



# Q.C.C. Wanderer

## 'Fellowship on Wheels'



**Q'LAND**  
 CARAVAN CLUB INC. •  
 Editor: Lance Haslewood



Happy New Year

**December/January Edition**  
**Laidley/Blackbutt**



Then official newsletter of the Queensland Caravan Club Inc

# Q.C.C. Wanderer

## 'Fellowship on Wheels'

Email: editor@qldcaravanclub.com.au

Issue: 12/2019

QCC - Established 1949

December/January 2019/2020

### President's Report - Laidley

**W**hat a wonderful Christmas rally at Laidley; very hot through the day but cool at night and with most members in the festive mood, it was very friendly and a lot of fun.

**Wednesday.** Di and I arrived early, our Rally marshal Dennis Edney was already set-up and he was busy going around the grounds working -out how to fit everyone in. 17 Members started arriving around midday, unfortunately, Bill Waycott had a fall and needed a ambulance. Thanks to Terry and Denise Park and others for their help we quickly got that under control.

**Thursday.** Terry and Denise Park drove to Ipswich to pick-up Bill and Denise from hospital and thanks also to Kerry and Dianne Hogan for taking Bill and their van back home to Sunnybank Hills. With the arrival of around 30 vans, our rally marshals had a very hot day in the sun (41 deg). Thanks guys. Dinner at the local pub; good size meals, good prices and service, very enjoyable and always a laugh.

**Friday.** Busy day. Some golfers leaving at 5:00am with the wakers leaving at 6:00am. Di Brearley took the sewing class; Bev Green had her card-making class; Lyn Hill with Tai Chi and Barry Lander arranged the bowls at Gatton. Richard Van Wyk organised our happy hour again and very successful. In the evening, Barry and Wendy put-on a show 'Carols by Caravan' and what a top night. It had us all singing carols and enjoying the show. Thanks for your hard work putting it all together.

**Saturday.** At our morning meeting, we had a minute silence for Olive Richardson, a life member who sadly passed away. We welcomed a new member Mary SteensOn, and good to see day visitors Ken and Dell McNab and Les and Brenda Usher. Thanks to Helen and David Judge and helpers for decorating

the hall and Santa's sleigh. It sure looked a bit like Christmas ☺. Santa arrived in his special buggy at 3:00pm in the peak of our hot temperature of 46.6 degrees with a Ho Ho Ho. He was so happy to see three of our members grandkids Melanie, Khloe and Poppy, he gave out presents, had photos taken with our members then took off back to the north pole where it was much cooler.



Christmas dinner with members decorating their tables, dinner was very nice and plenty of it dessert followed yum yum. A wonderful time to spend with friends.

Entertainers Sue and Geoff (The stepping Stones) had us up dancing to everything from line dancing, rock and roll, and waltzes what a top night.

**Sunday.** We had a total of 63 vans at the rally. Thank you, Carmel Abraham, for making our Christmas cake and for getting and wrapping the raffles prizes and thanks to Pat Barr for icing our cake and donating another cake she made to be auctioned. It raised \$40.00 for our charities. After our meeting thanks to all the help stacking the tables and chairs and cleaning the hall, we sure are a team. Some of us went to the pub for lunch getting-out of the heat and a combined happy hour in the afternoon is always relaxing.

**Monday Morning.** Doug and Dorcas Burt organised a get together breakfast before we departed. Thanks guys. So now that we have had our last rally for the year, I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year. Thank you all for your friendship and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2020. Paul.

**Next Rally ~ Blackbutt, 04-10 December.** Arrive no earlier than 12 midday, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and leave no later than 10:00am Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**From Brisbane (north):** 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, Woodford, Kilcoy, Moore and then onto Blackbutt. Continue into Blackbutt turning right at the War Memorial into Muir Street which continues into Morris street. The showground is on the right. Note: Blackbutt is approximately 23.0km west of Moore.

**From Brisbane (west):** Take the Warrego Highway towards Toowoomba and exit right onto the Brisbane Valley Highway towards Fernvale (clearly sign-posted). Continue through Fernvale, Esk, Toogoolawah and Harlin. At the T-intersection where the Brisbane Valley Highway meets the D'Aguilar Highway, turn left onto the D'Aguilar. Don't forget to 'stop' at the stop sign as this is a good revenue location for the state government. Continue on to Blackbutt as per above.

**Nearest Hospital: Nanango Hospital, 153 Brisbane Street. Phone: 07 4171 6700.**

**24 hours.**

**Nearest Doctor / Medical Centre: Blackbutt Medical Centre, 91 Coulson Street, Blackbutt. Phone: (07) 4163 0023. Open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm. Saturday 8:00am-12 Midday. Sunday closed. (present to Nanango Hospital if urgent medical attention needed or dial 000).**

**Rally Venue Address: 23 Bowman Road, Blackbutt. QLD. 4314.**

**Nearest Cross-Street: James and Miller Streets, Blackbutt.**



Club equipment required:	First aid kit, fire extinguisher, banner, flags and flagpoles.
Special needs, requirements or notifications.	<b>DUMP POINT.</b> Located at the entrance to the showground. 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:	<u>Arriving late or cannot attend!</u> Please let the rally marshal know.
Lat: 26°52'59.69"S	<b><u>Please do not drive over power leads or hoses.</u></b>
Long: 152°06'04.93"E	
Pets:	Permitted. Dogs must be on a leash. Please pick-up after your pet.
Fees:	Per van, per night: \$10.00 per person/night (powered). \$8:00 per person/night (unpowered).
	Administration fee: \$3.00.
	Hall hire: \$3.00.

