



Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria and Their Members Inc. **AUGUST 2022**

Delegate's Meetings.

The AGM will be held on the 5th of November via ZOOM.

25 February 2023 27 May 2023
26 August 2023 (Exec meeting)
28 October 2023 AGM

At the AGM we need a new
SECRETARY and a new
PRESIDENT.

We also need a MEDIA and
MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS.

President Report

There are 2 more Caravan Industry Shows coming up and we are happy to book a stand if people are prepared to work it. The benefits for our clubs, your club are there if you are prepared to put in the effort.

The two shows are:-

Sandown Oct 6-9 and Bendigo Nov 18-20.

It is a great way to promote our clubs and it's low cost.

A question I got asked quite a few times while attending the recent Melbourne Show was "What's in it for me?"

As Caravan Club members the answer is obvious.

They include life long friends, going places that the general public drive straight through, being given ideas on how to set up your caravan/motorhome and also ideas of what is out there to see and do while travelling this great land.

The 18th National Caravan Clubs Rally 2022 at Barmera is still on. Now it is scheduled to commence March 27th to April 5th 2023. If you have not booked to attend now is a good time to reconsider. It's not far to travel, it will be a great event. The SA Committee have done a lot of work to put it all together. A newsletter was published recently.

You can find it on their web site at: - 18thnationalcaravanrally.org.au

ACCVic needs people to take on committee positions. I am stepping down at the AGM. I am president of my Caravan Club and president of the Victorian National Rally Committee. My club is my first priority. I assembled the committee for the National Rally so it is my intention to continue with them. I cannot do justice to all by continuing.

We need a secretary too; Jen has held her position for 7 years she has done a sterling job and now it's time for her to step down. We need people to step up to take on other roles within ACC Vic including Director with NACC, Facebook Administrator, Website Manager .

DISCLAIMER

The material in this Newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports, nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter. No person should act on the basis of any matter contained in the Newsletter without considering and, if necessary, taking appropriate professional advice upon their own particular circumstances. The Association of Caravan Clubs Victoria Inc, the authors and editors, expressly disclaim all and any liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done, any such person in reliance, whether whole or partial, upon the whole or part of the contents of the Newsletter.

Please give it some thought, by taking on these roles. You get to meet and work with some great people and you get the chance to steer ACCVic in a direction to benefit our clubs.

If these positions are not filled at the AGM then ACCVic will be forced to close.

Talk to Jen Lowe or myself if you're interested, we are prepared to help you along the way. ACCVic is not just about Public Liability Insurance for caravan clubs. It brings together the Caravan Clubs of Victoria and Tasmania as a united body. It is run by members from the caravan clubs. It is well placed to promote clubs to the community to seek out new members, to seek support from the caravan industry.

There are plenty in the caravan industry willing to help us. But what is needed is the support of the Clubs in the Association. The Association needs the support and the guidance. I know where I would like to see ACCVic go I know what my club wants from ACCVic. You need a long term view of where you want to take your club if it's going to have a future. The South Australian Caravan Club, reportedly to be one of the oldest clubs in Australia folded. Is that what you want for your club? ACCVic could help with your clubs future if you supported ACCVic and helped guide the direction it should follow.

Yes - The Association
needs a new President
and a new Secretary at the
AGM which is on
the 5th of November.

If we do not find a replacement Secretary (or at least a temporary Secretary) then just like all other Incorporated Clubs in Victoria it will be forced to be wound up (As per Consumer Affairs requirements) within 14 days of the AGM.



If you think you are too old to be on a committee then you are probably too old to drive.

Age should not be a barrier.....

Whoever takes on the above roles will be given all the assistance he/she needs to do the job.

This is what happened to a CMCA club where nobody volunteered for the position of Secretary.

Notice to All CMCA Members Chapter 24 - The Bushwackers

As advised to members at the Special General Meeting held at Rushworth and subsequently to all members, a letter outlining the situation in regard to the Chapter Office Bearers was forwarded to CMCA Chief Executive Officer, Richard Barwick on 23rd May 2022.

For members' information and confirmation of previous suggestions that the Chapter will go into "recess" until a new administration committee is appointed, thus no future gatherings or activities can be undertaken under the Chapter name — IE The Bushwackers.

