Hi members,

March and April have been busy months for many of our members with rallies to Tasmania and South Durras having been completed. Obviously a great time was had by all who participated and congratulations are extended to the organisers for the fantastic effort that they put in to make the rallies the success that they were. The reports for these events are included in this issue with thanks to those of you who took the time and effort to describe your adventures to us.

Ellen and Doug Temple with Graham and Leone Waine enjoyed a recent trip to Broken Hill returning via the Murray Valley and Ellen was kind enough to send a report on their exploit which is also included.

Access to your last newsletter was unfortunately delayed because our website was attacked by virus gremlins. Bob has since had the problem rectified and hopefully our site will remain problem free.

The Collector Pumpkin festival has just been completed and a report on that will be in the next issue.

The South Ulladulla Rally is coming up from 23rd - 27th June. For those wishing to go, place your name on the form at the June meeting.

Julie Routledge has been appointed as Welfare Officer for our club for any member who is ill or may need some support that we may be able to assist with.

As always Happy Travels and stay safe.

Cheers,
Terry.
## Your Committee-2016

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Bob O’Connor</td>
<td>0437 976 502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rally Marshall &amp; Public Officer</td>
<td>Ted Hutchison</td>
<td>0412 256 758</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Robyn Beesley</td>
<td>0409 043 923</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Julie Wilson</td>
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<td>Publicity Officer/Editor</td>
<td>Terry Keating</td>
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<td>Activities/Raffles</td>
<td>Jim Bristoe</td>
<td>0400 460 991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin Assistant &amp; Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Julie Routledge</td>
<td>0414 339 424</td>
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Further details can be found on the club website at: [http://www.illawarrarvclubinc.com](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

## Free Service to Members

If you own a business or you are a tradesman (present or retired) or have a skill or a hobby, why not advertise yourself or company in the newsletter or on the club website? This could be a way of earning yourself some extra pocket money and also help out your club member mates who may be having difficulties with knowledge, repairs or products. Contact the editor and we can work out a free add.

## 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.
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.

**2016 Meetings Calendar**

**Members General Meetings**

10am Australia motor Life Museum – Darkes Road, Kembla Grange.

- **January 30th** Committee Meeting
- **February 7th** Members Meeting
- **April 2nd** Committee Meeting
- **April 3rd** Members Meeting
- **May 28th** Committee Meeting
- **June 5th** Members Meeting
- **July 30th** Committee Meeting
- **August 7th** Members Meeting
- **September 24th** Committee Meeting
- **October 9th** Members Meeting
- **November 26th** Committee Meeting
- **December 4th** Members Meeting
  + AGM

**2016 Club Rally Calendar**

**January 10th** Family Picnic Day. Koonawarra Bay, Lakeside Drive Kanahooka.

**January 18th** - **23rd** Tamworth Rally.

**February 18th** – **March 20th** Tasmania Rally.

**February 24th** - **29th** Rally to South Durras.

**April 16th** Illawarra Yacht Club 6pm

**April 27th** - **May 2nd** Collector Pumpkin Festival. (South Goulburn Caravan Park)

**June 23rd** - **27th** Rally to South Ulladulla (Kings Point Retreat)

**July 10th** Xmas in July.

**September 3rd** Outing ?(To be advised)

**October 27th** - **November 6th** Grafton Jacaranda Festival (Fishing Haven Holiday Park, Palmers Island)

**December 17th** Xmas Party

This is a tentative program and may be updated and more events added during the year.
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR CLUB MATES CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS.

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.

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HOT WEEKEND AT SOUTH DURRAS

We set off on Wednesday 24 February on a bright and sunny morning, heading South. We had a very good run down the Highway arriving at the Park in Durras at 11.30 am, closely followed by Don and Sue. John/Margaret, Jim/Daphne and Aldo/Annette arrived after lunch.

The temperature hit the mid 30’s so we all headed for the pool and spent the afternoon lounging and relaxing in the water. On Thursday Bill/Gina and Ian/Carol arrived as the temperature hit 40. The majority of us shot into town for lunch and then adjourned to the pool for the afternoon. It was just too hot to do anything but drink and lounge about.

