

*History of
The Queensland Caravan Club Inc.*



1949 to 2023

*Compiled by
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PART 1

1949 - 1987

*Written and Compiled by
Dorothy Guttormsen
7th December 1986*

When the Queensland Caravan Club was formed in 1949, it was known as the Caravan Club of Australia, Brisbane Branch.

The idea of forming a club came about when a Mr Ben Flack called on Mr N Clarke at his Wellington Road, East Brisbane accessories shop to buy some accessories for a caravan he was building. One word led to another and eventually a group of caravan part suppliers and other interested people met in the Queensland Institute Hall in Edward Street, Brisbane to set about forming a caravan club. This was in 1949.

The first rally was held in Deception Bay, and twenty-five gaily decorated vans, escorted by Police, moved off from Kedron to their destination at Deception Bay. It was a most joyous occasion and provided a lot of fun and laughter for all who came to look and observe the first caravan rally ever held in Queensland.

The first Committee responsible for this rally consisted of:

President:	Mr Sam Emmett.
Vice President:	Mr Les Laurence.
Secretary:	Mr E Neville.
Treasurer:	Mr A Doherty.
Committee Men:	Mr Chesney. Mr Harris. Mr Beven. Mr Eton.
Rally Marshall:	Mr Norm Clarke.

Since that time, we have had fifteen other Presidents whose terms of office have ranged from one to five years in duration.

A feature of the early rallies was the fancy dress crocodile walk held each Sunday morning after the meeting. Competitions like Mini Golf, Croquet and Knockem-Down were all enjoyed at these Sunday morning meetings. The first rally was held on the weekend of 14th to 16th May 1949.

The first Roving Rally was held on the Easter weekend of 1957. A distance of four hundred miles was covered, taking-in Goodna, Moore, Kingaroy, Murgon and Gympie. It was held in perfect weather starting at Goodna on Good Friday morning at 9:00am. Lunch was at the town of Moore and the night was spent at Kingaroy. Next morning it went on to the town of Murgon, where they stayed in the showgrounds. The residents of Murgon arranged a tour of Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, and then that night they also provided the

entertainment for the Club at the home of a Mr Richardson. Sunday night was spent at Gympie and members were taken on a tour of Gympie by a Mr George Tuffy. The Rally finished at Burpengary with afternoon tea, after which members departed to their homes.

During one of the club's rallies to Maroochydore, a number of plaques commemorating the first visit there of the club were attached to a number of huge cotton trees which lined the beach front; but time and tide have swept them all away.

In 1951, it was moved by Mr B Flack and seconded by a Mr Tate, that a Mr DePuma, who was on the committee at the time, should approach the R.A.C.Q. with the idea of placing an advertisement in their paper 'The Road Ahead' to advertise the club and perhaps obtain some new members.

In 1952, it was decided to buy some name badges for club members, the cost of these to be borne by both the club and the members. In the year of 1952, a decision was made to keep a record of how many meetings each committee member attended during their term of office. It was also during this time that the speed of a car towing a van was of some concern to some of the members, and so on the 9th May 1952, a member, Mr Doherty, approached the Police Department with a view to changing the law, which at that time was 25 mph. At that time the Police were very rigid in their views on the matter of speeding cars towing caravans and would not allow the law of 25 mph to be changed. Up until this time, the club did not have any first aid gear, so it was decided to purchase a kit which cost \$10.00.

Apparently, all of the club's Treasurers have had the same problem of getting the fees out of members as the recent Treasurers have done, for as far back as 1951, the then Treasurer had to send-out reminder notices to some of the members for their club fees.

In the early days of the club, the cost of providing the Christmas tea was just as expensive as it is today. In 1952, the Ladies Committee was given the princely sum of \$30.00 to provide the evening meal, but even then inflation had caught-up with them, and the meal actually cost \$51.30. Some of the early Christmas dinners were held as early as November, but I like the idea of our December party much better. We have had some fantastic Christmas parties, but one of the best would have to be our Mock Wedding held at Beenleigh, which made the headlines of the local newspaper. Another item which caused a lot of hilarity was our Hawaiian Belles.

We have been very privileged to have some very talented people in our club over the years, and one person who always made Christmas a little brighter with his talent was Don Mackie, son of one of our Life Members, Mrs Muriel Mackie. Don always used to pipe-in our President and the members to our Christmas meal with his bagpipes.

Times and ideas change and the idea of putting the Club's name in the telephone directory was first mooted in March 1953, and after a lot of discussion, it was decided to place it in the directory under the Secretary's address, but the club was expected to pay for half the cost of the rent and all calls connected with the club's business. At the same time, the committee was asked to look into the purchasing of a Duplex Amplifier for the club's use.

Not many people are aware that the Duke of Edinburgh is patron of the Caravan Club of Great Britain and as he and Queen Elizabeth II were planning a visit to Queensland in 1954,

it was decided to write a letter of welcome to them, and as a result of this letter being written, two invitations were sent to the club for two representatives to attend a Civic Reception given to the Queen and Prince Philip. The President and Past President at that time, namely Mr Doherty and Mr Beven attended the function held at the Exhibition Grounds.