**Blackbutt In Brief ....** Blackbutt is an attractive small town surrounded by native forests. Situated on the D'Aguilar Highway, at the southern entrance to the South Burnett. 'Blackbutt' is the common name for the Eucalyptus Pilularis tree, native to the area. Often referred to as the 'Timber town', Blackbutt has a strong association with the timber industry dating back to the mid-1800s when European settlers first arrived here.

European settlement in the Blackbutt area began in 1842, when the Scott family established Taromeo Station. In 1887, the Scott family ceded land to found both Blackbutt and its neighbouring town of Benarkin. Farms were established in the area and the discovery of gold in the area in the late 19th century led to population growth in the town.

The timber industry played an important role in the development of the town. The town is named after Eucalyptus Pilularis, commonly known as blackbutt, a common tree of the family 'Myrtaceae' (myrtle) native to south-eastern Australia which is one of Australia's most important hardwoods.

Blackbutt, Benarkin and the nearby town of Yarraman are often collectively referred to as the

'Timber Towns' and the terms 'Timbertown' and 'Timbertowners' feature in the name of many local businesses and a sporting teams. Blackbutt Provisional School opened on 20 January 1896 and renamed Blackbutt State School in 1909. Blackbutt Post Office opened by November 1906, however a mail receiving office had been open from 1896.

When the Blackbutt railway station was built to serve the town, it was some distance from the town, so in 1910 it was decided to name the station Benarkin instead. This in turn gave its name to the new town that formed near the railway station, Benarkin. Because of the close proximity of Blackbutt and Benarkin, they are often referred to as the twin towns of Blackbutt-Benarkin. Blackbutt was connected to the Brisbane Valley railway line in 1911. However, the line was closed in the 1980s and was converted into a rail trail. Tennis great Roy Emerson was born on a farm near Blackbutt and attended Nukku State School for his early education. The former school building now houses the Roy Emerson Museum in Blackbutt. In the 2011 census, Blackbutt had a population of 1,055 people. However the 2016 census showed the population had reduced to 836.

**Rally Program for Blackbutt ....**

Thursday 09 Jan	6:30am 1:00pm 6:30pm	Walkers. Card making with Bev Green. Pub Dinner?	
Friday 10 Jan	6:30am 07:00am 11:00am 1:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 3:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Walkers. Golf. Management Committee Meeting. Card Making with Bev Green. Sewing Class (Yvonne Robbins). Bowls (Yarraman). Tai Chi (Lyn Hill). Pub Dinner? Cards.	  
Saturday 11 Jan	6:30am 8:00am 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm	Walkers. Tai Chi (Lyn Hill). Morning Tea. Meeting followed by General Meeting. Art Classes (Michael Burdette). Journey to Australia (Gail and Ray Caddies). Australia Day BBQ and Happy Hour with Australian Bush Ballad Music (Barry and Wendy Gibson). Quiz/Trivia Night with Oz Theme (Cheryl Henry).	
Sunday 12 Jan	6:30am 8:00am 9:00am 9:30pm 2:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm	Walkers. Tai Chi (Lyn Hill). 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 Blackbutt. There is a lot to see and do in the area.

**2019/2020 QCC Rally Calendar ....**

- Jan 08-14 Blackbutt (Showground).
- Feb 05-11 Crows Nest. (Showground/Auction).
- Mar 11-17 Killarney (Showground).
- Apr 08-14 Pine Rivers (S/ground. Easter and AGM).
- Apr 29-05 May. Pittsworth (Showground).
- Jun 10-16 Samford (Showground).
- July 08-14 Kenilworth (Showground).
- Aug 05-11 Esk (Caravan Park).

- Sep 17-23 State Rally, Pittsworth (Showground).
- Oct 07-13 Nanango (Showground).
- Nov 11-17 Kyogle (Showground).
- Dec 01-08 Toogoolawah (Xmas/Showground).



Congratulations

25 Years of QCC Membership for Dell and Ken McNab



25 Years

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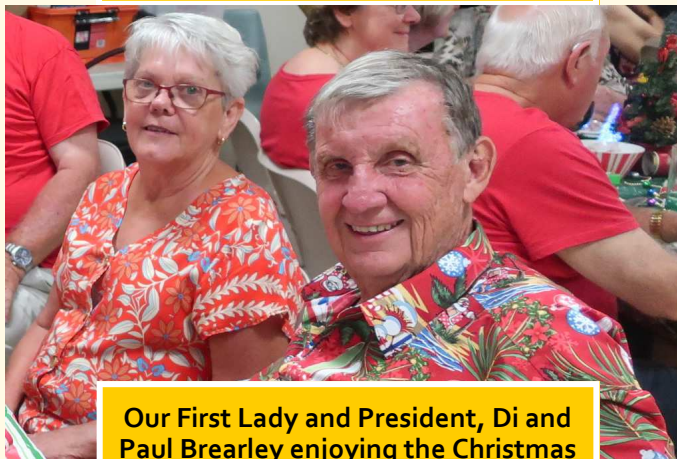
Dometic, Cruisair, Waeco, Nova Kool, U-Line and other leading manufacturers to assist each and every customer to realize the benefits of dealing with professional companies to bring their project or dream to fruition.