At Happy Hour we talked about going out to dinner or lunch, decided we would visit the Moruya Markets on Saturday morning then go for lunch on Sunday. Friday was another warm cloudy day, the average temperature at about 30 which wasn’t too bad. We all did our own thing.
Happy hours were starting to get longer and longer.
On Friday night we had a sprinkle of rain.
On Saturday we headed to the Moruya Markets and spent a good couple of hours browsing the different stalls. Jim, who fancied a piece of juicy watermelon, was beaten to the punch by some old duck who was behind him. She put her hand through and grabbed it so Jim missed out.
On Sunday we headed into Batemans Bay for lunch at the Marina Hotel. It was very nice and reasonably priced. It was a good way to spend a couple of hours with very good company. Thank you Don and Sue for organizing it.
Every morning at 7 am, of our stay the walkers struck out for their daily exercise before breakfast, a 45 minute circuit, it was a good way to start the day.
Our Happy hours were spent out the front of Don and Sue’s van. The longest one lasting 3 ½ hours.
Overall it was a very good 5 days and at $20 per night, I would recommend we go again.

Derrick Peters.

Thanks Derrick for a great description of a Hot weekend!

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BEST EVER BANANA CAKE

BY ELLEN

**INGREDIENTS**

1 ½ Cup Self Raising Flour
1 teaspoon Bi-Carb Soda
¾ Cup Sugar
3 Bananas, Mashed
½ Cup Oil
2 Eggs, Lightly Beaten

**METHOD**

1 Grease a ring tin and line the base with baking paper.
2 Sift flour and soda into a bowl. Add sugar.
3 Make a well in centre and add bananas, eggs and oil.
4 Stir until mixture is smooth.
5 Pour into a cake tin and bake at 150C for 1 hour
6 Ice with cream cheese or lemon icing if desired
**THE CLUB’S TERRIFIC TOUR OF TASSIE!**

**Week 1 by Julie Wilson**

**Thur 11th Feb** After leaving home this morning, yours truly was sacked as navigator for the “Wilsons” because we drove into the wrong place for coffee. When we arrived at Gundagai it was extremely hot; so hot in fact that Robyn and Lynette jumped into the Murrumbidgee River.

**Fri 12th Feb** We arrived in Wangaratta on the Victorian Border. The weather was still very hot so we were very grateful for the lovely pool at the Caravan park. Most of us took advantage to cool down and refresh themselves. Some of us went to dinner at the “Vines Hotel” which is 150 years old. I would recommend that anybody travelling in the area to put the venue on their “should see” list. It had an historic old cellar with dirt floors and a lot of Ned Kelly memorabilia. Apparently it was rumoured that Ned Kelly used the cellar to escape the law.

**Sat 13th Feb** We arrived in Melbourne after a slightly harrowing trip through Melbourne traffic. After setting up in the persistent hot weather we settled down to the usual merriment of Happy Hour. However, poor Lynette was forced to move very quickly when someone (not mentioning any names, but it wasn’t me) got up to tell a story and “fluffed” right in front of her.

**Sun 14th Feb** We experienced another harrowing trip through the city to board the Spirit Of Tasmania. Fortunately it was early on the Sunday morning so there wasn’t much traffic about. We were really excited to board and had a really good trip across Bass Strait. Fortunately there were only a few “funny tummies.” We played music bingo and were entertained by a very nice young man who sang and played the guitar.

Most of us were lucky enough to get off the ship quickly. The rest of us had to wait for the people whose van was in front (not one of ours) to find their van. It could have been worse. We only had to wait 15 minutes. Then a short drive to Port Sorell.

**Mon 15th Feb** It was a bit of shock to the system to find the weather in Port Sorell cold and windy. We went to a chocolate factory and had coffee and chocolate tasting. Needless to say that no lunch was needed. We also bought “Curried Scallop Pies” which are very popular in Tasmania. We found them very enjoyable and would recommend them to anyone who goes to Tassie to try them.

