

*Q.C.C. Wanderer*

*'Fellowship on Wheels'*

**Happy  
71st  
Birthday  
Queensland  
Caravan  
Club**



**April / May Edition**



Then official newsletter of the Queensland Caravan Club Inc

# Q.C.C. Wanderer

## 'Fellowship on Wheels'

Email: editor@qldcaravanclub.com.au

Issue: 04/2020

QCC - Established 1949

April / May 2020

### President's Report - April/May

**W**hat a bonza rally at Pine Rivers but there was something obviously missing, yes .... Us! Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we had to cancel this rally. It was such a disappointment as there were so many things planned four-day holiday event such as the singles disc bowls championship, which is always a popular event; golf and I am getting better; bowls just up the road at Lawnton; there was an electrician organised to test and tag our leads; a special coffee treat with Ezicaf Solutions, and hot-cross buns. In addition, our teaching classes, namely pastel drawings, sewing, craft, art and Tai Chi. Many of our members will be hoping to get back to their classes and their teachers soon.

The Cabooture Community Choir were attending to perform for us, and the highlight was to be our Variety Night Concert with many members to debut their talents on stage. Well guys, keep up the practice as it will be brilliant when we do have the concert sometime in the near future. There was to be an Easter egg hunt and Saturday night entertainment in the form of Letterbox.

Of course, one very important activity was our AGM where you would have had a chance to get rid of me once-and-for-all! 🙌 Never mind, we will have the AGM as soon as we can.

We sadly lost one of our treasured members, Gus Fraser, who had almost 25 years with the Queensland Caravan Club. The Club sends its sympathy and thoughts to Carol and family. There are also two members who lost their mums; Dennis Edney and Denise Park. Our thoughts are with you all.

At this stage it may be October before we can have another rally. Hopefully it may be sooner, but the main thing is that we all stay safe look after each other and keep in contact.

I would like to suggest all members who can connect to QCC Facebook Group that they do so regularly to see postings and stories from other members. Also please feel-free to post something yourself.

Lance Haslewood will be producing the Wanderer every month and he would appreciate you sending him anything of interest for inclusion. This may be something like where you had your best holiday, or the funniest, most interesting, or disastrous occurrence. Try to include a photo showing yourself and van to include in the Wanderer also what you are

doing at home during this virus lock-down. I know I have been working my butt off cleaning-out sheds and getting the yard into order; any photos will help.

All members can expect a phone call from a committee member once a month to keep the contact going and anyone is free to phone or email me if you have any questions or queries that I can help you with. Your committee are all working very hard trying to come-up with new ways to keep everything going and helping all members to keep being part of the club in these hard and difficult times, so if any members have ideas on how or what we can do to keep ourselves occupied and involved in the club, please send your suggestions in to myself or Heather Edney.

Just a couple of jokes: 🤪

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
  - I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
  - I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
  - Home-schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
  - My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
  - Day 5 of home-schooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
  - I'm so excited .... it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
  - Day 6 of home-schooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.
  - Better six feet apart than six feet under!
- Keep safe! President Paul.





## Firstly, It's QCC's Birthday

This month, May 2020, is the Queensland Caravan Club Inc's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. 2020 is the first year QCC's birthday cannot be celebrated at a rally, thanks to the arrival of our special friend COVID-19.

This is the first time that a rally has been cancelled due to a pandemic and so I thought "Let's have a look at the first times of QCC over the years."

Of course, I'll have to begin when the club was first formed. The first rally did not just happen – it was planned. A number of people with a common interest in caravanning, some in the industry and some private builders, had been talking about forming a caravan club. The first formal meeting, however, was called by Alex Chesney (Neil Chesney's Dad) early in 1949. This meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, Edward Street Brisbane.

The first Committee, 1949 to 1950, was Sam Emmett (President), Eric Neville (Secretary), Arthur Doherty (Treasurer), Alex Chesney (Vice President), Les Laurence (Vice President), Mr A Flack (Assistant Treasurer), Miss M Flack (Assistant Secretary), Norm Clarke (Committee), Mr E Epps (Committee), Mr G Harris (Committee), Mr N McNamee (Committee), Mr Jones (Liaison Officer), Mr Eton (Publicity Officer) and Mr Irons (Auditor).