The idea of rally cards was first introduced in 1955 and I am sure that all will agree that it was a very good idea as it enabled members to plan their social life around the rally dates. This idea has fallen by the wayside, but it could be reintroduced again. Another idea which has also fallen by the wayside, was the Honours Pennants given to the member who introduced the most members into the club over a twelve-month period.

It was during the year 1955 that the idea of changing the club from the Caravan Club of Australia, Brisbane Branch, to the Queensland Caravan Club was first discussed. This was because it was a Queensland Club with Queensland members, so in March 1955, Percy Muggeridge moved, seconded by Albert Oates that the Club's name be changed to its present format. As with all clubs, our club also had difficulty raising funds for all the needs of the club, and in 1956, it was suggested that we could overcome this problem in several ways.

The first suggestion was raising the fees which was met with loud "Boos", the second idea was voluntary donations which was met with more loud "Boos", and thirdly a drive for members which at least raised a few cheers, for at this time the club membership was twenty-six men and twenty-three ladies; it had been fifty-two the previous year.

During this time, it was decided to keep a points-score for all members who attended each rally. Points were scored as follows: Five points for each rally attended, 10 points for a win in the Sunday morning competition, and in those days there were many competitions. There was a lucky van prize and a mystery parcel. The club donated the first mystery parcel, and after that if you were the lucky person to win that prize you had to supply the prize for the next rally. It was usually something of small value for the caravan, but it was always a thrill to be a winner. All these things tended to make the weekend with the club so much more enjoyable.

The Queensland Caravan Club can be very proud of the fact that we were the first club to give-out sample bags laden with Queensland products and brochures at a National Rally. This was done at the Dubbo National Rally in 1974, and Mrs Evelyn Coates, Secretary of that rally highly commended the club for its idea. At this rally, Marilyn Bow, daughter of one of our past President, Mr Jack Bow, won the title of 'Miss National Rally'.

Club committees are having the same difficulty finding suitable venues for caravan rallies now as they had in earlier years. Many miles were travelled trying to find places which weren't too expensive and not too distant for members to travel to, because of the high petrol prices, the same problem which exists today.

In 1972, the New South Wales Government brought-forward the idea of removing all caravan parks from the beach front, and advising that they would not sanction any parks being built any closer than two miles from the beach. Pottsville is another caravan park which is in the process of being closed-down. It would appear that tourism in the form of caravanning is no more popular today than it was then.

The metal caravan pennants that we have attached to our vans now, were first introduced in 1956. We had a little trouble with paint peeling off them at one stage, but it seems we have overcome that problem now by using plastic stick-ons. The idea for a metal pennant came from Mr A Wright.

As a token of appreciation for all the work done by Mr Sam Emmett for the club, a Life Membership was bestowed on him in 1956. Another one of our Life Members is Miss Edna Austin, who was a very handy lady with a hammer and saw, and she built all the cupboards, beds, tables etc. in her van which she still has to this day. Unfortunately, ill health does not allow her to use her van anymore. The husband of another of our Life Members, Mr Clarrie Jesser (now deceased), has the honour of having the Tramway Museum at Ferny Grove name after him. Clarrie passed away after a long illness and his wife, Dot Jesser, does not drive so she can no longer attend rallies, but she still has happy memories of past rallies. The late Mr Ossie Campbell also had a Life Membership conferred on him for services to the Nambour National Rally. This was a most successful Rally both financially and socially, being the only National Rally to make a profit.

No one will ever forget the storm on New Year's Eve at that rally, for it brought-out the best of fellowship among caravanners when they helped each other shift vans and take down annexes during that storm. Another of our Life Members is Mr Miles Gray who served on the Committee as Treasurer for a number of years.

Roving Rallies don't seem to be as popular these days as they used to be, because on one of our wettest roving rallies only two members turned-up. I think they could really be called devoted caravanners, don't you? One rally which was a huge success was the one held in conjunction with the opening of the new Bribie Island bridge. Again we had a Police escort, and we certainly made a most impressive sight driving along the foreshores of Bribie.

In reading through the early Minutes books, it would appear that a lot of changes have taken place over the years. There used to be quite a lot of social functions, fund raising visits to various factories, theatres, visits to members' homes for card games, progressive dinners, picnics and car rallies which were a lot of fun, especially when the navigator read the instructions wrongly and the driver got lost.

Club membership seems to have always stayed at the same number of members as we have now. The Club Motto of "Fellowship on Wheels" has always been and should always be just that. Good fellowship between people who have one thing in common: 'Caravanning'.

I do hope that this little bit of the History of the Club brings-back quite a few happy memories to older club members and gives some of the younger members an idea of just what the club is all about.



An early rally with vans in a circle as was the custom when the club was this size.

PART 2

*Written and Compiled by
Irene Day
20th January 1999*

As I continue the History of the Queensland Caravan Club Inc, we see a lot of changes within the Club.

In 1987, after much discussion, it was agreed our club adopt Incorporation. Thanks go to Irene Cuthbert, Mal Finlayson and Mal Dale for all the work involved in changing the format of the club Constitution to adapt to Justice Department format.

A badge for members attending 100 rallies was introduced and first presentations were made in December 1987 to 12 members. Through the years, many more have been presented with some members receiving 200 and 250 rally badges.

