



Q.C.C. Wanderer

'Fellowship on Wheels'



Verida Jane Versace

**NATIONAL CARAVAN CLUBS RALLY
ALBANY WA
AND
STANDOWN PARK Q**



**October/November Edition
Albany/Standown Park/Kilcoy**



Then official newsletter of the Queensland Caravan Club Inc

Q.C.C. Wanderer

'Fellowship on Wheels'

Email: editor@qldcaravanclub.com.au

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QCC - Established 1949

October/November 2019

President's Report - Standown Park

Gd'day members, another great rally and what a superb time we had at Standown Park.

Wednesday. 10 vans arrived along with some heavy rain but it is much needed in the area. Sandown Park is very quiet and peaceful and Pam and Ron, our hosts, could not have been more helpful.

Thursday. Again, some heavy rain. Di and I, with Des and Jenny McLeod, went to Cooloola Berries (strawberry farm) for a Devonshire tea. Wow, the best I have ever had.

Friday. Busy day with lots of activities. We managed a committee meeting with the help of a phone hook-up with our secretary, Heather Edney, and treasurer, Barry Lander. Thank you to all committee members and helpers.

Michael Burdette held his art class; Sue Baker with her drawing class; Bev Green had a new card-making class; Yvonne Robins did the sewing class. Thank you, members, for your time helping others learn and for doing a fantastic job to assist the experienced to enhance their skills. We had a combined happy hour in the undercover dining area which was lot of fun and a lot of members enjoyed playing cards that evening.

Saturday. Had our members' meeting where we held a minute silence for the loss of one of our much-loved members, Nerida Versace. May Nerida rest in peace. I presented Kevin and Pat Gower with their 100 rally badges and Roy and Carmel Bridges with their 150 rally badges. Congratulations to both couples on achieving these milestones.

Quite a lot of members went to Cooloola Berries and all reports were excellent from thirst-quenching milkshakes to the scrumptious pancakes and hot food. Dinner comprised a camp oven, cooked by our host Ron and his helpers. Very enjoyable delicious food and what a top night.

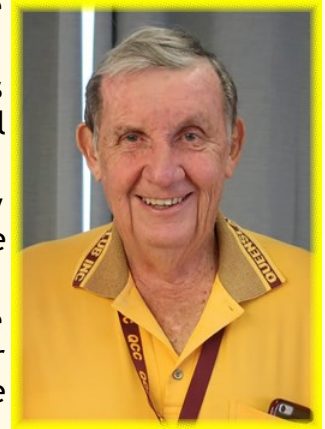
Sunday. Paid the treasurer and had our members' meeting. This was an excellent rally, but sadly, Di and I had to return to home so we could attend Nerida's funeral the following day. Hope to see lots of members at Kilcoy.

Di and I had a meeting with Toowoomba at Pittsworth regarding the next state rally and it has now been decided that it will be held at Pittsworth next September. I will be on the organising committee and we will need others from our club to join me on the committee as well as coordinators to help make it a successful rally.

Equally successful, from what I understand, was the National Caravan Clubs Rally held in Albany, Western Australia, from Monday 14 October to 22 October, 2019 (9 Nights). Well-supported by members of the Queensland Caravan Club who took the time, the pilgrimage and the challenge of such a lengthy, and no doubt, expensive journey to represent this great club. Well done and I look forward, as will others in the club, to hear of your exploits upon your return.

Thanks members.

Paul Brearley.



Next Rally ~ Kilcoy, 06-12 October. Arrive no earlier than 12 midday, Wednesday 6th November and leave no later than 10:00am Tuesday 12th November.

From Brisbane: Follow the Bruce Highway north to the Caboolture/Bribie Island Interchange and take the D'Aguilar Highway exit (Exit 152). Continue along the D'Aguilar Highway passing through Wamuran, D'Aguilar and Woodford and then onto Kilcoy which is 25km west of Woodford. Continue through Kilcoy for three kilometres where the showground is located on the right.

From the west: Follow the D'Aguilar Highway to Kilcoy. Showgrounds are on the left.

Nearest Hospital: Kilcoy Hospital, 12 Kropp Street, Kilcoy, 4515.
Phone: (07) 5422 4411.