Not long before this club was formed, the first caravan club in Australia was formed in New South Wales, the Caravan Club of Australia – so, we missed out on being the first caravan club in Australia. And the first name of the new Queensland club was the Caravan Club of Australia - Brisbane Branch. In the 1950s, this name was changed to the Queensland Caravan Club.

The first committee meeting of the Caravan Club of Australia - Brisbane Branch was held at Eric Neville's office in Queen Street above what at the time was Barnes Auto.

The next first we will look at is, of course, the club's first rally, which was over the King's Birthday weekend of 14 to 16 May 1949 on the foreshore of Deception Bay. They met outside the Chermshire State School, from which they had a police escort to Deception Bay. What an amazing sight it would have been – twenty caravans in convoy through Brisbane, led by a police escort.

When they first started, state rallies were called 'Combined Rallies'. The first time a combined rally was held, QCC joined with the Chesney Club at Kingscliff on 14 to 16 June 1975. These combined/state rallies had been run annually for many years in September or October. The first time an annual rally was missed was in 2013, and that was because CCQ was busy running the national rally at Rockhampton that year. However, 2020 is the first year that an 'annual' state rally had been missed two years in a row, in 2019 because of the national rally at Albany in Western Australia, and this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first national rally was held over the 1971-72 new year at Mildura in Victoria, with some 250 caravans in attendance from around Australia. At this rally, the winner of the Miss National Caravan Rally quest was Marilyn Bow from the Queensland Caravan Club. Can you imagine a beauty contest being held now?



The first time a national rally was held in Queensland was over the 1980-81 new year at Nambour. QCC had 26 caravans in attendance. As happens in Queensland at that time of the year, the skies opened up with flooding rains, and the rally ended up very soggy indeed.

The national rallies were held every three years over the new year period. For some years, a number of clubs, including QCC, lobbied to have the time of year amended so that the host state could choose the most appropriate time of year to hold the rally. At that stage, Queensland had hosted only two national rallies, at Nambour in 1980-81 and Cleveland in 1998-99, both of which were flooded out. Finally sense prevailed, and Queensland was the first host state permitted to choose when the national rally would be held. Thus, a very successful (hot but dry) 15<sup>th</sup> national rally was held at Rockhampton in September/October 2013.

When QCC first reached 'adulthood' (you had to be 21 to be an adult back then), QCC held a 21<sup>st</sup> (i.e., twenty-first) birthday party on 16 and 17 May 1970 at the Beenleigh Showground, the venue of many previous birthday rallies. There were 38 caravans in attendance, plus eleven visitors.



Attendees were provided with a catered three-course meal 'fit for a King' (as reported in *'The Wanderer'*) at no charge to members. Visitors had to pay the princely sum of \$2.00 per head for their meal. These days you would be lucky to buy an empty plate for \$2.00!

Mrs Austin was chosen to cut QCC's birthday cake. Mrs M Mackie, whose husband was instrumental in the club's formation, gave a talk about the club's early days. A letter from Sam Emmett, QCC's first President, was read out, and a pennant from the Caravan Club of Australia, as a gesture for the birthday, was handed over.

ed over.

A 21<sup>st</sup> birthday card (right) was signed by all attenders at the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party.

In June 1962, Mervyn Lather, QCC's new Editor and Publicity Officer (as the role was then), rolled out the first edition of *The Wanderer*, as it was first named. In those early days *The Wanderer* was created with stencilling, a long and messy process. Barbara Rutherford has delightful memories of being involved in this in the '80s. It is also interesting to mention that Mervyn Lather and family also attended QCC's first rally in 1949 at Deception Bay. From the Committee minutes 2 May 1962, "It was suggested by the President that a booklet be printed containing locations of future rallies together with suitable advertisements for covering cost of printing same." And so it was then that the idea of a bulletin was first mooted. From the Committee meeting minutes of 21 May 1962, it was agreed that the final decision be held over for a Special General Meeting in July 1962, at which members agreed to the publication and costs of *The Wanderer* – however the first edition I have is dated June 1962. Hmm. I guess we'll never have the answer to that one, but who cares anyhow?