In 1988, the Bi-Centennial Rally was organized and 123 caravans from all clubs attended. This was a huge success and some members enacted the landing of Captain Cook and members dressed in the dress of the period with lots of convicts etc. A parade of members into Nambour was greeted with cheers and waves from passing motorists and local residents.

Some of our members helped to start three new caravan clubs that year; namely Suncoast Club, Gold Coast Club and Gumnut Club. Also an association of Queensland Caravan Clubs called C.C.C.Q. (Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland) was formed and consisted of two representatives from each club. This association was formed in November 1988.

At the Annual Caravan Show an area was allotted to the C.C.C.Q. and members from all clubs were asked to help for a couple of hours during the Show. The idea was to advertise Caravan Clubs and attract new members. All clubs benefited from this venture adding new members to clubs. In 1989, Ted and Olive Richardson and Dorothy Guttormsen were presented with Life Membership for 25 years membership and service to the club. It was during that year that a motion was passed to present a 25-year badge to members at the first rally after completion of 25 years membership and not the following A.G.M. as was the practice at the time. Life Membership to be granted after 25 years at the discretion of the Management Committee.

In 1990, Club Rules of the Q.C.C. Inc., were amended to allow four (4) equally-spaced Sunday meetings annually to be called 'General Meetings' at which all members may raise any issue relevant to the Club.

A 25-year badge and Life Membership was presented to Reg Orr.

1991 saw the formation of a sub-committee to be known as 'Entertainment Committee'. This Committee was formed to ease the workload of the Club committee in organising entertainment for each rally. It was a huge success and many varied and wonderful ideas have been arranged and presented to the Club.

In 1992, as C.B. sets were gaining popularity within the Clubs, it was decided to nominate C.B. channel 7 on 40 channel sets and channel 3 on 18 channel sets as a channel for Caravan Clubs. This was done on a National basis for members wishing to contact other club members.

A 25-year badge and Life Membership Badge and Certificate were presented to Charlie and Irene Day for Service to the Club.

1993 - Emergency signals were introduced within the club for warning of fire or medical emergency - long blast on car horn to alert members. Members to respond bringing fire extinguishers and first aid kits to area of emergency.

A 25-year badge presented to Ron and Pam Robson-Petch.

1995 - This year it was decided to investigate selling of advertising in 'Wanderer' to help cover cost of printing and posting same. We now have ten firms advertising in our newsletter and members are encouraged to patronise the firms and parks listed.

Jim and Ruth Endres reached 25 years of membership and were presented with 25-year badges.

In 1996, Ron and Irene Cuthbert reached 25 years of membership and were presented with 25-year badges and Life Membership badges and Certificate of Service to the Club.

A Life Membership was presented to Mal and Jean Dale in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service and Fellowship on Wheels.

1997 - a 25-year badge was presented to Marj West.

That year it was decided the club needed a new flag, and at the Birthday Rally at Hillview, our new flag and flagpole were displayed for the first time. The design for this flag was presented by Irene Cuthbert.

A new venture called 'Tow and Go' was started by caravan club members and endorsed by the Caravan Industry of Australia, to give new caravan buyers and/or interested club members practical tuition in reversing and parking. Very well received and appreciated by all who have participated in these sessions.

A sub-committee was formed to look into celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Club in 1999.

Over the years the format of our newsletter has seen many changes - some good - others not so popular - but it is always full of news of members and events happening at our rallies.

Our venues for rallies have been many and varied - school grounds are popular - also showgrounds. Some caravan parks are able to accommodate our large numbers - with growing membership, venues are hard to find.

Our entertainment brings-forth lots of talent from members. There are always lots of

laughs and fun as a result of the entertainment organised by our Entertainment Committee. Many and varied fancy dress themes are enjoyed by members. The regattas at Rocky Creek - the car races at Hillview - the air show at Mudgeeraba, all created lots of interest and members enjoyed the preparation of entries and the running of the races.

Our hot-pot dinners at Hillview - Our Webber meals at Kalbar are always popular - not forgetting the damper competitions at Lake MacDonalld and the bake-off competitions.

State Rallies are held every year with each club taking a turn to organize and host the rally. National Rallies are held every three years with each state taking a turn to host the rally. Many of our members have attended both State and National Rallies with one member attending all ten (10) National Rallies and another member attending nine (9) National Rallies. Queensland was the host state for the 1998/99 National Rally at Cleveland/Redlands Shire and many of our members worked hard to make the rally a great success.

Over the years members have been involved in many types of craft from knitted rugs, knitted socks and berets and toys for presentation to the National Rally Committee. These items were known as 'Friendship Gifts' and presented to local community leaders for distribution to nursing homes, children's homes or where needed.

Instruction in fabric painting on t-shirts and making of Christmas decorations for sale on craft stalls were a few of the many crafts enjoyed by our ladies.

Safaris were organised and run by Ron Schafer (Sunshine Club) and Mal Dale (Q.C.C.) to help bring members from all clubs together and also as a fund-raiser for the 10th National Rally. These trips were very popular and enjoyed by all who participated. Four groups of six caravans - a total of 24 caravans travelled on these safaris - each group 10 to 15 minutes apart to avoid causing any traffic problem.