Congratulations to QCC's newest member, Mary Steenson. With President Paul Brearley.



Congratulations to Carmel and Beres Abraham for achieving 50 rallies. With President Paul Brearley.



Our First Lady and President, Di and Paul Brearley enjoying the Christmas festivities at Laidley.



Radiant couple, Richard and Linda Van Wyk 'getting in the groove' at Laidley.



Santa makes a grand entry ....



Poppy with Santa ....

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## Craft Project for Blackbutt 'Sewing Machine Cover'



**Material Requirements:**

- ⇒ Sewing machine with a walking foot.
  - ⇒ Main Fabrics:  
1 1/2 X 1 meters main fabric the same for a lining and wadding.
- A sewing machine with a walking foot this would be an advantage.

### 🎵🎶 *Happy Birthday to you for January 2020* 🎵🎶

- 01 Ian Egen
- 08 Rod Stregeman
- 11 Dawn Dukes
- 12 Jeanette Walker
- 13 Bill Waycott
- 13 Kevin Day
- 16 Eddie Stocker

- 17 Doug Burt
- 18 Jeff Cochrane
- 20 Owen Noffke
- 20 Linda Jones
- 20 Terry Park
- 21 Yvonne Lowrie
- 22 Bruce May

- 30 Brian Sheehan
- 31 Jean Cochrane
- 31 Cheryl Henry
- 31 Gwen Egen
- 31 Gail May
- 31 Murray McGowan

### 🎵🎶 *Happy Anniversary to you for January 2020* 🎵🎶

- 01 Olive and Noel Jones
- 02 Kathy and Bob Kearney
- 09 Jan and Ross Munro
- 10 Jenny and John Carroll

- 15 Sue and Gordon Baker
- 16 Ann and Adrian Savage
- 17 Cheryl and Rick Henry
- 21 Brenda and Les Usher

**62 Vans at Laidley ....**

- ABRAHAM**, Beres and Carmel.
- ADAMS**, Roger and Laurel.
- BARR**, Graham and Pat.
- BEKER**, Bert and Yvonne.
- BREARLEY**, Paul and Di.
- BRIDGES**, Roy and Carmel.
- BRUNO**, Paul and Marina.
- BURDETTE**, Michael and **SIFFLEET**, Lesley
- BURT**, Doug and Dorcas.
- BUZZA**, Les and Lyn.
- CADDIES**, Ray and Gail.
- CARROLL**, John and Jenny.
- CHESNEY**, Neil and Marie.
- DAY**, Kevin and Carol.
- DOBE**, Bill and Ann.
- DROUGHT**, Michael and **REEDY**, Linda.
- EDNEY**, Dennis and Heather.
- EGEN**, Ian and Gwen.
- FITZGIBBON**, Colin.
- GAFFNEY**, Frank and **STEENSEN**, Mary.

- GIBSON**, Barry and Wendy.
- GODWIN**, Carl and **LOWCOCK**, Lorraine.
- GREEN**, Rod and Bev.
- HASLEWOOD**, Lance.
- HENRY**, Rick and Cheryl.
- HETHERMAN**, Patrick and Ann.
- HILL**, Roy and Lyn.
- HINSON**, Alf and Desley.
- HOGAN**, Kerry and Dianne.
- HOLT**, James and Minnie.
- ISON**, Gordon.
- JAMES**, Colin and Margaret.
- JONES**, Noel and Olive.
- JUDGE**, David and Helen.
- KAHLER**, Merv and Carolyn.
- KAYS**, Darryl and Margaret.
- KEARNEY**, Bob and Kathy.
- LACEY**, George and Yvonne.
- LANDER**, Barry and Gail.
- LANGLEY**, Steve and Robyn.
- LILEY**, Harold and Bev.
- MACDONALD**, Ray and Pam.

- MATERNE**, Rudi and Marianne.
- MCCALLUM**, Keith and Bev.
- MCDOWALL**, Ken and Bev.
- METCALFE**, Rod and Mary.
- MIERS**, John. And Jan.
- PARK**, Terry and Denise.
- POMROY**, Tony and Lynne.
- ROBBINS**, Yvonne.
- RUTHERFORD**, Bob and Barbara.
- SHEEHAN**, Brian and Denise.
- STEELE**, Ray and Jan.
- STEPHENSON**, Tony and Sue.
- STEVENS**, Brian and Karon.
- TEBBIT**, Bob and Marilyn.
- THORPE**, Jim and Sue.
- TRULOFF**, Bruce and Chris.
- VAN WYK**, Richard and Linda.
- WALKER**, Fay and Ted.
- WAYCOTT**, Bill and Denise.
- WILSON**, Ivan and Jenny.