The name of the publication was changed to *QCC Wanderer* at a general Meeting on 9 November 2013. May *QCC Wanderer* live on!

In June 1984, Howard Rose had volunteered to act as Rally Host on a trial basis at the next rally at Hillview Hall. It must have been a success because the role still exists, and the 'Rally Host' is now called a 'Rally Marshal'.

In 1986, the Queensland Caravan Club was





first incorporated, thanks to the good work of Ron Cuthbert (president at the time), thus becoming the Queensland Caravan Club Incorporated. Although QCC had a Constitution for many years, the first Rules from incorporation were approved on 16 September 1986.

In the 2000-2001 club year QCC had its first (and only) lady President, Jackie Smith.

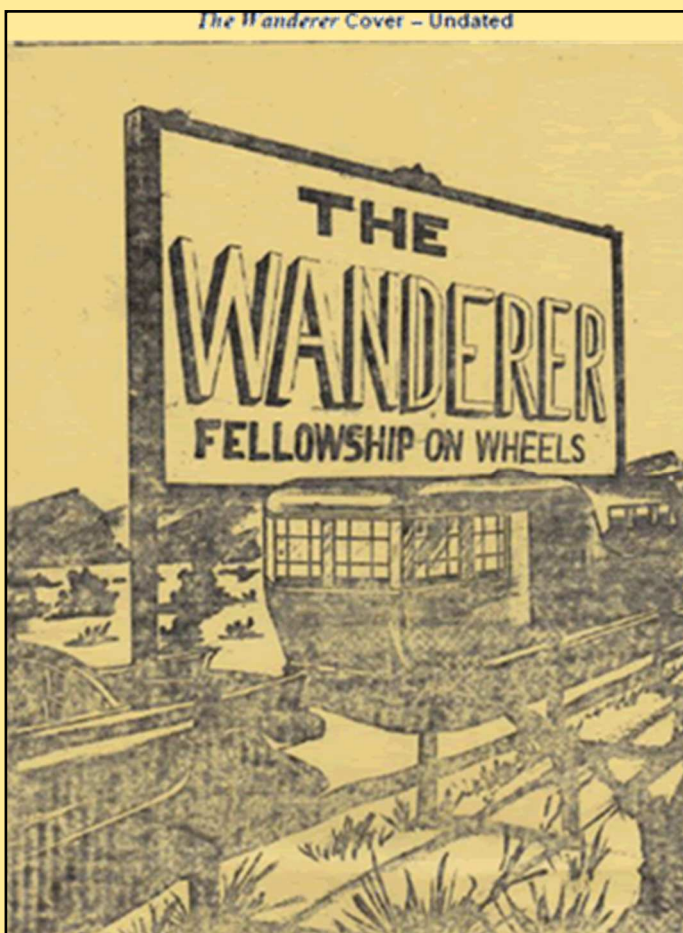
In 2020 was are getting plenty of firsts, being in unchartered waters, but these firsts we can do without!

Although we can't share this 71<sup>st</sup> birthday together at a rally, let's raise a glass (whether you drink wine, beer, water, soft drink, coffee, tea, herbal tea, juice, cordial or whatever) to the Queensland Caravan Club for its 71<sup>st</sup> birthday, as well as to its past, present and future members. Cheers!

And may we all survive COVID-19 and celebrate QCC's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday together at a rally in May 2021.

Wendy Gibson  
QCC's Archivist.

ooOoo



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Happy Birthday to You for May 2020

01 Roy Hill	11 Bindra Luscombe	23 Janet Green
01 Rodney Metcalfe	13 Les Usher	25 Rod Green
04 Dianne Hogan	18 Ann Hetherman	27 Peggy Finlayson
05 Lesley Siffleet	19 Tony Swift	27 Harold Liley
05 Mary Steenson	21 Carmel Bridges	28 Ken Cragg
07 Marie Chesney	21 Mary Ditton	31 Phil Lowe
07 Ann Savage	21 Rudi Matern	31 Yvonne Lacey
07 Marilyn Tebbit	21 Ted Walker	
11 Bev Liley	23 Jill Boyle	