24 hours.

Nearest Doctor / Medical Centre: Kilcoy General Practice, 19 Brown Street, Kilcoy. Phone: (07) 5497 1766. Open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-6:00pm. Saturday 8:00am-12 Midday. Sunday closed. (present to hospital if medical attention needed or dial 000).

Venue Address: 26 Showgrounds Road, Woolmar, QLD. 4515.

Nearest Cross-Street: D'Aguilar Road and Showgrounds Road.

Emergency: 000.

POST CODE 4515



Club equipment required:	First aid kit, fire extinguisher, banner, flags and flagpoles.	
Special needs, requirements or notifications.	DUMP POINT. Onsite. Those with a medical need who require to be sited close to the amenities are to contact rally marshal, Dennis Edney, on 0411 539 494 by the Monday prior to the rally otherwise this area may not be available.	
GPS Coordinates:	<p>Lat: 26°56'33.41"S</p> <p>Long: 152°32'58.04"E</p> <p><u>Arriving late or cannot attend!</u> Please let the rally marshal know.</p> <p><u>Leaving early!</u> Be considerate to others when disconnecting from the water line. <u>Please do not drive over power leads or hoses.</u></p>	
Pets:	Permitted.	Dogs must be on a leash. Please pick-up after your pet.
Fees:	Per van, per night:	\$16.00 (powered/unpowered).
	Administration fee:	\$3.00.
	Hall hire:	\$3.00.

A Little about Kilcoy Kilcoy is a rural town on the D'Aguilar Highway in the Brisbane Valley, 70 km north-west of Brisbane. It is situated on Kilcoy Creek near its entry to the north end of the Somerset Dam. Formerly, the creek was a headwater of the Stanley River. Population is 1898 (as at the 2016 census).

In 1841, Evan and John Mackenzie took a pastoral lease between the Stanley and Brisbane Rivers. The leasehold, 35,000 acres, had an estimated capacity for 1200 cattle and 12,000 sheep with year-round pasture. The MacKenzies named the pastoral station Kilcoy after their father's Kilcoy estates on Black Isle, Scotland. The MacKenzies sold Kilcoy in 1849 and Kilcoy Homestead (c1857) was built by Louis Hope which is now on the Queensland heritage register. Much of the pastoral station was subdivided for farm selections in the 1890s.



The town of Kilcoy, originally known as Hopetown (and Hopetoun from 1904 to about 1907), was established on the Kilcoy and Sheep Station Creeks in the 1890s. A school was opened in 1892, the Hopetown Hotel and the Church of England following later that decade. Another hotel, the Exchange, was built in 1901 and a Catholic church was opened in 1909.

The town's population was over 700, and at least that many again were in the district when an area was severed from Caboolture Shire and subsequently became Kilcoy Shire in 1912. The following year the Caboolture-to-Woodford branch railway line was extended to Kilcoy. The Caboolture-Woodford line was closed in 1972.

Attractions: Somerset Dam. Located 10km south of Kilcoy and named after local MP Henry Plantagenet Somerset, which was started in 1935. It was first used to supplement Brisbane's water supply in 1943 and it was completed with a 305 metre dam wall in 1959. The dam has 237km of shoreline, a catchment area of 340 square kilometres, an area of 8,100 hectares and a storage capacity of 904,000 megalitres. It extends 56km upstream from the dam wall. Today the dam supplies water to Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Redcliffe, the northern end of Gold Coast City, and the shires of Beaudesert, Esk and Kilcoy.

Rally Program for Kilcoy

Thursday 07 Nov	6:30am 6:30pm	Walkers. Pub Dinner?	
Friday 08 Nov	6:30am 07:00am 10:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Walkers. Golf. Art Classes (Michael Burdette). Management committee meeting. Sewing Class (Yvonne Robbins). Card Making (Bev Green). Bowls. Tai Chi (Lyn Hill). Wine Tasting (Susan form Springdell Wines). Dinner (own arrangements). Cards.	
Saturday 09 Nov	6:30am 9:00am 9:30am 1:30pm 2:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm	Walkers. Morning Tea. Meeting. Presentation by Power Solutions. Art of Bonsai (Michael Burdette). Happy Hour. Dance night with a well-known DJ (surprise guest) and his vinyl records. 'On with the dancing shoes'.	
Sunday 10 Nov	6:30am 9:00am 9:30pm 2:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm	Walkers. Pay Treasurer. Meeting. Nana-Nap. Happy hour. Dinner. (own arrangements).	