During recent years, our club membership has grown, and at the end of 1998 our 100th member was introduced into the club. This year also saw the presentation of 50 rally badges to several members.

Ladies Day out has been a popular get together for the ladies during the past few years and enables the widows of past members to keep in touch with friends in the club.

1999 is the 50th Anniversary of the Queensland Caravan Club and many activities have been arranged to take place during the year.

As I complete my section of the History of the Queensland Caravan Club, I hope I have been able to cover events over the past eleven years. Our entertainment has been varied and always lots of fun and relaxation. Our venues range from beach - country but always enjoyed because of the company of friends.

As life moves-on, we have been saddened by the loss of several of our members, but these memories live on.

Our motto of "Fellowship on Wheels" has always been there and must always continue with the members of the club to have a happy and contented membership.



The new marquee that wasn't quite right and had to be returned to the manufacturer. But we still celebrated with a cake!

PART 3

1999 - 2004

*Written and Compiled by
Barbara Rutherford
1st February 2004*

The year 1999 was a most significant one in the history of the Club - we celebrated our 50th birthday and what a time was had by all! Activities included a grand dinner celebration at Crushers Leagues' Club at the Grange in Brisbane, a picnic to Deception Bay (the site of the very first rally in 1949) and to top it all off, a concert extravaganza put on by members at Rosewood to which past members were invited. A special badge marking 50 years of the Club was struck and presented to all members.

The dawning of a new century saw the Club continue to prosper, move along with the times and, at the same time, maintain many of the long-standing traditions upon which the club has been built over the years.

One of the most obvious changes in the Club is the fact that the membership has grown older and, as a result, there are now no younger families with children in the Club. Even new members that are coming along are either retired or nearing it. Children who once formed an integral part of the Club with their own committee in earlier years are no longer there to encourage us into that Saturday afternoon game of cricket on a country showgrounds oval somewhere or bring that special excitement when Santa arrives at a Christmas rally that only children can. However, all is not lost as some members occasionally bring their grandchildren along with them now.

Another major change has been to the caravan itself. To have a toilet and shower in your own van was unheard of not so many years ago - not so now with some vans even sporting washing machines!

A bush rally used to mean just that - a shower was a bucket of water on a rope behind a bit of blue tarp wrapped around a couple of trees with other members throwing cold water over the top or nicking your towel that had been slung over the top. The Club members used to build a huge fire and have a donkey boiler on the go all the time for members to have instant hot water for tea and/or showers. Now we have our battery/solar power to give us a nice hot shower indoors no matter where we are, and we boil the kettle on the stove indoors. Has progress taken some of the fun out of caravanning?

The year 2000 saw a first for the Club - the appointment of its very first lady President - Jacky Smith. This was quite an achievement for a Club where, in its early years, the male was signed up as the member and the wife as an associate member!

At the end of 2000, several members made the trek across to Western Australia to attend the National Rally. There has been movement afloat during the last few years to try to change the date of National Rallies. As it stands now, National Rallies are held from approx. 28 December through to about 4/5 January. It is felt in many quarters that, because of the hot weather at this time of the year, the holiday traffic on the roads and

the fact that members are away from their families at Christmas time, the time of the rally should be flexible and decided upon by the host state at the time. At the time of writing, the debate continues ...

Membership of the club has grown to a total of 119 caravans which includes 100 full members, 10 associate members, and nine life members.

The year 2003 saw some of our long-standing members reach major milestones in Club history. Irene and Charlie Day attended their 300th rally; Ted and Olive Richardson clocked up 40 years' membership; and Ron and Pam Robson-Petch clocked up 35 years' membership and were awarded a Life Membership for loyalty and service to the club.

The major event of 2003 was the hosting of the State Rally of Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland by the Queensland Caravan Club Inc. A Sub-Committee consisting of Ken McNab (as Chair), Ken Gethings, Phil Lowe, Bob Kearney and Barbara Rutherford (and greatly assisted by their partners) was formed to organize and run the rally. The town of Pittsworth was the chosen site for the rally and this decision was definitely the most important decision the sub-committee made. It was what made the rally the huge success it was. The backing of the town from Mayor Ros Scotney, through Councillors Merv Kahler and Len Fischer, to the business people and the townspeople themselves was unreservedly forthcoming and greatly appreciated before, during and after the rally.

A total of 233 vans from 19 clubs attended the rally. Several entertainers were hired for night time entertainment but the highlight of the rally had to be the magnificent concert, coordinated by Marlene and John Rawlings, on the Friday night and consisting of club members only.

A first for our Club was winning the Disc Bowls Competition - congratulations to Kevin Day and David Judge.

In 2003, CCCQ decided to introduce the awarding of a trophy to the club with the highest percentage of membership present at a State Rally and the QCC were the winners with an attendance of 81 member units.

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the success of the State Rally was the fact that we were able to donate monies back into various charities in the town and this was done at a special morning tea arranged by the Council and attended by several QCC Committee Members a couple of weeks after the rally had finished. The Rally was also nominated for and won an Australia Day Award for an event held in the town of Pittsworth.

