



Sydney-Central coast A Van Group Inc.

The Club for all types of A'Vans

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008
ABN 62842468219

From the President.

Since our last Newsletter in May we have enjoyed three "gatherings" for our group and a number of our members made the journey to Busselton (WA) for the National Rally.

The gatherings at Soldiers Point and Forest Glen although small in numbers were considered a great success by the attendees. The trip to Manning Point attracted a larger number of vans and was also very successful. At Manning Point we tried something new in the way of a "Cook Up". This event was well organised by Mike Jenkins. Thanks Mike for your efforts and to all those who participated.

Looking ahead, September will see us at South West Rocks and October at Glenn Innes. The Melbourne Cup Meeting in November will this year be at Arrawarra with the Coffs Coast Caravan Club. Arrangements for our Christmas Gathering are well advanced and I am sure that it will another great time for us all to enjoy.

I have noticed that we have not been able to meet some of our members at our gatherings as they have not been in attendance. Please let us know if there are any problems and if we need to make any changes to our "Gatherings Programme".

In my "Update from the President" in late May I gave you details on the progress being made on the State Association front. Well the Constitution Sub-committee was formed and despite the best efforts of Bob Moulds and I a draft was issued to the Association Affiliated Clubs about two weeks before the Association Meeting held in Sydney on 16th August. It took over two hours to sort out all the necessary changes and get agreement on same. As the convener of the Sub-committee (Robert Brown) had been elected as the new President I offered to tidy up the Constitution and Operating Procedures for the Association. The Operating Procedures are still to be discussed by the Association Affiliated Clubs at its next meeting. I think that I have mentioned before that things move very slowly in the Association.

Our Joan Smith offered to assist with the changes, typing and formatting the Constitution. In less than 30 hours Joan and I had achieved what this and the previous Sub-committee had failed to do in almost 9 months. Many thanks must go to Joan for all her efforts in this regard. I understand that the Constitution would be registered with the Office of Fair Trading on Monday 25th August 2008.

The matter of Associations and Officers Liability Insurance although approved at the Association Meeting in Berry on 17th May 2008 has still not been finalised due to a new application form not being completed and forwarded to the Insurance Broker.

Joan Smith recently sent out a survey requesting member's thoughts on Club clothing. Please take the time to complete the survey and return same to Joan. It's your Club and the Committee would appreciate your input.

Again I would appeal to members to let Mike Jenkins know when you have made your bookings with the caravan park and you intend to take part in a Gathering. We are unable to let members who have made bookings know of any special events or changes that may apply to that particular Gathering if we do not know that you are coming. It only takes a telephone call or email to Mike.

If you require any further information on these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care and keep safe.

JOHN BROWN, President.



VALE

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Joan Burge on 7th July. The committee on behalf of members sent a sympathy notice to husband Frank and members of his family. Frank and Joan are long standing members of the club

VALE

It is also with sadness that we report the passing of Barb Young's father Harry Newton on 9th July. Our sympathy is with Barb and Robert.

WELFARE

As we go to press we have learnt that Elaine Brown has fallen and broken her ankle in 3 places. She will be out of action for about 8 weeks. We wish her a speedy recovery

MANNING POINT

July 9th to 17th

A very enthusiastic group of 11 vans arrived at Manning Point, a seaside and riverside village near the mouth of the Manning River, about 30 minutes drive East of Taree from Wednesday 9th July. A few more vans came in the following day.

Manning Point is a major centre for oyster production in the Manning Valley and offers ideal opportunities for boating on the broad North Arm of the River. As the town is located on a promontory there is also easy access to the surf beach and during summer is a very popular spot.

Thursday 10th all present gathered in the camp kitchen area at the same time as Joan Burge's funeral commenced to remember Joan and her family at this time. Some members of the club attended the funeral in Sydney, representing the membership.

Later in the day members visited points of interest, including the township of Old Bar and Wallabi Point, Oxley Island Village, and other places on Mitchell's Island. Dinner time we all gathered in the bowling club adjacent to the caravan park and enjoyed a great meal together.

Friday during the day members visited local highlights and during the afternoon commenced preparing for the evening meal. Dinner was taken in the camp kitchen when the food quality was very high. We were able to sample the various dishes, just a little of each, and decide which we liked the best.

Mike Jenkins organized an internationally famous chef to judge the entries and Mario Ramsay Vidal decided the winners:-

<u>SOUP</u>	Helga Duncan for her Goulash Soup
<u>MAIN</u>	Elizabeth Fenton for her Veal Alapanna
<u>DESERT</u>	Mavis Virtue for her Cherry Balls.