IMPORTANT

- * Remember to check the rally noticeboard for any last minute changes to the published programme.
- * Remember to sign the attendance book as soon as possible after arrival.
- * Remember to indicate your planned attendance to the next rally by checking (ticking) the rally attendance sheet located at the Saturday/Sunday meeting.
- * Kindly give a hand to stack the chairs and to sweep the hall following the Sunday meeting. Many hands make light work.

- * Have a UHF radio? If so, please give an inbound call (Ch 18) to the rally marshals so that your site placement may be both speedy, fluid and hassle-free.
- * Enjoy your time at Kilcoy. There is a lot to see and do in the area.

2019/2020 QCC Rally Calendar

Nov 06-12 Kilcoy Showground.
 Dec 04-10 Laidley Showground. (Xmas Rally).
 Jan 08-14 Blackbutt Showground.
 Feb 05-11 Crows Nest. (Auction).
 Mar 11-17 Killarney Showground.
 Apr 08-14 Pine Rivers (Easter and AGM).
 Apr 29-05 May. Pittsworth.
 Jun 10-16 Samford.

July ~ TBA.
 August ~ TBA.
 September ~ State Rally, Pittsworth.



Card Making

Bev Green will again be conducting a card making class at Kilcoy. The success of her Standown Park session exceeded expectation. This rally, being the last before Christmas, Bev has decided to have the class make Christmas cards. Those desirous in card making at Kilcoy and would like more information, please text or ring Bev on 0418 881 890.

CARD KIT TOOLS NEEDED FOR CLASS:

- Pencil.
- Scissors.
- Metal ruler (metric preferred).
- Eraser.
- Scorer (Cheap Shop sells these).
- Double-sided tape, 6mm (Reject Shop sell this) \$2.00 or \$2.50 approximately.
- Metal craft knife with spare blades (Cheap Shop).
- Sticky tape with dispenser.
- A4 cutting mat or similar.

Ladies will need for first class: double-sided tape, liquid glue, metal knife and cutting mat or similar.



Standown Park - what a restful and peaceful place. Our hosts, Rod and Pam Elkington, and their staff, were very welcoming and most obliging and couldn't do enough for us.

We are in the middle of a drought - so why should we have rain at our rally? But rain it did. The first few days were okay - it only rained at night; but we were not so lucky on Saturday. Through the day we had blue sky, followed by heavy rain, followed by blue sky, and so on.

But, rain or no rain, we had a really good weekend. With so many of our members at the National Rally at Albany, we only had 36 members' vans and one first time visitor's van at Standown Park; small and cosy.

Standown Park puts special emphasis on Australia's veterans and, in particular, Vietnam veterans. There is a big pond (or lake if you prefer) enjoyed by ducks, with a 'crocodile' in the centre. Beside the lake there is a very tasteful shrine to Australia's military personnel, past and present. Surrounding the shrine, veterans and their families have placed engraved stones for their memories and their loved ones. There were also stones placed by a few caravan clubs, including one from the Queensland Caravan Club. A very thoughtful and tranquil place.

Stones placed by our members, both current and past, are by Robert and Madelaine Beasley (past members), Alwyn and Joy Boyle (past members), Gus and Carol Fraser, Rod and Bev Green, Gary and Noeleen Jarrett, Keith and Bev McCallum and, last but not least, Elaine Sollars (past member).

We had two pairs of members who had reached significant milestones at this rally - they must like us if they keep coming back! Kev and Pat Gower were awarded badges and certificates for attending 100 rallies, and Roy and Carmel Bridges were awarded for attending 150 rallies. Congratulations to all of you!

Our artists, teacher and pupil, shared their love of artwork, working in pastels. Jenny McLeod, the student, did very well for a learner and should be proud of what she produced. But the teacher, Sue Baker, is a naturally gifted artist with painting, in both oils and pastels, as well as very artistic cake decorating and playing music. The pastel work she performed on the day was outstanding, as it always is. I was only able to see the crafters set up and did not have the opportunity to see their work.