**Tue 16th and Wed 17th Feb** We set up camp at Somerset. Hats off to our rally master for arranging a fabulous day of touring. First off we drove to Stanley to see the “Nut”. While we were having coffee a fireman came in. All the firemen who have come over from the mainland and New Zealand are camped here at Stanley at the showground. There are about 200 tents and lots of helicopters and fire engines. We could smell the smoke from the bushfires.
We took the chairlift to the top of the “Nut” (A very large rock a little like the shape of Uluru only smaller and with vegetation). The views were terrific. There is also a 2km walking track around the top which we all managed. The walk was quite steep in places and felt more like 20km.
Pat and Ted weren’t keen on going on the chairlift, but both overcame their fears. However I think Pat’s squeals could be heard from the top.
After that we had lunch at a really nice seafood restaurant. The seafood chowder was absolutely delicious.
Then we went to an historic old house which was 150 years old. All in all a top day was had by all.

**Week 2 by John Shipton**

**Thurs 18th Feb**
Another fine day dawned on Somerset. Off for some more sightseeing. After having coffee at Burnie Information Centre we headed for Hellyers Whiskey Distillery. A very interesting tour which included tasting was enjoyed.
The usual happy hour ensued with a BBQ. Afterwards we watched “Last Cab To Darwin” in the video room. A great day drew to a close at about 9.30pm.

**Fri 19th Feb.**
Ted, Norbert, Lynne, Bob Beesley and Trevor headed off for a game of golf. The rest of us piled into a couple of cars and went to Wynard which was about a 10 minute drive. I hitched a ride with Cairns, Nola, Harry and Lorraine. After coffee we did a bit of shopping and visited the lobster farm (freshwater endangered species) We had lunch at the Wharf Seafood, Fish & Chips. What a great spot right on the water.
After lunch we returned to the caravan park to prepare for the usual Happy Hour. I joined Harry for “Black Coffee” after our evening meal. We were joined by Cairns, Trevor and Ted. I retired at around 9pm.

**Sat 20th Feb**
We finally farewelled Somerset and set off on a very scenic drive to Waratah. Some interesting points of interest include the pub. The Pub usually closes for lunch between 2pm and 4pm. However 16 of us arrived at 2.30 pm so they decided to open up (couldn’t miss the chance of making a few extra dollars). After leaving the Pub we arrived back at the caravan park just in time for Happy Hour. Happy Hour was special today as we were celebrating Ted and Harry’s birthdays which included 2 birthday Pavlovas. Dinner was followed by the usual stint at the Coffee Shop.

**Sun 21st Feb**
A beautiful cool morning greeted us as we prepared for our excursion to Cradle Mountain. On arrival at Cradle Mountain reception we went through the usual checking procedure before boarding the bus to take us up to the lake. The driver reminded us how lucky we were to have such a beautiful day for our visit as it rains for 270 days of the year in this region. Cradle Mountain is a very beautiful place indeed. No wonder the Tasmanian Government is planning to spend millions of dollars in the near future to improve the facilities for tourists. After an incredible day we returned to base and enjoyed Happy Hour by the lake, followed by dinner and Coffee at Harry’s to finish off the day.

**Mon 22nd Feb**
After packing up we farewelled Waratah and enjoyed the scenic drive through the forest to Queenstown. I think we are getting better at manoeuvring into caravan parks but the improvement is very gradual. We did some shopping and fuelled up as we have an early start Tomorrow to Strachan for a boat cruise.

**Tue 23rd Feb**
On a beautiful morning we boarded the World Heritage Cruise Boat and experienced a fabulous
cruise on Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River; what more could you ask for?
After a great day on the water we headed back to Queenstown caravan park for Happy Hour. After dinner to the Coffee Shop. What a great day, they keep getting better.

**Wed 24th Feb** Very light rain greeted us this morning, but not enough to worry us. Some of us had lunch at the Empire Hotel. We learned that for the official opening of the hotel the 2nd Prime Minister of Australia, Alfred Deakin and Dame Nellie Melba were present in the year 1904. The beautiful timber staircase at the hotel is Tasmanian Blackwood which was milled in England and sent back and assembled in Queenstown. Also apart from the staircase there was lots of beautiful timber throughout the hotel.

Happy Hour was later taken followed by Coffee at Harry’s.