In respect of funds held in the Chapter bank account, following verification with the bank that no cheques etc. are outstanding, all funds except for a minimal amount to allow the account to remain open, will be transferred to the C.M.C.A Ltd. Bank account to be held in trust, in the event that the Chapter is resurrected.

Whilst CMCA have not placed a time frame upon any resurrection of the Chapter, it would be reasonably expected that any approach to resurrect the Chapter should be initiated in the near future rather than extend for a long drawn out period.

C.M.C.A. have been fair and reasonable in their approach to the future of the Chapter, and the ball is squarely in the court of members, as to the future of "The Bushwackers".

NB—The Bushwackers is a Motor Home Club which folded in May 2022 due to the fact that nobody could be found to run the club - Apparently no President or Secretary, but I would need to confirm that.



If you're sitting in a public place and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say,

"Did you bring the money?"



State Rally - Horsham

March 17th - 20th 2023

Horsham Riverside Caravan Park

188 Firebrace St Ph. 5382 3476

All members of clubs affiliated with the Association of the Caravan Clubs of Victoria and Their Members Inc are welcome to attend.

Members may book from now onwards and will be required to book and pay for your own site for the number of nights you wish to stay, directly with the park.

IMPORTANT: Then advise the secretary of ACCVic: admin@accvic.org.au.

Please note: There are a limited number of sites and cabins

Please note: You will have to leave on the Monday the 12th of March 2023 as the caravan park is fully booked with another group.

The full program will be in the November newsletter.

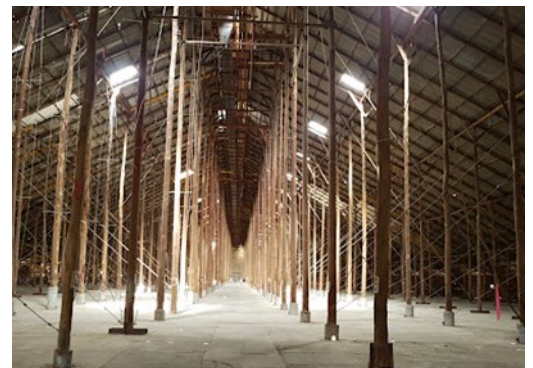
This is a social event, where we will meet and be encouraged to mix with other clubs and their members. Its never too late to learn new ways of doing things or great places to rally.

There will be organised games, a meal, and other activities to participate in, along with other clubs, members of the Association.

Sneak Peek (Group activities)

We will be visiting The Stick Shed at Murtoa—see photo

The Stick Shed (previously known as the Murtoa No. 1 Grain Store) is the only remaining emergency grain store built during World War II.



This Structure is an enduring testament to iconic Australian bush ingenuity and a symbol of the growth and strength of the Australian wheat industry.

It is the 101st place included in the National Heritage List.

Woods Farming and Heritage Museum Rupanyup



It started as a hobby by two Rupanyup farming brothers, John and Michael Woods and has developed into one of the finest collections of farming and heritage memorabilia in Victoria.

It is not just about farming, in the midst of stationary engines, tractors, sewing machines, biscuit tins, ball gowns and many other collections. There is something for everyone.



McKenzie Falls.

The Grampians and Halls Gap are only 72 kilometres from Horsham.



6 — 9 October 2022
Sandown Raceway

Melbourne Leisurefest - Home

(See the above web site for more information).

When Thursday 6 - Sunday 9 October 2022

Where Sandown Racecourse, 591-659 Princes Hwy, Springvale, VIC, 3171

Times Thursday 6 October 2022: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 7 October 2022: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8 October 2022: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 9 October 2022: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Parking FREE at Sandown Racecourse, enter from Corrigan Road or Racecourse Drive.
Disabled parking available at Public entrance 1, 3 and 4.

The Melbourne Leisurefest is back!

Taking place from Thursday, 6 October through Sunday, 9 October 2022, the Melbourne Leisurefest is your one stop shop for all things caravans and camping!

Melbourne Leisurefest will showcase more caravans, pop-tops, tents, camper trailers, motorhomes, campervans and touring accessories than ever before!

