

SOUTHERN TASMANIA
CARAVAN CLUB INC



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL - JUNE
2022

No. 2 of Volume 53

SOUTHERN TASMANIA CARAVAN CLUB Inc.

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THE SECRETARY
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**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE 'CHALET' NEW NORFOLK CARAVAN PARK
ON THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH (except Jan & Dec)
VISITORS VERY WELCOME**

Committee:

President

Roger Geeves
(03) 6297 1133

Secretary & Public Officer

Lorraine Bailey
0427 281 004

Committee (1)

Marlene Churchill

Committee (2)

Keith Smith

Vice President

Johno Johnson
0427 681 577

Hon. Auditor

Bill Purdon
0419 534 218

Life Members

1990 Barry & Faye Patterson
2013 Bill & Barb Oakley
2019 Dave Mitchell
2021 Phil Mettam

Treasurer

Therese Bramich
(03) 6275 0723

Newsletter Editor

Vicki Smith
0408 493 830

The aim of the club is to assist existing and potential caravan owners to meet and enjoy the company of like-minded people, and to exchange information relevant to this recreational pursuit.

The club welcomes any person who has an interest in camping or caravanning to join them. It is suggested that before submitting a membership application that any interested persons attend at least two rallies and meetings to see if it is "their scene" before parting with any hard-earned cash.

Our thanks to Josh Willie, MLC for Elwick, 1/16 Albert Rd Moonah (03) 6212 2306, for assistance in printing this newsletter.

Editor's Note:

Hello everyone! It's crazy to think we are half way through 2022 and we have enjoyed another 3 rallies of fun and laughter.

Please read on and catch up on what you may have missed out on if you were unable to attend the recent April, May and June Rallies.

It is with sadness we also report John Skromanis lost his battle with cancer on 03/04/22 and a tribute to John has been included. STCC extends our sincere sympathy to Pam and John's family, he is sadly missed and never forgotten for his past service to STCC.

In closing if you have something to contribute to the next Newsletter, please forward to Vicki Smith at vicki.keithsmith@gmail.com.

*Thank you!
Vicki Smith*

**REPORT FOR "LONGFORD" RALLY –
April 2022
by Glenys Clark**

Basil and I headed off Wednesday and stayed at Campbell Town that night.

Thursday, on a beautiful sunny day, we arrived at Longford to find Joe and Vicki already set up having left early from home a couple of days before. Sasha was very happy to see her camping friends.

Stan and Sharon were next to arrive with Lorraine and Zilla late afternoon. Keith and Vicki soon after with the latter giving instructions such as "back a bit further Keith".



Vicki Smith giving thumbs up on final parking positioning!

Mind you, Lorraine and I weren't sure of Vicki's driving skills in her car later as she drove over the round concrete thing dividing our site with theirs! "OOPS" but no harm done!

Happy Hour enabled us to watch Jean and John going round and round the park deciding which site was just perfect. Jean organising of course!!



Jean Weeding giving John a few tips on parking the van!

Friday morning, I woke to fog but nobody else saw it as it disappeared really quickly and my other fellow campers including my husband slept in!!

Another gorgeous day and six (6) of us had a wonderful walk along the river and into town, with one couple indulging in quiches for their breakfast.

Morning tea was enjoyed outside Keith's and Vicki's motorhome with lots of interesting discussions.

After lunch, Keith and Vicki with John and Jean had organised a game of "Would I Lie to You?"

WELL, the rest of us decided after their stories were told that they were all good storytellers/liars and some of the group guessed correctly. We won't trust all four (4) of them in the future!!



Keith & Vicki Smith pictured giving the story behind his father's round brass tobacco tin!

That afternoon I was picked up by our friends who were staying at Woolmers for two nights and they took me on a private tour of their accommodation and the Woolmers estate which was fantastic.

Next time we stay at Longford Basil and I will go for a guided tour as I didn't see the homestead inside and Basil couldn't have walked around for a couple of hours due to a recent hip replacement.

We'll make sure it's in the Spring so all the roses will be in their supreme glory.

Easter Bonnets with a feminine touch



L-R: Jean Weeding, Vicki Smith, Vicki Clark, Glenys Clark, Sharon Clark & Lorraine Bailey

Saturday was another sunny day and with the anticipation of our Easter "bonnet" display at morning tea, we were very excited (well the girls were anyway and Sasha too!).

Great idea, Jean and I think we all did a great job with our "bonnets" but I think Lorraine would've taken out the prize if there had been one.

Male Easter Line-up – I think they are still partying!



L-R: Keith Smith, John Weeding, Basil Clark, Stan Earl & Joe Clark

The guys were very game joining in with the parade and for their reward we made salads and allowed them to cook our meat for our barbecue lunch. My word around the table we girls learnt a lot from discussions about meeting our spouses and other subjects!!