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**Week 3 by Lynette Beringer**

**Thur 25th Feb** We departed Queenstown for Tarraleah and stopped for morning tea at the Hungry Wombat Café at Derwent Bridge. Robyn B has an issue with her phone being slower than everyone else’s by 45 minutes. Next stop is The Wall. Anyone who misses this magnificent carving has missed a “Wonder of the world”. It’s such a shame that no photos are allowed to capture such talent. Oops! I thought we had lost the caravan park, but Ted has tracked it down. It is a great location, Happy Hour is a bit squeezy, all 16 of us fitting in the laundry? Very up close and personal and also very noisy.

**Fri 26th Feb** We headed for New Norfolk after having morning tea at Hamilton. I think we had the best coffee to date. After setting up camp and sorting some laundry we settled down to Happy Hour. The decorum was lost when Harry was seen wearing Robyn’s pink hat. ‘When’s the baby due Harry?’ the chorus rang out. Cairns had a bucket load of empties and Happy Hour was only halfway gone.

**Sat 27th Feb** We caught the bus to the Salamanca Markets and bought some produce and some gifts. We had lunch at the Floating Fish Hut at Constitution Wharf. We held a show and tell at Happy Hour to compare purchases.

**Sun 28th Feb** Various groups went separate ways today. The Wilsons, Beringers and O’Connors went to the female factory. What those poor women suffered. They had to endure total silence for the duration of their sentence. Ted’s group visited the Huon Trail and the boat building. Due to the inclement weather we packed up early and only had a short Happy Hour.

**Mon 29th Feb** We bade farewell to New Norfolk and set sail for White Beach. We weren’t able to book in until 11.30am so we took our time. We stopped at Dunnely for morning tea and it was yummy. We tried to to get fresh fish from the fish market but the woman was very rude so we all walked out. Her loss! We arrived at the caravan park en-masse and caretaker hubby had to be pulled off the mower to help book us in and help us onto our sites. Once we were all sorted we let the games begin. Disc Bowls and Bocce were the games of choice. Today is Robyn’s 17th Birthday so she was quite excited. Ted and Diane made an awesome leek and potato
soup with crunchy bread sticks with cheesecake and lemon meringue pie to follow. Shippo still didn’t let up on Robyn even though it was her birthday but she takes it in her stride.

**Tue 1st Mar**  We met at the Lavender Farm for morning tea then 10 of us went off to Port Arthur while the other 6 did alternate tours. We met up for dinner at Nauticals (Nudeena Inn) but we had Happy Hour in the pub first. What is it about “black coffee” that keeps the boys up for hours after lights out? This morning Robyn B was kind enough to give Shippo some laundry liquid when he forgot his. She is so kind after the ribbing he gave her. We had another awesome day at Port Arthur. Not quite as heart wrenching as the female factory but very hard times for the convicts and guards alike.

**Wed 2nd Mar** On departing White Beach we headed on to Triabunna, Julie went for a shower (5 minute limit) and was half way through before dropping the soap and watching it disappear out of sight. We stopped at Sorell for morning tea and as we left we drove around the roundabout and heard a loud crash and bang. The Beringers had thrown a stabiliser bar without realising. A local picked it up and gave it to Julie who was behind us. Boy are we ever crammed in here. It’s an easy walk to town but there isn’t much to see. Happy hour was good as always. It was really hot today until a southerly hit and the temperature dropped 10 degrees. The Rat Pack will probably still sit it out for “Black Coffee” though.

**Week 4 by Cairns Campbell**

**Thur 3rd Mar** Today we enjoyed a trip on the MV Maria Island Ferry to Maria Island and return to Triabunna. Captain John gave an interesting commentary during the 50 minute trip. We passed the now closed fish processing plant that until recently had produced slimy mackerel fish pellets for the farmed tuna industry. The Mackerel stock was eventually fished out and hence the facility closed.

Gunns woodchip plant and ship loading facility was also closed recently as the result of logging restrictions and overseas supply of woodchip.

Cray fishing, table fish and squid fishing remain the principal industry in these waters. Maria Island was the first penal settlement and was chosen because it was believed prisoners could not escape to the mainland due to the large shark population which fed on waste from the then operating whale processing plant. Prisoners were later sent to Port Arthur.