Visitors to Melbourne Leisurefest will be the first to see many of these new products on display. Additionally, you can plan your next great adventure by getting information about tourist attractions from all over Australia.



Avan Motorhome Shower repairs

Very disappointed with the shower in my Avan Motor Home that I purchased new in 2021.



As you can see I have been required to put a supporting piece of angled plastic under the shower rail to hold it up and another angled plastic to hold the shower rail against the shower.

All this is because Avan decided to use a small dab of silicon to hold the shower rail in place.

At the same time as spending \$155,000.00 on the new Avan Motorhome I also bought a new Toyota RAV 4 Hybrid.

I very much doubt that the RAV 4 has been glued together.

I did send the above information and pictures to Avan but they declined to reply.



Diesel cost in the USA

On the 1st of January 2022 Diesel in the USA was US\$4.964 per gallon.

One US Gallon equals 3.785 Litres.

(So $\$4.964 / 3.785 = \text{A}\1.31 cents per litre)

And they are complaining?

My Kid: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.

Me: Like what?

My Kid: Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.

Me: Well that's what happened to your older brother.

My Kid: What older brother?

Me: Exactly.

Portable roadside cameras

[The new mobile phone detection cameras on Victoria's roads | RACV](#)

Portable roadside cameras will automatically scan passing vehicles with the capacity to detect everything from mobile phone use, seatbelts, speeding, and driving unregistered vehicles. The automated number plate recognition technology also identifies vehicles that are using [stolen number plates](#) and those cars that are speeding.

Police detected almost 17,000 Victorians using mobile phones while operating their vehicles in the 2020-2021 financial year.

The incidence of distracted driving is such a major concern in terms of crashes that handheld mobile phone use while driving incurs a massive \$555 fine and four demerit points.

On 2020-2021's figures, that equates to more than \$9 million in fines.

The objective of the camera investment is to deter people from using their mobile phones, with distracted driving a major road safety risk. Crashes occur in a split-second and looking down at an SMS for just two seconds at 60km/h means you're not looking at the road for 32 meters.

The number of offenders being caught is predicted to rise dramatically in the 2022-23 financial year when dedicated distracted driving detection cameras are rolled out across the state. The cameras are being operated by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

A trial of the system in Victoria in 2020 checked 679,438 cars in three months using just two portable cameras. Around one in 42 vehicles, or 16,000 drivers, were detected using a mobile phone. Extrapolate those figures over the course of a year, and we could see more than 64,000 infringements. Remember the current fine is \$555.00 therefore $\$555.00 \times 64,000$ is \$35,520,000.



A Distracted Driving camera operating during the trial.

According to the [camerassavelives website](#), research from Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) estimates the distracted driving camera technology can prevent 95 crashes where people are injured or killed each year.



Caravanning is in the Aussie blood, but 'dangerous' ignorance makes for horror holidays

Like thousands of Australians restless to be rid of COVID lockdowns, the Robertson family hitched a caravan to their car and set their sights on wide open spaces as soon as restrictions eased. "As soon as we could we got a caravan and set out for a trip around Australia, Lynette Robertson said. She and husband Robert are among the one in 13 Australian households with a caravan registered, according to the Caravan Industry Association of Australia. "When we purchased it was pretty much a 'pay here and see you later' type of deal," Ms Robertson said.

"People think they can buy a caravan, hitch it to their car and head off," Sergeant Nathan Ivey of Townsville Highway Patrol said. The majority of caravan crashes and incidents he has been involved in were due to uneven or overweight loads. "Customers are told that their dual-cab Utes and the bigger cars can tow three tonnes and a half exceed that weight," he said.

