FROM THE EDITORS DESK

G’day Folks,

Well, here we are nearly winter, this has not stopped our intrepid travellers from getting out there and doing it. At the time of going to press we have a group travelling to West Australia and another group heading for Toowoon Bay and places north. Due to car problems (Ford) we have one of our member couples, who were going to WA, are now travelling around South Australia enjoying themselves. We will have reports on these rallies in the next issue.

We have several Rallies coming up, so get your names on the lists.

I would like to invite all members to submit suggestions for what they would like to see in Our Newsletter and also to submit any articles or short stories of their own experiences, could make for interesting reading?

Until next issue, keep travelling and keep safe.
Your Committee-2018

President & Public Officer
Ted Hutchison 0412 256 758
Rally Marshall
Lindy Wheatley 0407 942 436
Secretary
Robyn Beesley 0409 043 923
Treasurer
Julie Wilson 0402 403 365

Publicity Officer/Editor
Harry Stephen 0448 978 628
Activities/Raffles
Don Hutchison 0414 618 847
Admin Assistant/Welfare Officer
Julie Routledge 0414 664 710

Further details can be found on the club website at: http://www.illawarrarvclubinc.com

Notice

Note: The Club Postal Address.
All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Secretary
Illawarra RV Club Inc.
P.O. Box 58
Shellharbour City Centre NSW 2529

Rally Policy
It is the members’ responsibility to notify the Rally Master where practicable 30 days in advance for rally bookings or cancellations.
Members are required to make bookings, cancellations or alterations to the Rally Master, not the venue.
Should the club be required to pay a deposit on behalf of a member and that member cancels their booking, the venue/s at their discretion may not refund the deposits to the club.
Should this occur, the member in question will be required to refund any monies to the Illawarra RV Club Inc.
The committee reserves the right to alter dates, and or venues, or to cancel the programmed events.
The Rally Master is the sole contact between club members and venues for club events.
It is the members responsibility to notify the Rally Master at least 30 days (where practicable) before the rally date for bookings or cancellations.
One night’s deposit for each venue is required at time of booking. (See Rally Policy.)
The Club Notice Board will be available at each meeting with individual rally sheets for you to add your name onto, should you be interested in attending.

For further information, contact Rally Master Lindy WHEATLEY (0407 942 436)
DO YOU HAVE ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?

A suggestion box is available at every meeting. You are eagerly encouraged to share any suggestions you may have to keep your club as active and interesting as possible. eg, possible rally venues, recommended parks, dinner nights or any other activity that you think of. Your input is important to keep this club interesting and enjoyable.

2018 Meetings Calendar

Members General Meetings
10am Australia motor Life Museum, Darkes Road, Kembla Grange.

January 27th Committee Meeting
February 4th Members Meeting
March 24th Committee Meeting
April 1st Members Meeting
May 26th Committee Meeting
June 17th Members Meeting
July 28th Committee Meeting
August 5th Members Meeting
September 29th Committee Meeting
October 7th Members Meeting
November 24th Committee Meeting
December 2nd Members Meeting
+AGM & CHRISTMAS BBQ

2018 Club Rally Calendar

This is a tentative program and may be updated and more events added during the year.

May 10th - 20th - Toowoon bay holiday park, Toowoon Bay
July 22nd - Xmas in July (Warrigal Cafeteria Shellcove)
August - Joint rally with SCCC (Date and Venue to be confirmed)
November 8th -19th - Roving rally - Karuah, 2n - Southwest rocks, 4n - Forster, 3n - Blacksmith Beach, 3n.

Future Suggestions for planning.

Dates to be decided.
Roving Rally - Great Ocean Road.

This Information can also be referenced and printed from the club Web site
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR CLUB MATES CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS.

JULY

1st Dot Peary
2nd Gail Hobbs
5th Margaret Carter
5th Stuart Francis
11th Lyn Wallace
12th Paula Gibson
14th Mary Farrugia
21st Nola Campbell
22nd Barry Allen
23rd Marj Carvell
29th Ron Murray
31st Aldo Musca

WELFARE OFFICER

Julie Routledge has been appointed to take on the role of Welfare Officer to make contact with any member who may be ill or in need of some support that our club may be able to offer. If you know of anybody who could benefit from this service you are encouraged to contact Julie on 0414664710. Any information will be kept confidential if requested.

DVD LIBRARY

Your club has an excellent range of DVDs which can be borrowed at each Rally free of charge. These can be obtained from Joe White at his van or call him on 0468 943 953. Donations of DVDs are also welcome.
REMINDERS

Club attire and club badges etc. are to be ordered from Diane Hutchison and full payment is required with the order.

An emergency+ App is available for your Smartphone which provides your latitude and longitude co-ordinates and/or address when you call the emergency “000” number. It is highly recommended that you install this App to your Smartphone.

Club Name Badges are to be worn at all club meetings, rallies, functions etc, for the benefit of all members.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2019 are due by the 2nd December 2018 and any members un-financial as 3rd December 2018 will have their membership cancelled. There will no longer be a grace period in the New Year. It is highly recommended that your fees are paid by the 2nd December 2018 meeting.

My wife asked me what I was doing on the computer last night.

I told her I was looking for cheap flights.

"I love you!" she said, and then she got all excited.

That night we had the most amazing sex ever....

Which is odd, because she’s never shown an interest in darts before?
VINCE WILLIAMS MECHANICAL WORKSHOP located in Industrial Road Oak Flats and managed by Darryl Williams and his wife Dianne have undertaken to become Advertisers and proud Sponsors of our club. They are offering a discount to all our members on associated works for both caravans and cars. As always I ask that you try and support our Sponsors whenever possible. Don’t forget that as with all of our Sponsors, discounts only apply with production of your current club membership card.