Several backpackers and walkers disembarked at Maria Island to enjoy it’s history, scenery and wildlife. Some backpackers would stay overnight.

Captain John also told us about the early discovery of this area by the Spanish and Dutch explorers who were here before Captain Cook.

During our voyage back to Triabunna we observed dolphins playing in the wake of our boat. We also saw seals during the trip.

Back at Triabunna the hotel was closed until 2pm so we all enjoyed coffee at the local shop.
The afternoon was free time. Some played golf and others restocked supplies until Happy Hour when we had visitors who entertained us with their stories, jokes and bush poetry.

**Fri 4th Mar** Today we travelled the 110kms Triabunna to **Coles Bay** with a coffee stop at **Swansea**. We arrived at Coles Bay at about 11am but the park manager would not allow us to set up our sites until 12 noon. The allocated sites were disappointing as was the whole park and staff. The closest dump point was 30km away and individual sites were like goat tracks. We will not recommend this park to anybody. Little will be said here how Julie reads Allocated site numbers??

In the afternoon Ted made the necessary arrangements for those who wished to take a ½ hour scenic flight over **Wine Glass Bay** or tour of the National Park on quad bikes. It wasn't long before Happy Hour again when Lynette advised us there was no evidence of “floundering” in Flounder or “humping” in Humpback Drive.

**Sat 5th Mar** While most of us enjoyed a sleep in, Diane, Julie and the Biggles boys, Ted, Harry and Shippo left for their scenic flight over **Wine Glass Bay** and surrounds. We decided to give the quad bike a miss.

The Coles Bay Ironman event was on so there were fit bodies walking around Coles Bay everywhere. This event made for good entertainment for those who did not go walking or sightseeing in the Freycinet National Park. We all made it back to camp for Happy Hour where Ted advised us of the arrangements for Sunday.

**Sun 6th Mar** Today we travelled the 110kms from **Coles Bay to St Helens**. On the way we stopped at **Bicheno** and took a 45 minute excursion in a glass bottomed boat. The owner pointed out the different types of fish and seaweeds that we saw. He also mentioned the fish varieties that were no longer available owing to the warmer currents affecting the area. We then had coffee while enjoying the view overlooking the ocean.

After setting up camp, most of us toured the **St Helens** township before it was Happy Hour again.

**Mon 7th Mar** The second day in **St Helens** we toured the surrounding area. The first stop was at the Shop in the Bush which sold souvenirs and antique household items plus a good selection of second hand books. We then visited the Holy Cow Café where we saw a working fully computerised dairy and the adjoining cheese factory. The dearest cheese that we tasted sold for $120 / kg and was matured for 3 years.

Next call was the **Columbus Water Falls** and after a 15 minute walk through a "tropical forest" we looked up at 600ft falls. By now it was time to visit the Pub in the Paddock Hotel for refreshments and lunch. The Blue Tier gardens were to be the next attraction but somehow we took the wrong road and after a couple of kilometres driving on very narrow and rough track decided it was Happy Hour so we returned to ST Helens Caravan Park.

**Tue 8th Mar** It was time to leave **St Helens** and drive the 110kms to **Longford** where we will stay for the next 5 days before catching the Princess of Tasmania back to **Melbourne**.

On the way we stopped for the normal coffee break at Avoca. After setting up camp some looked around the local area while others made arrangements and appointments for the following day.

At Happy Hour it was decided to have a group baked dinner the following night. With beef, pork, chicken and lamb on the menu plus 5 vegetables it should be quite a feast.
**Wed 9th Mar** Today some of the group visited friends and relations who live in the area while others explored the **Launceston** area. The afternoon was spent preparing this evening’s meal and then Happy Hour again. We heard a summary of what attractions members had visited during the day and Bob later spoke on behalf of us all expressing our gratitude for the great effort Ted had put into organising our trip. The baked meal was a real success with all meats and vegetables cooked to perfection.

**Week 5 By Karl Muller**

**Thur 10th Mar** Every body went on their various outings and met up in the afternoon. We had the usual Happy Hour. Shippo was in good form again making jokes.