Saturday night was a camp oven and damper dinner by our hosts. We had a very enjoyable dinner which, at \$10.00 per person was a real bargain. Apart from dining, we had a most enjoyable evening socialising. It's nice to have an evening of sharing dinner and socialising with your friends.

On Sunday some were staying on, but after the meeting it was time for us to leave. I look forward to when we return to this very pleasant and tranquil place.

Wendy Gibson.

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A number of people have signed-up for

The Art of Bonsai

Michael Burdette's Kilcoy bonsai classes. The deal is for everyone to bring a pot (the one for growing things, not for smoking!). The pot needs to be roughly 100mm deep and 150mm diameter – a round or an old teapot would be ideal. If square, it needs to be approximately 150mm x 150mm or bigger. Also, bring secateurs.

Michael will buy a range of plants and the relevant soil for reimbursement at the class. The trees range in price from around \$12.00 to \$23.00. The soil will work-out at around \$5.00 each. He will confirm these prices on the day.

As it is now probably a bit late to be included in the Kilcoy Bonsai class as materials will have already been ordered, interested members are more than welcome to join the class and to observe. For more information, please contact Michael (0426 592 984 / michael@awritingnook.com.au).

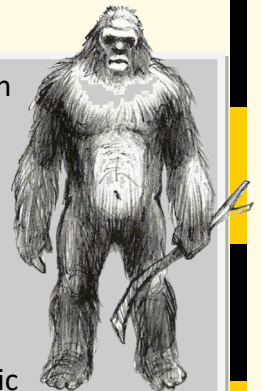
Craft Project for Kilcoy 'Thread Catcher'



Material Requirements:

- ⇒ Sewing machine with a walking foot.
- ⇒ **Main Fabrics:**
 - Qty 1 9x10 inches.
 - Qty 1 8x12 inches.
- ⇒ **Lining Fabrics:**
 - Qty 1 10x4 inches.
 - Qty 1 8x14 inches.
- ⇒ **Pellon:**
 - Qty 1 9x10 inches.

A word of caution while at Kilcoy. It's important that no food be left out at night and that your caravans are securely locked. Yowies are prolific in the Kilcoy area and have been known to break into homes and caravans and empty the fridge while inhabitants are out or sleeping. Scary stuff!



Standown Park



Kevin and Pat Gower. Recognition for 100 rallies



Carmel and Roy Bridges. Recognition for 150 rallies

With the Laidley Christmas rally function a little over a month away, those attending should have already paid, however, all is not lost if you haven't. Please see the treasurer at Kilcoy. The cost of the Christmas function to members is \$10.00 per person.



Happy Birthday to you for November 2019

02 Mary Metcalfe
 04 Ken Chapman
 05 Margaret Kays
 09 Carol Fraser
 12 Trevor Bromley

11 Jean Dale
 17 Dell McNab
 18 Geoff Gray
 20 Peter Gawen
 20 Wayne Hills

26 Margaret Hiller
 28 Stan Thomas
 30 Merv Cook



Happy Anniversary to you for November 2019

02 Fay and Ted Walker 06 Pat and Kevin Gower 14 Mary and Rodney Metcalfe
 06 Desley and Alf Hinson 12 Karon and Brian Stevens

23 Vans @ National Rally Albany Western Australia

ADAMS, Roger and Laurel.
BURT, Doug and Dorcas.
CRAWFORD, Geoff and **KING**, Margaret.
DAY, Kevin and Carol.
DONALDSON, Janelle.
EDNEY, Dennis and Heather.
FARRELL, Ian and Denise.
GAFNEY, Frank and **STEENSEN**, Mary.

HENRY, Rick and Cheryl.
HILLER, Margaret and **STEGEMAN**, Rod.
HINSON, Alf and Desley.
JUDGE, David and Helen.
KAHLER, Merc and Carolyn.
LACEY, George and Yvonne.
LILLIS, Michael.
McGOWAN, Murray and Jenni.