Mike Jenkins is collecting all the recipes for distribution to members at the Christmas Gathering.

Saturday morning we moved across to the village of Corlki on the other side of the North Arm and boarded a catamaran for a cruise and meal on the river system. Speeds are restricted on the inland waters but it was extremely pleasant cruising along Scotts Creek to Cabbage Tree Island and return. A nice roast and vegetable meal was served by the crew and enjoyed by all on board. The skipper pointed St Marks Church built in 1862 from 2 logs carried downstream during a flood, and still in use today.

Sunday some members pulled down their camp but most stayed a few more days to enjoy the fine weather a little more and visit the interesting places in the area.

Congratulations to Mike for his selection of the site and organizing the home cooked group dinner; it is something we should try again.



Members gathered at Manning Point in memory of JOAN BURGE , who had passed away earlier in the week



Greg Gleeson prepares his soup for dinner

APPOINTMENT

Mario Vidal has accepted the responsibility of Welfare Officer for the club and will liaise with any member not well, keeping the club informed and providing any assistance he can. Please let Mario know of any member not well so contact can be maintained
Phone 4341 9195
email mariovidal@optusnet.com

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members should you meet them

Ken & Elaine Amos	Warners Bay
John & Nreidah Southwell	Narellan
Cheryl Southall & Ian Haviland	Victoria
Doug & Karen Matthews	Cherrybrook

To the optimist the glass is half full
To the pessimist the glass is half empty
To the engineer the glass is twice the size it needs to be

MANNING POINT GROUP DINNER, SOCIALISING AND RIVER CRUISE



Joan Smith tasting



Cooking is thirsty work



York and Helga prepare the Winning goulash



Winner Helga & Judge



Elizabeth is congratulated



Happy hour is always popular



Those cherry balls are great

On board the cruise vessel



A helping hand for Phil From Warwick



Greg and Gay Gleeson share a tasty meal with others

FOREST GLEN.

August 8th to 14th

It was a small group that ventured to the Forest Glen in Queensland, to a caravan Park a few minutes drive west of Buderim on the Sunshine Coast hinterland. It is a very bush setting with wildlife sharing the venue with the guests.

On Saturday the Eumundi markets about 20 minutes drive north attracted many members and there was a large number and variety of stalls. It was very easy to spend 4 hours wandering through the area and there was a mixture of hand craft and professional stalls.

A visit to the Buderim Ginger factory at Yandina just down the road was interesting, with the guided tours and a very well stocked shop with a wide range of ginger products. The ginger growing season is quite short and the crop is harvested in February, but this is sufficient to provide work for the factory year round.

Across the road the nut factory has a large variety of nuts but they are very expensive when compared with the regular stores.

Saturday night we enjoyed a group dinner at the restaurant on the first floor in Buderim and as well as a great meal we could enjoy an extensive view of the lights of the Sunshine Coast.

During the days members took the opportunity to visit the towns along the coast from Mooloolaba to Noosa Heads, admire the beaches and the tourist attractions which at this time of year are not particularly busy. One of the outstanding features is the number of high rise apartments along the waterfront, forming a ribbon development. This is particularly obvious when looking down on the coast from the mountain ranges to the west of Nambour.

The Australian Zoo at Beerwah developed by Steve Irwin is not far south of the park and attracts large crowds daily. The highlights include the crocoseum where patrons can see crocodiles in clear water and see them coaxed out for feeding including and seeing the crocodile rise about 1 to 1.5 metres out of the water for food. The demonstration includes snakes and birds on the wing. There are also enclosures for the Bengal tigers and Indian elephants, and demonstrations are provided daily.

We wanted to get a photo of our president John feeding a crocodile but it could not be arranged.

Going west through Nambour the road ascends the range to the towns of Mapleton, Montville and Maleny, from which there are magnificent views back towards the coast. Montville is a village for tourists and contains many craft and souvenir shops, where it is very easy to spend hours browsing.

Members left on Thursday, some returning home and some going to stay on the coast and sample the golf courses. An extremely pleasant and relaxing gathering was enjoyed by all.



Happy hour at Forest Glen



Crocodile feeding at Australia Zoo

FUTURE GATHERINGS

September 11th to 16th South West Rocks

October 10th to 16th Glen Innes, New England Tablelands. Hosts Ron & Anita O'Neil

October 30th to November 5th, Arrawarra Beach with Coffs Harbour Club. Melbourne Cup

November 28th to December 5th Stockton Beach, Christmas Gathering

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