## Queensland Caravan Club welcomed the following @ Laidley:

**Third Time Visitor:** Mary Steenson.

**Day Visitors:** Ken and Dell McNab, Les and Brenda Usher, Colleen Medford, Judith Graham, Melanie Window, Khloe Greentree and Poppy.

**Apologies:** Gordon, Sue and Darren **BAKER**, Jeff and Jean **COCHRANE**, Geoff **CRAWFORD** and Margaret **KING**, Ian and Denise **FARRELL**, Kevin and Pat **GOWER**, Karen **HASLEWOOD**, Phil and Del **LOWE**, Trevor and Mavis **MARTIN**, Des and Jenny **McLEOD**, Jan and Ross **MUNRO**, Owen **NOFFKE** and Jan **KIRBY**, Adrian and Ann **SAVAGE**, Tom and Jacky **SMITH**, Ed and Sylvia **STOCKER**.

### Card Making



Bev Green will be holding two card-making sessions at Blackbutt; the first being on Thursday commencing at 1:00pm, and the second on Friday at 1:00pm. The Thursday session is primarily to allow the Friday sewing members to attend, while the Friday session for the general membership. Those attending or those who would like more information, are requested to text or ring Bev on 0418 881 890 prior to the rally.

The project for Blackbutt is a folding card as per the illustration at left.

**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), adhesive tape with dispenser, A4 cutting mat or similar.

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

### Laidley Golf:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kerry Hogan (36.5).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rod Green (37.25).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Van Wyk (38.5).
- Longest drive: Alf Hinson.
- Nearest to the pin: Rod Green.



Welcome new player, Ivan Wilson.

### Spending @ Laidley:

Meals:	\$6,004.00.
Fuel:	\$3,290.00.
Other:	\$5,154.00.
Site Fees:	\$4,230.00.
Total:	\$18,678.00.



Meal expenditure includes the Christmas dinner which was very scrumptious, plentiful and enjoyable. Speaking of meals, our editor was most impressed with the speedy service at the National Hotel! No two and a half hour wait like in April 2018!

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

### ⇒ **Blackbutt, 08-14 January**

- **Thursday:** 1:00pm - Card Making.
- **Friday:** 7:00am - Golf, 1:00pm - Sewing/Craft, 3:00pm - Tai Chi, 2:30pm - Bowls, 7:00pm - Cards.
- **Saturday:** 8:30pm - Tai Chi, 1:00pm - Sewing, 1:00pm - Card Marking, 2:00pm - 'Journey to Australia' (Ray and Gail Caddies), 4:00pm - Australia Day BBQ. Australian Bush Ballad Music (Barry and Wendy Gibson), 7:00pm - Trivia/Quiz Night with an Australiana Theme (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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*Laidley Santa Photos. The usual Santa photographs, which, in the past, have been available to members for a gold coin donation, will not be available this year. Those desirous in obtaining a photo of themselves with Santa, should advise the editor and he will have it printed, otherwise photos are available for downloading from either the QCC website or from Facebook.*

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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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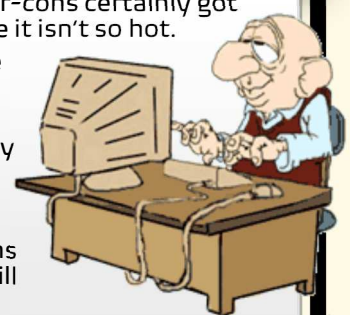
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**From the Editor...** What a great Laidley rally, and boy, wasn't it hot? Dusty, too! The air-cons certainly got a workout. Perhaps we should have the next Christmas rally in southern Tasmania were it isn't so hot. Not a great deal to report other than, with effect April 2020, no more hard copies of the QCC Wanderer mailed out. The April edition will be the last.

Wishing members, family and friends the very best for 2020 and I look forward to catching-up at Blackbutt. Blackbutt has forlorn memories for me for at the last QCC rally there in December 2017, my trusty Jeep decided to lock itself with the keys inside. "Impossible!" the gurus at Jeep informed me. "Surprise, surprise!" I told them. Not a good situation to be in as the van keys were also in the Jeep. Waited 2.5 hours for Jeep Assist to get its act together. Promised an hour. Couldn't wait any longer. Brian Stevens kindly drove me to Kilcoy where I met Karen with the spare fob. One thing is for sure; I will never get caught again!! Thank you, Brian. I still luv my Jeep!

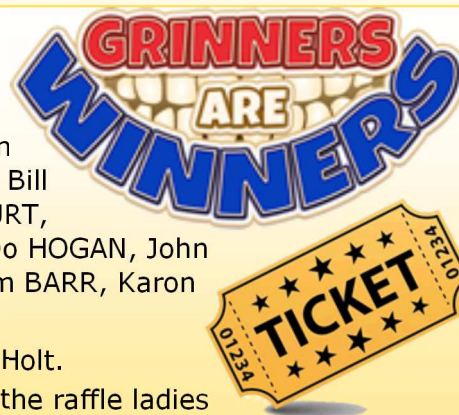


**Committee Contacts ...**

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 Charismas Raffle and Lucky Van Draw Winners ...**