**Fri 11th Mar** Some of us went out for a game of golf. We later met up and went to the German named Blenhein Hotel. It was a very old hotel and the service was quite slow. We had our own area in a function room which we needed as we seem to be a noisy lot. The meal was enjoyable and was a good price.

**Week 6 by Pat O'Connor**

**Mon 14th Mar** On Monday we were up very early and met up in the lounge near the cafeteria about 5.30am. Most of the group said they had slept ok but Shippo told me that I looked like I was in a bad mood. I will never do a night crossing again. We farewelled Karl, Norbert and Lynette and Cairns and Nola before heading below decks to disembark. Thank heavens it went a lot smoother than the loading at Devonport. The Sat Navs had a good time misleading both the O'Connors and the Beasleys but after a half hour trip through parts of Melbourne we were finally on our way to Welshpool. Early breakfast\'morning tea was a little down market as the only place we could find that was open and we could park was Hungry Jacks but at least it was coffee. After setting up everyone went and did some shopping before spending the rest of the day relaxing and looking forward to a really good night's sleep. During the night we had really heavy rain and strong winds which had annexes being rolled up at 3am and a lot of disturbed sleep. Luckily it has stopped by day break and everything was back to normal.

**Tuesday 15th Mar** Diane had hurt her leg on the boat so Ted took her to the doctors to have it seen to, Robyn and Bob took a trip to Agnes Falls and the rest of us headed to Wilsons Promontory. Julie and Trevor bought T Shirts to claim ownership of the place. We all met up at the pub in Toora for lunch and boy did we hit the jackpot. This was a pub in a town of about 6 shops with really good prices and the food was all hand made and delicious. Bob Beesley decided to have the special dessert and the chocolate ice cream cake that was delivered would have fed us all.

**Wed 16th Mar** Our next stop was Bairnsdale which was quite large so we decided to extend our stay by a day to allow the ladies to have a shopping fix. Our first happy hour there was filled with reminiscences about the trip so far and a sad farewell to Bob and Robyn who were going to visit relos and Julie and Trevor who were heading home.

**Thur 17th Mar** After farewelling the Wilsons and Beesleys, Shippo suggested that we take a drive to Paynesville and told us he would lead the way as he had been ther previously so we hopped in our cars and followed him. Paynesville was a really pretty town located right on Gippsland Lakes and after a look around we had coffee at a very nice new cafe on the water and then headed back to town. Somehow we lost Shippo and after both Ted and Bob tried to contact him we pulled over to the side of the road to wait for him to catch up. Surprise surprise he didn't turn up so we headed back to town and walked the streets. We all met up for lunch and Shippos admitted that he had taken a wrong turn and forgotten to turn his radio on.
Fri 18th Mar. Today we had decided to drive to Lakes Entrance and although it was overcast and drizzling with rain we all agreed to make the trip anyway as it looked like clearing up. We had only been there about 10 minutes when the heavens opened and the wind blew so hard we had trouble walking. We couldn’t even take shelter in a shop as there was a blackout and all the shops closed so we headed back to the van. Luckily by the time we got back the storm had passed and it hadn’t been as bad as the one we left behind. During happy hour Ted related a story of how his boat had overturned and he was saved until help arrived by an air bubble that had formed under the boat. Shippo related a story about a time when he was a cleaner and he had walked into a bank branch in the Illawarra and found the vault door open. I had often wondered how he funded his new caravan.

Sat 19th Mar. This was the longest drive of the trip as we headed to Cooma with a morning tea stop at Cann River. After setting up Bob and I told the group that we were going to look for a motel. You can imagine the comments and I don’t think they believed us when we told them that friends of ours used to own it and we just wanted to check it out. We arrived back in time for happy hour and there were a number of questions and insinuations.

Sun 20th Mar. Bob and I had a sleep in and then met up with everyone else at the markets and went for coffee before heading our separate ways. Ted took Diane to the emergency dept at the hospital as her leg was inflamed and getting sore. Luckily she got treatment before infection set in. Harry and Lorraine had lived in Cooma previously so they took the opportunity to spend time in the pub with old friends before returning for happy hour. The tales flowed and a good time was had by all.