We look forward to further 'Fellowship on Wheels' in 2004 when the Club celebrates its 55th birthday.



State Rally Sub-Committee is presented with an Australia Day Award by the Mayor of Pittsworth, Ros Scotney.

From L to R:

D Lowe, P Lowe, R Scotney, K McNab, D McNab, K Kearney.



*Entertainment has always been wide and varied.
Here a group of members enjoy a ride at Adora Downs - Easter 2005.*



*In July 2003, the first QCC Ball was held at Lowood Showgrounds. It has since become an annual event run by Bob and Lyn Barber.
Pictured is a group of QCC dancers who demonstrated a selection of dances at the Ball.*

PART 4

2005 - 2008

*Written and Compiled by
Barbara Rutherford
March 2009*

As this is the year of the Club's 60th Birthday in May 2009, it has prompted the updating of the History Booklet.

Membership remains steady with older members no longer being able to tow vans and therefore not attending rallies being replaced by a continuous influx of new members into the Club. However, rather than miss out on the rallies altogether, some of the older members have either changed to non-tow vehicles (i.e. motor homes) or come along and stay in a nearby hotel or caravan park cabin.

Attendance at rallies peaked during these years with a few rallies recorded as having 80 vans in attendance. It was becoming necessary for the Committee to book sites that could accommodate our large numbers. But these numbers have gradually dropped back and, whilst we still have large rallies on occasion, particularly birthday and Christmas rallies, the average attendance at a rally is around 53 vans.

It is not always possible at some venues for every van to be hooked up to power and water. In these instances, members with medical problems are given priority. Other members voluntarily go without power or are offered a cheaper rate on their camp fees.

At the end of 2004, several members attended the National Rally at Lucindale in South Australia and then again at the end of 2007, a contingent went down to the National Rally in Forbes, New South Wales. A triennial meeting of State Associations was held in Forbes and the timing of National Rallies was discussed at length. Sanity finally prevailed and host States will now be allowed to choose their own suitable time of the year to hold the rally. The dates for the next National Rally in Elmore, Victoria had already been set but Queensland will be the host for the 2013 National Rally which will be held in September - a much cooler time to be visiting Queensland, a less busy time on the roads and it won't interfere with members wanting to be with family at Christmas/New Year.

In 2005, the Club was fortunate to gain a grant from the Government's Community Gambling Fund which was used to purchase a laptop and printer for the Secretary. Club's funds were used, at the same time, to purchase laptops and printers for the Editor and Treasurer as well. Club email accounts were also set-up. This was a giant leap forward for the Club - especially for the Office Bearers who were using their own private computing equipment and email accounts prior to this. It meant that records could now be kept electronically and easily passed-on once there was a change in Committee.

Then, in early 2008, the Club took another step further into technology by putting up its own page as part of the CCCQ Web Site - <http://caravanclubsqld.googlepages.com>

The decision to dispose of our marquee was made in 2008. It was becoming a burden to

the Club. Our membership was aging and no longer able to erect it as easily as they may have once done; storage was becoming a problem as members downsized their homes; and it was being used less and less as most venues had a hall we could use.

The marquee was sold to the newly formed Family Caravan Club Inc for the princely sum of \$1. The CCCQ had been receiving enquiries from caravanners with young children about joining a caravan club. Whilst existing clubs would readily have accepted them as members, it was felt they would be better forming a club especially for families as the children would have each other to play with and would have been bored joining clubs with older membership and no children.

The year 2009 will be a significant one for the Club - not only will we celebrate our 60th birthday but will also be one of the host clubs for the State Rally to be held in Pittsworth. So ... here's looking forward to a busy year with lots of fun times to be had.



A roadside stop for a cuppa in the early days of the Club.



Home among the gum trees - an early rally.

PART 5

2009—2013

*Written and Compiled by
Carol Day
December 2013*



Our 60th club birthday was celebrated in May 2009 at Toogoolawah Showground, with over 100 vans made up of many current members, some past members, some new members. and visitors from other clubs. It certainly was a weekend to remember, with everyone receiving a place mat with all past committees on it. Neil Chesney was at the first rally in 1949 with his parents and family and it was therefore

appropriate that Neil was invited to cut our birthday cake. Neil and his wife Marie have since become active members of our club.

2009 also saw our club, together with Toowoomba and Golden West Caravan Club and Downs Wanderers, host the State Rally at Pittsworth. This marked many firsts with an aerial photo taken, and a power point presentation shown on the last evening of the rally.



It was a big success with over 233 vans in attendance.

Membership has remained much the same over the past five years. However, members seem to be coming earlier and staying longer at rallies. As this goes to print, we have 108 members, 11 life members, and four associate members.



We have been fortunate with sites and now favour those with a hall and lots of power. However, we have now acquired a power box with an extra 12 power points if needed.

22 caravans from of our club went to the 14th National Caravan Rally in Elmore in December 2010. The last one to be held over the Christmas New Year period.

The 2011 State Rally was held in Maryborough with 39 caravans from our club attending. The 2012 State Rally was held in Beaudesert with 28 caravans from our club attending.