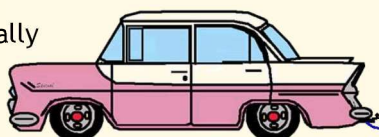
- As drawn ... Gordon ISON, Ken and Dell McNAB, Richard VAN WYK, Di BREARLEY, Neil CHESNEY, Bev GREEN, Cheryl HENRY, Harold LILEY, Richard VAN WYK, Margaret JAMES, Ann DOBE, Brenda USHER, Ian EGEN, Jan STEELE, Graham BARR, Bill DOBE, Yvonne BEKER, Margaret JAMES, Rod GREEN, Doug BURT, Olive JONES, Merc KAHLER, Di BREARLEY, Beers ABRAHAM, Do HOGAN, John CARROLL, George LACRY, Doug BURT, Yvonne BEKER, Graham BARR, Karon STEVENS, Doug BURT, Brenda USHER, Carol DAY.
- Lucky van draw winners ~ Jan and Ray Steele, Jim and Minni Holt.



Our thanks goes to Carmel Abraham and Linda Reedy who were the raffle ladies for the weekend. Superb job ladies. Takings \$574.00 (raffle) and \$16.40 (library).

**Caravan Breakaway System ....**

The brakes on your caravan and/or trailer are usually controlled by the towing vehicle, but what happens if your caravan becomes detached or the tow bar system comes away? How does the caravan stop? It is a legal requirement in all states and territories of Australia that caravans over two (2) tonnes gross trailer mass (GTM) are fitted with a caravan breakaway system.



A breakaway system is a system fitted to your trailer or caravan and in the event that the caravan or trailer detaches from the car, it will activate the electrical brakes to the runaway trailer. The aim of the device is stop your caravan or trailer thus hopefully preventing an accident, injury or death to other road users.

The breakaway system must apply the trailer brakes immediately in the event of the trailer becoming detached from the towing vehicle.

It has been noticed that many people connect the breakaway cable to the safety chain or to the safety chain attachment point on the tow bar. But what would happen if the tow bar separated from the tow vehicle? There would be nothing to pull on the break-away cable to operate the emergency brakes! Examples below of where NOT to attach the breakaway cable:



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*For the motoring buffs .... Test your motoring skill with these questions.*

Answers on Page 16 (no cheating!).

- Ques 1. Where would you find a Graviner?
- Ques 2. Zyglow is used to find what?
- Ques 3. Tribology is very important to car engines. The term relates to what?
- Ques 4. The two most common synthetic resins used in fibreglass manufacture are what?
- Ques 5. A car's centre-of-pressure is what?
- Ques 6. What aspect of a car's performance centre-of-pressure affects most?
- Ques 7. When, where and who was the first Australian convicted of speeding using a radar?
- Ques 8. A Bendix drive mechanism is used where?
- Ques 9. Where did the term 'Pole Position' derive from?
- Ques 10. What, where and when was the first Ford seen in Australia?
- Ques 11. Zone-toughening is an outdated process that was once applied to what automotive component?
- Ques 12. Which Australian car (Year, Make, Model) was first fitted with Radial Tuned Suspension?
- Ques 13. What is pinging and what may cause it?
- Ques 14. What is a Serpentine Belt?
- Ques 15. What is a Collet used for?
- Ques 16. What is a Caldwell-Vale?
- Ques 17. Where would you find a Constant Velocity Joint and what does it do?
- Ques 18. What is a Holden Ecommodore and in what year was it built?
- Ques 19. What does acronym 'NASCAR' stand for?
- Ques 20. Where in Australia is the Nar Nar Goon Racing Circuit?
- Ques 21. What a Pelican Crossing? A full definition required.





*A Glimpse of Laidley*



Master Chef, Ray Caddies.



Dennis, Poppy, Robyn, Santa, Pam and Heather.



Heather and Dennis.



Marianne and Rudi.



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# HISTORY OF CARAVANS IN AUSTRALIA

An address by Mr Neil Chesney to the CTIA of Qld Seminar '77

*This article was published in Caravan World, August 1977*

**M**AY I SAY at the outset, I don't consider myself a historian and in particular there may well be people better qualified than myself to talk to you on the history of Caravans in Australia. I am indebted to my father for the notes from which this address is compiled. My association with the Caravan industry goes back to 1948 when at the age of 12, I recall my father selling things shaped like a football and mounted on wheels.

History was a subject which I feel we all disliked at school, however, I sincerely hope this piece of history doesn't have the same effect on you.

In order to look at the history of caravans in Australia, it would be necessary to go back to about 1928. In about that year, Ron Rankin had a trailer constructed which incorporated a canopy into which was fitted a fibre mattress, and at the rear, a compartment was fitted with a primus kerosene stove. Although there are probably many cases of similar covered trailers being built at this or earlier times, it is probably of significance that this covered trailer led to Ron Rankin being the first person to realise the full potential and future of the caravan industry in Australia. From this first covered trailer which he sold and had several more improved versions built, Ron Rankin opened, in 1930, a factory at Missenden Rd., Newtown, Sydney. This factory produced two models, the most popular of which was 6ft. long and 5ft. 8 ins. wide. It was a two-berth which featured cupboards, two fibre beds, kero stove and sold for 75 pounds. The larger model was 9ft. long which featured a manual push-up roof with clip-on canvas sides which today, some 47 years later, very closely resembles the 'pop top' campers which are sold by all major manufacturers.