Winners are Grinners!



Lorraine Bailey still laughing after her egg and spoon race win!

After we were rested, Jean had organised us to play a couple of games for our Fitness Regime which was a lot of fun. Lorraine and I won the egg and spoon race with Sharon and Stan winning the bucket and ball game and we were presented with great prizes.

Walks and talks were on the agenda every day for our Fitness Regime as we have to look after our bodies and minds!!

Sunday was pack up day for most of us and we all agreed it was a great rally at beautiful Longford.

Glenys & Basil

***REPORT FOR "SWANSEA" RALLY –
May 2022
by Lorraine Bailey***

I arrived at the Swansea Tourist Park on Thursday at 1330, to find Vicki and Joe and Johno had booked in on Wednesday. Keith Dixon and his merry widows, Marlene and Therese had checked in just ahead of me, as had Glenys and Basil.

It was nice to see that Sarah Kreiner, a previous club member, had also decided to join us for a couple of days.

After everyone had "set up", it was doggie walk time for Zilla and Sasha, which we managed to get in before the rain started, then to the Camp Kitchen for Happy Hour. It was pleasing to see Vicki and Keith Smith also arrived in time for this gathering.

A discussion was had re Friday lunch, Johno having made enquiries at the RSL, who cater for dinner only. As there seemed to be a shortage of places to go, with some members not keen on dining out, we decided to have our scone cooking class about midday on Friday, and this would substitute for our usual luncheon outing.

With the weather deteriorating, members returned to their various abodes for the evening, preparing for the big bake off the next day!!

Friday proved to be very camper friendly, with beautiful sunshine. Zilla and I had an enjoyable beach walk then back to base for morning tea, gathered around the front of Vicki and Keith's site. Roly and Carol arrived to join the happy crew. Lots of chatter, with everyone waiting for Johno, under instruction, to make his

savoury scones, and Vicki and Keith their lemonade and cream scones. Colleen and Tom arrived just as we were gathering in the camp kitchen for this momentous event. Fortunately for us, there was a ready supply of jam.....someone forgot they were going to bring it!



L-R: Sarah Kreiner, Lorraine Bailey, Vicki Smith, Keith Smith & Johno Johnson

After compromising on the necessary utensils, with Johno and Vicki appropriately gloved and "gowned", the session began. All went to plan, although there was a considerable amount of flour outside the bowl where Johno was "aerating" his mixture....at one stage I think he thought he was making a loaf of bread, as he kept wanting to "knead" his dough! I rather think you could make a good damper



Glenys Clark – this was her sixth scone but who's counting!!(editors' privilege)

Johno. I was busy supervising Johno, as were most of the men, but could hear comments and “oos and arrs” coming from the ladies watching the making of the lemonade and cream scones by Vicki and Keith. I did glance over to see a large amount of cream being poured into the mix..... 1st batch for both cooks placed in oven and second batch began. There seemed to be many overseers making sure that we were not going to end up with burnt offerings but also eagerly waiting for the tasting to begin. It was a fun session, with no left overs. I must say the size of those lemonade scones Vicki, one would be a meal.....And Johno has promised to test his oven out in his MH by making scones next rally.

In the afternoon, Sarah left after showing off her MH to some of us, some members went walking, while others spent the time catching up. We all gathered back in the camp kitchen for another enjoyable and noisy happy hour. Saturday, we woke to a damp morning, but not wet enough to stop us from venturing out. Glenys, Basil and Sasha walked up the street to check out the market, as well as other shops along the way.

Zilla and I walked a big “blockie”, avoiding the beach after the rain. Apart from the usual morning gathering in the Camp Kitchen, there were walks and chatter taking place.



L-R: Basil Clark, Therese Bramich, Glenys Clark, Keith Dixon, Johno Johnson & Joe Clark

Being Saturday, we invaded the BBQ area, moving an extra table under the shelter. Everyone enjoyed their meals, with the men doing all the cooking, as is the usual practice. Johno left for home after the BBQ, think he was avoiding the washing up, but then he did cook so that was o.k.

Marlene and I, with Zilla, walked up to and across the sports complex, where Marlene discovered the track going down beside the

bowling green and joining up to walk along the foreshore. We returned via the main highway, where Marlene made another discovery, the Loo with a view. Unfortunately, no photo although I was happy to take one for her!! We returned the same way, meeting Vicki x 2 with Keith S and Therese returning from their walk. Seemed strange Therese not having Bruce with her, although there did seem to be many phone calls from home-think he was doing o.k., but not sure about his minder!!



L-R: Sarah Kreiner, Therese Bramich & Keith Dixon



L-R: Lorraine Bailey, Basil Clark & Marlene Churchill (still a little worried what was in Marlene’s Jumbo Beaker!)