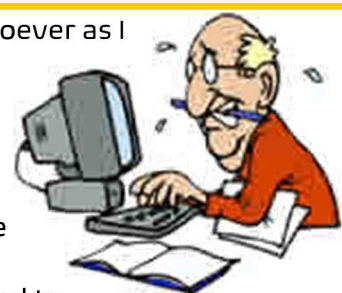


Happy Anniversary to You for May 2020

01 Judith and Shane Graham	14 Chris and Bruce Truloff
05 Dell and Geoff Gray	16 Denise and Brian Sheehan
06 Yvonne and Bert Beker	17 Marilyn and Bob Tebbit
12 Heather and Dennis Edney	24 Lyn and Ken Cragg
14 Shirley and Greg Sneddon	24 Janet and Col Green



**From the Editor.** The virus shut-down has made no difference to me whatsoever as I always have plenty to do. Just another day in my office in downtown Delaneys Creek. I envisaged that with no rallies to report on, this 'nil rally' QCC Wanderer would be a breeze and would take a short while to put together. But not so. Still takes a bit of time! With no rallies happening, it gives me a little more flexibility as there are no set timeframes or deadlines to meet, however, I aim to get the Wanderer out within the first week of the month, or close to it.



I want to take this opportunity to thank those few members who contributed to this month's newsletter, namely Paul and Di Brearley, Wendy and Barry Gibson, Rodney Metcalfe, Keith McCallum, and of course, myself. Sadly, I cannot identify one contributor, for if I do, it will take away the impact of the 'Who Am I' article.

Should anyone choose to contribute to next month's QCC Wanderer (I remain forever hopeful!), I would appreciate the submission, if in text, to be editable or in PDF. *Lance*

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**Member Profile ~ Di and Paul Brearley ....**

**I** was born in Orange, New South Wales, where my parents had a small farm. I can still remember climbing out of the window to shovel the snow away from the door so it could be opened.

Later, we moved to Palmwoods, Queensland, where my parents bought a farm, but sold it after only one year and moved to Clayfield in Brisbane.

Dad had a job with the Postmaster Generals Department. I went to school at St Columban's Collage in Albion but left when I was 14 to take-up an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker. Later I went into sales where I stayed in for most of my working life. I had 40 years selling and designing pumping systems where I got my nick name 'Pumping Paul'.

My teenage years were spent having loads of fun and hanging-out around the Hendra area as a lot of my friends were involved in the horse racing industry. This is where I met this lovely girl Diane Lowrie who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with if I could win her over. Di fell for my charms or was that the other way around?

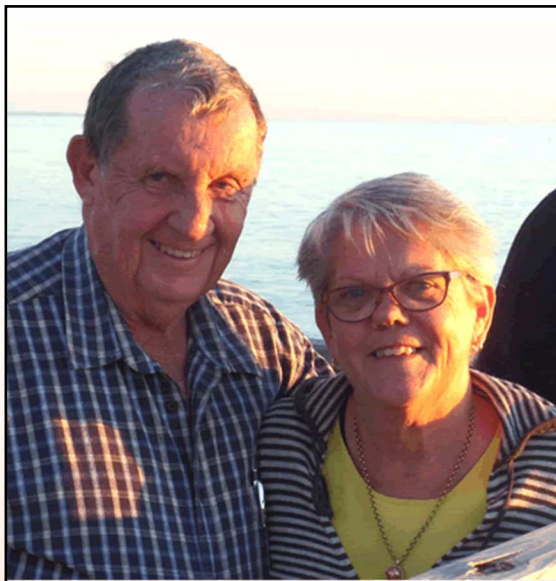
Di was born in Bundaberg but lived for some time in Mt Isa and also Mareeba before her family settled in Hendra. Di's father and brother were both jockeys. Di was in the fashion business (opposites attract) and stayed in that field working and managing fashion dress shops for over 40 years.

We were married in 1971 and we lived in a new Chesney caravan, which we purchased new, at Aspley. Three years later we had our first daughter, Toni, and we soon realised we needed more space, so purchased our first house in Lawnton. In 1978, our second daughter, Kelly-Marie, arrived and the following year our family was complete with the arrival of our son, Paul.