MUNRO, Ross and Jan.
PARK, Terry and Denise.
RIDER, John.
RUTHERFORD, Bob and Barbara.
SMITH, Tom and Jackie.
TEBBIT, Bob and Marilyn.
THORPE, Jim and Sue.

34 Vans @ Standown Park

QCC welcomed first time visitors Steve and Norelle Dunn.

BAKER, Darren.
BAKER, Gordon and Sue.
BARR, Graham and Pat.
BREARLEY, Paul and Di.
BRIDGES, Roy and Carmel.
BURDETTE, Michael and **SIFFLEET**, Lesley
BUZZA, Led and Lyn.
CADDIES, Ray and Gail.
COCHRANE, Jeff and Jean.
COXALL, Terry and **COOK**, Gabby.
DROUGHT, Michael and **REEDY**, Linda.
DUNN, Steve and Norelle.

EGEN, Ian and Gwen.
FITZGIBBON, Colin.
FRASER, Bus and Carol.
GAWEN, Peter.
GIBSON, Barry and Wendy.
GODWIN, Carl and **LOWCOCK**, Lorraine.
GOWER, Kevin and Pat.
GREEN, Rod and Bev.
HILLS, Wayne and Vicki.
HOLT, James and Minnie.
JAMES, Colin and Margaret.
LANGLEY, Steve and Robyn.

LILLY, Harold and Bev.
MACDONALD, Ray and Pam.
MATERNE, Rudi and Marianne.
McCALLUM, Keith and Bev.
McLEOD, Des and Jenny.
MIERS, John. And Jan.
NOFFKE, Owen and **KIRBY**, Jan.
ROBBINS, Yvonne.
SHEEHAN, Brian and Denise.
STEELE, Ray & Jan.
STOCKER, Eddie and Sylvia.
VAN WYK, Richard and Linda.



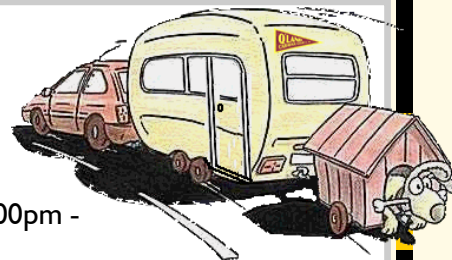
Welcome back, Jan. Great to see you following your recent illness and in the company of your many friends.



Our hard-working convenors, Ray and Gail Caddies.

A Synopsis of What's-Up-The-Road ...

- ⇒ **Kilcoy, 06-11 November** ~ Friday: 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - Cards.
Saturday: 1:30pm - Presentation from Power Solutions, 7:00pm - Dance night with a well-known DJ (surprise guest) and his vinyl records.
- ⇒ **Laidley, 04-10 December (Christmas Rally)** ~ Friday: 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - 'Carols by Caravan'.
- ⇒ Saturday: 11:00am - Members' Art Exhibition, 3:00pm - Santa Claus and Helpers, 6:30pm - Entertainment 'Stepping Stones', 7:00pm - Meal, Entertainment, Social Interaction and more.
- ⇒ **Blackbutt, 08-14 January** ~ Friday: 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - Cards.
- ⇒ Saturday: 2:00pm - 'Journey to Australia' (Ray and Gail Caddies), 4:00pm - Australia Day BBQ (\$2.00 charge??). Australian Bush Ballad Music (Barry and Wendy Gibson), 7:00pm - Quiz Night (Cheryl Henry).
- ⇒ **Crows Nest, 05-11 February** ~ Friday: 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - Cards.
Saturday: 7:00pm - Auction (Paul Brearley).
- ⇒ **Killarney, 11-17 March** ~ Friday: 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - Cards.
- ⇒ Saturday: 12:00pm - 'Scenic Tag-A-Long', 13 crossings of the Condamine River. Queen Mary Falls. Picnic lunch. 3:30pm - President's Picnic, 7:00pm - Muckers (Patrick Hetherman).





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IMPORTANT: QCC rallies span Wednesday through to Tuesday. If planning to arrive at a rally site on the first day, namely the Wednesday, please do so after 12:00 midday. This is to allow the rally marshals time to establish themselves and to set-up. Similarly, if departing on the last day of the rally, namely the Tuesday, please do so before 10:00am.