And so, to another happy hour, and this one was VERY loud and happy, but not from the intake of fluids. Marlene, Glenys, Carol, Therese, Vicki S (who was new to the game) and myself set up to play Trionomos. Well, all was going along quietly when Vicki discovered she was taking two extra tiles to everyone else, and then Marlene mentioned something about taking a photo and a third leg! Marlene is so good at telling a story, even

when it is at her expense. I think we were all laughing so much, it was a wonder any games were completed. A very happy, happy hour.

Vicki and Colleen were deep in conversation, mind you where they were sitting, they had to compete with the blokes, and there was much chatter from that area as well.

Later that night, I was relaxing in my trusty Trakka, when I was disturbed by animated conversation next door. Now, Joe and Vicki were my neighbours and most unusual to hear Joe out at his van. Then I identified the voices of Vicki and Keith S, so of course, opened my door to complain about the noise. Not much response, as you can imagine. However, Therese was experiencing her 3rd issue in her van watching T.V (hope it wasn't Home and Away) – when her power faded. When Joe plugged her lead into his van, it was not working. Fortunately, a spare was available and Therese didn't have to spend the night in the dark.

However, a point to think about. Therese had her power lead checked in February, no problems, but somewhere along the way since then it has been damaged.

Sunday morning saw the early departure of Keith D, Marlene and Therese, followed shortly after by Joe and Vicki. Other members were packed up and ready to go, with Glenys and Basil, Colleen and Tom and Carol and Roly arranging to meet for coffee down the road.

Vicki and Keith S were staying on for a few more days

Thank you to Basil and Keith for helping me pack up-it was my intention to go on to St. Helens, but back and shoulder discomfort told me no.

So, after a wonderful relaxing massage from my personal masseur, while Zilla also had her personal carer, we left Swansea on a sunny morning, feeling relaxed and ready for home.

Lorraine Bailey

REPORT FOR “PORT SORELL”

June 2022

by Glenys Clark

Some of our members travelled up early from Tuesday and Wednesday to Port Sorell.

On Wednesday apparently a beautiful rag doll cat was running loose around the park. The carer was so upset as it was his 92-year-old mother's cat and he had travelled around from the mainland with it in his car which he was living in and he didn't want to go back to Bairnsdale and tell his mum it was missing or dead in Tassie. Anyway, along came Vicki C who decided to look for him calling out “puss, puss” and low and behold she found him much to the relief of Neal (the carer).

We travelled up on Thursday and landed here about happy hour. We do love this park and the new amenities are fantastic. They still have the huge camp kitchen but apparently, they're going to replace it with another somewhere else one day. It was still sunny but windy and later after happy hour and a great walk it was quite cold so we all went back to our homes.



L-R: Sharon Clark, Lorraine Bailey, Vicki Smith, Glenys Clark & Vicki Clark

Friday morning brought a reasonable day weather wise and we enjoyed our walks with our dogs. We had arranged at our meeting a fortnight before that we would have “Soup and

Sandwich" lunch instead of going out for a meal and boy did we have a feed. I made Vegetable soup and Vicki and Keith made a magnificent Pumpkin soup. Vicki C and Lorraine made fantastic assorted sandwiches which were very yummy. Mind you we were a bit worried about the soup maker as it wasn't turning on but after numerous tries it was discovered the chefs had the lid on back to front 😊.



Glenys Clark stirring the pot!

We were so full that we didn't even have our happy hour and went walking instead and met about 5pm to play Triominos before we heated up the leftover soup which the men kept a eye on and the toasties I'd made as well as the leftover sandwiches which they toasted. We all enjoyed not having to cook another meal. Great conversations and laughter were had and Neal (the cat carer) was cooking his and

pussy's meal and he told some really interesting stories and also interested in our stories. We gave him the rest of our soup too so he was very happy. He's looking out for land in Tassie to buy but he's going back to the mainland next week so hope he finds his land or house.

Saturday brought a cool day and little bit of sun. Walks and talks were the theme for the day with visitors for us very early morning from family who were staying at the park and Vicki and Joe were expecting a family visit from a nephew and his wife which they hadn't seen for quite a few years so we enjoyed a barbecue lunch and salads. Mind you, the poor men were outside trying to cook the meat and battling with the wind. At one stage all three were chasing paper plates and lids around the park!! We did have a great lunch though and the meat was perfectly cooked as usual.

We had the camp kitchen to ourselves all weekend (other than Neal) as there were many family and friend groups sitting around camp fires as this park is so huge with great sites far and wide.

The council and managers have many plans for the park over the next few years so it'll be interesting what we see next time we're here.

Sunday Sharon & Stan, Basil and Glenys left for home while Vicki and Joe were stopping at Ross overnight before venturing home.

Lorraine and the Smiths stayed on for one or two nights.

It was another great rally even though we didn't go investigating points of interest around the little towns. Beautiful places to walk around Port Sorell anyway.