Mon 21st-Wed 23rd Mar. We packed up and headed to Goulburn where we stopped for coffee. Harry and Lorraine, Ted and Diane and Shippo were heading home but Bob and I were staying in Goulburn for a couple of nights so after saying goodbye we headed to the caravan park. We spent two nights and had a really good look around the area. We had a very nice dinner in the workers club on Tuesday night. Bob had Ribs which had both beef and pork ribs. I have never before had beef that was so tender that you hardly had to chew it. Wednesday morning we were packing up to head home when a bird flew over and sent Bob a gift of good luck. What a way to end a terrific holiday.

Thank you Ted for arranging such a terrific holiday. I know I had a ball and I think everyone else did too!!

Many thanks to all who contributed to this report. It is a terrific demonstration and insight to the fun you all enjoyed on the rally.

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WELFARE OFFICER

Your committee has decided to appoint a Welfare Officer to attend to any of our members who are unwell or who may be having problems which may need some support.

Julie Routledge has kindly offered to take on the role to make contact with any member who may benefit from some support.

If you know of anybody who could benefit from this service you can contact Julie on 0414339424. Any information will be kept confidential.
GOODBYE GRANDDAD

Poor old Granddad’s passed away, cut off in his prime,
Never had a day off crook, gone before his time,
We found him on the dunny, collapsed there on the seat,
A startled look upon his face, his trousers ‘round his feet,
The doctor said his heart was good, as fit as any trout,
The Constable he had his say, ‘Foul Play ‘ was not ruled out,
There were theories at the inquest of snake bite without trace,
Or red backs quietly creeping and death from outer space,
No-one had a clue, the judge was in some doubt,
When Dad was called to have his say - as to how it came about,
‘I reckon I can clear it up’ said Dad with trembling breath,
‘You see it’s quite a story – but it could explain his death,
This here exploration mob has been looking at our soil,
And they reckon that our farm was just the place for oil,
So they came and put a bore down and said they’d make some trials,
They drilled a hole as deep as hell, they said about three miles,
Well they never found a trace of oil and off they went, post haste,
And I couldn’t see a hole like that go to flamin’ waste,
So I moved the dunny over it, a real smart move I thought,
I’d never have to dig again, I’d never get caught short,
The day I moved the dunny, it looked a proper sight,
But I didn’t dream that poor old Granddad would pass away that night,
Now I reckon what has happened; poor old Granddad didn’t know
The dunny was re - located that night when he had to go,
And you’ll probably be wondering how poor Granddad did his dash--
Well, he always used to hold his breath until he heard the splash!’
The latest innovation in Jet Set caravanning.
I wonder if it will take off?

DINNER AT ILLAWARRA YACHT CLUB

A pleasant evening was enjoyed by around 40 of our members when we congregated at the Illawarra Yacht Club on Saturday 16\textsuperscript{th} April for dinner.

A good range of meals was available from the menu and was enjoyed by those who attended.

Don Hutchison was celebrating his Birthday and was heartily chanted “Happy Birthday” by the mob.

An enjoyable night ensued with plenty of banter of our recent exploits described.
TO BROKEN HILL AND BACK WITH THE WAINES AND TEMPLES.

DAY 1 - WOLLONGONG TO Gundagai.
We left Figtree in humid weather, the same as we had been having day in and day out for weeks. It wasn't long before it started raining as it nearly always does once the caravan is hooked up to the car. (So nothing different this trip.) On arrival at Gundagai everyone was rugged up, as a cold change had come through. Four brave Illawarrians were only wearing shorts so we showed the locals just how tough we we are. We went to the lookout and nearly got blown away. The Marble Masterpiece we saw was well worth looking at.

DAY 2 - GUNDAGAI TO GRIFFITH.
We woke up to a beautiful morning and after stopping at Narrandera finally found somewhere to have a cup of coffee. The streets were packed with people. An annual event was in progress which attracts a lot of people. On arrival at Griffith we set up camp, went up town and hit the shops.