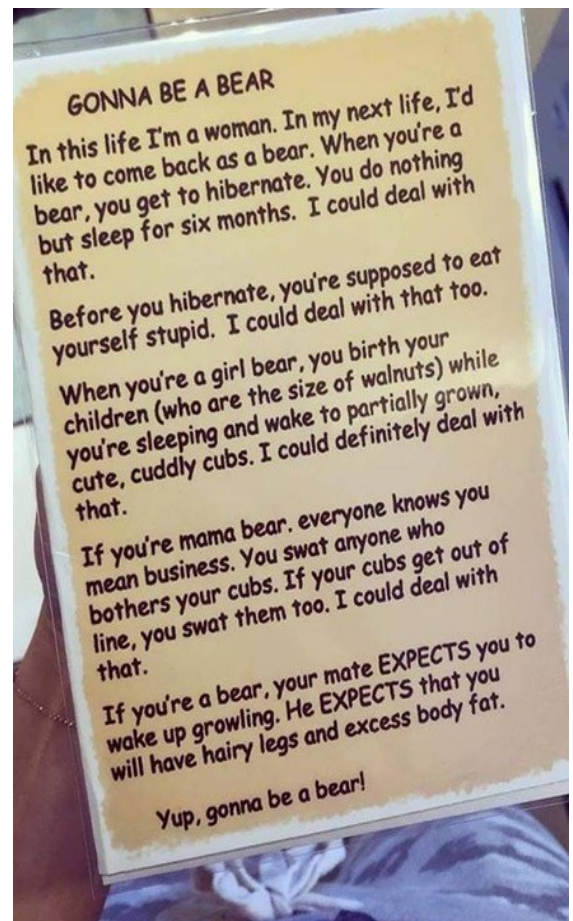
"So you have an industry that is saying 'yes'. But that's not actually right. "The industry is too focused on sales. There is a lot of maths involved. It's not as simple as 'I want to go buy a caravan, I've got a big car, there you go!."

"We found later on that we ran into a lot of issues with what we should and shouldn't be doing, and it was really hard to get that information otherwise.

"Each time we approached the caravan company we bought it off we've ended up doing a lot of the research and work ourselves."

Caravan safety advisor Tyler Tildesley said a lack of knowledge among travellers was a major issue, but he believed the industry had a lot to answer for.

Part of the answer might be as simple as knocking on the door when you see a new caravan in your neighbourhood and asking them to join your Caravan Club—it may save their lives.



Queensland caravan crackdown reveals majority of rigs noncompliant.—June 2022

Caravan owners are being urged to weigh their rigs after a recent blitz found most of the vehicles were either over the weight limit or had issues with load distribution.

Queensland Transport and Main Roads (TMR) compliance manager Jarrod Wilson said 17 drivers were stopped at Gympie recently, and 12 rigs were either overweight or their weight distribution was uneven. "Out of those 17, we did issue five penalty infringement notices," he said. "We did find across a number of those combinations the transport inspectors did use the time to do some load distribution to make sure they were compliant.

"Unfortunately, we do have people that don't understand what the importance of towing loads and the caravan are."

Mr Wilson said many drivers were shocked when they found out that they were noncompliant.

He said the most common cause was people adding accessories to their vehicle and caravan without factoring in the impact it had on their load.

"If we look at a bull bar, a towbar, winches, fridges, all of those kinds of things ... you are starting to contribute a couple of hundred kilos to that towing vehicle," Mr Wilson said.

"When caravaners hit the road, we really want people to be mindful that you really can't take everything that you really would like to take."

Ken Wilson, the co-founder of road safety program Truck Friendly, said it was up to the owners to educate themselves about their rigs and the road rules, which could vary across Australia's different states and territories.

"As the recent blitz is showing, there are so many that don't realise all of the different complexities," he said. "If you're going to tow a large caravan, the obligation is on the driver to know that that vehicle is safe." Mr Wilson said the Queensland government did not have any formal training requirements for caravan owners.

"A lot of people have towed a box trailer and think they know how to tow a trailer, and a caravan is just a bigger trailer, so they don't believe there's any training required," he said.

"If you are driving a truck for the weight and length of a caravan and tow vehicle, you'd need a special licence and special training."

Insurance void

Ken Wilson said caravan owners should consider paying a mobile scales company to weigh their vehicle and caravan, so they knew how much their rig weighed and how that weight was distributed.

"If you exceed the manufacturers recommendations, then your vehicle is classed as being unroadworthy," he said. "If it's unroadworthy and overweight, you will find that your insurance policy voids your insurance."

TMR spokesman Jarrod Wilson said they conducted regular caravan weigh days with Caravanning Queensland between the Gold Coast and Townsville.

"You can book in and bring your vehicle in and we will weigh it on the day," he said.

"The focus is on educating drivers and often caravan manufacturers are also available to help answer questions."