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Also Providing

Batteries – Tyres - Caravan Servicing

Remember When?
Established in 1991, Farmborough Electrical Services provides all the repair services you require on your beloved Caravan or Motor-home. We have had over 26 years experience in repairing gas and electrical appliances.

Call Peter on 0412 246 357
Three guys, Shutup, Manners and Poop, drove too fast and Poop fell out of the car. Shutup went to the Police Station where the Policeman Asked “What’s your name?” “Shutup,” he answered. “Hey – where are your manners!” the Policeman exclaimed. Shutup replied, “Outside on the road, scrapin up Poop!” Ha Ha Ha
Free and easy

Everything you need to know the first time you go free camping

Words Brendan Batty

If you're new to camping and caravanning, or maybe have only ever enjoyed it from the blessed convenience of a caravan park, it can be daunting to take that step away from the amenities, 240-volt power or even the close proximity of grocery stores. But with just a little extra preparation, most travellers with modern caravans, campers or motorhomes can enjoy at least a few nights away from a caravan park without putting stress on electrical systems or supplies.

It's important to say, though, that free is not always better. In fact, in more cases than not, the free camps in an area (if there are any) are in less desirable locations, have more basic features and can even be downright awful compared to the established caravan parks or reserves. In my experience, if you want the best free camping experience you have to work for it – travel to more remote areas, do some off-road driving or spend some time cleaning up the rubbish others have left. Yes, there are some great free camping locations in Australia, but there are also spectacular paid locations that are well and truly worth the money.

Free camping doesn’t always mean no cost, either. It just as often refers to bush campsites in national parks, conservation reserves or on private property that still cost to use, but otherwise have very limited facilities. Many of the coastal station stays on the Western Australia coast could be considered free camps, even though they cost to stay at.

If you’ve never been free camping before, start easy and don’t go ‘remote’ free camping. Spend some time on unpowered caravan park sites or national park bush campsites with facilities. Doing this gives you a chance to understand how your van’s batteries and water tanks will cope away from mains power and water, and allow you to adjust your behaviour, or upgrade anything that need’s upgrading. Alternatively, if you’re doing a few long days driving, planning your overnight stops in free campsites is a great way to test the waters.

The modern caravan actually doesn’t draw a lot of power from its house batteries if you are careful. While many caravans have up to 20 LED lights through them, you really only need one or two to illuminate the part of the van you are inhabiting, and if you are sitting outside in front of a fire, none of them need to be on. If your van has a three-way fridge and a hot-water system that runs on gas, there’s very little else to suck power, so even a 100ah deep cycling battery should last two or three nights before needing a charge. If you have a solar panel on the roof or a portable one you can put out, then you’ll be able to stay put far longer. Many vans are now being fitted with a compressor fridge, these days, but if that’s the case, the van is usually equipped to keep it running indefinitely in the right conditions. In many cases, your length of stay will be limited by the capacity of your toilet cassette,
especially if there's nowhere nearby to responsibly empty it.

Camping away from a caravan park does mean packing a few extra things, especially if you have an older van or camper that doesn’t have a toilet. A Porta-potti and shower tent rarely goes unappreciated, although for many, a shovel and a walk to somewhere private does the same job. If it's only the squatting over a hole in the ground that's putting you off, though, there are hundreds of great free camping areas in Australia that have excellent facilities. But you should also bring a few rolls of toilet paper, just in case the onsite facilities have run out.

Free camping means meal planning and rationing well, especially if you are preparing to camp in remote locations where you can’t duck into Woolies because you’ve run out of milk. I’ve always found that around two weeks is about the limit we can last without needing a shop, although our meals become significantly more basic the closer we are to that limit, as fresh meat and vegies start to run low. We do have to write a very detailed meal plan for this to happen, and then list every ingredient for every meal to make sure it works out.

None of that is very hard, though, and if the right location presents itself, it's really not hard to get away from the mainstream stays and into some really great places. If you haven’t done so, there’s really great value in it, and more than just the money saved on camping fees.

**FREE ADVICE**

For the last four years, Kari Rawlings has been travelling solo around Australia in her Horizon Melaleuca motorhome (named Snowflake) she bought in 2012. Having sold up her house and everything she didn’t need for a life on the road, the pensioner has lived from her motorhome full time, and mostly free camping, with her nine-year-old dog Bella ever since, despite never doing any caravanning or camping prior to buying the Horizon.

"On my first night away I felt free, I felt relaxed. I felt in control of my life - it was just fantastic," she tells me. Despite travelling solo, Kari never felt lonely and tells me only once was she concerned about her safety (so she just camped somewhere else). "The beauty of free camping is that generally by 4:30pm half the campsite is full and that’s part of the social event of actually travelling. Because I travel with Bella, she always needs a walk around the campsite and people want to talk to her and me and it’s really a nice social experience," she says.

Kari also rarely found it difficult to find somewhere she could camp with Bella, as most free campers seemed to be pet friendly. "Pretty much most of the countryside spots are pet friendly," she recounts. "It’s only when you get to the upper-class caravan parks that some of them are a bit picky."

Kari’s favourite camps were always the ones in the middle of nowhere where she could enjoy nature at its very best. "The amenities are never that important to me because I’m self-contained, it’s more about enjoying the view and enjoying nature."
What do you call two pigs who write letters to each other?
Pen-pals.

What do you call a man with a bus on his head?
Dead.

What do you call a bear with no fur?
A bare.

A woman walks into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter....

'What are you doing?' she asked
'Hunting flies' he responded
'Oh!, Killing any?' she asked
'Yep, 3 males and 2 females' he replied
Intrigued, she asked 'How can you tell?'
'Easy, 3 were on a beer can and 2 were on the phone' he responded.