We have moved forward with technology, and now own a projector, various computers and printers. Kevin Day wrote the program for our database and it is up-and-running. It has been a wonderful time-saving system, not only for the Secretary, but the Treasurer as well. Everyone gets a receipt on payment, and rally counts are done automatically. All records are now kept electronically and at the touch of a button can be emailed to members. In November 2013, the name of our magazine was changed to QCC Wanderer, and since 2010, has been emailed to the majority of our members, thus allowing coloured photos and items to be sent. Our new website is up and running thanks to the expertise of our member Lance Haslewood. Our website started in mid-2013.

In May 2013, a combined rally was held with Toowoomba and Golden West Caravan Club at Toogoolawah. It was well attended with 77 vans.

62 caravans from our club went to Rockhampton for the 15th National Caravan Rally hosted by Queensland. 572 caravans in total attended Rocky. This was the first time a National Rally has been held in September, and it was very successful. 'Fellowship on Wheels' was certainly evident as many of our members volunteered in many ways. \$20,000.00 was presented to the Royal Flying Doctor Service at the rally.



Our history is not forgotten, with our archivist Wendy Gibson putting together the many events of our club onto electronic media.



Over the years the caravan has changed, with many vans now over 23 feet long, with slide out sections, full ensuite, microwave, TV, video, washing machine and many time saving devices. But the fun and enjoyment we all get from our caravans is just the same, and a wonderful way to make new friends.



Our club is blessed with talent, be it in music, art, craft, dance, sport, games, books, or family history. There is something for everyone. With a very active committee, and many willing members our club is in good hands for members and future members.

Reading back over our club history, I think we are very fortunate to have had so many committees dedicated to making our rallies great, and our club the best. I am privileged to be a member of the Queensland Caravan Club.



Rocky 2013

PART 6 2014 - 2017

*Written and Compiled by
Wendy Gibson
April 2018*

In May 2017, Queensland Caravan Club turned 68. The numbers of members are reasonably stable - as new members have come on board, others have left the club; the future of the club is looking quite secure, albeit with new faces. Some of the 'old' faces are still around and we have one couple, Life Members Ron and Pam Robson-Petch, having their 50th anniversary of membership in 2018.



Past secretaries cutting the 68th birthday cake.

In recent years, the Queensland Caravan Club had become part of the 21st century, using computer technology. Members at first used their own computers, but in 2005 we had purchased the first of QCC's own laptops with peripherals; one each for the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor to help them carry-out their duties, and all had internet access. Through the years 2014 to 2017, these laptops and peripherals have, of course, since been replaced more than once. As time has travelled on, many of our members have become quite used to using computer technology as it has become less of a novelty.

Lance Haslewood had been working on QCC's website, with information such as how to join, photos, 'QCC Wanderer', rallies and events, etc., and in 2014 the website finally came alive. Then in 2017 he connected us to social media by joining Facebook, which has proved very popular as many members regularly place their photos and notices on the club's Facebook site. I know a lot of work went into all of this - thanks Lance.

The club bulletin 'The Wanderer' as it was originally known, later 'QCC Wanderer', was



An array of photos from Stanthorpe State Rally.

at first sent by post (or 'snail mail'). Then by 2010, QCC had commenced despatching them by email, to those who wanted it so. In the ensuing years there was a great drive to encourage members, and others, to receive it by email rather than post. By late 2017 only a very few bulletins were still being despatched by post; they were mostly emailed.

And, what a great improvement that was. The cost saving to QCC was only one of the issues - As a previous editor, I have not so fond memories of folding nearly 200 bulletins per month, which is indeed a mammoth task by hand. It certainly encouraged you to be economical with words! I am sure all editors, past and future, appreciate this great improvement. Thank you to everyone, too many to mention, who had a hand in these technological improvements.

Activities have not changed all that much in 2014 to 2018, although perhaps there is less emphasis on games. Over the last few years, QCC committee have arranged for paid entertainers from time to time and they have been good, although I personally prefer to listen to our very own people, amateur though they may be. Throughout the years, playing disc bowls has continued to be a major activity and its popularity is not waning.

Since the beginning, music has been a popular activity in QCC. But as time has marched on, so have the performers changed. As one group leaves the club, they are replaced with another group. Even the type of instruments being played have changed, as brass instruments have become less prevalent and we have started seeing more guitars and ukuleles, although the trumpet and sax come out every now and then. We have indeed been privileged to have had so many great entertainers over the years. Ah, it's all music to the ears!

Other popular activities during this time were the auction (with all of the proceeds going to QCC's charities), dancing, craft, carpet bowls, tag-along-tours and picnics, etc.

Quite a few now stay on an extra day, and Sunday nights have become quite popular, probably because the entertainment is less organised and most of us have retired. In one corner we'll have musicians and their audience, and in another corner, there is another group playing cards, and in a third corner, they are doing something else.

Members are coming to rallies earlier - it wasn't too long ago that only the rally marshals were there on Wednesday, with a trickle arriving on Thursday and most arriving on Friday. Now there's some arriving on Wednesday and quite a number have arrived by Thursday night.