The 9ft. model didn't sell very well as it was considered by the public to be too big to be pulled by the average car. During this time there were several versions of camping trailers made by enthusiasts for their own private use.

Up until the start of World War II, the Australian caravan industry consisted of several small manufacturers who made different versions of camping trailers. During the war, the caravan industry was virtually non-existent and didn't really get going until after the war when material and manpower became more readily available.

Straight after the war when material was difficult to impossible to obtain, the real inventiveness of the enthusiastic Australian caravanner came to the fore. Caravans resembled anything left over from the war from packing cases to DC3 aircraft. In fact, I well remember a van built out of an aircraft fuselage towed by a prime mover on a turntable.

From 1945 to 1950 saw the start of many small caravan manufacturers in Australia. During this time, brand names started to appear and the industry was to go through a growth period which has been unequalled by any Australian



A very early motorised van. This picture was taken in 1936 before setting off on a trip to Tenant Creek.



A Proport, the first folding van/camper trailer.

industry. In 1946, Norm Clark started 'Caravan Centre' in Wellington Rd., East Brisbane, and established the name of 'Vagabond', 'Trail-lite' and 'Overniter'. Arthur Doherty established 'Trail-A-Home' at Chermide. Frank Barnett, your President, started in 1947 and established the models 'Sapphire' and 'Trekka'. Bill Drower started selling under the name of 'Litecraft'. Gordon Harris with his brand name 'Clipper' and later changed to 'Arrow' which was considered by many to be the Rolls Royce of caravans at the time.

At the end of 1947, my father Alec Chesney sold his property at Mayne to Caravan Park Pty. Ltd., which was the first branch of that company outside of Sydney. This branch which was managed by my father, brought to Queensland, the caravans which were being produced by that company in their Sydney factory. These caravans were the first factory-built vans on a major production basis in Australia.

Caravan Park Pty. Ltd., was founded by Ron Rankin (referred to as 'R.J.'). He was the father of the industry in which you all are now a part. He was a true entrepreneur and did much to establish caravans from a backyard business to an industry.

Caravan Park Pty. Ltd., (later to be known as Carapark) opened a factory in Newcastle under the direction of John Walsh. This factory manufactured such models as 'Two-lite', 'Hunter-Minor', 'Hunter-Junior', 'Hunter' and 'Liteweight'.

This factory was very modern even by today's standards and incorporated vertical wall jigs, into which the wooden frames were made and onto the frames were pressed masonite sheets using urea formaldehyde glue and hydraulic vertical presses with no nails through the masonite sheeting.

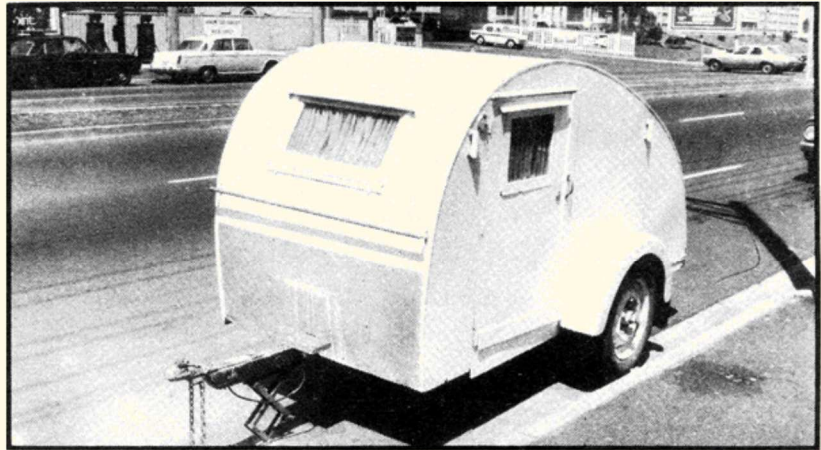
Between 1948 - 1950, names such as 'Jenneson-Pathfinder' and 'Gypsy' were established in Sydney and Victoria. 'Don' (which featured lead light windows was the leading brand. 'Furness', 'Roadmaster' and 'Globe Trotter' were setting-up in Adelaide which was to become the leading Caravan producing city by 1955.

Viscount started in Adelaide in this period and later transferred to Sydney. Franklin were already established in Ballarat soon followed by Millard in Sydney and Chesney in Brisbane.

The Chesney brand started at Chermide in 1950 and established the brand names of 'Featherweight', 'Champion', 'Country Man', 'Styeline' and 'Pacemaker'.

The site on the corner of Gympie and Rode Rd., Chermide, has from the inception of Brisbane up until today, been connected with transport and leisure industry. That site was owned prior to the Chesney family by the Plucknett family, who, for two generations, carried-out the manufacture of horse-drawn sulkies and carriages beside the main track between Brisbane and the Gympie gold fields.