If you look carefully at the photo you will notice that the caravan hitch is not attached to the tow vehicle. The caravan is actually being held “up” by the CROSSED CHAINS.



Vic Roads says under its “Pre-Trip Caravan Checklist” that in the instance that two chains are in use, ensure that they are crossed under the drawbar before being attached to the tow vehicle – this provides enhanced trailer directional control and prevents the front of the drawbar from hitting the road if the coupling disconnects. As shown in the above picture.

SWIFT 500 series gas cooker—MUST NOT BE USED.

Dated 8th June 2022

Swift Appliance Group has informed customers that all Swift 500 Series gas cookers must not be used until further notice after being notified by Western Australia’s Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety about a ‘serious safety issue’.



The following is a copy of their report from the SWIFTAPPLIANCEGROUP.COM.AU WEB SITE.

Swift 500 Series Incident — Update: 06/07/2022

Dear Valued Customers,

After further investigation and discussion with the state regulators, Swift Appliance Group can confirm that:

500 Series Caravan Gas Cookers manufactured and supplied after 01 June 2020 are safe for ordinary use without restriction.

However,

500 Series Caravan Gas Cookers manufactured and supplied between 01 January 2019 - 01 June 2020 must not be used except for the electrical element, while Swift gathers more information.

500 Series Caravan Gas Cookers manufactured and supplied before 01 January 2019 must not be used except for the electrical elements while Swift gathers more information.

At Swift, customer safety is our highest priority. To ensure our appliances are safe, we are conducting further investigations and taking every precautionary step possible.

We thank you for your patience. Updates will be communicated to customers and manufacturers and posted on our website shortly. Please leave your details with us and we will endeavour to get back to you within 48 business hours.

Kind regards,

Swift Appliance Group

This article came from Facebook and is a warning to check your tow tongues. The author states that they know most Mitsubishi / Mazda and early Rangers don't have solid tow tongues.

The author has checked late Model Toyota's and they have solid filled tongues which are a lot stronger. Please keep a check and invest in a solid filled one it may save yours and others lives.

EDITOR—My two 4WD's have been a Land Rover Discovery and a Toyota Landcruiser which both had solid tow hitches. However a friend of mine who drives a Ford Ranger said he had 3 tow hitches and they were all hollow.





1394 Princes Highway
Oakleigh Victoria 3166

[f discover4x4au](#) [discover_4x4](#)

The South African origins all started with designing and supplying the toughest trailers for the military and over the years they have evolved to a now international company passing on these great designs for us all to enjoy! Below is their UEV—490 The Ultimate Off-Road Caravan.

[If you are looking to buy one of these mention this add to](#)

[Tony Capomolla and he said he would look after you.](#)

Check their web site (below) for more info.

[Welcome to Conqueror 4x4 Victoria](#)



LIGHTS



As you can see on my 4WD all lights are working, however this is not always the case with thousands of Victorian vehicles.

The New South Wales Government website says the “Most light vehicles, including passenger cars, more than 5 years old need a yearly safety inspection report for registration renewal”. Known as a “pink Slip”.

A Pink Slip is a safety inspection report issued by an authorised inspection station (e.g. garage) to prove that a vehicle has passed the required roadworthy standards for registration. Vehicles more than five (5) years old require a safety inspection as a condition of registration renewal.

I would think that over ten percent of Victorian vehicles have one or more of their lights not working. With so many defective vehicles will the Victorian Government eventually follow New South Wales and introduce Road Worthy Certificates requirements?

How much does a Victorian roadworthy cost? The Victorian RWC cost is not fixed as it once was; the industry was de-regulated many years ago, allowing individual testers to charge whatever they decide the fee should be. It can depend on the age, type and condition of the vehicle being tested.

It's a good idea to shop around for the best deal, but typically the fee will be between \$150.00 and \$200.00 for a car with no defects.

Perhaps you and your friends should be regularly checking your vehicles lights to avoid a hefty increase in re registration fees?



I saw this unusual way of lowering caravan legs on a Coromal Off-road Caravan while at the Sale Combined Rally in April this year. I cannot find anything similar for sale so assume that it was home made. What a simple and easy way to lower the legs without needing to bend down and wind them.