In September 2015, the CCQ State Rally was at Stanthorpe, and the organising clubs were Queensland Caravan Club, Jabiru Caravan & RV Club, Bayside Caravan Club and Toowoomba & Golden West Caravan Club. Stanthorpe in September is very wintery and, although colds and flu were rife at the rally, the organizing clubs worked well together, and I believe that everyone still had a very good time. The organising clubs should give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done.

Caravan Clubs of Queensland organized the 2017 State Rally themselves, with the assistance of the clubs. QCC's members provided a great deal of assistance throughout the rally, being heavily involved in the running of the office, disc bowls, tai chi, arts, games, the security gates, marshalling, and many other activities. This rally was only small, but it was quite enjoyable - and busy.

There was no CCQ State Rally held in Queensland in 2016, because the national body held their national rally in Canberra in September. QCC had a total of 55 caravans attend this national rally, which is a huge turnout from one club. We were one of all those caravans (from other clubs too), who wended their way to Canberra in drenching, flooding rains. Canberra itself is a very interesting place to visit with much to see, even though it was cold. I believe that our members had a really great time there, with great entertainment and local touring.



Canberra National Ralliers

In 2009, following on many years of tradition, Des McLeod became our Chief Rally Marshal, and he, with the aid of Keith McCallum and other helpers, put us on our sites. After six years, Des and Keith decided to retire, and Dennis Edney became the Chief Rally Marshal with his band of helpers. I think those who assist as rally marshals deserve a vote of thanks from all of us, as there they are, whether there be hot sun, cold wind, or rain (no snow). So, we all thank you guys.

During 2014 to 2018, we visited a few sites to which we had not been before. For the first time we visited - in 2014 Kahlers Oasis Caravan Park and Caboolture Environmental Centre, in 2015 Millmerran Caravan Park, in 2017 Standown Caravan Park and Goonbungee Showground. Of these, two were really outstanding and we'll definitely be returning to them again, and some of the others were quite good.

Looking back, in 2014 to 2017 lots of interesting changes happened in QCC. Yes, it was good to be a member of Queensland Caravan Club during this period.

PART 7 2018 - 2020

*Written and Compiled by
Wendy Gibson
January 2021*

In March 2018, QCC had 103 ordinary members, 14 life members, four social members and three associate members, which adds up to a total of 124 members.

The CCQ State Rally was held at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct from 22 to 28 October 2018. The host clubs were Bayside, Peninsula and QCC. A total of 51 caravans from QCC attended this state rally. Many of our people were very involved in making this rally work well, both as organisers and helpers - many hands make light work.



Ron and Pam Robson-Petch.

It was QCC's 70th birthday in May 2019, which we celebrated at the Boonah Showground, with 54 caravans attending. This was a very special weekend with arts and crafts, golf, lawn and disc bowls, movie night, aero club tour and QCC's memorabilia display. On Saturday, QCC also held a catered lunch, after which the 70th birthday cake was cut by life members, Ron and Pam Robson-Petch. In the evening we were entertained with a singalong by local entertainers Tanya, Daryl and Robin. This was indeed a most enjoyable weekend.

The final birthday celebration was a delicious luncheon in June at the Summit Restaurant at the Mt Coot-Tha Lookout, attended by 97. The luncheon was enhanced by some of the best views in Brisbane.

As per usual practice, the Queensland CCQ State Rally was not held in 2019 because the National Rally was held this year at Albany, Western Australia, from 14th to 23rd October. 23 caravans from QCC made the big trip to Albany, with many using it as an excuse to continue on, touring through the region.

National rallies have for a long time been counted as a QCC rally. As such, ever since national rallies have been moved from Christmas time to earlier in the year, a QCC rally was not held during that month. However, in 2019, QCC's committee decided to trial holding an official QCC rally in the same month as the national rally. In October 2019, QCC held a second official rally at Standown Park, at which 34 caravans attended.



QCC members who attended the National Rally in Albany in 2019.

What a year 2020 was for the whole world! The COVID-19 pandemic very quickly spread around the world, with many deaths and leaving economies worldwide stricken. Many countries were casual about protecting their citizens, but in Australia, our federal and state governments went to great lengths to protect our health and our economy. As a consequence, we avoided much of the worldwide tragedy.

But, how was QCC affected specifically? Everything was shut-down to avoid unnecessary contact between people; so QCC could not hold a rally April to July inclusive. So - our AGM was postponed to September, the CCQ State Rally was cancelled in 2020, and QCC's 71st birthday celebrations was deferred to much later in the year.



Further, when rallies resumed in August, there were very specific laws regarding how many could actually be there, contact records and social distancing, etc.

In the past, committees had always turned to older members to advise how things should be done; but who had been through a pandemic before? I thank the committee for keeping in touch with members during this lockdown period, especially as so many would have been feeling isolated, and particularly thank

President Paul Brearley and Secretary Heather Edney for their efforts to ensure that members were safe and that QCC was acting within the constantly changing laws.

We have been advised that a vaccine will be available in March 2021, but will our lives ever be the same again?

In December 2020, QCC's membership consisted of 101 ordinary members, 13 life members, seven social members and two associate members, totalling 123 members. In February 2018 we had a total of 124 members, and so membership was virtually unchanged over the three years; those who had left were replaced by new members.