DAY 3.
Another lovely day greeted us. We did some sightseeing including the local lookout. Graham, Leone and Doug walked down to Hermits Cave while Yours Truly studied the town map. Lunch was enjoyed at Griffith Leagues Club.

DAY 4 - GRIFFITH TO COBAR.
Another perfect day. We stopped at Hillston for a break. There were a lot of dead kangaroos along the way. Goats, emus and kangaroos were on the edge of the road, roaming wild. The park at Cobar is really nice with plenty of sites and is well cared for. We went to the Forte Bourke lookout after we set up and had a look down into the New Cobar Open Cut Gold Mine which was very interesting.

DAY 5
We can’t believe how beautiful the weather is. We went sightseeing then came back into town. A lady came out of nowhere in the street and struck up a conversation and welcomed us to Cobar. It turned out that she is Lilliane Brady OAM, the Mayor of Cobar for over 15 years.

DAY 6 - COBAR TO WILCANNIA.
We left the beautiful caravan park at Cobar for our next leg of the journey. We stopped at a roadhouse for morning tea and shortly after, pulled in to a rest area where there were goats everywhere to greet us. They were quite friendly and looking for food.

The weather is still perfect and the park we stayed in at Wilcannia is only 3 years old and is situated on the Darling River. Happy Hour is 5 – 6pm every day and the hosts supply the food, biscuits, cheese and fruit which was most enjoyable. State of the art amenities (a lot of wasted space)

As for Wilcannia itself, there’s nothing to see. I heard it suggested to top up with fuel and keep going - I agree!

DAY 7 - WILCANNIA TO BROKEN HILL.
Well, we’re nearly there. We stopped at a roadhouse for morning tea. We set up camp then went to stock up with food for the Easter break. We’ll be very busy here as there is heaps to see. The Big Picture is a must.

**DAYS 8-9&10**  
We are spending money on articles to take home and are seeing lots of interesting things. The sculptures, art galleries, the Silver Tree and the Line of Lode Miners Memorial. It was a very moving experience to learn how many young people lost their lives.

**DAY 11—BROKEN HILL TO MILDURA**
I can’t believe how dry the ground is. There is no grass at all. I don’t know how the animals are staying alive. We stopped at Coombah roadhouse for morning tea. Another van going the opposite way pulled in. We wondered why they were looking at our vans. When they came inside we learned that they were from Kiama and they spotted our Illawarra RV Club stickers. We arrived at Mildura and were relieved to find grass again at long last.

**DAY 12**  
We toured around and watched the paddle steamer Melbourne go through a lock. The shops are within walking distance so Leone and I had no trouble filling in some time. We had a shower of rain this afternoon but it was nothing much.

**DAY 13—MILDURA TO SWAN HILL**  
We drove past some Walnut, Mandarin and Grape orchards. The caravan park is near the Pioneer Settlement which is lovely to visit again.

**DAY 14**  
We took in a cruise aboard the PS Pyap on the Murray River then also crossed the Murray at Speewa by punt. We came across a shop that sold almost everything. I thought that they might even have a rubber chicken bone, but I still haven’t seen one, Dave.

**DAY 15—SWAN HILL TO MULWALA**  
The weather is still perfect. We enjoyed a lovely drive and stopped a Echuca for morning tea. We found the Park at Mulwala packed because of the Victorian school holidays.

**DAY 16**  
We took a drive to Yarrawonga and checked out the shops. We found a lovely bakery for morning tea then went back to the shops. Our dinner was at the RSL Club. The meals were enormous.

**DAY 17—MULWALA TO YASS**  
We had a good trip. The weather is magic. We stopped at Holbrook and again at Gundagai. Everywhere is crying out for rain. Tony Abbott is in Yass riding with other bike riders for charity.

**DAY 18—YASS TO WOLLONGONG**  
We saw all the bike riders this morning with Tony leading the group. They are riding to Cootamundra from Yass today.

Well, all good things must come to an end. This has been a great trip. We have seen a lot, done a lot, learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves travelling this great country of ours. We have all had a fantastic time. Anyone who has never been to Broken Hill; put it on your things to do list.

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**MANY THANKS TO ELLEN FOR YOUR GENEROUS EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION!**