motorhomes NSW
2142 Castlereagh Road
Penrith.....Ph 02 4721 2222

And on the Central Coast

All American RV's and Trucks
57 Alliance Avenue
Morisset

STATE WEEKEND RALLY 7TH TO 9TH MARCH 2008.

The state association is conducting a rally in the Sydney Lakeside Caravan Park at Narrabeen March 2008, hosted by the Central Coast Caravanners. 120 sites have been allocated at a special price of \$20.00 per night for powered sites for the week before and the week after the Rally

This will be a great opportunity to meet caravanners from other clubs, but it coincides with our own March 6— 12 Begonia Festival gathering at Ballarat.

Details from Secretary Joan 9639 0325

AUSTRALIAN GATHERING APRIL 2007.

The A'van Club of Australia Inc. held its annual gathering at Swan Hill from Thursday 19th April until Sunday 22nd, with members spread over 3 camp sites. 8 members from Sydney-Central Coast club attended:

Frank & Joan Burge
Fred & Margaret Crowe
Tim & Elizabeth Fenton
Bruce Gibbs & Bau Bau
Mike & Marie Ryan
Greg & Pauline Stone
Gordon (Tom) & Lyn Thomas
Malcolm & Gay Weir.

The format of the gathering was similar to previous years, with Crazy Whist, Friday night Concert, Saturday morning AGM and evening Dinner, markets on Sunday morning and the bush dance in the evening. 223 A'vans registered and 416 people attended the dinner in the Swan Hill Town Hall – the largest number ever fed at the Town Hall.

The weather was excellent and all attendees enjoyed the highlights of the town including the river steamer "Yap"

Next year the gathering will be at Busselton in WA, from Thursday May 1 to Monday May 5 2008.

FROM OUR PROGRAMMES CO-ORDINATOR

To keep track of numbers attending for bookings etc Mile has asked we follow a few simple steps:

- ⇒ Book with caravan park direct or as advised
 - ⇒ Inform them you are part of the SCC A'van group
 - ⇒ Confirm your booking with the Co-Ordinator .
- Your cooperation will be appreciated.

This advertisement appeared in the singles column of a newspaper

"Single black female, good looking and loves to play. Likes long walks and cosy nights by the fire. Rub me the right way and watch my response. I'll greet you at the front door, wearing only what nature gave me.

More than 15,000 men found themselves talking to the RSPCA about an eight week old Labrador pup

Its always darkest before dawn. So, if you are going to pinch your neighbour's newspaper that is the time to do it

EXECUTIVE FOR 2007—2008

PRESIDENT	John Brown	02 4963 2877	0410 632877	john.a.brown@bigpond.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Anne Corbett	02 9487 1289	0427 442326	corbettab@hotmail.com
SECRETARY	Joan Smith	02 9639 0325	0408 417604	csm53900@bigpond.net.au
TREASURER	Mario Vidal	02 4341 9195	0419 696034	mariovidal@optusnet.com.au
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Tim Fenton	02 9484 2207	0411 252805	asebfent@bigpond.net.au
PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR	Mike Jenkins	02 4972 1034	0409 227057	mikejenkins1@bigpond.com
WEB MASTER	Robert Young	02 4359 2929	0419 592929	avanners@tpg.com.au