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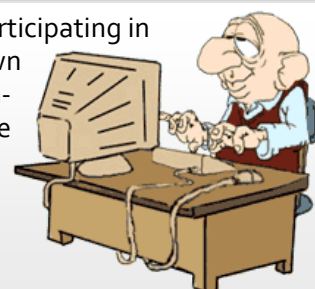


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From the Editor ... Quite a bit happening over the past month with QCC members participating in two rallies, namely the National Caravan Clubs Rally in Albany, WA, and the Standown Park Rally here in Queensland. I want to thank those who provided photos and narratives for the newsletter such as Paul, Wendy, Terry, Roy, George and Patrick. If I have missed anyone or omitted anything from the Wanderer, please forgive me. With the many photographs sent, naturally there was insufficient room in the newsletter to show them all, however, within in a few days they will all be available for viewing on the website. Lance.



Committee Contacts ...

Position	Incumbent	Phone	Email
President	Paul Brearley	0428 104 989	president@qldcaravanclub.com.au
Secretary	Heather Edney	0411 522 877	secretary@qldcaravanclub.com.au
Editor	Lance Haslewood	0414 295 888	editor@qldcaravanclub.com.au
Webmaster	Lance Haslewood	0414 295 888	webmaster@qldcaravanclub.com.au

Lucky Standown Park Raffle and Lucky Van Draw Winners ...

- 1st \$50 Coles/Meyer Gift Voucher, donated by QCC ~ Robyn Langley.
- 2nd Kitchen Art Mugs ~ Maria (park resident).
- 3rd Country Road Bowl, Mug and Runner ~ Darren Baker.
- Lucky van draw winners ~ Pam and Ray MacDonald, and Minnie and Jim Holt.

Our thanks goes to Linda Reedy and Jan Steele who were the raffle ladies for the weekend. You both did a grand job.



Margaret, Dorcas, Doug and Rod, National Rally.



Dining in Albany, WA..



Tom and Merv

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Why do I need an 'Electric Brake Controller'?

Now imagine what would happen if your trailer only had its own electric trailer brakes and did not have a brake controller system in place. Let's say you're ready to start your first camping trip with your shiny new caravan secured behind your vehicle. You drive down your driveway towards the road, brake to turn and BOOM! Your caravan may push the vehicle into a dangerous situation. Why? Because your trailer's electric brakes simply did not work. Electric trailer brakes do not activate on their own; they require a brake controller in order to do so.



It's easy to see why trailer brakes and brake controllers are a legal requirement around the world, and Australia is no exception. The relevant legislation in our country is provided by ADR38, which specify trailer brake requirements based on GTM (Gross Trailer Mass) and are legally binding in all states. Maximum GTM is supplied by the manufacturer and all trailers built since August 1989 are required to list the trailer's ATM, GTM and tare weight on their Vehicle Identification Plate (VIP). ADR identify three different trailer categories based on their GTM:

◆ **GTM less than 750kg: brakes (hence brake controllers) are not regulated.**

While the law does not explicitly state the necessity of having brakes installed on lighter trailers, and unless the trailer is way under 750kg GTM, it is still good practice to do so in order to aid your tow vehicle's brakes. To this end, you may choose to install either surge or electric brakes.

◆ **GTM between 750kg and 2,000kg: brakes are required and must operate on both wheels of at least one axle.**

We have two options here. Option one: the trailer can be equipped with mechanical or hydraulic override brakes, which do not require electricity to work and are therefore well-suited for boat trailers, which often end up in water. The drawback of this type of trailer brakes is that it is either 'on' or 'off', with no in-between possible. In this case, a brake controller is not required as they activate automatically.

Option two: equipping the trailer with electric brakes, which run on the electricity supplied by the vehicle. In this case, an electric brake controller is required. Moreover, the brake controller needs to be designed in such a way as to enable the trailer's braking force to be progressively increased and decreased, as opposed to implementing a stable braking force; this requirement entails that the brake controller must be of the proportional, or inertia-based type. Additionally, the brake control device must be controllable from the driver's seat. Proportional electric brake controllers enable more accurate and controlled braking and reduce wear of both towing vehicle and trailer brakes; while they apply the trailer brakes in proportion to the vehicle's slowing down, they are also adjustable by the driver.