Glenys and Basil

Tribute to John Skromanis ***(4th February 1942 – 3rd April 2022)***

Early in April this year several members attended a memorial service for the life of our friend John, member since 2004 and former President 2017-2019.

In September last year John was diagnosed with an aggressive stomach cancer which had already spread. Treatments proved unsuccessful, causing unendurable side effects, and John decided to abandon them.

In the last few months of his life, he endured seven hospital visits without a word of complaint, passing away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of Sunday 3rd April 2022 with Pam by his side.

At the memorial service we learned that John was born Volfs Janis Skromanis in Riga, Latvia, in the dark days of World War 2 and

that in 1949 he and his mother sailed from Europe as displaced persons to begin a new life in Australia, eventually settling in Tasmania. His mother became ill and, prior to commencing work, John spent a good deal of his childhood at the Salvation Army Boys Home in New Town while also enjoying the support and guidance of local families with whom he maintained lifelong friendships. A skilled carpenter and joiner, John served his apprenticeship at the Zinc Works, winning an “apprentice of the year” award during his training.

He played club football (Aussie Rules) and retained an interest in the game. Bike riding was a passion up until his illness at age 79, and he liked the occasional game of tennis. It was through his enjoyment of ballroom dancing that he met Pam, and they were married in February 1965. During their 57 years of marriage and two children John built



with his own hands two family homes – one at Austins Ferry and the other at Margate - and a holiday cottage at Verona Sands. He later converted an old fishing boat to a comfortable pleasure boat. The boating interest continued over the years with vessels which included the sailing option.

The caravanning interest began with the purchase of a caravan in 2003, and this interest grew when John and Pam joined the club the following year and provided them with almost eighteen years of the special camaraderie possible through shared activity

with like-minded people. Eventually the caravan was sold and a Ford Transit van was purchased and fitted out as a small motorhome. John adopted the view that not towing can make life easier on the

road, and “Spirit of Tasmania” costs are much more affordable.

As well as many club rallies, they had three wonderful mainland trips to various parts of this vast country, always accompanied by their well-travelled cat, Bella.

John valued his caravan club membership and the associated friendships and activities, and he looked back on his overall life with satisfaction. He joked about having qualified for the OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) which he achieved two months before his death.

As members, we too valued John’s involvement in club activities and his service as our President. Sleep peacefully, John. We will remember you.

Picture above of both John and Pam Skromanis at one of our STCC gatherings & a special thank you to Nick Mason for writing this article on behalf of the STCC.

Southern Tasmania Caravan Club Inc.
2022 Program

Most rally dates are shown as Thursday-Sunday, but in practice members arrive and leave the group at their own convenience. New Norfolk rallies tend to be finish on Sunday while “away” rallies (other than the longer roving rallies) often pack up on Monday. All park bookings are the responsibility of the participating members. Important: please ask that your booking is recorded as part of the club rally. Some venues offer discounts for rallies-enquire when booking – but you should book directly, not through a booking agent. Discounts for Seniors Card holders may also apply. Also, please mention any pets you may have with you. Parks may need to ask the length of your van. Program changes are notified in the Newsletter so you should use the most recent issue for your planning.

July:	7 th -10 th New Norfolk	Ph: 0455 612 812
	21 st -24 th New Norfolk (General Meeting Fri 22 nd 1.30)	Ph: 0455 612 812
August:	11 th -14 th Smithton (This rally has now been cancelled on 24/6/22)	Ph: 0364 521 181
	25 th -28 th New Norfolk (General Meeting Fri 26 th , 1.30)	Ph: 0455 612 812
September:	8 th -11 th Bicheno East Coast Holiday Park	
	4 Champ Street Bicheno	Ph: 0363 751 999
	22 nd -25 th New Norfolk (General Meeting Fri 23 rd 1.30)	Ph: 0455 612 812
October	13 th -16 th White Beach	Ph: 0362 502 142
	27 th -30 th New Norfolk (General Meeting Fri 28 th 1.30)	Ph: 0455 612 812
November:	10 th -13 th Blue Wren Ulverstone	Ph: 0455 533 979
	24 th -27 th New Norfolk (General Meeting Fri 25 th 1.30)	Ph: 0455 612 812

Recipe of the Month

This is an easy recipe for something quick for afternoon tea. It never fails and all you have to do is throw in it a bowl and stir until combined and serve when cooked sliced with butter.

Smith's Loaf

250 grams SR Flour	1 cup Brown Sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 teaspoon Mixed Spice
1 cup mixed dried Fruit	
(This can consist of dates or a combination of fruit including nuts)	
1 cup Milk	

Mix all ingredients together until combined.

Pour into loaf pan. Bake in moderate oven (180deg) until brown and cake begins to shrink from the sides of the loaf tin.