My work as the North Queensland area manager meant we had to move to Townsville and then then Cairns where the children finished most of their schooling. We loved our time in North Queensland and still have a lot of special and wonderful friends there. Di did a lot of trips out snorkelling on the reef and I did some serious fishing. We also had friends with a holiday property at Cow Bay (over the Daintree River) where we spent many happy times.

A promotion to Australia Sales Manager meant a move to Albany Creek. The position was enjoyable but demanding time-wise. I spent two successful years before deciding to spend more time with my family so I reverted back to my old job but stayed in Albany Creek.

The kids grew-up and married and gave us six wonderful grandchildren; they are all so special.



We joined the Queensland Caravan club in 2005 with a small pop-top van to see if we would like the club as our friends Graham and Dawn Dukes had joined and Di's brother and Sister in law Des and Yvonne Lowrie were going to join. Joining was one of the best things we have ever done and I still remember Carol Day making us so welcome as did all of the club (they should have got to know me first). Soon after, we purchased a new bigger van and moved to a bigger property at Elimbah.

We have learnt so much and now are blessed to have made so many good friends in the club.

Retirement came after being employed for 53 years and this (retirement) has allowed us to arrive earlier and leave later from rallies. This has



made the club rallies so much more enjoyable and we look forward to having many more years enjoying and helping this fabulous Queensland Caravan Club.

*Paul and Di Brearley.*



### Sunshine Column

To those who have endured the loss of a dear one, ill health, hospitalisation, surgery or misfortune; the very best wishes to you all. We are thinking of you.



‘Denise and Terry Park  
Graham Barr.’  
Apologies to anyone overlooked.



### WHO AM I?

Can you identify this QCC member?

I am three-score years old plus 10.

Listed below are the vehicles which I have owned:

- 3 Holdens.
  - 1 Bedford truck.
  - 1 International truck.
  - 2 Ford Cortinas.
  - 2 Ford Falcons.
  - 1 Toyota Corona. (no virus in this one!)
  - 1 Toyota Camrys.
  - 1 Toyota Corolla.
  - 2 Toyota Hilux ute's.
  - 1 Mazda truck.
  - 1 Mitsubishi four-wheel drive.
  - 2 Nissan four-wheel drives.
  - 3 Toyota four-wheel drives.
  - 3 Boats of various descriptions.
- Answer will be published in the May edition of the QCC Wanderer.

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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 <a href="#">Committee Contacts ...</a>		webmaster@qldcaravanclub.com.au

**Did You Know ....** \*It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather to make a year's supply of footballs.  
 \*The aircraft in which Buddy Holly perished was a Beechcraft Bonanza named 'American Pie'. Thus the name of the Don McLean song.  
 \* 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321. \* The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's chewing gum.

**What Is Your Ideal Caravan?**

What does a caravan club member do when caravanning and monthly rallies suddenly come to a sudden halt? Why don't we all give consideration to the design of the perfect caravan for a club member.

I always remember when I was getting a plant trailer manufactured in a previous life and I told the maker I wanted the trailer to be light weight and bullet proof. His advice was to make-up your mind 'light weight and frail' or 'bullet proof and heavy'. Most of us settle somewhere in between.

I believe the ideal caravan is about 6m (20 ft) with a shower and toilet, full-height and tandem suspension.

Let's start:

- Is the towball coupling adequate although it has height limitations under ADR rules or is the Vehicle Components Hitchmaster DO35/DO45 or other types of articulated hitches a better option especially for 4x4 tow vehicles and high riding off road caravans?
- Chassis: Is the steel chassis still, or are aluminium or other options, better?
- What is the ideal length?
- Pop-top or full-height, shower and toilet or not?
- Which suspension is best, leaf springs and solid axles or coil springs and independent suspension and shock absorbers?
- Brakes: Are the old electric brakes with magnets and brake shoes suitable or should disc brakes be used?
- Tyres: Do we need large mud type 4x4 tyres or are passenger-type tyres adequate?
- Construction: Is the old style of build timber frame and ribbed aluminium sheeting for walls suitable or is fibreglass or smooth aluminium composite construction superior.
- Fridge: Is the old style element fridge adequate or are modern 12v compressor fridges a better option?
- Air Conditioning: Is it necessary or luxury?
- Microwave Oven: Yes or no?
- Generator: Do we need to carry a generator?
- Solar Panels: Are they necessary?
- Battery: Single or multiple, AGM or lithium?
- Bed: Two singles or a double?
- Slide-Out: Gives more room in a van but is the added weight necessary?