◆ **GTM over 2,000kg: brakes are required and must operate on all wheels/axles.**

The law states that trailer brakes are mandatory and must be operational on all wheels; furthermore, they must be designed so that the braking force can be progressively increased and decreased and be adjustable from the driver's seat.

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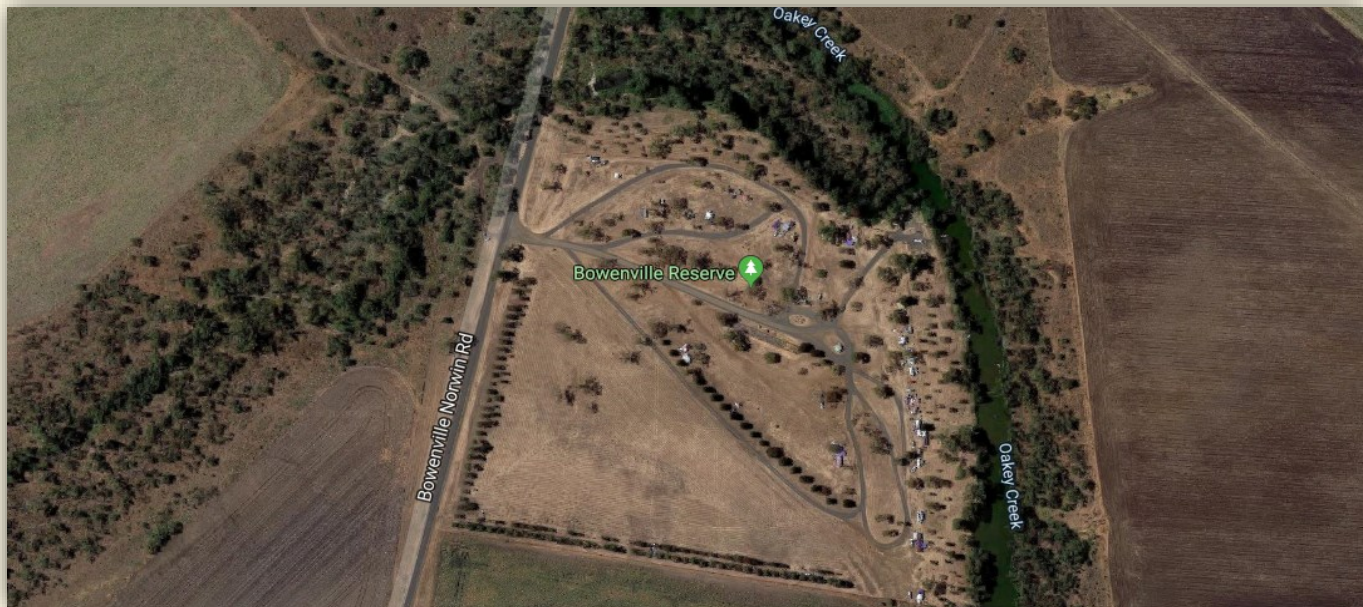
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mach1caravans@outlook.com



Freebie Site Information from Graham Sheehan

Bowenville Reserve. (Lat: 27°19'40"S Long: 151°27'17"E). Bowenville is east of Dalby and the site is 5 kilometres south of the Warrego Highway. At Bowenville, turn south onto Bowenville Norwin Road. Travel for approximately 5 kilometres then turn left into the reserve. Bucket loads of space with some alongside the creek (Oakey Creek); currently just a water hole. Toilets poor. Waste bins supplied. From the photo, you can see it can handle a very big group for a sleepover.



Sewing and craft ladies at Standown Park

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Standown Park

Paul, Steve and Gwen.



Raffle girls, Linda and Jan.



Di, Linda, Michael, Steve and Robyn.



Smiles of achievement from the art and craft students .





QCC Representatives
National Caravan Clubs Rally, Albany, WA.





Roger, Laurel, Denise, Ian, Carolyn and Merv.



Kevin, Carol, Barbara, Bob and Michael.