Yes, it was still a pleasure being a QCC member 2018 to 2020, even with the difficulties we all faced in 2020, and will probably continue to do so in 2021. But at least 2020 ended with promise of a little bit of normality returning not only to QCC, but indeed worldwide sometime during 2021, although we don't know when. Maybe we can all look hopefully towards a better future for us all.

Appendix 1

Executive Officers through the Years

Date	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor
1949-50	S Emmett	E Neville	A Doherty	
1950-51	S Emmett	A Chesney	Mr Mengle	
1951-52	A Doherty	A Flack	L Laurence	
1952-53	A Doherty	A Flack	L Laurence	
1953-54	G Beavon	A Flack	A Chesney	
1954-55	G Beavon	A Flack	A Wright	
1955-56	G Beavon	A Flack	A Wright	
1956-57	A Flack	A Oates	S Bartlett	
1957-58	A Flack	F Hall	C Jesser	
1958-59	A Oates	F Hall	C Jesser	
1959-60	A Oates	C Downing	F Hall	
1960-61	C Downing	T B Smith	F Hall	
1961-62	C Downing	K Campbell	J Pitceathly	
1962-63	P Muggeridge	G Bowley	J Pitceathly	M Lather
1963-64	O Hennessey	M McKenzie	J Pitceathly	M Lather
1964-65	J Pitceathly	M McKenzie	C Downing	M McKenzie
1965-66	J Pitceathly	M McKenzie	C Downing	M Upham
1966-67	J Bow	J Berthelsen	W Constant	M Upham
1967-68	J Bow	J Berthelsen	W Constant	M Upham
1968-69	J Bow	R Orr	R Atkinson	M Upham
1969-70	E Richardson	R Orr	M Gray	E Richardson
1970-71	E Richardson	R Orr	M Gray	M Boyce
1971-72	E Walker	R Guttormsen	M Gray	M Boyce
1972-73	E Walker	R Guttormsen	P Wrigley	J Wrigley
1973-74	R Guttormsen	D Guttormsen	W Law	M Boyce
1974-75	R Guttormsen	D Guttormsen	W Law	J Wrigley
1975-76	R Guttormsen	D Guttormsen	O Campbell	J Wrigley
1976-77	R Guttormsen	D Guttormsen	O Campbell	A Morley
1977-78	R Cuthbert	B D'Arcy	O Campbell	S Doolan
1978-79	M Dale	I Day	E Boyle	S Doolan

Date	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor
1979-80	M Dale	I Day	E Boyle	S Doolan
1980-81	M Dale	I Day	B Thurecht	B Rutherford
1981-82	M Dale	I Day	B Thurecht	B Rutherford
1982-83	M Dale	R Kirkman	B Thurecht	B Rutherford
1983-84	C Elder	R Kirkman	B Thurecht	B Rutherford
1984-85	J Daddow	J Rose	H Williamson	M Lillis
1985-86	J Daddow	B Rutherford	E White	M Lillis
1986-87	K Gregory	G West	A Gregory	J Rose
1987-88	K Gregory	J Dale	M Thomas	M Dale
1988-89	K Gregory	J Dale	M Thomas	M Dale
1989-90	G West	J Dale	E Boyle	M Dale
1990-91	S Thomas	A Gregory	E Boyle	G West > B Watson
1991-92	S Thomas	A Gregory	M Stoneley	B Watson
1992-93	E Boyle	Y Moore	J Gethings	I Cuthbert
1993-94	S Thomas	J Gethings	A Osborne	J Gethings > M Armstrong
1994-95	K Gethings	J Gethings	I Pedwell	B Wynne
1995-96	L Buckley	A Osborne	I Pedwell	B Wynne
1996-97	C Kohr	J Gethings	K McNab	T Smith
1997-98	S Thomas	B Liley > M Thomas > J Meagher	D McNab	T Smith
1998-99	S Goddard	J Gethings	D McNab	D McNab
1999-00	S Goddard	B Liley	C Green	T Smith
2000-01	J Smith	L Perry	B Kearney	T Smith
2001-02	B Beker	Y Beker	B Kearney	T Smith
2002-03	B Beker	Y Beker	B Kearney	P Hetherman
2003-04	K McNab	B Rutherford	K Day	D McNab
2004-05	B Beker	B Rutherford	K Day	T Smith
2005-06	K Gethings	B Rutherford	K Day	T Smith
2006-07	T Smith	B Rutherford	B Davies	W Gibson
2007-08	T Smith	B Rutherford	M Kasper	W Gibson
2008-09	B Kearney	G Gray > L Pomroy	M Kasper	W Gibson
2009-10	B Kearney > B Beker	L Pomroy	D Hinson	M Hiller

Appendix 2

LIFE MEMBERS

Listed on Club Membership List as at 30/1/2021

Gordon and Sue BAKER

Bert and Yvonne BEKER

Eue and Jill BOYLE

Irene CUTHBERT

Mal and Jean DALE

Kevin and Carol DAY

Peggy FINLAYSON

Ken and Dell McNAB

Ron and Pam ROBSON-PETCH

Bob and Barbara RUTHERFORD

Adrian and Gayle SKINNER

Tom and Jacky SMITH

Stan and Margaret THOMAS