These are only a few suggestions, members why not put pen to paper and send them to Lance with your layout design for publication in the 'QCC Wanderer' for the consideration of all members.



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Aug 05-11 Esk (Caravan Park). Members are required to book. \$39.00 deposit.  
 Sep 17-23 State Rally, Pittsworth (Showground)  
 Oct 07-13 Nanango (Showground)  
 Nov 11-17 Kogin (Showground).  
 Dec 01-08 Toogoolawah (Xmas/Showground).

2020 QCC Rally Calendar ....  
 Apr 08-14 Pine Rivers (Enderby Club). SM followed by AGM.  
 Apr 29-05 May. Pittsworth (Showground).  
 Jun 10-16 Samford (Showground).  
 July 08-14 Kenilworth (Showground).

**ALL QCC RALLIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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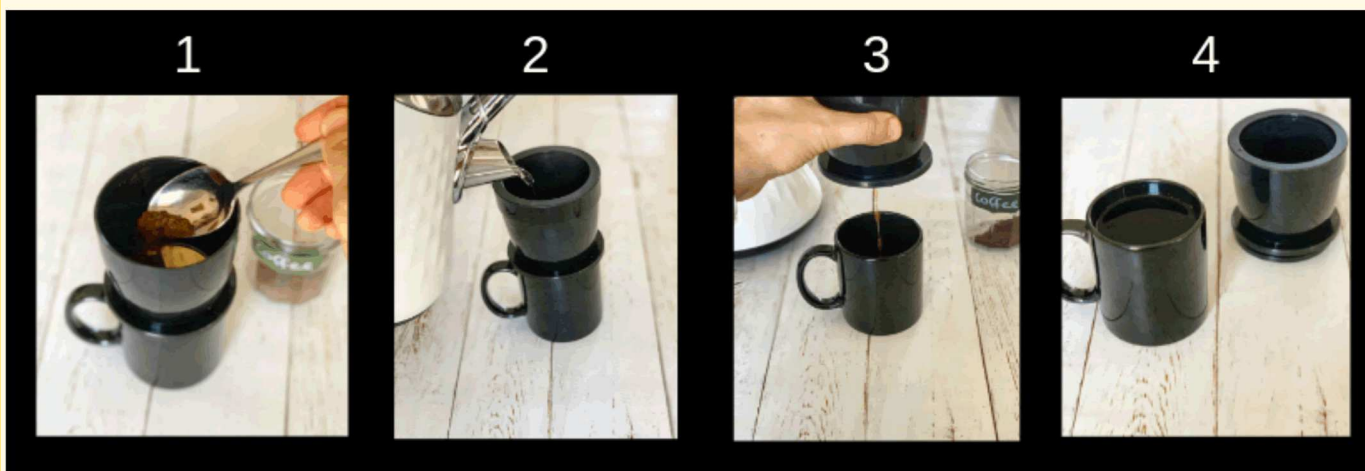
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**Forwarded by Rodney Metcalfe ....**

Some famous speeches by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Inauguration Address.

This address was given by the newly elected President on his inauguration day, 20<sup>th</sup> January 1961, after administration of the oath of office by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Earl Warren.

Personally, I find the whole speech is inspirational, however have included what I consider most relevant. **The thesis statement of the speech was a call to action by the public to do what is right for the greater good.**

"We do not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been handed to a new generation of Americans born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by

a hard and bitter peace – proud of our ancient heritage – and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."



- "We dare not tempt other nations with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed."

- "So let us begin anew – remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."

- "Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let





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from previous page .... us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths and encourage the arts and commerce."

- "Now the trumpet summons us again – not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need – not as a call to battle, though embattled we are – but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, 'rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation' - a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself."

- "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility – I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion we bring to this endeavour will light our country and all who serve it – and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

The 'Moon Speech' by President John F Kennedy at Rice University on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1962.