Yvonne and George.



Dennis and Alf.



Denise, Sue, Jim and Desley.

Caravans arrive in their hundreds for clubs rally

Sharon Smith

All roads led to Albany for hundreds of caravanners from across the country who have pulled up at Centennial Park this week for the Coromal Windsor 17th National Caravan Clubs Rally.

Caravans, some of which have been on the road for several months, started arriving on Sunday.

A community of strangers is quickly connecting over cups of tea in camp chairs at the sporting precinct-turned-caravan park.

The influx of 400 caravans is estimated to inject \$1 million into the local economy, and each visitor is given a rally book which advertises local businesses, services and a bunch of Albany performers who will take to the stage.

The rally, which happens once every three years, has also drawn tourists to the areas surrounding Albany.

Denise Park from the Queensland Caravan Club said she and five other caravanners from her club had just spent a week at Thevenet Beach.

"We have had 20 caravans from our club come over - most of us left in July and have been on the best people. They went above and beyond for us."

"We have been to the Sandalwood Factory and the Whaling Station and the camaraderie of all the travellers is fantastic."

Over the next week the visitors will have access to a range of facilities and lawn bowls. It is the first time the major national event has been hosted in WA in two decades.

Denise Park, Jim and Sue Thorpe and Desley Hinson from the Queensland Caravan Club. INSET: Eric and Margaret Welton from New South Wales. Pictures: Laurie Berson



One of the many tables of great food at Monday's wine and cheese night.



Denise and Bob showing their competitors how it's done!



Dorcias, Desley, Helen and Denise cheer-on the lads, Alf and Ian while Dennis keeps watch.



Ullo, Ullo, Ullo; a domestic!

AUSTRALIAN OFF ROAD CHAMPIONSHIP

St George Nomads News
27th October 2019

Time to update members on goings-on regarding next April's trip to St George for the Australian Off Road Championship. We have a very healthy number interested in the trip. Between 20 and 25. Fantastic! The event organisers are over the moon about that.

First the attention-getter. An early entrant to the Australian Off Road Championship Series in 2020 is none other than DAKAR Rally Champion Toby Price. No, he is not going to ride his KTM bike but will drive a Stadium truck, the most awesome 2WD beasts in off-roading. Let us hope that he survives the DAKAR in early January 2020. He will be hard to beat in such a vehicle. To meet a world champion up close and personal is a bonus.

Second good news is that the St George council has agreed to provide finance for the next three years. One can assume from that that the event will run for the next three years. Whilst that is exciting for the sport and will provide, we Nomads, with something to look forward to it does raise some questions for us and me. More on that later.

Some of the arrangements are falling into place. First, each one of us will need a UHF radio, either in car or hand held or both. There is some talk that radios will be available but do not bank on it. We need them whilst travelling to and from the event anyway. As last year, a repeater will be put in place. Anyone who is unaware of duplex operation, we have a few happy hours between now and then to work it out; it is simple.

As expected, we will need to arrive in St George ready for Friday afternoon/evening activities. I think arrive Thursday takes pressure off set-up and allows a lay-in Friday morning prior to an eventful afternoon evening. Those who have been to St George will understand the following. The road alongside the weir, St Georges Terrace, between the weir and Roe Street will be closed. Access to off-road transports and trailers only. They will be anything from 4WD and trailer to a b-double! The race machines will be off-loaded and driven to scrutineering near Barlee Street. After scrutineering, they will be lined-up, herringbone, on St Georges Terrace adjacent to Rowden Park. They will be held there for public display until after the fireworks display which will take place on private land opposite side of the Balonne River.

Access to St Georges Terrace will only be via the southern end near the weir bridge and I assume road closures will occur on the side roads. It will be very active here. After the fireworks, it is intended to drive all the race vehicles from herringbone along Grey Street, turn right into Victoria Street and convoy all the way down to the bridge whence a turn right into St Georges Terrace and re-load onto trucks and trailers. The convoy will be under police escort. That bit I have my doubts about but we will see. Undisciplined race drivers in unregistered vehicles down that wide road? Oh yeah. Anyway it will be a spectacle. More news soon, including where we will be staying.

Patrick Hetherman.