In 1960, Chesney started a factory at Stafford, Brisbane, and in 1968, shifted to the present site at Lawnton. From 1958 onwards, the caravan industry went through its second major phase. By this time, Ron Rankin who had started motels in Australia as an adjunct to caravans, had already sold Carapark and Caravilla to Motels of Australia and the



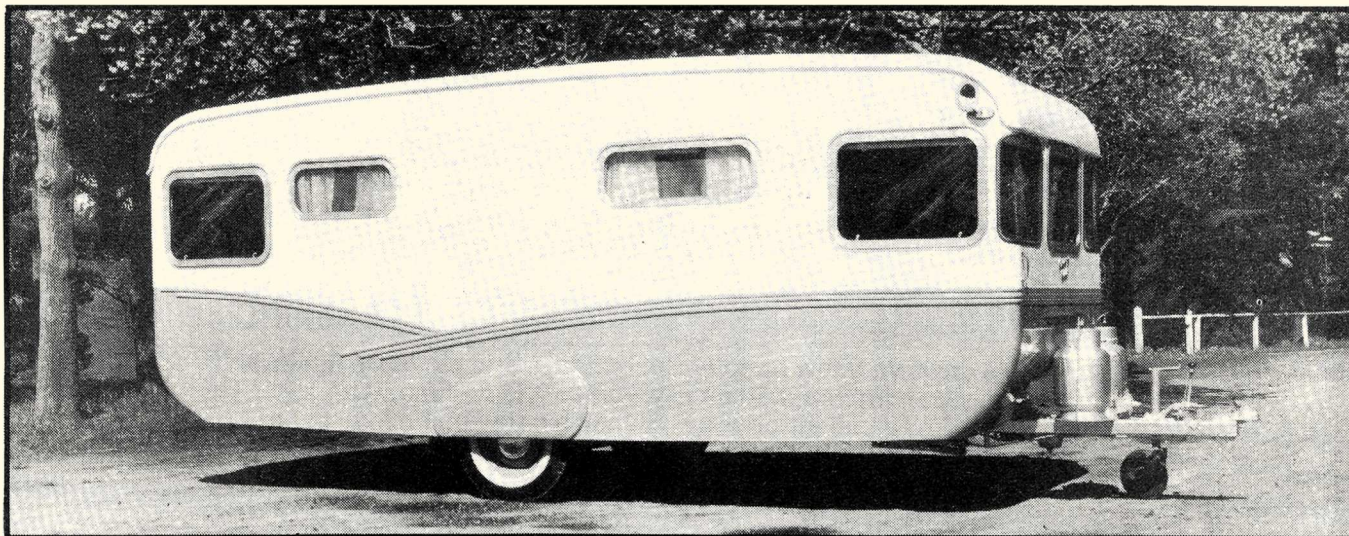
This little teardrop camper is still going strong after thirty years use. Constructed on an iron chassis with marine ply walls and solid timber framework, it has given many years of pleasure to its various owners. There is an entry door on each side of the unit.



Note the English-style gable roof, long since discontinued in Australia, that was popular at the time this early ply van was built. It would weigh as much as an eighteen footer today, since the earliest vans were built of quite heavy materials.



Invented by a Sydney resident in the Forties and patented so that no one was ever able to copy his design, this Proper plywood camper was small and easy to tow on the road and opened up to twice its towing size on site. Obviously the first of the expanding campers. Very soundly built, these units are still giving good service in many parts of Australia.



Twenty years ago this elegant Country Club caravan was the very latest word in tow-your-own holiday accommodation. It is an 18 ft. Royal model constructed in pre-moulded fibreglass, which has now declined in fashion.



Twenty five years ago Franklin was (and still is) a most important name in caravan construction. Bondwood and marine ply was the standard form of wall construction before aluminium sheeting became so popular.

manufacturing and retailing operations which were sold-off and the name Carapark was soon to vanish from the scene. However, the major brands such as Viscount, Millard, Franklin and Chesney were emerging and they were to make over 80% of the total van production in Australia by 1965.

Caravan production has steadily increased over the years and it seems as if it will continue its upwards trend in the future. From 1965 onwards, the industry settled-down to a four-way battle between Viscount, Millard, Franklin and Chesney.

Major changes in style and feature started to develop and caravans started to resemble their American counterparts more than their English cousins. Painted interiors gave way to prefinished plywoods, timber frames gave way to aluminium and plywood to acrylic aluminium exteriors.

During this period all manufacturers tried the mobile home market but each retreated with varying degrees of burnt cheque books. Today, Franklin and Chesney are subsidiary of public companies whilst Viscount is a listed public company and Millard is still family-owned. This will give some idea of the industry size today. This discussion wouldn't be complete if I omitted to mention two other

auxiliary industries. The caravan parks and caravan accessories business.

Eric Hayman was the pioneer of towbars in Australia. He joined Carapark in its early days and has remained a staunch supporter of the industry ever since. He is today President of the Caravan Trade and Industries Association (C.T.I.A.) of Victoria and President of the Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Association of Australia.

In the field of caravan parks, there would undoubtedly be volumes which could be written, however the name of Ron Rankin again emerges. He opened the first caravan park in Australia. This park differed from camping grounds which existed prior to the opening of this caravan park at Lansdowne, Sydney.