President Kennedy gave an impassioned speech **defending the country's decision to devote resources towards a Moon mission.**

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade, and do the other things, not because they are easy but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone and one we intend to win".

Photographs of members may appear in the QCC Wanderer, its website or on its Facebook Group. Should a member not wish for this to occur, then the member should inform, in writing, the Secretary and the photographer. Whilst all care will be taken to comply with a member's request, no guarantee may be given that his/her photograph will not appear. Any such appearance will be totally unintentional.

## DRIVING ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDES OF THE ROAD - WHY?

*From the February 1989 Edition of the Wanderer*

**I**n the early days, traffic was sporadic. Roads, if they existed at all, were narrow and a single lane for both directions of travel. No one had to worry about colliding with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. Passing was achieved by one vehicle moving off the road. Once traffic increased, moving continuously in both directions to avoid accidents, the obvious thing to do was to widen the roads and legislate to keep traffic to one definite side of the road for each direction.

It is intriguing that to this day, countries are divided into two driving groups; left and right.



This choice does not reflect the policies of a nation at the time, but was the result of many factors; the easy way out, practical considerations, national and religious categories, war or just plain logic.

**THE LEFT.** England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Thailand follow regulations, that when made in England, made good sense, although their reason has long since become redundant. It goes back

to the days when the horse dominated the road. For thousands of years, the horse was the only means of transport. Riders from all over the world mount a horse from the left. It's a natural way for a right-handed person to grasp its mane and reins with the left hand and swing the right leg across. This was the first step along the road. It was inevitable that by mounting a horse from the left side, the rider would keep to that side of the road. Accordingly, special mounting posts provided for riders on early English roads were always on the left.

The introduction of the coach did not change matters, just reinforced the rule of the left. At times, horses needed prodding to work harder and to go faster. Riders needed ample room to use a whip. Heavy transports and coaches needed a team of horses to pull them, therefore to reach the horses, a very long whip was used requiring a lot of freedom with the natural right hand.

Both town and rural travel reinforced driving on the left. If coaches had been driving on the right, the walls of the buildings in the very narrow streets would have impeded the use of the whip, and worse still, they would likely have hit the pedestrians on that side of the street. On country lanes, the whip would have caught in the bushes and trees if the coach kept to the right.

Left side travel was the logical choice, and was the universal custom for a long time. The earliest know regulation to keep left was issued in 1756 for vehicles crossing London Bridge. Scotland was the first country to make left-hand travel a national law (1772). England and Wales followed in 1815.

**THE RIGHT.** There were several reasons why this practical rule was altered, leading to the present world

confusion. One was warfare. Traditionally, a battle was started by an attack on the enemy from the left. So, the troops advanced along the left of the road. Napoleon foresaw that an enemy trained this way would be surprised by an attack from the right. Unable to quickly switch, the enemy would be at a great disadvantage. His new strategy meant that his army would travel on the right side of a road. Napoleon carried his new 'Order of March' wherever he went in conquest in Europe. Inevitably, all other traffic had to adjust itself to his way. This explanation is supported by the fact that two countries Napoleon did not reach; Britain and Sweden; kept to the left. (Sweden changed to the right in 1967.)

Religious antagonism contributed also. For centuries, Papal authority regulated daily life over a vast area of Catholic Europe. Road safety was part of the Pole's concern. He made it mandatory to move along the left side of the road. Robespierre, the French revolutionary, was determined to break the power of Rome, and for no other reason than to be contrary and to show his contempt, reversed then order of things. He abolished the Papal law and made the French change sides of the road. Later, with Robespierre gone, French traffic continued to move in the new direction and became state law in 1835.

When it became fashionable to copy all that was French, many countries adopted the French road rule. The Americans chose the right, not in defiance of being a former British colony, or because of French fashion, but due to the postilion in charge of large teams of horses hauling heavy transport. To have maximum control, and being right-handed, he was mounted on the left rear horse. Thus mounted, his left leg was

outside the line of the team, easier to be caught on a tree or hedge, or even worse, crushed against a wall on the left of the road. (Footpaths did not exist at that time). So, for the protection of the postilion, traffic in America kept right.