It would seem that in researching this topic, I may have had some favour for Ron Rankin. It is true that I remember him quite well even though I was in my early teens at the time, but it was his participation, foresight and flair that established him so clearly in the history of caravans in Australia. To reinforce this view, he was also the first President of the Caravan Traders Association of Australia and sponsored the first caravan clubs in New South Wales and Queensland.



Fay and Ray (poetic).



Judy Graham.



Bill Dobe dressing Bob Rutherford while Ann Dobe supervises.



Khloe and Santa.



Alf and Desley Hinson.



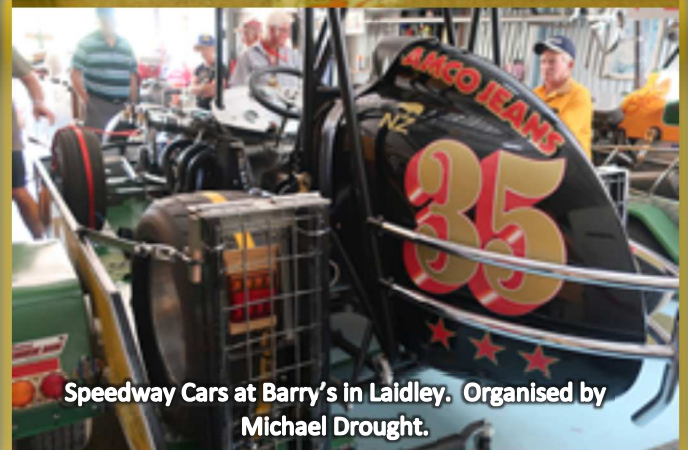
Bev McCallum and Gail Caddies @ Sewing.



Sewing Project ~ Thread Bin.



Speedway Cars at Barry's in Laidley. Organised by Michael Drought.



Speedway Cars at Barry's in Laidley. Organised by Michael Drought.



**Answers to questions on Page 10.**

- Ques 1. GRAVINER is a brand name of automatic fire-control systems fitted to race cars.
- Ques 2. Cracks in metal components like crankshafts and engine blocks, are detected by ZYGLOW dye which penetrates cracks and fluoresces under UV light.
- Ques 3. TRIBOLOGY is the science of surface interaction, and is particularly relevant to lubrication, without which your engine will die.
- Ques 4. POLYESTER and EPOXY are used in fibreglass manufacture and preparation.
- Ques 5. CENTRE-OF-PRESSURE is the point through which all aerodynamic forces can be considered to act for engineering analysis.
- Ques 6. CENTRE-OF-PRESSURE is critical to high-speed stability.
- Ques 7. The first Australian convicted of speeding using a radar in Sydney was Wallace Bruce in May 1955. He was fined seven pounds and five shillings (\$15.00).
- Ques 8. The BENDIX gear is used in a car's starter motor – it allows the starter to engage and disengage automatically from the flywheel.
- Ques 9. In the early days of GP racing, a case of POL Roger champagne was awarded to the fastest driver in qualifying. The award became known as the '**POL POSITION**', '**NOT POLE**' as it is commonly and most incorrectly referred to now-a-days. Could also be why champagne is sprayed around following trophy presentation at the conclusion of a race.
- Ques 10. The first Ford seen in Australia was a Model A in Melbourne in 1904.
- Ques 11. The ZONE-TOUGHENED windscreen. It was a toughened glass section positioned directly in front of the driver that was designed to remain clear and intact with an impact, giving the driver clear vision. Zone-toughened windscreens went out with the introduction of plastic-impregnated safety glass.
- Ques 12. The first Australian car fitted with RADIAL-TUNED SUSPENSION was the 1976, LX Torana Sunbird. 'When You're Hot, You're Hot!'
- Ques 13. PINGING is a mild, but audible form of detonation. Can result from unsuitable fuel, fuel mixture, or incorrect ignition timing.
- Ques 14. A SERPENTINE BELT is a driving belt which follows a circuitous path by driving a number of accessories or ancillaries such as air-con, alternator, water pump, power steering, crankcase ventilation, via several different pulleys. The VN Commodore was the first Australian manufactured car to use a serpentine belt. And they were as expensive as hell to replace at the time.
- Ques 15. A COLLET is a tapered sleeve used to secure one component to another, ie, securing the valve stem to the tensioned valve spring.
- Ques 16. The CALDWELL-VALE is an Australian-made touring car; the first four-wheel drive car in the world. Made in 1907.
- Ques 17. A CONSTANT VELOCITY JOINT has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with smoking pot, but is a type of universal joint used in a vehicle. The CV joint allows one shaft to drive another without fluctuations in speed.
- Ques 18. The HOLDEN ECOMMODORE was a Holden hybrid-electric concept car built and designed in 2000 by the Australian Automotive Technology Centre of the CSIRO.
- Ques 19. 'NASCAR' stands for the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing.
- Ques 20. The NAR NAR GOON RACING CIRCUIT is situated at Pakenham, West Gippsland, Victoria.
- Ques 21. A PELICAN CROSSING is a road safety crossing whose name is derived from the initials of Pedestrian Light Control. Introduced during the mid-1980s to Australia, pelican crossings differ from other pedestrian crossings. A pedestrian may use the crossing when the symbol (illuminated stationary green man) is displayed, but a motorist may proceed cautiously through the crossing when the traffic light is flashing amber.