**Addendum:** As mentioned above, Sweden originally had its traffic drive on the left-hand side of the road, but decided to switch. Why? Probably to align with the rest of Europe, however, cars in Sweden typically had the steering wheel on the left, leading to many accidents, especially on narrow roads.

The switch happened at 5:00am on Sunday 03 September 1967, and as you might imagine, and despite many months of advertising and training, it was anything but easy. Utter chaos with vehicles going in all directions. Time Magazine reported it a "brief but monumental" traffic jam.

Known as 'Dagen H Day' – Dagen means 'day,' and the 'H' stands for 'Högertrafik,' the Swedish word for 'right-hand'.



## Long-term Caravan / Motorhome Storage Tips

*A few simple measures will ensure your caravan or motorhome is ready to go when the travelling bans lift*

1. Getting Under Cover. Storing a van undercover away from direct sunlight is perfect. A carport and cover is good, followed by just a cover. A cover under a carport is better. Under trees for shade is a no-no; falling limbs, sap and bird poo are bad! Keep your caravan out of the weather. Nothing dampens the mood like a dirty, wet caravan!



2. Raising the Bar. Many vans are stored outside in the weather because there is no way they can fit in a garage or carport. Others are stored in secure yards but still exposed to the elements. The elements simply destroy anything rubber; even tyres can get damaged from the sun's rays. Park on level ground. Keeping your caravan level will mean that everything will stay put and steady where you expect it to be.



3. Fridge Follies. Once back from any trip, the fridge should be emptied and cleaned with the door left open to prevent mould and nasty smells. There's nothing worse than opening the fridge to find it full of furry friends before touring.

4. Gaseous Extremes. Turn-off the gas at the bottle and burn-off any gas in the lines. Do not undo any lines or leave them open as they make good bug homes. Cover the gas bottles and lines from direct sunlight.



5. Venting for Air. Always leave a vent or two open to prevent mould and smells inside the van. All vans should be opened and aired regularly during storage. Be careful that inclement weather can't get inside the van.

6. Dunny Dangers. After every trip, the toilet and toilet cartridge should be emptied and cleaned. This crappy job is critical to prevent disease, smells and a nasty experience far worse than the furry friends you could find in the fridge.

7. Water Tanks. Water tanks and lines should be either emptied or full. If full, add a preservative. If emptied, drain and vent from the inside of the van not underneath where bugs can get into the lines. Flush tanks before any trip and there are ways to purify the water if smells occur.



8. Grey Water Tanks. Empty and flush.

9. Electrical Connections. External electrical connections should be covered and dry before storage. Batteries can be disconnected or a charger or battery minder used to maintain their charge.

10. Suspension. Some prefer to lift their van to remove the weight from the suspension and the wheel bearings. Only advisable if the van is on a level and secure surface such as a concrete hardstand and you have the proper equipment.

11. The Big Clean. Before storing any van it should be cleaned to within an inch of its life. A good wax or polish should be used to protect the paint. Ensure the van is dry inside and out before packing it up.



12. Insurance to Stay. Talk to your insurance agent to ensure your van is covered for damage while being stored at home, in a storage yard or even at a caravan park or friend's place. Remember, insurance is one of the best ways to protect your investment all year round!



# Reflections ~ Pine Rivers Rally, May 2018 ~ QCC's 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



69th Anniversary Cake



'Cutting the Cake' - Treasurers, past and present: Lynne Pomroy, Sue Baker, Barry Lander, Desley Hinson, Kevin Day, Margaret Hiller and Bob Kearney.

# Reflections ~ Boonah Rally, May 2019 ~ QCC's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Senior club members, Ron and Pam Robson-Petch cutting the QCC 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake.



Club members celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019: Paul Brearley, Cheryl Henry, Alf Hinson, Lance Haslewood, Robyn Langley and Bob Kearney.

## Some Enlightenment



"I'm giving-up drinking for a month!"  
"Sorry, bad punctuation."  
"I'm giving-up. Drinking for a month."

Does anyone know how long toilet paper will last if you freeze it?

So technically, showing-up at a bank in a mask and gloves is now legal?